

## **COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN**

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Eden held on Tuesday, 14 July 2020 at 10.30 am.

### **PRESENT:**

Mr P Dew (Chair)

Mrs PA Bell  
Mrs HF Carrick  
Mr A Connell  
Ms C Driver

Mr N Hughes  
Mr T Wentworth Waites  
Mr D Whipp (Vice-Chair)

Also in Attendance:-

Mr N Butcher	-	Local Area Network Manager (Eden)
Mr N Wright	-	Area Manager - Eden
Ms L Morgan	-	Senior Lawyer - Legal and Democratic Services
Mr B Lawson	-	Senior Manager - (Development) Active Cumbria

### **PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**1 PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL BE A VIRTUAL MEETING AND, THEREFORE, WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN A PHYSICAL LOCATION. PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK TO VIEW THIS EVENT:**

**2 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

A roll call of Members and Officers was taken.

**3 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED that, Mr Dew be appointed as Chair for the ensuing year.

**4 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

RESOLVED that, Mr Whipp be appointed as Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

**5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Ms H Fearon.

## **6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest made at the meeting.

## **7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that, the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items of business on the Agenda.

## **8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no items of Public Participation for this meeting.

## **9 MINUTES**

Corrections:

Page 14, Minute 89. Eden Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) – Consolidation of and Changes to Existing Restrictions and Introduction of Proposed New Restrictions:

3<sup>rd</sup> line, add an 's' to 'restriction'

5<sup>th</sup> line, replace 'consolidation' with 'consolidate'

RESOLVED that, subject to the corrections above, the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **10 PRESENTATION - ACTIVE CUMBRIA**

A presentation was received from the Senior Manager (Development) Active Cumbria about tackling physical inactivity. The presentation covered the following:

- Why physical activity?
- The inactivity challenge – adults
- The inactivity challenge – children and young people
- 3 year plan 2018-2021
- Local delivery
- Primary role headline priorities
- Primary role priority areas
- Looking ahead – post COVID 19 and a new 5 year plan
- How can you help?

The purpose of the presentation was to inform members about what was being done to tackle inactivity in Cumbria and Eden. Since COVID 19, there had been a shift in opinion and now exercise was seen as a necessity. The Officer talked members through the presentation.

A member raised that some members of the public had been self-isolating during the COVID 19 lockdown and would be reluctant to leave home and asked how Active Cumbria would address this and if there was any Government guidance on this matter. The Senior Manager talked members through Active Cumbria's continuing virtual support for individuals and families and the online resources available to support people through the lockdown period. He referred to leaflets from Public Health England (PHE) for older adults about exercise which had been circulated to those shielding or who may have been isolated during lockdown.

The same member referred to the 5 year plan regarding supporting the Climate Emergency agenda via Active Travel. He noted it was acceptable to encourage people to actively travel but asked what could be done if there was no public transport available and asked for suggestions on how this could be addressed. The Senior Manager reported on joint working with colleagues in Highways and Transport on this matter and highlighted a request from the DfT relating to when children returned to school to try to reduce the demand on public transport. The Senior Manager reported on a number of options to reduce demand such as creating more park and ride schemes and encouraging a drop off further away from school so children could walk part of the way.

Members were informed that the presentation could be widely shared and an offer was made for Active Cumbria to give the presentation to other interested groups. The Area Manager invited an Active Cumbria representative to join the Eden Recovery Group. The Chair informed the Committee about an Active Cumbria officer whose attendance was welcomed at the Committee's Children and Young People Working Group. He reported on the physical activity initiatives that had been introduced through the Working Group.

The Local Member for Alston welcomed that the division was mentioned in the presentation and made a plea that there was visibility in the localities of the work that was being undertaken by Active Cumbria. She considered that joint working with support groups in Eden would maximise activity opportunities in the localities. The Senior Manager asked that if there were any physical activity and sports initiatives that members knew of, that they contacted his colleague Becky Underwood so Active Cumbria could engage and unlock the benefits for people living in Eden.

A member was impressed about the level of activity across Eden and asked whether the PHE leaflets had been printed in easy read and queried how well the Council was working together. She highlighted the work of the Countryside Access Team and the increased number of public reports for improvement and repair to footpaths made to the team during lockdown. She considered that if increased improvements to the countryside were made, more people would be able to exercise in a pleasant environment. The Senior Manager confirmed that the leaflets were produced in easy read and would be circulated to the Committee. He reported on the positive engagement with the County Council since Active Cumbria's inception and current work with Active Travel to achieve sustainable travel. He commented on Walking for Health initiatives in Eden and asked members to contact

Active Cumbria if they knew of opportunities it could engage with. He was pleased to report that Active Cumbria was confident in securing funding for another 5 years.

A member highlighted the challenge of recruiting to and supporting younger people participating in sports clubs. He noted that sporting activity dropped off in teenage years and asked what role Active Cumbria played in this matter. He asked about connectivity between Active Cumbria and local business with regard to offering subsidised gym/leisure centre passes. The Senior Manager commented positively on the high rate of children and young people in Eden who took part in sporting activity which was credited to the Eden Valley Sports Partnership. Active Cumbria worked with Governing Bodies of national sports to try and increase participation in sports.

The Senior Manager reported that Active Cumbria had now shifted its emphasis from traditional sports to physical activity in general and its work focussed on sustainable support in communities for physical activity in general rather than short term initiatives. He acknowledged that work would continue with leisure providers to increase provision of leisure facilities however, there would be constraints which related to the impact of COVID 19 and the furloughing of staff.

A short discussion took place on the wording and colour coding used in the presentation. It was suggested by a member that the presentation be given to the Eden Association of Local Councils. The member highlighted that the Committee regularly awarded grants for physical activity initiatives which supported the aims and objectives of Active Cumbria. In referring to physical literacy changing with age, the member thought it would be useful to explore this further so funding could be targeted better and best value could be obtained from the Committee's grants.

The Senior Manager considered that physical activity was a tool to achieve behavioural change. He talked about the support for key findings on physical literacy and how it was being used for supporting improvement in early year's settings. The Chair commented on how there was increasing focus on reducing obesity and inactivity levels in early years and offered to attend the Committee's Children and Young People's Working Group to discuss the matter. This was welcomed by the Chair of the Working Group. The Senior Manager informed members about the investment from businesses in the county for initiatives in Allerdale and Copeland and his aim to roll this out around the county.

A member described how using public transport added to people's activity levels. Activity levels were reduced when there was no public transport provision because when people used a car, they travelled door to door with no exercise undertaken. The Senior Manager acknowledged this point and offered a number of suggestions which could be employed on a daily basis to increase people's activity levels. He advocated a change in behaviour in some older people so they continued to be active.

The Chair considered exercise as a tool to change behaviour and engage the community. The Chair thanked the Senior Manager (Development) Active Cumbria for his interesting and informative presentation.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Public Health Leaflet to be circulated to the Committee
- 2 The presentation be given to the Eden Association of Local Councils
- 3 The Senior Manager (Development) Active Cumbria attend the Committee's Children and Young People's Working Group to discuss obesity and physical inactivity in early years
- 4 The position be noted.

## **11 AREA PLANNING IN EDEN**

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Corporate, Community and Customer Services regarding Area Planning in Eden. The report brought together information from across the community teams including community development and services as well as public health. An update was also provided on the work of each area identified against priorities. The report highlighted any current issues and provided an overview of the budget position.

It was confirmed by the Senior Lawyer that now the Local Committee had resumed its public meetings that changes could be made to the recommendations set out in the reports.

The Area Manager introduced the report highlighting a number of key items. He welcomed that during the spread of COVID 19, many organisations, community groups and Council teams had worked together. He reported on the Eden Community Hub and how it was supported by multiple agencies and the work undertaken on the welfare helpline that supported the vulnerable in the community. He was pleased to report on the positive strategic working that had gone on during lockdown. The next phase was stabilisation and recovery in Eden and local stakeholders were sharing best practice to ensure the work already undertaken could be built upon. The existing structures were being formalised for health and wellbeing and policing for the future, post COVID 19. The aim was for recovery to be localised and the Area Manager reported on the work being undertaken in the localities to aid with opening up towns and villages. He thanked everyone involved in all the work that had been undertaken to date.

The Area Manager reported on the allocation of £5,000 to the development project in Matterdale. He drew members' attention to the allocation of £4,433 for Carlisle and Eden Mind. He reassured members that officers were currently working on ways to reopen Eden Library service in a safe and secure way. Penrith library would be opened first then smaller branch libraries would follow.

A member congratulated all of the Eden based staff for their work and for their excellent joint working with the District Councils and members. All members were encouraged to spend their community budget allocation. The member thanked the County Council officer working with Matterdale residents for the work undertaken so far. He asked that the Living Building Challenge be recognised at Matterdale as the community wanted the community centre to be sustainable. He hoped that this could be then used as an example of best practice for similar projects. The same

member asked what plans there were to make constructive use of the money that had not yet been spent in the out-turn budget for 2019/20. In relation to the Matterdale project, the Area Manager stated that the Council would continue to work closely with the community on this project and if further opportunities arose, they would be brought back before the Committee. In terms of the budget, the Area Manager highlighted that during the lockdown period, there had been opportunities to fund projects from other funding streams which meant that some of the budget was available for use during the recovery period.

The Chair advised that a number of projects were being considered which members' community budgets would pay for.

A member reported on her involvement with the Eden Resilience Group and expressed that she was impressed with how officers and organisations had worked together. She expressed her thanks to community groups and the third sector for keeping members and the public well informed during the COVID 19 period. The member expressed her concern at the inconsistent level of representation from the health sector at the Eden Resilience Group, particularly Integrated Care. She considered that this was missing from Health discussions and that engagement should be improved with this sector. She referred to the planning of local outbreak control of COVID 19 and the need to try understand the involvement of local primary care networks and LMCs in this matter. She asked if there was an awareness of what was happening with local outbreak control and she encouraged an increase engagement with local GPs. The Area Manager advised that he would speak to the Public Health Locality Manager to get further advice on local outbreak control and circulate any information to members. He commented on the membership of the Resilience Group and the challenge of retaining health colleagues on it due to the demands placed upon them.

A number of members commented positively on joint working with community groups, the third sector and District Councils. The Chair thanked the Area Manager and his team for the work they had undertaken during the COVID 19 crisis.

A member asked for reassurance that as the Resilience Group moved towards recovery, that partnership working continued as at present. She asked that the Group establish the same aims as the Eden Health Forum and include strategic 3<sup>rd</sup> sector representatives who were knowledgeable and could signpost the Group during their work to avoid duplication. The Area Manager acknowledged that this was the way forward for the Resilience Group.

The Chair proposed to the Committee that the recommendations as set out in the report be agreed. As there was no dissent, it was

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Members note the budget allocations for 2020-21 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date.
- 2 Members note the provisional unallocated resources in the 2020-21 Communities Revenue Budget of £143,184 as at 25 June 2020.

- 3 Members note an allocation of £5,000 from the Area Planning budget to support phase 1 of a project to develop a community and educational centre in Matterdale described in paragraphs 4.17 and appendix I of the report.
- 4 Members note allocations of £4,433 for Carlisle and Eden Mind, £2,550 for Hesketh Parish Council and £1,720 for Eden Runners as described in paragraph 4.19 and appendices J through to L in the report.
- 5 The Area Manager to speak to the Public Health Locality Manager to get further advice on local outbreak control and circulate any information to members.

## **12 2019/20 HIGHWAYS BUDGET/PROGRAMME OUTTURN REPORT**

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure. The report presented the Highways Revenue, Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital Budget outturn information, as detailed in the report's appendices.

The Local Area Network Manager guided members through the report highlighting the budget headings which included the Revenue Budget, Devolved Capital Budget and the non-devolved PRN budget. He drew attention to the outturn spend expressing his thanks to his team for their excellent work. He added that the overspend on the devolved Highways Revenue Budget was £10,000 at the year-end which was an excellent position to be in.

The Local Area Network Manager gave a verbal update on the work of the Countryside Access Team, commenting on the work they undertook in 2019 which was not often publicised. He reported on the works already undertaken in a number of parishes in the Eden area this year and explained that their work was similar to Highways except they worked on softer surfaces. He listed works due to commence in a number of areas in Penrith. He explained the types of work currently being surveyed for the Penrith area such as road signage and vegetation clearance.

Members were guided through each budget heading identified in the appendices attached to the report and highlighted a number of schemes which had come under budget. A member acknowledged that this had been a challenging year for highways with 2020/21 possibly being the same.

A number of members congratulated the Local Area Network Manager and his team on the limited overspend on the Highways Revenue Budget. One member considered this to be a huge achievement given the current circumstances.

A number of Parish Councils had expressed their gratitude for the work that had been undertaken recently and this was conveyed to the Local Area Network Manager for him to share with his team.

A member asked for thanks to be conveyed to the Countryside Access Team for their work undertaken during the lockdown period. It was queried whether the profile of the work of the team could be raised and the size of the budget be shared so that expectations of the public could be managed as to what works could be completed. The Local Area Network Manager would discuss the raising of the Countryside Access Team's profile with the team

It was reported by a member that Bolton Parish Council welcomed that flood work at Lane End was being addressed. The member asked about the current A592 safety scheme at Patterdale and Ullswater where a number of smaller maintenance and reconfiguration schemes may be subsumed into a DfT Scheme. The Local Area Network Manager reassured the member that the scheme was still programmed to take place. An update was provided on two schemes at Shap which had come in under budget.

The Chair proposed to the Committee that the report be noted. As there was no dissent, it was

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Local Area Network Manager to discuss the raising of the Countryside Access Team's profile with the team
- 2 The report be noted.

### **13 ADDITIONAL POTHOLE ACTION FUND 2020/21**

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure regarding the additional Pothole Action Fund 2020/21. The report presented the Additional Pothole Action Fund 2020/21 allocation for Eden, part of the Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund announced earlier this year by the Department for Transport.

The Local Area Network Manager presented the positive news that £2,022k had been had been received in Eden to be spent on the NPRN network. He outlined where the money would be spent and was pleased to report that the money was not restricted in how it could be spent so a number of schemes could be brought forward into this financial year. The next Local Committee meeting in September would receive the list of schemes. Members were informed that money would be spent for example on surface dressing, jet patching, pre surface patching and footway works.

The Chair proposed to the Committee that the report be noted. As there was no dissent, it was

RESOLVED that, the report be noted.

### **14 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP MINUTES**



The Committee received the Minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 2 March 2020.

A member highlighted that Minute 25 recorded that the Chief Executive and the Leader would be attending the round of Local Committee meetings in May/June/July to discuss Local Plans however, this was not on the Agenda for today's private member briefing on the rise of the Local Committee meeting. The Chair advised that he would raise this matter and invite them to a Local Committee meeting at a future date.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 The Chair invite the Leader and Chief Executive to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss Local Plans.
- 2 The minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 2 March 2020 be noted

## **15 UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Mrs Bell provided an update on the Guilford Centre. She reported on the work undertaken by the acting Head and teachers for vulnerable children. The Centre was looking forward to opening in September.

Mr Dew gave an update on his attendance at the following meetings:

- Multi Agency Strategic Coordinating Group (5 meetings)
- Children in Care Council (2 meetings)
- Eden Locality Children's Partnership (part of Children's Trust Board)
- Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum
- Eden Youth Council

A member asked about using the budget allocated for Appleby Fair for a different purpose as the Fair had not taken place this year. The Chair advised that this money would be used to fund an additional gully cleaner.

The Chair was asked to share the new priorities for the Children's Trust Board with the Committee. The Chair confirmed this would happen in due course as they had not yet been agreed.

## **16 ACTION LOG**

The Area Manager advised that the action relating to Mrs Bell as set out in the Action Log would take place once the discussions for next year's Appleby Fair took place. He stated that he would ensure that Mrs Bell was regularly updated.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised that actions raised throughout the meeting would be added onto the Action Log.

A member highlighted his preference for future meetings to be held in a physical location instead of virtually, to ensure no one was excluded from Committee meetings.

RESOLVED that, the Action Log be updated by the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

#### **17 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 28 September 2020 at 10.30am.

The meeting ended at 11.40 am