

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR COPELAND

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Copeland held on Monday, 14 September 2020 at Via Microsoft Teams at 10.15 am

PRESENT:

Mr K Hitchen (Chair)

Mr M Hawkins
Mr AWC Lamb
Mr FI Morgan
Mr DE Southward
Mr CP Turner

Mr CJ Whiteside
Mrs EL Williamson
Mr D Wilson (Vice-Chair)
Mr AW Wonnacott

Also in Attendance:-

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| Mr K Cosgrove | - | Local Area Network Manager (Copeland) |
| Mrs S Davis-Johnston | - | Traffic Management Team Leader (West) |
| Ms G Elliott | - | Area Manager - Copeland |
| Mr A Pratt | - | Cumbria Association of Local Councils |
| Mrs G Ternent | - | Public Health Locality Manager - Copeland |
| Mrs L Davis | - | Democratic Services Officer |

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

18 ROLL CALL AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All of the above members and officers were present at the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Barbour and Mr G Roberts.

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions, petitions or statements to be considered at the meeting.

22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2020 be agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

23 2020/21 LOCAL COMMITTEE DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS BUDGET

Members received a report which presented the Highways Devolved Budget Finance figures and included an update on the Highways Revenue and Capital Programme, details of which were contained within the appendices to the report. It was noted that the revenue budget was forecasting an overspend of £15,000 and the devolved capital budget was forecasting a balanced budget.

Members were updated on the additional Government funding for local highway authorities in 2020/21 and the new funding blocks within the newly created Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund. The Local Area Network Manager informed the Committee that a detailed list of schemes had been drawn up and would be circulated to members in advance of the Highways Working Group.

The Local Member for Millom asked about programmed work in Millom. The Local Area Network Manager advised that work was provisionally scheduled to commence on Haverigg Main Street on 30 September and the permanent drainage repairs on Mainsgate Road were imminent subject to discussions with the land owner.

The Local Member for Egremont North and St Bees raised traffic congestion concerns in school vicinities now schools were reopened and requested a review of the Whitehaven Campus Transport Plan. The Local Area Network Manager advised members that detailed conversations were ongoing with the school and officers had undertaken a site visit, pre-covid, to understand the concerns in detail. A series of traffic counters had been placed in the area to support this. It was agreed that a briefing note on this issue be prepared for the Highways Working Group.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the devolved revenue and capital budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure recorded in Appendices 1 and 2 be noted and kept under review;
- (2) the Highways Revenue budget, currently forecasting a £15,000 overspend be noted;
- (3) . the Devolved Highways Capital Budget, currently forecasting a balanced budget be noted.

24 COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2020

Members received a report to give consent to Copeland Borough Council to amend the existing “Copeland Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places) 2002”. The proposed new order, entitled “The Copeland Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2020” (“the Order”) proposed to reduce the available length of stay at the weekends at the Copeland Centre car park and introduce a longer length of stay per day at St Bees Foreshore car park. A copy of the Order was attached as Appendix 1.

RESOLVED, that consent be given to Copeland Borough Council to introduce “The Copeland Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2020”, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

25 AREA PLANNING REPORT

Members received a report providing an update of activity undertaken by the Communities team. The report also advised Members on their current budget position and made specific reference to the COVID 19 Emergency Response and Recovery activities.

The Area Manager gave members an update on grant allocations. Members were asked to ratify a recommendation of a grant of £10,650 to Cleator Moor West Local Members Scheme Project. Members were informed an allocation of £20,000 had been de-committed from the 0-19 Universal Services budget made in the 2019/20 financial year as this had originally been recommended to Howgill Family Centre to support their transition period. Members noted that the Council had been awarded a DEFRA Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies, which equated to £48,410 for Copeland. Members were informed of work that had taken place as part of the Covid19 grant funding response.

Members noted that Whitehaven Library, along with 5 other main libraries in the county, had reopened to the public on 10 August and the relevant safety measures put in place to ensure Covid safe access. In answer to a member’s question, the Area Manager advised that work was ongoing on the reopening of branch libraries but exact dates were unknown at present.

The Area Manager informed the Committee of a successful bid to the Good Things Foundation for digital devices as part of the DigitalDotNow project to connect the unconnected and members noted that 10 people in Copeland were now being supported by a small team from Whitehaven Library. It was noted that the library online offer had been popular during the lockdown period, particularly the resources available on the “Borrowbox” platform. A short discussion was held about purchasing and loaning IT equipment to residents.

The Public Health Locality Manager updated members on public health. Members noted that the next meeting of the Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum had been arranged for 27 October.

Members were asked to note, that in line with Government guidelines as only 2 households or 6 people from different households were allowed to meet up, the Great Gable Act of Remembrance Service has been cancelled for this year. The Public Health Locality Manager agreed to send guidance of the Government's limit of gathering rules to the Local Member for Mirehouse.

The Local Member for Egremont North and St Bees requested discussion/review of school transport. The Area Manager agreed to establish a separate work session on this issue. The Area Manager further agreed to establish whether additional funding was available for schools for Covid secure adaptations and liaise with the Local Member for Millom on this.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the current budget position outlined in Appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (2) the allocation of £10,650 to Cleator Moor West Local Members Scheme Project of an agriculture and skills programme be agreed;
- (3) .a work session be arranged on school transport.

26 COPELAND CHAMPIONS UPDATE

The following update was given at the meeting:-

Autism Champion

The Autism Champion, Cllr Hawkins, updated members on the reopening of Day Services, the work of Triple A, a Penrith based project benefiting young people with autism and Blue Star, an American based company actively employing people with autism. Cllr Hawkins hoped that the model used by Blue Star could be exported and adapted in Cumbria.

Children's Champion

The Children's Champion, Cllr Williamson, praised Youth Services and the resilience of children during the pandemic. Cllr Williamson specifically mentioned the work of South Whitehaven Youth Project and Phoenix Youth Project for adapting their services to support children during this period.

Health Champion

The Health Champion, Cllr Whiteside, gave an update from the Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum. Concerns had been raised at this meeting about there being only one, instead of two, radiographers based at Whitehaven Hospital. Cllr Whiteside informed members that the one stop breast clinic would continue.

The Champions were thanked for their informative updates.

27 VERBAL UPDATE FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES/EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

There were no updates given at the meeting.

28 NUCLEAR ISSUES

Cllr D Southward, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property updated the Committee on nuclear issues. The update included his attendance at NuLeaf and Clean Energy Panel meetings. Members were advised that the NDA had published their Strategy 4, setting out their priorities for the next three years. NuLeaf and the Council had been invited to response to the Strategy.

A lengthy discussion took place on GDF. The RWM, a subsidiary of the NDA, had established a Working Group and interested parties had been invited to express representative interest on this Working Group. It was proposed and agreed that the Local Committee support an expression of interest, especially in the light of Local Government Reform and local interest.

The Cabinet Member was thanked for his update.

29 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 24 November 2020 at 10.15 am.

The meeting ended at 11.25 am