Present:

Mr Fl Morgan (Chair)
Mrs W Skillicorn (Vice-Chair)  Mr DE Southward
Mr M Hawkins  Mr J Woolley
Mr TJ Knowles  Mr A Wonnacott
Mr GRPM Roberts

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs H Blake - Senior Manager Policy Planning and Communities
Dr R Wagstaff - Deputy Director of Public Health
Mr K Cosgrove - Traffic Engineer
Ms J Cowan - Democratic Services Officer
Mr P Little - Interim Area Highways and Transport Manager
Mr B Spencer - Solicitor
Mr T Thwaites - Area Support Manager
Mr O David - Planning Officer - School Organisation

Part 1 – Items Considered in the Presence of the Public and Press

117 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs SE Brown, Mr N Clarkson, Mr RS Cole, and the Trading Standards Service Manager.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Brown, Cole and Woolley for their support to Local Committee, as they would not be standing for re-election.

The Member for Cleator Moor North and Frizington added that, with regard to Cllr Woolley, few people in Copeland had given a greater level of service and commitment to the community.

118 Declaration of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest in any items on the agenda today.
119 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

120 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute 115: Local Committee Chairs and Leadership

The Member for Cleator Moor North and Frizington voiced concern at a recent press report regarding a proposal to create a £60m educational village in Whitehaven. The views of Local Committee had not been sought. The Member felt it was irresponsible to raise the public’s expectations, as it would prove difficult to generate the resources needed to fund the proposal.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Local Committee held on 25 January 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

121 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions or petitions received under the public participation scheme for this meeting.

122 PRESENTATION - PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Members received a presentation from the Deputy Director of Public Health in relation to the transition of Public Health from the NHS to the County Council.

On 1 April 2013, Public Health would transfer to the County Council, with an annual budget of approximately £12.9m. The transfer would provide real opportunities for working differently and new ways for local Members to influence health in their area.

The team of staff would be responsible for helping the County Council to deliver a range of existing public health functions, in partnership with the NHS and other organisations, to help improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Cumbria.

In 2012, Public Health had commissioned new sexual health clinics, delivered the first mass quit smoking campaign, and initiated the first Health Check programme.

There would also be new responsibilities for Public Health, which would require a local, flexible approach.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Director of Public Health for her comprehensive presentation.
123 PRESENTATION - WELFARE REFORM

Members received a presentation from the Senior Manager – Policy, Planning and Communities which gave a brief overview of the changes which were taking place within Welfare Reform.

The main changes included digitalisation of the system, a change in eligibility for benefits, and the capping of some benefit payments.

The number of children living in poverty in the area was above the national average.

The number of working-age benefit claimants in Copeland was above the County average. Claimants were being reassessed, and 27% of people reassessed had been deemed fit for work. There was concern that the reassessment process was distorted; and that unemployment figures were increasing.

Housing benefit was being reduced if the home was too large for the needs of the occupiers. Members were concerned, however, that there was a shortage of alternative housing in the area for people to downsize.

The range of benefits was to be streamlined into one universal credit from October 2013 onwards for new applicants.

Members were concerned that the on-line benefits system was discriminatory. Most disadvantaged people had issues with regard to communication, and would be unable to access the support they needed. CDCs would continue to be developed in Copeland to assist with on-line access to benefits.

Further budget cuts of 1-2% over the next two years would influence the work of the County Council. The primary objective of the County Council was to protect the most vulnerable in society.

The Chair thanked the Senior Manager – Policy, Planning and Communities for her presentation.

124 LOCAL COMMITTEE DEVOLVED BUDGET 2012/13: MONITORING REPORT - HIGHWAYS BUDGET

Members considered a report by the Corporate Director – Resources which presented the provisional actual expenditure and commitments recorded against the Local Committee’s Highways Revenue and Capital Budgets as at 28 February 2013.

It was likely that both the Revenue and Capital budget overspends would reduce further by the end of the financial year.
Members thanked the Interim Area Highways and Transport Manager for the work he had carried out under difficult circumstances. The Chair had attempted to obtain additional funding for Copeland, as the area had suffered most from flooding during the Winter, but had been unsuccessful.

RESOLVED, that:

(1) the budget allocations for 2012-13, and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date, be noted

(2) the Highways Revenue budget, projecting an overspend of £97,717 at this stage of the financial year, be noted

(3) the Highways Capital budget, projecting an overspend of £45,960 at this stage of the financial year, be noted.

125 LOCAL COMMITTEE DEVOLVED BUDGET 2012/13: MONITORING REPORT - COMMUNITIES BUDGET

Members considered a report by the Corporate Director – Resources which presented the provisional actual expenditure and commitments recorded against the Local Committee’s Communities Budget as at 28 February 2013.

The Area Support Manager advised that, should Members approve the recommendations to fund schemes during the meeting, the potential carry forward of funds in the Communities Revenue Budget would reduce to around £40,000.

RESOLVED, that:

(1) the budget allocations for 2012-13, and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date, be noted

(2) the unallocated resources in the Communities Revenue Budget of £102,106 be noted

(3) the balanced budget projected for the Local Member Capital Schemes be noted.

126 MEMBERS’ DIVISIONAL ALLOWANCES

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive which sought to commit elements of the Local Revenue Schemes budgets, and included Members’ proposals which had been sufficiently worked up to enable Local Committee to consider spending decisions.
Members thanked the Area Support Team for their exceptional efforts over recent weeks in ensuring applications for funding were progressed. The financial contributions to appropriate local projects made a huge difference to communities.

RESOLVED, that:

(1) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Cleator Moor North and Frizington, £4,000 be allocated to Arlecdon and Frizington Parish Council towards a business plan for the Council Chambers and maintenance of Occupation Lonning.

(2) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Cleator Moor North and Frizington, £300 be allocated to Frizington Amateur Rugby League Club for pitch repairs.

(3) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Cleator Moor North and Frizington, £1,000 be allocated in support of community transport solutions in the Arlecdon & Frizington Parish.

(4) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Cleator Moor South and Egremont, £2,365 be allocated to Egremont & District Pool Trust towards improvements to changing facilities.

(5) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Cleator Moor South and Egremont, £600 be allocated to Cleator Cricket Club towards new pitch protectors.

(6) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local capital and revenue scheme for Cleator Moor South and Egremont, £5,000 be allocated towards repairs on an access lane at Bookwell, Egremont.

(7) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Kells and Sandwith, £2,620 be allocated to engagement activities at Kells Library.

(8) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local capital scheme for Kells and Sandwith, £165 be allocated to a dropped kerb crossing near Monkray School and traffic safety measures within the division.

(9) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Kells and Sandwith, £4,935 be allocated to a dropped kerb crossing near Monkray School and traffic safety measures within the division.

(10) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Mirehouse, £2,966 be de-committed from the Tomlin Avenue project presented to Committee on 28 September 2012.
(11) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local capital scheme for Mirehouse, £793 be allocated towards highways improvements at Yewbarrow Close.

(12) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Mirehouse, £4,703 be allocated towards highways improvements at Yewbarrow Close.

(13) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Bransty, £1,500 be allocated towards salt bins within Bransty division.

(14) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Bransty, £2,500 be allocated to Bransty Primary School towards outdoor equipment.

(15) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Bransty, £2,965 be allocated to Rosehill Theatre towards the Taking Part Pilot Project.

(16) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Hillcrest, £35 be allocated to Rosehill Theatre towards the Taking Part Pilot Project.

(17) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local capital scheme for Bransty, £4,500 be de-committed from a Bus Shelter project.

(18) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local capital and revenue schemes for Bransty, £8,786.00 be allocated towards traffic calming measures on Harras Moor, Whitehaven.

(19) In respect of the Electoral Divisions local revenue scheme for Hensingham and Arlecdon, £3,000 be allocated towards start up costs for a new Christians against Poverty Centre in Whitehaven.

127 THWAITES SCHOOL, MILLOM - CHANGE OF AGE RANGE CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report by the Corporate Director – Children’s Services which provided background to the consultation to be undertaken by the County Council on the proposed provision of a maintained nursery at Thwaites School, by means of a change of age range from 4-11 to 3-11.

There was currently no nursery provision in the catchment area of the school. The nearest nurseries were in Millom or Broughton, both of which were over three miles away. This created additional journeys for parents with children already at Thwaites School who were seeking nursery places for their pre-school age children.
Any impact on the providers in Millom or Broughton would probably be limited. Broughton under 5s operated from 7am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday; and Millom Stepping Stones operated from 8.45am to 11.45am Monday to Friday, but also offered afternoon sessions on Tuesday and Thursday. The alternative provision potentially offered by Thwaites would be unlikely to attract Millom and Broughton parents away from the provision in their area, and the number of places offered was to be limited to four.

Informal consultation, carried out by the school, had taken place with parents, pupils, governors and other Headteachers in the Millom Partnership, ie all primary schools in Millom/Haverigg, plus Captain Shaw’s, Waberthwaite and Broughton in Furness. The majority of responses at this informal stage were positive.

There would be a significant increase in the number of three year olds in Millom by January 2015.

School budgets were largely based on pupil numbers. The proposal would be likely to improve the revenue budget through the increased number of children attending the school. Current staffing levels would not be materially affected by the change; and existing transport arrangements would not be affected by the proposal.

RESOLVED, that:

(1) the contents of the report be noted

(2) Cabinet would consider feedback from the consultation on 6 June 2013 before deciding on the next steps.

128 COPELAND HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

Minute 3: Calderbridge A595 Diversion Study

The Interim Area Highways and Transport Manager was in the process of obtaining feedback on the study.

Minute 5: Corkickle Station

The project was in the forward plan for work and funding was being sought.

Minute 8: Maintenance of Homewood Road

The road surface was deteriorating in the vicinity of Sneckyeat Road. The contractor working on the hospital had agreed to reinstate the road on completion of their work. Ongoing maintenance was being undertaken by Highways. A contribution to ongoing maintenance costs would be discussed with the contractor.
**Minute 10: Obstruction to Highway, Preston Street**

The Member for Mirehouse was concerned at the number of cars for sale which were parked on the pavement. Negotiations with the garage owner had not resulted in their removal. It was suggested that the Police be contacted to have the vehicles towed away.

**Minute 11: Area Manager’s Report**

The Interim Area Highways and Transport Manager updated Members on the Albion Square development. Work on site had now commenced, and the developers were keen to engage with local people and services.

Highways were working with the developers on the Section 278 agreement relating to community benefit, primarily junction improvements in the town centre.

**Minute 12: St Bees Footbridge**

Work on the footbridge would commence after Easter. The Interim Area Highways and Transport Manager would attempt to progress the return of the memorial bench from the landowner.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Copeland Highways Working Group held on 12 February 2013 be noted.

**129 COPELAND LOCAL COMMITTEE DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS BUDGETS 2013/14**

Members considered a report by the Corporate Director – Environment which detailed recommendations for the Local Committee’s devolved revenue and capital Highways budgets for 2013/2014; which would form the basis of the Local Committee’s devolved programmes for 2013/14 and provide a core programme for future years, subject to annual review.

The recommendations in the report were the final allocations of £1,227,064 revenue and £1,883,000 capital respectively, approved by Council at its February meeting.

The allocations were significantly different both to those for 2012/13 and to those considered by Copeland Local Committee at its meeting on 25 November 2012.

The consultation document for the draft revenue budget 2013/14 contained a proposal in respect of Highways capital and revenue budgets where it was proposed to devolve a further £0.8m of capital funding to Local Committees from the Priority Transport Improvement Schemes (PTIS) capital highways budget, whilst at the same time the highways revenue budget for Local Committees would be reduced by £0.8m. This meant that the Local Committee would change the nature of some of the highways works they fund from maintenance, for example repair of potholes, to...
larger scale improvements such as resurfacing. Making use of capital funding in this way would allow available resources to be most effectively targeted to meet local highways priorities. In total this had been incorporated into the proposed allocations presented in the report. For Copeland Local Committee, the effective movement from revenue to capital was £86,624.

In the Government’s Autumn Statement in December 2012 additional Local Highways Maintenance Funding (Capital) was announced for all Local Authorities. For Cumbria County Council this resulted in an additional £3.890m for 2013/14 and £2.082m for 2014/15. It was proposed that £0.700m of this additional funding was top sliced to fund the Cockermouth Main Street scheme, as agreed by Cabinet on the 10 January 2013. This substitution of funding offered flexibility to use the County’s Betterment Capital budget for match funding towards other schemes. The remainder of the additional funding, ie £3.190m, was proposed to be allocated across the four elements of the overall Highways capital programme; Principal Road Network (£0.670m), Bridges and Structures (£0.383m) and Local Committee devolved funding (£2.137m); and for Copeland Local Committee the additional allocation was £214,000. The additional funding was for maintenance works and could not be used for improvement schemes.

The Interim Area Highways and Transport Manager confirmed that the number of Better Highways Teams in Copeland would reduce from four to three.

Restricted budgets would make maintaining the highways a challenge. In real terms, approximately one-fifth of the budget available in 1999 was currently available to Highways.

The current state of the road network was poor, and the number of small value claims for damage to road users’ cars had increased.

The transfer of revenue to capital budget would result in a reduced base budget next year.

RESOLVED, that the devolved Highways budgets and programmes for 2013/2014, set out in the Appendices to the report, be noted.

130 BETTER HIGHWAYS MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Corporate Director – Environment which provided Members with an update on highways maintenance issues using the Better Highways approach. It contained the new Measures as well as a profile of the work done.

Since the previous Better Highways report, additional support of an Area Steward had now been provided to the Copeland area. This additional resource, together with the continued flexible approach the teams had towards their work, would help address some of the issues raised in previous reports.
The February figure for demands open relative to demands complete was 56.35% which was much lower than desired. This figure has been distorted significantly by street lighting operations. The actual work on the ground had, in general, been done within acceptable timescales, but the administration of closing down the call reports in a timely manner had resulted in the figures being skewed. A resource had now been assigned to deal with the street lighting administration function, and it was expected that next month, once the call reports had been correctly closed down, the figures would be significantly better.

The End to End time for February 2013 was just over 6 days. The Right First Time figure was 53.72%.

RESOLVED, that the monitoring information for the Better Highways works from 1 March 2012 to 28 February 2013 for reactive maintenance work be noted, as detailed in the report.

131 PERMANENT PROHIBITION OF PEDESTRIANS - SALTOM PIT

The Committee considered a report by the Corporate Director – Environment, on behalf of the Traffic Management Engineer, which provided Members with an additional update, following an error in the report detailed to Members on 25 January 2013.

Cumbria County Council had introduced a Temporary Prohibition of Pedestrians Order on the entire length of Footpath No. 431043 Saltom Pit, in the Parish of Whitehaven, in mid 2011. As a result of the error on the map noted to Members on 25 January 2013, when Members were requested to have regard to the making of a permanent Order, a further extension of the temporary order had been requested and approved by the Department for Transport until 21 August 2013. Details of the Temporary Notice were attached as part of Appendix 1 of the report.

The temporary order was introduced due to the unstable cliffs and subsidence over where the footpath runs. Originally it was hoped that there would be a diversion of the footpath. However, after further investigation it became apparent that this would not be possible until the half million tonnes of spoil causing the subsidence and instability had reached the sea. This was expected to take in the region of 15 years.

The Council therefore now had to make a permanent Traffic Regulation Order to ensure the safety of the public. The length of footpath which would be prohibited under the permanent order was shown on the plan attached as Appendix 2 of the report.

Copeland Borough Council had agreed to fund the suggested permanent Traffic Regulation Order.
RESOLVED, that:

(1) The verbal update from the Traffic Management Engineer regarding the general consultation exercise be noted, and that the formal statutory advertisement procedure commence.

(2) Following the statutory advertisement period, and subject to no unresolved objections being received, the bringing into force of the Permanent Prohibition of Pedestrians Order on that part of Footpath No. 431043 at Saltom Pit, shown on the plan attached as Appendix 2, be authorised; having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which are more specifically referred to at paragraph 7.2 of the Report.

132 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS OF NURSERY, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

RESOLVED, that subject to their agreement, the following be appointed:

Community, Nursery
And Primary

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School             Mr Graeme Colley
                                                    25 Moor Place
                                                    Frizington
                                                    CA26 3PL

Thornhill Primary School                      Mr Karl Connor
                                                    4 Dent Road
                                                    Egremont
                                                    CA22 2RU

133 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership Meeting held on 23 January 2013 be noted.

134 URGENT ITEM - COMBINED GRANTS PANEL

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive which set out the deliberations of the Combined Grants Panel meeting on 27 February 2013 for endorsement by Local Committee, giving an opportunity for Members to approve a range of grants of benefit to wide areas of Copeland.
RESOLVED, that:

(1) £2,500 be allocated from General Provision to Copeland Aftercare Support Champions towards start up costs.

(2) £600 be allocated from General Provision to Derwent Railway Society towards the cost of a new scale model of a local railway station.

(3) £320 be allocated from General Provision to Seaton Athletic Club towards the cost of team t-shirts and polo shirts.

(4) £1,500 be allocated from General Provision to West Cumbria Trades Hall towards a help and support service for people in unemployment.

(5) £500 be allocated from General Provision to West Cumbria Masters Rugby League towards start up equipment.

(6) £1,363 be allocated from General Provision to “The Vulture Club” for arts and literature equipment for offering therapeutic opportunities.

(7) £907 be allocated from General Provision to Haven Saints towards kit and first aid training for new volunteers.

(8) £2,000 be allocated from General Provision to Egremont & District Pool Trust towards improvements to changing facilities.

(9) £1,426 be allocated from General Provision to Making Space Copeland Support Group to cover the cost of two additional pamper days for carers.

(10) £2,413 be allocated from General Provision to ICAAN (Independent Community Autism Activity Network) towards the 2013 programme of activities.

(11) £2,200 be allocated from the 0-19 fund to Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project towards running introductory climbing wall sessions for year 5 and 6 pupils.

(12) £1,308 be allocated from the 0-19 fund to Cleator Moor Army Cadet Force towards the purchase of laptops to allow cadets to complete Duke of Edinburgh awards online.

(13) £946 be allocated from the 0-19 fund to Copeland Amateur Swimming Club for equipment to be used in training young people in swimming technique and at galas.

(14) £900 be allocated from the 0-19 fund to Mayfield School Development Fund towards a residential trip to Bendrigg Lodge.

(15) £1,000 be allocated from the 0-19 fund to Rosehill Theatre towards the ‘Taking Part’ initiative.
(16) £872 be allocated from the 0-19 fund and £2,128 from General Provision to Inspira towards additional activities for targeted groups which are teenage mums, young people who are NEET, young people with learning difficulties and disabilities, and young people who are lacking in confidence or are isolated.

(17) £263 be allocated from the Howgate and Distington Neighbourhood Forum general budget to Moresby School PTA towards re-carpeting two classrooms.

(18) £1,500 be allocated from the Howgate and Distington Neighbourhood Forum general budget to Distington Community School PTA towards purchasing and installing an outdoor classroom.

(19) £275 be allocated from the Whitehaven Neighbourhood Forum general budget to Whitehaven and District Lions Club towards hiring Whitehaven Town Band for the 2013 Carnival.

(20) £600 be allocated from the North East Copeland Neighbourhood Forum 0-19 budget to Cleator Moor Amateur Boxing Club towards new training equipment for youth members aged 0-19.

(21) £2,500 be allocated from the North East Copeland Neighbourhood Forum 0-19 budget to Wath Brow Hornets ARLFC towards training equipment for youth teams and for use in sessions with local schools.

(22) £2,000 be allocated from the Whitehaven Neighbourhood Forum 0-19 budget to Whitehaven Miners Social Football Club towards training sessions for the under 8’s through to under 18’s teams during the winter season.

(23) £2,500 be allocated from the Whitehaven Neighbourhood Forum 0-19 budget to Greenbank Community Association towards the 2013 summer play scheme.

The Chair thanked the Interim Area Highways and Transport Manager for his hard work, both for Local Committee and the Copeland Highways Working Group; and wished him success in his future post.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm