

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR ALLERDALE

Meeting date: 1 July 2020

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

AREA PLANNING

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 *The purpose of this report is to keep Members up to date with the activity across Allerdale that forms part of area planning. This is the process of working with stakeholders from the private, statutory, third and community sectors to redevelop services and deliver projects with the aim of nurturing thriving communities, achieving local priorities and making the best use of local assets and shared resources. The process is holistic and inclusive with complete consideration of all process outcomes, both intended and not.*
- 1.2 *However, this report also takes account of significant changes as a result of Covid-19 since the last report to a formal meeting of Allerdale Local Committee and as such provides an overview of the response to the crisis throughout Allerdale.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 *The Allerdale Local Committee has both executive and non-executive duties as set out in the County Council's constitution.*
- 2.2 *Allerdale local committee is committed to the following priorities:*
- *Supporting people to access training, apprenticeships and employment*
 - *Encouraging people to live well*
 - *Supporting our communities to thrive*
- 2.3 *The work of the local committee contributes to the achievement of the Council Plan 2018-2022 vision which is to be*
- *A Council that works with residents, businesses and communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources.*

- 2.4 ***The outcomes of this vision are:***
- ***People in Cumbria are healthy and safe***
 - ***Places in Cumbria are well-connected and thriving***
 - ***The economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone***
- 2.5 ***Area planning locally will work within the local committee priorities and the Council outcomes through use of resources and influence.***
- 2.6 ***There are no negative equality implications arising out of the recommendations of this report.***

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 ***Members agree that the local committee priorities are still fit for purpose***
- 3.2 ***Members agree to an additional priority:***
- ***Support and influence the recovery from Covid-19 both as individuals in the role of community leaders and as a committee***
- 3.3 ***Members agree to give their support to the proposals in the submission to be made by Allerdale Borough Council for Future High Street Funding.***
- 3.4 ***Members note the contents of the report.***

BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Working with partner organisations and communities to achieve shared aspirations is one of the council's key commitments. The Area Planning approach provides an effective mechanism to identify needs, local priorities and the actions required to deliver on that need across a defined geographic area. Essential to this is bringing together the full range of partners, of which the community is central.
- 4.2 Working with our communities has paid dividends in our response to the Covid-19 crisis. Although not classed as area planning activity, the partnership working as part of response was consistent with the approach described as area planning. This report
- 4.3 Due to restrictions brought about by Covid-19 and the reduced capacity due to response, the discussions to progress area planning have been reduced. However, in the past few weeks, these are starting to commence again remotely, including a Joint Liaison Group meeting with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive of Allerdale Borough Council.
- 4.4 The Allerdale Community Services Team continues to work across the district although since March this has been focussed on the response to Covid-19 activity. This report sets out the activity across the district.
- 4.5 At an informal virtual meeting on 16 June 2020, Members reviewed the local committee priorities to establish if they remain fit for purpose. Although this was an informal meeting and therefore not a decision making forum, there was consensus that the current priorities (set out at paragraph 2.2) remain fit

for purpose. At the same meeting, Members were informed of the issues that are emerging from the Covid-19 crisis and the priorities were cross referenced to come to that conclusion.

- 4.6 The Local Committee budget 2020-2021 is attached at Appendix 1 for information. The allocations within the budget areas have been dealt with in a separate report on this agenda.

WORKINGTON

- 4.7 **Towns Funding** – The Workington Towns Fund Board is established and is meeting regularly. The minutes are available online and they are issued to Members of local committee when they are agreed. Allerdale Local Committee / Cumbria County Council are represented on the Board by Councillor Alan Barry, supported by officers. Members have received updates in informal sessions.

- 4.8 The Board have engaged consultants and have now grouped potential projects under the key themes of:

- Urban Regeneration, Planning and Land Use
- Skills and Enterprise Infrastructure
- Connectivity

Work is underway to continue to develop projects for submission for funding.

- 4.9 **Response to Covid-19** – Prior to Covid-19, there were active community groups covering parts of Workington. The most formalised of these was Workington Community Emergency Response Group (WCERG), established as a result of the flooding in 2009 and 2015. This group had an Emergency Plan and a constituted group with volunteers. In response to the emergency, they took the innovative approach of purchasing a debit/credit card reader which meant that they were able to provide a shopping service that was unique in Allerdale.

- 4.10 In addition to this formal group, there were other organisations that rose to the challenges being presented including informal 'pop up' Covid-19 groups. In Workington, these groups have all come together to share learning and experiences and resources, retaining their individual identities but providing a consistent response.

- 4.11 In addition to the work of the Community Development Officer, a volunteer from Sellafield Ltd assisted in the early stages of the emergency to help bring the groups together.

MARYPORT

- 4.12 **Future High Street Fund (FHSF)** - Allerdale BC is finalising the business cases for the FHSF submissions to meet the extended deadline for final businesses cases moved to the 31st July 2020.

- 4.13 MHCLG have provided a set of questions which will enable Local Authorities to articulate any change in context surrounding their bid since the draft business cases were submitted following the Covid 19 outbreak.

- 4.14 The County Council officers have remained involved with the local Allerdale BC team including the Area Manager, the Area Highway Manager, and the Capital Programmes and Infrastructure Planning team.
- 4.15 As highway authority and asset manager, where schemes include works to the highway and public realm which falls within the highway, it was agreed that Cumbria County Council would provide Allerdale Borough Council with project management support, but would not be liable for cost over runs. This has been relayed to Allerdale Borough Council and will need to be set out in their management case. For all other projects forming part of the FHSF bids, the borough council is most likely to be the delivery lead.
- 4.16 Each of the schemes outlined in the business case have received significant support from the local community through the consultation process. The proposal comprises six key elements: Public Realm, Empire Yard, The Former Carlton Cinema, The Wave Leisure Centre, Christchurch and Residential Conversions. Each scheme is linked by 'a golden thread', which is around investing in the increasing footfall investing in community facilities and enhancing the unique selling points of Maryport.
- 4.17 Enhancement of the public realm areas has remained a key priority since the Maryport Delivery Plan was initiated. Cumbria County Council have been involved in developing initial plans and more recently adapting these to comply with the requirements of the Connect Highways Contract. The plans for FHSF focus on pedestrian improvements and surface enhancements on Curzon & Senhouse Street, some landscaping work and rationalising street furniture. A further aim is to enhance connections between different zones of the town and encourage pedestrian flow through the town towards the harbour.
- 4.18 Going forward, support for the proposals will be sought from the County Council insofar as they impact on County Council assets. In terms of the proposals for Maryport, these will require Local Committee Chair/Vice Chair support of the scheme on behalf of local committee. If the recommendation is agreed, a letter of support will be prepared and signed by the Leader of the Council.
- 4.19 **Response to Covid-19** – Prior to Covid-19, there was no formalised Emergency Response Group in Maryport although there was a group that had previously planned for and responded to flooding in Flimby and a number of community groups in existence. In addition, Covid-19 specific groups were set up. The Community Development Team, as part of the Welfare Hub response, worked with existing groups to provide a co-ordinated response across Maryport.
- 4.20 In addition to the work of the Community Development Officer, a volunteer from Sellafeld Ltd assisted in the early stages of the emergency to help develop and bring groups together. Future work in Maryport will look at the development of a formal Emergency Response Plan.

ASPATRIA

- 4.21 Since reporting to the last local committee, a project team has been developed to discuss phase one of the proposed changes within Aspatria. Stakeholders, including the Children's Centre are key to these discussions.
- 4.22 **Response to Covid-19** – Prior to Covid-19, there was no formalised Emergency Response Group in Aspatria although there were a number of community groups in existence. The Community Development Team, as part of the Welfare Hub response, worked with existing groups to provide a co-ordinated response across Aspatria.
- 4.23 In addition to the work of the Community Development Officer, a volunteer from Sellafield Ltd assisted in the early stages of the emergency to help develop and bring groups together. Future work in Aspatria will look at the development of a more permanent food provision to ease poverty if the evidence suggests that this is a need in the area.

WIGTON

- 4.24 Due to Covid-19, there has been no progress at a local level on Borderlands. Unlike Towns Fund and Future High Street Fund, deadlines are not imminent.
- 4.25 **Response to Covid-19** – Prior to Covid-19, there was no formalised Emergency Response Group in Wigton although there were some community groups in existence. The Community Development Team, as part of the Welfare Hub response, worked with existing groups to provide a co-ordinated response across Wigton, working with the town council, North Allerdale Development Trust and Northern Fells.
- 4.26 In addition to the work of the Community Development Officer, a volunteer from Sellafield Ltd assisted in the early stages of the emergency to help develop and bring groups together. Future work in Wigton will look at the development of an Emergency Response Plan for the town.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 In relation to the recommendations, Members have the following options:
- Members can agree the recommendations as presented
 - Members can reject the recommendations as presented
 - Members can request further information in relation to any recommendation and if necessary, defer the decision to a future meeting.
In respect of recommendation 3.3, any decision needs to be made and be subject to call-in prior to the submission to the MHCLG (end July 2020).

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Council approved Discretionary budget allocation for 2020/21 is £228,082.

- 6.2 Council approved Non-Discretionary budget allocation for 2020/21 is £183,427.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In respect of setting its priorities Local Committees should consider whether its priorities contribute to the achievement of the Council Plan 2018-2022 and are in line with the purpose of Local Committees, specifically, “to optimise the use of Council assets and resources in their area; to influence Council policies and strategies affecting their area; and through the “whole area approach”, to work with communities and partner organisations to enable public services to be shaped locally, to achieve the best possible outcomes within available resources” (Part 2D section 4.1. of the Constitution).
- 7.2 In relation to the recommendation at paragraph 3.3 of this report, the Local Committee is able to give its support (if agreed) as per Part 2D section 5.1.1(b) of the Constitution which states that Local Committees can –

‘Liaise with other bodies delivering services in the area, to seek to co-ordinate planned activities, and to improve services for the residents of the area by working together as effectively as possible.’

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8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The report provides examples where officers and Members from the County Council and Allerdale BC are working together to ensure excellent outcomes for local residents and businesses through a more joined up approach. Joint working to ensure external funding is received is a large part of area planning currently and will continue to be the case in the short to medium term.
- 8.2 The report also recognises that the Community Support Groups, the support they receive from our community development team and the use of the private sector have been beneficial to the people of Allerdale.

Dawn Roberts
Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

June 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Budget allocated to Allerdale Local Committee 2020-21

Electoral Division(s): All

Executive Decision

Yes*	
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Key Decision

	No*
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A*
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No*
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A*
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No*
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A*
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A*
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N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS ***[including Local Committees]***

No previous relevant decisions.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

REPORT AUTHOR

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