

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Meeting date: 14 July 2020

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Community and Customer Services

AREA PLANNING IN EDEN

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *The Eden Area Planning Report brings together information from across the community teams including community development and services as well as public health. This report provides Local Committee with an update on the work of each area identified activity against priorities, highlights current issues and provides an overview of the budget position.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *Improved locality working is one of the ways the Council is delivering on its priorities. The County Council vision, included in the Council Plan, sets out that it will be ‘... an effective and efficient organisation that delivers the best possible services for the people of Cumbria within its available resources, protects the most vulnerable, and works with others in the community to shape services and help find solutions for the future.’ The approach and work of the Local Committee directly contributes to achieving this vision.*

2.2 *The Eden Area Plan sets out the three targeted priorities for the area, which are access to services, developing strong and resilient communities, and supporting a better quality of jobs in the area; and details how the Council is delivering its services in support of them.*

2.3 *The locally devolved funding is available for Local Committees to allocate within the area to support positive outcomes for the communities of Eden. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or to enhance/complement existing provision according to locally determined need.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Members note the budget allocations for 2020-21 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date.**
- 3.2 Members note the provisional unallocated resources in the 2020-21 Communities Revenue Budget of £143,184 as at 25 June 2020.**
- 3.3 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.**
- 3.4 Members note allocations of £4,433 for Carlisle and Eden Mind, £2,550 for Hesket Parish Council and £1,720 for Eden Runners as described in paragraph 4.19 and appendices J through to L.**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Eden Local Committee Communities Budget allocation is based upon the 2020-21 Budget agreed by Council on 13 February 2020. The Local Committee is able to vire funding between budget lines during the course of the financial year, subject to any restrictions set by Cabinet and/or Council regulating the use of such funds. The Committee is not able to vire money from capital budgets to revenue budgets.
- 4.2 The figures carried forward from the out-turn budget for 2019-20 have been included. Of the roll-forward amount of £130,294 from 2019-20, a large proportion is for earmarked projects.
- 4.3 The report updates Members on the Local Committee's Communities Budgets for the 2020-21 financial year which are summarised in Appendix A of the report.
- 4.4 Of the total Communities Revenue Budget allocated to the Local Committee, £108,551 was allocated to discretionary revenue budgets.
- 4.5 Appendix B through to Appendix H provide detail against individual budget lines, including original allocation, brought forward balances, commitments and expenditure to 25 June 2020.

Covid-19 Response and Recovery

- 4.6 During March, the UK went into lockdown as steps were undertaken to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. Eden Community Team took a key local role as Cumbria County Council co-ordinated the local response effort.
- 4.7 The council developed a countywide helpline – operational 7 days a week – to offer immediate practical support to those shielding and self-isolating in Cumbria. This was supported by the Eden Community Hub of 20 volunteer members of staff redeployed from their roles within both the County and District Council and managed by the Public Health Locality Manager for Eden.

- 4.8 The hub worked closely with the excellent local Covid-19 support groups and town / parish councils to ensure that everybody in Cumbria had access to food, prescriptions and any other emergency supplies. The hub team also considered low level mental health support needs.
- 4.9 Since the beginning of lockdown, the Eden Hub has supported 298 local people – 119 were shielding and 179 were self-isolating. Of these, around 100 each required access to food and medication and 56 needed access to both. Everybody contacting the hub also received supportive human contact with many connected directly to their local support group following the call.
- 4.10 The Eden Covid-19 Resilience group was formed and supported the work of the hub acting as the driving force for local support and an escalation point for resolving any emerging local issues.
- 4.11 This multi-agency group has representation from Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council from both Member and officer level. Other town and parish councils are represented by the Eden Association of Local Councils. Cumbria Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) and Action for Communities in Cumbria are represented. Mutual aid groups from the 4 Eden service centre towns take part. Police and Health have representatives as do schools and the Department for Work and Pensions. The MP for Eden and the Borders is also part of the group.
- 4.12 As the response phase continues the Eden community team are taking a lead role in stabilisation and preparing for recovery. It is a fundamental recovery aim of the Strategic Recovery Advisory Group that the approach aligns with county's portfolio of well-established partnerships and plans. In Eden, we are proposing to fully utilise the links with the Health and Wellbeing Board, The Children's Trust and the Community Safety Partnership to help address some of the main recovery themes.
- 4.13 To ensure stabilisation and long term recovery is given the appropriate local focus, an area planning approach is being utilised with local stakeholder groups being convened to manage local stabilisation plans with support from authorities. We are currently supporting local groups for Penrith, Alston, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen. Discussions have also begun with towns and villages in Eden Lakes and officers are currently in discussion as to how we engage with other Parishes via the Eden Association of Local Councils.
- 4.14 Following the initial plans to reopen towns safely we would hope to build upon these conversations as we consider local priorities and how best we utilise shared resources to help achieve them.
- 4.15 The team have also been supporting the Health Protection Board as it oversees the local response to Covid-19 as the focus of that response moves towards a locally-led, longer term approach. The Health Protection Board will assume the responsibility for setting a local health protection strategy and co-ordinating multi-agency action in support of the delivery of this strategy. In addition it will oversee the development of local policy and process relating to testing, contact tracing, outbreak control and scaling up to wider area outbreak management. The Health Protection Board will work closely with the Local Resilience Forum to ensure the support of a Strategic

Co-ordination Group should further phases of acute multi-agency response be required. An Outbreak Control Plan is in development and High risk settings in Eden have been identified.

Other area planning activity

- 4.16 Officers have been working with colleagues in Kirkby Stephen around the bench walk project to support local walks within the area. The launch of this has been delayed and is being considered as part of Covid-19 guidance for the town.
- 4.17 The team have been in discussions with the local Member and a partnership of local organisations in Matterdale about plans for a new community and educational centre in the village. The detail for the project is contained in appendix I and Members will note an award of £5,000 to support phase 1 of the project.
- 4.18 The Children and Young People Working group were able to meet remotely on 14 May. The agenda covered group objectives, review of the Phunky Foods activity to date and began the conversation about a mental health project for 2020/21 - linking to the group's priority themes. Also, collaborative work around a youth survey and next steps for youth club development in Penrith were discussed.
- 4.19 At the meeting and in discussion with the group, officers approved grant awards of £4,433 for Carlisle and Eden Mind, £2,550 for Hesket Parish Council and £1,720 for Eden Runners. Details of each of these grant applications can be found in appendices J through to L.
- 4.20 The team are supporting colleagues in Development Management and Shap Parish Council on the development of the Section 19 Flood Report. Public engagement and survey meetings are to follow.
- 4.21 Officers continue to support the community in Alston and the Oaklea Trust with the Community Asset Transfer of the old primary school building. Expression of Interest has been accepted by the property team and Oaklea have been invited to proceed to business case; with which we are supporting.
- 4.22 Alston Front Street Steering Group recommenced their meetings using virtual platforms and work on the trial panels of the new road will start week commencing 6 July. We have worked with the Steering Group to create a range of communications for this and will look to hold a virtual public drop-in after the trial panels have been constructed.

Community services and Libraries

- 4.23 Libraries are able to reopen to the public from July 4. Although we have continued to offer a "virtual" library service through our e-resources, web pages, email newsletter and social media we are looking forward to being able to reopen our physical buildings through a phased and gradual reopening process.

- 4.24 First to open will be Penrith Library once it has been altered to accommodate social distancing and good hand hygiene facilities. The proposal is to open weekday mornings initially with the afternoons dedicated to the home delivery service and allowing access to collections for our new ACE service (Ask, Collect and Enjoy). We are aiming to have library staff back in the building as soon as we can and then those two services will be a priority to get up and running.
- 4.25 When the library reopens we are also hoping to offer public pc access, printing and photocopying as well as access to all of our book and non-book stock. All returned books will have to be quarantined for 72 hours as per Public Health England guidelines. Initially the service will be unable to offer study spaces, physical events and activities, meeting rooms or the use of public toilets. We will be offering online and virtual events for all ages.
- 4.26 Once Penrith library has reopened with a core offer we will then look at gradually introducing other elements of our services when it is safe to do so. The re-opening of branches and library links will be considered later in the year.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the allocations of the Eden Local Committee Devolved Communities Budget and the locality working update contained within this paper.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The appendices to this report provide details of the expenditure and commitments against the Local Committee's Communities Budget and show unallocated resources of £143,184.
- 6.2 The commitments to note in recommendations 3.3 and 3.4 of this report total £13,703 and reduce the unallocated resources to £129,481.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been reviewed and raises no legal concerns. The report details actions and decisions of the Committee which are in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 This report provides the Local Committee with a comprehensive update on its communities budgets and related matters delegated to the committee.

APPENDICES

Appendix A-H – Local Committee Budgets

Appendix I – Briefing note on Matteredale community and educational asset development

Appendix J-L – 0-19 grant application forms

Electoral Division(s): All in Eden

** Please remove whichever option is not applicable*

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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