

## LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership held on Monday, 2 March 2020 at 10.00 am at Council Chamber - County Offices, Kendal, LA9 4RQ

### PRESENT:

Mr SF Young (Chair)

Mr AL Barry  
Mr P Dew  
Mr LN Fisher  
Mr KR Hamilton  
Mr K Hitchen

Mr W McEwan  
Mr AJ Markley  
Mr P Thornton  
Mr D Whipp  
Mr D Wilson

### Also in Attendance:-

Mrs L Davis	- Democratic Services Officer
Ms G Elliott	- Area Manager - Copeland
Ms K Fairclough	- Chief Executive
Mr S Hall	- Acting Assistant Director - Economy & Environment
Ms T Ingham	- Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs K Johnson	- Area Manager - South Lakeland
Mr G Kenyon	- Senior Planning Officer - Major Development
Ms N Parker	- Transport Infrastructure Manager
Dr D Roberts	- Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services
Ms L Shaw	- Area Manager - Allerdale
Mr N Wright	- Area Manager - Eden

## 23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Cook, Mr N Cotton, Ms D Earl, and Mr C Weber.

## 24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2019 be agreed as an accurate record.

## **25 FUNDING GAPS FOR LOCAL PLAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

Members received a presentation from the Programme Lead - Infrastructure Planning and the Infrastructure Planning Manager on Funding Gaps for Local Plan Infrastructure Development Plans. The presentation outlined Local Plans and Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDPs) that supported Local Plans, the role of the County Council, the Joint Statement of Intent and IDP Working Groups, funding sources and Infrastructure Funding Gap Analysis. The Analysis focussed on the infrastructure types for which the County Council was responsible for delivering. Members noted that the strategic infrastructure schemes and National Parks were not currently included in the Analysis.

Members noted that it was the responsibility of Local Planning Authorities to produce a Local Plan and supporting IDPs that considered infrastructure, cumulative impacts and future growth. The role of the County Council to cooperate with the development of those Plans and to work together with the District Councils to identify, prioritise and fund the necessary infrastructure was outlined. The emphasis of joint partnership working was highlighted to members and five IDP Working Groups had been established providing an opportunity for dialogue between the county and district about infrastructure.

Members noted that the Statement of Intent setting out how both councils worked together to identify, prioritise and fund the infrastructure necessary to support development proposed in the Local Plans had been signed by all councils concerned. The Chair confirmed that the Statement of Intent would not be recirculated for resigning.

Members noted that the funding required to deliver the infrastructure in the Local Plans was not included in the County Council's core budget and, although developer contributions helped meet some of the "funding gaps", it was essential that the district councils work with others to ensure all funding sources (detailed in the presentation) were exploited.

The Chair emphasised the size of the funding gap and explained district councils were being encouraged to support development whilst highlighting the funding was not in place to support the necessary changes in infrastructure. It was recognised that the various Local Plans were in different stages of adoption, being updated and in development.

Members gave examples of difficulties in their areas. The Jubilee bridge in Barrow was mentioned and the effects of coastal erosion on the B5300, Silloth to Maryport road. The lack of an up to date Copeland Local Plan to support the case for investment, such as the Whitehaven Relief Road, was discussed. It was noted that Scrutiny Advisory Board – Communities and Place were establishing a Task and Finish Group to explore the Council's approach to specific planning obligation agreements and the implications of new development in respect of physical and social infrastructure.

It was suggested that officers be invited to all Local Committees to give a tailored area presentation on funding gaps and Local Plans to the local members. It was further suggested that a presentation on governance around joint working, given to the Cumbria Leaders' Board, be repeated to a wider audience.

The Chief Executive advised members that, together with the Leader, she would attend the May/June/July round of Local Committee meetings to look at Local Plans and to afford members an opportunity to raise any particular local issues.

The officers were thanked for their very informative presentation.

**RESOLVED**, that

(1) the presentation be noted;

(2) officers be invited to attend each local committee to give a tailored area presentation on Local Plans and funding gaps.

## **26 12 MONTH REVIEW OF LOCAL COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services presented a report on a 12 month review of Local Committee Terms of Reference. Members were informed that following a review in early autumn 2018, the Terms of Reference for Local Committees were refreshed and adopted by Council, on the basis that their effectiveness would be reviewed after 12 months. The changes were made to achieve greater local focus and democratic accountability through Local Committee with a refreshed approach to area planning that would shape services more effectively and create efficiencies and benefits for local residents.

In undertaking the review, views had been sought from a number of officers including Area Managers, Assistant Directors and Democratic Services Officers. The Chairs and Vice Chairs were invited to consider they were receiving appropriate information about the breadth of council responsibilities that enabled them to engage more effectively in area planning. Members were asked to consider a number of specific issues such as the aim of area working and co-opted members on Local Committees.

In discussion of working groups, Members were asked to give consideration that some of the work could be more appropriately undertaken at Local Committees, that were open to the public and therefore offered transparency. It was noted that South Lakeland had two Parish Council representatives, nominated by CALC, attend the Local Committee who were invited to speak at the Chair's discretion but did not vote. Copeland Local Committee, when noting the changed terms of reference, asked that when the review took place, Constitution Review Group change the Terms of Reference to include the ability to co-opt the Chair of the local Copeland Association of Local Councils. In the interim this representative was asked to attend the Copeland Local Committee as a guest.

Overall the feedback was that the Terms of Reference in their current form, were working well and that Parish and/or District representation on the Local Committees were at the discretion of each particular Local Committee. Members did ask for improved communication from officers on issues that affected their local area. Members were encouraged to invite third party representatives to meetings to influence and inform decisions.

**RESOLVED**, that

(1) the report be noted;

(2) no amendments to the Terms of Reference for Local Committees was necessary at this time.

## **27 BORDERLANDS UPDATE**

Members received a briefing note from the Senior Manager – Economic Development providing an update on Borderlands and recent activity.

Members noted that the Heads of Terms announcement on 1 July 2019 confirmed the Government’s commitment to the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. The Leaders of the Borderlands Councils all remain committed to the Deal having recently approved the governance arrangements for the management and delivery of Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal programme of investment and work towards reaching agreement on the Final Deal was taking place for later this year.

Members were informed of the investment commitments, £265m from UK Government with £85m from Scottish Government, including £200m investment in England (roughly equating to £250 per head) and £150m in Scotland (roughly equating to £600 per head). Members heard, that with the forthcoming budget in March, it had seemed an ideal opportunity for the UK Government to consider committing additional investment to the Deal to support the “levelling up” in the northern regions of the UK. A copy of the letter sent to the Chancellor was appended to the briefing note.

Members noted the progress made to date on developing the project and programme business cases. The Deal would include four place based projects but also included proposals for six programmes that would have Borderlands-wide coverage including the whole of Cumbria. The six programmes were summarised in the briefing note.

Following a short discussion on Destination Borderlands, it was agreed that an update on this be prepared for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED**, that

(1) the briefing be noted;

(2) a presentation on Destination Borderlands be prepared for the next meeting.

## **28 BUDGET UPDATE**

Members received, for information, the Local Committee budget 20/21 allocations agreed at the County Council's Budget Meeting in February. Members noted that an additional £2.6m had been allocated to the six Local Committees, mainly for highway maintenance.

The Deputy Leader advised members that a Government decision on DfT funding was awaited but advised Local Committees to have "shovel ready schemes" in place. A discussion was held on the formula used for pothole funding allocation.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a brief discussion on the Council's response to the Coronavirus took place. The Chair and Chief Executive confirmed a statement had been made by the Director of Public Health and members would be kept informed of developments.

## **29 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 27 July 2020 at 10.00 am in Cumbria House, Carlisle.

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm