

## **COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH LAKELAND**

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland held on Tuesday, 21 July 2020 at 10.00 am.

### **PRESENT:**

Mr N Cotton (Chair)

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Mr J Airey    | Mrs BC Gray     |
| Mr B Berry    | Mr C Hogg       |
| Mr RK Bingham | Mr P McSweeney  |
| Mr J Bland    | Mrs S Sanderson |
| Mr M Brereton | Mr P Thornton   |
| Mr W Clark    | Mr WJ Wearing   |
| Mr SB Collins | Mrs J Willis    |
| Mr GD Cook    | Mr M Wilson     |
| Mrs S Evans   |                 |

### **District Council**

Giles Archibald – South Lakeland District Council

|               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| Mr M Conefrey | - | Public Health Locality Manager         |
| Mr P Hosking  | - | Local Area Network Manager             |
| Mrs K Johnson | - | Area Manager                           |
| Ms N Parker   | - | Infrastructure Planning Manager        |
| Mrs V Upton   | - | Team Leader Traffic Management - South |

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

#### **1 PLEASE NOTE THIS WAS A VIRTUAL MEETING**

#### **2 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Nick Cotton was elected Chair for the ensuing year.

#### **3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Councillor Geoff Cook was elected Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

#### **4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr L Hallatsch and Mr J Saunders, Parish Council observers on the Local Committee.

## **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no items of public participation for this meeting.

## **6 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that, the press and public not be excluded from the meeting for any items of business.

## **7 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillors Cook, Evans and Hogg all declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 17, Kendal Citizens Jury as they were members of Kendal Town Council and had voted on this matter.

## **8 MINUTES**

RESOLVED that, the minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee held on 29 January be confirmed as circulated and signed by the Chair.

## **9 AREA PLANNING**

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services regarding Area Planning in South Lakeland. The report provided service information and offered recommendations to South Lakeland Local Committee for approval from the Children and Young People’s Working Group meetings held on 19 February 2020 and 12 June 2020 and the Strategic Planning Working Group meetings of 28 February 2020 and 11 June 2020. The report also provided Local Committee with an update on activity against agreed priorities and provided an overview of the current budget position.

The Area Manager guided the Committee through all of the recommendations in the report. She explained the work that had been undertaken by her team and the joint working that had taken place during the Covid 19 crisis. She talked about the Kendal Futures Co-ordinator and Bowness and Windermere Forward Co-ordinator posts. She highlighted the amount of money remaining within the original funds set aside towards the Covid 19 response activity and the request for a further £20,000 for urgent community assistance. This would be focused on supporting children and families to access food during the 6 week summer break and beyond. The ‘Opening Towns’ activity would remain under review.

Councillor Berry did not consider the £4,500 grant from the Economic Initiatives Budget towards the Bowness and Windermere Forward Co-ordinator post for 2020/21 to be the best use of the grant and preferred that it be used for the delivery of projects identified by the group.

Councillor Thornton reported that he had been informed that Newton Rigg College was closing in July 2021 and although the college was based in Eden, this would significantly impact upon South Lakeland. He asked that the Local Committee make representation on this matter setting out the Committee's concerns.

A number of members spoke in support of the Local Committee making representation on the closure of Newton Rigg College. A member, also the Chair of the LEP Scrutiny Board, advised that avoidance of the college's closure had been discussed at its meetings. Committee Members commented on the importance of the college to farming in South Lakeland, but also to the country as a whole with a greater imperative placed on food security in light of the current pandemic. It was the only farming college in the county and had the opportunity to become an Institute of National Excellence, focusing on the requirement for farmers to adapt to environmental changes and therefore learning new farming methods and techniques. A number of members commented on the costs of the college over the years and the importance of the college remaining open as it was a valuable resource in Cumbria.

It was noted that the County Council would not be able to financially support the college. However, it would be proactive in making a strong case to Government to keep the college open. One member reported on the history of the college and how important it was to all age groups in the community. Another member commented on the rurality of his division and asked that all partners joined together to support the college as a centre of excellence. The Chair advised that with the Committee's agreement, a letter would be drafted setting out the Committee's representations on the closure of the college.

The Committee was reminded by a member of the importance of the Coastal Line to Cumbria, in addition to those listed in the report.

Clarification was sought from the Area Manager that the amount of money recommended as a grant to pay for the Bowness and Windermere Forward Co-ordinator could be used for another activity, should it be awarded. The Area Manager highlighted the risk to the project if the grant was reduced or diverted away from staff hours, such as an inability to deliver on the programme or secure external funds for project delivery through bid writing, for example. The Area Manager advised that she would need to discuss this with the group as it could also put the funding from other funders in jeopardy as they may be required to contribute more. Members were informed that the decision could be deferred at today's meeting and, as the grant was under £5,000 the decision could be taken following a discussion with the group, in consultation with Members (Chair of Local Committee and Divisional Members).

Members gave consideration to a number of options regarding this grant award. They considered deferring the grant award or devolving the decision to the Chair and Area Manager in order to avoid delaying the grant award. Alternatively they could award the grant at this meeting but state that it be used for activity other than that set out in the report. Mr Berry stated that the organisation was previously unable to directly deliver anything but this had now changed therefore the grant could be used for direct delivery rather than to support an officer post.

It was moved and seconded that the decision on the Bowness and Windermere Forward grant award be delegated to the Chair and Area Manager in consultation with councillors Bland and Berry, following liaison with the Bowness and Windermere Forward group.

A short discussion took place on the process for identifying grant awards. It was noted that members were able to discuss grant awards in their division at the Strategic Planning Working Group rather than the Local Committee meeting and this grant award had followed this process.

The Area Manager and her team were thanked for her and her team's work during the Covid 19 crisis by a number of members.

Mrs Evans reported on the business conducted at the Children and Young People's Working Group and referred to the minutes of meetings held in February and June 2020, attached to the report.

It was agreed that the following members sit on the Infrastructure Development Plan Working Group; Councillors Brereton, Cook, Cotton and Wilson.

Each recommendation was read out individually with the Chair asking for dissent if members did not agree with the recommendation. No dissent was noted on any recommendation therefore it was

RESOLVED that:

- 1 Members note the outturn budget for 2019-20 at Appendix A of the report.
- 2 Members note the delegated budget for 2020-21, which was approved at the Full Council meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020, including the commitments and expenditure to date.

Strategic Planning Working Group

- 3 Members note the work of the Strategic Planning Working Group as set out in the February minutes at Appendix C of the report.
- 4 £30,000 is allocated to the Economic Initiatives Budget from the 2020/21 budget allocation.
- 5 Members note that the amounts of £4,420 and £1,288 are the first call on the 2020/21 Economic Initiatives budget for the Kendal and Ulverston BIDs respectively.
- 6 £40,000 is allocated to the 0 – 19 Universal Services Budget from the 2020/21 budget allocation.
- 7 £30,000 is allocated to the A2B Now Young Persons Transport Scheme from the 2020/21 budget allocation.

- 8 £48,000 is allocated to Community Grants from the 2020/21 budget allocation.
  - 9 £19,796 is allocated to the School Crossing Patrol budget from the 2020/21 budget allocation.
  - 10 £45,341 is allocated to the General Provisions Budget from the 2020/21 budget allocation.
  - 11 Members note the £47,550 for the 2020/21 Money Advice Contract delivered by the Citizens Advice Bureau.
  - 12 Members note the £46,000 allocation to the Sandgate Hydrotherapy Pool from the 2020/21 budget allocation and note the current financial situation as detailed at 4.5 of the report.
  - 13 Members note the £128,778 allocation to the Community Development Team from the 2020/21 budget allocation.
  - 14 Members agree £7,750 be awarded to the Kendal Futures Co-ordinator post for 2020/21 from the Economic Initiatives Budget (2020/21), Appendix D of the report.
  - 15 The decision on the Bowness and Windermere Forward grant award be delegated to the Chair and Area Manager in consultation with councillors Bland and Berry and following discussion with Bowness and Windermere Forward.
  - 16 Members note the amount of £20,000 set aside towards the COVID-19 Response activity from the 2020/21 General Provisions budget allocation
  - 17 Members allocate a further £20,000 towards the COVID-19 Response, from the 2020/21 General Provisions budget, which may be used for urgent community assistance or physical measures across South Lakeland
  - 18 Councillors Brereton, Cook, Cotton and Wilson be appointed to the Infrastructure Development Plan Working Group.
- Children and Young People's Working Group
- 19 Members note the work of the Children and Young People's Working Group as set out in the minutes at Appendices F and G of the report.
  - 20 A letter be sent from South Lakeland Local Committee making representations against the closure of Newton Rigg College.

## **10 HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED REVENUE AND CAPITAL UPDATE**

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure regarding the 2020/21 Highways Devolved Revenue and Capital update. The report presented the Highways Revenue and Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital Budget finance reports and updated members as to current progress on the budget lines as detailed in the appendices attached to the report.

The Local Area Network Manager guided members through the report advising that the overspend position may possibly change by the September 2020 meeting of the Committee. He reported on the focus on work undertaken on the Principal Road Network (PRN) during the lock down period which accounted for the significant spend. He reported on surfacing works undertaken in various member divisions such as Oxenholme and Grange. In response to a member question, he explained what route management along the PRN was and the work undertaken by his team and Finance in order to ensure these works came out of the correct budget.

A number of members reported on the excellent work completed in their divisions during the lockdown period by the highways team. They commented on the positive responses from the public and Parish Councils on the excellent standard and timeliness of the work, the minor disruption to the public and asked that their thanks be passed on to the highways team and contractors.

One member asked the Local Area Network Manager to look at unsatisfactory work at Marsh Lane and asked that the public be made aware of delays at Levens Bridge.

A short discussion took place about works undertaken by organisations such as Highways England and United Utilities and the negative impact it could have on the work of the County Council. A member called for the proper supervision of contractors and value for money adding that he had raised this with senior managers.

RESOLVED that, Local Committee notes the revenue and capital budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to the end of June 2020 and shown in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report.

## **11 SOUTH LAKELAND LOCAL COMMITTEE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP**

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure regarding the South Lakeland Local Committee Highways and Transportation Working Group meeting held on 12 June 2020. The report provided the notes of the meeting of the Highways and Transportation Working Group and included recommendations for consideration by the Local Committee.

The Chair of the Highways and Transportation Working Group presented the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2020. He commented on the business conducted at the meeting and moved the recommendations contained in the report.

A member expressed that it was unacceptable that two Traffic Regulation Orders in her division had been on hold for two years. The Local Area Network Manager

would respond outside of the meeting on this matter. A member raised a scheme in his area that was still outstanding which he would like completed.

The Local Area Network Manager explained to the Committee that as well as receiving the Capital Programme for this financial year, it had received draft Capital Programmes for the ensuing two years so that members could review and note them but also, should any additional funding be received, schemes could be brought forward for completion. This had happened in the current financial year.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Local Committee notes the Minutes of the Working Group meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- 2 Local Committee gives consent to South Lakeland District Council to introduce "The South Lakeland District Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2004 (Amendment No 15) Order 2020", as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
- 3 Local Committee approves the current Divisional Highway Priorities Works Programme 2020 / 2021 ("the Programme") set out in Appendix 3 of the report. An entry for new schemes is shown for each division as this is the first report for this financial year.
- 4 Local Committee agrees that the following schemes which include Traffic Regulation Orders are approved to be progressed to statutory consultation and advertising in due course (please note that some below will have already been through the HTWG and Local Committee but all are included for clarity);

- High Furness - Broughton 20mph speed limit
- Kendal Nether - Waiting restrictions for Shap Road and Appleby Road Kendal
- Speed limit review on A684
- Kent Estuary - Arnside 20mph speed limit
- Arnside Prom and Station Road Prohibition of Waiting
- Lakes - Waiting restrictions for Chapel Hill area
- Low Furness - Scales 20mph speed limit extension and A5092 Penny Bridge to Spark Bridge 40mph speed limit
- Ulverston East - Waiting restrictions for Conishead Road
- Ulverston West - Waiting restrictions for Church Walk area and Garden Terrace

- 5 Local Committee agrees the Devolved Highways Revenue Allocations for 2020/21 attached as appendix 4 to the report.
- 6 Local Committee agrees the allocations within the Devolved Highways Capital Budget for 2020/21 and agrees the proposed, schemes for 2020/21 as attached in appendices 5 and 6 to the report.
- 7 Local Committee notes the proposed indicative allocations and schemes for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Devolved Highways Capital Budget as attached in appendices 7 and 8 to the report.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 and reconvened at 11.40am.

## **12 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR KENDAL**

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure regarding the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Kendal. The report informed Members of the progress on the production of a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for Kendal and to seek a contribution from Cumbria County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland towards the programme.

The Infrastructure Planning Manager gave the context for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Kendal. She talked about the Council's endorsement of the Cumbria Cycling Strategy in 2017 which had four objectives and that the Council was the lead partner on improving the cycling infrastructure to enable more cycling in the county. She explained the development of a series of LCWIPs which would help achieve the objectives of the Cumbria Cycling Strategy. She advised that access to DfT funding would depend upon the evidenced and assessed schemes included in the LCWIP. Members were reminded about the December 2019 workshop which asked stakeholders and local representatives about their ambition for cycling and walking in the area. Consultants had been appointed in Barrow to aid with their production of the LCWIP and funding was sought for the Kendal LCWIP from the Local Committee to help with theirs. This funding would allow work to commence on the LCWIP in August 2020 and it would be completed in January 2021.

Members commented positively on the development of the LCWIP with one member asking if there was a timetable available identifying when other towns outside of Kendal would be considered, particularly Ulverston as an old railway track route had been identified which would move cyclists and walkers from the A590 onto a safer route. The Infrastructure Planning Manager commented that strategic corridors for cycling had been identified in other areas of the county but their development was subject to securing funding but that the suggested route could be considered alongside them.

Following a member question, the Infrastructure Planning Manager advised that during the planning stage of the LCWIP, the whole of South Lakeland had been



reviewed. However, there was a focus on urban areas as they afforded more opportunity to change people's behaviour and therefore the 6 main towns across Cumbria were providing the starting point.

A member welcomed the focus on walking as improving and linking footways in the area would greatly enhance the health and wellbeing of the public. The Infrastructure Planning Manager undertook to review which disability groups had been consulted and asked members to let her know of any groups they thought would be able to contribute to further work on the LCWIP. She agreed that walking was as important as cycling in the LCWIP.

In supporting funding the LCWIP a member commented positively on the workshop, adding her support to include disability groups. The member asked if a plan was needed on what to spend additional funding from the Government on. She commented on the narrowness of the criteria on how Tranche 2 Government Funding could be spent and asked that priority be given to the route from Gooseholme to the north of Kendal and to a link from the south to north of Kendal. The Infrastructure Planning Manager explained the difference in Tranche 1 and 2 Government funding criteria for cycling and walking and how the LCWIP could tap into future funding.

After giving his support to the Ulverston route, a member raised that footpaths were not just used by walkers and cyclists and asked that a vision and future plans be drafted so that when funding was secured, the work could commence straight away.

The Leader of South Lakeland District Council pledged the authority's support for the LCWIP and welcomed that the Council had been involved during the consultation process.

The Local Member for Ulverston commented on his attendance at the Barrow LCWIP meeting, advising that those in attendance had given due consideration to routes to Ulverston and reported on the success so far in developing the Ulverston railway track route. The Chair encouraged members to enter into a dialogue with Parish Councils and to use knowledge of their division in order to identify potential routes.

A member raised her concern about the reallocation of road space. She highlighted the dangers of widening footpaths which could have a negative impact on the space available on the road to allow cars to move safely if there was an obstacle in the road, referring particularly to Dalton.

It was raised by a member that he hoped that the outcomes of the LCWIP would minimise the conflict between walkers and cyclists. He talked about the difference between the reporting arrangements of accidents between cyclists and walkers on footpaths and roads, urged that combined cycle and walking footways were as safe as possible and asked that some routes were for walkers only.

When reporting examples of positive joint working with Parish Councils and partner organisations in her division, a member commented on the work undertaken to fund cycle ways in order to move cyclists, walkers and equestrians off the A590 and on to

safer routes. The Infrastructure Planning Manager highlighted that joint working had been hindered by the COVID 19 lockdown period but this would be restarted in due course and partners would be involved in the LCWIP process.

A member encouraged local member input and joint working with partners, organisations and Barrow Local Committee to identify potential schemes. He reported the support of local MPs for a route in his division. He considered that there weren't enough big towns in Cumbria to attract Government funding and that other options may be needed. He supported the efforts of other members in moving cyclists and walkers off the A590 and onto safer routes. He acknowledged that the public depended on cars and public transport as there weren't enough integrated footways. In concurring with the latter point, a member considered that better footpath connectivity should be considered in order to support better mental health by allowing people to walk safely on well designed routes.

In supporting the LCWIP, a member considered it prudent to look wider than urban area routes whilst the Chair considered that spending money on improving cycle and footways could expand the potential to attract tourists to Cumbria.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation as set out in the report be agreed. The Chair asked for dissent if members did not agree with the recommendation. No dissent was received, therefore it was

RESOLVED that, South Lakeland Local Committee agrees that the sum of £15,830 be allocated from the General Provisions budget to allow the development of a Kendal LCWIP

### **13 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which gave a Public Health Update. The report drew members' attention to Public Health matters regarding the impact of COVID-19 in South Lakeland and asked that the Local Committee nominate members to sit on the South Lakeland Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

The Public Health Locality Manager advised that due to the COVID 19 crisis, his team had been diverted away from some usual duties therefore this work was not in the report before members.

Members' attention was drawn to the number of recorded deaths where COVID 19 had been mentioned on the death certificate. The Public Health Locality Manager gave a further update on the figures since the report had been published. Members were informed of the number of excess deaths registered in South Lakeland during 2020 in comparison to the previous five years.

In addition to the Chair of the Local Committee's Strategic Planning Working Group and Chair of the Children and Young People's Working Group, 2 other members

were requested to represent the Committee on the South Lakeland Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

Members commented on the statistics presented to the Committee. One member asked if there were figures available for Lancashire as some residents in South Lakeland crossed the county boundary and used hospitals in Lancaster. It was queried whether there were tests for people who thought they may already have had COVID 19. The Public Health Locality Manager outlined the current test and trace position and commented on the statistics available. He advised that if there had been cases of COVID 19 in late 2019, it would be expected that this would have been reflected in hospital admission figures and this was not the case.

When referring to the statistics, a member queried whether in future there would be an exercise to unpick data and information regarding for example boundary discrepancies and the recording of fatalities, particularly where a person had died of an underlying health issue but COVID 19 had been recorded on their death certificate. The member considered that COVID 19 had shown a geographical imbalance of South Lakeland's tourism economy; west South Lakeland was less reliant on tourism than the east and so suggested that in future, there was a need to diversify South Lakeland's economy.

The Public Health Locality Manager confirmed that he would do all he could with the statistics but that it would be difficult to unpick specific data without reviewing individuals' data.

The Leader of South Lakeland District Council thanked the County Council for its leadership during the COVID 19 crisis and was glad to be a partner in the work that had been undertaken. He urged that this continued in future. He asked if the Track and Trace of COVID 19 was fully operational and highlighted that a local pharmacy was selling testing kits and queried whether these were reliable. He asked if the ZOE Track and Trace app which monitored people's health was being used. The Public Health Locality Manager asked for further information on the pharmacy test, advised that he was confident about the robustness of local Track and Trace arrangements and would review the ZOE app.

A member reported his concerns about the interpretation of statistics and how reliable they were and requested that officers and members be trained on how to interpret statistics.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Members note the report.
- 2 Councillors Bland, Cotton, Evans and Wilson represent the Local Committee on the South Lakeland Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

## **14 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP**

The Minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 2 March 2020 were presented by the Chair of the Local Committee.

RESOLVED that, the Minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 2 March 2020 be noted.

## **15 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

## **16 OUTSIDE BODIES**

Mr Wilson reported on his role as the Committee's Autism Champion. He had been working with Library Services to obtain resources which were used in other locations in the county to help those with Autism and would bring these to a future meeting of the Local Committee.

## **17 CHILDREN'S CHAMPION**

Mrs Evans reported on her role as Children's Champion for the Local Committee.

Members were updated on Foster Carers, apprenticeships for Children Looked After and the development of an Early Years Pledge. Members received an update on the work being undertaken with young people who were cared for out of county and their invitation to a future Children and Young People's Working Group meeting.

Mrs Evans reported on the request of many Children Looked After to attend school during the COVID 19 lockdown period. The Committee was informed about future virtual events for the Cumbria Children in Care Council. A list of forthcoming events would be circulated to the Committee.

## **18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A short discussion took place on the next public meeting being held in a physical location rather than virtually.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 23 September 2020 at 10.00am.

## **19 KENDAL CITIZENS JURY**

This item was taken before Agenda item 16.

It had been agreed by the Chairman that this report be considered as an urgent item at this meeting due to time constraints. A commitment from the Local Committee was sought before the next meeting of the Local Committee on 23 September 2020.

Members considered a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services. The report sought to reaffirm Local Committee's commitment to give due consideration to the work of the Kendal Citizens Jury and to the recommended actions which may result from its findings.

The Area Manager advised the Committee that a commitment statement was required. The Citizens Jury was invited to the Strategic Planning Working Group in October 2020 to present their findings which would then be brought before the Local Committee at its November 2020 meeting.

Mr Thornton informed the Committee of the membership of the Oversight Group which had been convened by Kendal Town Council, the amount of time being spent developing a carbon neutral Kendal and highlighted the importance of stating that support would come via the Local Committee but that it could not commit to all asks. He was interested to see what the outcomes of the Jury would be. He confirmed that the Jury had met and commented on the discussions of the Jury meetings which were held in private, adding that its presentations would be made public.

RESOLVED that, Members note the commitment at 4.4 in the report, which will be made to the Citizens Jury in support of their work to reduce Kendal's carbon footprint.

The meeting ended at 1.05 pm