

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR COPELAND

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Copeland held on Monday, 27 July 2020 at Via Teams at 10.15 am

PRESENT:

Mr K Hitchen (Chair)

Mr MS Barbour

Mr M Hawkins

Mr AWC Lamb

Mr FI Morgan

Mr GRPM Roberts

Mr DE Southward

Mr CP Turner

Mr CJ Whiteside

Mr D Wilson (Vice-Chair)

Also in Attendance:-

- Mr K Cosgrove - Local Area Network Manager (Copeland)
- Mrs L Davis - Democratic Services Officer
- Mrs S Davis-Johnston - Traffic Management Team Leader (West)
- Ms G Elliott - Area Manager - Copeland
- Mr G Kenyon - Programme Lead - Infrastructure Planning
- Mr A Pratt - Cumbria Association of Local Councils
- Mayor M Starkie - Elected Mayor Copeland Borough Council

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

A one minute silence was held at the beginning of the meeting to remember and show respect to those residents no longer here with us.

1 ROLL CALL FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All of the above members and officers were present at the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Ms E Williamson and Mr A Wonnacott.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr K Hitchen be appointed Chair of the Local Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr Hitchen thereupon took the Chair.

3 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED, that Mr D Wilson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Local Committee for the ensuing year.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr G Roberts declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 8 – Whitehaven Parking Strategy as he is a member of Whitehaven Town Council and Agenda Item No 12 – Copeland Area Planning Report as he is a trustee for West Cumbria Age Concern UK.

Mr M Barbour declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 8 – as he owns property in Whitehaven.

Mr M Hawkins declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12 – Copeland Area Planning Report – as he is board member of Skills 4U.

5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions, petitions or statements to be considered at the meeting.

7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2020 be agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

8 WHITEHAVEN PARKING STUDY

Members received a detailed presentation providing an update on the recently completed Whitehaven Parking Study. Members heard that the Council had been working in partnership with Sellafeld Limited and Copeland Borough Council to undertake the Whitehaven Parking Study. The officer informed members that the Study had considered parking needs and improvements in Whitehaven town centre and at three railway stations (Bransty, Corkickle and Askam in Furness). The Study informed the planning, development and management of parking in these locations and also future design work for proposals to enhance the stations and encourage sustainable modes of travel.

Members noted the Study had been undertaken by consultants WSP and was funded by Sellafield through the Sellafield Planning Performance Agreement (PPA). The report summarised the outcome of the Whitehaven Parking Study, outlined the proposed packages of improvements and set out the next steps to support their future delivery and implementation.

During the discussion, members made a number of suggestions for inclusion in the proposals. These included establishing a taxi interchange at Corkickle or Bransty, specific motorcycle and motorhome parking in the town centre to encourage tourism and leisure and welcomed both “smart” car parking to assist the retail sector and the proposed scheme at Bransty to address commuter parking issues. The officer indicated that the delivery of schemes would be dependent on the scale of the schemes and availability of funding. Members noted that the proposals would be used in preparation of a business case for the Whitehaven Future High Streets Fund. Members discussed the impact of Covid 19 and different adopted methods of travel.

The discussion led on to the proposed multi story car park and coach parking at North Shore and whether the Study had addressed parking round Market Place following the TRO review in 2017. The environmental impact was also highlighted.

A request was made for signage at Corkickle for the Coast to Coast cycleway and concern was raised about the implication of part of that cycle route no longer being part of the national route of cycle ways. The officer agreed to review the consequences of this.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) The proposals for the Whitehaven Parking Strategy and Station Improvements Reports for Whitehaven (Bransty) and Corkickle Stations, as set out in the appendix to the report, be endorsed;
- (2) The continued partnership working with Copeland Borough Council and Sellafield Limited to explore the opportunities to secure funding and to co-ordinate delivery of the improvements be agreed;
- (3) The use of the strategy and station improvement reports to inform future infrastructure planning and the development and management of parking in Whitehaven be supported.

9 VARIATION TO WHITEHAVEN TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER COACH ROAD WHITEHAVEN

A report was provided to members outlining the background and details of a proposed variation to The County of Cumbria (Various Roads Whitehaven) (Consolidation and Provision of Traffic Regulations) Order 2019 following informal consultation.

Members were informed that Copeland Borough Council had been granted planning permission to construct a car park off Coach Road, Whitehaven and that the County Council's Development Control Team requested that, in order to achieve the required visibility splays when exiting the proposed access of the car park, a section of No Waiting at Any Time parking restrictions (double yellow lines) be installed to the extents as shown on the location plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report. It was reported that until these restrictions were in place it would not be possible for the car park to be used for its sole purpose and Cumbria Highways had highlighted that the parking restrictions would not be welcomed by the residents and local businesses in the area due to the loss of on-street parking places. The officer informed members therefore an agreement had been reached with Copeland Borough Council to allow affected residents to have spaces in the car park for their personal vehicles which had been positively received by the residents affected.

The officer reported that a private works agreement had been entered into between the County Council and Copeland Borough Council to facilitate the works involved and the proposed traffic restrictions were informally consulted upon in February 2020. Members noted that a total of two representations had been received which were in support of proposal. It was therefore

RESOLVED,

- (1) to proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement on the proposed amendments to parking restrictions on Coach Road, Whitehaven as shown on the location plan attached as Appendix 1 by way of a variation to The County of Cumbria (Various Roads Whitehaven) (Consolidation and Provision of Traffic Regulations) Order 2019 ("the Variation Order");
- (2) subject to there being no unresolved objections received at the end of the statutory consultation and advertisement of the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 above, that the Variation Order be brought into operation, as advertised having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984;

10 2020/21 LOCAL COMMITTEE DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS BUDGET

Members received a report which presented the Highways Devolved Budget Finance figures and included an update on the Highways Revenue and Capital Programme, details of which were contained within the appendices to the report. The Local Area Network Manager drew members' attention to additional Government funding for local highway authorities in 2020/21 to ensure local roads and other highways assets were fit for the future. The funding was made up of a number of existing and new funding blocks within the newly created Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund and one element, related to the Non Principal Road Network devolved to members. Members noted that the devolved element equated to an additional £995,266 Capital funding for Copeland.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the devolved revenue and capital budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure recorded in Appendices 1 and 2 be agreed and kept under review;
- (2) the Highways Revenue budget, currently forecasting a balanced budget, be noted;
- (3) the Devolved Highways Capital Budget, currently forecasting a balanced budget, be noted.

11 COPELAND HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

Members received a report detailing the outcome of the meeting of the Copeland Highways Working Group (HWG) held on the 5th June 2020.

The Local Area Network Manager agreed to the inclusion of the following items on the next Highways Working Group agenda:-

- Update on Hurras Road;
- progress on the Bay Vista junction planning application;
- excess speeding on Arlecdon Parks Road

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Working Group held on the 5th June 2020 which were attached as Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

12 AREA PLANNING REPORT

Members received a report providing an update of activity undertaken by the Communities teams since its last meeting. It also advised Members on their current budget position. Members were informed that the report made specific reference to the COVID 19 Emergency Response and Recovery activities.

A detailed presentation was shown to members with an overview of the work of the Community Team in providing support to communities through the COVID 19 Emergency Helpline, and in staffing the local support hub. The relationships built up by the Communities teams with partner organisations, volunteer groups and other bodies had been essential to ensure the close working required to support Copeland's towns and villages over the past weeks and months of the pandemic. The officers were keen that this joint working continued.

A summary of the Local Committee Budget Summary for 2020/21 was attached to the report at Appendix 2 with new allocations approved at County Council on 13th February at Appendix 3.

The Area Manager updated Members on a number of grant allocations listed in the report and asked Members to note that, through a Leader's decision, the contract with Citizen's Advice Copeland had been awarded to enable seamless service provision between the two contract periods and a Covid 19 fund of £20,000 had been established. The Area Manager also updated members on area planning and the library and archive services.

Members ratified the appointment of three local authority governors to schools.

The Public Health Locality Manager updated members on public health matters.

During the discussion that followed, members thanked staff for all their hard work throughout the pandemic. A short discussion on the SLA for School Crossing Patrols ensued. A member highlighted the need for strong engagement and safeguarding on domestic violence.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the current budget position outlined in Appendix 2 and the budget allocated to Copeland Local Committee as outlined in Appendix 3 be noted;
- (2) the Neighbourhood Development budget of £86,307 be allocated towards the Community Development Team for 2020/21;
- (3) . the agreement to establish a Covid-19 fund of £20,000 through a Leaders decision on the 2nd April 2020 be noted;
- (4) Members noted the Covid-19 fund £3,150 had been allocated to pay for a Food Pantry using FareShare to support the Copeland Community access food during the pandemic. Members further noted that a further £8,977 had been allocated to Phoenix Enterprise Centre to provide a wrap-around support programme to enhance the Food Pantry until October 2020;
- (5) . Members noted that £5,000 of the Covid-19 fund has been allocated to North Lakes Food Bank to support Lunch bags for families and children during the school holidays;
- (6) Members noted that £1,500 of the Covid-19 fund had been allocated to Overend Children's Home to provide additional activity resources during the lockdown period;
- (7) Members noted that £58,580 for a Money Advice Service has been allocated to the Citizens Advice Bureau through a Leaders decision on the 15th May 2020;
- (8) the School Crossing Patrol budget of £20,873 be allocated to fund the provision of school crossing patrols in the Copeland area as per the Service Level Agreement at Appendix 6;

- (9) the virement of £14,000 from the 0-19 budget to fulfil the full cost of the School Crossing Patrol Service Level Agreement be agreed;
- (10) the disestablish of the School Crossing at Millom Infants School as outlined at 4.22 of the report be agreed;
- (11) the 0-19 allocation of £55,839 be delegated to the Children & Young People's Partnership for distribution through grant funding and commissioned services;
- (12) the 11-19 Universal Services allocation of £24,400 be added to the 0-19 budget, for distribution through the Children & Young People's Partnership;
- (13) the £54,515 General Provision budget be ring-fenced to support Area Planning activity, agreed through the Local Committee Community Grants and Commissioning Panel;
- (14) the allocations of monies from 0-19, Universal Services and General Provision budgets which are in excess of £5,000 will be brought back to full Local Committee for approval;
- (15) the Community Grants that exceed £5,000, as outlined in paragraph 4.8 and 4.11 to the report be agreed;
- (16) the priorities to support the use of the Local Committee funds be agreed, with the addition of 'anything deemed to support Covid-19 recovery'

13 COPELAND CHAMPIONS UPDATE

The following update was given at the meeting:-

Dementia Champion

The Dementia Champion updated the committee on numerous issues. These included the award of a grant to Copeland Age and Advice Service for various aids to identify people with dementia and hidden disabilities whilst out and about. The grant would also provide training for volunteers to be dementia friendly. Members were informed that the Mobile Virtual Dementia Tour had been postponed. The Champion listed virtual sessions that had been made available during lockdown and notified members of help and support that was available.

Health Champion

The Health Champion updated members on health matters. Members noted that Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum were meeting later that day and an informal meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee had been arranged. The Health Champion strongly supported the government's initiative to increase uptake and expand eligibility of flu jabs and encouraged members to communicate this to residents.

Autism Champion

The Autism Champion discussed some of the challenges and positives faced by people with autism throughout the lockdown period of the pandemic and into the recovery period. The champion outlined help that had been and was still available through organisations such as Triple A and the Autism Support Groups.

The Champions were thanked for their informative updates.

14 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP MEETING

The Committee received, for information, the minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 2 March 2020.

RESOLVED, that the minutes be noted.

15 VERBAL UPDATE FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES/EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Mr P Turner, appointed through the County Council to the Lake District National Park Authority, updated members on National Park issues. The National Park representative reported that a higher than usual number of visitors had visited the Park which had created numerous littering, parking and fly camping problems. A multi-agency group had been established to address these issues.

The Chair thanked Mr Turner for the update.

16 NUCLEAR ISSUES

Mr D Southward, the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property updated the Committee on nuclear issues. Included in his report was Sellafield's continuing response to the pandemic, an update on the Moorside Clean Energy Hub, Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) – update on Geological Disposal (GDF), the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Socio-economic update, Sellafield Limited's new Social Impact Programme, Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Strategy 2020-25 and the NDA's Annual Report and Accounts for 2019-20.

The Cabinet Member agreed to liaise with the Local Member for Egremont North and St Bees on the withdrawal of the County Council from BEC. The Chair raised some concerns about the low level waste repository but the Cabinet Member did not see any detrimental effect and invited members to raise any concerns they may have with him. The Chair also drew members' attention to a funding pot available from the NDA.

The Cabinet Member was thanked for his update.

17 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 14 September 2020 at 10.15 am.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm