

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE

Minutes of a virtual Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Carlisle held on Monday, 9 November 2020 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT:

Mr C Weber (Chair)

Mr T Allison
Mr J Bell
Mr RW Betton
Mrs C Bowditch
Ms D Earl
Mr GM Ellis
Dr K Lockney

Mrs EA Mallinson
Mr J Mallinson (Vice-Chair)
Mr A McGuckin
Mr NH Marriner
Mrs V Tarbitt
Mr SF Young

Also in Attendance:-

Mr K Crawley - Traffic Management Team Leader (East)
Mrs L Harker - Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms L McKie - Senior Manager - Children and Families
Mr P Musgrave - Area Manager - Carlisle
Mr G Scott - Local Area Highways Network Manager
Ms R Whaley - Planning Officer

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

41 ROLL CALL

It was noted that all of the above members and officers were present at the meeting.

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Graham and Dr D Haraldsen.

43 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest on this occasion.

44 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

45 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (1) There were no public questions or statements to be considered at this meeting.
- (2) Ms C Reed presented a petition regarding Residents' Parking on Cheviot Road, Stanwix, Carlisle.

Members were informed that petitioners were in favour of residents' parking on Cheviot Road, highlighting the dangers to both residents in the area and the children of Stanwix School due to a number of issues which included vehicles using the road as a rat run in both directions, speeding vehicles and parking issues due to vehicles mounting the public footpath. It was explained those issues were, in the main, caused by the general public, staff and parents of Stanwix School and staff from nearby local businesses, including Sainsburys, who used the area as a car park.

During the course of discussion it was highlighted that long-term elderly residents no longer enjoyed living in the area due to the issues and the problems they incurred. Members were informed that the petition was also supported by a number of residents on Knowe Road as this issue also affected access to their garages.

The Local Committee was informed that when the Sainsburys planning application had been submitted residents of Cheviot Road had been assured they would be afforded residents' parking.

During the discussion it was suggested that to alleviate some of the issues the introduction of a one-way system on Cheviot Road and the extended use of the nearby Art College car park for Stanwix School staff should be considered.

In conclusion, whilst it was appreciated residents were not entitled to park outside their homes, but taking into account the number of safety issues, a residents' parking scheme be considered for Cheviot Road.

The local Member for Stanwix Urban welcomed and supported the petition, acknowledging the anti-social parking and other issues. It was explained that Parking Enforcement Officers had been deployed in the area but felt this was not a long-term solution. It was, therefore, requested that residents' parking on Cheviot Road be considered together with Cheviot Road and a section of Mulcaster Crescent being made one-way.

The Chair thanked Ms Reed for her petition and gave the following response:-

“Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of Carlisle Local Committee. Cumbria County Council carries out regular reviews of its traffic regulation orders to ensure that they meet changing demands for parking and other changes on the highway. Your request will be added to the list for future consideration as part of these ongoing reviews.”

- (3) The petition from Mr Forsyth regarding an Additional Parking Bay on Broad Street, Carlisle was withdrawn from the meeting as he was not in attendance.

46 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee held on 14 September 2020 be confirmed as circulated.

47 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE

Members received a detailed presentation by the Senior Manager – Children and Families which gave an overview of cases, trends and referrals regarding children with Child Protection Plans and Children in Needs Plans in Carlisle, and the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The presentation also gave an overview of the responsibilities of the Service, Open Cases and Trends in Carlisle.

Members were informed that officers had been in contact with children during the pandemic period and with contact to the Safeguarding Hub mainly relating to anti-social behaviour, neglect and domestic violence. It was explained that since July there had been an increase in the number of referrals for mental health and neglect.

The Committee was informed that prior to the pandemic referrals in Cumbria had been above average but figures were consistent from November throughout COVID with a slight drop in April. It was explained there was a dip during August due to school closures and a rise in referrals following the start of the Autumn Term in September which highlighted the invaluable insight from schools.

Officers explained the number of children in Carlisle had significantly reduced and it was felt that was due to the concerted efforts made to review care plans on a regular basis together with an increased oversight during the lockdown.

Members were informed that there had not been a lot of difference in the number of Children Looked After (CLA) during the pandemic highlighting that the Carlisle area was significantly lower than the rest of the county. It was explained there had been a slight increase of CLA since the start of the Autumn Term and it was felt the pandemic could have impacted on this.

The Committee welcomed fewer children being placed out of county. Members asked for information regarding the number of children who were placed in Cumbria from other areas of the country and it was agreed to provide this separately.

A discussion took place regarding peer group comparisons. Officers explained Cumbria was above the national trends for Children Looked After and Child Protection, therefore, the early intervention agenda had been introduced together with a focus on developing networks and support in communities, including voluntary sectors.

During the course of discussion a concern was raised regarding the danger to children because of the drive to keep children off the Child Protection Register. The Committee was assured that safeguarding measures were always undertaken and this was an initiative to work with families to increase their strengths to enable them to care for children. It was emphasised that the safety of children would never be jeopardised.

Officers highlighted the need to work in partnership with the Police and confirmed their close working relationships with their child protection units.

The Chair thanked the officer for an informative presentation.

48 INTRODUCTION TO CUMBRIA LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY PILOT SCHEME

The Committee received a presentation from Rachel Whaley, Planning Officer, as an introduction to the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Pilot Scheme (LNRS) which included its purpose, content, achievements to date and what would happen in the future. It was noted that the County Council had received £145k DEFRA funding as the responsible Authority.

Members were informed Cumbria was one of the pilots which had been launched and its key objectives included testing the end to end process of LNRS, production prototype LNRS and to test how the prototype sat within the local context and, in particular, other environmental special frameworks.

The Committee was informed the LNR was a spatial targeting tool with a strategic document to guide delivery of national policy objectives at local level prioritising nature conservation objectives based on wider public benefits.

Members noted the pilot steps and timetable and achievements so far noting that more targeted engagement with a number of partners would take place to identify a long list of nature conservation outcomes, establish priority outcomes, decide potential measures to achieve outcomes and agree suitable locations for delivery of measures.

A discussion took place regarding publicity of the Pilot and it was explained that over 50 organisations had been invited to an initial meeting as well as the first of a regular bulletin being despatched and would be made available to elected members.

During the course of discussion a concern was raised regarding the wide-ranging nature of proposals and it was suggested that objectives should be kept very focussed and robust in order to succeed.

The Committee noted that as well as Cumbria, Northumberland had also been chosen as a pilot, highlighting that they were both part of the Borderlands partnership and asked how they intended to work together. Officers explained there was already a close working relationship with both Northumberland and Borderlands initiative representatives.

A discussion took place regarding the ongoing zero carbon work being undertaken and it was explained that work on this and other objectives had to be undertaken to agree priorities whilst bearing in mind there were other groups across the county with different objectives for their area.

The Chair welcomed the presentation and it was agreed a further update would be made to a future meeting of the Committee.

49 AREA PLANNING REPORT

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided members with recommendations and matters to note relating to budget commitments, grant allocations from the recommendations of its Strategic Grants Panel and other relevant matters relating to area planning.

The local Member for Dalston and Burgh raised his concerns regarding the safety of pupils at schools in his Division due to parking issues. He asked if the proposal to vire the forecast underspend of £24,065 from the School Crossings Patrol (SCP) budget into the Area Planning budget could be used towards resolving those problems. Officers explained that SCP funding was specifically for school crossing patrols with a limited ability to engage in wider road safety schemes but highlighted that virement into an area planning budget would provide more flexibility to look at wider road schemes within the budget and provide resilience around road safety.

During the course of discussion the Leader of the Council highlighted the road safety issues at the newly built St John Henry Newman Catholic School despite the safety measures which had been implemented as part of the development.

The local Member for Harraby South highlighted her concerns regarding the lack of funding Eden Valley Hospice had currently received and asked the Local Committee to consider allocating a grant of £10,000. The local Member for Houghton and Irthington (Leader of Carlisle City Council) supported the recommendation and agreed that Carlisle City Council would equally match the £10,000. The Local Committee agreed the additional recommendation.

The local Member for Botcherby asked for further details regarding the grant allocation to the Carlisle Church of the Nazarene and general information regarding criteria for grants to religious groups. It was agreed that the Area Manager would provide the details direct to the Member.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the commitments made and the remaining balances within delegated budgets and the grants (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report) be noted;
- (2) the following grants made from Area Planning funding (as detailed in Appendix 2) be noted:-
 - (a) £2,500 to Carlisle Church of the Nazarene towards a community events pilot project;
 - (b) £2,500 to The Lookout towards start-up costs of a new community hub;
 - (c) £5,000 to Rockcliffe Parish Council towards upgrading toilets;
 - (d) £1,467 to St Margaret Mary's Parish Hall towards upgrading kitchen;
- (3) the following grants from the 0-19 grants fund (as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report) be noted:-
 - (a) £605 to Owl Blue towards providing 1:1 sessions for children & families;
 - (b) £850 to Morton Community Centre towards providing an October half term playscheme;
 - (c) £953 to Brampton Area Action Group towards providing October half term positive activities;
 - (d) the return of £4,680 from the earmarked 0-19 summer activities budget of £18,000 back into the general 0-19 budget;
- (4) a grant of £9,000 from its 0-19 Grants fund to Carlisle Eden MIND towards the costs of delivering 'Coaches in Mind', a one to one service offered across Secondary school aged children in Carlisle over the first pilot year be agreed;
- (5) the forecast underspend of £24,065 from the School Crossings Patrol budget be vired into the Area Planning budget;

- (6) the progress made in allocating DEFRA Local Authority Emergency Assistance funding to appropriate projects in the Carlisle Area be noted;
- (7) a grant of £10,000 to Eden Valley Hospice, match funded from Carlisle City Council, be agreed.

50 2020/21 HIGHWAYS BUDGET/PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the Highways Revenue, Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget finance reports, combined with the Highways Programme Progress information.

The local Member for Botcherby raised his concerns about issues regarding Botcherby Bridge, Eastern Way Bridge and drainage matters which had not been included in the Programme. It was agreed that the local Member forward his concerns to the Chair of the Local Committee and Area Highways Network Manager for further investigation.

RESOLVED, that the following be noted:-

- (1) the revenue and budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure (detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);
- (2) the programme progress information (as shown in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);
- (3) the Highways Revenue budget has been split for use against various budget headings (referred to in Appendix 1 of the report);
- (4) the devolved Capital and Additional Devolved Capital budgets have been split for use against various budget headings (referred to in Appendices 2 and 4 of the report);
- (5) Two revenue budget headings are under review;
- (6) the following schemes have been delayed/postponed:-
 - (a) 2 High Cross Street Cobblestone has been delayed (Appendix 2 of the report);
 - (b) Scotch/English Street has been delayed (Appendix 2 of the report);

- (c) Friar Waingate Bridge has been postponed to 2021/22 (Appendix 4 of the report);
- (d) Boundary Rd has been delayed (Appendix 4 of the report);
- (e) Lowry Hill–Liddle Close–Netherby Street has been delayed (Appendix 4 of the report);

these delays and postponements are related to programme changes that impact in-house resource availability. Delayed works are being reprogrammed for delivery in 2020/21.

51 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

Members considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave details of the meeting of the Highways and Transport Working Group held on 8 October 2020 and presented recommendations to the Local Committee for approval.

(1) Minutes

RESOLVED, that the minutes be noted.

(2) 2020/21 Highways Projects Update Report

RESOLVED, that the following be noted:-

- (a) the project information (as detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report); and;
- (b) there are no additional comments in the appendices to bring to the attention of Local Members. Any significant comments, changes and/or amendments will be highlighted here in subsequent and future reports to the Carlisle Highways and Transport Working Group.

(3) 2020/21 Highways Budget/Programme Progress Report

RESOLVED, that the following be noted:0

- (a) the revenue and budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure (as detailed in appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);
- (b) the programme progress information (shown in appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);

- (c) the Highways Revenue budget has been split for use against various budget headings. (referred to in Appendix 1 of the report);
- (d) the devolved Capital and Additional devolved Capital budgets have been split for use against various budget headings (as detailed in appendices 2 and 4 of the report);
- (e) additional work has been added to the Drainage Maintenance Work Programme (detailed in Appendix 5 - Non Devolved Capital (Additional) for information of the report);
- (f) additional work has been added to the Improvements to Public ROW (Rights of Way) Programme (referred to in Appendix 5 - Non Devolved Capital (Additional) for information of the report).

(4) Draft Carlisle Highways Revenue Budget 2021/22

RESOLVED, that the draft 2021/2022 Devolved Highways Revenue Maintenance budget allocations for 2021/2022 be agreed and kept under review.

(5) Draft Carlisle Highways Capital Budget 2021/22

RESOLVED,

- (a) that the Highways Draft Capital budget allocations for 2021/2022 (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report) subject to confirmation of the budget allocation by Cabinet in February 2021 be agreed and kept under review;
- (b) to note that the proposed schemes are being delivered under the proposed budget allocations (referred to in Appendix 2 of the report) subject to confirmation of the budget allocation by Cabinet in February 2021.

52 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP

The Notes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group held on 21 October 2020 were noted.

The Leader asked about the status of the Carlisle Transport and Movement Plan and how this fit in with other plans such as the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. It was agreed that a written response would be provided direct to him.

53 MEMBER CHAMPION UPDATES

(1) Children in Care Champion

Mrs Mallinson gave members a positive update on the joint City and County Council Families Committee. It was explained that engagement had taken place with Active Cumbria with a view to tackling obesity in young people.

(2) Armed Forces Champion

Mrs Tarbitt informed the Committee of the valued support being given to members of the Armed Forces communities by the various Projects in action during the current pandemic.

The Committee noted that all formal parades and gatherings to mark the momentous date signalling the end of the “2nd World War” on Remembrance Sunday had been cancelled due to the COVID outbreak and that the Armed Forces Champion had laid a wreath in Longtown. Members were encouraged to stand on their doorsteps on Wednesday 11 November at 11.00 am and join the nation in 2 minutes silence.

Members were informed of a recent meeting with two creative Veterans who resided in the Longtown Division and were working on a film Project which involved creating sets in which a variety of military vehicles and artefacts had been made out of old military equipment. It was explained they were keen to involve other Veterans and young people in an Apprenticeship programme.

The Committee was informed that the Heathlands Project was working with Veterans on-site and offering space to create allotments. Members were asked to inform the Armed Forces Champion of any vacant allotments in their divisions which could be used by veterans.

(3) Autism Champion

Mrs Bowditch raised her concerns regarding the increased stress on people with autism and their families as second lockdown began, highlighting the unprecedented challenges for those people during the pandemic.

The Committee were informed that the National Autistic Society had undertaken an on-line survey for autistic people and their families across the UK during June and July and had received 4,232 responses; 1,810 from autistic people and 2, 422 from family members.

It was explained that compared to the general public autistic people were seven times more likely to be chronically lonely, 6 times more likely to have low life satisfaction, 9 out of 10 autistic people worried about their mental health during lockdown, 1 in 5 family members had to reduce work due to caring responsibilities, 7 out of 10 parents said their child had difficulty understanding or completing school work and around half said their child’s academic progress had suffered.

The Autism Champion emphasised that the rapid withdrawal of mental health, social care and educational services was disastrous for many autistic children and their families and highlighted the continuing invaluable service provided by the third sector in Carlisle which was very much appreciated.

54 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 14 September 2020 be noted.

55 LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE - FORWARD PLAN

The current Forward Plan of business for future meetings of the Local Committee was noted.

56 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED, that the next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 10.00 am at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 11.45 am