

**Notes of the meeting of South Lakeland Local Committee Budget Working Group held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

**Attended by: G Cook (Chair), J Willis, I Stewart, K Lancaster,  
B Wearing (for J Airey), C Feeney-Johnson**

**Officer(s): D Whitehead, K Masser**

**1. Apologies:** J Airey, T Clare

**2. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Cook declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 3) and was absent from the discussion. During the discussions on item 3) Cllr Lancaster, as a member of SLDC Planning Committee, declared a prejudicial interest in the matter, and left the room.

**3. Lancaster Canal Restoration Partnership**

The Group had been asked to reconsider the application for grant support referred back to it by Local Committee on 28 February 2011.

Hal Bagot, Chair of the Lancaster Canal Restoration Partnership, attended the meeting in order to provide members with any additional details required to help them reconsider the matter.

British Waterways have had to carry out a large body of work, including protracted negotiations with the Environment Agency, in order to reach a stage where a planning application can be prepared. A pre-planning meeting is to be held w/c 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 with South Lakeland District Council planning officers, at which it is expected that it will be established how much it will cost to submit the planning application. Funds received from other bodies towards this cost are currently held in a restricted account and any award from South Lakeland Local Committee will make up the balance.

After much discussion members felt that, given the significance of the project to Kendal and the surrounding area, it was important to assist its progress. It was therefore agreed to recommend that a sum of up to £2,250 should be awarded to the Partnership, subject to confirmation to the ASM of the likely cost of the application following the Partnership's meeting with planning officers. It was also agreed that should an award of £2,250 mean there were still not sufficient funds to cover the cost of the planning application then new applications to support the required balance should be made to other local partner organisations, such as Kendal Local Area Partnership.

**Recommendations:**

That Local Committee note that further to the delegation agreed at Local Committee minute 128(3)h, the Chief Executive, following consultation with Budget Working Group had agreed to allocate up to £2,250 to the Lancaster Canal Restoration Partnership towards the cost of submitting a planning application to secure the route of the canal from Canal Head to Natland Bridge, subject to confirmation of planning costs.

**Post meeting note:** Planning costs were subsequently confirmed as £1690, so no contribution will be made in this instance.

#### 4. Local Committee revenue allocations 2011/12

##### a) Cabinet Report – Local Committee budget allocations criteria for devolved responsibilities

The Cabinet report was received by members and the criteria noted in conjunction with the relevant budget allocations. Further guidance on budget spending is expected but members' attention was drawn in particular to the fact that Local Member £12k Schemes will now be revenue, allowing greater flexibility on how spending can be allocated. These monies can now be spent over a period of two years and they can also be vired to other Local Committee budget areas or supplemented by other budgets.

##### b) School Crossing Patrol SLA

Members noted that any post which has remained vacant for 3 or more years will be disestablished from 1 April 2011. Members noted the budget provision of £30,323 and the Service Level Agreement forecasted total of £29,663.

The ASM advised that, following closure of Dale Street Infants, a request will be made to change its crossing patrol name on the schedule to Sir John Barrow. Members also agreed to recommend that Highways be asked to assess what alternative road safety measures could be funded from any underspend.

##### **Recommendations:**

That Local Committee agrees to the following:

- To accept the School Crossing Patrol SLA for 2011/12
- That Highways and Transportation Working Group should be asked to assess what alternative road safety measures could be funded from any underspend on the School Crossing Patrol budget in 2011/12.

##### c) Highways Revenue Budget 2011/12 report

Members were asked to consider the report from the Corporate Director, Environment containing recommendations for the Highways revenue budget for 2011/12. The Area Engineer advised that in like for like terms the budget was similar to that for 2010/11.

Scheduled maintenance plans include restoring grass cutting to a full width cut. The balance remaining after scheduled maintenance plans are taken into account has been allocated to Better Highways.

### **Recommendations:**

That Local Committee agrees to the following:

- To accept the proposals for the Highways revenue budget as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Highways Revenue Budget 2011/12 report to the Working Group from the Corporate Director, Environment dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011.
- To recommend that any ongoing issues continue to be dealt with by the Highways & Transportation Working Group

### **d) Proposal paper – Local Committee Budget 2011/12**

#### **0-19 years**

Cllr Feeney Johnson confirmed that Young Person's transport was a priority for the coming year, along with early intervention schemes. Julia Morrison, Corporate Director Children's Services, had expressed a wish to attend Local Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Members agreed to extend an invitation as it was felt that it was important to encourage contact and liaison with all Directorates. It was suggested that Local Committee also encourage Julia Morrison to attend a meeting of the Children & Young Person's Working Group. It was further suggested that CYPWG might like to consider allocating a sum of money to feed into the Local Area Partnerships to be spent on youth provision and engagement as rural areas especially would benefit from this support. A request was made for a report to go to CYPWG with an evaluation of such schemes currently being funded by Local Area Partnerships.

#### **Recommendation:**

That Local Committee agrees to the following:

- To allocate £50,000 to the Young Person's capped fare transport scheme from the £140,255 available for 0-19 Services. The balance of £90,255 to be spent according to recommendations by Children & Young Person's Working Group

#### **Economic Initiatives**

Members agreed that a single item meeting of Budget Working Group should be held on 21 April to agree the criteria for awarding of grants under this budget line.

#### **Neighbourhood Support**

Members were advised that with the restructure of the Area Support teams the current delivery of support and engagement activity would have to be reviewed.

It was proposed that a Task & Finish group be set up to consider the most effective means of accomplishing the levels of support and engagement required by members, within the constraints of the reduced budget, an ASM, who would be dividing their time between South Lakeland and Barrow and reduced staffing.

It was proposed that new practices should be in place by September and that for the interim, between April and July, staff would be asked to organise one Neighbourhood Forum per area and to co-ordinate, where applicable, one LAP meeting.

Members were also aware of the need to engage with SLDC and to put forward a concerted plan of action for the LAPs. Ongoing discussions around the Localism Bill would also have to include Forums and LAPs.

The composition of the Task & Finish group was agreed at Liberal Democrats (2), Conservatives (2), one each from an urban and a rural division where possible. Cllrs Cook and Willis agreed to represent the Liberal Democrats. Precise terms of reference are to be drafted – Cllr Cook to speak with AD Dawn Roberts on who is to take on that work. The final report of the group will be presented to the July meeting of Local Committee, with an interim report to go to the May Local Committee meeting.

**Recommendation:**

That Local Committee agrees to the following:

- That a Task & Finish group is set up to consider how and to what level Neighbourhood Forums, and LAPs can be supported in the future. The Task & Finish group to present its findings to the Local Committee meeting on 11 July 2011.

**5. Other Business**

The ASM reported that an enquiry had been received as to whether a foreign exchange student living with a family in the South Lakeland area would be eligible for an A2BNoW card. As the student is not a permanent resident and it was also unclear how long they would be staying in the area members felt that this individual and others in the same position did not meet the current qualifying criteria for the scheme. However, it was agreed to revisit this issue when the next review of the scheme as a whole is undertaken.

**6. Date of Next Meeting:**

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2011, after the meeting of Cumbria County Council's full Council.**

To consider the short Task & Finish group's recommendations for criteria for the awarding of grants from the Economic Initiatives budget allocation.