

# **COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN**

**Meeting date: 17 January 2018**

**From: Corporate Director – Health, Care and Communities**

## **2017/18 LOCAL COMMITTEE DEVOLVED BUDGET MONITORING AND UPDATE REPORT**

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1 This report presents the actual expenditure and commitments recorded against the Eden Local Committee Communities Budget as at 31 December 2017 and provides the Local Committee with an update on the activity of the Eden Community Services Team.**

### **2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**2.1 Community development forms part of the County Council's consultation process. This supports all of the Council Plan priorities:**

- To safeguard children, and ensure that Cumbria is a great place to be a child and grow up**
- To enable communities to live safely and shape services locally**
- To promote health and wellbeing, and tackle poverty**
- To protect and enhance Cumbria's world class environment**
- To provide safe and well maintained roads and an effective transport network**
- To promote sustainable economic growth, and create jobs**
- To support older and vulnerable people to live independent and healthy lives**
- To be a modern and efficient council**

**2.2 Improved locality working is one of the ways the Council is delivering on its priorities. The County Council vision, included in the Council Plan, sets out that it will be '... an effective and efficient organisation that delivers the best possible services for the people of Cumbria within its available resources, protects the most vulnerable, and works with others in the community to shape services and help find solutions for the future.' The approach and work of the Local Committee directly contributes to this vision.**

- 2.3** *The Eden Area Plan sets out the three targeted priorities for the area, which are access to services, developing strong and resilient communities, and supporting a better quality of jobs in the area; and details how the Council is delivering its services in support of them.*
- 2.4** *The locally devolved funding is available for Local Committees to allocate within the area to support positive outcomes for the communities of Eden. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or to enhance/complement existing provision according to locally determined need.*

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1** *Note the budget allocations for 2017-18 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date.*
- 3.2** *Note the unallocated resources in the Communities Revenue Budget of £58,282 as at 31 December 2017.*
- 3.3** *Note the Area Planning update included in this paper.*
- 3.4** *Agree a grant of £5,000 from General Provision for Eden and South Lakeland Credit Union to support the group in achieving financial security and a sustainable future.*
- 3.5** *“Building Stronger Communities” has 2 parts to the recommendation:*
- 3.5.1** *Allocate £10,000 from General Provision for the delivery of the “Building Stronger Communities” project aimed at supporting community wellbeing through the development by Parish Councils of their websites and by community groups of local lunch clubs.*
- 3.5.2** *Delegate to the Area Manager the award of small grants to Parish Councils and community groups from the allocation referred to in recommendation 3.5.1.*

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1** The Eden Local Committee Communities Budget allocation is based upon the 2017/18 Budget agreed by Council on 16 February 2017. The Local Committee is able to vire funding between budget lines during the course of the financial year, subject to any restrictions set by Cabinet and/or Council regulating the use of such funds. The Committee is not able to vire money from capital budgets to revenue budgets.
- 4.2** The figures carried forward from the out-turn budget for 2016/17, presented as a draft at the 31 July Local Committee have been included. The roll-forward amount of £121,772 from 2016/17 is for earmarked projects.
- 4.3** The report updates Members on the Local Committee’s Communities budgets for the 2017-18 financial year which are summarised in Appendix A of the report.
- 4.4** Of the total Communities Revenue Budget allocated to the Local Committee, £108,752 was allocated as discretionary revenue budget.

- 4.5 At its meeting on 24 May 2017, Local Committee discussed allocations to its discretionary budget, the overall figure for which is offered in Appendix A.
- 4.6 Appendices B through to H provide detail against individual budget lines, including original allocation, brought forward balances, commitments and expenditure to date.

#### **Locality Working in Eden**

- 4.7 Following a recent presentation to Eden Local Committee, the team have progressed discussions with Eden and South Lakeland Credit Union around achieving financial security and a sustainable future, where it can operate successfully without the need for grant funding. To enable this Eden Local Committee are asked to support the Eden and South Lakeland Credit Union within their financial year 2017/2018 (Oct 17 to Sep 18) with a grant of £5,000. The projected operating deficit for the credit union for this period is £17,054. There is more information on this grant proposal contained within appendix I.
- 4.8 Following discussions at the November Member workshop, community development officers have been working up the “Building Stronger Communities” project around offering micro-grants to Parish Councils and community groups to support well-being – specifically in relation to lunch clubs and local online information development. There is more information on this project proposal contained within appendix J.
- 4.9 Community development officers have been progressing exploratory discussions with representatives of the town’s Heritage Action Zone project about the possibility of hosting a project in the currently vacant space above the town library. Further information will be brought to committee as appropriate.
- 4.10 Members of the team attended the recent “Communities to COBRA” conference in Penrith to further discuss and learn from best practice around how the community and third sector interact with statutory agencies during an emergency. Following this useful session a subsequent meeting with Eden District Council has taken place to further review joint response for Eden communities in an emergency and will be discussed at a session with the Eden Community Flood Recovery Group in January.
- 4.11 Following on from attendance at the Cumbria Youth Commission event recently by Members and officers, discussions have picked up around how the committee can help involve young people in keeping communities safe. Furthermore, consideration is being given to how the committee can support and regularly engage with Eden Youth Council. Both issues will be picked up as part of the discussions at a Member workshop to be held in February.

#### **Public Health and Wellbeing**

- 4.12 Sara Bradley has started work as the community falls prevention worker for Eden. The post is funded by the Eden public health locality budget for two days a week for three years and is part of a pilot project with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) looking at ways to prevent the first fall in the community.
- 4.13 The work includes delivering talks, presentations, attending events and facilitating discussion among community groups - including harder-to-reach groups - on the risk of falls and how to reduce these risks. Efforts will be

undertaken to encourage individuals to take up activities which mitigate the risk of fall, including showing people simple strength and balance exercises. The role also includes developing a falls prevention network of champions in Eden. Formal promotion of the project will commence in January.

### **Community Services and Libraries**

4.14 December has been a busy month of events in Penrith library which has included:

- From 1- 23 December, the first child to visit Penrith Library on each day opened the healthy advent calendar - designed by pupils of Yanwath School - and received a present.
- A display raising awareness of domestic violence and promoting local services to support victims.
- A Christmas coffee morning on 15 December with staff, in their Christmas jumpers, sharing a mince pie with customers.
- A Games Day on 16 December where customers came along to play a board game – and try to complete the Christmas jigsaw puzzle.

4.15 Shap Library Link was the location for a Christmas social Evening on the 14 December – music on the night was provided by The Davies Family Band interspersed with poetry and refreshments.

### **4.16 Local resource initiatives / waste minimisation**

4.17 Following a successful pilot with local schools engaging around waste minimisation behaviours, a meeting has taken place with Eden based Cumbria Action for Sustainability around the second phase of the project. The focus now will be moving awareness into action both in school and at home. A refreshed proposal will be presented back to the council in January.

4.18 The Master Composer volunteer project funded by Committee earlier this year is making excellent progress in achieving its overall project aims of 450 volunteer hours logged and 450 individual conversations around composting. The team will be meeting with the scheme organisers, Garden Organic, to consider how we might develop the programme in the new year – including considering a more tangible link to growing initiatives as mentioned by some Members recently.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

5.1 Members should note the report and the recent activity for the Eden Community Services Team in facilitating the commitment of the Eden Local Committee Devolved Budget.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Following its meeting on 11 December 2017, the Local Committee has unallocated resources of £20,570 in its General Provision.

6.2 Should the recommendations in this report be agreed, £15,000 will be committed from this budget, leaving unallocated resources of £5,570 available for future allocation etc.

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Recommendations 3.1 – 3.3 are for members to note. There are, therefore, no direct legal implications.

7.2 In relation to recommendation 3.4, under part 2D paragraph 2.4(h) of the Constitution, Local Committee has the function to:

“Determine applications for grants, loans and contributions to outside bodies, voluntary organisations, individuals or third sector organisations (which are not specifically delegated to an officer) within a policy approved by the Cabinet”.

7.3 In relation to recommendation 3.5.1, when allocating budgets, Local Committee must follow the rules set by the Council following its consideration of the “Revenue Budget 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan (2017-2020) and Draft Capital Programme (2017-2022)” report on 16 February 2017 and any such additional restrictions set by Cabinet and/or Council regulating the use of such funds.

7.4 In relation to recommendation 3.5.2, under Part 2D paragraph 2.3 of the Constitution:

“A Local Committee is able to arrange for its functions to be carried out by an officer of the County Council”

and, under part 2D paragraph 2.4(h) of the Constitution, Local Committee has the function to:

“Determine applications for grants, loans and contributions to outside bodies, voluntary organisations, individuals or third sector organisations (which are not specifically delegated to an officer) within a policy approved by the Cabinet”.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

8.1 This report provides the Local Committee with a comprehensive update on its communities budgets and related matters delegated to the committee.

**Brenda Smith**

**Corporate Director – Health, Care and Community Services**

*22 December 2017*

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendices A-H – Eden Local Committee Devolved Communities Budget Accounts.

Appendix I – Additional information the on the proposed grant for Eden and South Lakeland Credit Union.

Appendix J – Additional information on the proposed “Building Stronger Communities” micro-grant project supporting community well-being.

Electoral Divisions: All in Eden

Executive Decision	Yes	
Key Decision	No	
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?		N/A
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	No	
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?		N/A
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	No	
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	No	
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	No	

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**  
*[including Local Committees]*

*No previous relevant decisions*

**CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

*Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny*

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*No background papers*

**REPORT AUTHOR**

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