

## LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership held on Thursday, 25 January 2018 at 10.00 am at Conference Room A, Cumbria House, Carlisle

### PRESENT:

Mr SF Young (Chair)

Mr AL Barry  
Mr N Cotton  
Ms D Earl  
Mr KR Hamilton

Mr K Hitchen  
Mr C Hogg  
Mr C Weber  
Mr D Whipp

### Also in Attendance:-

Mr C Cox	-	Director of Public Health, Cumbria County Council
Mrs J Currie	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mrs P Duke	-	Senior Manager - Accountancy and Financial Planning
Ms G Elliott	-	Area Manager - Copeland
Ms K Fairclough	-	Chief Executive, Cumbria County Council
Mr S Hall	-	Assistant Director - Highways Transport and Fleet
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs K Johnson	-	Area Manager - South Lakeland
Mr P Musgrave	-	Area Manager (Carlisle)
Ms L Shaw	-	Area Manager - Allerdale
Mr N Wright	-	Area Manager - Eden

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

#### 31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Fairbairn, Mr W McEwan, Mr I Stewart and Mr D Wilson.

#### 32 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED** that, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 10 November 2017 be agreed with the following amendments:-

Page 8 – 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph change the spelling of site to sight  
Page 9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph change the spelling duel to dual  
Page 11 – in the list of bullet points at the end of this page change the spelling of batchelor to bachelor

### 33 LOCAL COMMITTEE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS 2018/19

Members considered a report from the Corporate Director – Resources and Transformation which sought to provide them with an update on the strategic planning process for 2018/19 - 2021/22. The report also advised members on the Revenue and Capital allocations for Local Committees for 2018/19.

Cabinet on the 23 November 2017 received an update of the current financial context and pressures facing the Council and agreed the expected saving requirement i.e. the budget planning gap, 2018/19 to 2021/22 of £73m.

At the same meeting Cabinet agreed the Budget Consultation document which sought public feedback on the proposed 1.99% increase in Council Tax for general purposes in 2018/19.

Formal consultation and engagement commenced on the 23 November 2017 and ended on the 8 January 2018.

In order to achieve a balanced budget for the period of the new MTFP (2018-2022) the Council had developed saving opportunities across four themed areas. The Senior Manager – Finance detailed the themes for saving activities required to meet the budget gap in 2018/19 and the value of savings in each theme that would present a balanced budget to Council in February 2018.

At the Cabinet meeting on 23 November 2017 a summary of the Budget Saving Proposals was received and on 28 November 2017 a scrutiny workshop discussed the budget consultation savings with feedback reported to Cabinet on the 21 December 2017.

There was one proposed revenue savings in 2018/19 that directly impacted on the Local Committee allocations for 2018/19; stopping the Community Waste Prevention Grants that had a total budget of £0.050m (allocation of £8,300 per local committee).

The Senior Manager - Finance then took members through the report, and updated members on the allocations for local committees for the following budget headings:-

- **Public Health** - During 2017/18 the non-delegated Public Health Locality Budget of £0.420m p.a., that was introduced to tackle specific public health priorities locally, ended in October 2017. Hence for 2017/18 the allocation was only £0.210m for the 6 month period. The funding therefore does not continue into 2018/19.
- **School Crossing Patrols** - A policy was in place where budget allocations for School Crossing Patrols were reduced when posts had remained vacant for three years or more. There was one such post in Allerdale and following the policy the budget allocations had been reduced to reflect this three year vacancy.

For 2018/19 this would result in a reduced budget of £0.145m following the vacancy for three years at Beckstone school in Allerdale.

Many Local Committees had a current base budget that was less than the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Orian for school crossing patrols. The budget had not increased from 2014/15 and no inflation was added to Local Committee allocations. Local Committees had the ability to vire additional budget to support schools crossing patrols expenditure from their general purpose budget allocation.

- **Local Committees Allocations- Revenue** - allocations to individual Committees were calculated based on the formula agreed by Cabinet on 3 March 2011 and updated by the latest population adjustments relating to the notional base budget for the General Provision and 0-19 services. The latest population information was mid 2015 (the previous year's allocations were mid 2014) and were obtained from the Office for National Statistics.

The General Provision budget was allocated based on the total population in the local area relative to the total population in the County, and the 0-19 services budget was allocated based on the total 0-19 population in the local area relative to the 0-19 population in the County.

In relation to the Highways Revenue allocations the basis for allocations presented in this report was unchanged from 2017/18.

- **Local Committee Allocations – Capital** – allocations to individual committees were calculated based on the same formula as previous years. The proposed base budget for Local Committee Highways capital in 2018/19 was £18.057m. The final budget for 2017/18 was £21.626m. The reduction in the budget reflects:
  - a. The additional £2.5m capital allocation, whereby £2.5m of revenue budget was replaced with £2.5m of capital resources to invest in more intensive life-cycle maintenance on some roads, finished in 2017/18.
  - b. The accelerated spend and reprofiled spend from 2016/17 to 2017/18 (0.069m) has been utilised and is zero
  - c. The reduction of £1m due to transferring the Band 3 additional funding into a separate scheme to support funding for strategically important assets.

The Assistant Director – Highways and Transportation then took members through the Highways budgets explaining the approach that it proposed to fund strategically important assets from the DFT Highways incentive funding.

The Highways Capital Budgets were previously based on achieving Band 2 Incentive Fund funding. In 2017/18 Band 3 was achieved resulting in £2.254m of additional funding. This additional funding was split across the highways budget lines following the usual formula of Integrated Transport Block budgets. In total this resulted in £28.875m for the Highways and Integrated Transport Maintenance Block in 2017/18.

It had become apparent that a number of strategically important assets needed significant investment in the near future such as Jubilee Bridge and Kendal A591 bypass. The funding required to maintain these assets was significant and would seriously affect the Local Committee budgets if funded from these individual budgets. It was therefore proposed that if Band 3 was achieved again for 2018/19 and onwards then the additional funding was proposed to be used for Strategic Asset Maintenance Fund. In 2018/19 it was expected this would be in the region of £1.362m.

The top slicing for the Strategic Asset Maintenance Fund would come from the Principal Road Network budget, the Bridges and Structures budget and the Non Principal Road Network (Local Committees) budget. Based on the usual % allocations the reduction to the Local Committee budget would be £1.000m. The reduction to the Principal Road network budget was £0.231m whilst the reduction to the Bridges and Structures was £0.131m.

Members supported this way forward as the fairest way to fund improvements to strategically important assets.

The Chair of Copeland Local Committee asked about two schemes in the Copeland Local Committee area which appear to have been deferred or cancelled. He asked for an explanation on why this had been done and what had happened to the funding earmarked for these schemes.

The Chair understood that members had received a detailed explanation on why this had happened. The Chair of Copeland Local Committee said this information does not appear to have been shared with Copeland Local Committee. The Chair of Copeland Local Committee said he had recently written to the Assistant Director – highways and Transport about this and a response was still awaited.

With reference to the Pothole Action Fund & Severe Weather – Capital – the Government announced in November 2016 the Pot Hole Action Funding of £250 million would be available for an Additional Pot Hole Action Fund. This funding was allocated by formula and shared by local highway authorities between 2016/17 and 2020/21 based on the road length for which each authority was responsible. The Council's estimated share is £1.241m per year from 2018/19 to 2020/21. It was estimated that the DfT pothole action fund for Cumbria would be £1.241m in 2018/19, down from £2.053m in 2017/18.

This would be allocated as follows:

Allerdale	£0.255m
Barrow	£0.088m
Carlisle	£0.220m
Copeland	£0.128m
Eden	£0.261m
South Lakeland	£0.289m

The Chair advised members that the DfT had launched a consultation on proposals to create a Major Road Network (MRN). The consultation was launched on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 closing 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The Chair was concerned that the A595 between Carlisle and Cockermouth was not proposed as part of the MRN, nor was the A591 identified. He advised that the Cumbria LEP and Cumbria County Council would be preparing a joint response to this consultation and would be making the case for inclusion of the A595 and A591 as part of the MRN.

The Chair encouraged all members to share this information with colleagues in partner organisations and urge them to respond to this.

**RESOLVED** that, members note the proposed Revenue and Capital allocations for Local Committees in 2018/19.

### **34 STRATEGIC ASSET MAINTENANCE FUND**

The Assistant Director – Highways and Transport gave members a presentation on the Strategic Asset Maintenance Fund, and the Highways Capital programme future years proposal, which covered the following:-

- DfT Transport Block Funding
- Incentive Fund Summary
- Major Asset Issues
- Integrated Transport Block
- Transport Block Funding
- Devolved funding to Local Committees
- 3 Year budget impact

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for his presentation.

### **35 WORKSHOP SESSION - A NEW APPROACH TO AREA WORKING**

The formal meeting was closed at 10.50am

There then followed a workshop session on A New Approach to Area Working.

### **36 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 30 April 2018 at County Hall Kendal at 10am.

The meeting ended at 10.50 am