

# COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE

Meeting date: 3 September 2019

From: Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

## WORKING TOGETHER SERVICE

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1** *The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an understanding of the next proposed steps for the Working Together Service. The update highlights the development of a number of draft trial agreements with a number of third parties to establish the suitability of the agreement document and support in determining the resources required to roll out the service County wide.*

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

**2.1** *The trial agreements and their outcomes will comply with Cumbria County Councils forward plan of providing an efficient and modern council service to allow for safe and well maintained roads which will enable a better quality environment for all.*

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**3.1** *Members are asked to be aware of the content and note this report.*

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

**4.1** A start up provision of funds totalling 150K was allocated to allow Cumbria County Council to develop an efficient and well managed framework to enable third parties, namely town and parish councils, to have access to a service that will formalise and streamline existing Lengthsman and volunteer activities, encapsulate safety and structure around these activities and enhance current highways services provided.

**4.2** The service has been in development over a period of time due to the magnitude of the objectives in which it has been required to meet.

**4.3** Over the last 12 months a multitude of engagement has been had county wide to enable information to be collated and applied to the design and development of the service to allow it to be fit for purpose.

- 4.4 The service will be providing two clearly defined partnership agreements to first allow town and parish councils to employ an authorised 'person' to undertake agreed work on the highway categorised as low to medium risk activities. The second will enable communities to undertake low risk volunteer activities, with support and supervision from Cumbria County Council.
- 4.5 That the activities included within these arrangements will be rigorously risk assessed (in particular in relation to the safety of the public and staff / volunteers employed by the third party organisations) and are restricted to those that can be delivered by any prospective third party organisation within their competence level and with a low to medium assessed risk level.
- 4.6 A list of example activities which could fall within these partnership agreements are;
- Maintaining ditches
  - Cleaning channels
  - Clearing outfalls
  - Rodding pipes (off highways)
  - Cleaning leaves from gully grate
  - Cleaning signs (non illuminated)
  - Painting signs
  - Removing vegetation
  - Grass cutting
  - Sweeping
  - Litter picking
  - Removing flyposting
  - Graffiti Removal
  - Cleaning bus shelters
  - Verge maintenance
  - Weed clearance
- 4.7 Draft trial agreements have been developed with a selection of varied, yet suitably risked activities included. These will aim to provide necessary information required to contribute to the resource design of the service and determine the on-going financial support required to enable it to be delivered county wide.
- 4.8 The outcomes of the draft trial agreements will be collated and communicated to Members and used to assist in providing a fully functioning County wide service for all to have access to.
- 4.9 On-going support and input from CALC has been sought after throughout the development of the service and will continue to play an integral part in all continued movements.
- 4.10 It is not mandatory for town and parish councils to work with the service but if they do not then they are open to any liabilities if an incident or accident occurs on the highway on which they have authorised activity without County Council knowledge and consent.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes only.

## 6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications for the Local Committee arising from this report.

## 7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications at this stage as the report is for information only.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The report provides members with an update on the Working Together Service

**Angela Jones**  
**Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure**

*August 2019*

---

## APPENDICES

***No appendices.***

Electoral Divisions: All Carlisle

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

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

*[Including Local Committees]*

*Refreshed approach of Third Party Agreements on the Highway – Approved by Cabinet Member/s - 5 April 2018*

**CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

*Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.*

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*Review of Third Party Agreements on the Highway – 26 April 2018.*

**REPORT AUTHOR**

Victoria Percival – Working Together Service Manager  
[Victoria.percival@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.percival@cumbria.gov.uk)