

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN</b>
--

<b>Meeting date: 11 December 2020</b>
---------------------------------------

<b>From: Executive Director – Corporate, Community and Customer Services</b>
--

## **AREA PLANNING IN EDEN**

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1 *The Eden Area Planning Report brings together information from across the community teams including community development and services as well as public health. This report provides Local Committee with an update on the work of each area, identified activity against priorities, highlights current issues and provides an overview of the budget position.***

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

**2.1 *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 achieving this vision.***

**2.2 *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.***

**2.3 *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 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 ***Members note the budget allocations for 2020-21 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date.***
- 3.2 ***Members note the provisional unallocated resources in the 2020-21 Communities Revenue Budget of £74,007 as at 30 November 2020.***
- 3.3 ***Members note the area planning update contained between 4.5 to 4.55.***
- 3.4 ***Members nominate a representative for the Penrith Town Council Cultural Strategy Focus Group described at point 4.24.***
- 3.5 ***Members agree to earmark £2,500 each to support initial plan development for area planning groups in Alston, Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and Penrith described at point 4.30.***
- 3.6 ***Members agree to reduce the number of Local Committee meetings from eight to six for the next 12 month diary period described at point 4.35.***

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Eden Local Committee Communities budget allocation is based upon the 2020-21 budget agreed by Council on 13 February 2020. 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 2019-20 have been included. Of the roll-forward amount of £130,294 from 2019-20, a large proportion is for earmarked projects.
- 4.3 The report updates Members on the Local Committee's Communities Budgets for the 2020-21 financial year which are summarised in Appendix A of the report.
- 4.4 Of the total Communities Revenue Budget allocated to the Local Committee, £108,551 was allocated to discretionary revenue budgets.

#### **Covid-19 Response and Recovery**

- 4.5 At the time of writing this report, the UK is mid-way through the additional restrictions of the second national lockdown. Data is indicating that the rate of infection within Cumbria is levelling off but no reduction in cases is visible yet though a reporting lag for any impact was expected. As we would expect, local outbreaks have continued, however the increased restrictions in Barrow before the second lockdown did lead to a drop in infection rates and we remain hopeful for similar across the county.

- 4.6 The amount of calls coming into the Cumbria County Council helpline is significantly lower than was experienced during the first national lockdown. This was expected given the robust nature of socially distanced services and the relationships already built up between the excellent local support structures and some of the more vulnerable members of our communities. The team have continued to nurture these relationships and have worked with a number of organisations to ensure they have the support needed to deliver services within the current restrictions.
- 4.7 Efforts were made to ensure that individuals needing support were able to find the local help quickly. The CCC helpline was bolstered by a leaflet delivered to each household in Eden and a new search function has been added to [www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk).
- 4.8 Whilst recognising the outstanding efforts of individuals and communities in preparation for the second lockdown, the area team prepared some ambient food parcels and stored them at Fire Stations in Penrith and Alston. Whilst, thus far, these emergency supplies have not been required; it was comforting to know a rapid response was available should the situation dictate.
- 4.9 In addition to the DEFRA grant enabling local committee to financially bolster local support organisations, Cumbria will also benefit from almost £1.5m from the Department for Work and Pensions in the form of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme. The majority of the funding will be made available to support families with children with food and utility costs over winter though 20% will be available to help other groups of vulnerable people. More information on this will be provided to Committee in due course.
- 4.10 A new walk-through testing facility opened in Sandgate car park last month as part of the drive to improve accessibility of coronavirus testing for communities. The community team supported the process by visiting and leafleting the adjacent properties and businesses to inform and help answer any queries.
- 4.11 There is considerable effort going into planning how the vaccination programme in Cumbria will operate once a vaccine is approved and available to use. Members will be updated once the details and timescales are clearer.
- 4.12 The Eden Children and Young People Partnership leading on targeted recovery from the impacts of the pandemic has commissioned 3 task and finish groups for Early Help and Neglect (chaired by Julie Fletcher from Barnardo's), Healthy Weight and Mental Wellbeing (chaired by Kellie Bradburn-Sims) and Life Opportunities (chaired by Nick Wright).
- 4.13 The working groups are in the process of developing action plans to coordinate activity targeting issues resulting from Covid-19. These multi-agency working groups share priorities with some of those of the Committee's own working groups and therefore efforts will be taken to ensure collaboration and synergy.

- 4.14 Cumbrian Businesses forced to close their doors due to the second national Covid-19 lockdown will be able to access additional Government grant aid via two new schemes. The Local Restrictions Support Grant (closed businesses) is available to both businesses who have been required to close and those who may have offered a reduced service, ie Click and Collect. The Additional Restrictions Grant is a discretionary fund for businesses severely impacted by current lockdown restrictions but have not been legally required to close. Both grants will be administered by the district council.
- 4.15 The Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum is leading recovery in this area and has agreed priorities supporting the wider Eden Community Resilience Group due to the impact of COVID-19 as welfare support, fuel poverty, mental health activity and young peoples employment.
- 4.16 The forum considered the support available for these issues at their previous meeting and discussed any potential gaps across the district. The forum considers the support available to be comprehensive but would welcome any views from people living or working in Eden on any gaps in these areas. These key areas will be kept under review.

### **Area Planning Activity**

- 4.17 Members recently attended a workshop where they engaged around the planning underway for supporting Cumbrian residents during concurrent incidents as we approach the winter weather patterns alongside Covid-19 response. Members also received an update on the Borderlands Place Programme and the Cumbria Digital Infrastructure Strategy.
- 4.18 The community team were invited to join the steering group for the Winter Wanderland project being delivered by Eden Valley Artistic Network. The project is currently working with representatives from Penrith, Alston, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen to encourage businesses and residents to create a window display during the winter months (Dec-Feb), however will also look to encourage other areas within Eden to get involved.

### **Alston Moor**

- 4.19 The team are supporting the Alston Moor Area Planning group, Terms of Reference and membership have been agreed for the group. Themes with some projects attached have been discussed for the group to deliver collectively. Scoping work is underway for these projects.
- 4.20 Officers continue to meet with the local steering group to further the Alston Front Street project. The Steering group has started to look at promotional campaigns to support the town through the road closure planned for the main works in Spring 2021.

### **Penrith**

- 4.21 Groups have agreed dates for the next year for the Strategic Penrith Town Working Group, Penrith Stakeholder Working Group and the project groups associated with both. This also includes a schedule of joint Penrith member updates (invitations to Penrith members to follow).

- 4.22 The Penrith Marketing and Communications Group has focused on Christmas recently. A virtual lights switch on and a 'Christmas in Penrith' Facebook group have been created. The Facebook group now has over 2000 members and is for businesses to showcase what is on offer in the area and for residents to get together to share Christmas recipes, ideas and pictures of their own Christmas decorations. This has been well received and residents and businesses are sharing on the group page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1002870760220163>

<https://www.discoverpenrith.co.uk/christmas/>

- 4.23 The first joint authority officer meeting was held for the Penrith Parking and Movement Study Implementation Group and agreed a Terms of Reference, project manager and technical lead officer for each of the 8 scheme packages within the study. Discussion was also held, and actions taken by officers, to develop a delivery and monitoring process, communications and engagement strategy and project update template. The group will meet monthly to progress the project.
- 4.24 Penrith Town Council are driving a piece of work to support the development of a 5-year cultural strategy for the town to maximise the opportunities for the arts and cultural sector to play its full part in Penrith's long-term social and economic development. The project will initially be informed by a focus group comprising a range of key stakeholders and the local committee has been invited to nominate one representative on that group. As the first meeting was held in advance of this Committee, Members were represented by Dawn Hurton, Libraries and Culture Lead. Members are asked to formally nominate a representative of the Committee – Member or officer - for the two remaining focus group meetings. All Penrith Members will receive minutes of these meetings and be involved in wider project engagement moving forward.

### **Kirkby Stephen**

- 4.25 The Kirkby Stephen area planning group met 27 October to review priorities for the area. Kirkby Stephen Town Council have agreed an updated list of priorities which will be shared at the next area group meeting and incorporated into the mapping. Brough Parish Council have updated their Parish plan for 2021. This was shared with the group and will be incorporated into the mapping of local priorities. The process of using these priorities to identify a plan of key actions for the area is now underway.
- 4.26 Kirkby Stephen Flood Assessment Steering Group met on 3 November 2020. Options that would reduce the impact of flooding were discussed. All options will be explored in more detail at the next stage – appraisal.

### **Appleby**

- 4.27 The Town Clerk has invited CCC Officers to meet with Town Councillors, discuss area planning and take the first steps to developing an area planning working group for Appleby. Feedback from the town council on this opportunity and the benefit of having a working group of key stakeholders for

Appleby has been positive. The first Area Planning Working Group meeting took place on 25 November 2020. The group discussed membership, looked at the Terms of Reference for the group and started work on the mapping of plans and priorities for the area.

- 4.28 The Appleby Horse Fair Multi Agency Strategic Coordination Group (MASCG) meetings continue to take place monthly. Representatives and officers from the group are now working on the 2021 plans. The area team attend both Operational Working Group meetings and the main MASCG meetings to pick up actions and communicate updates to colleagues and offer support at a community level.

### **Eden Lakes**

- 4.29 The chair of the parish council has welcomed the opportunity to meet with community officers and parish councillors and discuss the development of an area planning working group for Shap – building on the area working that has taken place as part of immediate Covid-19 recovery. A meeting is planned for 11 January 2021.

### **Working groups and other committee issues**

- 4.30 As the 4 priority area planning groups servicing the district's 4 key service centres are beginning to take shape the groups would benefit from a small funding allocation available for use flexibly and rapidly to support with project planning and achieving early priorities. Members are asked to agree £2500 being ring fenced each for the Alston, Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and Penrith groups – an allocation of £10,000 in total. Consideration will be given to future area planning groups as they come online.
- 4.31 The Penrith Members Working Group met on the 10 November and discussed and suggested ideas for the range of meetings that officers attend in support of the Penrith Town Working Groups and the upcoming initial Penrith Parking and Movement Study Implementation Group meeting. The group also discussed the current Covid-19 restrictions and how this was affecting businesses and residents.
- 4.32 The Rural Issues Working Group met on 1 December and had a session on rural poverty discussing issues such as fuel poverty and unemployment. The group also discussed their role in taking forward project work relating to priority subjects for Eden in transport and digital infrastructure. The group welcomed the Eden District Council Portfolio Holder for Communities, Cllr Lissie Sharpe, due to synergies with the Eden Children Partnership Accessibility workstream which Cllr Sharpe is leading.
- 4.33 The children and young people working group met with Eden Youth Council on 29 October to discuss youth views on training and employment opportunities in Cumbria, decisions on exams for 2021, carbon neutral Cumbria and mental health activity. Shane Byrne from the Department for Work and Pensions updated Members on the return to employment offer for 16-24 year olds and the developments of a youth hub in Eden.

- 4.34 The healthy weights pilot project in Eden has received positive feedback from participating schools; a virtual meet up is planned for 26 November with all school leads. The strategic project for 2020 to support young people's mental health - Coaches in Mind - launched in November. The programme offers 1-2-1 guided online support and will be delivered in all secondary schools in Eden. All schools' leads have welcomed the introduction of the new service.
- 4.35 As Members are now regularly taking part in seminar sessions and Member / Officer working groups, Members are asked whether they would be comfortable to reduce the number of formal Local Committee meetings in the 2021 – 2022 diary by two. This would lead to six Local Committee meetings, six Member seminars and six working groups for each Member. Officers are comfortable that the business of Local Committee could be achieved within such a format and the benefit would be more effective spacing of meetings and use of resources.

### **Public Health and Wellbeing**

- 4.36 Eden Primary Care network are developing exciting plans to better support our growing older population in Eden. The leadership team at Eden ICC will be attending a future seminar to share and discuss these plans with Members.
- 4.37 There are 3.9 million people diagnosed with diabetes in the UK and over 3000 diabetes patients in Eden. There is a greater percentage of patients on GP registers in Eden with diabetes than the national average. Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body either doesn't produce enough insulin or the insulin it does produce doesn't work properly (insulin resistance). It can be a combination of both.
- 4.38 Diabetes can cause serious long-term health problems and is a leading cause of vision loss in people of working age. It's also responsible for most cases of kidney failure and lower limb amputation (other than accidents). People with diabetes are at least twice as likely to develop heart disease or have a stroke than those without diabetes. It's therefore essential to be diagnosed as early as possible because Type 2 diabetes is likely to get worse if left untreated.
- 4.39 The risk of Type 2 diabetes can be reduced by getting support to lose weight (where appropriate), getting more physically active and eating healthy food. Furthermore, the risk of COVID-19 related in-hospital death is doubled by Type 2 diabetes.
- 4.40 Cumbria County Council, through their central public health team, commission 'WW' ('Weight Watchers reimagined') to provide Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme across North Cumbria.
- 4.41 The WW service has a range of personalised support to help people to eat well, with tips on weight loss and physical activity. Participants will have nine months free access to trained health coaches, and they will be able to meet other people in the area who are also trying to reduce their risk of Type 2 diabetes. Although the programme is normally delivered in groups at

different times and locations, right now it's offered over telephone or group video conference, or online through apps and websites. Referrals are via the GP.

- 4.42 Eden ICC are arranging a workshop for December 2020 to look at ways for people working across the health and care system to support the prevention of diabetes in Eden.
- 4.43 Public Health England ran its popular 'Stoptober' campaign again in October 2020 with the primary aim of encouraging more of the nation's smokers to make a quit attempt for the month of October and beyond. Tobacco use remains the most significant public health challenge and smoking is the primary cause of preventable illness and death. Every year smoking causes around 96,000 deaths in the United Kingdom (UK).
- 4.44 The number of smokers in Eden has reduced from 5701 in 2017 (13.1%) to 3828 in 2018, a rate of 8.73% of the population, compared to the England rate of 14.4%. (Fingertips, PHE, Public Health Profile for Eden, 2018 & 2019)
- 4.45 Smoke Free Cumbria's vision is to create a smoke-free generation in Cumbria by 2022. Our plan at the county council is to support this vision and the National Tobacco Control Plan. All the local resources to support people in Eden and Cumbria to stop smoking can be found on the County Council's website at [www.cumbria.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing/stopsmoking.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/healthandwellbeing/stopsmoking.asp)
- 4.46 Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) have been successful in obtaining funding from NHS Charities Together for a falls prevention project in North Cumbria starting in January 2021. Public Health is represented on the steering group for the project and they will be incorporating the resources and learning from the Community Falls Prevention Programme that recently came to an end.
- 4.47 2020 has been a difficult year for many of us and this is reflected in an increase in suspected suicides across Cumbria, including Eden. Suicide Safer Eden is a community initiative that is working towards reducing the number of suicides in the area and, until this year, this was the case.
- 4.48 Every Life Matters is a Cumbria based charitable organisation with a remit to reduce suicides. They provide free suicide prevention training and their website has an excellent range of resources [www.every-life-matters.org/](http://www.every-life-matters.org/)
- 4.49 At a county level, the COVID-19 - Cumbria Population Mental Health and Mental Wellbeing Partnership was formed in response to the Prime Minister's announcement of the 23 March 2020. Key outputs/outcomes from the partnership include:
- Development of directory/database of mental health and bereavement support etc.
  - Script for volunteers and support staff to facilitate some basic mental wellbeing screening and information on where to signpost.

- Support for near countywide distribution of the Every Life Matters Booklet 'Wellbeing and mental health during Covid-19: A guide to looking after yourself and others' also available online.
- 4.50 The Cumbria Suicide Prevention Leadership Group has formed a media sub-group which is collaborating with Integrated Care Systems and with the National Suicide Prevention team in running a local media campaign which has included an online surgery hosted by Cumbria Constabulary.
- 4.51 Suicide Safety Boxes which include materials and information for those who may be dealing with someone in distress or someone who is concerned about another have been provided for all food banks in the county and roll out of this resource to other agencies (Pharmacies, GPs etc.) is on-going.
- 4.52 Eden's Public Health Locality Manager, Jackie Dodd, has taken up a 6-month secondment supporting colleagues in Adult Social Care with the development around discharge to assess. Jackie will be replaced for this period by Cathryn Beckett who is currently the Public Health Locality Manager for Carlisle.

### **Community Services and Libraries**

- 4.53 While all libraries have been closed throughout November, efforts were made to keep some services going. In Penrith Library a small team of staff remained in the building each day to offer the home delivery service, select and collect, essential pc use, general enquiries and hearing aid batteries. Take up of these offers has been steady with select and collect numbers increasing. Customers have appreciated being able to speak to the team if they have any questions as well as contact via email and social media. The team have also been taking this opportunity to do some essential backroom tasks such as running a full inventory of stock and general housekeeping.
- 4.54 Appleby Library, although having to close its doors to the public just two weeks after reopening, has refocused on delivering a select and collect offer two days a week which is also seeing a steady take-up.
- 4.55 Plans remain in place to offer select and collect from Alston library following the easing of lockdown restrictions. Kirkby Stephen also remains on track to reopen for two days a week in line with local Council Centre opening hours. Shap Library Link is currently closed but we are hopefully that we can reopen this service to the public soon in partnership with the Shap Community CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation.)

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the allocations of the Eden Local Committee Devolved Communities Budget and the locality working update contained within this paper.

## 6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Local Committee currently has unallocated resources of £74,007 in its Community budgets as shown in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 There is £31,544 available in the Area Planning budget. Should recommendation 3.5 be agreed, £10,000 will be committed from this budget, leaving £21,544 available for future allocation.

## 7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations for consideration by the Committee fall within the remit of the Constitution. No specific legal arise in this instance.

## 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.

**Dawn Roberts**

**Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services**

November 2020

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A-H – Local Committee Budgets

Electoral Division(s): All in Eden

*\* Please remove whichever option is not applicable*

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

Contact: Nick Wright, Area Manager – Eden  
Email - [nick.wright@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:nick.wright@cumbria.gov.uk)