

## LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership held on Tuesday, 1 December 2020 at 10.00 am

### PRESENT:

Mr SF Young (Chair)

Mr AL Barry	Mr K Hitchen
Mr N Cotton	Mr W McEwan
Mr GD Cook	Mr AJ Markley
Mr P Dew	Mr P Thornton
Mr KR Hamilton	Mr C Weber

### Also in Attendance:-

Ms D Earl	-	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Services
Ms K Fairclough	-	Chief Executive
Mrs J Currie	-	Professional Lead - Democratic Services
Ms G Elliott	-	Area Manager - Copeland
Mr A Farrar	-	Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs K Johnson	-	Area Manager - South Lakeland
Mr P Musgrave	-	Area Manager - Carlisle
Dr D Roberts	-	Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services
Ms L Shaw	-	Area Manager - Allerdale
Mr N Wright	-	Area Manager - Eden
Ms L Berryman	-	Assistant Director - Children and Young People
Ms A Hatcher	-	Major Programmes Director
Ms L McKie	-	Senior Manager - Children and Families
Mr J Rasbash	-	Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor
Mr J Readman	-	Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director - People
Ms A Jones	-	Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure

The Chair had agreed to an additional item being added to the agenda for Covid Winter Grants. This item will be taken immediately before the Borderlands Update Report.

### 36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr D Wilson.

### **37 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 September 2020 be agreed.

### **38 COVID WINTER GRANTS**

The Executive Director – People gave a presentation on Covid Winter Grants. The Local Committees would have a key role to play in the delivery of these grants. The Executive Director outlined the key headlines and agreed to provide members with a further briefing.

The Department of Work and Pensions would be providing grant funding of circa £1.5 million to support children, families and vulnerable people.

The grants were specifically to be used for food/food support and utilities and would be split 80% children and families and 20% vulnerable adults. Core to this would be the voucher scheme for children on free school meals. This was in addition to any current schemes, and the Citizens Advice Bureau network would provide help to the utility voucher recipients.

The Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services then spoke about the Vulnerable Adults element of the grant. The £300,000 grant defined for Vulnerable Adults was to be used to build upon the work that Area Managers and Local Committees had undertaken during the summer using funding from Defra.

The Vulnerable Adults funding would be split into two streams, £100,000 to be used on discretionary spend for care leavers and children with Special Education Needs and £200,000 to be allocated on the same basis as the previous funding from Defra to support local projects.

The Chair explained that the Area Managers had been closely involved in the discussions, and he encouraged members to speak to them about delivery of this grant.

The Vice Chair of Allerdale Local Committee asked whether the funding of the voucher scheme could be increased for larger families.

The Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor confirmed that each child who received Free School Meals would be eligible for a voucher. Also, that it would be a one-off payment of a £100 voucher to assist with utilities.

The Chair of Barrow Local Committee asked whether anyone had spoken to the Disability Associations about funding for vulnerable adults.

The Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services commented that the Area Managers could bring the local knowledge to help tailor the approach, and include Disability Associations, if needed.

The Chair thanked the Executive Directors for the update.

### **39 BORDERLANDS UPDATE**

The Major Programmes Director provided members with an update on the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, specifically in relation to:-

- Place Programme
- See More Lake District
- Hadrian's Wall and wider Roman Frontier

The Major Programmes Director also provided members with updates on previously reported projects, including:-

- Digital Voucher Scheme
- Digital Infrastructure
- Carlisle Station
- Carlisle Citadel
- Newton Rigg

Members noted that the target date for announcement of the Final Deal agreement was the end of February 2021.

The Vice Chair commented that the Borderlands Digital Voucher Scheme would be an important aspect of the Deal, especially given the current climate.

The Chair of Eden Local Committee raised concerns about the Digital Voucher Scheme. He felt many residents in outlying areas were finding it difficult to access digital connectivity and were also struggling to find companies willing to install it. He asked if it would be possible to obtain a copy of the strategic business case for See More Lake District. The Major Programmes Director agreed to provide a copy of the business case.

The Major Programmes Director understood the concerns regarding the Digital Voucher Scheme in the outlying areas and outlined the limitations of influence the County Council had around this.

The Chair of South Lakeland Local Committee paid tribute to the work by the Major Programmes Director and her team. He commented that with the increase in e-bikes, especially with those aged 50+ the tourist season could be further extended and outside of school holidays.

The Chair of Allerdale Local Committee reminded everyone that the Roman Wall started at Bowness-on-Solway and he felt that more tourist attractions could be involved in the project.

The Major Programmes Director responded to say that the County Council would be willing to work with any third parties about possible business cases for tourist attractions.

The Chair commented that this was an opportunity for Local Committees and Area Managers to be proactive.

The Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure commented regarding cycling. Conversations had taken place with Visit England. Local Committees have helped with cycling projects and so can the Borderlands Project.

The Chair of Copeland Local Committee was disappointed that there appeared to be no proposals for investment in the cycling infrastructure in West Cumbria. He asked which officer to speak to about this.

The Major Programmes Director said that herself and Nicola Parker, Infrastructure Planning Manager were the officers responsible for this and would be happy to talk to the Copeland Chair directly about this.

The Chair of Barrow Local Committee informed Members that the first Borderlands Place - Dalton Town Team meeting for Dalton is scheduled to be held shortly, and he was disappointed to report that only three businesses had applied to join the board.

The Chair commented it was always difficult to engage private industry in discussions such as this. The private sector priorities were very different to those of the public sector.

The Chair asked all members to continue to promote the availability of the Borderlands Digital Voucher Scheme in their local areas.

**RESOLVED,** that the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership

- (1) note the progress on the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal as outlined in the report;
- (2) continue to promote the availability of the Borderlands Digital Voucher Scheme.

#### **40 UPDATE ON CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING**

The Senior Manager Children & Families gave Members a detailed presentation on Contextual Safeguarding, which included the following:-

- Overview of the approach
- Statutory guidance on Contextual Safeguarding
- Various forms of extra-familial harm
- Context of risk and vulnerability
- What Cumbria are doing
- The current picture of the situation within Cumbria
- The Peer Challenge Key Findings
- What changes are currently taking place

On conclusion of the presentation the Senior Manager asked members for suggestions about the best way to engage local communities in discussions around community awareness of child exploitation.

The Chair left the meeting at this point and the Vice Chair took the Chair.

The Chair of Barrow Local Committee asked if it would be possible to hold informal talks with officers to discuss the way forward and reporting mechanisms for each district.

The Senior Manager Children & Families responded that they were very happy to do this and suggested a joint presentation with the Police if required.

The Executive Director – People said if Local Committees wished to have an informal briefing on this subject the Senior Manager Children & Families and the Assistant Director Children & Young People would arrange this.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their presentation.

#### **41 SHARE A SMILE PROJECT**

**RESOLVED,** that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

#### **42 FORWARD PLAN**

**AGREED,** that the following items be added to the agenda for the next meeting:-

- Borderlands Update
- Local Committee Budget Allocations
- Update on Local Bus Services
- Share A Smile
- Transition on leaving the EU

It was also **AGREED** that Local Government Reform and Covid Recovery be added to the Forward Plan for the April 2021 meeting.

#### **43 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 29 January 2021 at 10am at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm