

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN
Meeting date: 20 January 2021
From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

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 £64,007 as at 31 December 2020.***
- 3.3 ***Members note the short area planning update contained between 4.5 to 4.17.***

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 The Covid-19 pandemic continues to demand a fluid response in Eden as well as the rest of the county. At the time of writing, the UK has just been placed under alert level 5 restrictions (stay at home) due to rising infection rates in most districts with Eden experiencing a significant increase with over 600 cases per 100,000 population per week. It is believed that the new variant of Covid-19 is responsible for this local surge and is rapidly becoming the dominant strain countywide.
- 4.6 Shielding support was reintroduced in Cumbria following the move to Tier 4 restrictions in December, and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people received emails and letters with more information on what this means. 113 people from Cumbria have registered for support on the national system so far. Of these, 80 are requesting help with priority supermarket slots (and are initially getting more detailed instructions by email), and 33 will receive a phone call to better understand their situation and support requirement.
- 4.7 The County Council support line was opened for an extra day on Saturday 2 January for any shielding queries or concerns about job losses, etc. Community Officers are currently in the process of checking in with local community groups to ascertain their capacity and ability to respond and to offer any necessary support.
- 4.8 The announcement of the authorisation of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has been well received. With the roll out of the vaccine in some hospital trusts (including Cumbria) beginning on 4 January, it will make a substantial difference to our most vulnerable people and increases the opportunity for the situation to look much better by springtime.

- 4.9 While we continue to support Eden localities manage response and support recovery, the countywide strategic recovery strategy is taking shape. Based around 5 key areas of people, participation, prosperity, planet and place – discussions are taking place around consultation with key stakeholders in this process which will begin following engagement with the Local Committee.

Area Planning Activity

- 4.10 Area planning group meetings have continued throughout December with initial discussions continuing around project prioritisation. While local Members are involved in these discussions, area specific updates will be reported back to the wider Committee via this paper.
- 4.11 Thinking Place Consultancy has been appointed to support the development of Borderlands Place Plans within Cumbria. Work is currently underway to scope the engagement around this process and Members will receive a thorough update and be given the opportunity to become more involved over coming weeks.
- 4.12 The Penrith Parking and Movement Implementation Group continues to meet monthly. At this early stage, each technical lead officer is scoping projects to deliver on the 8 scheme packages within the study. A delivery and monitoring process has been agreed and actions taken by officers to develop a communications and engagement strategy alongside a project update template.
- 4.13 Fellfoot Forward is a Landscape Partnership Scheme worth £3.5 million, largely funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Fellfoot Forward area stretches from the Cumbrian fellside of North Pennines AONB to the River Eden, running north from Melmerby to Hallbankgate. The scheme is funded for four years - completing March 2024 - and aims to promote resilient land management practices, create community cohesion and support the economic wellbeing of local communities. A programme of projects has been developed in partnership with local stakeholders and communities. Projects include biodiversity, cultural heritage, arts programmes, cultural and historical studies and celebrations, accessible routes and trails for walkers and cyclists, tourism and local business opportunities. The project is initially offering traineeship opportunities for 18-24 year olds. Eden Community Development Officer has assisted project officers with local community engagement and mapping of youth and community groups for project activities and potential traineeship interest.
- 4.14 The team delivered an Eden Association of Local Councils session on 9 December entitled “Are your jeans getting too tight?” focusing on healthier lifestyles. The event was very well attended and included sessions on winter wellbeing and fitness activity to aid health and combat loneliness. Community and public health officers were supported by colleagues from EDC and Active Cumbria.
- 4.15 In response to the national lockdown, the library service is closed to the public for browsing though is still offering provision of select and collect, access for essential PC use and a home delivery service.
- 4.16 Penrith, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen are offering a pre booked select and collect service (Penrith between Monday to Friday 9.30-4pm, Appleby between Monday to Friday 10-12.30pm and 1.30-4pm, and Kirkby Stephen

on Monday and Wednesday 10-12pm, 1-3pm. Penrith and Appleby are also offering access to PCs for those who have an urgent need and no access from home. Penrith will also offer hearing aid battery collection.

- 4.17 Alston Library is still not available for select and collect yet due to issues with access to the building. The team will issue an update as soon as that service is available. Shap Library Link and Lazonby Library Link will remain closed.

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 totalling £64,007 in its Communities budget. There are no financial implications for the Local Committee arising from this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications for the Local Committee arising from this report.

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

January 2021

APPENDICES

Appendix - A-H Local Committee Budgets

Electoral Divisions: All in Eden

Executive Decision

Yes	
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Key Decision

	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No	
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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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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