

## **COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR CARLISLE**

Minutes of a virtual Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Carlisle held on Monday, 1 March 2021 at 10.00 am.

### **PRESENT:**

Mr C Weber (Chair)

Mr T Allison	Dr K Lockney
Mr J Bell	Mrs EA Mallinson
Mr RW Betton	Mr J Mallinson (Vice-Chair)
Mrs C Bowditch	Mr A McGuckin
Ms D Earl	Mr NH Marriner
Mr GM Ellis	Mrs V Tarbitt
Mr W Graham	Mr R Watson
Dr S Haraldsen	Mr SF Young

### **Also in Attendance:-**

Ms R Davies	-	Community Development Officer
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms A Hutson	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager - Carlisle
Mr N McNulty	-	Community Development Officer
Mr K Melville	-	Area Highways and Transport Manager
Mr P Musgrave	-	Area Manager - Carlisle
Ms R Whaley	-	Planning Officer

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

#### **71 ROLL CALL FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

The above members and officers were present at the meeting.

#### **72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence on this occasion.

### **73 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Mrs EA Mallinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item no 12 – Minute 27 (The City Council of Carlisle Public Spaces Protection Order (No 2) 2021 – Gating of Rear Lanes in Carlisle) of the Highways and Transport Working Group meeting held on 9 February 2021 (Minute 82 refers) as she was the relevant Carlisle City Council Portfolio Holder.

### **74 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**, that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting for any items of business on this occasion.

### **75 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no public questions, statements or petitions considered at this meeting.

### **76 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee held on 5 January 2021 be confirmed as circulated.

### **77 UPDATE ON CUMBRIA LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY**

Members received a presentation which gave an update on Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which was a strategic document to guide delivery of national policy objectives at local level. It was explained it was anticipated this would be used when prioritising nature conservation objectives based on wider public benefits and would be a useful and practical tool used by landowners, developers and local authorities to direct investments and deliver their nature recovery objectives effectively.

The Committee was informed that work would continue with DEFRA and stakeholders to improve the Draft LNRS documents and learn from other pilots. It was explained that once the Environment Bill had Royal Assent the production of an LNRS would become a statutory requirement.

A discussion took place regarding the effect of this on planning applications. It was explained that indirectly the Environment Bill would introduce a number of statutory requirements concerning nature recovery and one of those would be to have a Nature Recovery Strategy; it was highlighted that the Bill would make the link with bio diversity net gain.

The Committee drew attention to the extensive range of targets and the potential significant costs to attain them. It was explained there were a number of initiatives to delivery nature recover and the Strategy was aimed to give a clear focus and direction. It was envisaged that the Environmental Land Management Scheme would be a large contributor together with DEFRA as much of the nature recovery took place on agricultural land.

**RESOLVED,** that the update be noted.

## **78 AREA PLANNING REPORT**

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided members with recommendations and matters to note relating to budget commitments, grant allocations from the recommendations of its Strategic Grants Panel and other relevant matters relating to area planning.

The Area Manager drew attention to the £50k from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund which would be available to the Carlisle Area Team. It was explained that it was proposed that half of this funding would be earmarked for mental health as it was one of the key recovery issues. Members were informed that Carlisle City Council had approved a similar amount and it was intended to work in partnership with them to amplify the amount and allocate as appropriate. The Committee welcomed the early focus on mental health issues which had been identified as one of the key recovery themes in Carlisle.

A discussion took place regarding ICT Provision for Remote Learning and the significant donation which had been made to Cumbria Community Foundation specifically for Carlisle Schools to access ICT equipment. It was noted that this, together with a residual amount of DEFRA funding together with contributions from other sources had meant that no school should have any unmet needs with regards to ICT provision.

The Leader of Cumbria County Council highlighted the significant donation which had been made to Cumbria Community Foundation specifically for Carlisle Schools to access ICT equipment and thanked those concerned.

The Committee was informed that Carlisle City Council had been advised by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government that an award of £9.1 million had been made in relation to the Future High Streets Fund. It was noted that the award fell short of the total ask within the bid of £15 million and may affect delivery of some elements of the original Programme. The Leader of Carlisle City Council confirmed to the Committee that the Devonshire Street Project would be fully funded from the Future High Streets Fund award.

**RESOLVED,** that

- (1) the commitments made and the remaining balances within delegated budgets be noted;

- (2) the grants (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report) be noted;
- (3) the following grants made from Area Planning funding (as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report) be noted:-
  - (a) £2,444 to North Cumbria Recovery and Rescue Team towards a Rescue 3 First Responder Course and a UKLSI (A National Search and Rescue Training Body) Search and Rescue Technician Course covering 17 volunteers;
  - (b) £5,000 to Cumbria CVS towards the Forces Link Project which aims to increase and improve support and opportunities for the Ex-Service community and their families in Carlisle and Eden;
  - (c) £500 to Burgh By Sands Parish Council towards the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device;
  - (d) £5,000 to Carlisle Foodbank towards the costs of the relocating to West Tower Street (new equipment, shelving, ICT);
- (4) the following from its 0-19 grants fund (as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report) be noted:-
  - (a) £2,000 to Morton Community Centre towards purchasing & installing a large portal frame canopy to cover the Nursery Play Area;
  - (b) £500 to Dalston Recreation Association towards the costs of building improvements;
- (5) a grant of £11,088 from its 0-19 Grants to the Right2Work Community Interest Company to fund activities which benefit the community and in particular young people who are disabled and/or disadvantaged through the development of the social enterprise and in the provision of supervision, training, employment, volunteering and social inclusion opportunities be approved.

## **79 AREA PLANNING BUDGET 2021/22**

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided recommendations and matters to note in relation to budget proposal for Area Planning budget 2021/22.

The local Member for Dalston and Burgh drew attention to the allocation of £18.00 per hour for a school crossing patrol and asked for further information on the salary of individuals. It was agreed the Community Development Officer would investigate this matter further and report back direct.

**RESOLVED,** that

- (1) the full allocation for community activity is £623,218 be noted;
- (2) £129,772, the full Neighbourhood Support Budget, is allocated to the funding of the Community Development Team for 2020/21 be noted. This budget may not be vired.
- (3) £53,890, the full budget for Money Advice services is allocated to Carlisle and Eden Citizen's Advice Bureau for the provision of a money advice service for Carlisle be noted. A grant agreement will be signed by both parties. This budget may not be vired;
- (4) £21,613 is allocated to School Crossing Patrols with the SLA for this service be noted (detailed at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (5) £85,000 from the Local Committee's discretionary fund is allocated to a 0-19 years grant fund to support universal youth services, with projects and applications against this being considered by the grants working group taking into consideration the focus and objectives of the Carlisle Area Plan be agreed;
- (6) £60,743 is allocated to the Carlisle Area Planning Fund, with projects and applications against this being considered by the grants panel taking into consideration the focus and objectives of the Carlisle Area Plan be agreed;
- (7) £72,200 from the Local Committee's discretionary fund is allocated to Community Grants with the apportionment between the 18 Electoral Divisions based on 2017/18 population-based criteria be agreed;
- (8) the allocation of an Environment Fund of £200,000, which is a one-off allocation for 2021/22 only be noted. The purpose of this ring-fenced fund will be to support a range of environmental improvements or enhancements, covering for example, enhanced verge maintenance, tree maintenance and replacement, footpath maintenance, nature recovery, biodiversity improvements and improving the environmental conditions and quality of life 'on the doorstep'. Local Committees are encouraged to work with their Districts, Parishes and Town Councils to make best use of the money, including match funding where possible;

- (9) these allocations be reviewed during the year to ensure the best use of the Communities Budget in line with the Carlisle Area Plan.

## **80 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

Members considered a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which provided an update on the work of the Children and Young People Working Group together with recommendations for future funding.

The Chair of the Working Group drew attention to the concerns which had been raised regarding childhood obesity and highlighted the need for this to be investigated.

Members were informed that a 'Make Your Mark Ballot' had raised an issue regarding the impact of domestic violence on children and young people, therefore, work would be undertaken with partners to investigate this matter further for discussion at a future meeting of the Working Group.

The local Member for Dalston and Burgh drew attention to a previous successful summer play scheme which had involved Beaumont Parish Council and raised his concerns that they were not included in the report. The Community Development Officer advised that the Parish Council had been invited to Carlisle-wide partnership meetings; a further discussion would take place direct with the local Member.

**RESOLVED,** that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) subject to Cabinet approval of carry forward of any Local Committee underspending, for local committee to earmark any underspend in the Area 0-19 grants funding, up to £34,000, towards the development and delivery of School holiday activities through 2021 be agreed.

## **81 2020/21 HIGHWAYS BUDGET/PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT**

Members considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the Highways Revenue, Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget finance reports, combined with the highways programme progress information.

The local Member for Botcherby raised concerns regarding the resurfacing programme and indicated that, in accordance with correspondence he had received, this should also include Victoria Road; he also felt that there was a variation in costs and asked for confirmation of the budget for the Scheme. During the course of discussion he also asked for a breakdown of the completed works on Botcherby Bridge.

The local Member then asked officers for an assurance and commitment that the proposed Warwick Road resurfacing scheme would not be compromised.

It was agreed that the Local Area Highways Network Manager would investigate the matters raised and report back direct to the local Member.

The local Member for Stanwix Urban referred to the slippage of the Eden Bridge Footway scheme into the 2021/22 Programme and asked if an ongoing issue regarding seepage from the footpath could also be investigated. It was agreed that the Local Area Highways Network Manager would discuss this matter further direct with the local Member.

A discussion took place regarding the Drainage Maintenance budget and the Officer confirmed this included a schedule of gully cleansing together with any reactive cleansing which was required.

The local Member for Yewdale asked that his thanks and appreciation be conveyed to Mark Wilson, Highway Network Officer and his colleagues for the installation of a dropped kerb in his Division.

The Committee discussed the recent Government announcement regarding the reduction of £10.5m from the Capital Highways budget. The Local Area Highways Network Manager informed members that following confirmation of the budget further information would be made available at a future meeting of Carlisle Highways and Transport Working Group.

Following a detailed discussion, with the exception of the local Member for Botcherby, it was:-

**RESOLVED**, that the following be noted:-

- (1) the revenue and budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure (referred to in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);
- (2) the programme progress information (as shown in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);
- (3) the Highways Revenue budget has been split for use against various budget headings (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report);

- (4) the devolved Capital and Additional devolved Capital budgets have been split for use against various budget headings (as set out in Appendices 2 and 4 of the report);
- (5) the highways programme is very busy with a lot of work in the coming months. It has also been a busy time with our winter maintenance, so there have been some forced changes to the programme;
- (6) our aim remains to deliver the full programme of works within the financial year (end March 2021, however, this is now unlikely. Officers will continue to liaise with local members about any changes to work in their electoral division.

#### **Appendix 1 Revenue (+5.8%)**

The revenue overspends shown in the Drainage Maintenance budget appears to be a financial irregularity. We are working through this issue.

#### **Appendix 2 Devolved CAPITAL (-0.8%)**

The devolved CAPITAL underspend comes from two schemes:

- (i) The Cambeck Hill scheme has slipped into 2021/22, landowner consent is required before we progress further;
- (ii) Civic Centre scheme has slipped into 2021/22, we are working to the City Council programme;

#### **Appendix 3 Non-Devolved CAPITAL (-1.0%)**

The Non-devolved CAPITAL underspend comes from one scheme:

Junction 42 Roundabout, the scheme value was added to some additional non-devolved capital funding to resurface the roundabout rather than patch. Unfortunately the additional scheme is slipping into 2021/22 so this cost must also slip.

#### **Appendix 4 (ADD'L) Devolved CAPITAL (-12.8%)**

The additional devolved capital underspend comes from a few projects that are slipping into the 21/22 programme.

- (i) Oakshaw Hill & Laws Hill, Easton, (previously advised);

(ii) Three Footway Schemes:

Boundary Road, (inhouse resources required)  
Madam Banks, (inhouse resources required)  
Wigton Road, (inhouse resources required)

(iii) Three Drainage Schemes:

Horse Home Farm, (inhouse resources required);  
Houghton, (inhouse resources required)  
South of Wreay, (inhouse resources required);

Unfortunately, it is unlikely we will be able to deliver these additional schemes in 2020/21 period. Slippages that carry over are a priority for delivery next year.

**Appendix 5 (ADD'L) Non-Devolved CAPITAL (-32.1%)**

The additional non-devolved capital underspend comes from a few projects that are slipping into the 2021/22 programme:-

- (i) Eden Bridge Footway (ongoing flood defence works);
- (ii) Junction 42 Roundabout (outsourced work, programme delay);
- (iii) Most of the drainage maintenance programme slippage to 21/22 (inhouse resources required);
- (iv) Plus a few other projects (various reasons);

Unfortunately, it is unlikely we will be able to deliver these additional schemes in 2020/21. Slippages that carry over are a priority for delivery next year.

**Overall performance**

- (i) The combined highways budget for 2020/21 was £6,212,238. With additional funding this increased to £9,440,202 (+51.9%);
- (ii) The overall expected outturn forecast is £8,755,695;
- (iii) This represents an overall underspend of -7.3%.

## **82 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP**

Members considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave details of the meeting of the Highways and Transport Working Group held on 10 February 2021 and presented recommendations to the Local Committee for approval.

### **(1) Minutes**

The local Member for Botcherby raised a concern regarding the reference to the scheme on Victoria Road/Wood Street being scheduled for 2022/23. It was agreed this matter would be investigated further by the Local Area Highways Network Manager and discussed further at the next meeting of the Highways and Transport Working Group.

The Leader of the County Council, whilst acknowledging the concerns highlighted with regards to the availability of resources, raised his disappointment at the lack of progress regarding his request for the installation of grit bins in the Carlisle area. The local Member for Houghton and Irthington, in his capacity as Leader of Carlisle City Council, understood the resource issues and was fully supported both authorities working positively together to consider this matter in advance of next winter. It was agreed that the Local Area Highways Network Manager would investigate the matter further.

During the course of discussion the local Member for Dalston and Burgh informed the Committee that a Parish Council in his Division had provided their own grit bin. It was agreed that no further bins would be purchased by parish councils until the matter had been investigated further.

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes be noted.

### **(2) The City Council of Carlisle Public Spaces Protection Order (No 2) 2021 – Gating of Rear Lanes in Carlisle**

Members noted that since the Working Group meeting the Local Area Highway Network Manager had provided details of the outcome of the consultation to members of the Local Committee.

**RESOLVED**, that the Local Committee provide a positive response to the City Council supporting the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order subject to the outcome of the consultation.

### **(3) 2020/21 Highways Budget/Programme Report**

**RESOLVED**, that the following be noted:-

- (a) the revenue and capital budget allocations for 2020/21 and the commitments and expenditure (as detailed in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report);

- (b) the Programme progress information (as shown in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) of the report;
- (c) the Highways Revenue budget has been split for use against various budget headings (as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report);
- (d) the devolved Capital and Additional devolved Capital budgets have been split for use against various budget headings (as set out in Appendices 2 and 4 of the report);
- (e) the following schemes at the writing of the report are identified as 'at risk' of slipping or have already slipped (as referred to in the appropriate appendix attached to the report):-

**Devolved Capital Budget (Appendix 2)**

Cumrew  
Cambeck Hill

**Non-Devolved Capital Budget (Appendix 3)**

Embankment next to Faulds Bridge  
Warwick Road

**Devolved Capital Additional Budget (Appendix 4)**

Oakshaw Hill & Laws Hall, Easton  
Friar Waingate Bridge  
Chesterholme  
Madam Banks Road, Dalston  
Lansdowne Crescent  
Wetheral – Jennet Croft and Croft Park  
Horse Home Farm, Gilsland  
Houghton (drainage)

**Non-Devolved Capital Budget (Appendix 5)**

Eden Bridge Footways  
Wreay School Drainage;

- (f) the significant additional budget allocation (Challenge Fund), Covid\_19 response and the ongoing winter season has created delivery challenges. The Authority is working to deliver as much of the planned works as possible within the financial year.

**(4) Draft Devolved Highways Capital Budget 2021/22**

**RESOLVED,** that:-

- (a) the proposed budget allocations be noted;

- (b) agree and keep under review the Highways Draft Capital budget allocations for 2021/2022 (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report) subject to confirmation of the budget allocation by the County Council in February 2021;
- (c) the proposed schemes and the proposed schemes being delivered under the proposed budget allocations (as set out in Appendix 2 to the report) subject to confirmation of the budget allocation by Cabinet in February 2021 be noted.

**(5) Draft Carlisle Highways Revenue Budget 2021/22**

**RESOLVED,** that the Draft 2021/2022 Devolved Highways Revenue Maintenance budget allocations for 2021/2022 (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report) be agreed and kept under review.

**83 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Members received the minutes of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan Working Group meeting held on 9 February 2021.

**RESOLVED,** that the minutes be noted.

**84 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT**

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which gave a positive overview of the work of the Carlisle Community Development Team. Members were provided with a summary of partnership work of the Team along with case studies showcasing the their work.

Members also received a summary of community grant activity processed by the Team throughout the financial year.

The local Member for Yewdale sought clarification on the funding of the holiday provision for children and young people and suggested this should be looked at in more detail. The Community Development Officer confirmed this was funded from the Universal Youth Provision budget and work was being undertaken with the Children and Young Peoples Working Group to investigate this matter. The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Services highlighted the need for a co-ordinated joined-up approach, including local members, to ensure the appropriate provision was delivered.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Community Team for the work they had undertaken.

**RESOLVED,** that the report be noted.

## **85 MEMBER CHAMPION UPDATES**

### **a Children in Care Council Champion**

Members were informed that the Children in Care Council continued to meet regularly and highlighted a successful virtual baking session which had recently taken place.

The Committee noted that Carlisle City Council's Homeless Strategy now included provision for housing for children looked after who were leaving care.

In conclusion members were informed that the provision of vouchers for looked after children and their families to access leisure centres was currently being investigated.

### **b Autism Champion**

The Member Champion for Autism informed the Committee that it continued to be a difficult time for people with autism and their families. It was explained there was a growing sense of confusion, anxiety and isolation as routines were disrupted making the necessity of restarting a 'normal' life increasingly difficult.

The Committee was informed that the COVID 19 vaccination was now available for people with autism and severe learning disabilities as part of cohort 6 at the clinical discretion of their local GP . It was explained that people with autism were now being given priority vaccinations in Carlisle.

Mrs Bowditch emphasised the excellent work the third sector were undertaking in supporting families with autism during the pandemic. It was highlighted that despite exhausted staff, supported living continued and respite care was available for the most vulnerable and needy. Members noted that Heathlands, an organisation which supported people with autism and severe learning difficulties, had developed an excellent 'at home' programme which had gained much kudos with social care outside Cumbria, in particular in Manchester and Liverpool.

Finally, it was anticipated that Cumbria Care was working towards returning to providing services as soon as they could and attendees at support centres continued to receive welcome weekly phone calls to keep in touch.

### **c Armed Forces Champion**

Mrs Tarbitt, the Armed Forces Champion informed members that due to the current pandemic restrictions outside activities were not able to take place and this included the work on the Veterans Gardening Project at Heathlands near Rockcliffe. The Committee was informed that in her capacity as an Advisor to the Heathlands Board she had suggested that they made an application to the Beck Burn Wind Turbine Funding Project to help support their work with veterans.

Members were informed that Mrs Tarbitt was in the process of negotiating places for veteran to volunteer at with The Glen Retired Racehorse Recovery and Therapy Centre at Kirklington who also undertook fantastic work with Community Payback Teams and young people with learning difficulties.

The Committee noted that work was progressing to address the needs of children returning to UK schools from overseas postings to ensure that Cumbrian schools allocated the Premium which followed the children appropriately.

Members were informed that 5 March was Census day and the local press had been approached with a view to publicising the fact that this was the first time veterans had been asked to make this declaration.

Finally, the Armed Forces Champion thanked the Homeless Team for the work they had undertaken in reducing the number of homeless veterans in the City during the winter months.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Member Champions for their informative updates.

## **86 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 1 December 2020 be noted.

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

It was noted that future meetings of the Local Committee were to be agreed.

The meeting ended at 11.40 am