

## LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership held virtually on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 27 April 2021 at 10.00 am

### PRESENT:

Mr SF Young (Chair)

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

Also in Attendance:-

Ms K Fairclough	- Chief Executive
Mr J Beard	- Chief Fire Officer
Ms A Hatcher	- Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure
Ms T Ingham	- Area Manager - Barrow
Ms A Jones	- Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure
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

### 52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Ms D Earl.

### 53 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED,** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 January 2021 be agreed.

### 54 LEVELLING UP AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

The Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure gave a presentation on the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and the Community Renewal Fund (CRF), specifically in relation to:-

- CRF Timescales
- Emerging CRF Ideas
- LUF Eligibility
- Emerging LUF Ideas
- CCC Transport Bid for green infrastructure

The Chair commented that in relation to the LUF the timescales for submission of bids in round 1 was really short, and that all bids would be expected to have the support of the local Member of Parliament to have any chance of success. Bids submitted without the backing of the local MP were extremely unlikely to be successful. He felt the scheme with the best chance of success for Cumbria was in Barrow because it was in a Priority 1 area.

He queried whether a local authority that had received funding from round 1 bid would still be eligible to receive further funding in round 2.

The Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure clarified that any successful bid in round 1 would not be able to apply again for further funding in round 2.

The Chair of Copeland Local Committee asked for further clarification regarding the bid process and whether the County Council green infrastructure transport proposal could be aligned with the Environment funding 2021/22.

The Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure responded to say that it would be possible for the bid to complement the Environment funding however they would not align in timing for match funding. The deadline for round 1 submissions was 18 June and the deadlines for round 2 were not yet known. **ACTION:** It was agreed that a briefing note on the LUF proposal and eligibility would be circulated to the committee.

The Chair of South Lakeland Local Committee noted the Green Transport Infrastructure proposal for a round 2 bid and welcomed this. He supported bids which would promote all areas of the county. He asked for clarification on whether the support of the MP's was essential.

The Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure informed members that there had, so far, been meetings with 5 MP's. They were all in support in principle of the proposal at this concept stage.

The Chair of Barrow Local Committee remarked that Barrow previously had a bid fail regarding electric buses and wondered if that bid could be resubmitted.

The Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure noted that Barrow Borough Council was working on a round 1 submission based on their unsuccessful FHSF bid and the bus interchange outside the Town Hall may be part of their LUF bid.

The Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure commented that there were on-going conversations with Department for Transport about electric buses and that these would continue. She felt there may be further opportunities to secure funding for this type of scheme.

The Chair of Allerdale Local Committee was aware that funding applications for Ramsay Brow had been submitted before for funding, but had been unsuccessful. However, he felt it would be important to support the LUF bid from Allerdale Borough Council to try to secure funding at every opportunity for this scheme.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure for her presentation.

## **55 CYCLING AND WALKING UPDATE**

The Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure provided members with an update on Cycling and Walking, specifically in relation to:-

- National and Local Context and Strategy
- Programme Objectives
- Programme Components
- Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan's (LCWIP)
- Public Consultation and Engagement

The Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure advised that details on the forthcoming public consultation on three LCWIP's for Barrow, Carlisle and Kendal would be shared with Local Committees at the beginning of May.

The Vice Chair remarked that one of the major stumbling blocks for cycling and walking projects was the ongoing maintenance once a scheme had been implemented. The County Council did not currently have any specific budget for ongoing maintenance and he felt lobbying should be undertaken with Government to get this resolved.

A discussion then took place around the need to create safe and secure parking for cycles and public repair stations, and whether cyclists would be expected to pay for parking areas. It was noted that secure cycle parking could be located with EV charging points.

The Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure noted the points raised in relation to maintenance and security. These issues would be considered further down the line, once funding was in place to enable the schemes to happen.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure for her presentation.

## **56 BORDERLANDS UPDATE**

The Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure provided members with an update on the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal highlighted that the Deal Agreement was signed on 18 March 2021 and has now moved into the delivery phase. The report noted progress on delivery in particular:-

- Place Programme
- Carlisle Stations and Citadels
- Destination Borderlands - See More Lake District
- Destination Borderlands - Hadrian's Wall and wider Roman Frontier
- Digital Voucher Scheme
- Digital Infrastructure

The Chair of South Lakeland Local Committee was disappointed to note that Cumbria had only received £1.657m out of the £3.8m available via the Digital Voucher Scheme. He had expected this to be higher.

The Major Programmes Director commented that it was anticipated to be a 50-50 split however the take up had been greater in Northumberland.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director Growth and Infrastructure for her update.

## **57 LOCAL COMMITTEE ENVIRONMENT FUND 2021/22 UPDATE**

The Executive Director - Corporate Customer and Community Services presented the report and members noted the updates from the individual areas. Each area had a long list of potential schemes with deliverability and cost key drivers. The total number of schemes exceeded the funding available so the criteria for assessment would be important.

The Chair noted there was a wide range of activities that the fund could be used for. He remarked that the decision on the chosen schemes was business critical as the funding needed to be spent in this financial year.

The Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure reminded members that many of the proposed projects were time critical as the work needed to be programmed during the summer months.

Each of the Local Committee Chairs and/or Area Managers then gave a round table update on schemes in their individual areas.

The Vice Chair was delighted to hear about all the proposed schemes in each area, however, he reminded members that currently funding was only available for this financial year.

The Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure was also encouraged to hear about the proposed schemes and she would investigate whether any other funding pots may be available to fund these schemes going forward.

The Chair thanked the Executive Director for her report.

## **58 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

The Chief Executive provided members with an update on Local Government Reform. Public consultation had closed on 19 April, and it was expected that the Council would know the outcome of the consultation in mid-late July.

## **59 COVID RECOVERY**

The Chief Executive provided members with an update on Covid Recovery. Recently Cumbria Police had handed over the responsibility for Covid recovery to Cumbria County Council, as the pandemic had now moved into the recovery phase, as opposed to the response phase. Cumbria County Council would consider the impact of Covid at a locality and district level. There would be a draft recovery consultation strategy produced but the Chief Executive felt that some aspects of the recovery would take years to implement.

The Chief Executive then discussed the issue of moving back to face to face meetings with members. A court case was heard on 21 April to consider whether, under the current legislation, local authorities could continue to hold remote meetings. The current legislation ended on 6 May 2021, and the ruling from the High Court was still awaited. If the appeal was unsuccessful the County Council would have no option but to return to face to face meetings.

The Chief Executive had met recently with the 3 group leaders to discuss this. There had been a range of views expressed by the Group Leaders, and the Chief Executive asked for soundings from the Local Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs.

She asked all of the Chairs to work with their Area Managers to identify which items for the next round of local committee meetings was business critical and could wait until the next meeting. All Chair agreed to consider this.

A brief round table discussion then took place on the preferred options from the members, and again there were differing views.

The Chief Executive thanked the members for their input.

## **60 FORWARD PLAN**

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

- Borderlands Place Programme

The Chief Executive raised the possibility of agenda items from the People Directorate and the broader health agenda.

**61 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 5 July 2021 at 10am at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 11.55 am