

LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership held on Monday, 5 July 2021 at 10.00 am via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT:

Mr SF Young (Chair)

Mr AL Barry	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
Mr W McEwan	

Also in Attendance:-

Ms G Elliott	- Area Manager - Copeland
Mr A Farrar	- Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Ingham	- Area Manager - Barrow
Ms A Jones	- Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure
Mrs K Johnson	- Area Manager - South Lakeland
Dr D Roberts	- Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services
Ms L Shaw	- Area Manager - Allerdale
Mr N Wright	- Area Manager - Eden
Mr M Barry	- Place and Enterprise Manager
Mr S Higgins	- Assistant Director - Customer and Community Services
Mr B Steadman	- Area Manager, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
Ms P Duke	- Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms D Earl and Mr N Cotton.

63 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 April 2021 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

64 BORDERLANDS UPDATE AND PLACE PROGRAMME

The Programme Lead - Infrastructure Planning provided members with an update on the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and highlighted the Place Plans.

The Vice Chair of Allerdale Local Committee noted that the Place Plan for Wigton on page 14 should read Allerdale Local Committee not Barrow Local Committee.

The Chair commented that the Borderlands Board had to demonstrate that the money was well spent. The Board was keen that local stakeholders had as much input as possible.

The Chair of Barrow Local Committee noted how good this was for the Barrow area and praised the team who worked on the project.

The Chair remarked that once you have a clear plan it was a good position to be in should future grants become available.

The Vice Chair commented that it was good to plan for the future and possible pots of money. The Government wanted towns to plan for 10/20 years. It was right to do the work for the future opportunities.

The Chair of Allerdale Local Committee noted that it was not enough money but Cumbria County Council had to make the best use of the money available.

The Chair thanked the Programme Lead - Infrastructure Planning for his update.

65 COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

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

- LUF Eligibility
- Cumbria Greenways
- Strategic Objectives
- LUF Next Steps
- CRF Recap & Update
- Prioritised Applications
- CRF Next Steps

The Chair of Barrow Local Committee noted the bids and asked for clarification on who put the bids forward. The Programme Lead – Infrastructure Planning commented that Cumbria County Council organised with help from the District Councils and the Third Sector.

The Chair commented that CRF had been described as a pilot scheme for the Shared Prosperity Scheme which had been seen as a replacement for European Funding. The process was deemed good as the bids had gone through a Good Governance process. The Programme Lead – Infrastructure Planning expected that it was a tester for the Shared Prosperity Scheme.

The Chair remarked the Community Ownership Fund which had £150 million nationally. It was for community groups to take over community assets. Groups could bid for £250,000 in match funding. He queried if Cumbria County Council were involved.

The Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure confirmed that Cumbria County Council had supported the fund.

The Chair of Carlisle Local Committee queried if the Community Right to Bid was linked to the Community Ownership Fund.

The Chair commented that they could be related and it is a fund which could enable that type of project.

The Chair of Eden Local Committee remarked that he was not aware of any of the bids.

The Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure commented that Cumbria County Council were not bidding and as the Council was assessing the bids there were potential issues with the Council's role. She acknowledged that the bids had come through at short notice, and the detailed list would be shared.

66 THE ROLE OF LOCAL COMMITTEES IN PLACE BASED INVESTMENT IN THEIR AREAS

The Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure gave a presentation on the role of Local Committees in Place Based Investment in their areas, specifically in relation to:-

- Place Funding Streams
- Current Place Investment
- Challenges in 2 Tier Areas
- Town Deal
- Future High Street Fund
- Levelling Up
- Current Approach and Governance

A round table discussion took place and the strength of the Local Committee was reiterated and the desire for increased decision making for Local Committees was a recurring theme.

The Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community Services commented on the next steps. There was an obvious appetite for decision-making in Local Committees. This required a change in Terms of Reference for Local Committees. The aim would be to move through Constitution Review Group and Full Council in September.

The Chair acknowledged that Capital Funding could be devolved but had not been commented on. A round table discussion took place and issues on cost increases and officer workload were a recurring theme and it was decided to keep the Capital Funding centralised.

67 COVID SUPPORT FUNDING THROUGH LOCAL COMMITTEES - UPDATE FOR INFORMATION

The Executive Director - Corporate Customer and Community Services introduced the item. This paper was a follow up on the Environment Fund. She wanted this opportunity to show funding streams. The case studies gave impact to the positive response. The Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community Services gave thanks to the Area Managers and the Local Committee Chairs & Vice Chairs who facilitated this work.

The Assistant Director - Customer & Community Services presented the report. He paid thanks to the Area Managers and highlighted the case studies which showed the impact made. Cumbria County Council's response to Covid had been in three phases:-

- Emergency
- Welfare
- Mental Health

He noted that £3 million of funding had gone through Local Committees. A lesson learned had been that a small amount of money at community level had made a bigger impact and this was particularly in response to rural issues. Long term funding would be key. The helpline would continue to run with advice and preparation key to what was done.

The Chair noted that £50,000 was available for events to attract people outside of the Central Lakes. It was anticipated that large numbers of tourists would visit the Central Lakes. It would be used to improve outdoor spaces which was linked to mental health and people's overall wellbeing. He then passed on his thanks to every Area Manger and their team.

The Vice Chair commented that this showed Local Committees and Area Teams at their finest.

The Vice Chair of Allerdale Local Committee remarked that once restrictions had eased the full extent of the situation would be seen. He was concerned about issues of homelessness and bad health.

The Chair of Eden Local Committee noted the strain and stress placed on local officers and their workloads. He commented that people would be worn out and exhausted.

The Chair commented that at a recent Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Board a paper had been tabled about Health Inequalities. Health Inequalities existed before Covid however, Covid had laid them bare and exacerbated them. The Health Partners were concerned because the results of Covid would place greater demands on the NHS, the need was to tackle the root causes. The NHS were concerned about the people who had not accessed their service but should have during the pandemic. **ACTION:** It was agreed that the Health Inequalities paper would be circulated to Members. The Local Committees were the shapers for their areas to identify what local people needed.

The Chair of Carlisle Local Committee gave tribute to the massive difference that volunteers had made during the pandemic. There was a hope that we would not lose these volunteers.

The Chair of Allerdale Local Committee shared an example from Silloth's Friends of the Green and how that had worked through the pandemic.

The Chair asked for clarification regarding the recommendation "consider the implications for a co-ordinated approach to addressing further likely demand for support as Government grant programmes come to an end"

The Assistant Director - Customer & Community Services commented that Cumbria County Council needed to consider how a response would work in the future. Other issues to be considered would be the use of the helpline, the speed of action; how could money be directed to the community quickly; how did Cumbria County Council work with the districts.

The Chair of Carlisle Local Committee suggested that a paper was brought to each Local Committee to identify problems and good practices.

The Chair commented that the Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community Services would progress the report and asked that each Local Committee reviewed both what worked positively and what could be learned.

68 FORWARD PLAN

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

- Local Government Reform
- Community Ownership Fund
- Update on Place Based Schemes
- Constitutional Changes

The Executive Director - Corporate Customer and Community Services raised the possibility of agenda items from the People Directorate.

The Chair requested that a meeting in late September be convened.

69 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 23 November 2021 at 10am.

The meeting ended at 11.50 am