

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Meeting date: 15 November 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's vision, set out in the Council Plan 2018-2022, is to be "a Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources." The approach and work of the Local Committee directly contributes to this, and area based working and shaping services locally, are one of the key ways of delivering this vision.*

2.2 *Eden Local Committee's current priorities have been developed by its three Member Working Groups and discussed further at a Member Seminar in October 2020. These are described in appendix K.*

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 2021-22 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date.***
- 3.2 *Members note the provisional unallocated resources in the 2021-22 Communities Revenue Budget of £77,279 at 30 September 2021.***
- 3.3 *Members agree a funding award of £12,300 to Carlisle and Eden Mind to enable an online wellbeing and support platform for parents and carers as described at 4.15.***
- 3.4 *Members agree a funding award of £7,500 to Stainmore Railway Company to contribute towards the renovation of a rail coach as described at 4.16.***
- 3.5 *Members agree a funding award of £7,832.96 to Barton and Pooley Bridge Parish Council to increase the capacity of their waste bins as described at 4.17.***
- 3.6 *Members agree a funding award of £7,504 to Every Life Matters to support the Suicide Safer Eden training programme as described at 4.18.***
- 3.7 *Members agree a funding award of £7,400 to Inspira to enable bespoke training around life and employment skills during the pandemic as described at 4.19.***
- 3.8 *Members note the area planning update contained in 4.5 to 4.41***

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Eden Local Committee Communities Budget allocation is based upon the 2021-22 budget agreed by Council on 18 February 2021. 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 2020-21 have been included. Of the roll-forward amount of £126,685 from 2020-21, a large proportion is for earmarked projects.
- 4.3 The report updates Members on the Local Committee's Communities Budget for the 2021-22 financial year which are summarised in Appendix A of the report.
- 4.4 Of the total Communities Budget allocated to the Local Committee, £108,508 was allocated to discretionary revenue budgets.

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

- 4.5 The Eden Covid Community Response Group last met on 21 October and heard the latest situation report regarding COVID-19 management locally.

The partners reported no local issues at this stage of the pandemic though all agreed that regular contact remained vital as pressures associated with the winter increase.

- 4.6 At the time of writing this report, as at week ending Friday 8 October, Carlisle experienced the greatest numerical increase of positive COVID cases, while Eden experienced the greatest proportional increase (+41% vs the previous week resulting in 456 cases compared to 323).
- 4.7 Further investigation has been undertaken in relation to this 41% case increase in Eden which is due to a number of isolated outbreaks including suspected outbreaks linked to a local pub, a coach tour, a rugby team, and a horse show taking place outside of the county.
- 4.8 Reflecting both the national and county picture, numbers/rates are very much being driven by school age children – the highest COVID infection rates last week in Eden were in the 12-18 age group (1,797 per 100k). Regular testing remains essential in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. Secondary school and college students (including their parents) should continue regular Lateral Flow Device testing 3 to 4 days apart.
- 4.9 The latest vaccine data shows 93% of those aged 18+ in Cumbria have now received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, with 89% having received both doses. In Eden 95% of those aged 18+ have now received at least one dose, and 92% have received two doses. Booster vaccines rollout is now underway.
- 4.10 Updates are published weekly on Cumbria County Council's website here: [situation report](#). Information on the local vaccination programme has recently been reviewed and updated. Further information is available here: [COVID-19 Vaccine Information: North Cumbria CCG](#)
- 4.11 A smaller group has been convened tasked with co-ordinating the local short to medium term Covid recovery efforts comprising officers from the district and county council. The Eden Community Response Group highlighted key recovery themes of economy, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and locally focused recovery. While much of the activity relating to these themes forms part of other work programmes; this forum provides an opportunity for responsible officers to share, request support and discuss synergy.

Area Based Working

- 4.12 The officer working group managing the infrastructure works programme associated with the Environment Fund and the Control Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) met on 20 October. The programme remains on track with works at the B5288 Greystoke Road to Wildriggs and B5320 Ullswater currently underway. Local Members will continue to be informed on scheme progress and Committee will be engaged once again should further decisions be required as works are scoped and fully costed.

- 4.13 Local Committee have already been informed via email about 7 recent grant awards from the COMF (Events and Activities) fund enabling events in Eden to take place in a COVID secure environment and attract tourists into Eden from the busier tourism honey pots. These awards are as follows:
- £1,310.40 for Stainton Village Hall to enable them to host a play this winter and future events beyond.
 - £350 for Stainmore Railway towards the park and ride service for their Christmas Fair.
 - £1,830 for Brough Parish Council to repair their football pitch and enabling sporting events locally.
 - £3,750 for Penrith Town Council to support the development of a marketing plan to encourage residents, visitors and shoppers back into the town centre.
 - £2,400 for Alston Moor Parent Teacher Association to host a lantern procession and firework display.
 - £2,600 for Penrith BID towards the cost of a Christmas trail and virtual switch-on for the town's Christmas lights.
 - £1,000 for Alston Gala to enable the Winter Wonderland event.
- 4.14 In addition, officers have been working with support agencies and community groups to develop a range of project proposals for consideration as part of the COMF harnessing local capacity workstream. Each of these projects increases community resilience while enabling activity to take place in a covid secure way and thus limiting the impact and spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- 4.15 Following the success of the Coaching In Mind online wellbeing support service for young people, Carlisle and Eden MIND are proposing the development a further programme following requests from parents and carers. Once again, an online platform will empower parents and carers to recognise issues and develop a plan of action to support an anxious young person. Members are asked to agree an allocation of £12,300 to enable this project – there is more information available in appendix L
- 4.16 Due to the pandemic, Stainmore Railway Company have been unable to operate passenger trains since December 2019. To enable them to do so once again, the company are undertaking the renovation of a 7-compartment coach to enable visitors to remain in discreet groups whilst travelling. Members are asked to agree an allocation of £7,500 to enable this project – there is more information available in appendix M.
- 4.17 Pooley Bridge is an attractive alternative to some of the popular central Lake District areas frequented by tourists. An increase in visitor numbers has led to overflowing bins impacting this role as it affects the picturesque image of the village. Barton and Pooley Bridge Parish Council have requested £7,832.96 to increase the capacity of their waste bins with Eden District

Council agreeing to the additional waste collection. Should Members agree, this activity will help to secure Pooley Bridge as an attractive alternative location in Cumbria helping to keep our tourists more dispersed. There is more information available in appendix N.

- 4.18 The UK has experienced unprecedented pressure on mental health during the COVID pandemic and the numbers of suicide in Cumbria have risen in the last 18 months. Every Life Matters would like to increase the delivery of their Suicide Safer Eden training programme to raise awareness and increase the help available. The project will help people to cope when facing significant mental health strain and will also be delivered in a covid-19 compliant way thus reducing the spread of the virus. Members are asked to agree an allocation of £7,504 to enable this project – there is more information available in appendix O.
- 4.19 As a key partner in the Eden Youth Hub, which Committee has supported in the past, Inspira are keen to target employment challenges in Eden based on rurality. They are looking to deliver a short programme of workshops throughout Eden developing life skills into employment during the pandemic. The programme will ensure young people are upskilled to cope with the employment process under COVID restrictions and will be designed to minimise any viral spread through its delivery. Members are asked to agree an allocation of £7,400 to enable this project – there is more information available in appendix P.
- 4.20 The 2021 winter Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) Programme has now closed for applications. In Eden, 9 providers have been successful in securing funding to deliver food and activities as part of the winter HAF offer for children. The HAF winter offer in Eden also includes a provision of food and activities for children with special educational needs and disabilities. The communication plan for the distribution and marketing of the winter HAF programme offer is being finalised and will soon be underway.
- 4.21 National Highways are now four weeks into the public consultation on the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project which commenced on 24 September. Members of the public have until 6 November to submit their feedback on the design of the project schemes. A series of drop-in consultation events have been co-ordinated along the A66 route in Eden at key centres including, Penrith, Kirkby Thore, Warcop, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen. The Eden Area Team have attended the drop-in events to respond to any public queries relating to CCC services and assets. Monthly meetings for the Eden Local Committee Member Reference Group have been arranged to help keep Members informed throughout the planning process for the project.
- 4.22 The capital programme team for A592 Safer Roads Scheme have completed a series of drop-in information sessions along the route. In Eden these were held in Pooley Bridge and Glenridding. The Eden community development team have attended the information sessions to assist with queries relating to other county council services and assets. The project team are in the process of distributing their second update leaflet to go out to homes, businesses and communities along the route highlighting key messages received from the public information sessions. The leaflet will also be available digitally on the project's dedicated webpage.

Alston Area Working

- 4.23 Work to lay a section of cobbled road on Alston Front Street is now complete, the road is still closed to allow the binding material to set. The team continue to work with the local steering group and traders group to promote that Alston is “open for business”. The groups are currently investigating when the road can reopen and a way to commemorate the project.
- 4.24 The team continue to work with the Alston Moor Area Planning Group, which now has a focus to deliver some of the projects that have been on hold due to COVID restrictions. The group have also been instrumental in delivering several projects utilising COMF, bringing social activity to the town in a COVID compliant way and boosting the local economy.
- 4.25 After many years of working with a number of groups in Alston on a community asset transfer of the old primary school building; the current group, Oaklea, announced this month:

‘Following detailed consultation with the community, potential users of the building and significant investment in financial forecasting, The Oaklea Trust has made the very difficult decision not to progress the Community Asset Transfer of the old Primary School in Alston. The Community Asset Transfer process, through Cumbria County Council, invites groups to create a detailed business plan, encouraging the consideration of the benefits a building can bring, the funding needed to create a useable space and the ongoing costs for running a building, and its services. The significant costs involved in renovating the building in addition to the ongoing running costs have led us to the decision not to progress.’

The Eden community development team will now work with the local steering group and individuals in Alston to investigate how some of the aims of the project can be delivered utilising existing community buildings in the town.

Appleby Area Working

- 4.26 The Appleby Horse Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordination Group (MASCG) have resumed monthly meetings to prepare and plan for the 2022 Appleby Horse Fair. The date for the 2022 fair has been moved to ensure that it does not fall on the same dates as the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend celebrations. The mutually agreed start date for next year’s Fair will be Thursday 9 June 2022. The MASCG will engage with communities that normally accommodate people travelling to the fair in the days before to ensure the impact on their Jubilee celebrations is minimised and will reinforce a strong message to not arrive too soon in June.
- 4.27 The Appleby Area Planning Group have been focusing on creating a local action plan through a series of “in-person” workshops, held in the town. A final meeting has been planned for November to complete the plan which has identified a number of key projects that will be the focus of the area planning work for the year ahead. The action plan includes short and long term projects that will benefit the local area including community events,

business networking and local environmental schemes. The Eden community development team has been facilitating the development of the group, identifying key priorities and the local action plan. The group will be submitting applications to the COMF Fund to support local projects that are due to complete by March 2022.

Kirkby Stephen Area Working

- 4.28 The stakeholders from the group came together for their bi-monthly meeting on 20 September. A number of project updates from the local action plan were discussed, these included the improvements to Brough Sports facilities which have received funding from the COMF capacity building fund. In addition, the re-design of local signage in Brough which received funding from EDC and CCC is near to completion. The community development officer gave an update on the local transport audit for Kirkby Stephen, an advertisement is planned for the newsletter to reach out for local volunteers to assist with the audit process. The Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (CTIP) will also help to inform local transport issues, it was agreed that both the local transport audit and CTIP should be reflected on when considering local transport needs and solutions for the area. The next bi-monthly meeting for the group is scheduled for 15 November 2021.

Penrith Area Working

- 4.29 The Penrith Members Working Group met on 5 October providing local Members with information and the opportunity to engage in key local projects.
- 4.30 The Penrith town working groups continue to meet to develop the Penrith area plan, with a number of large projects on the plan such as the implementation of the Penrith Parking and Movement Study, the Penrith Borderlands Place Programme, Penrith Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, and marketing for the town. The group supported the Linking Lives project, which has now received all the funding needed for its first year. In addition, to further the marketing for the town, Penrith Town Council will commission a marketing plan utilising COMF and the wider group are also looking to utilise this funding for two Christmas projects for the town.

Other Area Working

- 4.31 The Shap Area Planning Group last met on 9 September to update the work in the local action plan. At the meeting members shared an update on Shap Farmers and Makers Market which now has monthly market dates scheduled through to Christmas, with a regular gathering of stallholders and visitors. Cumbria County Council highways officers are assisting the parish council with assessing speeding issues from traffic passing through, and a footpath audit has been completed by a local resident to look at where improvements could be made. The group also received an update on the refurbishment project of the recreational area which will provide a new childrens play park and facilities for fitness. The next bi-monthly meeting is scheduled for 1 November.

Public Health and Wellbeing

4.32 The Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum last met on 23 September. The latest Covid situation was considered, including cases, inequalities and local implementation of the vaccination programme. Forum members also shared latest updates and reviewed agreed strategic priorities as follows:

4.33 Tackling Inequalities

- Chaired by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, a new Commission has been created to support and influence efforts to tackle health inequalities. The Commission was originally for Lancashire and South Cumbria but has now been extended to include all of Cumbria. Forum members agreed that links need to be made with the Commission and information on how Committee can engage in this process will follow.
- Members of the group were encouraged to share and respond to the public consultation around rural transport.
- Further funding is being sought for green homes grants and home upgrade grants. GP care coordinators are reviewing elderly patient home circumstances and helping them to access funding. Links are also being sought with Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service to ensure appropriate onward referral from home safety checks.

4.34 Mental and Social Wellbeing

- Members of the forum were supportive of the suggestion to develop a mental health first aid campaign and programme of training for local businesses – currently being explored by Eden community team.
- Information regarding suicide awareness training was also shared.
- Information was shared regarding courses from the Recovery College in response to increased cases of domestic violence during the pandemic.

4.35 Healthy Weight

- Walking for Health has now resumed in Eden and details were shared for onward distribution.
- Healthy weight remains a key priority of the Children's Trust Board.

4.36 Local Government Reform

- It was agreed by the group that joint working will remain particularly important over the next few months as plans for Local Government Reform are implemented.
- It was also acknowledged that the footprints for Local Government Reform and the local health system are not coterminous for the district, and so it will be important to ensure that Eden is adequately represented in both.

4.37 Adult Social Care

- Concerns were raised about pressures on Adult Social Care. Links have been made with local partners to explore possible solutions.

4.38 The Loneliness and Social Wellbeing Subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Forum last met on 19 October.

- Funding has been secured from a variety of sources, including Eden Local Committee, for the new Linking Lives service from Churches Together. A local coordinator is currently being recruited and the scheme has signed up to the national Linking Lives work for affiliation purposes, and to access training and resources. Links have been made with local social prescribers and volunteers will shortly be recruited. Consideration also needs to be given to suitable venues.
- Creative wellbeing groups are also now being organised in community venues.
- IT training is being developed by community learning and skills, aimed particularly at people living in remote areas of Eden.
- The newly formed national Office for Health Improvement and Disparities has recently announced a new mental health campaign Every Mind Matters, featuring Stephen Fry and other celebrities which we will explore locally.
- Eden Youth Hub is due to launch shortly and will be available to access both remotely and in person.
- An intergenerational pilot project is currently being considered to link older people with young people for which mentoring and peer support training could be made available.
- Premises are becoming an increasingly difficult issue for social prescribers and link workers. Members of the group agreed to explore potential solutions.

Community Services and Libraries

4.39 Penrith Library is still open 5 days a week and seeing a steady increase in customers. The team celebrated National Libraries Week and Poetry Day starting with a library familiarisation session with the English Conversation group that meets in the library regularly, followed with Baby, Bounce and Rhyme sessions, a learning Makaton weekly taster session, a class visit from St Catherine's and the reintroduction of the Lego Club. We have half term sessions organised including a visit from the Wordsworth Trust, a Feed and Read session with St Catherine's School and an online course offered by community learning and skills colleagues on how to make the most of your library visit.

4.40 We are also seeing regular groups returning to the meeting rooms and booking community displays – all are very welcome. Alston, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen libraries are holding their existing opening hours but gradually stepping up activities and events where possible. We are pleased to be able to reintroduce the free requests service to Shap customers hopefully in the next week. This is made possible as we have been able to reintroduce the weekly staff visits – now on a Saturday.

4.41 Lazonby Library Link is now up and running, which is a positive addition to the community. Although we are unable to reintroduce the requests service just yet, this will be reintroduced though as soon as the staffing levels allow.

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.

5.2 Members may choose to either agree the recommendations for decision as presented or suggest altered proposals.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Local Committee currently has unallocated resources totalling £77,279 in its Communities budget, as summarised in Appendix A to this report.

6.2 There is currently £78,983 unallocated in the COMF Harnessing Local Capacity 2021-22 funding (see appendix J of the financial statement). Should recommendations 3.3 to 3.7 be agreed, £42,536.96 will be committed from this funding, leaving £36,446 available.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no immediate legal concerns regarding any aspect of the update. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Local Committee's decision-making functions as per the Constitution. CS – 02/11/21

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 This report provides the Local Committee with a comprehensive update on its Communities Budget and related matters delegated to the committee.

Dawn Roberts
Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services
Nov 2021

APPENDICES

Appendix A-J Local Committee budgets
Appendix K Eden Local Committee priorities for 2021/2022
Appendix L Grant application from Carlisle and Eden Mind

Appendix M Grant application from Stainmore Railway Company Ltd
Appendix N Grant application from Barton and Pooley Bridge Parish Council
Appendix O Grant application from Suicide Safer Eden
Appendix P Grant application from Inspira

Electoral Division(s): All in Eden

Executive Decision	<table border="1"><tr><td>Yes</td><td></td></tr></table>	Yes		
Yes				
Key Decision	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>No</td></tr></table>		No	
	No			
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td>N/A</td></tr></table>			N/A
		N/A		
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>No</td></tr></table>		No	
	No			
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td>N/A</td></tr></table>			N/A
		N/A		
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>No</td></tr></table>		No	
	No			
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>No</td><td></td></tr></table>		No	
	No			
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td>No</td><td></td></tr></table>		No	
	No			

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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