

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for Eden held on Monday, 31 January 2022 at 10.30 am at The LEP, Redhills, Penrith, CA11 0DT

PRESENT:

Mr P Dew (Chair)

Mrs PA Bell
Mrs HF Carrick
Mr A Connell

Ms C Driver
Mr N Hughes
Mr D Whipp (Vice-Chair)

Also in Attendance:-

Mr N Wright - Area Manager - Eden
Mr J Banks - Local Area Network Manager

43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs H Fearon and Mr T Wentworth-Waites.

44 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest made at the meeting

45 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items of business on the Agenda.

46 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting

47 MINUTES

Correction:

Page 9, Minute 37, second paragraph, first line. Remove the extra 'that'.

RESOLVED that, the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

Mr Hughes was disappointed to note that the Committee would still be holding a meeting in July 2022 as it was in the school holidays.

48 AREA PLANING IN EDEN

A report was considered from the Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services regarding Area Planning in Eden. The report brought together information from across the community teams including Community Development and Services as well as Public Health. The report gave an update on each area, identified activity against priorities, highlighted current issues and provided an overview of the budget position.

The Area Manager presented the report. He spoke proudly of the recent, excellent work of the dedicated Area Team and the successes of the multi-agency team during the emergency response to Storm Arwen. The Area Manager detailed the work that had been undertaken with community groups and Parish Councils which utilised the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. Attention was drawn to the Area Team's work associated with the Household Support Fund and six funding requests from organisations who support vulnerable people in Eden.

Details were provided on the work of the Area Planning Groups and the request for funding for the renovation project of the Evergreen Building in Kirkby Stephen. Attention was drawn to the reasons for the request to vire £19,235 from the Universal Services budget into the 0-19 budget. It was explained how three committed amounts in the General Provision budget line could be refocussed to increase capacity within the Eden Area Team. Members were told this would be good value for money.

The Chair spoke positively about the dedication and support of the Area Team and thanked them for their work relating to Storm Arwen. A number of members concurred with the Chair who asked the Area Manager to pass on the thanks of the Local Committee.

After congratulating the Area Team and stating her support for the proposals in the report, a member talked about the amount of valuable projects that the Area Team had completed and were still developing in the context of the COVID pandemic and multiple storms in the county. She considered the proposals to be good value for money and endorsed the grant award proposal from the Household Support Grant and supported the grant award to the Evergreen Community Trust.

A member expressed his concern about the significant number of Rural Issues Working Group meetings that had not taken place. He supported the allocation of £15,000 to the Area Team. The member queried whether the Area Manager had identified other funding streams other than the COMF for proposed projects. The Area Manager talked briefly about the different funding streams available and how he identified the one to use for each project. The same member asked that projects which had funding allocated to them were completed before the abolition of Cumbria County Council in 2023. He asked if the Area Team had worked closely with the local MPs office during Storm Arwen. A report was requested for a future meeting on the County Council's Way's to Welfare service work during the COVID pandemic.

A member queried whether in the Penrith area, all potential interests were embraced by the Area Team. This led onto a short discussion about the Penrith

Place Plan. The Area Manager talked about the bottom up approach to developing the Plan using public consultation to underpin its development. He reported on the public message which asked anyone who wanted to, to respond to the consultation.

A member asked whether there was a report on Green Homes Grants. The Area Manager undertook to investigate this further.

All members supported decision making being devolved to the local level, the Local Committee structure and the current Area Working model and hoped that this would continue in the new Westmorland and Furness Council.

A short discussion took place on the differences between 'vulnerable person' lists held by local authorities and private companies which were used when providing an emergency response. The Area Manager talked members through how these lists had been used recently and that lesson learned exercises were taking place.

After expressing her view that the COVID pandemic was now moving to 'crisis' rather than 'recovery', a member urged that the Committee monitored the outcomes of the COVID pandemic, such as staffing issues in the third sector.

Discussion returned to the Penrith Place Plan and how it was important to have the strategic aims identified so individual projects could be added later, then funding could be sourced. A member was confident that all groups had been consulted who should have been. It was noted that the Penrith Town Team were open to all ideas.

In terms of the emergency response to Storm Arwen, a member thanked the on call firefighters in Alston for their response and talked about how they were the lynchpin to the Fire Service. Mountain Rescue was also thanked. The member explained that her community was nervous about Local Government Review, in case decision making was centralised. This was acknowledged by the Chair. Support was given to boosting the Area Team and its work. In talking about the local pride for the work it had undertaken, the member thanked the Front Street Group.

The Community Development Officer was congratulated for her work supporting the Appleby Area Planning Group.

A number of members expressed their views on the Demand Responsive Transport policy for public transport in rural areas.

The Chair put the recommendations as set out in the report to the Committee and they were agreed by assent.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Members note the budget allocations for 2021-22 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date.
- 2 Members note the provisional unallocated resources in the 2021-22 Communities Revenue Budget of £68,830 at 31 December 2021.

- 3 Members agree an additional £5,000 award from the Household Support Grant for the remaining allocation recommended to CACE, Eden Carers and Age UK as described in point 4.19 of the report.
- 4 Members agree a funding award of £7,000 from the Area Planning budget to Evergreen Community Trust to contribute towards the renovation of the Evergreen Building in Kirkby Stephen as described in point 4.25 to 4.28 of the report.
- 5 Members agree to vire £19,235 from the 11-19 Universal Services budget into the 0-19 budget to support young people priorities as described in point 4.43 of the report.
- 6 Members agree to decommission three historical projects funded from General Provision equating to an unspent balance of £20,603 as described in 4.59 to 4.63 of the report.
- 7 Members agree to allocate £15,000 from General Provision to boost the capacity of the Eden Community Development team for 2022/2023 as described in 4.59 to 4.63 of the report.
- 8 Members agree to vire the remaining General Provision balance of £6,526 into the Area Planning budget to support area priorities as described in 4.59 to 4.63 of the report.
- 9 Members note the area planning update contained in 4.5 to 4.63 of the report.

49 BORDERLANDS PLACE PROGRAMME FOR PENRITH

A report was considered from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure. The report provided details of the Place Plan for Penrith and endorsement to submit the document to the Borderlands Partnership. The development of the plan was supported by a programme of engagement and with the support of a Town Team which brought together a range of community stakeholders.

The Area Manager presented the report. He congratulated the Lead Officer - Economic Programmes for the work on the draft Plan. The Area Manager talked about the groups that had been consulted and he reported on the Town Team's membership. The draft Plan's governance arrangements for agreement and adoption were highlighted. The next steps were detailed for the Committee.

Members welcomed the draft Plan and were happy with its content. A member talked about it being the first step in setting the strategic plan for Penrith and that consultation had been comprehensive. Other plans for Penrith had been included in the draft Plan and it accurately reflected the ambitions of the people of Penrith. It would help attract funding into Penrith over the next ten years.

The Chair noted that the draft Plan was part of a process and would be developed over time. Another member stated that the draft Plan would draw together projects that could come to fruition if other funding streams became available.

A member asked that sustainability and culture be included in the draft Plan. He thought that multi modal transport provision from Penrith into the surrounding areas could be developed more in the draft Plan.

The Chair put the recommendation as set out in the report to the Committee and it was agreed by assent.

RESOLVED that, Members endorse the Penrith Place Plan and its submission to the Borderlands Partnership, with delegation to be given to the Executive Director, Chair, Vice-Chair and Local Members for Penrith to agree the final designed version.

50 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A report was considered from the Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services regarding Appointments to Outside Bodies. The report invited Eden Local Committee members to approve the appointments to the Kirkby Stephen Old Grammar School Foundation Outside Body as the term of office of its members has ended.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the Report. She reported that the appointment to the Foundation was undertaken on a four yearly basis and outlined the purpose of the Foundation.

The Chair put the recommendation as set out in the report to the Committee and it was agreed by assent.

RESOLVED that, Mrs A Thornton Mr D Garrick, Mr MS Birtles and Mr SS Bell be approved to serve on the Kirkby Stephen Old Grammar School Foundation

51 EDEN HIGHWAYS PROGRESS REPORT 2021/22

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure regarding the Eden Highways Progress report 2021/22. The report presented the Devolved Highways Revenue, Devolved Highways Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget reports combined with programme progress information as detailed in the appendices attached to the report.

The Local Area Network Manager presented the report. He informed members about the forecast overspend in the Revenue Budget and that officers were working with the Finance Team to mitigate against overspends for the Better Highways and Winter budget lines. The Local Area Network Manager was pleased to report that the Devolved Highways Capital budget allocation was on track and that all schemes

were anticipated to be completed by the end of the financial year. Members were given details of the overspend on the Better Highways budget line. An update on a number of the schemes completed to date was provided.

The Chair was pleased that COMF funding was being used to complete some highways schemes. He thanked the Local Area Network Manager and his Team for their work on the recent storms.

A member asked about the projected spend on Appleby Horse Fair. She noted the original budget had been for £30,000 and anything over that would be paid by the corporate centre. She queried if this was the case. The Local Area Network Manager commented on the work he was undertaking to ascertain if there was a duplication of costs on the Appleby Horse Fair budget line. He would report further to the next meeting of the Local Committee.

A member reported that the completion of a number of schemes had been welcomed by Parish Councils in his Division. He referred to a potential change to a road configuration at Askham. The same member queried the spend at Eamont Foot Bridge.

After a request was made for an update, the Local Area Network Manager undertook to update the Committee on the overspend at Middle Fell, Alston. The Local Member reported on the issues at the location and welcomed the input of officers in resolving them.

A member provided clarification that tax payers did not have to pay costs to resolve poor work undertaken by utilities companies.

The Chair put the recommendation as set out in the report to the Committee and it was agreed by assent.

RESOLVED that, Local Committee notes the progress information shown in the appendices attached to the report.

52 DRAFT - HIGHWAYS NON-DEVOLVED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR EDEN 2022/23

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure. The report advised members of the County Council’s Draft Highways Non-Devolved Capital programme in Eden for 2022/23.

The Local Area Network Manager presented the report. He explained that the information was before members in order to help them understand the work to be included in the Highways Non-Devolved Capital Programme For Eden in 2022/23. Members were informed about the Integrated Transport work area and the spend for the DfT Pothole Fund. Members noted that there was not a budget spend deadline for Integrated Transport.

A short discussion took place on the Clifton South 30mph to AW Jenkinson Capital Programme scheme. A member asked how long it would be closed and another member highlighted the importance of the route should the M6 be closed as it was a diversion route. The Local Area Network Manager commented on the work to be undertaken with National Highways on the arrangements during the road's closure.

The Chair put the recommendation as set out in the report to the Committee and it was agreed by assent.

RESOLVED that, the Draft Highways Non-Devolved Capital programme in Eden for 2022/23 be noted as detailed in the report and Appendices 1, 2 and 3

53 APPLEBY FAIR TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure. The report updated and informed Members, following the representations received during the informal consultation of the proposed changes to the Eden Area Appleby New Fair Traffic Regulation Order. The report also sought approval from Eden Local Committee to proceed to statutory advertisement and consultation on the proposed changes to the Order.

The Local Area Network Manager presented the report. Members were advised of the reasons for, and the details of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and also the responses received to the consultation.

A member clarified that the prohibition of motor vehicles would only be applied when deemed necessary by the police.

The Traffic Management Team Leader (Eden) was thanked for her work with the MASCG as meetings were sometimes complex and controversial.

The Chair put the recommendation as set out in the report to the Committee and it was agreed by assent.

RESOLVED that, the Eden Local Committee, having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which are more specifically referred to at paragraph 7.2 of the Report, gives consent to Officers progressing the statutory consultation and advertisement of the restrictions detailed on the plans which are attached as Appendices 1 to 4 inclusive, as part of The County of Cumbria (Various Roads Eden Area) (Appleby Horse Fair) (Consolidation and Provisions Traffic Regulations) Order 2022 (“the Order”)

54 PRESENTATION: CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - CARLISLE AND EDEN

This item was postponed to a future meeting as the presenter was unwell.

55 UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chair of the Local Committee outlined the business conducted at the Holehird Trust Joint Committee meeting held on 16 December 2021. This included a discussion on the future of the Holehird Mansion and the award of £12,000 of grants to six organisations.

The Chair of the Local Committee reported on the work of the MASCG at three meetings since the Local Committee last met. He informed members about the Lessons Learned work being undertaken and the production of an Evaluation Report which would be published week commencing 7 February 2022. He commented on the responses from community groups and how they had all been seriously considered.

Mr Connell advised the Committee to wait for the publication of the MASCG Evaluation Report and talked about the role of the Holehird Trust Joint Committee in awarding grants to community groups.

56 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on 31 March 2022 at 10.30am

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm