

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Meeting date: 27 July 2022

From: Assistant Director – 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 key ways of delivering this vision.*

2.2 *Eden Local Committee's current priorities have been developed by its three Member Working Groups. These are described in appendix B.*

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 2022-23 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date.**
- 3.2 Members note the provisional unallocated resources in the 2022-23 Communities Revenue Budget of £91,936 as of 30 June 2022. This includes a virement into Area Panning of £35,700 to offer increased cost of living support locally.**
- 3.3 Members note the 0-19 budget award of £3,000 to 32 Huntley Avenue Children's Home as described at 4.26.**
- 3.4 Members agree to allocate £10,000 from the 0-19 budget to enable the strategic priority project for this year – Active Start for Early Years – as described at 4.27.**
- 3.5 Members note the application from Eden Rural Foyer for the first £4,000 instalment of the 11-19 Universal Service allocation for Penrith as described at 4.28.**
- 3.6 Members note the cost-of-living support allocations as described at 4.49 and 4.51.**
- 3.7 Members decide whether to issue their support to the Inspiring Eden Employment Hub as described at 4.53.**
- 3.8 Members note the area planning update in points 4.5 to 4.56.**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Eden Local Committee Communities Budget allocation is based upon the 2022-23 budget agreed by Council on 10 February 2022. 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 2021-22 have been included. Of the roll-forward amount of £168,751 from 2021-22, a large proportion is for earmarked projects.
- 4.3 The report updates Members on the Local Committee's Communities Budget for the 2022-23 financial year which are summarised in Appendix A of the report.
- 4.4 Of the total Communities Budget allocated to the Local Committee, £109,031 was allocated to discretionary revenue budgets.

COVID 19 Response and Recovery

- 4.5 The number of COVID cases in Cumbria and the rest of the UK have risen sharply over the last few weeks and it is important precautions are taken to

help minimise the spread as much as possible. Case rates are currently at around 250 per 100k people but due to the lack of widespread community testing now, it's likely to be much higher.

- 4.6 The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities recently published the [Health Profile for the North West 2021](#) which shows that Cumbria had:
- The lowest COVID case rate in the North West
 - The second lowest age-standardised mortality rate in the North West
 - The highest COVID vaccination rates in the North West
 - Overall (all cause) excess mortality around the same as England
- 4.7 The Eden COVID Community Resilience Group continues to meet to respond to any live pressures and review recovery efforts based on the four highlighted themes – economy, health and wellbeing, children and young people and local communities.

Area Based Working

- 4.8 Following on from discussions at previous local committees, a recommendation has gone into each of Eden's Area Planning Groups to invite the appropriate shadow Members of the new Westmoreland and Furness Council to join the groups so that they might contribute to discussions and to aid transition of these important local work plans following vesting day.

Appleby Area Working

- 4.9 The Appleby Horse Fair took place between 9 – 13 June with officers supporting the Multi Agency Strategic Co-ordination Group (MASCG) response over the weekend. The post fair meeting – which is always co-ordinated by the County Council's Community Team – took place on 7 July. This event was well attended with feedback offered from key agencies as well as the opportunity for members of the public to contribute their experiences and views.
- 4.10 The Appleby Area Planning Group met on Thursday 16 June to discuss and progress the actions identified in the 2022-2023 Local Action Plan. Members of the stakeholder group provided updates on locality projects including electric vehicle charging, feasibility study for a town shuttle service, a local heritage event, improvements to local footpaths, development of a climate change policy, a local enterprise hub and refurbishment of open spaces and play areas.
- 4.11 The group agreed to extend an invitation to the local community policing team to join the group meetings and contribute to the development of local youth projects. In addition, a representative from the primary care network will be rescheduled to a meeting later in the year.

Alston Area Working

- 4.12 The Alston Area Planning Group last met on 10 May. An 'Observatory Dark Skies' project is underway, working with Eden District Council, to develop

the first major professional observatory in Cumbria at the Golf Course. As part of the work to set up a regular youth provision in Alston, a survey has been completed with young people from Samuel King School to find out what they would like the provision to look like. Officers are evaluating the feedback.

- 4.13 The newly developed Community Workshop is well used by both the Repair Café and Men In Sheds projects. The group who manages the space are looking to move to a bigger premises when the current lease expires, to allow extra space for more community activity.

Kirkby Stephen Area Working

- 4.14 The next group meeting for the Kirkby Stephen Area Planning Group is Monday 18 July. Since the last meeting on 4 April, the transport audit working group have completed two workshops to look at current needs of transport and explore a mix of solutions.
- 4.15 The Evergreen Building Trust have progressed further with funding for phase two of the building refurbishment, and a meeting with local businesses to discuss the development of a local business network and a request for funding is also underway. In addition, CCC Officers are looking into improvements of local signage that identify local facilities and amenities in the town.

Penrith Area Working

- 4.16 The main Penrith Area Planning Group last met on 14 June to discuss progress on local priorities. The group also has a range of working groups tasked with driving forward specific projects. Linking Lives now has several volunteers who have received training and are now working through referrals. The group are looking at doing some publicity to recruit more volunteers and encourage new referrals.
- 4.17 The Dragons Apprentice challenge (CVS lead) went well. Two teams of young people worked with mentors, including a number of local social enterprises, to develop their project plans. There has been lots of learning which will be used for any following projects. A small business is being set up as a result of the project.
- 4.18 The Penrith Parking and Movement Implementation Group last met on 15 June. Members of Eden Local Committee agreed a Parking Protocol at its meeting on 30 September to enable decisions to be taken on Traffic Regulation Orders impacting parking.
- 4.19 Eden District Council have supported the programme by allowing residents to use their car parks during off peak times, reviewing payment mechanisms, investigating longer stay parking at supermarkets, providing demand information and progressing Electric Vehicle charging. Officers are working on a press release to update the community on the work that has been completed so far.

- 4.20 Due to capacity within the district council, the proposal to review off-street parking, tariffs and season tickets will become a matter for consideration by Westmoreland and Furness Council.
- 4.21 The development of the Penrith Place Plan continues. Cumbria County Council has established a Place Programme Development Group to help oversee the 5 independent programmes, but which remain part of an overall connected programme. The Area Manager, as the Senior Responsible Officer for the Eden programme, is part of this group.
- 4.22 The proposed schemes are being assessed to establish current status, level of commission support required, and next steps. This will be discussed with the Penrith Town Team at its meeting next month. As workstreams develop, each project will have its own specific project plan which will include, as part of development, further community engagement.
- 4.23 Again, a recommendation will go to the Penrith Town Team to welcome shadow councillors from Westmoreland and Furness Council onto the group as observers.

Shap Area Working

- 4.24 The Shap Area Planning Group met on Monday 6 June to discuss and progress the actions identified in the 2022-2023 Local Action Plan. A number of apologies were received from stakeholders. Officers from CCC, EDC and the CIO were present at the meeting. The group updated the action plan with progress on projects such as the development of local volunteer network and recruitment event.
- 4.25 A feasibility study and project development for the old sports hall site located in the centre of the village was also added to the plan. A future meeting with officers to focus on the development of this project will be arranged for July. In addition, the group discussed the opportunity for the development of a local business network and funding to support this as a locality project. Further feedback from the parish council on new priorities and projects for 2022 will be updated at the next meeting scheduled for Monday 8 August.

Children and Young People

- 4.26 The Children and Young People working group last met on 6 July. Members supported an award of £3,000 for the 32 Huntley Avenue Children's Home Activity Break Away project as described in Appendix C.
- 4.27 Members of the group also agreed a proposal for the strategic project for this year – Active Start for Early Years – to be recommended for committee approval. There is more information on this project contained within the briefing at Appendix E.
- 4.28 Members received an update on developments with 11-19 Youth Provision in Alston, Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and Penrith. With reference to the latter, Eden Rural Foyer have prepared and submitted an application for funding to cover staffing and set up of a youth provision at the foyer. This can be viewed at appendix D

Rural Issues

- 4.29 There have been two meetings of the Rural Issues Working Group since the last Committee report. At its meeting on 16 May, Members were joined by officers from the Connecting Cumbria programme to discuss progress and issues. At its meeting on 13 July, the group were joined by Pamela Martyn – a Wellbeing Activator from the NHS wellbeing service for Eden, and also received an update on the Kirkby Stephen community transport work.

Public Health and Wellbeing

- 4.30 The last meeting of Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum took place on 19 May where Forum members reviewed activity against agreed priorities.

Rural Transport

- 4.31 It was confirmed that the Rural Mobility Fund work could not be extended to include Alston at this stage as the parameters for the pilot had already been set. However, learnings from the pilot may be useful for informing future work that could include a wider geographic area.

Young People and employment

- 4.32 DWP provided an update on the range of support available. The Household Support Fund is currently under pressure, and they continue to work with CCC's Ways to Welfare to support families who are struggling. Whilst this is normally a one-off payment, people are also directed to other support that is available, such as food banks.
- 4.33 Forum members were advised that the employment market in Eden is buoyant and that employers are struggling to fill vacancies. The level of youth unemployment has returned to pre-pandemic levels, although there are still inequalities, and work is ongoing to support some young people who may not normally be invited into work. Many young people who the DWP is working with are struggling as their weekly allowance is insufficient.
- 4.34 Whilst DWP is reducing the number of premises they work from; it is unlikely this will affect Penrith. Retention of the Inspira youth worker has also been requested and she will be invited to join the next Forum meeting.
- 4.35 It was acknowledged that transport is an issue for many young people and Forum members were advised of a joint funding bid - 'A to B' - currently for 16–18-year-olds, to now be extended to 16–29-year-olds. High parking charges is also perceived as a problem, particularly in the tourist areas. Options are being explored to help with reduced parking charges, which may mitigate against increased fuel costs. An allowance could also be offered to take newly employed young people to their first pay day.

Affordable Warmth

- 4.36 Fuel poverty is becoming an increasingly challenging problem due to recent and forecast price increases. Forum members agreed to focus more closely on this at a future meeting and review what support is currently available.

Building Resources for Mental Health

- 4.37 Eden Primary Care Network has a business plan to recruit more social prescribers, particularly to work with 12 years plus. A directory is also being developed. A subgroup for loneliness and social isolation also continues to meet to share updates and network.
- 4.38 A wide range of locally funded training options have now been developed, details of which have been shared across networks.

Falls Prevention

- 4.39 Falls prevention is now included as part of the Primary Care Network's assessment of frail elderly people, with sharing of 'Get up and Go' exercises, and engaging more with carers. Many materials are available for sharing more widely if required.

Promoting Physical Activity

- 4.40 Walking for Health and Fit4All are still running, and an update has been requested for the next Forum meeting.
- 4.41 Forum members received an update from Active Cumbria about Park Play, which will have good coverage in Eden - including Alston and Kirkby Stephen. It was described as Park Run for families.
- 4.42 An update was also shared about the new early years project for KS1 foundation. Active Start aims to set life habits at an early age. It is currently running in Barrow and includes provision of leisure passes.

Other emerging issues

- 4.43 It was agreed that the shortage of GPs is a general problem and that a partnership approach would be useful. A small group is due to be formed to investigate collaborative action. Healthwatch Cumbria advised that they have been doing a lot of research on patient experience, and the shortage of GPs is one of the top health issues to have emerged.
- 4.44 Forum members were advised that problems observed by primary care last year around financial hardship seem to have reduced, however, rising fuel costs will inevitably impact on this. Eden has residents who are estate rich but cash poor and this is likely to become more of a problem in the coming months as the weather becomes colder and prices increase further. Many people are applying for the Green Homes Grant because they are struggling, but then find that they don't meet the criteria due to household income.
- 4.45 A small group of Forum members have met to explore the needs of young LGBTQ+ people. Various actions were agreed to be taken forward and a further update will be provided at the next meeting.
- 4.46 The next meeting of Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum is due to take place on 28 July 2022

Cost of Living Crisis

- 4.47 As a consequence of the increasing cost of living crisis, the Council has identified a further £2M to help support communities across Cumbria. The funding will be apportioned across 4 elements;
- £500,000 additional support to the Council's Ways to Welfare Fund providing grants of up to £100 for individual and families.
 - £500,000 additional contribution to the Council's School Clothing Grant budget on a one-off basis for 2022/23 to provide parents of children in receipt of free schools meals a contribution to the costs of school uniforms at an increased rate of £50 for primary school children and £100 for secondary school children.
 - £500,000 additional support to the enhanced free school meals offer for the 2022 summer holidays.
 - £500,000 for community support to be used to provide direct assistance to individuals in need including direct food purchases.
- 4.48 Of the £500,000 for community support, a proportion will be awarded to Citizen's Advice Service to provide emergency financial support to existing clients as required. Eden Local Committee has also been awarded funds which are offered on a basis of allocation by population split. These funds are:
- £21,300 to support the local urgent food supply network.
 - £14,400 to enable community organisations to distribute money (in cash, vouchers, goods etc) to local households in need of support.
- 4.49 In agreement with the Chairman, £10,000 of the food support grant will be distributed to provide immediate support to the district's three food banks. The split has been allocated based on demand and area serviced.
- £4,000 to the Penrith Salvation Army.
 - £4,000 to Upper Eden Food Bank.
 - £2,000 to Alston Food Bank.
- 4.50 The Community Team will investigate other local food support structures locally and present a recommendation to committee in September for the remainder of the allocation.
- 4.51 The Community Team have also reached out to organisations working directly with householders and who have the ability to support via direct access to cash or vouchers. Based on capacity and lack of welfare funding from any other source, officers have recommended the following grants which have been agreed with the chairman:
- £5,000 to Cumbria Family Support.
 - £3,100 to Christians Against Poverty.

- £2,100 to Age UK.
- £2,100 to 4 Eden.
- £2,100 to All About Autism.

4.52 Members should note that this is not the entirety of the support available to households impacted in Eden however it does ensure a swift response is possible through direct access to funds for some specific groups who may be experiencing difficulties.

Inspiring Eden Hub

4.53 Cumbria County Council have been asked by Eden District Council to offer support for a new Inspiring Eden Employment Hub which forms the basis of Eden's Levelling Up Fund bid. The Interim Economic Development Manager from Eden District Council talked Members through the proposal at a workshop on 20 July.

Community Services and Libraries

4.54 Eden Libraries are prepared for the launch of this year's Summer Reading Challenge – themed Gadgeteers. It started online on the 9 July and in libraries from the 16 July and follows the usual format of reading 6 books throughout the summer. There are two challenges available – mini challenge for 0-4s and the main challenge for 4-11s. Once the challenge is completed, as well as getting the challenge rewards, they are entered into a draw to win some group prizes kindly donated by the Cumberland Building Society and Rheged.

4.55 The challenge is being run in Penrith, Alston, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen libraries and there is a full programme of events planned throughout the summer to encourage families into libraries.

4.56 The service has also been able to successfully recruit to remaining vacancies - one to consolidate Saturday opening at Penrith library and the second to increase the opening hours at Appleby library. Once the new staff are fully trained Appleby library will be increasing its existing two open days a week access to three full days plus a Saturday morning. This is an increase on pre-COVID opening hours and adds more hours in the morning, over lunchtime and on a Saturday. Exact dates of this increase will be publicised as soon as possible.

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's 0-19 Services budget currently has unallocated resources of £5,798. Recommendation 3.3 will commit £3,000, leaving unallocated resources of £2,798..
- 6.2 Should recommendation 3.4 be agreed, £10,000 committed in the 0-19 Service budget for strategic grants will be allocated to Active Start for Early Years. The unallocated resources will remain as £2,798.
- 6.3 The additional Cost of Living Support funding has been allocated to the Area Planning budget. Of the food support fund of £21,300, £10,000 has been allocated in paragraph 4.48, leaving £11,300 available. The community organisations support fund of £14,400 has been fully allocated in paragraph 4.50.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations within this report are clearly in line with the County Council's vision in relation to communities within the Eden Area and the recommendations are within the Members' remit to act upon.
- 7.2 There are no likely or obvious legal risks presenting themselves in this report.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 This report provides the Local Committee with a comprehensive update on its communities budget, area planning project updates and related matters delegated to the committee.

Simon Higgins
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11 July 2022

APPENDICES

Appendix A Local Committee budget summary.
Appendix B Eden Local Committee priorities for 2022/23.
Appendix C Grant application from 32 Huntley Avenue Children's Home.
Appendix D Grant application from The Riverside Group Ltd.
Appendix E Briefing note on Active Start for Early Years.

Electoral Division(s): All in Eden

Executive Decision

Yes	
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Key Decision

	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
[including Local Committees]

No previous relevant decision.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

REPORT AUTHOR

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