

# **SCRUTINY ADVISORY BOARD – COMMUNITIES AND PLACE**

**Meeting date: 30 November 2022**

**From: Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor**

## **Community Power**

### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide background information on community power and the work underway in Cumbria regarding localism and development of models for the future.

### **2.0 Issues for Scrutiny**

2.1 To consider community power in the context of the Scrutiny Advisory Board's policy development role.

2.2 To agree key messages based on the experience of members of the Board and the research provided, that can be included as evidence for future policy development.

### **3.0 Background**

3.1 Community Power is defined by New Local as the belief that people should have a say over the places in which they live and the services they use. This includes the ability to take over public building, concentrates on the strengths in a community and builds on these to support change and improvements (i.e., asset-based community development)

3.2 Community Asset transfers are considered where an asset can be used for community purposes, providing demonstrable benefits and improved wellbeing to the community. Examples in Cumbria include:

3.2.1.1 Nenthead Mine to Nenthead Mines Conservation Society (NMCS). NMCS had been running tours and conserving the site, the asset transfer enabled the NMCS to better fulfil the existing aims to conserve the mines and to educate the public of the history and access grants.

3.2.1.2 Thacka Beck Field was transferred to Penrith Town Council in 2020 to maintain the site as an area for residents for recreational activities.

- 3.3 Scrutiny task and finish work has been undertaken to inform the development of localism models in Cumbria as we transition from six District and one County Council to 2 local authorities in Cumbria.
- 3.4 In addition to this under the Local Government Reorganisation both Shadow Authorities are undertaking work under a Communities and Localism Workstream, to consider how they can build on and develop Community Power / Community Wealth Building. This work will continue to be developed post 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to shape the future delivery models and policy.
- 3.5 The Board are asked to consider the research included at appendix 1.

**Claire Notman**  
**Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Advisor**  
*[17 November 2022]*

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*Please ensure that every part of this section where there is an asterisk\* is completed in accordance with the instructions before sending the report to Legal and Democratic Services, (please delete this sentence, prior to release).*

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Community Power research.

## **Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions** *[including Local Committees]*

No previous relevant decisions.

## **Background Papers**

No background papers

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