

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN</b>
<b>Meeting date: 31 January 2023</b>
<b>From: Assistant Director – Customer and Community Services</b>

## **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 to date.***
- 3.2 *Members note the provisional unallocated resources in the 2022-23 Communities Revenue Budget of £56.196 as of 31 December 2022.***
- 3.3 *Members agree to use the remaining School Crossing Patrol budget of £4,310 to contribute towards the assessment for a Puffin Crossing in Kirkby Stephen as described at 4.20.***
- 3.4 *Members agree to vire the remaining £4,000 from the 11-19 Universal Service budget to the 0-19 budget as described in 4.30.***
- 3.5 *Members agree to award a grant of £10,000 to Together We to contribute towards a talking support pilot in Eden as described in 4.33.***
- 3.6 *Members note the area planning update and grant allocations as described in 4.5 to 4.43.***

### **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.

#### **Community Resilience**

- 4.5 The Eden Community Resilience Group last met on the 17 January where the group heard updates from subgroups and shared intelligence on community issues.
- 4.6 The group were updated on outcomes from the Cost-of-Living Crisis Response Co-ordination Group, which is led by the Director of Public Health, Colin Cox. This multi-agency group shares appropriate information and intelligence about the impact of the crisis in Cumbria and oversees the local response activity. The group is looking at a programme of activity aimed at:

- supporting income maximisation
- keeping people warm
- keeping people adequately fed and nourished
- mitigating the risks of decreased mental health and wellbeing
- keeping people safe

4.7 Following shared good practice discussions, community officers have initiated a food network meeting for Eden, which met for the first time on 14 December. The network enables local authority officers and key representatives from food banks and local commercial food outlets an opportunity to share intelligence and collaborate on projects.

4.8 Furthermore, following evidence coming through the cost-of-living group and discussions around need and support resources available, a further £15,990 has been awarded to Eden Local Committee to bolster local support structures. Following discussions with community development officers and support agencies – and in agreement with the Local Committee Chairman – the following grant awards have been issued:

- £5,000 to Cumbria Family Support.
- £5,000 to Barnardo`s
- £5,000 to Eden Carers
- £3,090 to 4Eden

4.9 This additional funding was added to the residual Household Support Fund allocation that Eden Local Committee had received previously and the full amount has now been allocated. The cost-of-living crisis remains a key priority for all of Eden's local area planning groups.

### **Area Based Working**

#### Alston Area Planning Group

4.10 Alston APG last met on Tuesday 10 January with the main focus of the meeting being to discuss the issues local groups are having with recruiting volunteers. A sub-group is being set up including community development officers, local third sector organisations and Cumbria CVS to work on developing a directory of local organisations and their volunteer needs to help shape a project moving forward. The sub-group will also investigate the possibility of a series of short promotional videos as part of a social media campaign to encourage more people to volunteer.

4.11 As Members are aware, Councillor Claire Driver has tendered her resignation as the County Councillor for Alston and East Fellside effective from Friday 27 January. The structural changes order provides (at Reg 20) for no by-elections for vacancies arising after 30 September 2022 so the post will remain vacant until the end of this Council.

#### Appleby Area Planning Group

- 4.12 The group met at Appleby Public Hall on Tuesday 22 November and has a further meeting planned for 17 January. The group are progressing a number of local projects including a review of Appleby's network of footpaths, a renovation project of the Platinum Park playground, completion of a local tree audit, and the development of local carbon zero initiatives and a climate change policy.
- 4.13 The local authority Climate Change Co-ordinator from the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership will be attending the January meeting to help support the development of local initiatives and provide guidance and information on funding.
- 4.14 In addition, a follow-up review of signage in the town will be initiated by the community team and Appleby Tourist Information Centre - starting with a walk through of town signage. A report of findings and requested improvements will be shared with Highways colleagues and other partners. This work will commence at the end of January and will aim to improve locality information for residents as well as the visitor experience.
- 4.15 The APG membership has extended and now includes regular representation from the local policing team, EDC communities and economic teams, and the locally elected Shadow Members for Westmorland and Furness Council. In addition, the newly appointed Community Connector for Cumbria CVS will also be attending future meetings to offer support for community groups.

#### Kirkby Stephen Area Planning Group

- 4.16 The group met online on Monday 21 November to discuss progress with current priorities on the area action plan and a further meeting is planned for 16 January. The Local Authority Climate Change Co-ordinator from Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership attended the meeting and gave a short presentation on the partnership, their collaborative work in Cumbria and the support available to help develop local initiatives that aim to reduce carbon emissions. The Community Connector for Cumbria CVS will also be attending future meetings to offer support for community groups.
- 4.17 The Evergreen Building renovation project that will provide a new fit-for-purpose youth facility has achieved its funding target and work will commence early 2023. The outcome of the town signage review has been confirmed by Highways colleagues and works on the improvements will be programmed in for 2022/2023. The Kirkby Stephen Town Council Local Government Review Working Group are drafting a memorandum of understanding with authorities.
- 4.18 The report and outcomes from the local transport audit undertaken by a local group of volunteers, led by town Cllr Mike Walker are now available to view on the Kirkby Stephen website. The report will be used to inform local stakeholders, provide an evidence base for future transport projects, and help to secure funding.

- 4.19 Kirkby Stephen Primary School has been without a school crossing patrol (SCP) since February following a resignation and all attempts to fill the vacant post have been unsuccessful. The SCP operates on a busy stretch of the a685 which is the main arterial route between the a66 and the M6 and experiences heavy traffic flow. Whilst ensuring children reach their school safely remains a parental responsibility; highways officers would support the inclusion of a puffin crossing as a permanent measure that will assist commuting to school in the absence of a SCP.
- 4.20 The initial assessment works to identify if this measure could be progressed have been estimated to cost approximately £7,000 and Local Committee are asked to use the remaining £4,310 from the School Crossing Patrol Budget to contribute towards this cost.

#### Penrith Area Planning Group

- 4.21 The Penrith Parking and Movement Study Implementation Group continue to meet monthly to drive the programme forward. A press release was recently issued to update residents on the work undertaken. This includes:
- Removing a pinch point at Portland Place where two-way traffic movements and junction turning manoeuvres were restricted, subsequently raising road safety issues in the immediate vicinity of the Portland Place junction with the A6 Stricklandgate.
  - The junction at Inglewood Road / Salkeld Road was improved so that traffic could access the junction easier, and pedestrians could cross the area safely. A new footway at the junction reduced the speed of vehicles turning left into Salkeld Road from the A6 Scotland Road.
  - Eden District Council now welcomes pay by phone in their car parks and are actively promoting their current car parking offers in Penrith. Cumbria County Council are also working to improve parking signage around the town.
  - Residents and businesses have been invited to drop-in sessions, where plans have been displayed about the proposed improvements for Corney Place. This scheme will increase pedestrian space, create a pedestrian crossing and enhance the public realm as a gateway into the town centre. As a result of this pedestrian improvement will mean that Corney Place will be one-way southbound.
- 4.22 The Borderlands Town Team met on 4 December to review the projects based around the three Penrith place plan themes – Capitalising on our Connections, Hub for Business and Culturally Centred. 6 Project Initiation Documents are currently being completed for consideration in advance of the 13 January deadline.
- 4.23 Projects will be considered in discussion with the Town Team and using an agreed prioritisation framework in advance of a session with Eden Local Committee.

### Shap Area Planning Group

- 4.24 The group met online on Monday 5 December to discuss progress with current priorities on the area action plan. A member of Shap Climate Change Reading Group joined the meeting to contribute to the development of local climate change projects. The Community Connector from Cumbria CVS also joined the meeting to support community groups and help build local networks.
- 4.25 The local area priority updates included community volunteering with new volunteers coming forward to join Shap Community Interest Organisation. Following the circulation of business support updates, Eden District Council's Economic Development Officer will be hosting a "business café" drop-in event at The Old Courthouse to provide outreach support. The Parish council reported positive progress at Force Beck Wood which, after initial contractor work, will provide a community space and outdoor volunteer project.
- 4.26 The footpath audit work has now been completed and an electronic record of all footpaths and required improvements is held by the parish council. Improvements and repairs will be carried out when weather permits with the help of local volunteers. The County Council countryside access team will provide resources and support where possible.
- 4.27 The next area planning group meeting for Shap - which will be a hybrid meeting - is scheduled for Monday 6 February at The Market Cross in Shap as well as online.

### **Children and Young People**

- 4.28 Eden Local Committee's Children and Young People's (CYP) working group met on Tuesday 10 January 2023.
- 4.29 The group heard a proposal from Cumbria Youth Alliance as to how they intended to apply the £4,000 11-19 grant already allocated to Alston. The grant will be used to fund three community events which aim to generate community interest for the sustainable youth club project. In addition, the funding will contribute to the delivery of a Duke of Edinburgh Programme for young people in Alston. The grant application can be viewed at appendix C.
- 4.30 Appleby Youth Provision came to an end last Summer. The Oaklea Trust who successfully ran the weekly youth club at Appleby Hub for three years have confirmed they do not wish to claim the 11-19 £4000 allocation for 2022/2023 for Appleby as their work is currently focused on specialist need support. Members of ELC Children and Young People's working group recommended at their recent meeting that the allocation of £4000 for Appleby be vired to the 0-19 budget, to fund other youth projects in Eden.
- 4.31 Eden's community team have received several enquiries for the 0-19 Fund with applications in progress. It is expected the fund will be fully committed by the next CYP meeting scheduled for Monday 6 March.

- 4.32 A grant recommendation to award £3500 to Appleby Town Council's Platinum Park renovation project was also supported. There is more information on this project available at appendix D.

### **Public Health and Wellbeing**

- 4.33 The community team has received an application from Together We Community Interest Company to pilot a talking support service in Eden based at Newton Rigg in Penrith. There is more information available on the service in appendix E and there is an ask of £10,000 from Eden Local Committee to enable the project. Officers are supportive and will ensure it forms part of the full wellbeing offer in Eden. With community wellbeing as a staple priority for all area planning groups, Members are asked to consider this award from the area planning budget.
- 4.34 The latest meeting of Eden Health and Wellbeing Forum took place on 20 October 2022, details of which have previously been shared with Eden Local Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 19 January.
- 4.35 A wide range of cost-of-living advice and support is available via the County Council website <https://cumbria.gov.uk/costofliving>. This includes information on energy saving; financial and food support, mental health, domestic abuse, help with childcare, bills and transport costs, home and business safety and staying warm. Eden-specific information was also shared widely across local networks in the run up to Christmas.
- 4.36 The countywide cost-of-living crisis strategic partnership group continues to meet weekly and is monitoring surveillance data to inform action. Of note at the latest meeting on 5 January, it was reported that Free School Meal applications increased across Cumbria for the autumn term 2022, compared with the previous year. In Eden there was a significant increase of 33.3% which is likely to indicate increasing stress on family budgets. The community team is currently exploring ways in which further support could be provided locally.
- 4.37 A range of resources, advice and useful links are available to help people be more prepared for Winter also via the County Council website at <https://cumbria.gov.uk/winterready>
- 4.38 Members are encouraged to share details of the Sustainable Warmth Fund and encourage people who may be eligible, to apply. The grants are aimed at improving energy efficiency and making carbon savings. Households with an income below £30,000 per year and a low energy performance rating may be eligible to receive up to £25,000, to install measures such as insulation, renewable energy and double glazing. Further information is available from the host council's website at [www.carlisle.gov.uk.SustainableWarmthCumbria](http://www.carlisle.gov.uk.SustainableWarmthCumbria). The scheme ends in March 2023.
- 4.39 There are now over 140 Warm Spots registered in Cumbria, including a good spread of 29 across Eden district. Further details can be found on the County Council website at <https://new.cumbria.gov.uk/warm-spots>. Funding was provided by Public Health and Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF).

Grants of up to £1,000 per venue are still available and venues are encouraged to apply. Full details are on the CCF website at [www.cumbriafoundation.org/fund/warm-spots-fund/](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org/fund/warm-spots-fund/)

- 4.40 The County Council has funded Slimming World until the end of March 2023 to offer a community weight management programme. Support is available for 12 weeks, free of charge; and referrals can be made via a nurse, health care practitioner, community pharmacy, social prescriber, health & wellbeing coach, as well as through GPs.
- 4.41 A small group of Forum members has been exploring the needs of young LGBTQ+ people in Eden. A resource is now being produced which will contain useful information and links to various sources of support for young LGBTQ+ people and their families. Plans have also been developed to create a pilot LGBTQ+ youth club in Eden. The community team has worked with Barnardo's, Eden Rural Foyer and other partners to progress this.
- 4.42 Penrith Linking Lives scheme is now fully up and running but there has been a shortage of volunteers. Whilst training and DBS checks will be needed, volunteers are only asked to commit to a minimum of one hour per week. They will be supported to befriend people who may be feeling lonely or isolated. Face to face visits tend to be preferred by most people but there may also be occasions for just a telephone call. Contact [Penrith@linkinglives.uk](mailto:Penrith@linkinglives.uk) to find out more.
- 4.43 Kirkby Stephen and Appleby Linking Lives is also under development. There has been a slight delay with the planned start date as they are awaiting registration with the Charity Commission; once agreed a local coordinator can be appointed. It is hoped the scheme will be up and running in the spring.

## **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 alternative proposals.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Local Committee has unallocated resources in its Communities Budget totalling £56,250 at the end of December as summarised in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 6.2 The School Crossing Patrols budget has unallocated resources of £4,310. Should recommendation 3.3 be agreed, this budget will be fully committed.



- 6.3 Should recommendation 3.4 be agreed, £4,000 will be decommitted from the 11-19 Universal Services budget and be vired to the 0-19 Services budget, increasing available resources in that budget from £9,742 to £13,742.
- 6.4 In paragraph 4.32, £3,500 has been committed from the 0-19 Services budget for Appleby Town Council's Platinum Park renovation project, reducing available resources from £13,742 to £10,242.
- 6.5 Eden Communities Team have been allocated £15,990 from the DWP Household Support Fund for Cost of Living Support. This funding and grants from it do not impact the Local Committee's budget.
- 6.6 The Area Planning budget currently has unallocated resources of £26,478. Should recommendation 3.6 be agreed, £10,000 will be committed from this budget leaving £16,478 available for future allocation.

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The recommendations relate to matters properly falling within the remit of the Committee in accordance with the Constitution.
- 7.2 There are no negative legal implications for the Council in respect of decisions falling to be made within this report.

## **7.3 CONCLUSION**

- 7.4 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**  
**Assistant Director – Customer and Community Services**

*6 January 2023*

## **APPENDICES**

***Appendix A Local Committee budget summary.***  
***Appendix B Eden Local Committee priorities for 2022/23.***  
***Appendix C Grant application from Cumbria Youth Alliance***  
***Appendix D Grant application from Appleby Town Council***  
***Appendix E Grant application from Together We CIC***

Electoral Division(s): All in Eden

Executive Decision

Yes	
-----	--

Key Decision

	No
--	----

If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A
--	--	-----

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

	No
--	----

If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
--	--	-----

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

	No
--	----

Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
--	----	--

Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
--	----	--

**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**

Contact: Nick Wright,  
Area Manager – Eden  
Email - [nick.wright@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:nick.wright@cumbria.gov.uk)