

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR ALLERDALE
Meeting date: 21 March 2023
From: Assistant Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

ALLERDALE LOCAL COMMITTEE - FINAL REPORT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *The purpose of this report is to celebrate the achievements of Allerdale Local Committee at its' final meeting. As the County Council will cease to exist with effect from 31 March 2023, it is appropriate that this local committee, as the local voice of the County Council, looks back on what it has experienced and achieved in its last 5 years under the current administration.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *The Allerdale Local Committee has both executive and non-executive duties as set out in the County Council's constitution.*

2.2 *At its meeting on 6 May 2022, the local committee reviewed at stated its priorities for delivery in its final 12 months as:*

- *Improving outcomes for Young People***
- *Encouraging individuals, households and communities to live well and thrive***
- *Supporting individuals, households and communities to engage, and to feel enabled and empowered.***

2.3 *The Children and Young People's Partnership as part of the local committee has adopted the priority outcome of Improving Outcomes for Young People.*

2.4 *The work of the local committee contributes to the achievement of the Council Plan 2018-2022 vision which is to be*

- ***A Council that works with residents, businesses and communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources.***

2.5 *The outcomes of this vision are:*

- ***People in Cumbria are healthy and safe***
- ***Places in Cumbria are well-connected and thriving***
- ***The economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone***

2.6 *There are no negative equality implications arising out of the recommendations of this report.*

3.0 *RECOMMENDATIONS*

3.1 *Members note the contents of the report.*

4.0 *BACKGROUND*

4.1 Allerdale Local Committee has been in existence since April 2001 with a purpose at that time described as optimising the use of Council assets and resources in their area; to influence Council policies and strategies affecting their area; and through the "whole area approach", to work with communities and partner organisations to enable public services to be shaped locally, to achieve the best possible outcomes within available resources It is made up of 16 County Councillors who represent the 16 divisional areas across Allerdale. The relevant chapter of the Constitution is attached at Appendix 1.

Local committees perform three main functions:

- Make decisions
- Influence decisions made by others
- Receive and disseminate information.

All of this is performed with the local area of Allerdale at the centre and with on the ground knowledge and experience brought by those local councillors.

4.2 Elected Members of Allerdale Local Committee have an integral role in supporting their communities and ensuring the best possible outcomes. In recognition of their achievements, Members have offered the following contributions to demonstrate the variety of work they have undertaken in their respective divisions.

4.3 Councillor Alan Lawrence Barry (vice chair) - St Michael's

During Councillor Barry's term in office as Chairman of Cumbria County Council a joint campaign was launched with Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service's Community Safety team. Over 70 lifesaving defibrillators were funded across Cumbria.

A defibrillator is a portable device which can help save someone's life by restarting the heart after cardiac arrest. Every minute without CPR and defibrillation can reduce a victim's survival chances by ten per cent.

The equipment is on hand in public places, making them easily accessible 24/7 for use in an emergency. A map showing where each defibrillator is located in Cumbria is available on the County council's website at <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/findmynearest/defibrillators.asp>

Since launching the campaign, the number of defibrillators in Cumbria has steadily grown each year and we currently have 416 located across Cumbria and listed on the website.

Councillor Barry said "I'm delighted there are so many life-saving defibrillators now available in communities across Cumbria. Rapid treatment is critical to the survival chances of anyone suffering a cardiac arrest, so these defibrillators could literally mean the difference between life and death."

4.4 Councillor Catherine Mabel Bell - Cockermouth North

In 2022 The Rotary Club of Cockermouth introduced Incredible Edibles to Cockermouth. This is a national scheme with a vision to create kind, confident and connected communities through the power of food.

The club have planted fruit trees in Harris Park, which in future years can be picked and enjoyed by the community. The club have built planters in various locations around Cockermouth and this Spring herbs and vegetables will be planted for the community.

The project was awarded £2,000 funding in November 2022 with Councillors Bell and Councillor Kennon both using their divisional allowances to support this project.

Councillor Bell said, "this is an excellent sustainable initiative which allows people to benefit from free, healthy food grown in their community".

Councillor Bell and Councillor Kennon feel that working together supporting projects gives a better outcome for their community.

4.5 Councillor Joseph (Alan) Bowness - Bothel and Wharrels

Friends of Lorton school are a charity set up to provide volunteer and financial support to enhance the personal development of the children at the school, over and above that provided within the school. The group enable children to experience new activities that might otherwise be difficult to provide in a small, rural setting.

The group ran a project which increased the children's awareness of the origin of their food by involving them in the planting, growing and care of plants. Sessions were provided to prepare and cook the food the children had studied. They introduced the children to new vegetables and encouraged them to explore new flavours and herbs. The children also experienced vegetables in their raw state and discovered new healthy snacks.

A grant of £820 was awarded to the group to enable them to bring in an expert to guide the children in planting and growing herbs, fruit and vegetables. 62 children aged between 5 and 11 years old took part and benefitted from the project.

Councillor Bowness said "This was a fantastic project teaching the children how to grow fruit and vegetables and introducing them to healthy snacks, especially at the current time when some foods are in short supply"

4.6 Councillor Debbie Garton - St John's and Great Clifton

Great Clifton Community Youth Group was founded as a measure to tackle the anti-social behaviour issue in the village by providing young people with a place to go. The youth group hold many successful activities including painting bus shelters, dance classes, charity run, annual fun day, CPR courses but by far the most successful activity are the weekly football sessions.

The football sessions are led by a local volunteer with two age categories, under 12's and teens. The sessions are well attended and the under 12's offers parents a chance to socialise as they watch their children play. The youth group have also made enquiries with the Cumberland Football Association about registering as an official team.

A grant of £700 was awarded to the group as a contribution to the cost of purchasing metal football posts. It is hoped the young people who enjoy taking part in the youth club activities will in time become volunteers and contribute to community life.

Councillor Garton said "It is great to see that the youth of Great Clifton are making use of the football goalposts and that they are still in situ, as I know that previously this was not the case and they would be quickly damaged. It appears that the Youth Group is becoming a success and with ongoing support will continue to do so. The setup of an FA Club would be fantastic for the village of Great Clifton".

4.7 Councillor Mike Johnson - Thursby

Councillor Johnson highlights the essential works carried out to improve the footpaths at Bolton New houses. This was a former highway and latterly a T-junction which was no longer fit for traffic and was impacted by erosion making the terrain difficult for walkers.

Councillor Johnson says "The environment fund allowed works to be undertaken to ensure safe access and a fit for purpose walking route. Works

included the installation of ground anchors and water bars to address drainage needs and approximately twenty tonnes of sub-base to repair areas affected by water. These improvements have created a safer and more robust pathway with measures in place to control the water. Working closely with Cumbria County Council Access Team we have been able to achieve a safe environment for the community to enjoy”.

4.8 Councillor Alan Kennon - Cockermouth South

Cockermouth RUFC is a sporting community hub providing facilities for a number of local youth and adult groups including rugby union training and competitive games. The nursery school adjacent to the club use the grounds for daily physical activity and the club offers free weekly open night sessions for teenage girls.

To shape the next 10 years, the club consulted and engaged with local schools and potential sports clubs. The outcome of this being that a need was highlighted for a multi-use, modern open space facility to cater for all abilities.

The club were awarded £5,000 in March 2022 and £2,000 in August 2022 towards developing a multi-use games area, with Cllrs Bell and Kennon both using their divisional allowances to support this project.

Councillor Kennon said, “the club do a great job giving the young people of Cockermouth something to work towards and a multi-use games area will only further improve their lives and health”.

4.9 Councillor Roger John Liddle - Wigton

The COVID 19 Pandemic highlighted a need for food support in Wigton and the surrounding area. A group of volunteers from St Cuthberts Church came together to form Wigton Food Pantry, not only to provide food support to those experiencing financial difficulties but also to encourage better care for the environment by preventing food waste going to landfill.

Wigton Food Pantry is accessible for all, no referrals or vouchers are required. Pantry users are simply asked for a donation to help buy provisions for the following week. Each week there is a selection of groceries, eggs, locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables available. Where possible the Pantry buy additional produce locally to support local businesses.

The Food Pantry hold cooking demonstrations, alongside taster sessions to encourage people to cook on a budget. A Warm Spot was also launched to run alongside the Food Pantry offering free warm drinks, jigsaws, books and papers.

Wigton Food Pantry have received several grants from Allerdale Local Committee totalling £10,200 which has enabled them to set up and more recently respond to the growing need for support due to the cost of living crisis.

Councillor Liddle said “It was a privilege to help this local community initiative get off the ground. All great volunteers. A project so much needed when life is so difficult for many Wigton families.”

4.10 Councillor Jim Lister - Aspatria

Aspatria Dream Scheme plays an important part in assisting families in and around the Aspatria area. They took the opportunity to become independent, supported by Cumbria County Council and Allerdale Local Committee, with significant grants awarded to the organisation to enable both building improvements and delivery of projects. With this backing, they have also been successful in securing funding from other charities and organisations.

Allerdale Local Committee supported Aspatria Dream Scheme in August 2022 with a Community grant awarded of £10,000 for the catering kitchen, plus £8,000 from the Universal Provision budget for their Youth project. Previously, in 2021 Allerdale Local Committee awarded a grant of £10,000 to support the Re-Start Project, plus a number of smaller grants which have enabled Aspatria Dream Scheme to support vulnerable families.

“Dream Scheme has helped so many children, it really has made a difference. Thanks, to Linda Hunter who runs the place and is dedicated to the children of Aspatria, she does so much to help the less fortunate.”

Aspatria Library, Local Links building has now begun the transformation into a Family Hub which is a combination of good partnership working and a substantial investment from Cumbria County Council. After many years of persistent effort by all those involved in this project, the contractor will commence works in 2023.

Councillor Lister said, “This will create a much more adaptable area, allowing the capability of a variety of different agencies to work in the building at the same time, from Family Action to Adult Learning and still provide a library service for Aspatria.

Thank you to Hayley, Allerdale Community Development Team, for the work on the footpath from North View to Richmond Hill primary school. The path frequently flooded in wet weather, meaning a long detour or wet feet. The path does belong to the Council, so it is rightly our responsibility to maintain it, let us hope they have found and cleared the drain to take away the water.

Finally, thank you to Highways Department for the streetlights, the gritting and the pothole repairs. Good luck to you all in the future.

4.11 Councillor Keith Anthony Little - Maryport South

Community groups in Flimby, Ewanrigg and Broughton Moor have been well supported by local committee over the years, having received funding enabling them to support their communities.

Councillor Little feels the DWP and CYA Youth Employment programme, which was supported by local committee, was particularly beneficial in getting young people into work. DWP and CYA’s partnership working helped young people with employability skills, gave them access to work

experience placements and volunteering opportunities, support with job search, application filling, CV writing and interview preparation and practice, as well as emotional resilience support.

Councillor Little said, “as a local committee we have supported each other and worked well together, particularly as there’s never been a majority. Elected Members, and the public, have appreciated the support members have been able to give their communities through their divisional allowances”.

4.12 Councillor Tony Lywood - Keswick

Councillor Lywood highlights the essential works carried out to correct the kerbs in Keswick Market Square where he worked with Cumbria County Council to correct the problem and make the town centre safer for pedestrians.

Councillor Lywood says “These improvements to Keswick’s Market square have made a better, more manageable and safer environment for locals and visitors alike. A road safety audit revealed ambulances had been called out 53 times between 2013 and 2017 to injuries caused by the kerbs. Having worked closely with the officers in the Highways Department of Cumbria County Council I commend them for listening to the concerns and the proactive way that they moved the works forward. Trips, falls and hospitalisations were reduced as a direct result of this timely and excellent intervention”.

4.13 Councillor Anthony James (Tony) Markley (Chair) - Solway Coast

Councillor Markley wishes to acknowledge the work of the Allerdale Elected Members and Officers “I am proud to have served as the Chair of Allerdale Local Committee and Elected Member for the Solway Coast. With the support and dedicated commitment of Vice Chair Councillor Alan Barry and Elected Members of Allerdale it has been a privilege to support and represent the residents of Allerdale”.

“I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of officers who have supported us in achieving successful outcomes to engage, enable and empower our communities. Elected Members and officers have worked together to boost the local economy, improving outcomes for our communities and supporting them to live well and thrive”.

4.14 Councillor Carni McCarron-Holmes - Maryport North

With an investment of over £1,000,000 the B5300 Crossscanonby Coastal Erosion scheme, delivered by CCC Highways, resulted in 420 metres of the coast at Crossscanonby being protected against coastal erosion.

Work carried out included rebuilding the damaged/ missing outfall which made dramatic improvement in the discharge flow of the Saltpans Sough main river. Coir matting was used and approximately 10,000 marram grass plugs were used to reinstate the sand dunes along the entire length of the

revetment. Over 900 deliveries were made to site with 19,000 tonnes of basalt rock being used.

Councillor McCarron-Holmes said, “this scheme has had a brilliant outcome for the whole area by supporting tourism, transport and the environment”.

4.15 Councillor Marjorie Rae - Harrington

Councillor Rae wishes to acknowledge the ‘The Rails Which Circled the World’ heritage project “Among many initiatives I have supported I am particularly proud of the sculpture erected at Workington’s railway station in celebration of the towns contribution to the steel industry. It features the Bessemer Converter and a 7ft interpretation of Henry Bessemer who invented the Bessemer Converter in 1856 making steel that revolutionised the industry.

This sculpture forms part of ‘The Rails Which Circled the World’ heritage project, run by Cumbria County Council and Community Rail Cumbria.

I was able to source a piece of local Tendley limestone and commissioned a local sculpture.

The overall project has seen the railway station become an exhibition centre to celebrate the time when the town was a world leader in rail technology.

Young and old have visited the exhibition since its opening, sharing stories about the iron and steelmaking process in and around Workington that used to employ thousands of local people”.

4.16 Councillor Stephen Stoddart - Moss Bay and Moorclose

Councillor Stoddart says “I feel that some of the most positive and impactful work achieved through Local Committee funds is the financial and developmental support given to Moorclose Community Centre and in particular, South Workington Youth Partnership. One of the main support gaps in Moorclose was having something positive for young people to engage with and the community centre have worked closely with me to ensure that any available appropriate funds for young people have been applied for and have made a positive difference. I have seen the benefit to the centre though the funding for support with furniture, which has since allowed many more groups to utilise the facilities”.

Councillor Stoddart adds “I greatly appreciated the support of many others to make positive things happen in Moorclose including Cumbria County Council’s Community Development Team, Workington Town Council and the local Housing Associations”

“I have seen the positive impact made through the allocation of Local Committee Funding for purchasing tricycles for young people with a disability to use at Moorclose Community Centre and the purchase of appropriate sport matting for the local boxing club.”

Councillor Stoddart extends his thanks “the support from other Local Committee Members and their dedication and commitment which meet the needs of the community has been invaluable and very much appreciated”.

4.17 **Councillor Celia Tibble - Seaton**

Councillor Tibble highlights the positive outcome for the Scout facility in Seaton saying “the support given through the Local Committee to the new Scout facility in Seaton has been one of the most impactful changes I have seen happen in recent years. Having this standard of facility available in the village has made a positive and lasting difference to young people in Seaton.”

Councillor Tibble adds “Another successful change that has been made through the support of Local Committee funds has been the improvements made to the facilities at Seaton Village Hall. The hall has become a real focal point for the community and is now a pleasant and accessible space to use. Seaton Village Hall is now being utilised by the community much more, for a range of community events and private bookings which is helping to ensure its sustainability for the future”.

“I feel that the Allerdale Local Committee support for helping to improve a range of green spaces in the Northside area and for enabling the Community Centre to have food parcels for those in need has made a positive difference. The support offered provided a range of activities for residents of Northside which has included theatre trips and Feed and Read activities which has been integral to helping to improve the sense of wellbeing in the area, it has helped to raise aspirations of the community and has supported inclusion- especially with young people, which has helped to bring the community closer together”.

- 4.18 **Response to Major Incidents** – Allerdale Local Committee has been committed to supporting the team in its direct response to Covid from 2020 - 2022 and the current cost of living crisis. In direct response to Covid the team were involved in establishing the West Coast Welfare Hub where team members supported and liaised with formal and informal third sector organisations to provide direct support to vulnerable households and organisations for a period of 10 weeks.
- 4.19 The team have supported the response to the Floods of 2015, The Beast from the East Storm in 2018 and power outages as a result of Storm Arwen in 2021.
- 4.20 Members of Allerdale Local Committee have been given additional funding over 3 years to support the most vulnerable in our communities and were able to distribute the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and Cost of Living Grants as set out below:
- 4.21 **Cost-of-Living Reserve** - The allocation of funds to Allerdale was £65,500. This comprised of £26,400 for community support and £39,100 for food to help with the challenges some families are facing with the cost-of-living increases.
- 4.22 The team worked with partner organisations to distribute the funding which included:

- Financial support to food pantries to purchase additional food and essential items
- Financial support to verified warm spot venues to provide food and refreshments
- Funding to third sector and community organisations for the purchase of vouchers to enable them to support those in financial crisis
- Purchase of items such as hot water bottles and blankets to be distributed via warm spot locations and by Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

4.23 **COMF** - this funding was provided to local authorities to support the ongoing public health and outbreak management costs associated with tackling COVID-19. The team promoted the three elements of the fund working with partners and community groups to award grants.

4.24 In 2021-22 allocations were made to Allerdale Local Committee as set out:

- £100,000 Hardship
- £200,000 Environmental Infrastructure and Improvements
- £50,000 Events and activities

4.25 In relation to the Hardship element, officers worked with Allerdale Community Resilience Group partners to develop a referral process.

4.26 The environmental infrastructure and improvements element of the fund encouraged residents to enjoy their local area and attract new visitors away from the popular tourist areas and encouraging them to try something outside of their usual experiences. Officers worked with a large number of groups and organisations to ensure that applications were received, and schemes were delivered.

4.27 The events and activities element of the fund sponsored events and activities to encourage participation from the local community and attract visitors away from the usual honeypot areas. Officers worked with the district and town councils and other organisations to provide funding towards the enhancement of planned events.

Commemorative Benches

4.28 In recognition of Cumbria County Council's Local Committee for Allerdale, commemorative benches will be sited in Aspatria, Cockermouth, Keswick, Maryport, Silloth, Wigton and Workington.

4.29 A plaque will be included on each bench with an inscription:

•Presented by Elected Members of Cumbria County Council's Local Committee for Allerdale 31 March 2023

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 The report is to note only so there are no options to consider.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct legal implications in Members noting the contents of this Report.

SD 08/03/23

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 This report sets out some of the activities and projects that the Elected Members of Allerdale Local Committee have developed, overseen, supported and funded in this current term. It does not by any means cover all the activities but at this last meeting of Allerdale Local Committee, it seemed fitting to give Elected Members the opportunity to document, what for them have been highlights.

Simon Higgins
Assistant Director – Customer and Community Services

March 2023

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - County Council Constitution (Extract) Part 2 – Guide to Decision Making Part 2D - Local Committees

Electoral Division(s): All

Executive Decision

	No
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Key Decision

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

N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.

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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