

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR ALLERDALE

Meeting date: 6 May 2022

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

AREA MANAGER REPORT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *The purpose of this report is to bring Members up to date with the activity across Allerdale and any recent developments.*

1.2 *Area planning activity continues in the form of key projects and area working activity including development of projects and schemes associated with additional internal and external funding.*

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 *Allerdale local committee is committed to the following priorities:*

- *Supporting people to access training, apprenticeships and employment*
- *Encouraging people to live well*
- *Supporting our communities to thrive*
- *Supporting and influencing the recovery from Covid-19 both as individuals, in the role of community leaders and as a committee.*

2.3 *Allerdale Local Committee has adopted key themes proposed by the Children and Young People's Partnership which are:*

- *Youth employment*
- *Improving accessibility to opportunities*
- *Mental wellbeing*
- *Good health for life*

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

REVIEW OF LOCAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

4.1 Members attended workshops on 4 March 2022 and 20 April 2022 to discuss Local Committee priorities for 2022-23. Feedback gathered from members has been used to develop the following as priorities for consideration to replace the existing ones at paragraph 2.2.

- ***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***
- ***Improved accessibility to opportunities***

ACTIVITIES WITHIN ALLERDALE AND THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE

ASPATRIA

4.2 An architect has been appointed to carry out the concept and detailed design stage of the project. Detailed design drawings are in the process of being finalised and tenders for the build are expected to be returned by the end of June 22. The project will then be taken to the councils Strategic Investment Group for review and approval to appoint a building contractor.

Engagement with the community will take place during the Summer following the approval to proceed.

FLIMBY

- 4.3 The Flimby Flood Alleviation Scheme is progressing. Gas and water service diversions are required for the proposed new Brag Beck Culvert and the council are liaising with the relevant statutory bodies to firm up a programme for these works.
- 4.4 The provisional start date on site is June 22 pending the completion of the legal agreements.

WORKINGTON

- 4.5 **Library School Engagement** - Schools engagement continues to increase. School visits from local primary schools to their local libraries has increased as COVID restrictions have lifted. Workington Library participated in a World of Work event for pupils at Cumbria Academy of Autism, delivering sessions on Cumbria Libraries services and the library sector.
- 4.6 **Wordsworth Grasmere Events** - Wordsworth Grasmere popular children's sessions ran during the Easter Holidays in Workington's Childrens Library with separate sessions for under 5s and over 5s.
- 4.7 **Ukraine Fundraiser** - On Wednesday 6 April, a fundraiser was held in Workington Library in support of the Ukraine crisis. Prizes for a raffle and chocolate tombola were donated by a range of local companies. £515 was raised and will be donated to supporting Ukrainian families.
- 4.8 **Feed and Read: Workington and Seaton** - Seaton Library welcomed families during the Easter break to a Nature and Growing themed Feed & Read session. Family activities included games, crafts and challenges with a free healthy snack and take-home meal bag with the ingredients and a menu sheet to make a healthy family meal.
- 4.9 In Workington, the Feed & Read session visited Siddick Ponds Nature Reserve for a Bumblebee Hunt. Cumbria Wildlife Trust hosted this activity as part of their Get Cumbria Buzzing project. The centre manager at Dunmail Park offered use of their empty units as a base for the session and activities
- 4.10 Allerdale libraries have run these free activities with great success in Library buildings and now plan to offer them in community settings to reach some of the families that wouldn't normally visit a Library building.

MARYPORT

- 4.11 **Family Fun Day Event**- a free family fun day was held on 12 March at Maryport Rugby Club (Mealpot Road), which was designed to raise awareness of local services and organisations, improve mental health and wellbeing, reduce isolation, encourage physical and craft activities for families and be a place where parents could socialise and relax. Over 20 partner organisations attended the event which included information stalls, refreshments and a treasure hunt where families asked a question on each

stall to find the answer. The day saw over 200 people in attendance and positive feedback that parents/ families were better informed of local services

- 4.12 **Feed and Read: Maryport** - Maryport Library welcomed families during the Easter break to a Nature and Growing themed Feed & Read session. Families were invited to join the games, crafts and challenges with a free healthy snack and take-home meal bag with the ingredients and a menu sheet to make a healthy family meal.

SILLOTH

- 4.13 **Silloth Family Fun Day Event**- a free family fun day event is in its planning stages using the same model and rationale to the recent event in Maryport (see above). The event will deliver the same awareness raising of local support and organisations for families whilst offering a fun element with various physical and craft activities for families to enjoy

KESWICK

- 4.14 **Thirlmere** - Parts of Thirlmere West Road have been closed since Storm Arwen hit Cumbria at the end of November and caused more than 1,500 trees to be blown over or damaged along the West Road and surrounding area. The landowner has been working with contractors to remove the trees and debris and make the road safe to reopen to the public where possible. The northern section of the road up to Armboth car park was reopened to users prior to the Easter Bank Holiday. The southern section up to the Dobgill car park is also open. Footpaths that run alongside the shore are also now open up to these respective points and the middle section of the west road now has some access for cycling and walking barring a half mile section. At present the middle stretch of road still remains closed as investigations from specialist contractors have revealed that the area around Rough Crag is still too dangerous to have users on the road below it. Drone footage has revealed trees and boulders hanging over the crag. The landowner is working with its contractors and the County Council on how best to make the area safe but there are no timescales as yet for when this section of the road may be able to open. Visitors to the area are warned to follow any signage and respect the barriers that are in place to protect people.
- 4.15 **Northern Fells** Jointly hosted by the Dementia Action Alliance and the Northern Fells Group, a Care Fair was held in Caldbeck Village Hall in March 2022. The event was well supported by up to 20 professional organisations including the Community Catalysts promoting micro-enterprises and many local residents attended seeking information and advice. The feedback from visitors and participants has been very positive.

ALLERDALE WIDE

- 4.16 **Healthy Start vitamins**-The Council has secured funding to offer vitamins to new Mums and babies on a universal offer from venues across Cumbria including libraries, childrens centres, community centres and food hubs. The Healthy Start Scheme gives eligible parents up to £8.50 per week for food

and milk on a pre- paid card. The vitamin element of the scheme will see midwives and health visitors offering them at antenatal visits then parents will be signposted to any of the 50 venues afterwards to collect. Mums and families will be encouraged and supported to apply for the Healthy Start pre-paid card if they haven't already done so. Information will be available on available support and activities in the local area. All staff at the venues involved have been trained to understand the Healthy Start Programme and the process of distributing the vitamins.

- 4.17 **Suicide Safer communities launch**- An event promoting Suicide Safer Communities was held on 4 May delivered by the multi-agency partnership. The meeting was open to anyone in the Allerdale community who wished to be involved and included an introduction to suicide prevention and its impact in Cumbria, myths and facts, what we can all do to play a part in preventing suicides, details from people who have already taken action in their local community and introductions to others who are keen to take action and make a difference. Guest speakers included Every Life Matters, Andy's Man Club and those with lived experience of suicide within their families including attendance from agencies who can offer support. The event at Grasslot Welfare Sports & Social Club, Maryport was free.
- 4.18 **Ageing Well**
The Ageing Well partnership have mapped out services across West Cumbria and agreed on three priorities including physical health, prevention, dementia and social isolation / loneliness.
- 4.19 De-conditioning has a range of medium and long term conditions and during Covid de-conditioning has become a major concern for the health and social care teams and for the long term health of our residents. De-conditioning leads to falls, depression, type 2 diabetes, cardio-vascular disease and musculoskeletal problems.
- 28% of people are unable to walk as far as they used to be able to and 20% feel less steady on their feet.
 - 51% of older people with long term health conditions say they can't walk as far now as they could before the pandemic; hence why falls prevention is a key priority in our Ageing Well work.
- 4.20 **Library Service – Recruitment** - All vacant posts created as part of the restructure have now been filled, with one additional Library and Customer Assistant due to join the service in the summer.
- 4.21 **Extension of library opening hours** - Wigton, Aspatria, Keswick, Seaton, Silloth and Maryport Libraries have all now returned to their full opening hours, including Saturday opening where applicable. This has been received positively by their local communities. Workington Library has reintroduced evening opening and will be looking to reintroduce Saturday opening as soon as possible. All libraries no longer have lunchtime closures which is an improved service for customers.
- 4.22 **Connect Up Project– Good Things Foundation** - The Library Outreach team have secured funding from The Good Things Foundation for their latest programme Connect Up, which is a networked approach to reducing

loneliness in older people. The service has received a grant to support older people to gain digital skills with the aim of reducing isolation. As part of this project, there has been drop-in sessions in Workington, Wigton, Keswick and Silloth and offering 1-2-1 bookable sessions in all Allerdale Libraries.

- 4.23 **Museum of Youth Culture – 100 years of Cumbria’s youth** - Cumbria Libraries are taking part in a national archives project in collaboration with the Museum of Youth Culture to create an archive of Cumbrian youth. The Library Service is collecting photos, audio, art and ephemera that tell the story of young people from Cumbria from the past 100 years.
- 4.24 Everything collected will become part of The Museum of Youth Culture's digital archive and shared with Cumbria Libraries and Tullie House Museum and a selection will be exhibited, ensuring that stories of youth are preserved for future generations.
- 4.25 Workington Library hosted its first ‘Share Social’ on 7 April. People could drop in with photos and items of interest to be scanned and photographed.
- 4.26 These images will be exhibited over the coming months. Workington library is still open for scanning images at any time this spring and summer – library staff will be able to assist with this.
- 4.27 **Street Tag** - Every Local Committee across Cumbria agreed to fund Street Tag and at the end of February 2022, although they had only just launched the initiative, 88 schools had registered with 3,850 families using the app. In Allerdale 13 schools had signed up. Active Cumbria will continue to update Allerdale Local Committee on future registrations and participation numbers.
- 4.28 **Refugee Locality Group** – These groups are set up throughout the six districts in Cumbria and are maintaining contact with support networks in the relevant area. There is currently a focus on the Ukrainian programme, and the Community Development Team are assisting work with relevant agencies and support networks. As of 19 April, in the region of 248 family units, across 157 sponsors have been recorded across the county. Hosts in Allerdale are in the region of 17. This is subject to change in response to the ‘Homes for Ukraine’s scheme’
- 4.29 **Household Support Fund / Ways to Welfare** - Additional criteria has been introduced for people looking to apply for support through the household fund aimed at supporting people struggling with utilities, food and other essentials. To address demand Cumbria County Council has introduced additional criteria to ensure the needs of high-risk groups are met. This includes anyone of state pension age being eligible to access the fund as normal whilst working age people are able to apply for a one off payment per household. Additional referrals to the fund can only be made through a foodbank or approved agency
- 4.30 **Food and Financial Resilience Group** – This task and finish group is currently working to address a gap in provision for residents to access household furniture that is available for recycling.

- 4.31 **Cost of Living Support Web Page** – In response to the increases in living costs Cumbria County Council have launched a new webpage providing information and signposting to assist the residents of Cumbria in accessing support and guidance
- 4.32 **Cycling and Walking Corridors Consultation** – This is a Borderlands funded project and covers Cumbria as a county. Two of the five corridors identified impact on the Allerdale area, Bassenthwaite and Bowness on Solway. The aims of the project are to improve the cycle network, address gaps, improve the visitor offer, disperse visitors from the honeypot areas and deliver resident and commuter benefits. The consultation commenced on 1 April until 22 April. People have responded by accessing the online survey, submitting hard copies and taking part in face to face surveys that were conducted in Keswick on 7 April 2022. The consultation was undertaken by the Economy and Infrastructure Planning Team supported by the Community Development Team and surveys have been received from local residents and tourists who cycle and walk in the area.

5. OPTIONS

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

6. RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 This report sets out the activities that are progressing across Allerdale across all themes and size of project. Working with partners is a key part of community development activity.

Dawn Roberts
Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

April 2022

APPENDICES

None

Electoral Division(s): All

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