

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR ALLERDALE

Meeting date: 1 July 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:*

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

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

ACTIVITIES WITHIN ALLERDALE AND THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE

ASPATRIA

4.1 **Aspatria Community Hub** – the community hub project is progressing. An architect has been appointed and is currently working on the detailed design drawings. Funding has been applied for and tenders for the build are expected to be returned by the end of July. Wider stakeholder engagement and engagement with the community is due to take place in July when detailed drawings are available.

4.2 **ParkPlay** - A playleader has now been recruited and ParkPlay in Aspatria commenced on Saturday **18 June**. This is free for all families to attend.

FLIMBY

4.3 **The Flimby Flood Alleviation Scheme** is progressing. Dialogue is ongoing with key stakeholders and work is continuing with landowners to enable the work to begin as soon as possible. Work is expected to commence late June, early July. The intention would be to progress with the drainage improvements to Coniston Avenue followed by the Penny Gill watercourse diversion and storage basin. Works would then be focussed at Catgill with a further watercourse diversion which includes an extensive upgrade to the culvert to Bragg Beck. The works are expected to take approximately four months to complete.

WORKINGTON

- 4.4 Allerdale Borough Council's application to Government for Town Deal funding has progressed to the final stage of assessment, giving increasing confidence of a positive outcome. The Workington Town Deal will deliver objectives from the Town Investment Plan and its vision for Workington as a 'vibrant and well-connected commercial, civic and community hub for West Cumbria, loved by residents and visitors'.
- 4.5 Cumbria County Council has developed projects for the Town Deal, including improvements on the public highway to enhance the look and feel of Workington town centre. These aim to create more welcoming public realm that gives pedestrians better priority and improves intraurban connections between core retail, cultural and recreational areas.
- 4.6 With support from CCC officers, Allerdale Borough Council plan to engage local people and businesses in the Town Centre between 20-22 July 2022 based at on-street stalls and a vacant shop, the objective is to share information/ ideas and help inform design options, with further engagement planned later in the year.
- 4.7 **Extension of library opening hours** - Workington Library reintroduced Saturday opening from 7 May 2022. This has been positively received by the local community.
- 4.8 **Reintroduction of early year activities** - June saw the reintroduction of the popular Rhymetime and Storytots sessions for pre-school children in Workington Children's Library.
- 4.9 **Feed and Read** - In Workington, a Jubilee themed Feed and Read session was run at Workington Food Bank. Families who attend the food bank were invited to join in with 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. This offered the opportunity to reach out to families who wouldn't normally visit a library building and promote library services.
- 4.10 **St Michael's Safer Streets project** has now drawn to an end after CCTV, street lighting, community events and security measures being added to many properties. The impact from the pre and post survey results show a much improved feeling of safety both at home and in the neighbourhood:
- 4.11 Feeling of safety when in the home
- Pre-survey in the daytime 89% and post survey 95%
- Pre-survey in the nighttime 59% and post survey 92%
- 4.12 Feeling of safety when out in the area
- Pre-survey in the daytime 75% and post survey 72%
- Pre-survey in the nighttime 35% and post survey 76%

4.13 Feeling safe from burglary

Pre-survey in the daytime 46% and post survey 90%

Pre-survey in the nighttime 33% and post survey 95%

MARYPORT

4.14 **Libraries: La'al Collective** - Maryport Library has linked with the La'al Collective, an arts organisation, who has been working with 7 primary schools in Maryport on a project exploring their marine heritage on Maryport coast.

4.15 During the project, the children have created their own story - a chapter per school including artwork. The story is to be told through shadow puppetry, which will be filmed and a QR code created to link to the film.

4.16 Maryport Library is part of the Sands of Time story trail comprising of an exhibition around the town, displaying children's work. This can be seen in the windows of Maryport Library.

4.17 **Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)** won the CAP of the Year at a recent national award for tackling underage drinking and promoting the health and wellbeing of local young people. The CAP which works in the Maryport area is an example of successful partnership work between organisations and the community working together to improve the health and wellbeing of young people. Working with retailers we were able to promote positive messages relating to safe drinking at community events. Working closely with Netherhall School 28 young students have now engaged in the Young Health Champions course – a valuable Level 2 Public Health qualification equivalent to a GCSE, designed to offer the confidence and skills to become health champions.

4.18 This has had a positive impact on the young people's lives, helping them make their own informed lifestyle choices and present health campaign messages to other young people and the wider community. The feedback from the young people demonstrates the success of the programme with all participants saying they would recommend the course to others and that taking part in the programme has improved their knowledge of healthy behaviours.

SILLOTH

4.19 **Silloth Family Fun Day Event**- a free family fun day event took place on 11 June at Solway Community Sports Centre. The event replicated the same model that was used at the recent Maryport event and delivering awareness of local support and organisations for families whilst offering a fun themed element. Twenty organisations attended showcasing their services and included activities such as face painting, crafts, trampolines, free refreshments with the local fire station and library also delivering activities and information. Approximately 150 people attended the day.

KESWICK

- 4.20 **Ashness Bridge Pier, Derwent Water** The Infrastructure Recovery Programme (IRP) slope repair work will be undertaken on the B5289. The IRP requires interim slope repairs on the B5289 close to Ashness Bridge Pier, Keswick. This work is due to start at the beginning of July (date to be confirmed shortly) with 2 way traffic lights for a period of 1 day. An overnight road closure will also be necessary to allow the contractor to install rock armour. It is expected that the works will take around 2 weeks to complete.
- 4.21 The Environment Agency, Natural England and Lake District National Park have all been fully informed and will continue to be involved. Local residents, businesses and Parish Councils in the Keswick, Borrowdale and Newlands Valley areas will be notified by the most appropriate communication method, letter / leaflet drop, emails, social media and CCC press release in advance of works starting.
- 4.22 **Feed and Read** - Keswick Library welcomed families during the May half term holiday to Jubilee themed Feed & Read sessions. Families were invited to join 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. Participants completed Jubilee and royalty related crafts and activities.

WIGTON

- 4.23 **Bothel** – The community development team supported the capital programmes team with an engagement event on 11 May 2022 relating to the A595 Torpenhow junction project
- 4.24 **A595 Torpenhow Junction Update** The Bothel strategic improvement project is being delivered in 2 phases. Phase 1 is the Torpenhow/Greyhound Inn Junction and Phase 2 is the wider scheme. Phase 1 has been fully designed and the Council is ready to enter a contract for the Construction to deliver the junction improvements on the ground between July and December 2022 (subject to a Council Key Decision to award the contract). The construction cost of the improvements to the Torpenhow/Greyhound Inn Junction is between £2.6 and £2.8m and the total project value accounting for land purchase, utility diversions, accommodation works, and design fees is £4.3m. The project is funded by the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership 'Getting Building Fund' and Cumbria County Council. A public information event on the 11 May 2022 showed public support for the scheme which will improve the safety by creating a new section of the 'Torpenhow' road resulting in a staggered junction with two right hand turn lanes. The progress of the wider Phase 2 scheme is dependant on a funding announcement from the Department for Transport
- 4.25 **Feed and Read** - Wigton Library welcomed families during the May half term holiday to Jubilee themed Feed & Read sessions. Families were invited to join 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. Participants completed Jubilee and royalty related crafts and activities.

ALLERDALE WIDE

- 4.26 **The UK Shared Prosperity Fund** Details have been announced with an allocation of £10,585,623 to Cumberland area of which £3,842.852 has been allocated to Allerdale. This fund forms part of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and replaces EU funding. Nationally it provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.
- 4.27 Every part of the UK will receive an allocation for the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (£400m in Year 1, £700m in Year 2, £1.5bn in Year 3). The primary goals of the UKSPF are to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK underpinned by three investment priorities:
- Community and Place
 - Supporting Local Businesses
 - People and Skills (funding in Year 3)
- 4.28 The Fund can be used flexibly to support interventions via:
- grant to public or private organisations
 - commissioning third party organisations
 - procurement of service provision
 - in-house provision
- 4.29 Important dates:
- Investment plan submissions window: 30 June 2022 to 1 August 2022
 - First payments expected to lead local authorities: from October 2022
 - Funding period: April 2022 to March 2025
- 4.30 **£2million CCC Reserve** A recent press release outlined the launch of a new £2million Cost of Living Reserve from Cumbria County Council. This is in response to rising costs and the challenges some families are facing. It is anticipated Local Committee will have a part to play in the distribution of funds. This is to be confirmed and members will be updated once more detail is available.
- 4.31 **Community Ownership Fund** The second round of funding opened on 11 June, The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced that community groups across the UK can bid for levelling up funding to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of closure such as pubs, music venues, sports facilities, and historic buildings for the benefit of the public.

- 4.32 Groups will be able to bid for a share of the government's £150 million Community Ownership Fund to rescue cultural buildings in their area, as the second round of funding is open.
- 4.33 **Homes for Ukraine** As of 13 June 2022, Allerdale has welcomed 57 guests of which 26 are children. There are 36 hosts. The dispersal of guests, in Allerdale is very broad due to rurality of the hosts. Local authorities have been given additional responsibility for re-matching in the event of any breakdown with hosts. Cumbria County Council Health and Wellbeing Team are directly supporting Ukrainian Refugees across the County with home checks, access to funds when guests arrive and additional support where identified.
- 4.34 **Refugee Resettlement** There are still new arrivals under the Syrian and Afghan Resettlement Schemes. Cumbria County Council continue to support refugees on arrival
- 4.35 **Asylum Hotels and Dispersal** Asylum seekers who have been residing in hotels are being moved into permanent residency. Everywhere in the country is now designated as an "asylum dispersal area" where previously this was an opt in scheme.
- 4.36 **Cumbria Community Foundation Welcome Fund** This grant assists refugees and asylum seekers including Ukrainian guests with a grant of up to £500 per family. This grant can be claimed in retrospect, therefore any expenses incurred that have led to financial hardship prior to applying would be considered
- 4.37 **Digital Inclusion Project** – Funding has been secured for a digital inclusion project in Allerdale and Copeland. This is a collaborative project with the library service and external partners to increase digital skills across the two districts. The project includes two workstreams, a digital support handbook and a digital borrowing device scheme. The digital support handbook will be delivered to every household in the two districts and be available in a range of locations. It will provide information on local organisations who can offer digital support and training along with some useful digital tips and tricks. The borrowing device scheme will be piloted in Workington and Whitehaven libraries and will enable library members to borrow an android device, equipped with data and useful applications, for a set period of time.
- 4.38 **Adult Learning** - Learners are starting to return to the classroom. Adult Learning in Allerdale have seen 155 Skills Enrolments and 415 Community Learning Enrolments up to 1 June 2022. Learners are currently sitting GCSE/Functional Skills Exams this includes many ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) learners sitting qualifications. Courses have been delivered throughout Allerdale which has included IT courses in Wigton and Keswick and an Art course in Keswick. The team are planning to increase delivery of outreach across Allerdale. Since the end of May 2022 there has been an increase in Ukrainian Learners with introductions being made through the Conversation Café. A further two new Beginners English Support Courses have been introduced based in Workington Library and Christ Church Hub in Cockermouth.

- 4.39 The 22/23 Autumn Term brochure will be delivered to households in August. The work with our various partners across Allerdale has increased this year which has enabled us to delivered additional courses including, Healthy Eating on a Budget, Art for Heath & Wellbeing, IT and IT for ESOL (English for speakers of other languages). There has been significant interest from Schools across Allerdale for our Family Learning Provision. After our latest recruitment campaign, we have successfully appointed a tutor and courses will commence September 2022.
- 4.40 **Healthy Start vitamins-** The Healthy Start scheme in Cumbria has now launched meaning all pregnant women in Cumbria are eligible to receive free vitamins for themselves up until baby is born and if breast or dual feeding, up until 6 months after birth. Families with children up to the age of two are also eligible to receive free children's vitamin drops and those with children between two and four can continue to collect the drops using their Healthy Start pre-paid card. There are 49 community venues across the county stocking and distributing the vitamins including libraries, food hubs, community and children's centres. Pregnant women will initially receive theirs at ante-natal appointments then signposted to any of the 49 venues. At the point of vitamin collection, mums and families are encouraged and supported to apply for the Healthy Start pre-paid card by trained staff which, if eligible, means they can receive up to £8.50 per week for food and milk on a pre-paid card.
- Latest data from the Healthy Start website suggests uptake of the healthy start pre-paid card has increased significantly since the vitamins scheme in Cumbria launched from 48% at the end of 2021 to 73% in March 2022.
- 4.41 **National Breastfeeding Week** (27 June – 3 July 2022) The community team are supporting this week by working together with midwives, health visitors and the children's centres to deliver a timetabled week of events across the county. The BAPS groups both at Seaton and Maryport library will be hosting celebratory sessions with local partners attending and visits from the infant feeding coordinators. The team will also be working collaboratively with children's centre staff to host a drop in event at the Minto Centre where BAPS peer supporters will be on hand to chat to mums and families
- 4.42 **Operational Respect Community Days** - The Community Development Team are supporting Cumbria's Local Focus Hub and Housing Partners to deliver four Operation Respect Community days which will take place in Allerdale on 21 July (Maryport), 9 August (Salterbeck) 25 August (Wigton) and 15 September (Workington). The aims and objectives are to tackle issues that have a detrimental effect on the quality of the community and promote partnership working. There will be a focus on clean neighbourhoods, preventing anti-social behaviour, health and wellbeing, social inclusion and food and fuel advice. Partners including HAWCS, Social Prescribers, Health Coaches and Community Rail as well as the multi-agency hub team will ensure they are impactful days for the residents and community
- 4.43 **Suicide Safer communities launch-** Following the Suicide Safer Communities event in Maryport on 4 May there will now be further community meetings based on the ideas that came from that event. These

will include targeting schools as well as the agricultural and manual labour sector. A key focus of the suicide safer communities project is about empowering people to take action against suicide in their communities and in their homes and the community team will continue to work alongside and support the various agencies involved including the setting-up of AndysManClub in Workington.

- 4.44 **Clean Air Day 16 June** – a coordinated campaign with partners for Clean Air Day including communications to raise awareness and a poster competition with schools around Active Travel and Safe Parking Pledges and the interlinked health impacts of air pollution.
- 4.45 **Dementia Action Week:** A number of dementia friendly activities, information sessions, tea dances, training for carers were delivered by the leading experts in dementia training from Stirling University.
- 4.46 A new 12 week programme for people with early onset dementia and their carers which was part funded by Allerdale Local Committee, has just successfully completed with it's first cohort. The Allerdale Memory and Later Life Team delivered the course, and transport was provided where this was a barrier. Lakes College provided the venue, light lunch made and served by the catering students and the health and care students supported the delivery of the sessions gaining some hands on work experience in a safe setting towards their social care courses. The feedback from the attendees has been positive and the next course is now in the planning for September.
- 4.47 **Papercut Mobile Printing System** - In recent months, wireless printing has been introduced across Cumbria Libraries. This means that people can now print directly from their own devices, whether it be laptops, tablets or phones, and scan to their own email addresses. To make use of this service, customers must do an initial registration of their email address with library staff. The introduction of this service fills a gap in provision, that was often requested by customers and improves the ICT offer.
- 4.48 **Jubilee Activities** - Jubilee themed activities and competitions were on offer across Allerdale Libraries, with children writing their message to the Queen, imagining what they would do if they were monarch for the day and taking part in a design a cupcake competition, which will see the winning entry created by Café West at Workington Library. Libraries got into the spirit of the celebrations with themed displays, town window competitions and decorations.
- 4.49 **Author Talks** - As part of Local History Month, retired Coroner, Ian Smith, attended Workington Library on 25 May to give a talk on his book and previous work as coroner in South Cumbria. The talk was well received.
- 4.50 June is National Crime Reading Month, and a series of countywide events has been planned which includes author talks and murder mystery evenings.
- 4.51 **Library Support for “Homes for Ukraine” scheme** - Workington Library, along with the other 5 main libraries across the county, are supporting the “Homes for Ukraine” scheme by carrying out DBS checks as part of the host

approval process. Hosts are invited to make appointments or drop into Workington Library for their checks to be completed.

4.52 The popular English Café at Workington Library has seen newly arrived Ukrainians attend and access library facilities. A summary sheet of useful resources in Ukrainian has been made available across all Allerdale Libraries and the Cumbria Libraries website updated to reflect these resources.

4.53 **Street Tag** - Every Local Committee across Cumbria agreed to fund Street Tag. The first season 26 January - 21 April 2022 has now successfully been completed with feedback gathered from participating schools to help shape future delivery. Headline statistics are detailed below. The top performing schools in Allerdale were Grasslot Infants School and Maryport C of E Primary school

- Schools signed up – 94
- Players signed up – 4,200
- Miles travelled – 485,224
- Virtual tags scanned – 1.5 million
- Steps counted – 424 million

4.54 **Social Media update** – The team launched the Allerdale Community Development Facebook page in March and have gradually been building their following. The team post planned content relating to events and themes which link to local priorities along with sharing posts from other organisations. Throughout May 32 posts were made which reached over 9k people. The most popular posts included the local activities arranged by the Allerdale and Copeland team to promote Dementia Awareness Week and advertising the team providing health and wellbeing material at the Workington Reach Out event.

THE YEAR AHEAD

4.55 The Public Health and Communities team continue to lead and support projects which meet Local Committee and Council priorities. The team are working on a number of projects which vary in length, along with supporting many ongoing initiatives.

4.56 Appendix 1 sets out clearly what the team, with member support commit to achieving prior to the end of County Council.

4.57 In addition to project work the team will continue to deliver support and facilitate a number of pieces of work to strengthen our communities and improve public health. This includes working with support groups, community groups and third sector organisations supporting refugees, hardship and young people and supporting Local Focus Hub initiatives.

CONSULTATIONS

4.58 Workington Town Centre Public Realm and Connectivity project

A communications plan has been drafted, starting with key stakeholder consultation in July and a public engagement process in September. These will notify people of our objectives and generate input to help inform development of the designs

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. (SEA 22/06/2022)

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report is to note only and there are no legal implications arising from it. (SD 22/06/22)

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.

Simon Higgins

Acting Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

June 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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