

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR ALLERDALE

Meeting date: 1st July 2022

From: Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL LEVELLING UP FUND APPLICATION

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Round 2 of the Government Levelling Up Fund opened March 2022 with applications due by July 6th 2022.

1.2 Working closely with Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council is developing an application focused on highway improvements to improve access to key industrial sites to the north of Workington and to enhance pedestrian and cycle connectivity between Workington Town Centre and key cultural amenity spaces.

1.3 It is intended that these measures would support the planned growth of Workington and enhance access to the Port of Workington from the Strategic Road Network. Measures to improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity support the Council's ambition around the delivery of active and sustainable transport in the creation of attractive places and vibrant communities.

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The proposal under consideration supports the ambitions of Council Plan priorities.

2.2 The project intends to support economic activity and inclusive growth by optimising the gateways and active travel routes in the town centre to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

2.3 The proposal will see investment in cycle and walking infrastructure to improve connectivity across Workington as aligned with the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP).

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To support, in principle, Allerdale Borough Council's proposed Levelling Up Fund application.

3.2 Upon receipt of the detailed proposals delegate the decision as to whether to sign a letter of support to the Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Local Committee Chair. If support is agreed, the Local Committee Chair is then authorised to sign the letter of support.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 In 2021 the Government announced the £4.8bn Levelling Up Fund (LUF) which was to be allocated over two competitive funding rounds. £1.7bn was allocated in Round 1 and Round 2 opened March 2022 with applications due by July 6th 2022.

4.2 LUF funding is for capital schemes encompassing transport, culture or regeneration. Proposals can seek up to £20m of investment.

4.3 While funding is to be allocated following a competitive process; across the UK places have been prioritised for funding by the Government following a qualitative assessment process with Barrow, Copeland and Allerdale all identified as "Category 1" priority locations.

4.4 Since April 2021, and with the close support of Cumbria County Council; Allerdale Borough Council has been developing a proposal which could be put forward for Levelling Up funding. A bid was submitted in June 2021 for consideration in Round 1. At this time, Allerdale was classified as a Category 2 area and unfortunately the bid was not successful. Feedback from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) indicated a strong application, highlighting areas that could be improved.

4.5 With the reclassification of Allerdale as Category 1 and the feedback from DLUHC, the package of schemes submitted for Round 1 has been reviewed and amended to reflect feedback on the unsuccessful application with the intention to enable a successful submission to Round 2.

4.6 The application in development centres around three project elements:

- Ramsey Brow junction – junction widening to increase capacity to improve vehicular access from the strategic highway network into the Town, A596 and onward destinations (e.g. Port of Workington and other employment sites to the North).
- Hall Brow – highway realignment to improve movement of HGVs and enhance the townscape for local residents and pedestrians.
- Curwen Park – development of the walled garden as an attraction and enterprise hub within the park and highway/pedestrian improvements to enhance connectivity to and within the park.

- 4.7 The project will bring direct benefits, but will also support wider strategic aspirations; developing the role of the port and industry within the town, enhancing the movement of pedestrians within the town centre and to enhance the role of the park for residents. In this respect it supports the ambitions of the Workington Town Investment Plan, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and Port of Workington Masterplan.
- 4.8 While Allerdale Borough Council is the applicant, Cumbria County Council is supporting Allerdale Borough Council to develop design and cost plans for the highway improvements and will ensure Local Members remain briefed as proposals are developed.
- 4.9 Funding decisions on LUF are expected later this year. If the bid is successful, delivery of the scheme will fall to the new Cumberland Council. Financial risk associated with delivery will be with the new Council and in mitigation there will be allowances for cost risk, contingency and inflation within the cost plan.
- 4.10 In considering Allerdale Borough Council's application the constitution is clear that a role of the Local Committee is to "determine the Council's position in respect of any proposal or business plan submitted by any other body under the Town Fund, Levelling-Up Fund (other than a bid submitted by the Council under its power to submit a transport bid under the Levelling-Up Fund), Future High Street Fund or any other similar government programme that provides funding for local schemes which relates entirely to the Local Committee's area, as determined in writing by the Leader".

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Option 1: Support the proposed LUF application in principle
- 5.2 Option 2: Do not support the LUF application in principle; this would create a risk to the ultimate success of the application

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct budgetary implications for the Local Committee arising should Members approve the recommendations at paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2. (SEA 17/6/22)

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Recommendation 3.1 - As per section 5.1.2 of part 2 D of the constitution, the Local Committee is authorised to decide whether to support in principle the Levelling Up Fund bid.
- 7.2 Recommendation 3.2 - As per part 3A section 2 of the constitution, members can delegate authority to the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure. Members should note that as per Part 3A section 2.5 of the constitution - where a power is delegated to an officer "in consultation" with a

member or another officer, the law requires that the discretion of the officer is not fettered. This means that the decision must be taken by the officer alone, and must not be a joint decision with the member or other officer, or a decision by a member in consultation with the officer. SD 20/06/22

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 While the delivery of LUF scheme will follow a competitive process, the application being developed by Allerdale Borough Council, if delivered, would have the potential to deliver significant benefit for Workington and surrounding employment areas.

Angela Jones
Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure

1 July 2022

Please ensure that every part of this section where there is an asterisk* is completed in accordance with the instructions before sending the report to Democratic Services, following which please delete this sentence.

APPENDICES

No appendices

Electoral Division(s): St John's and Great Clifton *

* ***Please remove whichever option is not applicable***

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No*
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No*
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"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No*
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No*

Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No*	
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PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

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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