

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR COPELAND

Meeting date: 20 May 2022

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

AREA MANAGER REPORT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 *This report provides Local Committee with an update on the activity undertaken by the Communities Team since its last meeting. It is also to advise Members on their current budget position.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 *Copeland Local Committee has executive and non-executive duties as set out in the County Council's Constitution. This report sets out the duties that have been fulfilled since the last meeting and those recommendations for decisions required to fulfil those duties.*

2.2 *The County Council's vision as set out in the Council Plan 2018 – 22 is to be a "Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best possible services within the available the resources". The approach and work of Local Committee directly contributes to this vision with area-based working and shaping of services locally, as one of the key drivers of delivering this vision.*

2.3 *The work of the Local Committee, through Area Planning and its projects, help to deliver the Council Plan priorities which are:*

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

2.4 *The development, operation and monitoring of the Council Plan requires a focus on the Council's performance against outcomes which, increasingly, are understood through localities. Copeland Local Committee supports this by targeting projects that deliver its area priorities.*

- 2.5 ***Local Committee has locally devolved funding available to allocate in the area and support improved outcomes for the communities of Copeland. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or enhance or complement existing provision according to locally determined need.***
- 2.6 ***The work of Local Committee directly supports the wider Council equality agenda and it considers carefully all its actions and decisions so that they do not result in inequality of service or exclusion from participation.***

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 ***Members agree the revised priorities for 2022/23***
- 3.2 ***Members are asked to note the Copeland Local Committee budget allocations in the 2022/23 County Council budget, as outlined in Appendix 1.***
- 3.3 ***Members are asked to note the current Copeland Local Committee budget position outlined in Appendix 2.***
- 3.4 ***Members agree the Neighbourhood Development budget of £86,308 is allocated to the Community Development Team for 2022/23.***
- 3.5 ***Members agree to the Money Advice Contract with Citizens Advice Copeland with an allocation of £57,060 from the Money Advice budget line.***
- 3.6 ***Members agree the School Crossing Patrol budget of £20,873 is allocated to fund the provision of school crossing patrols in Copeland as per the Service Level Agreement at Appendix 3.***
- 3.7 ***Members agree the 0-19 allocation of £55,737 is delegated to the Children & Young People's Partnership for distribution through grant funding and commissioned services***
- 3.8 ***Members agree to vire £15,000 from the 0-19 Universal Services to the School Crossing Patrol budget to fulfil the full cost of the Service Level Agreement.***
- 3.9 ***Members agree that the 11-19 Universal Services allocation of £24,400 is added to the 0-19 budget for distribution through the Children & Young People's Partnership.***
- 3.10 ***Members agree that the £54,112 General Provision budget is distributed through grant funding applications measured against agreed local priorities.***
- 3.11 ***Members agree the priorities for the use of Local Committee grant funding as attached at Appendix 4.***

- 3.12 ***Members are asked to note the community grant allocations agreed since 1st April 2022 and ratify those allocations that exceed £5,000.***
- 3.13 ***Members agree allocations outlined in paragraph 4.24 against the Environment Fund.***
- 3.14 ***Members agree to utilise the Environment Fund for 2022/23 to fund an overspend of £82,624 against the 2021/22 COMF and Environment Fund Budget***

4.0 BACKGROUND

REVIEW OF LOCAL COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 Members attended workshops on 22 March 2022 and 3 May 2022 to discuss Local Committee priorities for 2022-23. Feedback gathered from members has been used to develop the following as priorities for consideration and to replace existing
- Improving outcomes for Young People
 - Encouraging individuals, households and communities to live well and thrive
 - Improved accessibility to services and opportunities

Community Development Team Update

- 4.2 The Strategic Cycling and Walking Corridors consultation ran from 1st April to 22nd April. The team supported our Cycling and Walking colleagues and carried out face to face surveys in St Bees and Whitehaven.
- 4.3 This year the theme for Dementia Action Week is diagnosis. The team are working with our Allerdale colleagues and partners to hold a range of events and activities to raise awareness and provide information and support. As we are working across the west our campaign will run for 2 weeks launching on the 16th May Dementia Action week. In Copeland activities include pop-up events in Millom, Whitehaven, Cleator Moor and Seascale, Singing for the Brain, annual pigeon race, training delivered by Stirling University for Family Carers and Volunteers and a Tea Dance. We will also be carrying out a survey to find out the needs of those living with a dementia diagnosis and their families/carers which will help shape future support and activities.
- 4.4 At its meeting in September, Copeland Local Committee committed £12,000 towards a pilot Youth Health Champions programme in Copeland secondary schools, with additional places funded by Well Whitehaven.
- 4.5 Millom School and Whitehaven Academy have since completed the Youth Health Champions training days, with all 20 Champions passing the Understanding Health Improvement Level 1 exam.

- 4.6 The year 9 and 10 pupils have selected topics for their peer to peer health campaigns, which include Get Fit Don't Quit; X in the Box; Health is Wealth; Revise Wise; The Mental Health Fighters; Fit & Fab; Sexual Health Squad.
- 4.7 A further cohort of Youth Health Champions will undertake training in October alongside an opportunity for all Champions to meet and showcase their campaigns.
- 4.8 **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 Copeland are in the region of 18. This is subject to change in response to the 'Homes for Ukraine's scheme'
- 4.9 **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
- 4.10 **Thriving Communities Group** – This group is currently working to address the current cost of living increase and looking at interventions to support the residents of Copeland including a gap in provision for residents to access affordable household furniture and white goods.
- 4.11 **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

Local Committee Budget

- 4.12 The new Local Committee allocations approved at County Council on 10th February 2022 is attached at Appendix 1 with the current Local Committee budget position for 2022-23 attached at Appendix 2.

Neighbourhood Development Budget

- 4.13 The costs of the Community Development Team is partly met by the allocated budget of £86,307. Members are asked to confirm that this

contribution can continue to fund the work of the team on their activities which support the aspirations of Local Committee.

Money Advice Service

- 4.14 At the March meeting of Local Committee, Members received a report on the previous years Money Advice Service delivered through a contract with Citizens Advice Copeland. A range of services are offered which include debt support, income maximisation, advice on bank accounts, increasing take up of savings, and accessing affordable credit.
- 4.15 Members have shown no inclination to seek an alternative provider for this service, therefore are recommended to award the Money Advice Contract for 2022-23 to Citizens Advice Copeland alongside a grant allocation of £57,060 from the Money Advice budget line.

School Crossing Patrol

- 4.16 Members are asked to agree the annual 2022-23 School Crossing Patrol Service Level Agreement with Orian Ltd at Appendix 3. The SLA states that if all 9 sites across 7 schools operate for 38 academic weeks, the service will cost £34,638 plus VAT. At the time of received the SLA the Horn Hill site at Black Combe Primary School is vacant, and should that remain the costs will reduce to £30,687.98 plus VAT.
- 4.17 The budget allocation agreed by Full Council on 10 February for school crossing patrols in Copeland is £20,873 and therefore if all crossings are operating there would be a budget gap of £13,765.
- 4.18 There has been an overspend of £605 in the 2021-22 budget, and considering the budget gap, Members are recommended to vire £15,000 from the 2022-23 0-19 Universal Services budget line.

0-19 Budget

- 4.19 The budget of £55,737 is designed to enhance services and provision for children and young people in Copeland.
- 4.20 In the final year of this Local Committee, Members are recommended to continue allocating funding under the 0-19 budget through the Copeland Children & Young People's Partnership.

11-19 Universal Services

- 4.21 This fund of £24,400 has been provided to support the development of Universal Youth offers across the Copeland area. Members are asked to agree this budget be vired into the 0-19 budget and ring-fenced as the '0-19 Universal Services budget'. Grants from this budget will be recommended to the full Grants Panel by the Copeland Children & Young People's Partnership.

General Provision

4.22 The General Provision budget allocated to Copeland Local Committee for the 2022-23 is £54,112. This budget is recommended for use against community grant applications that meet local priorities as designed and agreed by Local Committee.

Grant Funding Recommendations

4.23 Members have agreed to consider grant applications at monthly grants panel meetings that include all Members of Copeland Local Committee. A panel held on 12th April considered a number of applications; Members are asked to note allocations previously agreed, and ratify those that exceed £5,000 as per the Constitution –

- £35,263 to Citizens Advice Copeland from General Provision towards the costs of a three year Financial Inclusion service which includes additional capacity to address an increase in demand.
- £17,000 to Phoenix Enterprise Centre from General Provision towards the Digital Access, Advice, Food and Support project, specifically supporting costs of the Thrift Hub Food Pantry.
- £5,000 to West Cumbria Domestic Violence Support from General Provision towards United Together pilot project.
- £5,000 to Barnado's from 0-19 Universal Services towards the cost of the Summit 22 survey.
- £4,000 from 0-19 Universal Services to cover the cost of offering Chatterbooks free of charge to all primary schools in Copeland.
- £1,520 to Circus Starr from 0-19 Universal Services to cover the cost of 140 show tickets for families in Copeland.
- £12,000 to Rosehill Arts Trust from a ringfenced allocation within 0-19 Universal Services to run a Copeland Collective programme from October 2022 to March 2023.
- £3,992 to Rosehill Youth Theatre from 0-19 Universal Services to provide school holiday activities and food in June and October.
- £21,600 to Howgill Family Centre from 0-19 Universal Services to enable all primary schools in Copeland continue to be part of the PhunkyFoods healthy lifestyle programme.
- £1,568 to Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association from COMF Events & Marketing to purchase gazebos for rural events and shows.

Environment Fund

- 4.24 The 2022-23 budget allocation from Council includes an Environment Fund for projects that meet the following criteria and are deliverable by 31 March 2023 –
- Enhanced verge maintenance
 - Tree maintenance or replacement
 - Footpath maintenance
 - Nature recovery
 - Biodiversity improvements
 - Improving the environmental conditions and quality of life 'on the doorstep'
- 4.25 Working with the Community Development Team, projects proposed by Members have been developed with relevant partners and organisations. The following have been agreed informally and now require formal ratification of Local Committee -
- £10,000 to Beck Bottom Community Gardening Group for the second phase of path improvements, further wildflower planting, native bulb planting, various bedding plants, shrubs, perennials and trees to encourage pollinators and birds.
 - Up to £35,000 for Planting for Pollinator Scheme on suitable sites within Copeland
 - £12,500 additional allocation to Millom Town Council in respect of Church Walk footpath maintenance
 - Up to £5,600 to St Paul's Frizington for their Eco Community Church Yard project which includes developing the garden of rest into a sensory garden to attract pollinators and provide community space with the involvement of local school, youth centre & local groups. Sow larger wildflower meadow to encourage birds, pollinators and wildlife.
- 4.26 The Financial Summary Statement 21-22 (at Appendix 2) shows an overspend of £82,624 for the full year against the budget of £400,000 (£200,000 Environment Fund / £200,000 COMF). This overspend is made up of £78,792 which relates to the Environment Fund and £4,633 which relates to COMF. These costs were applied at the very end of the financial year and do not yet reflect the contributions from other parties to these works which will be made during the current financial year .
- 4.27 The overspends relate to the Silecroft Footway scheme, Middle Cut, Outrigg Footway Improvement and Sandham Footpath Enhancement. It is recommended that the overspend be deducted from the Environment Fund for 2022/23 as a temporary measure until other contributions are received

Adult Learning in Copeland Update

- 4.28 Adult Learning's Summer provision was released on 1 April, followed by a brochure which was distributed to households from 4 April, containing a range of workshops and courses available between April and July 2022. Their Summer provision builds upon the theme of health and wellbeing through delivery of '*Take some Time for you- Walk and Sketch around Wast Water*' and '*Reduce Stress and Anxiety- Try Doodle Art*' workshops. In addition, making the most of the local area through '*Stanley Ghyll Waterfall Photography*', our '*Be Inspired by Bluebells*' and '*Botanical*' series at Muncaster Castle, and '*Atmospheric Watercolour Landscapes at Florence Arts Centre*'. This provision is in addition to their partnership approach with a bespoke project '*Knit Nature*' delivered through St Pauls Church, Frizington. Their provision is available to find, book, and enrol at adultlearning.cumbria.gov.uk.
- 4.29 Additionally, their Summer provision continues to build on the extensive range of accredited provision provided by Adult Learning, including English, Maths, and Digital Skills. In particular, '*Essential Digital Skills Qualification Entry 3*' providing learners with the essential digital skills which are needed in a wide range of situations in life and at work.
- 4.30 Adult Learning provision is focused on enabling inclusive and accessible learning opportunities delivered within local communities and through online learning platforms. This continues to be one of their values during the planning provision for the next academic year, from August to December 2022, ensuring that they have a wide ranging and varied offer that meets the needs of the residents of Copeland. They would welcome thoughts and suggestions for incorporation within their planning.
- 4.31 The Adult Learning in Copeland Individualised Support Scheme, funded through Copeland Local Committee, continues to thrive and has helped participants gain work experience and full time employment. John, who gained full time employment said that the opportunity "*made me believe in myself*". Opportunities to join the scheme remain open to residents aged 16 or older residing in Copeland.

Library update

- 4.32 Opening hours continue to return to their pre-pandemic levels, with Frizington and Millom libraries resuming standard opening hours in March 2022. Once ongoing recruitment and training is completed, Egremont Library will follow suit. In all libraries, visitor levels and borrowing of physical stock remains lower than 2019 but this may increase once levels of service are stepped up and customer confidence and routine alters. The library

service no longer charges fines for overdue items and it is anticipated that this will also have a positive impact on borrower behaviour.

- 4.33 Whitehaven Library is now hosting DWP Youth Hub appointments, enabling younger job seekers to meet with work coaches in a relaxed environment. These pre-booked sessions are twice weekly and it is hoped the accessible venue will help advisors link clients to local training and job opportunities, as well as a range of services to address wellbeing needs. An official service launch being planned for early summer.
- 4.34 In Cleator Moor Library, an extremely successful Easter family fun day, provided by Family Action Copeland, has been followed up by the start of free sessions every Wednesday for parents and children 0-5 years provided in the library by the Family Action team.
- 4.35 As well as regular sessions, one-off events are now being arranged in libraries. This season's aim to tempt customers to try something new. Children's author Tom Palmer provided a free event for young people – whether readers or football fans - about his recent soccer themed book at Millom Library on 9 May. An evening comedy/ music performance of 'Support Your Local Library: Rock Opera' was booked for Whitehaven Library on 14 May as part of the Arts Out West programme, and on 9 June Whitehaven Library will host a murder mystery night, tying in with a crime reading promotion.
- 4.36 Libraries in Copeland and Allerdale are working with the Public health team to pilot using libraries as vitamin pick up points, offering free vitamins for babies and young children as part of the Healthy Start scheme. This compliments libraries' role in supporting community health and wellbeing.

Public Health Update

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- 4.37 At the time of writing the report, 26 April 2022, the weekly situation reports are no longer being produced and all publicly available information can be accessed via the national COVID-19 UK Dashboard <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases>
- 4.38 The vaccination programme is ongoing with everyone over the age of 5 years now eligible with everyone entitled to two doses. Boosters are available to 16+ and 12-15 years who are clinically extremely vulnerable.
- 4.39 Spring boosters (4th vaccines) are being offered to all over 75s, people living in care homes and all who are immunosuppressed.
- 4.40 Walk in centres are available through the national booking system <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or through prebooking in North

Copeland at Seascale Pharmacy, Seacliffe Pharmacy and Mirehouse Pharmacy in Whitehaven and in South Copeland, Waterloo House Surgery, Millom working in partnership with Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group.

Locality Update

- 4.41 The **Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum** held a special one item meeting on 7 April 2022. The session focused on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in relation to Public Health and Housing. It was an interactive session with attendees hearing about the timescales and processes including understanding the governance and principles that need to be in place to take us to Vesting Day, 1st April 2023, the day when our new Cumberland Council goes live, and the county and borough councils cease to exist.
- 4.42 Although there is much information in the public domain through the dedicated website <https://newcouncilsforcumbria.info/> there is little detail available at the current time. As the session was well received and in response to the feedback it is anticipated that an update will be given at the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Forum, 14 July 2022, on LGR Communities and Localism.
- 4.43 In the coming through months the priorities of the forum for the Copeland locality will be reviewed, they were last updated in January 2021. This will allow what is important to and for the Copeland residents health and wellbeing to be taken forward into the new Cumberland unitary authority in the context of the changed environment - living with COVID going forward, addressing the impacts and legacy it has had on health and wellbeing especially those most vulnerable and the deepening of the cost-of-living crisis.

5 OPTIONS

- 5.1 Members can note the report and comment on the activities undertaken by the team.
- 5.2 Members can agree, reject or amend any of the grant recommendations.

6 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Should the committee agree the recommendations in paragraph 4.23, the unallocated general provision fund will decrease by £57,263, the 0-19 Universal Services fund will decrease by £48,112, and COMF by £1,568.
- 6.2 Should the committee agree the recommendations in paragraph 4.25, the unallocated Environment Fund will decrease by £63,100.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 By following Option 5.1 and noting the report and commenting on the activities undertaken by the team the Local Committee fulfils its Area Planning Function pursuant to paragraph 5.1 of the Constitution.
- 7.2 By following Option 2 and agreeing, rejecting or amending any of the grant recommendations the Local Committee fulfils its constitutional function under paragraph 5.1.2

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The report highlights the range of work undertaken by the Community Development Team and the range of support available to communities and partners organisations through Local Committee.

Dawn Roberts

Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services

May 2022

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Council Local Committee Budget Allocations 2022-23

Appendix 2 – Copeland Local Committee Budget Summary

Appendix 3 – Copeland School Crossing Patrol SLA 2022-23

Appendix 4 – Grant Priorities for 2022-23

Electoral Division(s): *

** Please remove whichever option is not applicable*

Executive Decision

Yes*	No*
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Key Decision

Yes*	No*
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

Yes*	No*	N/A*
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

Yes*	No*
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

Yes*	No*	N/A*
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

Yes*	No*
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

Yes*	No*	N/A*
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

Yes*	No*	N/A*
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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]

****List here any previous relevant decisions. If none, state “No previous relevant decisions”.***

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

If a matter has been considered by Overview and Scrutiny, this section should give details of meeting dates and any Scrutiny recommendations. If not, state “Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny”.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

****List here any papers relied on to a significant extent in preparing the report, and delete the next line.***

****If none, state “No background papers” and delete the line above.***

REPORT AUTHOR

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