

# COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR EDEN

Meeting date: 27 May 2022

From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services.

## AREA PLANNING IN EDEN

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1** *The Eden Area Planning report brings together information from across the community teams including community development and services as well as public health. This report provides Local Committee with an update on the work of each area, identified activity against priorities, highlights current issues and provides an overview of the budget position.*

### **2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**2.1** *Improved locality working is one of the ways the Council is delivering on its priorities. The County Council's vision, set out in the Council Plan 2018-2022, is to be "a Council that works with residents, businesses, communities and other organisations to deliver the best services possible within the available resources." The approach and work of the Local Committee directly contributes to this, and area based working and shaping services locally, are one of the key ways of delivering this vision.*

**2.2** *Eden Local Committee's current priorities have been developed by its three Member Working Groups. These are described in appendix J.*

**2.3** *The locally devolved funding is available for Local Committees to allocate within the area to support positive outcomes for the communities of Eden. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or to enhance/complement existing provision according to locally determined need.*

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**3.1** *Members note the budget allocations for 2022-23 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to date.*

- 3.2** *Members note the provisional unallocated resources in the 2022-23 Communities Revenue Budget of £92,891 as of 30 April 2022.*
- 3.3** *Members agree an Environment Fund programme as recommended in 4.14.*
- 3.4** *Members note the area planning update contained in 4.5 to 4.40.*

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1** The Eden Local Committee Communities Budget allocation is based upon the 2022-23 budget agreed by Council on 10 February 2022. The Local Committee is able to vire funding between budget lines during the course of the financial year, subject to any restrictions set by Cabinet and/or Council regulating the use of such funds. The Committee is not able to vire money from capital budgets to revenue budgets.
- 4.2** The figures carried forward from the out-turn budget for 2021-22 have been included. Of the roll-forward amount of £168,751 from 2021-22, a large proportion is for earmarked projects.
- 4.3** The report updates Members on the Local Committee's Communities Budget for the 2022-23 financial year which are summarised in Appendix A of the report.
- 4.4** Of the total Communities Budget allocated to the Local Committee, £109,031 was allocated to discretionary revenue budgets.

### **COVID-19 Response and Recovery**

- 4.5** With the end of free testing, there is much less information available and subsequently Cumbria's Health Protection groups have stopped publishing weekly public updates as a result. What public information there is can all be found on the gov.uk site: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>
- 4.6** There are uncertainties around how reported test results translate into actual case rates, but the combined info from sources including the national ONS study and local employers all suggests that Infection rates are falling - we seem to be over the peak of infections from the Omicron BA.2 variant. However, there is still significant disruption to the health service and within schools.
- 4.7** The vaccination process has enabled this return to normality for most of us. And while it might not stop people from getting infected (although it does reduce the risks), it is very effective in reducing the number of people getting seriously ill and requiring intensive care.
- 4.8** However, take up of vaccination, such as the fourth booster for over 75s, is dropping off slightly. At around 50% coverage, Cumbria is still better than other parts of the country but perhaps a reminder to everyone that boosters are still a vital part of our resilience to COVID-19.

- 4.9 While the pandemic clearly isn't over, the only multi-agency co-ordination group that remains stood up is the Health Protection Tactical Group. The decision was taken last month that the Cumbria Community Resilience Group would also stop meeting regularly. This situation will, of course, be monitored. There is still the potential for new and more serious variants and there is planning underway for how Cumbria would manage such an outbreak.
- 4.10 The Eden Covid Community Resilience Group had its last meeting on 3 May and has taken the decision to maintain its programme of meetings so that discussions around the four recovery themes can continue – these are Economy, Health and Wellbeing, Children and Young People and Local Communities. It is also felt that this group provides a vital forum to discuss and monitor the impact on communities from financial pressures due to the increasing cost of living.

### **Area Based Working**

- 4.11 Following initial discussion with Members at a workshop on 8 March to agree a process for establishing a programme of works for the Committee's second environment fund allocation, officers met on the 4 April to assess 23 separate schemes recommended by officers, Members and other stakeholders.
- 4.12 At a second Member workshop on 20 April, Officers presented their findings and a shortlist of projects they felt was deliverable within the strict timescales and within resources alongside the current maintenance programme. Officers also endeavoured to select a range of projects across the district.
- 4.13 The programme has an estimated cost of £178,850 offering a contingency of £21,150 which officers feel would be prudent with such a programme. Following discussions around technical detail, the shortlist was agreed in principle by Members at the April workshop.
- 4.14 The recommended Environment Fund programme for Members' consideration is as follows:

	<b>Division</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>
1	Alston and East Fellside	Footpath to Lacy's Cave	£10,000.00	David Gibson
2	Penrith East	Footpaths between Persimmon site and Beacon Edge	£45,000.00	David Gibson
3	Alston and East Fellside	Footpath from Fox and Pheasant to Comb Wood - Armathwaite	£20,000.00	David Gibson
4	Eden Lakes	Bolton Recreational Ground planting project	£2,000.00	Kellie Bradburn-Sims
5	Greystoke and Heskett	Circular Walk Greystoke Ghyll	£81,950.00	John Banks

6	Alston and East Fellside	Langwathby verge restoration	£1,950.00	John Banks
7	Penrith Rural	Stainton verge restoration	£1,950.00	John Banks
8	Appleby	Appleby town woodland path	£4,000.00	David Gibson
9	Penrith East	Carleton Park tree planting	£2,000.00	Amy Frith
10	Kirkby Stephen	Mill-Spar garage path	£10,000.00	David Gibson
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£178,850.00</b>	

4.15 Members continue to be well engaged over developments with the A66 Northern Trans Pennine Project via the technical officer Reference Group. The last meeting took place on 27 April where Members were updated on the development of the Statement of Common Ground which is being produced jointly with Eden District Council. Members were also informed about an officer review of potential diversion routes and rat runs which would be shared for comment before being submitted to National Highways.

4.16 The team have been engaging with Eden District Council as it begins to develop the project pipeline for the Inspiring Eden economic development programme. Expressions of Interest are being gathered by a range of organisations on potential projects and ideas for development and Eden's five Area Planning Groups have already been engaged in the programme.

#### Appleby Area Working

4.17 The group met on 29 March to finalise the key priorities for 2022-2023. The action plan for the year ahead focuses on local projects and initiatives that can be achieved within the 12-month timeframe of the plan.

4.18 The group will meet every other month to progress the action plan, of which identified projects include; development of a local business network and enterprise hub, improvements to open spaces, local climate change initiatives, heritage legacy project, improvements to town signage, Queen's Green Canopy, electrical vehicle charging, an audit of local footpaths and a programme of community events. The Eden Area Community Development Officer will continue to co-ordinate the area planning group, chair meetings and contribute to the development of projects that achieve local priorities over the year ahead. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17 May.

4.19 Officers continue to support the Appleby Multi-Agency Strategic Coordination Group (MASCg) and coordinated the pre-Fair public Meeting which took place in the Appleby Public Hall on 18 May and featured remarks from Les Clark as the Chairman of the MASCg and the Cumbria Police Gold Commander for the Fair, Matthew Kennerley.

#### Alston Area Working

- 4.20 Alston Moor Area Planning Group last met on 8 March. The 'Observatory Dark Skies' project is underway, working with Eden District Council, to develop the first major professional observatory in Cumbria at the Golf Course. The Area Planning Group have set up a working group to establish a regular youth group for Alston.
- 4.21 A Men in Sheds group has been developed in the newly established Community Workshop. The group are meeting weekly, and attendance has been good. Moving forward the group want to create a community workspace that can be used by anyone. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 May.

#### Kirkby Stephen Area Working

- 4.22 The group last met on 4 April to discuss progress on local projects identified in the action plan. Work is ongoing and progress being achieved with a number of local projects including the refurbishment of the Evergreen Building which will provide a much-needed youth provision for the Upper Eden area; and the Jubilee Park project which includes a contribution to the Queen's Green Canopy and improvements to local signage. A local transport audit project is now underway with funding secured to work through transport needs and identify new options that meet these needs.
- 4.23 Over the next month stakeholders in the group are tasked with identifying key priorities for the area to include in the 2022/2023 local action plan, which will be finalised at the next meeting scheduled for 18 July.

#### Penrith Area Working

- 4.24 The Penrith Area Planning Group last met on 8 March. The Linking Lives project is slowly gathering momentum and now has approximately 16 volunteers who have received training and are now working through referrals. The group are looking at doing some publicity to recruit more volunteers and encourage referrals.
- 4.25 A marketing plan for the town has been commissioned by Penrith Town Council. A brand is also being developed for the town taking into account the feedback offered as a result of the initial Borderlands consultation exercise. The Dragons Apprentice challenge is progressing well with two teams of young people now working with mentors - including a number of local social enterprises - to develop project plans.
- 4.26 The next meeting of the Borderlands Town Team will take place on the 18 May where the team will hear feedback on the Penrith Place Plan from the Place Programme Board. Officers have been working up a programme of 12 project areas which are based on the three themes of Capitalising on our Connections, Hub for Business and Culturally Centred. Each has been linked to an emerging theme from the countywide programme so that synergies might be considered, and a number of possible interventions have been identified. Possible workstream leads have also been suggested for this initial consideration.

- 4.27 The Council's Economic Programmes team are working to develop a commission to appoint an external consultant who will help to shape the projects identified in the programme into Green book compliant business cases. Each of the project proposals that have been put forward will be assessed against defined selection criteria and prioritised for inclusion in the Borderlands Town Investment Plan. Other funding opportunities will be considered for those projects which are not deemed eligible for inclusion in the Borderlands programme.
- 4.28 The team continue to support highways colleagues to progress the Penrith Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Two rounds of public consultation have been completed both with a good response. The draft LCWIP will be tabled at this local committee for endorsement and future steps explained. This follows a workshop with Members and technical officers which took place on 10 May.

#### Shap Area Working

- 4.29 The group met on 12 April to review the action plan for 2021/2022, identify completed actions and establish a plan for the year ahead. The Practice Manager for Eden Primary Care Network also attended the meeting to provide an update on Eden ICC and health care practice in Shap. The presentation was well received and offered a useful update for understanding health priorities.
- 4.30 The group reviewed the 2021 plan and identified a number of projects that have been completed through the Area Planning Group including the development of Shap Farmers and Makers Market, electrical vehicle charging and re-development of the play and activity areas of the memorial park. A number of projects with ongoing activity including `safe streets` and improvements to local footpaths will continue into the current year.
- 4.31 The 2022/2023 action plan will be finalised by the stakeholder group at the next area planning group meeting scheduled for Monday 6 June.

#### **Children and Young People**

- 4.32 The Children and Young People working Group last met on 3 May. They received an update on the signs of safety and wellbeing for children and young people programme.
- 4.33 The group also discussed a series of 0-19 grant applications recommended by officers. The details of these have been shared with Committee previously and are available in Appendix K to Q. They include:
- £4,620 awarded to Oaklea Trust for their Right2Work pilot.
  - £5,000 awarded to Barnardo's towards the Summit 22 project.
  - £5,000 awarded to Kirkby Stephen Community Arts to enable the Step-Up project.

- £5,000 awarded to Alston Fairhill Rec Group to support the development of a pump track.
- £1,200 awarded to Blue Jam Arts to enable them to purchase a new drum kit.
- £1,297 awarded to Cumbria Family Support to enable additional team training.
- £2,000 awarded to Cumbria Opera Group allowing them to deliver an educational programme.

### **Public Health and Wellbeing**

- 4.34 The latest forum meeting was postponed and will now take place on 19 May.
- 4.35 The Loneliness and Social Isolation subgroup met on 7 April where an update was received on the Penrith Linking Lives work which is now established with a dedicated coordinator in post. As was stated earlier in the report, referrals are now coming through but there is a shortage of volunteers who may be willing to support someone experiencing loneliness. A request was later circulated across various networks in the hope that it will generate more interest.
- 4.36 Possible links are being explored for younger people who wish to undertake voluntary work, for example, 6th Form students currently undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh gold scheme, or via Inspira whose National Citizen Scheme is thought to be resuming this year.

### **Community Services and Libraries**

- 4.37 From Saturday 2 April Penrith Library reinstated Saturday and evening opening and is now back to Pre COVID-19 opening hours. The team are still welcoming users back to the service and increasing the range of activities accordingly. Both Baby, Bounce and Rhyme sessions and Lego Club are up and running and there is a full programme of events planned for the rest of the year. This has been made possible by the recent recruitment drive resulting in five new members of staff. Two more posts are being readvertised – Saturdays in Penrith and Wednesdays and Saturdays in Appleby – the latter, when appointed, will increase opening hours at Appleby Library.
- 4.38 Lazonby and Shap Library Links are now receiving regular visits from library staff and the service is very grateful to host partners in both locations for keeping the doors open to the service. The support from Kirkby Stephen Council Centre is also appreciated in keeping the library open there despite the staffing shortages and the next focus will be to increase opening hours in the town when possible.
- 4.39 Alston Library staff have received refresher training on the new printing from users' devices facility that Eden libraries have been piloting and is also available in Penrith and Appleby libraries. The weekly tea and chat events

have been reintroduced and the Rhyme Time sessions will be relaunching shortly.

- 4.40 Whilst all COVID-19 restrictions have now been lifted, some precautions remain in place such as screens and hand sanitiser to reassure both users and staff. The team look forward to welcoming even more regular users back, as well as attracting new ones.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the allocations of the Eden Local Committee Devolved Communities Budget and the locality working update contained within this paper.
- 5.2 Members may choose to either agree the recommendations for decision as presented or suggest altered proposals.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Local Committee currently has unallocated resources of £92,891 in its Discretionary Budgets.
- 6.2 The 0-19 Services budget had unallocated resources of £39,915 at the end of April. Grants agreed by the Children and Young People Working Group on 3<sup>rd</sup> May will reduce available resources by £24,117 to £15,798.
- 6.3 The Environment Fund budget of £200,000 will be fully committed if recommendation 3.3 is agreed by the Local Committee.

## **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The recommendations within this report fall within the remit of the Committee as per the Constitution. No specific legal concerns arise as a result of this report.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 This report provides the Local Committee with a comprehensive update on its communities budget, area planning project updates and related matters delegated to the committee.

**Dawn Roberts**

**Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services**

*12 May 2022*

## **APPENDICES**

***Appendix A-I Local Committee budgets.***

***Appendix J Eden Local Committee priorities for 2022/23.***

***Appendix K Grant application from Oaklea Trust.***

***Appendix L Grant application from Barnardo's.***

***Appendix M Grant application from Kirkby Stephen Community Arts.***

***Appendix N Grant application from Alston Fairhill Group.***

***Appendix O Grant application from Bluejam Arts.***

***Appendix P Grant Application from Cumbria Family Support.***

***Appendix Q Grant application from Cumbria Opera Group.***

Electoral Division(s): All in Eden

Executive Decision

Yes	
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Key Decision

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

		N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	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?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?

	No
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If so, give details below.

Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No	
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## **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.***

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