

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH LAKELAND

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland held on Friday, 10 June 2022 at 2.00 pm in County Hall, Kendal.

PRESENT:

Mr N Cotton (Chair)

Mr RK Bingham	Mrs S Evans
Mr GD Cook (Vice-Chair)	Mr B Wearing
Mr M Wilson	

Officers in Attendance:

Mr P Hosking	-	Area Network Manager
Mr M Brierley	-	Lead Officer – Cycling and Walking Team
Mr D Hamilton	-	Democratic Services Officer
Mr M Williams	-	Senior Specialist (Economy & Culture), SLDC

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr P McSweeney, Mr P Thornton, Mrs J Willis, Mrs S Sanderson, Mr J Brook and Ms J Fillmore.

17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no statements, petitions or questions from members of the public at this meeting.

18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, the press and public not be excluded from the meeting for any item of business.

19 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures made on this occasion.

20 SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVELLING UP FUND APPLICATION

Members considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which outlined the South Lakeland District Council's application to the government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The Highways Network Manager introduced the report and provided background regarding the LUF.

He explained that following a competitive process, localities would be selected from across the UK. These localities had been prioritised for funding by the Government following a qualitative assessment process with Barrow, Copeland and Allerdale all identified as "Category 1" priority locations and South Lakeland identified as "Category 3". Members heard that this had created an expectation that applications would need to be "exceptional" if they were to be successful.

Since May 2021, and with the close support of Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council has been developing a proposal which could be put forward to the second round of the competition. The development of this scheme had been further supported by the establishment of a "Kendal Town Team", comprising members of the County, District, Town Council and Kendal Futures.

The application was due before 6 July and centred around two project elements. The first was regeneration of the Town Centre which would comprise the creation of new student accommodation and work-space at the Westmorland Shopping Centre as well as the regeneration of the Market Hall and Market Place. The second aspect of the application was the enhancement of the Riverside Corridor. This would include upgrades to a section of the riverside active travel route between Lowther St and Abbot Hall and would seek to improve connectivity between key assets in the town centre.

The Chair commented in support of taking this opportunity to invest in the Market Hall to better improve the offer to the community. A discussion then took place about the potential increased footfall which would be brought about as a result of linking student accommodation to the shopping centre and how this would likely draw more retailers to the Market Hall.

Following a discussion about the historical significance of the Market Hall, members were given assurances that the effort to improve the offer would also attempt to restore the presence of local produce.

Members stated that in the unfortunate circumstance that the bid was unsuccessful, the future Westmorland and Furness Authority would need to recognise the importance of renovating Kendal Market Hall.

The Lead Officer – Cycling and Walking Team provided more detail regarding the necessary reallocation of space and the review of traffic light signal which would be incorporated into the development of the Riverside Corridor for walking and cycling.

To conclude the Highways Network Manager explained that the deadline for the submission of the application was 6 July and that the outcome decision is expected by Autumn 2022. If the bid is successful, then funding would need to be fully expended by April 2025.

RESOLVED that,

- 1) members agree to support, in principle, South Lakeland District Council's proposed Levelling Up Fund application
- 2) members agree to delegate the signing of a letter of support to the Local Committee Chair in consultation with the Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure following receipt of the detailed proposals

21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 6 July 2022 10.00am at County Offices, Kendal.

The meeting ended at 14:30pm