

## COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held on Thursday, 23 June 2022 at 10.00 am at Council Chamber, County Hall, Kendal

### PRESENT:

Councillor Mr A Connell (Chair)

Mr T Allison	Ms J Filmore	Mr A McGuckin
Mr MS Barbour	Miss D Garton	Mr M Mitchelson
Mr AL Barry	Mr D Gawne	Mr FI Morgan
Mr J Bell	Mrs BC Gray	Mrs M Rae
Mr RW Betton	Mr KR Hamilton	Mr GRPM Roberts
Mr RK Bingham	Mr K Hitchen	Mr DE Southward
Mr J Bland	Mr C Hogg	Mr P Thornton
Mr M Brereton	Mr N Hughes	Mrs C Tibble
Mrs A Burns	Mr MA Johnson	Mr CP Turner
Mr W Clark	Mr AWC Lamb	Mr WJ Wearing
Mr SB Collins	Lord R Liddle	Mr C Weber
Mr GD Cook	Mr KA Little	Mr CJ Whiteside
Mr N Cotton	Dr K Lockney	Mrs J Willis
Mr P Dew	Mr T Lywood	Mr M Wilson
Mr R Dobson	Mrs EA Mallinson	Mr AW Wonnacott
Ms C Driver	Mr AJ Markley	Mr MH Worth
Mr GM Ellis	Mr NH Marriner	Mr SF Young
Mr D English	Ms C McCarron-Holmes	
Mrs S Evans	Mr W McEwan (Vice-Chair)	

There were 56 members present at the start of the meeting.

### 20 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Ms C Bell, Mrs PA Bell, Mr B Berry, Mrs C Bowditch, Mr A Bowness, Mrs HF Carrick, Mr F Cassidy, Ms D Earl, Miss HJ Fearon, Dr S Haraldsen, Mr M Hawkins, Mr A Kennon, Mr J Lister, Mr J Mallinson, Mr P McSweeney, Mrs S Sanderson, Mr B Shirley, Mr S Stoddart, Mrs H Wall, Mr R Watson, Mr D Whipp, Mr T Wentworth Waites, Mr S Wielkopolski, Mrs EL Williamson, Mr D Wilson and Mr R Worthington.

### 21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Wearing declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 5 – Presentation from the Chief Constable, as his son was a Police Officer.

Mr Dew declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 5 – Presentation from the Chief Constable, as he was a member of the Appleby Fair Multi Agency Co-ordination Group.

## **22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED,** that the press and public be not excluded from discussions on any items on the agenda today.

## **23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no public questions, statements or petitions on this occasion.

## **24 PRESENTATION - CHIEF CONSTABLE**

Mr Wearing had declared a non pecuniary interest in this item as his son was a Police Officer.

Mr Dew had declared a non pecuniary interest in this item as he was a member of the Appleby Fair Multi Agency Co-ordination Group.

Chief Constable Michelle Skeer gave members a presentation from the Constabulary, which covered the following:-

- The challenges with finances
- Cumbria Constabulary reconstruction
- Appleby Fair
- The changing nature of policing
- Additional police officers
- Cyber crime
- Cumbria Constabulary Performance Figures
- The multi layered police response
- County lines
- Operation Uplift
- Police Hubs
- Mental health/vulnerable people

One of the members raised the issue of speeding in rural areas, and what the Constabulary might do to help reduce speeding.

The Chief Constable said the constabulary took the issue of speeding in rural areas seriously and last year 26,000 speeding tickets had been issued. As well as issuing speeding fines the Constabulary also carry out education in schools to try to impress on young people how dangerous speeding was.

The Local Member for Kirkby Stephen asked the Chief Constable about policing of the Appleby Fair and whether the new Police and Crime Bill would change the approach of the Constabulary to the Fair.

The Chief Constable responded to say it was unlikely to change the way the event was policed. Appleby Fair was very different from usual fairs/events as it was not an organised event. The event would still take place even if all partners stated they did not want it to happen. With no one organiser it was very difficult to have any influence over this, and all the Constabulary was able to do was to reduce the

impact of this on local communities, and each year carry out a 'lessons learned' review.

The Local Member congratulated Superintendent Matt Kennerley and all the officers involved in the running of Appleby Fair this year.

One of the members asked about the increase in numbers of those that had suffered from domestic violence in the past 12 months, and asked the Chief to comment on this.

The Chief Constable responded to say that the increase in numbers could be seen as a positive, as in the past many domestic violence incidents had gone unreported. Cumbria Constabulary had a high conviction rate for domestic violence prosecutions and this was a priority for the force.

One of the members asked how confident the Chief Constable was that the increase in reporting was the reason for the increase in the numbers of incidents.

The Chief Constable said victims used to suffer violence up to 35 times before they reported it to the police. Figures had reduced to, on average, 20 times before reporting it. The Constabulary had allocated monies to third sector organisations to help and support victims and this was one of the key priorities for Cumbria Constabulary.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services commented about the dreadful reports this week on historic child exploitation case, and asked the Chief how confident she was that historic events had not taken place in Cumbria.

The Chief Constable responded to say that she was not aware of any historic child exploitation cases in Cumbria, but was unable to guarantee that there would not be some in future. Police forces were much better educated these days about child exploitation, however, if any came to light they would be taken seriously and fully investigated.

The Local Member for High Furness was disappointed that Broughton in Furness did not meet the criteria needed for a Community Policing Officer. He asked the Chief whether she would commit to working with local communities to ensure the conversations about this still happened.

The Chief Constable agreed to do this.

The Local Member for Lower Kentdale said his division bordered Cumbria and Lancashire and was one of the most vulnerable areas for countywide drug dealers. He asked whether the Chief Constable was able to share any data with parish councils in this area on the effectiveness of CCTV in dealing with county line drug operations.

The Chief replied to say that Cumbria had lots of success with work on county lines drug operations. Cumbria worked with the regional police authority and received lots of resource and intelligence from regional authorities to assist with this. She would find out if any figures were available. CCTV cameras had been increased across the county but not all parish councils wanted CCTV in their areas.

One of the members asked about the National Race and Inclusion Plan that had recently been published and whether Cumbria Constabulary would be implementing these plans in Cumbria.

The Chief Constable said the constabulary was shifting its focus to try to attract applications from ethnic groups into Cumbria. All ethnic police officers that had been recruited recently had remained in the force.

The Local Member for Botcherby asked whether the Chief would consider placing 2 community police officers in housing estates and also look at improving call out times, He was aware of an incident where it took 4 hours for the police to respond.

The Chief Constable was surprised to hear this and asked the local member to speak to her outside of the meeting today and she would investigate this.

The Local Member for Wigton raised an issue in relation to the hub based in the Market Hall in Wigton. There had been a number of long standing issues in the town centre and he felt the police response to this was often too slow.

The Chief Constable asked the local member to contact her to discuss this further.

One of the members asked whether Cumbria Police was adequately resourced to deal with the increases in cyber-crime.

The Chief said that more resource would always be welcomed, Cumbria Police were linked in to the regional organised crime unit in Warrington, and this is used when the force is unable to resource demand locally.

The Local Member for Ulverston asked the Chief Constable whether cases of ASBOs were increasing across the County.

The Chief Constable said the number of ASBOs across the county had reduced but she would obtain the figures for him.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Constable for her informative presentation.

## **25 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED,** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 April 2022 be agreed as an accurate record.

## **26 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs B Gray arrived at the meeting at this point.

The Chair began by drawing attention to the fact that this week marked Armed Forces Week. Reserves Day, held on 22 June, was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the important part that Reservists played in supporting the UK's defence capability, making a valuable contribution to the nation over and above their day jobs.

Armed Forces Day, was being held on 25 June and was a chance to show support for the people who made up the Armed Forces community, from currently serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets.

Last month, the Chair attended a commemoration event marking the centenary of the unveiling of the County War Memorial and Memorial Bridge in Rickerby Park, Carlisle, along with other dignitaries including representatives from the Canary Girls. These were made up of local women who were employed in the munitions industry during the First World War. Representatives of the families of the Canary Girls laid a yellow wreath to commemorate the centenary and the role of the women on the war effort.

Over the Jubilee celebration weekend, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Cumbria, Mrs Claire Hensman announced several Cumbrian people had been named in this year's Birthday Honours List. The Chair congratulated all the recipients whose contributions to local communities were invaluable.

He congratulated Cockermouth Emergency Response Group who were awarded with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year, the highest award a voluntary group could receive in the UK.

The Chair ended his announcement by informing members that this would be the last meeting of full council attended by Dawn Roberts, Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services. He invited the Group Leaders to say a few words of congratulations and took this opportunity to thank Dawn for all her hard work and commitment to the Council and Cumbria over the last 13 years.

The Group Leaders each congratulated Dawn and said a few words about her.

The Cabinet Member for Environment announced that Cumbria County Council had been awarded a Carbon Literacy Organisation Bronze Award by The Carbon Literacy Trust.

Carbon Literacy was an awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis.

Staff and Elected Members had been undertaking this training, provided by Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS), which helped to increase knowledge and understanding of the issues and challenges of climate change, and also gave the Council real tools to take positive action to tackle the climate emergency.

The County Council had a longstanding commitment to tackling climate change, and this Carbon Literacy training enabled us to further reduce our carbon footprint both as an organisation and as individuals.

## **27 MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

### **(A) Cabinet Minutes - 21 April 2022**

On Minute No 230 – Copeland Local Plan Mr Hitchen asked the Leader to pass on his thanks to the officers that worked with Copeland Local Committee on this. During discussions the local committee had raised 15 issues and the officers had included all of these in the response. He asked the Leader to ensure these recommendations were followed up to ensure Copeland Borough Council understood the importance of the points raised by local members.

The Leader responded to say Cabinet welcomed the input from Copeland Local Committee, as it was vitally important that Cumbria County Council, and especially the local members had the opportunity to comment on the Local Plan.

Cumbria County Council had been concerned for some time about the lack of development of a Local Plan for Copeland, and although one was now in process the Council still had concerns about whether this could be completed by 31 March 2023.

After 31 March 2023 this would need to be replaced by a Local Plan for Cumberland, and major changes were also expected for planning regulations. Cumbria County Council officers would be monitoring the progress of the Copeland Local Plan and would continue to work closely with local members.

Mr Roberts commented that the lack of a Copeland Local Plan had impacted a number of other agencies including the Town Council and the Highways Agencies. He felt the lack of a Local Plan was the reason the Whitehaven Link Road had been pushed back. Planning issues were contentious and he hoped this could not be moved forward.

The Leader shared members frustrations with the Whitehaven Relief Road, and had continually made this point to Government. Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership had contributed funding towards this scheme, but one of the major factors for the delay of the road was the lack of evidence and detail of the Local Plan.

Mr Morgan reminded members, for clarity, that the Whitehaven Relief Road had been removed from the Government's Road Investment Strategy (RIS 3), which was of great concern to all local members.

**RESOLVED,** that the minutes be received and noted.

### **(B) Cabinet Minutes - 9 June 2022**

On Minute No 5 – Statements by the Leader and Cabinet Members Mr Dew asked the Cabinet Member for Environment whether had any insight she could share to encourage members to take part in this.

The Cabinet Member encouraged all members to visit the site. She found the training invaluable in helping to understand her own carbon footprint.

She was hoping that the training would be split in future into 'bite size' courses to encourage greater take up.

On Minute No 7 – 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report Provisional Year End Results Mr McGuckin congratulated Cabinet on agreeing the amended recommendations to create a Cost of Living reserve in response to the increased cost of living, increased energy prices and the increase in inflation.

The Leader responded to say that Cabinet was mindful that there was going to be some difficult months ahead for the majority of the population. The increases in the cost of living rise, energy prices and rising inflation was also compounded by the continuing recovery of Covid 19, the impact of Brexit and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Lord Liddle asked the Council to look at the impact of inflation on the quality of school meals.

The Leader responded to say that all areas of the Council's business was being impacted by this due to the increased cost of resources. The Finance Team was currently considering the impact on the revenue budget and within this they would be looking at school meals. However, decisions on how much money the schools pay to the contractor and how much money they charge parents for school meals is usually a decision for the individual schools.

On Minute No 8 – Corporate Performance Monitoring Mr Whiteside was concerned about the red target to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity in reception years. He had spoken to the Director of Public Health about this but wanted to raise it with Cabinet.

The Leader replied to say Cabinet shared these concerns. Progress was being made with this target pre pandemic, but since then the target had slipped and was getting worse. This would need to be addressed.

Also Mr Hitchen asked about the number of Children Looked After with a child protection plan which was red and worsening. He asked for details on actions being taken to resolve this.

The Leader replied to say there were no easy answers to this question. The societal changes taking place had had an effect on this and also the issue of recruitment was still an issue in some areas of the County. There were no more resources available to deal with this and the demand would have its own pattern. Work was continually ongoing to try to resolve recruitment issues, but this was going to be a challenge for the new unitary authorities next year.

**RESOLVED,** that the minutes of the Cabinet held on 9 June 2022 be received and noted.

## **28 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER**

Mr Metcalfe, Chief Executive left the meeting at this point.

The Leader presented a report which recommended to Council that the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) be appointed to the role of Returning Officer following a recommendation by the Chief Officers Committee.

At a meeting held on 25 May 2022, the Chief Officer Committee removed the role of Returning Officer from the responsibilities carried out by the post of Executive Director Corporate, Customer and Community Services with effect from 24 June 2022. This was due to the resignation of the current post holder and review of arrangements for her post following her departure from the Council on 24 June 2022.

The Council had discretion on which officer to appoint as Returning Officer, and it was now timely to consider whether the role should sit within the responsibilities of the post of Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community given the resignation of the current postholder.

The decision taken by Chief Officer Committee was to adopt a distributed leadership model amongst existing Assistant Directors to fill the duties of the post up to 1 April 2023, and to transfer the role of the Returning Officer to the Chief Executive.

**RESOLVED,** that Council approve the RECOMMENDATION from Chief Officers Committee that the revised role profile for the role of Chief Executive incorporating the designation of Returning Officer so that the role of Returning Officer be included in the designations of the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) with effect from 24 June 2022.

## **29 CHANGES TO OFFICER DELEGATIONS IN THE CONSTITUTION**

Mr Metcalfe returned to the meeting at this point.

Members had before them a report, presented by the Leader which recommended a number of changes to the Constitution arising from the decision of the Chief Officer Committee to adopt a Distributed Leadership Model for the replacement of the role of Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community Services (CC&CS).

The report also sought to update Council on the reallocations put in place by the Chief Executive and minor amendments to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer to reflect current roles and asked Council to approve the arrangements referred to.

At a meeting on 25 May 2022, the Chief Officer Committee approved the adoption of an internal distributed leadership model to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community Services from 11 July 2022.

This approach required the four designated Assistant Directors within the CC&CS Directorate to take a greater role in strategic and corporate management of that directorate until the County Council was dissolved on 31 March 2023.



A model had been developed which set out the new responsibility prescribed statutory roles which were previously the responsibility of the Executive Director Corporate, Customer & Community Services. The power to make the necessary changes to the terms and conditions of employment for these amended temporary roles were delegated to the Chief Executive.

The Assistant Director Organisational Change would become the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO); the Assistant Director Customer and Community Services would become the Council's Scrutiny Officer.

All employed Assistant Directors within CCC&S Directorate, would be given the full range of powers currently delegated to the Executive Director CCC&S in the Constitution to enable them on a monthly rotating basis to have the powers necessary to discharge the Council's functions and decisions to ensure efficient management of the services, contracts and staff for the CCC&S Directorate.

These Assistant Directors posts referred to were:-

- Assistant Director Customer and Community Services,
- Assistant Director Organisational Change,
- Assistant Director Strategic Commissioning and
- Assistant Director Workforce and Organisational Development

**RESOLVED,** that Council

- (1) notes the amendments to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer under her delegated powers to update the constitution to reflect current roles, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) notes the detail of the reallocation of the functions as set out in the distributed leadership model as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report;
- (3) notes and approves the continuation of the reallocation of all of the functions arising from the decision to adopt a Distributed Leadership Model for the replacement of the role of Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community Services up to 1 April 2023 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (4) approves the consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the decision to adopt a Distributed Leadership Model for the replacement of the role of Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community Services up to 1 April 2023 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

### **30 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES - CUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

The Leader presented a report which recommended that members be appointed to the Cumbria Police and Crime Panel for 2022 in line with the procedure agreed between the County Council and District Councils in Cumbria.

The Council made annual appointments to the PCP. Entitlement to seats was determined by a procedure agreed between the County Council and District Councils which operated as follows. The County and six District Councils each appointed one member to sit on the PCP. This filled 7 of the 10 places on the committee.

In determining its nomination, the Council was required to give consideration to the “balanced objective requirement” and to the continuity of membership to enable the Panel’s expertise and skills to be developed for the effective scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Mr Bill McEwan was appointed to the Panel to fill this place at the AGM held on 28 April 2022.

Following the nomination of the 7 places by the County Council and 6 District Councils, the County Council was required to undertake a review of the membership to ensure that it reflected as far as possible the overall political proportionality of the political parties across the 7 Councils.

Following receipt of the nominations from the Districts, the review had been undertaken, and concluded that independent members were entitled to one place on the PCP in 2021-2022. As the nomination from Copeland Borough Council was an independent this filled this place and there was no requirement to fill this through an election.

Therefore, the County Council was required to appoint three additional members. To reflect political proportionality across the seven Councils as far as possible all of these appointees should be members of the Conservative Group.

**RESOLVED,** that the following members to appointed to fill the additional County Council places:

Mr R Bingham  
Mr M Johnson  
Mr D Whipp

### **31 CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Leader of the Council presented a report which reminded members that the Council had adopted a new code of conduct for members in November 2021. The Standards Committee had recommended some changes to the code of conduct adopted in November 2021 which reflected changes made by the Local Government Association to their model code.

Following an extensive consultation exercise the LGA produce a draft model Code of Conduct on 23 December 2020. This was considered by the Standards Committee in January 2021 and after consultation with group leaders was recommended to Council for approval in November 2021. Council approved the adoption of the new model code.

The draft model Code of Conduct issued by the LGA in December 2020 extended the definition of a disclosable pecuniary interest to include any unpaid directorship.

This was included in the Code of Conduct adopted by full Council in November 2021.

The treatment of an unpaid directorship as a disclosable pecuniary interest goes wider than the requirements of the relevant regulations, the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. In addition, this had been changed in updated versions of the model Code of Conduct issued by the LGA. Under the latest version of the model Code of Conduct issued by the LGA unpaid directorships were treated as other registerable interests.

Under the Code of Conduct if a matter arose at a meeting which directly related to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest the member was not able to participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room during the debate unless a dispensation had been granted. In contrast if a matter arises which directly related to an Other Registerable Interests the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public, knowing all the facts, would think the interest such that it may influence the way the member would vote. If it would then the member should not participate in the discussion or vote (except to the extent that a member of the public is allowed to speak) but is not required to leave the room.

The Standards Committee considered whether the reference to unpaid directorships should be removed from the definition of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and instead included within the definition of Registerable Interests at its meeting on 22 April 2022. Making this change would make the Code of Conduct consistent with the relevant regulations, the revised model code. This also reflected the Code of Conducts which were adopted by the Shadow Authorities at their first meetings. The Standards Committee recommended the change was made.

**RESOLVED,** that Council to adopt the changes to the Code of Conduct recommended by the Standards Committee.

## **32 AMENDMENTS TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Deputy Leader presented a report which informed members that the Capital Programme set out the Council's investment plans over the current and following five years to achieve the Council's priorities and vision.

Although it was recognised that the County Council would no longer exist from 1st April 2023 it was important that the longer term financial planning continued in order to support the future planning by the new Unitary Councils.

The Council approved the 2022-2027 Capital Programme in February this year and as in previous years subsequent changes were then made throughout the year.

As part of the provisional year end outturn report to Cabinet on the 9 June changes to the 2021/22 and the 2022-27 capital programme were proposed. Cabinet approved a number of changes and recommended further changes for Council to approve.

The purpose of this report was to ask Council to approve the changes, as recommended by Cabinet, to the Capital Programme for 2021/22 and 2022-2027.

**RESOLVED,** that Council

- (1) approve the addition of £2.201m to the Capital Programme 2021/22 for existing schemes, as detailed in paragraph 5.1 financed from previously approved un-allocated prudential borrowing;
- (2) approve the addition of £4.676m to the Capital Programme 2022-2027 for new schemes, as detailed in paragraph 5.2 financed from previously approved un-allocated prudential borrowing;
- (3) approve the virement of £1.368m between the Additional Inflation Risk allowance and A595 Grizebeck scheme in 2022/23, as detailed in paragraph 5.3.;
- (4) note the final position for the Capital Programme 2021/22 of £122.153m, as detailed in Table 1 paragraph 4.2;
- (5) note the proposed revised Capital Programme 2022/27 of £489.165m, as detailed in Table 2 paragraph 4.3.

### **33 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

Members had before them a report from the Deputy Leader of the Council, which detailed treasury management activities for the 2021/22 financial year. It highlighted performance and activities which confirmed all Treasury Management activities undertaken during the period were in compliance with the Annual Strategy agreed by Members at Council in February 2021.

Despite the volatility in economic expectations and therefore the markets during 2021/22, borrowing and investment activity was undertaken in accordance with the Strategy and this resulted in a net interest budget outperformance (i.e. underspend) of £2.735m for 2021/22. This outperformance was achieved within all prudential limits while also maintaining the Council's prudent strategy regarding investment counterparties.

The primary reason for underspending against the Treasury Management budget was a consequence of the delay in borrowing. Council had approved, for a number of years, the tactical strategy of using internal cash reserves rather than incurring borrowing costs in respect of approved borrowing by Council to fund the capital programme. This continued during 2021/22, and the delay in borrowing generated savings against the budget of £1.309m. The current estimate of internal borrowing at 31 March 2022 was £58.9m (31 March 2021: £58.6m). The externalisation of this borrowing would be subject to continuing review.

**RESOLVED,** that Council

- (1) note the treasury management annual report for 2021/22;
- (2) note the year-end position for the Prudential Indicators 2021/22 and full compliance with the Council's treasury management policies and practices during the year; and

- (3) note the Treasury Management function reports a £2.735m underspend for 2021/22, due primarily to the Council's tactical strategy to utilise internal cash reserves whilst available, albeit that this will be kept under review given various uncertainties, including interest rate movements and cash flow requirements.

## **34 QUESTIONS**

Mr Bingham asked the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property about the artefacts currently held by Cumbria County Council. He had been asking about these for a number of years now. He wondered what would happen to these on the resolution of Cumbria County Council in March 2023.

The Cabinet Member said the artefacts had been listed and circulated but at the time there had been little response to this. Some had been sent to Archives whilst others had been left in the Courts. The Cabinet Member agreed to get a brief report on this out to all members.

Mr M Wilson asked the Leader of the Council, whether, following the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board last week and the development update report on the Integrated Care Systems, he was able to offer any reassurances to members on behalf of their communities, that these changes would leave Cumbria with responsive and sufficient services.

The Leader responded to say that current health reforms were the largest reforms of the NHS and the changes were significant, and along with the current local government reform would be extremely complex. However, how services would be effected was not yet known. The Association of North East Councils, of which Cumbria County Council was not a part of had been asked by the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System to nominate a local authority representative to its Integrated Care Board. In 2023 the Board would re-visit the representation by Cumberland Unitary Council.

Mr Brereton asked the Leader of the Council to confirm why the start of the Grizebeck Scheme had not yet commenced. The Leader had implied it was due to the lack of commitment of funding from Government, but he understood it was contingent on the approval of planning applications currently lodged with South Lakeland District Council.

The Leader replied that his understanding was that a final decision on funding was still awaited, but he would ask the Executive Director for a written response to clarify this.

Mr Lamb asked the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Property whether Cumbria County Council would be undertaking a 'lessons learned' exercise in relation to property to pass on to the two new unitary councils.

The Cabinet Member asked the member if he was referring to something specific, as he was not aware that any lessons learned were needed. Mr Lamb was referring to the state of some of the County Council buildings, which were due to be passed over to the new unitary councils.

He reminded members about the County Council's Community Asset Transfer scheme, which had proved to be very successful. He also said that when the County Council sold a property it was not possible to sell this 'conditionally', and that once it was sold it was no longer the responsibility of the County Council. He was unable to comment on property issues for the new unitary authorities.

Mrs Mallinson was concerned that the figures for childhood obesity were on the rise again, especially given all the work Cumbria County Council had been doing to bring these figures down. She asked what the Council could do to demonstrate the work currently being done in communities to reduce these figures, and what else could be done to get the performance back on target.

The Leader reiterated that Cabinet shared these concerns. Progress was being made with this target pre pandemic, but since then the target had slipped and was getting worse. This would need to be addressed.

Mr Markley asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whether he would congratulate the two MPs and the district councillors for the work they had done to rescue the Bowness on Solway bus service.

The Cabinet Member responded to say that allegations have been made in the local media that Cumbria County Council had refused government funding which could have been utilised to support this service. It was always incredibly disappointing when bus routes had to be withdrawn, particularly those routes which served some of the hardest to reach communities in Cumbria. As members were aware bus routes in Cumbria were managed and run on a commercial basis by transport providers such as Stagecoach, and unfortunately certain routes could cease to be financially viable, usually due to reduced demand or increasing costs.

The Council had recently received notification from the Department for Transport (DfT) advising that it had been allocated £50,000 under its Local Transport Fund, for the provision of bus services which required local authority support at off-setting revenue reductions for tendered bus services. The council does not operate any tendered services so officers were currently seeking clarity from the DfT to see if and how this grant could be utilised. The Council was currently waiting for feedback from the DfT regarding this matter.

Mr Turner asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for reassurances that the maintenance for Viking Way would be resolved, and whether he could ensure the need for maintenance was passed on to the new authority.

The Cabinet Member said this had been added to the list of programmed maintenance for the contractor and he would ensure this was passed on to the new authority.

Mr Whiteside again raised the issue of poor contracted services from St Bees to West Lakes Academy as he was aware that further complaints had been raised about this service and he asked for reassurance that officers were taking these complaints seriously.

The Cabinet Member responded to say he would share this with the Executive Director and provide a written response.

### **35 SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT**

The Chair of Scrutiny Management Board presented a report which updated members of the work of Scrutiny and any issues and developments that had occurred since the last meeting of full Council.

The current Scrutiny Work Programme, which members were asked to note, was undergoing review and regularly updated to reflect new and emerging issues.

The Chair of Scrutiny Management Board took members through the report.

**RESOLVED,** that the report be received and noted.

### **36 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

#### **(A) Audit and Assurance Committee**

**RESOLVED,** that the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 24 March 2022 be received and noted.

#### **(B) Cumbria Pensions Committee**

**RESOLVED,** that the Minutes of the Cumbria Pensions Committee held on 18 March 2022 be received and noted.

#### **(C) Workington Harbour Management Committee**

Mr Dobson asked the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport whether he was able to give any further information on the performance figures contained in Minute 54.

The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a written response.

**RESOLVED,** that the Minutes of the Workington Harbour Management Committee held on 22 April 2022 be received and noted.

#### **(D) Standards Committee**

**RESOLVED,** that the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 22 April 2022 be received and noted.

### **37 URGENCY PROVISIONS**

The Leader of the Council presented a report, the purpose of which was to notify members of any urgent decisions taken in the period since the last County Council meeting.

Two relevant decisions had been taken since the last meeting and the details were set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

**RESOLVED,** that the report be received and noted.

### **38 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

There were no notices of motion on this occasion.

### **39 SPEECHES**

Mr M Wilson gave a speech on the green achievements of the County Council.  
Mr S Collins gave a speech on the use and abuse of statistics.

The meeting ended at 2.15 pm