

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL FURNESS LOCALITY BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Furness Locality Board** held on Wednesday, 18 October 2023 at 6.00 pm at Drawing Room, Barrow Town Hall, Barrow-in-Furness

PRESENT:

Cllr T Assouad
Cllr T Biggins
Cllr D Brook (Vice-Chair)
Cllr A Burns
Cllr T Callister (Chair)
Cllr D Cassidy
Cllr F Cassidy
Cllr A Coles
Cllr D Edwards
Cllr K Hamilton
Cllr A Husband
Cllr B McEwan
Cllr B Morgan
Cllr J Murphy
Cllr N Phillips
Cllr B Shirley
Cllr D Taylor
Cllr R Worthington

Officers in attendance:

Alison Meadows (Senior Manager - Safe & Strong Communities)
Emma Haughin (Senior Lawyer)
Katie Pepper (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer)
Tim Simpson (Project Lead – Sustainable Travel & Transport)

Also in attendance:

Mike Cummings (Cumbria Association of Local Councils)

**PART I ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE
PUBLIC AND PRESS**

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Shirley declared an interest in any matters relating to BAE Systems.

Councillor Worthington declared an interest in any matter relating to Barrow Town Council as he was a members of that Council.

22. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public not be excluding during the consideration of any items on the agenda.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

24. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED: - To note that no questions, representations, deputations or petitions had been received in respect of the meeting.

25. URGENT ITEMS

There were not urgent items of business for consideration on this occasion.

26. NORTH WALNEY PRELIMINARY DESIGN ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Tim Simpson, Project Lead, Capital Programme presented the North Walney Preliminary Design Active Travel Scheme report.

He stated that a preliminary design has been prepared for the funded active travel scheme on North Walney, Barrow-in-Furness. The design had been developed by consultants WSP UK Ltd and was underpinned by engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, the public, Members, Officers and Active Travel England. The preliminary design would form the basis of the detailed design and build for the scheme, for which procurement had been planned to commence in October 2024.

LCWIP

The Barrow-in-Furness Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was approved at Cumbria County Council's Local Committee in March 2022, endorsed by Barrow Borough Council in May 2022 and launched and published in July 2022. The LCWIP identified and prioritised routes to improve for cycling, walking and wheeling and provided an indication of the type of infrastructure improvements that could be delivered. The LCWIP was not a funded plan and funding to deliver the infrastructure improvements identified within it, needed to be sought.

Funding

Funding had been secured from Active Travel Fund 3 (ATF3) (£1.579M) to deliver active travel improvements on North Walney between Earnse Bay and the Promenade adjoining Jubilee Bridge. The deadline for spend of the funding was

March 2024 however, the Council were in the process of formalising an amendment to September 2024 through Active Travel England's change control process.

Design

The scheme had now been developed to the next stage of design and presented as a preliminary design. Technical work had been undertaken to ensure the design was fully compliant with the latest standards for active travel infrastructure and the estimated delivery costs did not exceed the grant funding awarded.

Estimated Delivery Costs

In developing the preliminary design, assurance had been sought that delivery costs did not exceed the total amount of grant funding awarded. Estimated costs had been built up from a bill of quantities using recognised market rates and risk, where possible, had been quantified.

The estimated scheme costs at preliminary design were within the budget of the funding awarded through ATF3 (£1.57M).

Next Steps

Following endorsement of the design a two-stage detailed design and build contract would be procured through the Council's Capital Works Framework. The build stage of the contract would not be awarded until the detailed design was completed to gain greater assurance of the project costs and enable risks to be mitigated as so far was possible before construction commences. It had been envisaged that detailed design would be completed by Spring 2024 and construction by Autumn 2024.

The scheme will look to deliver against the Council's Plan main visions:

A great place to live – improved cycling, walking and wheeling infrastructure would provide more opportunities for our communities, including young people, to live healthy, happy lives by ensuring alternatives for travel. People who travelled more actively would see benefits to their physical and mental wellbeing.

A great place to work – the project would provide the physical infrastructure and connectivity within that people need to access learning facilities, employment, business and leisure opportunities. It would offer an alternative way for people to travel safely to these facilities. The route connected to infrastructure that provided onwards links from Barrow town centre as well as the new facilities associated with the Earnse Bay Community Hub.

A great place to thrive – the project would deliver against the wider vision to provide excellent walking and cycling routes across the Council area.

A public consultation on the emerging preliminary design options was undertaken for three weeks between the 19 May and 9 June 2023. The consultation sought opinions on the proposed infrastructure improvements and key elements of the design.

Information on the proposals was presented in a 'Consultation Document' with attached survey questions, 3D computer generated imagery and large-scale arrangement drawings. The survey asked questions on how supportive respondents were of the overall proposal along with questions on how satisfied respondents were with key elements of the design. A total of 111 paper and online survey responses were received during the consultation period. The feedback had been analysed and summarised in a Consultation Report with key action points considered in the development of the preferred preliminary design. 55% of respondents were in support or expressed no opinion on the overall proposals.

In addition to the survey, officers led a series of focus group sessions and workshops with key stakeholder groups. External groups included Women's Community Matters, Love Barrow Families, Furness Academy and Youth Ability. Blue Light services (fire, police and ambulance) had also been consulted. Feedback received through these sessions had also been analysed and used to inform the preferred preliminary design.

The public consultation was advertised widely through press releases and social media and internal communications.

A councillor asked if there if there were plans for maintenance.

Tim stated that there was a gap in the funding for future maintenance however with the construction there was a 2 year guarantee to make ensure it was built to a suitable standard.

It was moved by Councillor Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Husband and;

RESOLVED: -

- i. To endorse the preliminary design for the North Walney active travel scheme.
- ii. To agree that minor amendments to the design can be made prior to the design being used as the basis for the detailed design procurement, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Furness Locality Board.

27. SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES REPORT

Alison Meadows, Senior Manager - Safe & Strong Communities presented the Safe and Strong communities report.

She stated the report brought together information from across Thriving Communities. Future reports would include updates from thematic workstreams, in line with priorities, highlight issues, actions and risks and provide an update on the devolved budget positions.

The report updated members on the recent thematic working groups meetings and informal elected member briefing sessions. In the report were the recommendations to mechanisms for awarding grants and agree grant awards from 2023/24 within the devolved budget.

Thematic Working Groups

During August the three of the four thematic working groups took place with the Furness Locality Board Members who had elected to sit on the working groups and updates were provided as below.

The priorities for Furness Locality Board were:

Health & Wellbeing – supporting everyone to start well, live well and age well.

Poverty Proofing – supporting their disadvantaged communities to access and increase opportunities.

At the meeting of 6th June 2023, Cabinet agreed to delegate a further one-off funding. This comprised £230,400 for Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund, £100,000 for Strong and Connected Communities Programme, £80,800 Household Support Fund for the Furness Locality Board.

Alison advised the committee there had been a change to recommendations 2.9 and 2.10 and it was recommended that Furness Locality Board: -

2.9 Agree to the establishment of a Community Transport Grants Panel to award grants (including bus grants) to community transport providers. The Director of Thriving Places in consultation with the Chair of the Locality Board is given the delegated authority to determine the relevant schemes and criteria to distribute the investment for community transport grant awards

If agreed, nominate five members to form this Community Transport Panel as described in (3.20.9).

2.10 Recommend that the Director of Thriving Places in consultation with the Chair of the Furness Locality Board utilise the sum of £1750 of the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund for the Friends of X112 scheme and agree for officers to progress the proposal to improve the public right of way at The Hags as described in paragraph 3.20.3.

The amended recommendations were agreed by the locality board.

RESOLVED: - That Councillors Brook, Callister, Hamilton, McEwan, Murphy, Phillips and Shirley be appointed members of the Community Transport Panel.

A Councillor raised a issue regarding the strong connected communities programme stating there was a risk that wards such as Dalton North could be forgotten.

Mike Cumming raised his concern regarding the X7 bus service.

Councillor Shirley advised that a meeting had been arranged regarding this between the trustees and the stagecoach managing director in the area.

Alison reported that the Christmas Support project supported the most vulnerable families and individuals with food, toiletries, household essentials, toys, vouchers and warm packs. Referrals were made through a referral form by organisations, Schools, churches, statutory services for the family or individual to be supported as appropriate and referrers could identify those that needed support as they would be working with them. Referrals come through to the Community Development Team for checking and sent through to the appropriate organisation who also do a further check. The referrer obtains consent from the family or individual for information to be shared. A database is held by the third-sector organisations to record referrals this also avoids duplication.

The partnership comprises Barrow Foodbank, Spring Mount, Furness Education Consortium, representative (Schools), Salvation Army, Age UK, Family Action, Project John, and the Furness Community Development Team. The partnership would also link with Women's Community Matters who also ran a similar appeal to ensure a joined-up approach.

Councillor Hamilton asked for recognition to be given to Housing Services who provide toys each year to their tenants with children.

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by councillor McEwan and;

RESOLVED: -

- i. To note the status of the Furness Locality Board discretionary budgets and the commitments and expenditure to date as in Appendix 1.
- ii. To note the updates included in this report including the thematic working groups, partnerships and grant programmes.
- iii. Agree the mechanism for awarding Community Grants as described in paragraph 3.5.2.
- iv. Agree the mechanism for awarding 0-19 Grants as described in paragraph 3.5.2. 21 Agenda Item 8.
- v. Agree the mechanism for awarding 11-19 Grants as described in paragraph 3.5.2.
- vi. Agree the mechanism for awarding the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) Household Support Fund as described in paragraph 3.5.2.
- vii. Agree the mechanism for awarding the Strong Connected and Communities Programme as described in paragraph 3.19.4.

- viii. Agree to the establishment of a Community Transport Grants Panel to award grants (including bus grants) to community transport providers. The Director of Thriving Places in consultation with the Chair of the Locality Board is given the delegated authority to determine the relevant schemes and criteria to distribute the investment for community transport grant awards
- ix. Recommend that the Director of Thriving Places in consultation with the Chair of the Furness Locality Board utilise the sum of £1750 of the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund for the Friends of X112 scheme and agree for officers to progress the proposal to improve the public right of way at The Hags as described in paragraph 3.20.3.
- x. Agree that decisions on budget allocations and grants from the General Budget, Community Grants, 0-19 Budget, 11-19 Universal Service Grant and the Household Support Fund of up to £5,000 are delegated to the Senior Manager, Safe and Strong Communities, with the agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair of Furness Locality Board and relevant ward member(s). Any approvals for amounts above £5,000 will be brought as a recommendation to the Furness Locality Board for a decision.
- xi. Agree to allocate Project John £27,670 towards the Christmas Project from the following budgets. £15,600 from DWP Household Support fund and £12,070 from Locality Board Priorities fund as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.17 to 3.29.

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm