

# Furness Locality Board

<b>Report Title:</b>	Safe and Strong Communities
<b>Meeting:</b>	Furness Locality Board
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Report Author:</b>	Alison Meadows, Senior Manager - Safe & Strong Communities
<b>Lead Cabinet Member(s):</b>	Councillor Virginia Taylor - Sustainable Communities & Localities
<b>Wards Affected?</b>	All Furness
<b>PUBLIC, PART EXEMPT OR FULLY EXEMPT</b>	Public
<b>List of Appendices (if any)</b>	Appendix 1 – Furness Locality Board Draft Plan Appendix 2 - Furness Locality Board Summary Financial Statement

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Safe and Strong Communities report brings together information from across Thriving Communities. The report includes updates from thematic workstreams, in line with priorities, highlight issues, actions and risks and provide an update on the devolved budget positions.
- 1.2 In the report are the recommendations to agree grant awards from 2023/24 devolved budgets.
- 1.3 The report includes a recommendation to approve the Furness Locality Board Draft Plan.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 For the reasons set out in this report, it is recommended that Furness Locality Board:
- 2.2 Approve the Furness Locality Board Draft Plan as attached in Appendix 1 and outlined in paragraph 3.2.
- 2.3 Note the status of the Furness Locality Board discretionary budgets and the commitments and expenditure to date as in Appendix 2.
- 2.4 Note the updates included in this report including the thematic working groups, partnerships and grant recommendations as outlined.

- 2.5. Agree to allocate Furness Education Skills Partnership £12,000 for the Step Up and Play Project from the 0-19 budget as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.11 to 3.14.
- 2.6 Consider an annual funding request of £12,000 for the Step up and Play Project for the next three years subject to availability of devolved annual budget allocations to the Locality Board as outlined in paragraphs 3.11 to 3.14.
- 2.7 Agree to allocate Inspira £12,100 for their food programme from the DWP Household Support Fund as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.15 to 3.18.
- 2.8 Agree to allocate Dropzone £25,042 for the anti-social behaviour project from the 11-19 Universal Fund as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.19 to 3.27.
- 2.9 Agree to allocate £33,000 towards the Haggs Scheme from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund as outlined in the report in paragraph 3.32.
- 2.10 Agree to allocate £67,000 towards the Biggar Bank to Sandy Gap Scheme from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund as outlined in the report in paragraph 3.32.
- 2.11 Agree to allocate £11,172 towards Furness Abbey Footway from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.32.
- 2.12 Agree to allocate £11,540 towards the Community Forest Trusts from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.33 to 3.39.
- 2.13 Agree to invite the Morecambe Bay NHS Integrated Care Communities Lead onto Furness Locality Board in a non-executive capacity as described in paragraph 3.51.
- 2.14 Agree to invite Cumbria CVS District Manager to be co-opted onto Furness Locality Board in a non-executive capacity as described in paragraph 3.51.
- 2.15 Agree to invite a representative of BAE to be co-opted onto Furness Locality Board in a non-executive capacity as described in paragraph 3.51.
- 2.16 Agree to invite a representative of Furness Youth Work Partnership to be co-opted onto Furness Locality Board in a non-executive capacity as described in paragraph 3.51.

### 3. Information: the Rationale and Evidence

#### Furness Locality Board Plan

- 3.1 The Furness Locality Board Draft Plan attached in Appendix 1 sets out its priorities based on local issues and opportunities while supporting Westmorland and Furness Council's vision, priorities and values. The Locality Board Plan priorities will be reviewed annually to ensure they reflect community need.

#### Thematic Working Groups

- 3.2 Since the Locality Board report on 18th October 2023 all four thematic working groups have now held two meetings. The thematic working groups include Furness Locality Board Members who had elected to sit on the working groups and key external partners who can provide the technical expertise as required.

- 3.3 The priorities for Furness Locality Board are:

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

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

- 3.4 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.

- 3.5 Cabinet at its meeting on 12th September 2023 approved the community grants scheme and criteria. The community grants are to support constituted non-profit making organisations to apply for grants up to £5,000 that benefit the local area and meet local priorities.

#### **Community Thematic Working Group**

- 3.6 The working group has developed an action plan to look at delivering on priorities that are emerging. These are:

- Website and staffing to support the Know Your Neighbourhood Project.
- Anti-social behaviour in town centre and considering funding request from 11-19 Universal Funding for Furness Youth Work Partnership.
- Mapping of ward assets.
- Update on Team Barrow.

Furness Locality Board at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 agreed that community grants budget, 0-19s budget, 11-19s budget and DWP Household

Support Fund would be considered through the Community Thematic Working Group.

3.7 Grants 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.

3.8 The Community Thematic Working Group has held meetings in October 2023 and December 2023 to recommend and agree grants from its Community Grants, 0-19s, 11-19s and DWP Household Support Fund.

3.9 The following grants were agreed from Community Grants under delegated authority.

Armed Forces and Breakfast Club £500

Cumbria CVS Inspiring Barrow Programme £4,992

3.10 The following grants were agreed from 0-19s Grants under delegated authority.

Cumbria CVS Inspiring Barrow Programme £4,992

3.11 The following grants were recommended for approval at the Locality Board as the amounts were above £5,000 from the budgets outlined.

Furness Education Skills & Partnership Step Up & Play £12,000 – 0-19s budget.

The criteria for 0-19s is outlined below.

Activities improve outcomes for children and young people.

- Providing access to play, recreational, leisure or outdoor activities, access to care or educational activities.
- Providing access to safe and enjoyable places for children and young people to go.
- Providing access to holiday, weekend or out of school activities.
- Enabling children and young people's involvement and participation e.g., forum, youth council, engagement, empowerment, decision-making.
- Supporting children and young people to take part in volunteering or community action.

- 3.12 Step Up and Play is a partnership of four schools in Central Ward in Barrow (Sacred Heart, St. Georges, Greengate & Ramsden Infants). The project aims to ensure that children aged 4-11 in central Barrow, and their families have equity of opportunity to engage with local sports clubs. The project achieves this by helping children attend training, practice and competitions, on a weekly, sustainable, basis. They provide transport and escort to the different local sports clubs, supervise and support the children and then take them home. They arrange links with the clubs, ensure safety procedures are met and liaise with families to demonstrate the long-term benefits of sporting opportunities and culture.
- 3.13 135 children had regular access to training at local sports clubs 60 children took part representing a local sports club in a competitive environment 67% of families polled would not have had children involved with a sports club at all if not for Step up and Play. As Barrow's suicide rate was recently seen as the highest of any town in the North of England and that Central Barrow has the lowest life expectancy rate in Cumbria, up to ten years less than neighbouring LSOAs, enabling young people to increase their physical activity and participate in regular sporting club events would seem highly important. A parental survey by Step Up and Play in 2022 showed that a lack of transport to sports clubs was by far the major barrier cited by parents in the children's attendance, this project directly tackles this link in the inequality cycle.
- 3.14 The total cost of the project for 12 months is £36,000 and the partnership is seeking one-third of the cost to run the project for the next 12 months with the aim of raising further funding for 3 years so that they can support the children in the project, for a long enough period of time, to make a good start to achieving their sporting ambitions. During the 12 months this enables the partnership to identify further funding and to become separately constituted. At present Furness Education Skills Partnership (FESP) is the accountable body for the Step up and Play project. Discussions with Cumbria Community Foundation and Francis C Scott Charitable Trust have been favourable, and applications have been made to each of them for a third of the project cost. The partnership is awaiting application outcomes and have raised £4000 to date from other sources.
- 3.15 Inspira Food Programme £12,100 – DWP Household Support Fund.

The criteria for the DWP Household Support Fund is detailed below.

The DWP funding enables the Locality Boards for discretionary spend within the Household Support Fund criteria to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials.

- 3.16 Inspira is a Charity who currently work with unemployed adults and adults who are inactive in the workplace to provide pre-employment support. They have noticed on courses an increase in adults not being able to afford lunch due to the poverty crisis and although jobseekers have their travel and interview clothing funded by Job Centre Plus, lunches are not normally provided on courses. From experience they know that clients attending have complex lives with multiple barriers to work and clients rarely attend with a ready-made packed lunch and instead rely on buying lunches in the town centre or simply skip lunch altogether.
- 3.17 Under sovereign Cumbria County Council for Barrow and South Lakeland they funded Inspira through DWP funding for a 6-month pilot project for lunches which provided sandwiches, fruit, crisps etc supplied by a local business. This pilot helped to improve client wellbeing and participation in interviews with local employers and from the pilot in Barrow has demonstrated how successful it has been. Their current funding is due to end shortly and they would like to apply for extension funding to support unemployed adults on the programme to have a lunch until the end of March 2025 which would run in parallel with the delivery of Inspira's pre-employment programmes.
- 3.18 Inspira is particularly concerned that as the cost of living continues to increase, they are likely to see more unemployed adults in difficulty and going without basics such as food. They are keen to remove as many barriers as possible for clients to attend courses with guaranteed interviews and also know by adults attending such courses it can support them to move into work quicker which will in turn improve their financial wellbeing and decrease dependency on other services in the long term. They are keen for unemployed adults to present themselves in their best possible light to give them the best possible chance to secure work so having additional support to ensure they are fed lunch will support with this. (It is basically the unemployed adult equivalent of free school meals.) The number of lunches each client will receive will vary dependant on the course (s) they attend.
- 3.19 A request for funding from the 11-19 Universal Services budget for Dropzone on behalf of Furness Youth Work Partnership has been submitted. Due to timing of the Community Working Group and the funding amount the request is coming to the Locality Board for consideration. The need for the project has also been prioritised through the Community Thematic Working Group.
- 3.20 The criteria for 11-19 Universal Services budget is available to provide universal open access services for 11–19-year-olds. It is recommended that the same criteria is applied as the 0-19s.
- 3.21 Dropzone on behalf of the Furness Youth Work Partnership has submitted a collaborative funding bid of £100,000 to the National Lottery Million Hours. The National Lottery Million Hours funding is to support anti-social behaviour projects and the priority wards of Old Barrow and Hindpool along with Walney are specifically identified by the National Lottery experiencing ASB.
- 3.22 Dropzone on behalf of Furness Youth Work Partnership are applying to the 11-19 Universal Funding.

- 3.23 The overall project will support an extra 1325 hours of youth work per year (50 weeks) and young people will be offered weekly sessions over this period. This enables their detached provision to be increased by 2 hours per week involving partners from Furness Youth Work Partnership. As a collaborative approach this enables them to increase capacity to target ASB hotspots. Historically secured funding to address ASB has always been small pots and does not enable long-term relationships, trust and programmes to be developed.
- 3.24 Since Covid there are increasing numbers of young people not accessing centre-based services. This funding would enable building positive relationships, signposting children and young people to projects; programs and support that will teach them essential transferable life skills. This will support successful transitions throughout their lives and break down barriers within local communities with positive contributions to society.
- 3.25 Furness Youth Work Partnership was set up when entering COVID lockdown with a focus on 'working together to achieve positive outcomes for children; young people and their families in Furness; and to keep young people safe'. The partnership also wanted to come together as a collective to protect local organisations; share resources and not compete for funding. The following are the organisations and their provision as part of the bid.
- 3.26 Drop Zone Youth Projects and partners alongside increased detached delivery can provide additional centre-based activities,
- Brathay will offer the opportunity to engage in diversionary personal development days at their residential centre.
  - Project John will provide personal development and life skills to young people who are at risk, or already contributing to ASB.
  - Furness Multicultural will provide the opportunity to undertake an accredited course in Youth Leadership Skills involving young people in decision making and having their voice heard.
  - CANDO FM will offer an opportunity to involve young people in documentary making, supporting the monitoring of the project and teaching media skills.
  - Youthability are the SEN and disability organisation which will support all the above and ensure all the delivery is accessible; alongside supporting young people who have additional needs.
  - The project will also support Junior Citizenship which educates young people aged 11 as they make the transition into secondary school. This will require six additional members of staff across the organisations or an increase to current staff's hours.

- 3.27 With over 20 years' experience on delivering a range of projects and contracts Dropzone have all the policies, procedures and management to ensure quality in terms of delivery. They hold the Platinum QA kitemark and are currently undertaking a QA process with Westmorland and Furness Council. As the partnership delivers on a range of collaborative projects, they have ensured that all staff are experienced. Qualified or working towards a qualification. Essential policies are in place, including safeguarding, health and safety and equal opportunities.

### **Priority Wards Thematic Working Group**

- 3.28 The working group has developed an action plan to look at delivering on priorities that are emerging:
- Health messages to the community in terms of accessing the right health support.
  - Participation in health workshops on key issues of self-harm, respiratory diseases and the effect on people due to the wider health determinants such as poor-quality housing.
  - The Working Group has escalated an issue in relation to housing. An update will be provided at the next working group. A briefing on Housing will also be arranged for the full Locality Board.
- 3.29 A key objective from the Priority Wards Working Group was to develop a long-term plan for 10-20 years covering all key issues (environment, education, health) identifying and securing resources to implement and regularly update the plan.

### **Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity**

- 3.30 The Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity Working Group has developed an action plan to look with key updates and schemes as follows:
- Highways revenue programme
  - Ash Die Back update
  - Sustainable Travel & Transport Schemes

Members also put forward a list of schemes and these are now being investigated in terms of feasibility and costings and will be brought to a future working group for consideration and funding recommendation.



- 3.31 The criteria for local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund is to support the development of local sustainable travel and transport schemes, including footpaths and rights of way, cycling, school streets and community transport. The fund will help improve public health and the environment by reducing congestion, air pollution, carbon emissions and supporting healthier lifestyles.
- 3.32 The following are schemes with quotes submitted to the Working Group and have been recommended for approval at the Locality Board.
- Higgs Scheme – clear vegetation, improve footpath and resurface including repairing the bridge total cost £33,000.
  - Biggar Bank to Sandy Gap – improve footpath total cost £67,000.
  - Furness Abbey Footway – renew footpath, repair gates and latches total cost £11,172.
- 3.33 An additional funding request from the Community Forest Trusts has been submitted after the meeting of the Working Group and the Locality Board is asked to consider this request.
- 3.34 The Community Forest Trust supports the development of community forestry initiatives. Projects include mitigating climate change through the provision of high-quality green infrastructure.
- 3.35 The project Branching out in Barrow is a partnership between Community Forest Trust and Brathay. This enables the opportunity to establish tree planting in three areas of Barrow, identified as needing environmental improvement. Secondly, the coming together of a new consortium of partners committed to developing how effectively engage communities in developing, valuing and utilising green spaces focusing on the benefits this will offer both individuals and community social, emotional and ecological wellbeing.
- 3.36 The three areas have been identified as:
- Parkview - urban waste ground in central Barrow (adjacent to Barrow Park)
  - How Tun - grassland adjacent to existing Woodland Trust property
  - Flass Lane - abandoned grazing site surrounded by housing estate.

- 3.37 Community Forest Trust will plant over four thousand five hundred trees / saplings, over approx. total of 4.5 Hectares across three urban sites. They will bring the expertise to select the right mix of broadleaf woodland species, site specific surveys, planting preparation, liaison with volunteers and on-going maintenance to ensure successful survival of the trees. Planting on sites is likely to be in February/March - planting likely to take 2-3 days on each site. Engagement has already started for the Parkview site. The planting process will be completed before the end of the financial year.
- 3.38 Studies show community engagement alongside planting can reduce anti-social behaviour and is evidenced by urban tree planting schemes across the country experiencing higher problems of graffiti, litter and fly-tipping resulting in poorly maintained public space. Local communities can be involved in the design, layout, planting, management and maintenance of green space areas and can therefore create designs that they have chosen and in which they are proud.
- 3.39 All the trees planted are funded by the Trees for Climate funding, provided by Cumbria Community Forest. This application would fund work that responds to the themes of the sites for the planned plantings to increase value and engagement. The organisation has secured funding of £23,500 from the W & F Climate and Nature Partnership Fund and are seeking to secure a shortfall of £11,540 to enable the total project cost of £36,840 to be achieved and the programme successfully delivered.

### **Education, Skills & Economy**

- 3.40 The working group has developed an action plan to look at supporting on priorities that are emerging. These are:
- Welfare and transition across Primary and Secondary Schools.
  - Data evaluation around senior school qualifications, further education retention and young people not in education, employment or training.
  - Long-term sick.
  - Benefits system.
- 3.41 In addition to the Locality Board meetings and thematic working groups it was agreed there would be informal briefing sessions to receive timely updates and presentations. There are further informal briefing sessions planned with key partners and directorates.

Below is the list to date:

Adult Social Care  
 Community Safety Partnership  
 Neighbourhood Policing  
 UKSPF Applications Outcome Update

At the Locality Board meeting on 28th November, it was proposed that the Furness Locality Board write to Cabinet and the relevant Portfolio Holders for Finance and Sustainable Communities and Localities, to express their

concerns about the recent decision-making process and outcomes of the UKSPF. This would also include recommendations on how the Furness Locality Board should be included in any future funding decision-making, taking account of their local knowledge.

North Walney Primary School Consultation

Future briefings will be Winter Maintenance/Gritting, Housing, Parking and Children's Services.

3.42 At the Furness Locality Board on 18th October 2023 it was agreed to fund the Christmas Support Project with Project John, Barrow Foodbank, Salvation Army, Spring Mount, Age UK and Furness Multicultural Forum. The Christmas Support project supports the most vulnerable families and individuals with food, toiletries, household essentials, toys, vouchers and warm packs. Referrals are made through a referral form by organisations, Schools, churches, statutory services for the family or individual to be supported as appropriate and referrers can identify those that need support as they will be working with them.

3.43 The total funding awarded was as follows.

Total £12,070 – Locality Board Priorities

Total £15,600 – DWP Household Support Fund

3.44 The feedback to date is that referrals have exceeded the numbers expected and the partner organisations have been working to ensure that people receive the support they need. At the time of writing the report the partner organisations are involved in delivery to support the referrals made. Councillors have kindly volunteered their time in supporting the programme. A detailed report will be brought to the next Locality Board meeting.

### **Grant programmes**

3.45 A number of grant programmes have been initiated across the Westmorland and Furness area since the last July 2023 Locality Board meeting. These include the £350k Money Advice Grants Programme and the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Grants Programme. The Money Advice Grants Programme is to enable additional outreach support in communities that need it the most. The Asylum Seeker and Refugee grant funding is to support third sector partners with activities and a second funding round has recently been launched.

3.46 Westmorland and Furness Council is currently developing a Grants Policy in order that the Council provides consistent grant funding programmes that deliver on council priorities, support local communities, and help to maintain a sustainable Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise sector in Westmorland and Furness.

## **Devolved Communities Budget**

- 3.47 The Furness Locality Board budget allocations are detailed in the following table.

The summary account statement for these figures can be seen at Appendix 1

Locality Board Priorities	£33,200
Furness Community Grants Fund	£30,000
0-19 Services	£47,596
11-19 Universal Services	£25,042
Strong & Connected Communities Fund	£100,000
Local Sustainable Travel & Transport Fund	£230,400
DWP Household Support Fund	£80,800
Money Advice Service	£57,060
Highways Revenue	£512,000
<b>Community Budget Total</b>	<b>£1,116,098</b>

## **Dalton Borderlands Partnership**

- 3.48 The Borderlands Place Programme is a programme of investment to stimulate the repurposing and reinvention of towns and centres across the Borderlands region to create places that are economically vibrant, resilient to change and that attract a working age population. Further analysis has now been undertaken on the Project Initiation Documents and a Town Team meeting has been arranged for late January 2024 to provide an update.

## **Town & Parish Councils**

- 3.49 In order to ensure a joined-up approach between the Furness Locality Board and the town and parish councils' regular meetings have been programmed in with the Parish Clerks, the Chair, Vice-Chair of the Locality Board and Area Manager. This enables updates to be provided to the Parish Clerks on the key priorities being taken forward as a Locality Board. It has been agreed at the previous meeting that a parish councillor will also attend and be undertaken on a rotating basis.

## **Asylum & Refugees Partnership**

- 3.50 The Asylum & Refugees Partnership continues to meet to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are supported with key areas of concern being addressed. The third sector continues to provide a wide range of support and activities to the asylum seekers. The partnership highlighted the excellent work being undertaken by the third sector organisations to support asylum seekers and refugees and as mentioned the grant programmes will support organisations with additional funding to support the activities they are delivering.

### **Locality Board Co-opting**

- 3.51 **The Locality Board may co-opt up to five (5) other persons to assist in** the discharge of the Board's role whose term of office shall be until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, whereupon they may stand down or be co-opted for the following period. Co-opted members of the Panel may participate in the debate in the same way as Councillors but will have no voting rights and will not count towards a quorum.

## **4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (People, Climate, Communities, Economy and Culture, Customers, Workforce)**

- 4.1 The Westmorland and Furness vision, included in the Council Plan 2023 – 2027, determines that it will be 'A great place to live, work and thrive' and that the communities will be at the very heart of all that it does. The three Locality Boards provide a mechanism through which the council can ensure strong local leadership and effective local representation, to work closely with communities and partners to enable them to shape their areas and to thrive.

## **5. Consultation Outcomes (with services, ward councillors & public consultation where required)**

- 5.1 No consultation outcomes.

## **6. Alternative Options Considered**

- 6.1 Members may choose to either agree the recommendations as presented or suggest alternative proposals.

## **7. Financial Implications and risk**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications of approving the recommendation in para 2.2.
- 7.2 There are no direct financial implications of the recommendation in para 2.3.
- 7.3 The impact of recommendations in paras 2.4- 2.12 are detailed below

The Locality Board has a Local Sustainable Travel & Transport Fund of £230,400 to be spent in 2023/24. Should recommendations 2.9 to 2.12 be

agreed, £122,712 will be committed, leaving £105,938 available for future allocation.

The 0-19 budget is £47,596 and should recommendation 2.5 be agreed £12,000 will be committed and £4,992 already agreed under paragraph 3.10 £16,992 will be committed, leaving £30,604 available for future allocation.

The DWP Household Support Fund available budget is £65,200. Should recommendation 2.7 be agreed, £12,100 will be committed leaving £53,100 available for future allocation.

The 11-19 Universal Funding budget is £25,042. Should the recommendation 2.8 be agreed the budget will be fully committed.

- 7.4 There are no direct financial implications of the recommendations in para 2.13 – 2.16.

### **Legal & Governance Implications**

- 8.1 In accordance with 14,12,1 (a) and (b) of the Constitution, the Locality Board will undertake to allocate funding grants within the terms of a Community Grants Scheme to be developed by the Cabinet and allocate discretionary budgets, make decisions and develop activities in supporting locality working, projects and activities within the terms of any scheme that may be developed by the Cabinet.
- 8.2 Where a Locality Board exercises powers granted to it by the Cabinet or Council it must do so within the parameters of the policies set by the Council and Cabinet.
- 8.3 Cabinet guidance was agreed by Shadow Cabinet on 24 February 2023 which proposed guidance on the use of the Locality Boards revenue budget allocation and criteria. This included Highways revenue, general Budget, 0-19 Budget, 11-19 Universal Services allocation and money advice.
- 8.4 The Shadow Cabinet determined that post vesting day, Cabinet was to look at which further elements of the budget and decision-making would be appropriate to devolve to the Locality Boards.
- 8.5 The Director of Thriving Communities is responsible for poverty and food inclusion and community power and locality working under 3.23 of the Scheme of Delegation found in Section 6 of Part 2 of the Constitution. The Director agreed the allocation of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund (HSF), for a 12-month period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 on 31 May 2023 which included an allocation to the Locality Boards to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials.

- 8.6 At the 6 June 2023 Cabinet, members agreed as part of their decision to approve priority investment schemes for 2023/24, to deliver on the Council Plan priorities.
- 8.7 Local sustainable travel and transport fund was delegated to Locality Boards to support the development of local sustainable travel and transport schemes, including footpaths and rights of way, cycling, school streets and community transport. The fund will help improve public health and the environment by reducing congestion, air pollution, carbon emissions and supporting healthier lifestyles. This fund is for the strong and connected communities programme.
- 8.8 In addition there was flexible funding with approval granted to delegate funds to allow Locality Boards to support priority improvements in communities, making a real and visible difference to the quality of life in local areas. Delegate to the Director of Thriving Communities and the Chief Legal Officer and Director of Resources (s151), in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder the guidance and criteria for the allocation of this funding.
- 8.9 On 11 July 2023, Cabinet resolved that the relevant Director will agree with the Chair of the Locality Boards the relevant schemes, criteria, panels and/ or working groups to distribute the Investment in Council Plan priority funding for the Sustainable Transport Fund.
- 8.10 The Director of Thriving Communities together with the Chief Legal Officer and Director of Resources have agreed that the Strong and Connected Communities Programme is targeted by the Locality Boards and has also agreed the criteria to be applied.
- 8.11 On 18 October 2023, Furness Locality Board agreed 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 be 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.
- 8.12 Furness Locality Board is empowered under the Constitution at 14.9 to co-opt up to five other persons to assist in the discharge of the Board's role whose term of office shall be until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, whereupon they may stand down or be co-opted for the following period. Co-opted members of the Panel may participate in the debate in the same way as Councillors, but will have no voting rights and will not count towards a quorum.

**8. Human Resources Implications**

9.1 There are no human resources implications resulting from this report.

**9. Equality & Diversity Implications** (including the public sector equality duty, Armed Forces Families, Care Leavers and Health inequalities implications)

9.1 There are no equality and diversity implications resulting from this report.

**10. Background Information & Sources (used in preparation of this Report)**

10.1 This report has been compiled based on previous decisions by Westmorland and Furness Council and work undertaken by Community Teams.