



Report Title	Safe and Strong Communities
Meeting	Furness Locality Board
Meeting Date	19 th March 2024
Report Author	Alison Meadows, Senior Manager - Safe & Strong Communities
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Virginia Taylor - Sustainable Communities & Localities
Wards Affected	All Furness
PUBLIC. PART EXEMPT, OR FULLY EXEMPT	Public
Appendices (if any)	Appendix 1 - Furness Locality Board Summary Financial Statement Appendix 2 – Active Cumbria Presentation

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.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Furness Locality Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 For the reasons set out in this report, it is recommended that Furness Locality Board:
- 2.2 Note the status of the Furness Locality Board discretionary budgets and the commitments and expenditure to date as in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Note the updates included in this report including the thematic working groups, partnerships and grant recommendations as outlined.
- 2.4 Agree to allocate Spring Mount £15,043.00 for the family meal and life skills project from the DWP Household Support Fund budget as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.12 to 3.18.
- 2.5 Agree to allocate Barrow & District Disability Association £5,951.00 for Café activities from DWP Household Support Funding as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.19 to 3.21.

- 2.6 Agree to allocate Barrow & District Disability Association £44.00 for Café activities from Priorities Funding as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.19 to 3.21.
- 2.7 Agree to allocate Active Cumbria £59,891.00 for the Football Foundation Playzone from the Strong Connected and Communities Fund budget as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.24 to 3.31
- 2.8 Agree to allocate Cumbria CVS £32,039 for the Furness for You website staffing costs for one year from the Strong Connected and Communities Fund budget as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.32 to 3.39.
- 2.9 Consider funding a second year for Furness for You Website staffing subject to availability of devolved annual budget allocations to the Locality Board as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.32 to 3.39.
- 2.10 Agree to allocate Furness Media Company £8,070 for the website design, development hosting and costs for two years from Strong Connected and Communities Fund budget as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.32 to 3.39.
- 2.11 Agree to allocate Barrow Forward £3,100 for 10p swimming at Barrow Leisure Centre from Priorities Funding as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.40 to 3.46.
- 2.12 Agree to allocate Barrow Forward £3,500 for food to support 10p swimming at Barrow Leisure Centre from DWP Funding as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.40 to 3.46.
- 2.13 Agree to allocate Barrow Forward £11,112 for Fit and Fed swimming sessions at Barrow Leisure Centre from Priorities Funding as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.40 to 3.46.
- 2.14 Agree to allocate Barrow Forward £20,606.25 for Fit and Fed food provision at Barrow Leisure Centre from DWP Household Support Funding as outlined in the report in paragraphs 3.40 to 3.46.
- 2.15 Agree to allocate £6,740.00 towards Rampside footpath improvements from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding as outlined in the report in paragraph 3.49.
- 2.16 Agree to allocate £2,831 towards replace/repair wooden footpath signs from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding as outlined in the report in paragraph 3.50.
- 2.17 Agree to allocate £1,000 towards improvements to footpath 602024 from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding as outlined in the report in paragraph 3.51.

- 2.18 Agree to allocate £1,500 to clear Rating Lane Culvert under footpath 601057 from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding as outlined in the report in paragraph 3.52.
- 2.19 Agree to allocate £9,120 to replace fencing at Elliscales from Sustainable Travel and Transport funding as outlined in the report in paragraph 3.53.
- 2.20 Agree to validate the Dalton Borderlands two Project Initiation Documents to be worked up and taken forward to develop into business cases.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

Thematic Working Groups

- 3.1 Since the Locality Board report on 10th January 2024 all four thematic working groups are meeting weekly. 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.
- 3.2 The Furness Locality Board Plan has been agreed and 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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 Working Group

- 3.5 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 Furness for You Know Your Neighbourhood Project.
 - Anti-social behaviour in town centre and the Locality Board supported matched funding towards the National Lottery Million Hours Funding Bid.
 - Mapping of ward assets now completed.
 - BEATS programme – Exercise on Referral – Barrow Forward.

- 3.6 Members received a presentation at their meeting on 23rd February by Barrow Forward on the data, case studies evidencing the improvement of participants on the BEATS programme. The information also evidenced the estimated cost on the NHS comparing exercising to having to have knee/hip operations. Members were informed that the health funding previously awarded was due to end and no further health funding had been identified.
- 3.7 Members agreed that the issue needed to be escalated with an email sent to Westmorland and Furness Council Health colleagues, Integrated Care Board and Primary Care Network colleagues for a response in terms of identifying funding for the programme.
- 3.8 Furness Locality Board at its meeting on 18th 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. 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.
- 3.9 The Community Thematic Working Group has held monthly meetings to recommend and agree grants from its Community Grants, 0-19s, 11-19s and DWP Household Support Fund.

The following grants have been agreed from Community Grants under delegated authority.

Armed Forces and Breakfast Club £500
Cumbria CVS Inspiring Barrow Programme £4,992
SAFA £4,900
Cumbria Action for Sustainability £1,500
Coast Road Music & Arts Ltd £5,000
Bonus Swimming Club £2,000

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

Cumbria CVS Inspiring Barrow Programme £4,992
SAFA £4,900
Coast Roads Music & Arts Ltd £5,000
Barrow Amateur Boxing Club £1,830

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

The criteria for the DWP Household Support Fund is detailed below.
Energy and water
Food – whether in kind or through vouchers or cash
Essentials linked to energy and water

Wider essentials

Advice services

Housing costs, except for support that recipients can receive through other eligible support

Reasonable administrative costs.

Spring Mount

- 3.12 Spring Mount is a church in the community who actively serve the community however they do not promote religious activities unless there is requested spiritual support. They provide a wide range of support through meals, drop ins, toddler group, youth clubs, and emotional, practical support but their primary aim for their community work is meet the needs and help lift people from the stress and anxiety which poverty, addiction, domestic abuse, isolation, physical and/or mental health difficulties and other circumstances which impact.
- 3.13 The organisation is looking at continuation funding and a new key project over the next two years to ensure they can provide continued support and sustainability in Salthouse Pavilion.
- 3.14 The funding being sought is to continue providing a warm welcome space on a Friday where they have been providing food and refreshments such as soup and sandwiches, potatoes and other light meals. Warm Welcome Spaces have proved to be successful in supporting people not just to access a warm space but to reduce social isolation. Salthouse Pavilion is also utilised through the BeWell programme for partners to provide additional health and wellbeing advice eg blood pressure checks and this has been fed into the Priority Wards Working Group.
- 3.15 The new project the group wishes to establish is a community/family meal including half-terms when HAF is not operating. This model is based on the success of the family meal on Walney and there has been a large percentage of people coming from Salthouse, Roose, Central ward areas to the Walney provision.
- 3.16 As part of the family meal project will be a Life Skills course licensed by CAP (Christians against poverty), Spring Mount work closely with CAP and have a debt centre manager based in Salthouse Pavilion. The Life skills course enables to investigate some root causes of debt and poverty and seeks to equip people with the skills to manage situations including money budgeting techniques, energy advice, including communication and good relationships.
- 3.17 In addition to the life skills and to support the family meals will be cooking on a budget, batch cooking, cooking from scratch to make healthy meal choices. The cooking is interactive, people get to cook on site together, preparing the food, using fresh ingredients. All the recipes meet nutritional guidelines as the organisation already supports the Holiday Activity Programme in terms of meeting national healthy food guidance.

- 3.18 As an extension to this course, the organisation will work with organisations such as Green Doctor for energy advice and seek support such as Inspira for CV writing and national careers guidance for particular sessions. At previous drop-ins at Salthouse Pavilion the Be Well drop in was well received with blood pressure checks, winter warmth packs. As part of the funding the organisation needs to purchase essential kitchen equipment and resources for the family meals.

Barrow & District Disability Association

- 3.19 Barrow & District Disability Association is a registered charity set up to provide for the welfare of people with disabilities and their families and carers and currently has 2,639 members. They provide a wide range of activities and services including a community café, disability advice and benefits service (DABS), and adult social activities group.
- 3.20 The organisation was part of the collaborative Furness for You Know Your Neighbourhood Bid and currently provide activities to support people that are socially isolated into volunteering. They had been running successful activities and to further enhance this offer they would like to provide food and refreshments to people in their café area. Due to funding the organisation has been unable to open their café and this would allow them to offer food and refreshments in the café area to allow people additional social connections. The funding would support them to provide this.
- 3.21 This project directly supports the Council Plan priorities, the Furness Locality Board Plan and outcomes identified in the Priority Wards action plan. These projects will reduce social isolation, encourage healthier lifestyle, improve life skills and support with confidence, resilience and raising aspirations.

Priority Wards Working Group

- 3.22 The working group has developed an action plan to look at delivering on priorities that are emerging such as:
- Health Plan to address health inequalities to support the action plan.
 - Get Ready for Winter – Two events to be held in Central & Hindpool wards joint third sector and statutory partners to provide residents with practical and holistic support.
 - Football Foundation Playzone – Expression of Interest approved to look at proposal of developing a playzone in the priority wards. Furness Locality Board at its meeting on 18th October 2023 agreed that the Strong Connected and Communities Fund would be considered through the Priority Wards Thematic Working Group.
- 3.23 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. The following grants are recommended for approval at the Locality Board as the amounts are above £5,000 from the budgets outlined.

Active Cumbria - Football Foundation PlayZone

3.24 The criteria for the Strong Connected and Communities is outlined below.

The Strong Connected and Communities Fund is to support priority improvements in communities, making a real and visible difference to the quality of life in local areas. The criteria is as follows:

- The fund is used to support the identified priorities as determined by the Locality Boards through their recent place planning work and captured in their Place Plans.
- Provides additionality to the delegated funding to the Locality Boards by Council.
- Supports communities to be strong, cohesive and resilient.
- Supports communities and individuals at the 'pre-front door' to prevent, reduce and delay the need for commissioned services.

3.25 The Football Foundation has launched an exciting new capital investment programme. Using investment from the **Premier League**, **The FA** and the **Government** through **Sport England**, the PlayZones Programme aims to engage with local communities across the country to create outstanding sports and activity spaces and tackle inequalities in participation.

3.26 The PlayZone Programme is their exciting new investment programme aimed at tackling inequalities in physical activity and access to facilities by funding community-led spaces.

3.27 They aim to focus investment and resource into communities with the greatest need. This will deliver new or refurbished outdoor mini pitches designed for football and other sports and activities that will allow priority groups to be more active. There are four main groups facing the greatest inequalities the Football Foundation want prioritisation with these groups; lower socio economic, women and girls, disabled people and people with long-term health conditions and ethnically diverse groups to provide opportunity and access to safe, inclusive, and welcoming facilities.

3.28 Football Foundation have confirmed community Engagement sits at the heart of the programme and is critical to the successful delivery of playzones which will be delivered through the Community Development team and the facilities are designed around the unique needs of community, identified through meaningful engagement. The site, design and facilities will be determined through working with the community in the Central ward area.

- 3.29 The Football Foundation estimates the cost of each facility depends on various factors including specification and site conditions. They estimate a new build facility will cost around £225k. The programme requires partnership funding and are looking for a minimum contribution of 25% of the total capital cost. The Community Development Team has submitted an Expression of Interest which has been successful.
- 3.30 In order to support the project with the 25% partnership funding and based on an estimated £225k funding members are asked to commit £59,891. The funding from the Locality Board and Football Foundation should be the catalyst to draw down additional funding from other funding partners should it be required towards the build cost. Active Cumbria would be able to 'hold and ringfence' the funding for the project.
- 3.31 One of the key priorities from the Priority Wards Thematic Working Group is to address health inequalities in the priority wards through a number of projects. This project meets the Council Plan priorities, Furness Locality Board Plan, and the Priority Wards Health Plan to address health inequalities.

Furness for You Website and Staffing

- 3.32 'Furness For You' is a partnership project and its aims are to build on the success and vision of the Community Prosperity Partnership which are:
- identifying and addressing community needs across the Furness area to reduce loneliness/chronic loneliness, address levels of deprivation within local communities.
 - Creating people centred wrap around support.
 - Create meaningful volunteer opportunities to inspire communities.
 - Capture meaningful data to demonstrate positive impact.
- 3.33 Until recently, organisations operated in silo delivering interventions to different beneficiary groups addressing barriers and supporting health and wellbeing. A foundation and commitment has been developed through the partnership building relationships, trust, honesty and transparency through regular meetings to codesign local services (avoiding duplication) and providing integrated support, creating a holistic journey to build community/individual resilience whilst meeting partnership key aims.
- 3.34 Funded by the Government's Know Your Neighbourhood Fund which is to reduce chronic social isolation and support people into volunteering the Partnership has been allocated £960,831 to offer a varied programme including one-to-one support, group events, creative activities, as well as volunteering opportunities.
- 3.35 Alongside the council, the Partnership, managed by Groundwork North East and Cumbria, involves a range of delivery partners such as Age UK Barrow and District, Cumbria CVS, Brathay Trust, Women's Community Matters, Stitchability, Barrow Leisure Centre, Furness Multicultural Forum, Barrow & District Disability Association. A key partnership objective is to

broaden representation across the Furness area, to improve health and wellbeing in communities, to shape and influence health/public sector strategies, and enable services with resources and funding to meet community need.

- 3.36 In the original Furness For You funding bid the development of a Furness for You website along with staffing had been included however as the partnership had to reduce its funding bid the website and staffing had to be excluded.
- 3.37 Through partnership working with key statutory partners, third-sector organisations it has been identified that there is no one central live information site that shows all the organisations, advice, support, activities which can be accessed by workers to support residents. Since the Furness for You partnership has commenced along with the community connector and volunteer co-ordinator employed the Furness for You Facebook page has been set up however this is more instant with events rather than a live directory.
- 3.38 In order to ensure that the Furness for You Website can be set up and staffed with a staff member maintaining the website. Officers have been working with a local website design company to look at the specification and needs to host the website. They have also been working with a key local organisation to host the staff member. Cumbria CVS has agreed to host the staff member but would create a new job and would be looking for an individual who has local knowledge of the organisations in the area and experience of working within the area. Cumbria CVS would also provide all the relevant HR and line management support for the person. The total costs to provide the website and staffing will be £40,109.00. This is made up of £32,039 for Cumbria CVS staff for 12 months and £8,070 for the website design, development and costs.
- 3.39 Members are asked to consider subject to devolved annual budget in 2024/25 to support staffing costs for a second year as this will enable further evaluation of the project.

Barrow Forward – Barrow Leisure Centre

- 3.40 Furness Locality Board has supported both Barrow and Dalton Leisure Centres with the 10p Swimming Initiative during February half-term. The initiative was also supported across Westmorland and Furness Council through South Lakeland and Eden Locality Boards.
- 3.41 In the Furness locality the funding enabled children to swim for 10p and receive hot food/packed lunch after the swim. The feedback has been extremely positive with full uptake on places offered. People that would not normally access Leisure Centres have taken advantage of the offer. It can be demonstrated there has been an increase in social connections, physical activity and healthy eating.
- 3.42 Members are asked to consider repeating the initiative in May half-term providing the same offer of 10p swim and food in Barrow Leisure Centre. The

cost would be the same as during February half-term £6,600 with £3,100 recommended from Priorities funding and £3,500 from DWP funding. This would allow opportunities to undertake further evaluation, additional benefits and opportunities.

- 3.43 Barrow Leisure Centre has confirmed that the February half-term initiative highlighted issues with swimming competence in the area. They had two rescues during the week and the majority of the participants were unable to go in the deep end as they could not pass the swim test required. Therefore, there is a need to provide an additional tailored offer to support children who need extra swimming sessions working with the schools in the priority wards to support children with swimming.
- 3.44 Members asked to consider funding a Fit and Fed initiative. This would offer a targeted Breakfast Club and Swim and Tea-time Club and Swim for children identified through the Schools in the priority wards needing additional swimming sessions. A pilot for the Breakfast Club and Swim has been running two sessions per week which has proved successful, and health authority funding is paying for these sessions per week. Barrow Leisure Centre would like to extend sessions to four sessions per week for 35 weeks over School terms and are seeking additional funding for the 2 sessions.
- 3.45 The Tea-time Club and Swim for children is a new initiative and this would provide three sessions after School for 35 weeks over the School terms. It is anticipated that there would be approximately 32 children at Breakfast Club and 45 children at Tea-time Club. Both these projects would support the needs identified through the 10p swimming initiative.
- 3.46 One of the key priorities from the Priority Wards Thematic Working Group is to address health inequalities in the priority wards through a number of projects. This project meets the Council Plan priorities, Furness Locality Board Plan in improving health and wellbeing, poverty proofing and the Priority Wards Health Plan to address health inequalities.

Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity

- 3.47 The Infrastructure, Environment & Connectivity Working Group has developed an action plan to look with key updates and schemes.

In addition to the various highways and sustainable travel and transport schemes being discussed the working group is also looking more strategically at wider assets for Furness to be a destination area and to inform the Local Plan.

Sustainable Travel & Transport Schemes

- 3.48 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. The following are schemes with quotes submitted to the Working Group and have been recommended for approval at the Locality Board.

The following schemes are for approval:

- 3.49 Rampside footpath improve drainage divert water away, cut back vegetation at a cost of £6,740.00.
- 3.50 Replace/repair wooden footpath signs that are damaged or missing in the Furness area at a cost of £2,831.00.
- 3.51 Cut back vegetation and clear the tarmac on footpath 602024 north out of Dalton from James Terrace to A590 Dalton Bypass at a cost of £1,000.00.
- 3.52 Clear Culvert under footpath 601057, Rating Lane Recreation Ground Barrow at a cost of £1,500.00.
- 3.53 Replace old fencing with new on Elliscales footpath at a cost of £9,120.00.

Education, Skills & Economy

- 3.54 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.
- 3.55 The Working Group has received updates from DWP on the benefits system and an update to understand alternative provision. An expression of interest has been submitted from the Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board working in partnership with the Council and DWP for the Workwell Programme in relation to long-term sick.

Informal Briefing Sessions

- 3.56 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 since January's Locality Board meeting.

- Update on assets/major projects Furness area.
 - Housing Revenue Account
 - Parking Reports
 - Winter Maintenance/Gritting,
 - Active Cumbria presentation attached as Appendix 2.
 - Barrow Citizens Advice Bureau
- 3.57 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.

The total funding awarded was as follows.

- Total £12,070 – Locality Board Priorities
- Total £15,600 – DWP Household Support Fund

The numbers of referrals received were as follows.

- Toys 0-4 = 189
- Toys 5-11 = 317
- Vouchers 12-19 = 206
- Food hamper = 388
- Wellbeing & Toiletries = 377

The top wards for referrals were Old Barrow and Hindpool and Walney.

Devolved Communities Budget

3.58 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
Community Budget Total	£1,116,098

Dalton Borderlands Partnership

3.59 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.

3.60 The Town Team has taken place following two working groups of Highstreet Enhancement and Active Travel. Additional businesses have joined the

Highstreet Enhancement working group and are now representing the Town Team providing stronger business representation.

- 3.61 At the Town Team meeting on 25th January 2024 it was agreed that the two Project Initiation Documents to work up and take forward to develop into business cases are Dalton Leisure Centre and High Street Enhancement with Active Travel.
- 3.62 The Locality Board is asked to validate the two Project Initiation Documents to be worked up and taken forward to develop into business cases.

Town & Parish Councils

- 3.63 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.
- 3.64 There have been three meetings where issues have been raised and able to be picked up to be addressed. A parish councillor has also attended and this would be undertaken on a rotating basis. There has also been HIAMS training undertaken with parish and town councillors following this being identified.

Furness Local Resilience Forum

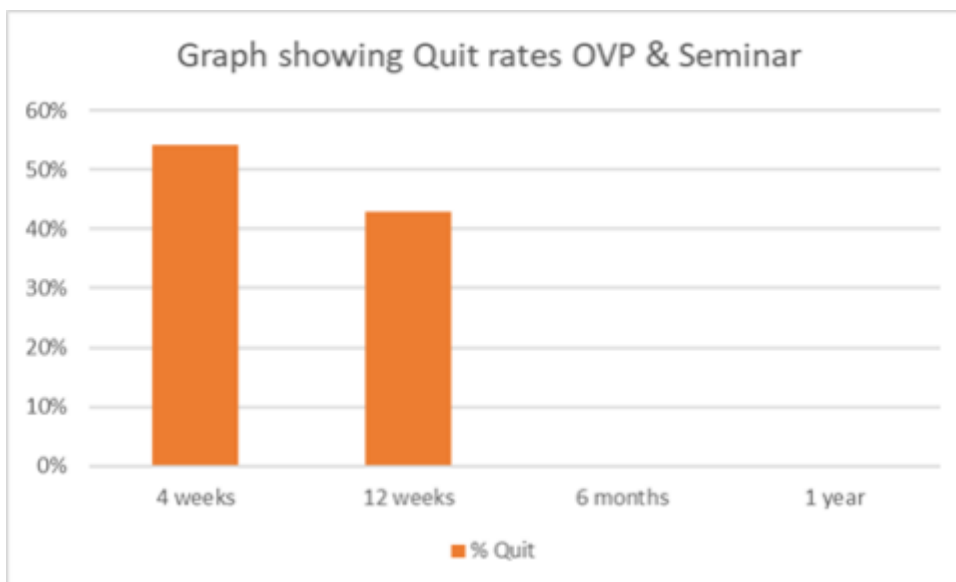
- 3.65 The Furness Local Resilience Forum is a multi-agency partnership that looks to work in partnership to improve the quality of life of local communities. It brings together the organisations supporting communities in the Furness locality through sharing information from relevant local partnerships and the work of organisations.
- 3.66 It identifies the support local communities need and seek how to support organisations to meet these needs and provides mechanisms to escalate issues through the appropriate channels/structures.
- 3.67 At recent meetings it has received a number of updates from organisations such as United Utilities, Adult Social Care, DWP, Health partners enabling sharing of information and discussions in order to support community needs.
- 3.68 There is still a need to be addressing health and cost of living issues in the community with many residents requiring support.

Asylum & Refugees Partnership

- 3.69 The Asylum & Refugees Partnership continues to meet to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are supported with key areas of concern being addressed. As numbers of asylum seekers decreases in the hotels the focus is now to focus on support with dispersal.

Update from Public Health

- 3.70 In 2023 Westmoreland and Furness commissioned Allen Carr Easyway to Stop Smoking Method pilot with a focus on targeting the Furness area due to high smoking prevalence. Allen Carr's Easyway to Stop Smoking Method is a drug free, clinically proven cognitive behavioural therapy (or more accurately a cognitive restructuring/retraining therapy). The programme involves either online seminars or videos lasting for 5-6 hours. Allen Carr's Easyway is endorsed by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence as a drug free way of stopping smoking.
- 3.71 The social media recruitment for the programme was exceptionally successful filling all the available places in a few weeks. Showing the demand for such a programme in Westmorland and Furness. The current confirmed quit rates with Westmorland & Furness Council are shown below and are comfortably above the minimum target of 40% at 4 weeks and 12 weeks. The socio-economic data from the programme shows that 68% of users were in a "low socio- economic group".



- 3.72 The following are examples of feedback received from different users for this programme.

Nicola

1 week in - Do it if you can, just put the code in, I did the seminar and it's amazing.

Toni

2 days in - Well I finished yesterday. Never imagined I'd be popping a bottle of wine open confident I'm never smoking again. Thanks whole mindset changed. I'm not a slave to the cancer sticks anymore.

Caroline (OVP)

4 weeks in - I wanted to let you know that I am doing brilliantly. I am a happy non smoker now. I didn't think I would be able to do it after smoking for 38 years which is all of my adult life. I am amazed that I don't even think about smoking majority of the time. My partner smokes and it doesn't bother me and I've been out on a couple of occasions and I wasn't bothered then either.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. My doctors will be pleased as I have a couple of autoimmune diseases.

3 months in - I am still a very happy non smoker. Please feel free to call me anytime if you need feedback as this has done wonders for me and also friends and family whom I told about it. I think the Allen Carr Easyway should be the NHS first remedy for anyone wanting to give up smoking.

Karen

4 weeks in - I'm not smoking, I have recommended you to the respiratory rehabilitation team of Furness General. 50+ years smoking I think the Allen Carr method is virtually miraculous. So, I'll carry on, there's no chance of me smoking again.

Linda

2 months in - Just in shock. After up to 60 a day. I have not had a ciggy since doing day course on line. 31st Aug 2023 my family in shock..shock..money I have saved is amazing. Cough has gone..the only way I can repay them is by telling everyone this can and does work..get your head in the right place first ..believe in it..want it..miracles do happen.

Vee

3 months in - It certainly worked for me I haven't even missed them after 50 years of smoking thank you so much x

3.73 Follow the success of the pilot a further programme was recommissioned in January 2024.

3.74 Post LGR a new multi-agency partnership group has been established to address the health issues in Furness the first workshop took place in November 2023 and the second is taking place in March 2024 focussing on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

4.0 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.

5.0 Consultation Outcomes

5.1 No consultation outcomes required.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

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

7.0 Reasons for the Recommendations

7.1 Members choosing to agree the recommendations enables a number of much needed community led projects to proceed and ensures Locality Board budgets are targeted to support.

8.0 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

8.1 No Climate and Biodiversity implications.

9.0 Legal and Governance Implications

9.1 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.

9.2 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.

10.0 Human Resources Implications

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

11.0 Financial Implications

11.1 The financial summary is as per Appendix 1. All proposed expenditure is in line with the funding allocations.

11.2 The underspent / unallocated discretionary budgets may be carried forward at the year end, but this is subject to Cabinet approval on 26th March 2024.

Section to be completed by Finance on behalf of the S151 Officer

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty, Armed Forces Veterans, Care Experienced, Rurality, and Socio-Economic Inequalities implications)

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

13.0 Risk Implications

13.1 If recommendations are not supported a number of projects will not proceed as funding is required, consequently budgets will not be defrayed.

14.0 Background Documents

14.1 This report has been compiled based on previous decisions by Westmorland and Furness Council as outlined in the report.

