

Report Title	Safe and Strong Communities
Meeting	South Lakeland Locality Board
Meeting Date	25 th April 2024
Report Author	Mike Conefrey – Senior Manager, Safe and Strong Communities
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Virginia Taylor – Sustainable Communities and Localities
Wards Affected	All in South Lakeland
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	<p>Appendix I: Children and Young People Working Group - Action Notes</p> <p>Appendix II: Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group - Action Notes (Known as Communities & Equity Working Group)</p> <p>Appendix III: Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Working Group - Action Notes</p> <p>Appendix IV: Devolved Budget – Summary Position</p>

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Safe and Strong Communities report brings together information from across the thriving community teams including community development. This report provides the South Lakeland Locality Board with an update on the work undertaken in Locality Board priority areas as reflected by the Board's attendant Working Groups, namely:

- Children and Young People Working Group
- Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group
- Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Working Group

In addition, the report provides an opportunity to highlight current issues and gives an overview of the Locality Board budget position.

2. Recommendations

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

- 2.1 Approve the award of £8,000 (£5,135 from the 0-19 service allocation fund and £2,865 from the 11-19 universal services fund) to South Cumbria Breastfeeding Support to provide breastfeeding support services across the locality.
- 2.2 Approve the award of £9,500 from the Priority Investment Fund, Strong and Connected Communities Programme to Hallgarth Community Centre for Improvements to outside facilities, soft landscaping - tree planting etc. Note; an additional grant of £1,000 from the Community Grants allocation will (if this recommendation is approved) result in a total grant of £10,500.
- 2.3 Agree the award of £47,550 from the devolved budget for Money Advice Services to South Lakes Citizens Advice (3.6.1).
- 2.4 Recommend that the Community Transport Grants Panel approve reallocation of £20,000 from the Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund to the Friends of the X112 Bus from the previous allocation to Coniston and Colton.
- 2.5 Allocate £108,763 (£76,335 from the 0-19 Services Allocation and £32,428 from the 11-19 Universal Services Allocation) to support children and young people aged 0-19 as described at 3.8.2. and to delegate any decisions on grant awards up to £5,000 to the Senior Manager, Safe and Strong Communities, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and the relevant ward Members provided that these are in accordance with the criteria in the Cabinet Guidance agreed by Cabinet in February 2024.
- 2.6 Allocate £30,000 from the General Provisions Allocation to support a South Lakeland Community Grants Scheme as described at 3.8.3.
- 2.7 Allocate £76,327 ((£50,000 from the Community Planning (Growth Bid) and £26,327 from the General Provisions Allocation)) to support climate action and increased biodiversity as described at 3.8.4 and delegate decisions on grant awards up to £5,000 in respect of the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity budget to the Senior Manager Safe and Strong Communities in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Working group the Chair and Vice Chair of South Lakeland Locality Board and the relevant ward Member/s
- 2.8 Allocate £76,328 ((£50,000 from the Community Planning (Growth Bid) and £26,328 from the General Provisions Allocation)) to support building community assets and addressing inequalities as described at 3.8.5. and to delegate decisions on grant awards up to £5,000, in respect of the South Lakeland Building Community Assets Budget to the Senior Manager Safe and Strong Communities in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequality Working group the Chair and Vice Chair of the South Lakeland Locality Board and the relevant ward Members;

2.9 Note the award of £16,620 from the Priority Investment Fund, Strong and Connected Communities Programme to Hawkshead Parish to progress the local economic initiative 'Destination Hawkshead'. (3.8.6)

2.10 Note the award of the following grants in accordance with the delegated authority agreed by the locality Board at its meetings on the 18th of July 2023 and the 18th of October 2023

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Awarded
Brewery Arts Centre	Dance event	£5,000
Bardsea Malt Kiln Village Hall	Refurbishment of Play Park	£5,000
Windermere & Bowness Town Council	Street Marshalls pilot scheme	£5,000
Field Broughton Parish Rooms	Toward re-slating and insulation of kitchen roof	£5,000
Furness Tradition	Community band tutoring and instruments library	£4,500
Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall	Cost of new solar panels	£4,000
Grange Town Council (Grange Medical Centre)	Defibrillators	£3,332
Sedbergh Book Town	Children's events at Booktown festival	£3,100
Ambleside Sports Association Ltd	Towards the purchase of equipment	£3,025
Coniston Parish Council	Biodiversity project	£3,000
Windermere & Bowness Town Council	Bowness Marshalls pilot scheme	£1,775
Cornerstone Community Church (Ignite Sedbergh)	Youth club equipment and trip	£1,500
The Heron Theatre	Children's Literary event	£795
Sedbergh PC	Coach parking survey costs	£750
Greenside Kendal (Fellside Forum)	Plug plants and seeds	£500
Coniston Parish Council	Return of the Bluebird celebrations	£500
Ambleside Parish Centre	Major Snow incident Dec '23 consumable reimbursement	£300

Park House Hawkshead (Scout & Guides)	Major Snow incident Dec '23 consumable reimbursement	£300
Rotary Club of Kendal	Technology Tournament	£200

3. Information

3.1 South Lakeland Locality Board Priorities

At the meeting of the South Lakeland Locality Board held on the 18th of July 2023 members resolved to form four Working Groups reflecting the local priorities identified following workshops held in May and June. These Working Groups to be focused on Children and Young People, Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities, Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity, and Highways. At this meeting the Locality Board agreed to combine the Priority Investment Fund Project monies attendant to the Strong and Connected Communities Programmed devolved to the Locality Board ('Priority Investment Fund' £100,000) with £52,655 of General Provisions funding to create two budget lines upon which the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group and the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Working Group would advise the Locality Board regarding spend. These budget lines respectively 'Building Community Assets' (£76,328) and 'Climate Action and Biodiversity' (£76,327) to be administered as appropriate in accordance with the criteria regarding Community Grants agreed by Cabinet at its meeting of the 12th of September 2023 and/or the terms of the Officer Decision Record (ODR) of August 2023 regarding the Priority Investment Fund, Strong and Connected Communities Programme (Appendix VI, Safe & Strong Communities Report, South Lakeland Locality Board Meeting 18th October 2023).

3.2 Children and Young People Working Group.

3.2.1 The Children and Young People Working group met on the 5th of March 2024 (Action Notes are provided at Appendix I). The Working Group received a verbal report with respect to the Children in Care Council and Care Experienced Young People and a verbal report on the work of the Youth Council/Youth Parliament. A written update on relevant Public Health matters was circulated ahead of the meeting. An overview of Early Help was provided, and the meeting was advised that training on Corporate Parenting was being planned for all members. The Chair and Vice-chair are to attend a National Youth Agency workshop.

3.2.2 At its meeting on the 18th of July the South Lakeland Locality Board agreed that decisions on grant awards up to £5,000 from the 0-19 service allocation fund and the 11-19 universal services allocation be delegated to the Senior Manager, Safe and Strong Communities, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and the relevant ward Members provided that these are in accordance with the criteria in the Cabinet Guidance agreed by Shadow Cabinet in February 2023. (Ref: Westmorland and Furness Council South Lakeland Locality Board, meeting 18th July 2023, Minutes sec. 19 (7)). Accordingly, the Locality Board is recommended to approve the award of £8,000 (£5,135 from the 0-19 service allocation fund and £2,865 from the 11-19 universal services allocation) to South Cumbria Breastfeeding Support to provide breastfeeding support services across the locality.

This is deemed to be consistent with the conditions agreed by the Locality Board at its meeting on the 18th of July 2023, namely that projects address at least one of the following criteria:

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

3.2.3 The Board is also asked to note the awards that have been made under the delegation to the Senior Manager, Safe and Strong Communities agreed on the 18th of July 2023 meeting:

- The award of £5,000 from the 0-19 service allocation fund to The Brewery Arts Centre to run a dance event.
- The award of £5,000 from the 11-19 universal services allocation to Bardsea Malt Kiln Village Hall for refurbishment of a play park.
- The award of £4,500 from the 11-19 universal services allocation to Furness Tradition for community band tutoring and an instruments library.
- The award of £3,100 from the 11-19 universal services allocation to Sedbergh Book Town for children's events at the Booktown festival.
- The award of £1,500 from the 11-19 universal services allocation to Cornerstone Community Church (Ignite Sedbergh) for youth club equipment and a trip.

- The award of £795 from the 11-19 universal services allocation to the Heron Theatre for a children's literary event.
- The award of £200 from the 11-19 universal services allocation to The Rotary Club of Kendal for a technology tournament.

3.3 Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group.

3.3.1 The Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group met on the 12th of March 2024 (Action Notes are provided at Appendix II). The Working Group received a presentation from Kendal Parish Church on development plans and a presentation on the current adult learning offer.

3.3.2 At its meeting on the 18th of October 2023 the Locality Board agreed that awards up to £5,000, in respect of the South Lakeland Building Community Assets Budget be delegated to the Senior Manager Safe and Strong Communities in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequality Working Group the Chair and Vice Chair of the South Lakeland Locality Board and the relevant ward Member/s (Ref: Westmorland and Furness Council South Lakeland Locality Board, meeting 18th October 2023, Minutes sec. 29 (3)). Accordingly, the Locality Board is recommended to approve the award of £10,500 from the Priority Investment Fund (Strong and Connected Communities Programme) to Hallgarth Community Centre (£8,000 from those funds being considered by the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequality Working Group and £1,500 from those funds being considered by the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Working Group). If this recommendation is approved a further £1,000 will be allocated from Community Grants providing a total grant of £10,500.

This is deemed to be consistent with the priorities agreed by the Locality Board at its meeting on the 18th of July 2023, namely that projects contribute to at least one of the following:

- Building Community Assets.
- Enabling communities to reduce inequalities.
- Enabling communities to build opportunity.
- Enabling communities to achieve greater independence.

3.3.3 The Board is also asked to note the award that has been made under the delegation to the Senior Manager Safe and Strong Communities agreed on the 18th of October 2023 meeting:

- The award of £5,000 from the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities budget to Windermere & Bowness Town Council Inspira for the street marshals pilot scheme.

3.4 **Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Working Group.**

3.4.1 The Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Working Group met on the 13th of March 2024 (Action Notes are provided at Appendix III). The Working Group received an update on the development of a Parish Council Biodiversity Toolkit. The Working Group agreed to recommend that £1,500 from the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Budget be granted to Hallgarth Community Centre (this in combination with those funds recommended by the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group (3.3.2) and a £1,000 Community Grant) to contribute to the purchase of trees and shrubs as part of a large-scale outdoor improvement project.

3.4.2 At its meeting on the 18th of October 2023 the Locality Board agreed that awards up to £5,000, in respect of the South Lakeland Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Budget be delegated to the Senior Manager Safe and Strong Communities in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequality Working group the Chair and Vice Chair of the South Lakeland Locality Board and the relevant ward Member/s (Ref: Westmorland and Furness Council South Lakeland Locality Board, meeting 18th October 2023, Minutes sec. 29 (4)). No recommendations for grants exceeding £5,000 were made at this meeting of the Working Group.

3.4.3 The Board is asked to note the awards that have been made under the delegation to the Senior Manager Safe and Strong Communities agreed on the 18th of October 2023 meeting:

- The award of £4,000 from the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Budget to Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall towards the cost of new solar panels.
- The award of £3,000 from the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Budget to Coniston Parish Council towards a biodiversity project.
- The award of £500 from the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Budget to Greenside Kendal (Fellside Forum) for the purchase of plug plants and seeds.

3.5 Community Grants

3.5.1 The Board is asked to note the following Community Grants awarded in accordance with the criteria regarding Community Grants agreed by Cabinet at its meeting of the 12th of September 2023 and under the authority delegated to the Senior Manager Communities by the Board at its meeting on the 18th of July 2023.

- £5,000 to Field Broughton Parish Rooms toward re-slating and insulation of kitchen roof.
- £3,332 to Grange Town Council (Grange Medical Centre) towards Defibrillators.
- £3,025 to Ambleside Sports Association Ltd. towards the purchase of equipment.
- £1,775 to Windermere & Bowness Town Council towards the Bowness Marshalls pilot scheme.
- £750 to Sedbergh Parish Council for coach parking survey costs.
- £500 to Coniston Parish Council for return of the Bluebird celebrations.
- £300 to Ambleside Parish Centre to reimburse consumables utilised in the major snow incident in Dec 2023.
- £300 to Park House Hawkshead (Scout & Guides) to reimburse consumables utilised in the major snow incident in Dec 2023.

3.6 Money Advice

3.6.1 Council has allocated £47,550 to South Lakeland's Money and Debt Advice service which is currently delivered by South Lakes Citizen's Advice, these funds are delegated to the Locality Board which is recommended to approve the award of a grant of £47,550 to South Lakes Citizen's Advice for continuation of this service.

3.7 Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund

3.7.1 At its meeting on the 25th of January 2024 the Locality Board approved the award of £20,000 to Coniston and Colton for Improving sustainable travel including signage and road markings at Coniston Church of England Primary School and Bandrake Head, Colton. Works on this have been previously ordered therefore the Locality Board is recommended to recommend the Community Transport Grants Panel approve reallocation of this £20,000 to the Friends of the X112 Bus.

3.8 Devolved Communities Budget

3.8.1 At its meeting of the 13th of February 2024, the Cabinet for Westmorland and Furness approved the South Lakeland Locality Board revenue allocation totalling £1,270,968 as described below:

- 0 to 19 Services Allocation - £76,335
- 11 to 19 Universal Services Allocation - £32,428
- Money Advice Allocation - £47,550
- General Provisions - £82,655
- Community Planning (Growth Bid) Fund - £100,000
- Highways Revenue - £932,000

To facilitate continuation of the working practices established by the Locality Board it is recommended that:

3.8.2 The Board allocate £108,763 (£76,335 from the 0-19 Services Allocation and £32,428 from the 11-19 Universal Services Allocation) to support children and young people aged 0-19. Recommendations with respect to the use of this funding to be made by the Children and Young People Working Group for consideration by the Board or by the Senior Manager Communities as set out in the recommendation above.

This to continue to provide support for local children and young people in accordance with those criteria in the Cabinet Guidance.

3.8.3 The Board allocate £30,000 from the General Provisions Allocation to support a South Lakeland Community Grants Scheme. This scheme to be administered in accordance with the criteria regarding Community Grants agreed by Cabinet at its meeting of the 12th of September 2023 and with authority to approve grants delegated to the Senior Manager Communities as per the decision of the Board at its meeting on 18th of October 2023.

3.8.4 The Board allocate £76,327 (£50,000 from the Community Planning (Growth Bid) and £26,327 from the General Provisions Allocation) to support climate action and increased biodiversity. Recommendations with respect to the use of this funding to be made by the Climate Action and Increasing Biodiversity Working Group for consideration by the Board or by the Senior Manager Communities under the proposed delegation in the recommendation. The funding is to be administered in accordance with the criteria set out in the Locality Board report of 18 October 2023. This to continue to progress the priority of the Board 'caring for our climate and reducing our carbon footprint' agreed by the Board at its meeting on the 18th of July 2023.

3.8.5 The Board allocate £76,328 ((£50,000 from the Community Planning (Growth Bid) and £26,328 from the General Provisions Allocation)) to support building community assets and addressing inequalities. Recommendations with respect to the use of this funding to be made by the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequality Working Group for consideration by the Board or by the Senior Manager Communities under the proposed delegation in the recommendation above. The funding is to be administered in accordance with the criteria set out in the Locality Board report of 18 October 2023. This to continue to progress the priorities agreed by the Board at its meeting on the 18th of July 2023, namely:

- Building Community Assets.
- Enabling communities to reduce inequalities.
- Enabling communities to build opportunity.
- Enabling communities to achieve greater independence.

3.8.6 The Destination Hawkshead grant was approved under the authority delegated to the Senior Manager (Safe and Strong Communities) acting in consultation with the Chair of the South Lakeland Locality Board and the Building Community Assets and Addressing Inequalities Working Group agreed at the meeting of the South Lakeland Locality Board on the 18th of October 2023 (Ref: Minutes of a Meeting of the South Lakeland Locality Board held on Wednesday, 18 October 2023, sec 29).

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

1. South Lakeland Locality Board has a key role in local community leadership, it is ideally placed to progress the Council Plan priorities through enabling collaborative local working across the priority themes. Close working with partner organisations and communities ensures that the interventions undertaken to address these priorities are relevant to our population and that local people are at the heart of council delivery.

2. The priorities of the South Lakeland Locality Board compliment those of the Council as a whole; the work of the Locality Board brings both additionality and emphasis that reflects the particular circumstances of the area.

3. Working Groups aligned to the agreed local priorities ensure the South Lakeland Locality Board is equipped with a decision making infrastructure that enables considered and effective progress with respect these priorities.

5. Consultation Outcomes

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. Reasons for the Recommendations

7.1 The recommendations in this report reflect the work of the South Lakeland Locality Board and its attendant working groups in describing local priorities and considering how devolved funds may best be employed to address these priorities.

8. Climate and Biodiversity Implications

8.1 The recommendations in this report include support for local initiatives aligned to the priorities of the South Lakeland Locality Board with respect to Climate Action and Improving Biodiversity.

9. Legal and Governance Implications

9.1 This report seeks approval to allocate the Locality Board budget as set out above. The Constitution provides that the Locality Board remit includes allocation of discretionary budgets, making decisions and developing activities in supporting locality working, projects and activities within the terms of any scheme that may be developed by the Cabinet (Part 2, Section 14, Constitution)

9.2 The Council (March 2024) agreed the Locality Board's revenue allocation. Cabinet (February 2024) agreed guidance in respect of allocations and the limitations of virements.

9.3 Locality Board members must satisfy themselves that the proposals to distribute grants are being made in accordance with agreed criteria to ensure consistency and transparency across the process. Due weight must be given in terms of equalities duties and fairness. Should the Council distribute funds not in accordance with these principles, then it could be at risk of legal challenge. Grant awards should be made subject to appropriate terms and conditions and with regard to the Council's Finance Procedure Rules. Members of the Locality Board will need to satisfy themselves that the proposed grant awards are being determined in accordance with criteria. The Council is under a legal obligation to comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Decisions of the Council may be challenged by judicial review if the subsidy control rules are not followed or not followed completely. Grants or other measures may be suspended, and orders for damages or recovery of any unlawful subsidy made. The Council may suffer reputational damage if an unlawful subsidy is made.

10. Human Resources Health Wellbeing and Safety Implications

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

11. Financial Implications

11.1 The current financial position for the Locality Board is summarised in Appendix IV to this report. There are currently unallocated resources totalling £17,498 in the budget.

11.2 Should recommendation 2.1 in this report be agreed, £5,135 will be committed from the 0-19 Services budget and £2,865 will be committed from the 11-19 Universal Services budget, fully committing both these budgets.

11.3 Should recommendation 2.2 be agreed, £8,000 will be committed from the Building Community Assets budget and £1,500 will be committed from the Climate Action and Diversity budget, fully committing these budgets.

11.4 If both recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 are agreed, the total budget will be fully committed.

12. Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 A screening Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken; it is not considered that a full Equality Impact Assessment is required.

13. Background Documents

13.1 Westmorland and Furness Council South Lakeland Locality Board, meeting 18th October 2023, Minutes sec. 29 (3, 4 & 6);

13.2 Westmorland and Furness Council South Lakeland Locality Board, meeting 18th July 2023, Minutes sec. 19 (7 & 12)).

13.3 [Cabinet Meeting 13 February 2024, 2024/25 Budget Proposals, Agenda item - 2024/25 Budget Proposals | Westmorland and Furness Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\) including Locality Board budgets and guidance App 3 Locality Board Budgets Guidance.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)