

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL
EDEN LOCALITY BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Eden Locality Board** held on Wednesday, 6 March 2024 at 6.00 pm at The Council Chamber, Penrith Town Hall, Corney Square, Penrith, CA11 7QF

PRESENT:

Cllr C Atkinson
Cllr L Baker (Vice-Chair)
Cllr P Bell
Cllr H Carrick
Cllr J Derbyshire
Cllr P Dew
Cllr M Eyles
Cllr M Hanley
Cllr N Hughes
Cllr N McCall
Cllr J Murray (Chair)
Cllr M Robinson
Cllr G Simpkins
Cllr V Taylor

Officers in attendance:

John Banks	Area Highways Network Manager
Heather Donaldson	Democratic Services Officer
Amy Hutson	Commercial & Adoptions Manager
Clare Paling	Development Officer, Active Cumbria
Nick Wright	Senior Manager, Community Services

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

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Connell and M Rudhall, and from Councillor S Castle-Clarke (Co-optee).

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest made, and no applications for dispensations.

44. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no Exempt Items on the agenda and therefore the public and press were not excluded from the meeting.

45. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was confirmed that no questions or statements had been received by members of the public.

46. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed by Councillor P Bell
Seconded by Councillor M Robinson

and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

47. PRESENTATION FROM ACTIVE CUMBRIA

Members received a presentation from Clare Paling, Development Officer of Active Cumbria, in respect of the work of Active Cumbria, including an update on investment awards made to date. The presentation provided information on the following:

- the aims of Active Cumbria, which centred on physical activity and the strong evidence to support its benefits for physical and mental wellbeing, social and community development, and with particular reference to children and young people, the reduction in childhood obesity, improvement in educational attainment, greater emotional resilience and improvements in early years;
- investment in physical activity including a £22,650 reconditioning fund from Cumbria Public Health working with Age UK, The Hiking Household, Fit4All, Move it or Lose it and Get Active, a £9,609 Together Fund from Sport England working with various organisations to provide training and equipment for a range of audiences, and a £27,664 investment at Samuel Kings School Alston to provide fitness classes, rugby coaching, swimming lessons for Year 7-8 students, football equipment, coaching certificates and the establishment of an archery club;
- the development of the 'Street Tag' app, which had engaged all schools in Cumbria and other groups and encouraged physical activity through games, social interaction and friendly competition with others while walking, running and cycling, for example; and
- future investment based on existing data from current projects and work streams, and on engagement with funders and the Council.

In reply to a question about engaging with the Council to find ways to increase activity for young people in secondary schools, and in particular, students who did not participate in team sports or who were less active, the Development Officer commented that Active Cumbria fully endorsed this approach and was working to promote greater understanding of behaviours linked to physical activity, and to develop an holistic and supportive approach to all students. She outlined Active Cumbria's engagement with health partners and the Council's wellbeing services, and encouraged Members to contact her with ideas and with information about groups that might benefit from involvement with any aspect Active Cumbria's work.

Data was available from the schools' engagement tracker which could show general trends in non-engagement. The Board agreed that this data could be useful to inform the Place Action Groups' work streams, and emphasised the importance of understanding why there was non-engagement in order to be able to address it. The Development Officer said that she would be happy to make presentations to the Groups on this.

The Development Officer confirmed that the Cumbria School Games would take place in Carlisle on 27 June 2024, and that Active Cumbria would be involved.

The Board thanked the Development Officer for her presentation and for the positive and effective work of Active Cumbria.

[Note: Councillor P Bell left the meeting at this point.]

48. SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES

The Senior Manager Community Services presented his report which gave information from across the Thriving Community teams, including Community Development and Public Health, provided an update on the work in each area, identified activity against priorities, highlighted any current issues and outlined the overall current budget position.

He informed the Board that the report had prioritised budget reporting, grant awards and financial decisions due to the approaching end of the financial year. The grant reports for all funding awards had previously been emailed to Members, and the report included a summary spreadsheet of Eden Locality Board grants and allocations at Appendix 6.

In response to a question from Councillor Dew about the £24,495 remaining in the Local Sustainable Travel and Transport Fund, the Senior Manager Community Services confirmed that this would be rolled over into the next financial year 2024/25 and this would include any residual monies in the Eden Community Transport Grants Fund. The Senior Manager, Community Services stated that there was another round of applications currently open for this fund.

Councillor Carrick asked what the Council's funding policy and guidelines were in respect of income-generating events for external organisations, emphasising the importance of maintaining equality in support provided by the Council, whilst also ensuring that lower income groups were effectively targeted. The Senior Manager Community Services confirmed that he would investigate this matter.

In response to a question from Councillor Taylor about how to maximise the benefit of the Planting for Pollinators Project, the Senior Manager Community Services said that Community Development Officers, Parish and Town Councils and other community groups would be encouraged to get involved. Councillor Dew expressed concern about the level of expenditure on the project, given the cost of living crisis. Other Board Members highlighted the fact that it supported the Council's priority of addressing climate change and encouraging biodiversity.

To further the efficient transaction of business, the Chair proposed that Members considered the recommendations in the following order:

Recommendations at paragraphs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6 of the report;
Recommendation 2.5 of the report.

A motion to approve recommendations 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6 was proposed by Councillor M Robinson and seconded by Councillor V Taylor. A vote was taken and Members unanimously approved the recommendations set out at 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6.

A motion to approve recommendation 2.5 was proposed by Councillor M Robinson and seconded by Councillor V Taylor. A vote was taken and a majority of Members approved the recommendation set out at 2.5.

RESOLVED that:

1. the status of the Eden Locality Board discretionary budgets and the commitments and expenditure to date, be noted;
2. the Strong and Connected Communities programme of local investment as described at paragraphs 3.4 to 3.6 of the report, be approved;
3. the Children and Young People Working Group recommendation for reallocating the £10,000 strategic priority project allocation to support additional 0-19 fund applications as described at paragraph 3.9 of the report, be agreed;
4. an allocation of £2,500 from the 11-19 Universal Service fund to Threlkeld Young People Club as recommended by the Children and Young People Working Group as described at paragraph 3.10 of the report, be agreed.
5. support for the development of a Planting for Pollinators project in Eden via an allocation of £20,000 from the Locality Board Priorities budget as described at paragraph 3.14 of the report, be agreed; and
6. the funding awards contained within the report between paragraphs 3.1 - 3.17, be noted.

[Note: Councillor P Dew left the meeting at this point.]

49. HIGHWAYS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY CAPITAL HIGHWAY DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25

The Board considered the Area Highway Network Manager's report which provided foresight of the 2024-2025 Westmorland & Furness indicative Capital Highway Delivery Plan supported by the Highways and Transport Strategic Board, pending Cabinet approval. The information was for noting by the Board, and summarised the site-specific named schemes such as inspections and surveys, footways works, bridge maintenance, road resurfacing, surface dressing and patching within Westmorland and Furness, including those within the Eden Locality Board area.

[Note: Councillor C Atkinson left the meeting at this point]

In response to questions from the Board, the Area Highway Network Manager confirmed that further details specific to works timetabling and road closures would be reported to Members as soon as finalised; and the list of works would be prioritised according to budget and severity of damage, and would be subjected to continued analysis and revisions.

The Board expressed concern about the nationwide problem of insufficient resources for highway maintenance and repair, and the Chair added that the Board's views would continue to be represented at the Strategic Highways and Transport Committee. In response to a request from Members, the Senior Manager Community Services would explore the current status and availability of funding through Lengthsman-style schemes or any successive replacement funding, and report any findings to the Board.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Highways Capital Scheme list for 2024/25, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

50. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business considered at the meeting.

51. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next programmed meeting of the Eden Locality Board would be held on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Penrith.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm