



<b>Report Title</b>	Eden Locality Board Devolved Communities Budget
<b>Meeting</b>	Eden Locality Board
<b>Meeting Date</b>	24 April 2024
<b>Report Author</b>	Nick Wright – Senior Manager, Community Services
<b>Lead Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Cllr Virginia Taylor – Sustainable Communities and Localities
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All in Eden
<b>PUBLIC. PART EXEMPT, OR FULLY EXEMPT</b>	Public
<b>Appendices (if any)</b>	Appendix 1 – Eden Locality Board Devolved Communities Budget – Allocation and Proposal. Appendix 2 – Cabinet Guidance to Locality Boards.

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The devolved allocations for Eden locality Board have been detailed within the agreed 2024/25 Council Budget. This report outlines proposals, following a Locality Board workshop on 21 March to allocate the devolved communities budget during 2024/25.

## **2. Recommendations**

**For the reasons set out in this report, Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 2.1 Allocate £50,000 to a community fund grants programme.
- 2.2 Allocate £16,000 to a sustainable transport grants programme.
- 2.3 Allocate £29,393 to enable projects and interventions targeting Eden Locality Board priorities.
- 2.4 Allocate £31,148 to a 0-19 grants programme.
- 2.5 Allocate £10,000 to support a project (or projects) supporting strategic priorities for those aged 0-19.
- 2.6 Allocate £17,016 towards 11-19 Universal Services.
- 2.7 Allocate £48,000 to enable projects within each Place Action Group area with £6,000 being ringfenced for spend in each area.
- 2.8 Members note the decision by council to allocate £34,870 to enable a Money Advice Service and agree to the continuation of this service via Citizens Advice Carlisle and Eden.

2.9 Agree that decisions on budget allocations and grants of up to £5,000 are delegated to the Senior Manager Community Services, with the agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair of Eden Locality Board.

### **3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations**

3.1 The 2024/25 Locality Board budget was agreed by full Council at its meeting on 22 February 2024. The delegated budget lines are streamlined to afford Locality Board the opportunity to vary specific allocations in accordance with the Board's priorities.

3.2 To consider the most appropriate way to allocate their devolved funding in line with current Locality Board priorities, Members reviewed budget lines at a workshop session on 21 March.

3.3 The proposed allocation of Locality Board's budget is outlined in Appendix 1 for Members' consideration, and the following paragraphs outline the rationale for these proposals

3.4 Where Council has allocated funds to the General Provision, 0-19 Services and Universal Youth Services; the Locality Board may vire funds between these accounts should it choose to do so.

3.5 Cabinet guidance to Locality Board on its devolved budgets is available in appendix 2.

3.6 It is suggested that £50,000 is allocated to a community fund for Eden. As with last year's programme, applications will be welcomed from locally based voluntary and not for profit groups involved in community projects or initiatives that demonstrate lasting community benefit. There is more information on the [community fund](#) available on the Westmorland and Furness website.

3.7 While funding decisions will follow Eden Locality Board's agreed scheme of delegation. A Community Grants panel mirroring that which existed last year for the legacy Eden Community Fund will make recommendations. This was felt by Members to be good practice and retain the insight of a number of key officers on funding decisions.

3.8 It is suggested that £16,000 is allocated to support sustainable transport grants with funding decisions devolved to the Community Transport Grants Panel which will meet a maximum of 4 times throughout the year.

3.9 The Panel will consider each application on its merits including the impact which the service will provide for the local community, including addressing social isolation. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their aspirations will align with environmental credentials including reducing single vehicle journeys and promoting sustainable travel, including the use of more environmentally friendly vehicles. Applicants are also encouraged to provide any background information regarding the local requirement for their proposal including any data on potential passenger usage and support for the proposal. Applicants should demonstrate how their proposals will be sustainable once

the funding has elapsed or provide a suitable exit strategy.

- 3.10 It is suggested that £29,393 is allocated to the Locality Board priorities budget line and is available to support project work and service investments aimed at supporting the Board's agreed priorities. Members will be fully engaged in the delivery of this work through the Locality Boards ways of working. Updates and requests for decision will be tabled at each Locality Board meeting via this paper.
- 3.11 It is suggested that £31,148 is allocated to enable 0-19 youth grants. Each grant application will be discussed at the Eden Locality Board Children and Young People Working Group.
- 3.12 The Locality Board 0-19 budget is available for Locality Boards to allocate within their areas in order to support positive activities, both targeted and mainstream, designed to improve outcomes for children and young people and reduce inequalities. In allocating funds from this budget, councillors should satisfy themselves that projects address at least one of the following criteria:
- Providing access to play, recreational, leisure or outdoor activities.
  - Providing 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.
- 3.13 Of the 0-19 total allocation, it is suggested £10,000 is allocated to support project work targeting strategic priorities for young people as recommended by the Children and Young People Working Group.
- 3.14 Universal youth services can best be described as a safe space where children and young people can go to access a range of positive, age-appropriate activities. Council has allocated £17,016 to support the continued strategic development of universal youth services in Eden. It is recommended that this budget line is discussed at the Children and Young People Working Group and a further recommendation is tabled at a future Locality Board meeting.
- 3.15 Eden Locality Board Members (supported by community officers) have an ambition to establish Place Action Groups as local partnership working groups to establish and achieve local priorities. 8 PAGs will be embedded over the coming months. To assist these groups in initial priority setting and project work, it is suggested that each group has an allocation of £6,000 ringfenced for use in each PAG area.

3.16 Members are asked to note the decision by Council to allocate £34,870 to Eden's Money and Debt Advice service which is currently delivered by Citizen's Advice Carlisle and Eden (CACE). Members are asked to agree that the continuation of this service. An engagement session with CACE to enable Members to fully understand the service will be added to the workshop programme over the coming months.

3.17 It is recommended that decisions on budget allocations and grants of up to £5,000 are delegated to the Senior Manager, Community Services, with the agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair of Eden Locality Board. Any decision for an amount above £5,000 will be brought to Eden Locality Board for Member decision.

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

4.1 The community leadership role of Eden Locality Board has the potential to link to all of the Council Plan priorities through improved collaborative locality working. Increased locality-based working and shaping services locally can ensure that priorities remain relevant to our communities and keep local people at the heart of council delivery.

4.2 Eden Locality Board agree its own targeted priorities based on local issues and opportunities while remaining in line with wider Council priorities.

4.3 The locally devolved funding is available for the Locality Board to allocate within the area to support positive outcomes for the communities of Eden. This funding can be targeted to initiate new activity or to enhance / complement existing provision according to locally determined need.

#### **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 are to enable timely and appropriate application of Eden Locality Boards Devolved Communities Budget.

#### **8. Climate and Biodiversity Implications**

8.1 There are no climate and biodiversity implications directly related to this report.

## **9. Legal and Governance Implications**

9.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Locality Board will undertake to allocate funding grants within the terms of a Community Grants Scheme developed by the Cabinet. To 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 Cabinet guidance is attached at Appendix 2 and the Locality Board should have due regard to this guidance on the use of the Locality Boards revenue budget allocation and criteria. This includes Highways revenue, general Budget, 0-19 Budget 11-19 Universal Services allocation and money advice.

9.3 The Locality Board is empowered in accordance with the Constitution to agree and keep under review the implementation of Local Sustainable Transport schemes for the area. Local Sustainable transport schemes could include footpaths and rights of way, cycling and walking improvements, school streets, community transport support. The fund will help improve public health and the environment by reducing congestion, air pollution, carbon emissions and supporting healthier lifestyles.

9.4 The Director of Thriving Communities is responsible for poverty and food inclusion, community power and grant programme commissioning under 3.23 of the Scheme of Delegation found in Part 2 Section 6 of the Constitution. The Director is responsible for agreeing the allocation of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Household Support Fund (HSF), for Locality Boards to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials.

9.5 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 Implications**

10.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **11. Financial Implications**

11.1 The finance implications are contained in the body of this report.

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

12.1 There is no Equality Impact Assessment for this report.

**13. Risk Implications**

13.1 There are no risks identified as part of this report.

**14. Background Documents**

14.1 No background documents.