

Public Document Pack



Fells and Solway Community Panel

Date: Thursday, 14 March 2024

Time: 10.30 am

Location: Dalston Victory Hall, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7QB

Present: Cllr A Markley (Chair), Cllr E Lynch (Vice-Chair), Cllr T Allison and Cllr K Thurlow

In Attendance Community Development Officer, Community Development Officer Active Cumbria, Area Planning Manager, Cumberland Network Manager and Senior Specialist - Democratic

30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor Johnson and the Director of Resources.

31 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

32 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

33 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public not be excluded from the meeting for any item of business on the agenda.

34 Investing in our Neighbourhood Report

Members received a report which set out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to the Fells and Solway Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive.

The Community Development Officer tabled an amended Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Investment Fund Summary with up to date figures at the meeting.

The Community Development Officer provided members with an overview of three current investment applications which required approval by the panel.

The North Allerdale Development Trust (NADT) were applying for funding to facilitate two youth groups: The Silloth Friday Night Project and Kirkbride Youth Group; Chrysalis (Cumbria) Ltd were applying for funding towards expanding their outreach and holiday provision activities at weekends and evenings and new IT equipment to support that; for improvement works to Jubilee Walk in Aspatria a joint team were applying for funding to install a soak away and for resurfacing.

Following consideration members unanimously agreed to all three applications.

The report also set out for information all approved investments not exceeding £1,500 that had been authorised by the Senior Manager, panel Chair and relevant local Member and details on additional investment within the panel area.

Members were presented with a draft Neighbourhood Investment Plan (NIP) for consideration and adoption. The NIP set out the framework around Community Panels and the Community Network together with the panel's agreed priorities. The first version identified some activity already to be taken however the Plan was to be a live, working document to reflect ongoing conversations with the communities and stakeholders.

The panel held a discussion around where to focus attention going forward and what actions could be included in the NIP to help achieve the agreed priorities.

From the discussion the following actions were agreed -

- Community resilience - the Community Development Officer to begin a mapping exercise prioritising areas across the Fells and Solway Panel area where we feel we could help.

It was agreed to make contact with Wigton Town Council and discuss the work they had previously carried out on emergency response groups.

- Supporting community facilities and activities – the Community Development Officer to map out public assets, identifying what was working well and not so well.

- Wigton Town Borderlands Place Programme – report on progress of the funding programme and work with the Town Investment Plan.

With regards to the panel's agreed priorities the members had a discussion about the wording of the priority – Highways and Transport Issues feeling it wasn't quite capturing their intended focus.

One member felt that 'Environment' should also be included in that priority to change emphasis to include green issues rather than Highways. Other members felt strongly that Highways should remain as that was what they received the most complaints about from residents.

It was also suggested that the word 'Issues' be removed as the work was to be seen as pro-active not just reactive to raised issues.

Following discussion all members agreed that the third priority be re-worded to 'Highways, Transport and Environment'.

Members discussed the option of including Public Participation at future panel meetings. It was noted currently that facility was not available, the reason being it was felt the associated Network Events were more geared up for engaging with the public, communities and groups on a less formal setting unrestricted by a set process. The Community Panels did however have the option of either adopting the Cumberland Council Public Participation Scheme (PPS) or developing one of their own.

Members were not in favour of adopting the Cumberland PPS feeling it too formal and restrictive but did wish to express an interest in the possibility of developing a PPS that worked better for Community Panels only.

RESOLVED – that,

1. The report be noted;
2. The agreed priorities were considered to better understand where the focus needed to be going forward and actions agreed as set out above. The third priority be re-worded as 'Highways, Transport and Environment';
3. £7,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to North Allerdale Development Trust (NADT) towards Silloth Friday Night Project and Kirkbride Youth Group. The amount included £2,614 from the Fells & Solway allocation, a £2,386 contribution from the local member for Silloth's allocation and £2,000 from the local member for Thursby's allocation;
4. £3,700 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Chrysalis (Cumbria) Ltd towards IT equipment for a pilot outreach and holiday programme. This amount included £1,750 from the Fells & Solway allocation, a £1,150 contribution from the local member for Wigton's allocation and £800 from the local member for Thursby's allocation;
5. Up to £8,917 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund towards improvements to Jubilee Walk, Aspatria. The amount included up to £330 from the Fells & Solway allocation, a £6,000 contribution from the local member for Aspatria's allocation and £2,587 from the Environment Fund 2022/23 which was carried over and ring-fenced for the project;
6. The Neighbourhood Investment Plan (NIP), as presented up to 31 March 2025, be agreed;
7. The Neighbourhood Investment Plan (NIP) be reviewed at each Community Panel meeting going forward;
8. The Fells and Solway Community Panel's expression of interest in the possibility of developing a Public Participation Scheme be noted.

35 Community Panel Update

Members received a detailed report which provided an update on recent activity within the Fells and Solway Community Panel area over the last quarter period.

In presenting the report the Area Planning Manager advised members on progress with recruitment of co-opted members to the panel. Advertisement for the positions had closed on 29 February with a great response received. Shortlisting of applications was due to take place with member involvement W/c 18 March with final appointment(s) to be made at the June panel meeting. It was confirmed that those decisions would be taken at the start of the June meeting allowing any successful candidates to participate in the remaining items of business.

The Community Development Officer, Active Cumbria was present at the meeting and provided a brief update on recent activity carried out or scheduled to happen in the Fells and Solway area.

Members were encouraged to join the 'Ramblers Wellbeing Walks', a good network opportunity with groups and communities.

The panel noted a summary on the workings of the Local Focus Hub. During discussion members considered the benefits of inviting officers from the Hub to attend a future meeting of the panel. As one of the priorities of the panel was 'Community safety and rural crime' one suggestion instead was to plan a Network Event, with support from the Hub partner agencies, later on in the year. Members welcomed the idea and it was agreed for the Community Development Officer to make contact with the Local Focus Hub Manager.

RESOLVED that -

1. The report be noted;
2. A Network Event be developed around the 'Community Safety and rural crime' priority to be held later in the year.

36 Highways and Transport Strategic Board Update

The Highways Network Manager provided the Panel with an update for the items considered at the previous Highways and Transport Strategic Board, covering in particular the Capital Programme Update and the Highways Funding Allocation for 2024-25.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Highways and Transport Strategic Board meeting held on 30 January 2024 be noted.

37 Highways Matters

The Highways Network Manager provided an update to the panel on upcoming works and schemes in the Fells and Solway area, for some where possible providing intended timescales and allocation.

The panel thanked the officer for attending to present the information.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

38 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the suggested future meeting dates for Fells and Solway Panel be noted. Final dates to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of Cumberland Council on 15 May 2024.

The meeting finished at 12.34 pm

	Allocation	Actual Spend	Pending Agreement	Remaining Balance
FELLS & SOLWAY	£ 30,727.00	£ 24,947.75	£ 5,694.00	£ 85.25
ASPATRIA	£ 6,000.00	£ -	£ 6,000.00	£ -
DALSTON & BURGH	£ 6,000.00	£ 4,757.00	£ -	£ 1,243.00
SOLWAY COAST	£ 6,000.00	£ 3,111.00	£ 2,886.00	£ 3.00
THURSBY	£ 6,000.00	£ -	£ 2,800.00	£ 3,200.00
WIGTON	£ 6,000.00	£ 4,350.00	£ 1,650.00	£ -
TOTALS	£ 60,727.00	£ 37,165.75	£ 19,030.00	£ 4,531.25



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