



Report to Council

Meeting Date: 6 March 2024

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places Portfolio Holder**

Report of: Councillor Denise Rollo

Our first Economic Summit will have taken place by the time Council meets and this report is presented – but a key aim of that day is to identify a way forward to provide economic opportunity for our young people, putting this at the front and centre of all we do. They are Cumberland's future and we want to provide opportunities that will make them want to live and work here.

Part of this Council's commitment to deliver on that is how we will manage our apprenticeship programme, and I am delighted to say that one of our first steps is to promote apprentice places to our young people with care experience. As an Executive we will work together to ensure our responsibilities as corporate parents span the breadth of this Council, and don't stop at 18.

Our enforcement team continue to do sterling work, with two recent successful prosecutions for fly tipping. We have also given the go ahead for some rights of way projects in Whitehaven.

We are also in the process of putting out to tender the routes for phase one of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Plus funding, following consultation with the public on their priorities, and we hope these routes will be in operation for late April/May.

I should point out that this is subject to companies tendering to run those routes however and I will reiterate a point made many times – that short term funding allocations are no way to run public services. We do welcome the award of BSIP Plus funding, but we must also acknowledge that the Government awarded nothing to Cumbria under the first phase of the BSIP Bus Back Better funding allocations. The people of Cumberland need public transport they can rely on, not a bus route that springs up and runs for 6 to 12 months until the subsidy dries up.

For future work on developing bus services across Cumbria the new Enhanced Partnership Forum has had its inaugural meeting, and our agreed first outcome as Cumberland will be to give additional support to existing community bus groups.

The consultation is live for the future of Cumberland waste services – I hope you've all input and are sharing widely with your constituents.