



Fells and Solway Community Panel

Investing in our Neighbourhoods

Meeting Date – 14 March 2024

Lead Officer – Paul Musgrave

1.0 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to this Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive. Where they have been received, this report presents investment applications for consideration and approval from the budget allocation.
- 1.2 This report also presents the draft Neighbourhood Investment Plan for consideration and progress against it will be reported to future meetings through this report.
- 1.3 The work of the Community Panel contributes to the achievement of the Council Plan 2023 - 2027 vision:
 - Cumberland Council takes a fresh approach to the delivery of inclusive services that are shaped by our residents and communities.
 - By enabling positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, prosperity and the environment we will fulfil the potential of our people and our area.
- 1.4 The Council Plan aims to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents through the following priorities:
 - Addressing inequalities
 - Local economies that work for local people
 - Environmental resilience and the climate emergency
 - Delivering excellent public services
- 1.5 This Community Panel has developed its own local priorities which were shared and discussed with our local communities and agreed formally by this Community Panel. They have been used by the Community Panel to inform the development of the draft Neighbourhood Investment Plan and in assessing investment applications.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of the report

- 2.2 Members to consider and discuss the agreed priorities to better understand where the focus needs to be going forward
- 2.3 Members agree that an amount of £7,000 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to North Allerdale Development Trust (NADT) towards Silloth Friday Night Project and Kirkbride Youth Group. This amount includes £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
- 2.4 Members agree that an amount of £3,700 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Chrysalis (Cumbria) Ltd towards a pilot outreach and holiday programme. This amount includes £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
- 2.5 Members agree that an amount of up to £8,917 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund towards improvements to Jubilee Walk, Aspatria. This amount includes 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 this project
- 2.6 Members agree the Neighbourhood Investment Plan (NIP), as presented up to 31 March 2025
- 2.7 Members agree to review the NIP at each Community Panel meeting.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF) budget allocation to this Community Panel is £60,727. This allocation is intended to enable the Community Panel to plan activity in their communities through investment. A summary of this fund is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 It was recommended and agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive in the report 'Devolution of Community Funds to Community Panels' presented 30 May 2023;

That all the Community Panels have the delegated authority to approve grant applications funded from a new 'Neighbourhood Investment Fund'.

It is proposed the NIF be managed by the Senior Manager, Community Services in conjunction with the Assistant Director, Communities and Localities.
- 3.3 Now that the Community Panel has formally agreed it's priorities, the Members will assess applications against the locally agreed priorities which are:
 - community infrastructure
 - community safety and rural crime
 - highways and transport
- 3.4 In addition to the priorities, there are a number of criteria / rules that must be adhered to as this relates to public funds (see **Appendix 2**). There may be occasion where applications are received that do not fit with the local priorities or meet the funding

criteria. In these cases, the applications will not be presented to the Community Panel. However, the Council works with other partners and will often be able to advise on other funding streams or will support a group so that they can meet the funding criteria.

- 3.5 Potential applicants are always advised to speak with the relevant Community Development Officer (CDO) prior to submitting an application. The CDO can offer advice and for this panel area, the CDO is Helen Esslemont
helen.esslemont@cumberland.gov.uk

4.0 Investment Applications

- 4.1 Appended to this report are the details of investment applications, for approval by Fells and Solway Community Panel. **See Appendices 3 – 5.**
- 4.2 Appendix 3 – CCGA/1989-24 NADT
- 4.3 Appendix 4 – CCGA/2020-24 Chrysalis (Cumbria) Ltd
- 4.4 Appendix 5 – CCGA/2037-24 Jubilee Walk, Aspatria
- 4.5 **NADT** – are applying for funding to facilitate two universal youth groups: The Silloth Friday Night Project and Kirkbride Youth Group.
- 4.6 The Friday Night Project is a weekly youth group providing sports, youth work, and community activities for young people aged 11 and above in Silloth and surrounding areas.
- 4.7 Kirkbride youth group is a monthly group offering sports, youth work, and arts and crafts sessions for young people aged 8 and above in Kirkbride and surrounding villages.
- 4.8 Together these groups offer support to over 200 young people.
- 4.9 Funding for these two vital projects has ceased, with funding for Silloth being withdrawn in December 2023 leaving them with minimal time to implement a contingency plan. The funding they are seeking would provide essential breathing space, allowing time to formulate a longer-term strategy to sustain and continue the valuable services offered by these group.
- 4.10 The total cost of the project is £13,593 and NADT are applying to the Fells and Solway Community Panel for £7,000.
- This application meets the following priority:
- community infrastructure
- 4.11 **Chrysalis (Cumbria) Ltd** – are applying for funding towards expanding their outreach and holiday provision activities at weekends and evenings and purchasing new IT equipment to support this.
- 4.12 Activities will include discos in the community, trips to the cinema, bowling, theatre and gym with a focus on supporting local initiatives in Wigton and surrounding area.
- 4.13 Individuals will be supported to research local opportunities, achieving IT skill development and transferable skills.

4.14 Adults with learning difficulties will expand their horizons by accessing a wider range of mainstream activities and opportunities to socialise with friends. Carers will receive additional respite and enable them some time away from caring responsibilities.

4.15 The total cost of the project is £20,298 and Chrysalis are applying to the Fells and Solway Community Panel for £3,700.

This application meets the following priority:

- community infrastructure

4.16 **Jubilee Walk Aspatria** – The Community Development team is working with the Corporate Assets team and local member on improvements to the footpath at Jubilee Walk, Aspatria.

4.17 Through funding received from 2021/22 and 2022/23 Environment Fund, work was undertaken by a local contractor to install a soak away and French drain and clear a blocked drain. This alleviated the problem of the footpath flooding.

4.18 Though the path no longer floods, some water does still collect at one end of the path and the surface of the path is very uneven.

4.19 Installing an additional soak away and resurfacing the path would bring it up to an acceptable standard, providing a dry and even surface for parents/ carers walking their children to school. It will also make the footpath, which is used by the wider community, more accessible for wheelchair users.

4.20 The total cost of the project is up to £8,917 and an amount of up to £8,917 is required.

This application meets the following priority:

- highways and transport

Investments to note as they have already been approved:

4.21 £1,217 was awarded from the local member for Dalston and Burgh's allocation to Cummersdale Parish Council towards improvements to Cummersdale village hall entrance.

4.22 £500 was awarded from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Meals on Wheels Cumbria towards setting up an emergency response hardship fund.

4.23 £500 was awarded from the local member for Dalston and Burgh's allocation to Beaumont Parish Council towards a summer rural play scheme.

4.24 £464 was awarded from the local member for the Solway Coast to the Lindow Hall, Bowness-on-Solway towards kitchen equipment for their warm space.

Neighbourhood Investment Plan

- 4.25 The draft Neighbourhood Investment Plan for this Panel area is attached at **Appendix 6**. This first version sets out the framework around Community Panels and the Community Network together with the agreed priorities. This will ensure there are very clear links between what has been identified as priority areas; where the Community Panel invest and what they invest in.
- 4.26 The priorities have been developed over the past 6 months and there have been a number of engagement sessions to complement a survey about whether these felt right for this panel area. The Council will continue to speak with communities about these priorities in order to refine them and identify relevant activity in addition to funding.
- 4.27 The Neighbourhood Investment Plan, as presented identifies some activity already and although Members are being asked to agree this as the final version, it will remain a live, working document to reflect ongoing conversations with the communities and other stakeholders.

Additional Investments

- 4.28 This report details information regarding additional investment within the panel area. To be noted by the panel.
- 4.29 Investment awards made by Active Cumbria.

Organisation	Project / Activity	£
Re-Conditioning Fund		
Age UK West Cumbria	Care to Move Project – Funding split between Re-conditioning Fund and Together Fund for Care to Move staff training.	£6,264
Home Group	Funding to support the delivery of physical activity within 8 older peoples living schemes throughout West Cumbria.	£5,960
Together Fund (Fund Finished September 2023)		
Aspatria Dream Scheme	Butterfly Project – Swimming for Older Adults	£3,402
Wigton Rugby Club	Funding to support additional exercise to music classes for older adults and those with physical disabilities in partnership with Keswick and Solway ICC	£1,821
Fit 4 Life	Funding to support care homes to deliver physical activity through Activate sessions for older adults	£2,625

PAUSE	County wide project to support women accessing PAUSE programme with suitable kit to engage in physical activity at home	£1,906
Watchtree Nature Reserve	Funding to support cycling (adapted cycles) and walking provision for menopause group and over 65's group	£5,948

4.30 Easter Holiday Activity Food Programme specific for the Fells and Solway Panel area.

Provider	Ward	Ages	Total Days of Activities	Allocation £
Aspatia Dreamscheme	Aspatia	6-16	4	£3,600
Watchtree Nature Reserve	Thursby	5-12	4	£960
Wigton Youth Station	Wigton	6-16	3	£1,068
			Total	£5,628

5.0 Options

Alternative Options Considered

5.1 No options considered.

Risks

5.2 There are no risks identified with the contents of this report.

Consultation

5.3 There has been no consultation associated with the contents of this report.

Legal Comment

5.4 No legal issues arise directly from the report. Any legal issues arising from the delivery of specific projects will be dealt with as they arise.

Finance Comment

- 5.5 The Neighbourhood Investment Fund is part of Communities and Localities within the Public Health and Communities Directorate.
- 5.6 The Neighbourhood Investment Fund budget for 2023/24 is £0.542m which is allocated to fund the 8 Community Panels to the values outlined on the Executive Report dated 30th May 2023.
- 5.7 The 2023/24 budget allocation to the Fells & Solway Community Panel is £60,727.
- 5.8 Approval is sought to agree a proposed funding allocation of £17,030.
- 5.9 It is recommended that the funding allocation is approved as it is within the confines of the available remaining 2023/24 budget as shown in the table below:

Fells & Solway Community Panel		Total	Fells & Solway	Aspatia	Dalston & Burgh	Solway Coast	Thursby	Wigton
2023/24 Budget Allocation		£60,727	£30,727	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000
Minus Approved Investments:	CCGA 1888-23	-£440			-£440			
	CCGA 1887-23	-£1,500	-£1,000		-£500			
	CCGA 1890-23	-£5,286	-£4,286					-£1,000
	NADT	-550						-550
	Carlisle Youth Speaks	-100			-100			
	IA&F CIC	-800						-800
	Bowness CG	-650				-650		
	CCGA 1931-23	-10,000	-8,500			-1,500		
	CCGA 1934-23	-1,500	-1,000			-500		
	CCGA 1937-23	-5,000	-3,000		-2,000			
	CCGA 1953-23	-7,000	-6,000					-1,000
	CCGA 1941-23	-2,162	-1,162					-1,000
	Meals on Wheels	-500	-500					
	Cummersdale Parish Cnc	-1,217			-1,217			
	Beaumont Parish Cnc	-500			-500			
	Lindow Hall	-464				-464		
Minus proposed Investments:	CCGA 1989-24	-7,000	-2,614			-2,386	-2,000	
	CCGA 2020-24	-3,700	-1,750				-800	-1,150
	CCGA 2037-24	-6,330	-330	-6,000				
Balance of budget remaining:		£6,028	£585	£0	£1,243	£500	£3,200	£500

S Morris 26/02/2024

Impact Assessments

- 5.10 An assessment has not been completed.

Contact Officer:

CDO: Helen Esslemont, Community Development Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Investment Fund Summary

Appendix 2 - Community Investment Criteria

Appendix 3 – CCCGA/1989-24 NADT

Appendix 4 – CCGA/2020-24 Chrysalis (Cumbria) Ltd

Appendix 5 – CCCGA/2037-24 Jubilee Walk, Aspatria

Appendix 6 – Draft Fells and Solway Neighbourhood Investment Plan