



**South
Cumberland**
Community Panel

Date: Wednesday, 10 January 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Location: The Meeting Place, Main Street, Egremont,
CA22 2DR

Present: Cllr L Jones-Bulman (Chair), Cllr D Moore (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Eldon,
Cllr Dr B Kelly, Cllr S Pollen and Cllr A Pratt

In Attendance Director of Children and Family Wellbeing
Local Area Network Manager
Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom
Area Planning Manager
Community Development Officer
Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)

22 Apologies for Absence

No Apologies for Absence were received.

23 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

24 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED – there were no items on the agenda for the press and public to be excluded.

25 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October be approved.

26 Highways & Transport Strategic Board Meeting

The Chair, Vice Chair and the Local Area Network Manager as the Highways Representative provided the Panel with highlights from the minutes which related to the Panel area, with a specific focus on the road works being undertaken due to the levelling up funding which has a spend deadline date of 2025.

A Member asked if there was a dedicated contact for Members within the Levelling-Up Team. The Local Area Network Manager explained that the best contact would be himself, to allow the

team to focus on their work. He also highlighted the ongoing offer to all councillors to have a drive through their local area to ask any questions about ongoing/future works.

Members had a discussion regarding bus services and potential funding, with a request for further information, and including local members when creating schemes.

A Member asked when the Draft Programme of Works 2024/25 would be finalised, and the Local Area Network Manager confirmed that they would be finalised at the next Highways & Transport Strategic Board meeting.

RESOLVED – that the contents of the minutes be noted.

27 Town Deals & Borderlands Update

The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom provided the Panel with a Presentation to update them on the Towns Fund projects within Cleator Moor and Millom & Haverigg.

A Member queried if there was a list of people waiting to move into the Industrial Solutions Hub (iSH) and whether there would be any links with Sellafield. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom noted that a sustainable business case, a refined version of the original business case, was being produced to help ensure demand and need were being met with testing also being done regarding what organisations and businesses would need from the site, alongside education and links with Sellafield.

Members asked about the change of leadership within iSH and whether the Council would be notified. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom explained that the seconded Chief Executive had now left and a recruitment process had taken place with the outcome of the process to be made immediately. The Panel were also assured that, as the Council have stakes in iSH, they would be notified of the recruitment outcome.

A Member queried whether the artwork in the square would remain which the Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom assured that it would remain but would be moved to the back of the square to allow the project to open up the area.

Members discussed the current Cleator Moor Activity Centre, including that there had been a new surface put in to allow for football and rugby to take place, and the inclusion of a gym within the Towns Fund project plan. It was noted that the project plan was to enhance the current gym in the Activity Centre to help increase the usage following the needs assessment survey. Members also voiced their request for the updated gym to be open on weekends.

A Member asked about the Levelling-Up funding received for the area and queried if a briefing could be had with the appropriate people. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom noted that the Levelling-Up funding was part of the Leconfield regeneration, which is a Cumberland Council project and not the Towns Fund.

Members had a discussion around the lack communications for the Towns Fund Projects and possible ways to improve it. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom noted the comments made and highlighted that a draft Communications Strategy was in the process of being agreed, with the Panel's comments being taken into consideration. It was also noted that all comments made by the public are also being considered, such as those received through the previous drop-in sessions and that easy access to the website for information was being explored.

A Member asked if it was possible to explore including an addition of LED lights which glow in the dark along the pathways being improved to help save electricity. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom noted that the discussion was being had around adding the LED lights to help improve the routes and attract footfall.

A Member raised concern regarding the rare plants which had been discovered at the Iron Line site and whether issues around the discovery had been resolved. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom noted that the team had taken on board the response from National England and adapted their design in response. It was also highlighted that due to the sensitivity of the site, there was ongoing design consultations with organisations such as National England and the RSPB to receive help on addressing issues as the project continues.

A Member asked for clarification whether the old NatWest building in Millom was still up for sale, which the Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom clarified as not being the case as it was one of Cumberland's first actions to purchase the building.

A Member queried if there was any additional information regarding potential dilapidated building that would be repurposed. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom explained that the grant aspect of the projects took dilapidated buildings into account for the regeneration theme but that the Towns Fund project was seen as a starting point that the towns could build on in the future to help with regenerating those buildings.

A Member asked if the streetlight in Haverigg would remain in place which the Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom confirmed that it would not be touched.

A Member queried whether there were any shortfalls in the funding for the projects and when construction work would begin. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom noted that there were currently some shortfalls in funding that the team were investigating possible options for external funding to help cover and help ensure that the project was completed within the budget. Although, the Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom did note that possible re-profiles could be done, with approval from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), to help meet the time constraints of using the funding (mid-2026). Regarding starting the construction work, the Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom commented that conversations were ongoing with the contractors regarding the exact details and agreement would be needed from the Council before any work started.

A Member asked whether the Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom was confident that the projects would meet the timescales for completion. The Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom confirmed that he was confident both Towns Fund projects were still on target.

Members thanked the Head of Towns Fund Cleator Moor and Millom for the presentation and thanked all of the team involved for all their hard work.

RESOLVED: that,

- 1) The presentation be noted.
- 2) A potential briefing on the Levelling-Up funding be considered for a future Panel meeting.

28 Introduction and update from the Industrial Solutions Hub (iSH)

With permission from the Chair, this item was removed from the agenda due to the Industrial Solutions Hub (iSH) no longer being able to attend and provide their presentation.

29 Community Panel Update

The Area Planning Manager provided an overview of the detailed report which updated Members on activity in the Community Panel area and included information regarding the Network Panel event, Cumbria Wildlife Trust Planting for Pollinators Scheme (included within Appendix 2), Cumbria Coastal Community Forest Ehenside Site (map within Appendix 3), the Food Cumberland Strategic Framework and Green to Grow event, Winter Help Leaflet (included within Appendix 4), King's Award for Voluntary Services for the Cumbria Federation of Young Farmers' Club, the Summer Holiday Activity and Food Programme and a Library Update.

A Member asked for clarification on the Food Cumberland Strategic Framework and how this would be delivered. The Area Planning Manager noted that there were two officers who had a dedicated focus on this Framework and the issue would be added to the agenda for the next meeting to provide the Panel with more information.

The Community Development Officer noted that there was a further update for the Libraries within the panel area, as a scheme for recycling small electronics was due to start imminently.

RESOLVED: that,

- 1) The contents of the report are noted.
- 2) The Priorities, as set out in paragraphs 3.8, be approved.
- 3) The Food Cumberland Strategic Framework be added to the agenda for the next meeting to provide the Panel with further information.

30 Investing in our Neighbourhood Report

Members received a report which set out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to this Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive. The Community Development Officer informed the Panel that there were 3 Community Investment Applications for either approval, disapproval, or deferment and one to be noted.

Members noted that, though they were okay to approve the amount requested for Always Another Way, they were uncomfortable with the precedent that would be set by approving funding for advertisements for a product that would end up costing members of the community money. Even with the cost of the session were at a subsidised rate.

A Member queried whether there would be a cost for attending a session for Mind in Furness. The Community Development Officer explained that there may be a small charge to cover room hire and refreshments but noted that, normally, such charges would be funded through the profits of their shop. However, due to a lower amount of trade through the shop, some costs may occur.

A Member asked what the difference was between an informal and a formal paint session. The Community Development Officer explained that it was most likely that the formal paint sessions would be held by professionals with specialist materials and the informal session would be held by volunteers.

A Member queried the change in the initial amount requested by Haverigg Inshore Rescue (HIR) of £13,000 and the amount the Panel were being asked to agree of £12,500. The Community Development Officer clarified that the initial amount was an overestimation and when HIR returned with updated quotes for the training and equipment, they provided the updated costing of the lower amount.

The Democratic Services Officer highlighted the need for an additional recommendation to cover a potential future issue, should there be a significant number of Members declaring disclosable pecuniary interests which result in the meeting not being quorate. The Members agreed with the aim of the recommendation.

RESOLVED: that,

- 1) The contents of the report be noted.
- 2) An amount of £400 allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Always Another Way to provide advertising for subsidised alternative therapies and aromatherapy massage to support those with mental health concerns be refused due to concerns regarding costs to service users and setting a precedent regarding funding advertisements.
- 3) An amount of £1,089 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Mind In Furness to provide creative arts activities for the Safe Space project based in Millom be agreed.
- 4) An amount of £12,500 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Haverigg Inshore Rescue to provide training and purchase equipment. be agreed.
- 5) An approval made as part of the less than £1,500 arrangement for £1,300 has been allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Growing Well, Egremont to purchase new kitchen and cooking equipment be noted.
- 6) Any applications received, where a significant amount of Members had to declare disclosable pecuniary interests which result in the meeting not being quorate (as the members had to leave the room), be delegated to the Chair, Assistant Director of Communities & Localities and the Director attached to this Community Panel for a decision outwith this meeting and that the outcome of the decision be reported to the next meeting of the Community Panel so there is a formal record.

31 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 6pm and will be held at Beckermest Reading Rooms, Beckermest.

The meeting finished at 7.35 pm