



**Whitehaven
and Coastal**
Community Panel

Date: Wednesday, 6 December 2023

Time: 6.00 pm

Location: Ivy Club, Bransty, Whitehaven, CA28 6HF

Present: Cllr G Minshaw (Chair), Cllr J Ghayouba, Cllr M Hawkins, Cllr J Forster and Cllr E Williamson

In Attendance Assistant Director of Strategy and Policy, Senior Manager – Community Services, Community Development Officer, Highways Representative and Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)

21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Gillian Troughton and Nik Hardy (Assistant Chief Executive).

22 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mike Hawkins declared an interest in agenda item 7, as a volunteer with Beck Bottom Community Garden (paragraph 2.2) and due to working for Health Hopes (Paragraph 2.3)

Councillor Jeanette Forster declared an interest in agenda item 7, relating to the grant application for Red Lonning Community Centre (paragraph 2.5) as a Trustee of the Community Centre and due to a personal connection to the applicant.

23 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public not be excluded from the meeting for any items of business on this occasion.

24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 7 September 2023.

25 Highways & Transport Strategic Board Meeting Minutes

The Panel received the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Highways Board held on 10 November 2023, with the Highways Representative providing the Panel with highlights from the minutes which related to the Panel area.

The Chair asked when the Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) public consultation would occur, for which the Highways Representative noted that there was currently no specific date but that the Member consultation would be take place in the New Year and the final results would need to ready by April. Highlighting that therefore public consultation would take place during the available period.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Highways and Strategic Board meeting held on 10 November be noted.

26 Community Panel Update

The Senior Manager – Community Services updated the Panel on the need to remove the Public Participation section of the report (Recommendation 2.4, paragraphs 3.18 and 3.19, and Appendix 3) due to changes being proposed to the Council's Constitution by the Constitution Working Group. The proposed changes would be sent to the Standards and Governance Committee for their approval before being sent to Full Council for the final agreement. Once the changes have been approved, the topic will be brought back to the Panels. The Senior Manager – Community Services also noted that recruitment for Co-Opted Members would begin in February following the Panel's agreement of the framework.

The Community Development Officer 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, Adult Learning, Library Update, Summer Holiday Activity and Food Programme, Winter Programme (included within Appendix 4), Red Lonning Community Centre, Bransty Community Group, and the Food Cumberland Strategic Framework and Green to Grow event.

Members thanked the Community Development Officer for all their hard work in helping community groups thrive and flourish, with specific mentions regarding the Red Lonning Community Centre and Bransty Community Group and their ongoing activities.

A Member asked about the criteria for Co-Opted Members, which the Community Development Officer highlighted would focus on the Panel's priorities and ensure that the correct experience to provide a difference for the community would be considered.

A Member noted that they would like to see a younger member of the community become Co-Opted onto the Panel and highlighted the potential option of working with the local member of the Youth Parliament to help with this. The Community Development agreed that this could be highlighted to the relevant officer when the recruitment process begins.

RESOLVED: that,

- 1) The contents of the report are noted.
- 2) The Priorities, as set out in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.6, be approved.
- 3) The process to recruiting up to 3 Co-Opted Members as part of the agreed Co-Opted Members Scheme, set out in paragraph 4.12 and Appendix 2, be agreed.

27 Investing in our Neighbourhood Report

The Senior Manager – Community Services highlighted a potential problem that Community Panels may face going forward when voting on applications, if for some reason the Panel should not be quorate and proposed an additional recommendation for the Panel to agree to

help with this potential issue. The Panel agreed with the proposed solution, as noted under resolution 2.

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 5 Community Investment Applications for either approval, disapproval, or deferment.

Councillor Hawkins and Councillor Forster left the meeting during the discussions around the applications which related to their Declarations of Interest, as noted under agenda item 2.

A Member asked that, going forward, a column be added to the investment summary table to highlight which priority the application met. The Community Development Officer agreed to add the additional information going forward.

Members discussed how the results from applications being approved and funding being provided was measured. The Community Development Officer noted that further information could be included within the Community Panel Update agenda item when possible.

A Member asked which training provider had been chosen regarding the Red Lonning Community Centre application, which the Community Development Officer clarified as being the Fire Service.

RESOLVED: that,

- 1) The contents of the report be noted.
- 2) 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.
- 3) An amount of £2,500 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Beck Bottom Community Garden towards interpretation panels/ information boards and a friendship bench for the gardens be agreed.
- 4) An amount of £7,280 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Healthy Hopes towards delivering a weekly health and wellbeing group at the New Life centre in Whitehaven be agreed subject to an addition to the project achievement report which would include a paragraph on the impact that the funding is making and case studies relating to that impact.
- 5) An amount of £6,485.25 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Healthy Hopes towards an Administration Support role for their organisation be agreed.
- 6) An amount of £1,800 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Red Lonning Community Centre towards First Aid training for centre volunteers, garden activities and equipment be agreed.
- 7) An amount of £5,000 is allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Keekle Village Hall towards Improvements to drainage and accessibility for Village Hall car park be agreed.
- 8) An additional column be added to the investment summary table to highlight which priority the application met.

28 Future Community Network Panel Meeting - verbal update

The Community Development Officer provided the Panel with a verbal update regarding the next Community Network Panel event which they are hoping will take place in the Spring.

The Community Development Officer also noted that an informal meeting would be organised to look at the Community Panel Investment Plan which was currently being worked on. And highlighted that the Investment Plan would need to be completed before next Network Panel event took place.

RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.

29 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Whitehaven & Coastal Community Panel will take place at 6pm on Thursday 14 March 2024 at Mirehouse Community Centre, Whitehaven, CA28 9SW.

The meeting finished at 6.40 pm