



Carlisle West Community Panel Update

Meeting Date – 9 September 2024

Lead Officer - Paul Musgrave

1.0 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 The report updates this Community Panel on recent activity by Cumberland Council within this Community Panel area.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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
- 1.4 This Community Panel has also identified the following priorities for this panel area which are:
 - City and Town Centre
 - Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Environmental Issues
 - Public Service Framework
 - Housing

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members note the contents of the report.

3.0 Background

3.1 This report sets out the activity that has taken place within this Community Panel area in the last quarter that has been led or supported by Cumberland Council. Where appropriate, it also makes reference to consultations that are Cumberland wide or specific to this area.

3.2 This Community Panel covers the wards of Belle Vue, Castle, Denton Holme, Morton and Yewdale

4.0 Achieving the Priorities

Operation Respect / Raffles

4.1 Operation Respect takes place in Raffles in the first week of the summer holidays on the 23 July 2024.

4.2 The event was led by Riverside Housing and supported by Cumberland Council.

4.3 Throughout the course of the day, a number of skips were placed on the estate. This allowed gardens with rubbish, furniture, and fly tipping to be tidied up and disposed of.

4.4 Enforcement officers also took part and targeted areas with rubbish and fly tipping issues.

4.5 The Lookout supported the event by providing a Holiday Activity Food session with inflatables on Heysham Park, by the Multi Use Games Area.

4.6 Nearly 500 hot meals were served at St Barnabas.

4.7 16 organisations were present to signpost and direct residents to local support service's such as Eden River's Trust, McMillan, NHS, Police, Riverside, and teams from Cumberland Council.

4.8 Over 2000 people attended the event. This will be the first of several community initiatives in Raffles.

4.9 The Belle Vue community group also continue to meet bi-monthly. These meetings are attended by Family Action, Riverside Housing, the Police, local community groups and volunteers.

4.10 This event meets the following panel priorities:

- Crime and Anti-social behaviour
- Housing
- Environmental

The Teenage Market

4.11 The Teenage Market was held in the City Centre on 22 June 2024.

- 4.12 The markets provide young people a free platform to network and showcase their creative talent.
- 4.13 The Sustainable Growth and Transport team and the Community Development team worked collaboratively to plan, co-ordinate and oversee the development of the market.
- 4.14 Date of the next event is 23 November 2024 at The Lanes Shopping Centre.
- 4.15 This event meets the following panel priorities:
 - Town and City Centre

Eden River's Trust

- 4.16 Eden River's Trust have worked with local schools to develop several projects to provide environmental education to children. Projects included:
 - Development of a new woodland program using Engine Lonning as an outdoor classroom for classes from Newtown School.
 - The Litter Monster's project, working with James Rennie school on Orton Road.
 - Working with Newlaithes School and Richard Rose Morton Academy to develop in class and river-based activities around the Caldew River.
- 4.17 Eden River's Trust also held the 'Engine Lonning Discovery Day' on 9 June. The event enabled residents to discover and enjoy nature and learn about local history of the area.
- 4.18 The event included a discovery trail through the wood, history information on the railway and romans, balsam removal along with activities and games. 120 people attended the event.
- 4.19 The investment from the Carlisle West panel in December 2023 was a key enabler for these projects and activities.
- 4.20 This event meets the following panel priorities:
 - Environmental

5.0 Wider Cumberland activity

Carlisle Adult Learning update

2023/24 Academic Year

- 5.1 The 2023/24 academic year finished on 31 July 2024. **448 learners** were successfully enrolled onto Skills provision, which includes GCSEs, Functional Skills, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Health and Wellbeing, and digital courses.
- 5.2 In addition, **1,069 learners** were enrolled onto non-accredited digital, maths (funded via Multiply funding), languages, arts and crafts, and health and wellbeing courses during 2023/24. These courses enabled learners to acquire new skills and prepare for further training or employment.
- 5.3 The figures above also include provision delivered to **111 learners** regarded as 'Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities' (LLDD), providing opportunities to learn new skills and develop their independence. Across Carlisle, the service currently works with Heathlands and Carlisle Day Care Services/Garden Linx.

- 5.4 Most learners accessing face-to-face provision live in Carlisle and the surrounding areas. Learners living across the county can access provision offered by Carlisle Adult Learning via an online delivery platform.

2024/25 Academic Year

- 5.5 New provision for the 2024/25 academic year went live on 1 August 2024. Brochures were sent to every home in Cumbria during August.
- 5.6 During the summer months, ESOL learners have continued to take up learning opportunities including various workshops covering spelling and grammar, arts and crafts, and language acquisition through games.
- 5.7 Carlisle Adult Learning now offers free Skills courses to employers, providing benefits to their organisation. Learning and development in the workplace upskills the team and the organisation benefits in terms of efficiency, morale, and staff retention.
- 5.8 Carlisle Adult Learning will attend the following Harvest Events around Carlisle and surrounding areas:

EVENT NAME	VENUE	DATE	TIME
SPRING HARVEST	YEWDAL COMMUNITY CENTRE	29/04/2024	1300 - 1530
SPRING HARVEST	GREYSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE	05/06/2024	1000 - 1230
AUTUMN HARVEST	BRAMPTON METHODIST CHURCH	27/09/2024	0930 - 1200
AUTUMN HARVEST	DENTON HOLME COMMUNITY CENTRE	22/10/2024	1300 - 1530

- 5.9 The Adult Learning team would welcome thoughts and suggestions from Members for incorporation within their planning. The provision is available to find, book, and enrol at <https://adultlearningcumbria.org/>.

Youth Parliament

Make Your Mark Campaign

- 5.10 Make Your Mark is the largest youth consultation, giving young people aged 11-18yrs the opportunity to vote on the topics that are most important to them.
- 5.11 This year, Cumberland young people voted Culture, Media, and Sport as their top priority, but a full list of the results is shown below. Cumberland Youth Council will be taking this topic forward, campaigning, listening to what young people want and making change.

Topics	Results
Culture, Media, and Sport	1182
Health and Wellbeing	1164
Jobs, the Economy and Benefits	1024

Crime and Safety	830
Climate Change and the Environment	572
Education and Learning	469
Transport	460
Rights, Equalities and Democracy	363
Youth Work and Young People's Services	227
International Relations	176
Total number of MYM votes recorded	6467

Carousel event

- 5.12 The Youth Participation Officer organised a Carousel event on the 11 July alongside staff and students from Morton Academy.
- 5.13 The event linked to the Deputy Member of Youth Parliament's 2023 election manifesto on Skills for Life which was akin to the UK Youth Parliament's Curriculum for Life campaign. The winner of the UKYP 2023 election; Bobby Forbes, also wrote a similar statement on skills for life as a part of his election campaign. Corroborating Peyton's concerns.
- 5.14 The carousel event was co designed with RRMA's student leadership body. Several of whom have gone on to be Youth Council members in recent years. The morning included Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service demonstrating CPR, CADAS talking about vaping addiction, PiNC discussing Anti trans and anti-homophobia and Active Cumbria talking about 'Active Travel'.
- 5.15 A mixed session on Participation exploring key themes from the Make Your Mark 2024 ballot also took place.

6.0 Capital Programmes update

Carlisle Digital Learning and Community Hub (Carlisle Library)

- 6.1 Refurbishment of the City Centre Library to create an accessible digital skills and community learning hub, and installation of digital equipment and training materials in 13 community venues.
- 6.2 This project will deliver a fully equipped Digital Community Learning Hub in the Lanes Shopping Centre right in the heart of Carlisle's retail and leisure economy in the space currently occupied by Carlisle Library.
- 6.3 The new multifunctional space will provide a blend of opportunities for learning, skills, digital connectivity, library, and community focused offer.
- 6.4 During the construction period, which is due to begin in Autumn, Adult Learning services will temporarily move to the Civic Centre. This temporary relocation ensures that there is no interruption in services and that adult learners continue to have access to the support and resources they need.
- 6.5 Construction is scheduled for later in the year and we will be undertaking significant communication ahead of works starting.

Market Square and Greenmarket

- 6.6 The enhancement of Market Square, Green Market and Castle Street is a key component of the Carlisle High Street programme funded from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- 6.7 The improvements include relocation of the War Memorial and Memorial benches to a more prominent space within the Market Square area, allowing the creation of a new events space and new seating areas.
- 6.8 The project will introduce enhanced biodiversity and added greenery through planting to improve the streetscape, making it a safer, more secure environment and encouraging the use of open public spaces in the City Centre.
- 6.9 Work started on 12th August 2024 and the project team met with all business owners, ahead of the start date, to discuss the operating requirements with a view of minimising impact to the businesses.

Devonshire Street

- 6.10 The enhancements to Devonshire Street form a key element of the Future High Street Fund programme. Improvements include widening the footway on both sides of the street increasing the space for pedestrians and enabling opportunities for seating, street furniture, cycle parking spaces and trees, making the area more pedestrian friendly and less car dominant.
- 6.11 The construction of the scheme started in February 2024, and works are now mostly complete. A street party took place 3 August in collaboration with the businesses on Devonshire Street to celebrate the first stage of the new public realm space in Carlisle city centre.
- 6.12 The highway opened to traffic on 5 August following the completion on the road safety audit.

Central Plaza

- 6.13 This project is focusing on making the former Central Plaza Hotel site 'developer ready'. This work is focusing on the stabilisation of the party wall with the Green Room Theatre.
- 6.14 The technical design work is complete, and the Project Team are currently undergoing a procurement exercise to identify a suitable contractor to complete the works.
- 6.15 The project now has a contractor appointed and started the works in August 2024. Works are expected to last for approximately 6 weeks.

Carlisle Southern Gateway

- 6.16 Improvements include wider footways and the incorporation of new cycling infrastructure, new seating, and the introduction of biodiversity and added greenery through planting to improve the streetscape. The aim is to create a safer, more secure environment and encourage the use of open public spaces in the City Centre.
- 6.17 Work started on site in June 2024 and the project team will have continuous liaison with all business owners, bus service providers and taxi groups to discuss the operating requirements with a view of minimising impact to the businesses.

Carlisle Southern Link Road

6.18 Key achievements include:

- Re-opening Wreay Road and a section of the newly constructed Brisco roundabout.
- Installing the beams on the Brisco footbridge
- Pouring the decks of the new WCML and Petteril Road bridges
- Deck to Durdar Bridge cast
- Started works to foundations for Newby West footbridge

6.19 Works in August included:

- Completion of the Peastree Farm accommodation bridge
- Earthworks have started to link up M6 Junction 42, Peastree Bridge and WCML bridge
- Cast deck to Durdar footbridge.
- Complete wing walls to Peastree bridge and WCML bridge.

6.20 Road closures and traffic management (West to East).

- The Dalston Road closure remains in place. Significant progress has been made with construction of the new Cummersdale roundabout and footbridge and remain on programme to re-open the road in September.
- Grace Lane has now been closed and a temporary access track has been created to allow third-party service diversions to be undertaken. For the duration of these works, the bus stop at Cloverfields has been moved 200 yards North to reduce interface with the necessary traffic management on Dalston Road and the junction with Peter Lane. They expect to have these diversions complete and for Grace Lane to reopen in October 2024.
- A section of Ratten Row remains closed allowing earthworks and drainage operations to be undertaken associated with the Southern Link for the new Durdar roundabout.
- The Ivegill Road closure was implemented late July 2024 works have begun to realign the existing road and tie it into the new Durdar Road bridge. There is an expectation to have Ivegill Road re-opened by the end of October 2024.

6.21 Fully signposted diversion routes are in place for the duration of all closures. Information regarding all traffic management associated with the project including diversion routes can be found on Cumberland Councils website [Roadworks | Cumberland Council](#) and there are also weekly traffic management bulletins on the Carlisle Southern Link Road Facebook Page.

6.22 Where possible, actions were taken to reduce disruption to road users, however due to the nature of these particular works, full closures were unavoidable.

6.23 As part of the multi-million-pound investment in the infrastructure of the Carlisle Southern Link Road, there is a commitment to invest in our local communities to ensure added social value back into the county. Activities in August included:

- The three ICE Quest Scholars Summer placements.
- Continuing the bamboo clearance project at Richard Rose Central Academy.

7.0 Options

Alternative Options Considered

7.1 No other options considered as this report is to note only.

Risks

7.2 The associated corporate risk is as follows:

There is a risk that the Community Panels and Community Networks do not effectively engage with and/or represent the views of local residents, partners, businesses and third sector organisations.

7.3 The activities outlined in this report and the associated recommendations help to mitigate this risk. There are no further risks associated with this report.

Consultation

7.4 There has been no consultation associated with the recommendations of this report.

Legal Comment

7.5 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

7.6 The Carlisle West Community Panel is one of 8 Community Panels which are funded from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund which is part of Communities and Localities within the Public Health and Communities Directorate.

7.7 The 2024/245 budget allocation to the Carlisle West Community Panel is £0.126m.

Impact Assessments

7.8 An impact Assessment has not been used.

Contact Officer: Hayley Bishop – Area Planning Manager