



**South  
Cumberland  
Community Panel**

**Date:** Wednesday, 26 June 2024

**Time:** 6.00 pm

**Location:** Lamplugh Village Hall

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

**Also Present:** Chief Officer of Citizens Advice Copeland

**In Attendance** Local Area Network Manager, Area Planning Manager (x2), Community Development Officer and Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)

#### **41 Appointment of Chair**

The Panel discussed the nominations for appointment of Chair for the ensuing year. Some Members felt the appointment should be made when all Panel Members were in attendance and requested that the matter be deferred to the next meeting. Following a debate, the Panel voted, and it was agreed that the appointment of Chair should be made as per the meeting's agenda.

Councillor Pollen moved and Councillor Jones-Bulman seconded that Councillor Eldon be appointed as Chair.

Councillor Pratt moved and Councillor Moore seconded that Councillor Moore be appointed as Chair.

With a vote of three votes for, it was;

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Eldon be appointed Chair of the South Cumberland Community Panel for the 2024-25 municipal year.

Councillor Eldon thereupon took the Chair and welcomed everyone to their first meeting of the South Cumberland Community Panel.

#### **42 Appointment of Vice Chair**

Councillor Moore moved and Councillor Jones-Bulman seconded that Councillor Pratt be appointed as Vice Chair

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Pratt be appointed Vice Chair of the South Cumberland Community Panel for the 2024-25 municipal year.

#### **43 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bob Kelly and Martin Birch (Director of Children and Family Wellbeing).

#### **44 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Eldon declared an interest in agenda item 10 due to a professional relationship with Skills 4 You (paragraph 2.3).

Councillor Jones-Bulman declared an interest in agenda item 10 due to attending multiple events supporting Skills 4 You (paragraph 2.3) and due to supporting the Crosslacon Parochial Church Council (paragraph 2.6).

#### **45 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.

#### **46 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Community Development Officer (CDO) noted that an amendment was required on page 5 of the agenda pack to change 'Active Travel' to 'Active Cumbria' to reflect the appropriate provider. The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) noted the amendment.

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the amendment being made.

#### **47 Highways & Transport Strategic Board Meeting**

A Member queried what had happened to a piece of work done by Copeland Borough Council on Electric Vehicles. The Local Area Network Manager noted that he would search for the data and ensure that it would be accessible and reach those who would be able to use the data appropriately.

Members discussed the work done by the Cumberland teams on potholes and weed spraying, commending the teams for the excellent work done throughout the South Cumberland Panel area.

Members discussed and noted the interest in and favour for having 20MPH zones outside of schools from both the community and town/parish councils. The Local Area Network Manager noted that a cautious approach was being taken, to avoid potentially neutralising the effect the zones by having too many and explained that a new page on the Cumberland website was being created specifically for 20MPH zones where interest could be raised, and education found. It was noted that councillors could be contacted once the website page was up and running. The Local Area Network Manager also encouraged Members to contact council staff and encourage schools to contact council staff to help ensure that all those who feel the zones are needed for safety are heard.

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Highways and Strategic Board meeting held on 22 April 2024 be noted.

## 48 Citizens Advice Presentation

The Panel received a presentation from the Chief Officer of Citizens Advice Copeland (CAC), who highlighted the aims of Citizens Advice to provide the advice people need for the problems they face and to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. She explained that CAC was one of three Citizens Advice in Cumberland, the other two being in the former Allerdale area and Carlisle & Eden. The Chief Officer of CAC also noted the work done to help provide grants and vouchers for food and fuel, community sessions all throughout the area and provide specialist and accredited advice. The Chief Officer of CAC further highlighted some of the struggles that CAC face with visiting rural areas, reaching those who are not able to engage with social media content and ensuring that as many people are able to be reached through multiple ways including face to face and via telephone.

Members discussed access to CAC in rural areas and ways that the Panel could help. The Chief Officer of CAC noted that while there is currently limited access to CAC more work is being done to reach those areas, such as investing in community workers and sending out the newsletters to councillors and parish clerks to help spread awareness of the help available from CAC to all. Members noted their willingness to help and support CAC, whether by attending CAC events, inviting the Chief Officer of CAC to events or working with the CAC to set up meetings in areas currently to utilised fully, such as Seascale Library. The Chief Officer of CAC appreciated the support offered by the Panel.

A Member asked how many members were within the CAC team, the Chief Officer of CAC answered that the team is made up of 19 members, including 6 specialist advisors and they cover from Distington to Millom.

A Member asked for an update regarding the funding which had previously been provided by Copeland Borough Council. The Chief Officer of CAC explained that the funding received was part of a two-year agreement which had transferred over and was being overseen by Cumberland Council. It was agreed that any feedback received by the CAC from Cumberland Council regarding funding would be provided to the Panel.

The Chair thanked the Chief Officer of CAC for their presentation on behalf of the Panel.

**RESOLVED:** that the presentation from Citizens Advice Copeland be noted.

*[The Chief Officer of CAC left the meeting at 7:15pm]*

## 49 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 on network events and activities which the CDO attended, the Millom Town Deal event, the Cleator Jubilee Hall event, Millom Without Parish Annual Meeting, Talk & Tidy, Operation Respect, Great Big Green Week, Planting Pollinators and their events in Cleator Moor, the Nature Strategy consultation and the Library Service including the Summer Reading Challenge.

Members discussed improving communication to increase the number of residents attending events and also awareness of events happening, such as Operation Respect and Talk & Tidy. The CDO noted that the team were aware, and discussions were ongoing to try and resolve the issues.

A Member noted the potential for the improved usage for Frizington Library and both the CDO and Area Planning Manager agreed to speak with the library and those with a contract for the space to help improve the usage.

A Member queried whether the library bus would be starting again to cover the rural areas of Cumberland. The Area Planning Manager agreed to find out further details and report back to the Panel.

A Member noted the good work done by the English Café's and their hope that the Café's might be able to be spread further throughout Cumberland. The Area Planning Manager agreed to ask the question to the Outreach Library Officers who run the Café's.

Members discussed the criteria for approving investments for food, with the Area Planning Manager agreeing to provide clarification before the next meeting, noting that each Panel is able to add their own additional criteria and that the focus was on sustainability for projects.

A Member requested an informal briefing session for all Community Panels to share best practice which the Area Planning Manager highlighted was currently being worked on by the Senior Manager – Community Services.

**RESOLVED** – that,

- a) The contents of the report be noted.
- b) The requested additional information and further action for Frizington Library, the library bus, the English Café's and funding criteria around food be provided before the next Panel meeting.

## **50 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 CDO informed the Panel that there were 5 Community Investment Applications for either approval, disapproval, or deferment.

The CDO noted the other recommendations within the report relating to the Panel priorities and Neighbourhood Investment Plan. It was noted that there were no themes being missed from applications rejected, due to issues such as retrospective funding, with those applications being redirected to other funders where appropriate. Following a discussion, Members agreed that the next steps would be to have a face-to-face workshop organised to work on the Neighbourhood Investment Plan. This would include discussions on what work needs to be done, what is achievable within South Cumberland, what other funding opportunities are available within the Panel area which the Panel needs to be aware of and work with, such as Copeland Community Fund. Members also noted their interest in potentially having Co-Opted Members for 2025/26 depending on the feedback received from the other Community Panels.

Members discussed the need for accountability and security of the equipment which would be purchased through Home to Work application and agreed that this would be found through feedback received as part of the Project Achievement Record and provided to the Panel as part of their informal briefings when available.

A Member requested that the Panel approve the full requested amount of £4,295 be approved, rather than the Officer Recommendation of £3,000 due to the amount of help the new group will be able to provide to the area which the Panel agreed to.

Members noted that the application from Bee Unique was a cross-Cumberland and Cumbria application, with applications to be sent to the other Cumberland Community Panels, and requested that the support from the South Cumberland Community Panel be noted within the reports to the other Panels. It was also noted that the South Cumberland investment would cover Bee Unique's immediate priority of laptops and software and that, should the other Community Panels note agree to the requested investments, their charity activities would still continue.

The Area Planning Manager noted that a presentation regarding the Cleator Moor and Millom Town Deals would be provided at the next meeting in September.

**RESOLVED** – that,

- a) The contents of the report be noted.
- b) The Neighbourhood Investment Plan be noted and agreed to be reviewed at each Community Panel meeting.
- c) An amount of £5,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Home to Work towards purchasing laptops and software for learners to complete on-line training.
- d) An amount of £3,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Millom Recreation Centre towards the purchase of equipment to support activities held at the centre.
- e) An amount of £3,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Waberthwaite and Corney Parish Council towards purchasing a solar panel cabinet and community defibrillator.
- f) An amount of £4,295 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Crosslacon Parochial Church Council towards purchasing equipment and setting up a new parent and baby and toddler group in Frizington.
- g) An amount of £1,600 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Bee Unique towards purchasing equipment and training to support the activities provided for those children and families with special educational needs.

## **51 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – that the date and venue of the next scheduled meeting of the South Cumberland Community Panel will be on 11 September at 6pm and the venue will be confirmed.

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm