



**Workington
Together**
Community Panel

Date: Tuesday, 25 June 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Location: St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Workington,
Classroom D1, (sports hall entrance)

Present: Cllr J Grisdale (Chair), Cllr B Cannon, Cllr D Rollo (Vice-Chair) and Cllr S Stoddart

Also Present: Deborah Naylor, Richard Wilson

In Attendance Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport, Area Planning Manager and Community Development Officer

38 Election of Chair

Following discussion it was agreed that the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel for 2024-25 be deferred until the next meeting and Councillor Grisdale continue as Chair for this meeting only.

RESOLVED, that Councillor Grisdale be appointed as Chair of the Panel for this meeting only.

39 Election of Vice Chair

Following discussion it was agreed that the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel for 2024-25 be deferred until the next meeting.

RESOLVED, that the election of Vice Chair of the Panel be deferred until the meeting on 12 September 2024.

40 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillor Fryer.

41 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2024 be approved as a correct record.

42 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

43 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED, that the press and public not be excluded from the meeting for any item of business on the agenda.

44 Co-Opted Members Report

Members received a report which provided an update on the Co-opted Member recruitment process and how it affected the Community Panel.

Referring to paragraph 3.8 of the report Councillor Cannon reported that it was in fact herself who had taken part in the informal interviews along with the Chair of the Panel and not the Vice Chair as detailed in the text.

Councillor Cannon moved the recommendations as set out in the report to formally invite the named co-opted members to join the Workington Together Community Panel, seconded by Councillor Grisdale.

The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED, that

1. The contents of the report be noted;
2. The following nominations be agreed as the Co-opted members of the Workington Together Community Panel until March 2025:
 - Deborah Naylor
 - Richard Wilson

The Co-opted members formally joined the meeting and were welcomed by the Panel.

45 Investing in our Neighbourhood Report

Members received a report which set out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to the Workington Together Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive.

The Neighbourhood Investment Fund budget allocation to this Community Panel, as agreed by Council on 30 April 2024 was £78,619.

The allocation was intended to enable the Panel to plan activity in their communities through investment that would assist in the achievement of its agreed priorities whereby all applications would be assessed against those priorities.

The panel had also considered additional criterion they wished to implement, being:

- Investments up to £1,500 could be agreed outside the meetings in consultation with the Chair, local member and Senior Manager – Community Services

The Area Planning Manager provided members with an overview of two current investment applications which required approval by the panel as detailed under paragraph 4 of the report.

The first application from Workington Heritage Group for £9,433 to enable them to purchase a new marquee and associated equipment was considered.

Some members felt that rather than applying through this Neighbourhood Investment Fund for smaller amounts the business would benefit more by being supported and signposted by the authority for applications for larger funding options available.

The Area Planning Manager referred to Bedrock, Transforming West Cumbria programme and the Spark Project, Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership were examples of support available.

The Director said there were also officers and teams within the Council that would be happy to provide advice and guidance to the business on understanding the asset and future costings etc.

Some members of the Panel were in favour in supporting the application.

A vote was taken on whether to approve the application, one vote in favour, two against and one abstention. The motion was lost and the application therefore not approved.

The second application from Focused Therapies for £6,500 to run a wellbeing pilot programme in the Workington Together Panel area.

It was explained that Focused Therapies was to be a new group, the funding would allow them to run a pilot in the area from which they would develop data providing valuable evidence to allow for applications for larger funding in the future.

Members requested that if successful it would be useful to have them provide the Panel with a written report to update on progress and

A vote was taken on whether to approve the application, three votes in favour and one abstention. The motion was carried and the application approved.

The report also set out for information those approved investments not exceeding £1,500 that had been authorised by the Senior Manager, Chair and relevant local member and details on additional investment within the panel area.

Members were also presented with an updated Neighbourhood Investment Plan (NIP) for review of progress made to date. The NIP set out the framework around Community Panels and the Community Network together with the panel's agreed priorities.

Members discussed the Action Plan, it was raised that this Community Panel were keen to support young people in its area and asked whether there was more that could be done to engage with those young people and find out what it is they want/need.

The Community Development Officer suggested a specific piece of work to identify all the youth providers within the area, looking at what they offered and their plans, seeing whether there were any gaps to be identified that the Panel may be able to help address and finding out from the volunteers how they provided their services, what challenges did they face and did they feel supported.

Reducing food poverty was another priority for the Panel and an area members felt wasn't yet being explored fully and asked what more could be done.

The Community Development Officer suggested an action to contact Emma Mackie who could help with mapping out food provision in the area as a starting point.

One member asked whether we held the data within the authority to find out how many children were on free school meals in the Panel area.

The Community Development Officer agreed to find out.

RESOLVED – that,

1. The contents of the report be noted;
2. Investments not exceeding £1,500 can continue to be authorised outwith the Community Panel by the Senior Manager – Community Services;
3. The Neighbourhood Investment Plan be reviewed to include actions associated with supporting young people and reducing food poverty as per the above;

4. An investment (CCGA/2009-24) to Workington Heritage Group of £9,433 not be approved;
5. An investment (CCGA/2107-24) to Focused Therapies of £6,500 be approved to run a wellbeing pilot programme in the Workington Together Community Panel area.

46 Community Panel Update

Members received a detailed report which provided an update on recent activity within the Workington Together Community Panel area over the last quarter period.

In presenting the report the Area Planning Manager advised members on upcoming network events and activity.

The Panel discussed the option of introducing a Public Participation scheme for future meetings, members were in favour of the possibility and noted that officers would look to develop a draft scheme to be brought back to Panel for discussion and adoption.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

47 Highways and Transport Strategic Board Minutes

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

48 Date of Future Meeting

RESOLVED, that the next meeting be held on 12 September 2024 at 6pm at Clifton Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 7.37 pm