



Lakes to Sea Community Panel Update

Meeting Date – 16 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:
 - Transport for the Community
 - Community Health and Wellbeing
 - Community Involvement
 - Community Resilience

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Members agree to appoint a member to the Tallentire Wind Farm Advisory Panel.
- 2.3 Members agree to adopt the Public Participation protocol as set out in appendix 1.

3.0 Public Participation

- 3.1 Members expressed an interest with regards to introducing Public Participation to this Panel.
- 3.2 The Senior Manager for Community Services has worked with the Chief Monitoring Officer on a proposed Public Participation protocol for use within Community Panels.
- 3.3 The draft Public Participation protocol is set out in appendix 1.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 This Community Panel covers the wards of Bothel & Wharrels, Cockermouth North, Cockermouth South, Dearham & Broughton, Keswick, Maryport North, Maryport South.

5.0 Appointment to outside bodies

- 5.1 The Executive, at their meeting on 23 April 2024, delegated a number of appointments to outside bodies for this area to the Community Panel as set out below:

Outside body	Current position
Tallentire Wind Farm Advisory Panel	Vacant

- 5.2 The report to the Executive advised that representation should usually be by the ward councillor for the area where the body is located.
- 5.3 Community Panel members are asked to agree that any appointments will be for the term of office.

6.0 Panel Network Events and Network Activity

- 6.1 The Community Development Officer (CDO) for the Lakes to Sea Panel has attended a variety of local groups active in the Lakes to Sea Community Panel area.
- 6.2 The aim of these visits was to promote the work of the Panels, engage the community and encourage collaborative ways of working with partners and stakeholders.

St Nicholas Church Knit and Natter Group, Flimby

- 6.3 The CDO arranged to visit the local Knit and Natter group on 6 August 2024, to talk about the Lakes to Sea Community Panel.
- 6.4 A discussion took place around the Lakes to Sea panel priorities and how investment funding has already been spent in the local area.
- 6.5 This activity links to the panel's Community Involvement priority.

Dearham Village Hall Coffee Morning

- 6.6 The CDO, accompanied by Councillor Harris, visited a coffee morning on 8 August 2024. This provided an opportunity to meet the volunteers and become familiar with the group.
- 6.7 Attending this session provided an opportunity to meet residents and find out more about the community, residents and local groups running in the village of Dearham.
- 6.8 This activity links to the panel's Community Involvement priority.

Highfield Food Pantry, Cockermouth

- 6.9 The CDO, accompanied by Councillor Tucker, visited the food pantry on 9 August 2024. This provided an opportunity to meet the volunteers and see how the food pantry runs and better understand the need in the local area.
- 6.10 This activity links to the panel's Community Involvement and Community Resilience priorities.

Highfield Coffee and Crack, Cockermouth

- 6.11 The CDO, accompanied by Councillor Tucker, visited on 9 August 2024. The coffee and crack session runs in a building next door to the food pantry and provides an additional social activity.
- 6.12 Attending this session provided an opportunity to meet residents and seek their views on the local area. Discussions were also held on the panel priorities and key themes and work which is being carried out to address these.
- 6.13 This activity links to the panel's Community Involvement priority.

North Lakes Foodbank Holiday Lunch Packs

- 6.14 North Lakes Foodbank provided holiday lunch packs throughout the summer holidays. Families who qualified for free school meals were able to be apply for vouchers through schools. Vouchers were redeemed throughout the summer at Foodbank outlets.
- 6.15 The CDO for the panel volunteered for the Foodbank, along with other team members, to issue food, toiletries, and activity books. Volunteering provided an opportunity to talk to families and sign post them to other support services available in the local area.
- 6.16 This activity links to the panel's Community Resilience priority.

7.0 Wider Cumberland activity

The Social Prescribing Family Fun and Wellness Event

- 7.1 This year the free Family Fun and Wellness event organised by the Cumberland Social Prescribing Team was held on Friday 16th August at the Rugby ground in Whitehaven.
- 7.2 The CDO for the Lakes to Sea panel, along with other members of the Community Development Team, were involved in the preparation and facilitation of the event.
- 7.3 66 organisations attended to provide advice and guidance. There were also 17 organisations providing family activities.
- 7.4 The event was attended by over 1500 visitors from across West Cumbria.
- 7.5 The CDO for the panel area engaged with residents who live in the Lakes to Sea panel area about the panel, priorities, and investment funding.

Youth Parliament

- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 This year, Cumberland young people voted Culture, Media, and Sport as their top priority, but a full list of the results is shown below.
- 7.8 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

Workington Adult Learning

- 7.9 **2023/24 Academic Year** - The 2023/24 academic year finished on 31st July 2024. Adult Learning successfully enrolled learners onto Skills provision, which includes Functional Skills in Maths and English, (ESOL) English for Speakers of Other Languages, Health and Wellbeing, and Digital courses.
- 7.10 In addition, 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.
- 7.11 Adult Learning continues to support 'Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities' (LLDD), providing opportunities to learn new skills and develop their independence. In the Workington area, we currently work with COSC in Cockermouth, West House and Carlton Rd/Bankfield Day Centre.
- 7.12 Most learners accessing face-to-face provision live in Workington and surrounding areas.
- 7.13 Over the last academic year, Workington Adult Learning have successfully created and delivered Wellbeing courses to partnerships within the community including the Oval Centre. Our courses can help to improve confidence and social interaction, support and improve wellbeing, help individuals feel more able to cope with everyday life, reduce stress and anxiety levels and improve fitness and mobility. The wellbeing courses are a good foundation for learners, to support them back into learning and education. The courses also build confidence and self-esteem, avoid social isolation and encourage participants to engage in their local community.
- 7.14 **2024/25 Academic Year** - New provision for the 2024/25 academic year went 'live' on 1st August 2024. Brochures were sent to every home in Cumbria during early August.
- 7.15 Adult Learning now has access to the Multiply programme. A government initiative to help transform the lives of adults across the UK this is being delivered through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Cumbria has been allocated £2.3 million to be used over three financial years. The free numeracy courses are for Cumbrian residents aged 19 plus, individuals that have not achieved a maths GCSE of at least a Grade C or equivalent, individuals who may want to develop numeracy skills for work or progression and individuals that want to brush up and develop their numeracy skills for everyday life. People who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages, and better wellbeing, and will be more able to progress to higher levels of free training to secure a skilled job in our economy.
- 7.16 Workington Adult Learning now offers free Skills courses to employers, providing huge benefits to their organisation. Learning and development in the workplace motivate and upskills the team and the organisation benefits in terms of efficiency, morale, and staff retention.
- 7.17 The Adult Learning team would welcome thoughts and suggestions for incorporation within their planning. The provision is available to find, book, and enrol at <https://adultlearningcumbria.org/>.

Libraries

- 7.18 The 2024 annual Summer Reading Challenge “Marvellous Makers” ran across Cumberland Libraries, with good engagement with young people across the Lakes to Sea panel area. Participants have until 14th September to complete the challenge and by taking part will have enjoyed the benefits of reading for pleasure and maintained or developed their literacy levels over the summer break. All completers are entered into a prize draw to win a kindle, kindly donated by the Cumberland Building Society.
- 7.19 From July to September, regular free activity drop-in sessions have been taking place in all libraries, as well as a number of special events from Wordsworth Grasmere and Simon Lamb, the poet and performer, to pilot sessions based on Litcraft, an educational resource which engages children with reading through play to create literary worlds in Minecraft.
- 7.20 Library members are now able to access an expanded offer on Borrowbox, the digital library service available to all library members. It now includes e-magazines and e-newspapers in addition to e-books and audio books, meaning members are benefitting from a one stop shop with a user-friendly interface. Access is through the Borrowbox App or website using library membership number and password.
- 7.21 Maryport Library has welcomed Cumbria Safe Haven as part of the regular events offer. They are running a weekly mental health drop-in session on Monday mornings from 10.30am to 1pm. This is open to anyone aged 18 and over, offering a safe environment to talk and get advice and guidance where needed.
- 7.22 Keswick Library is continuing its relationship with Keswick Museum by supporting the TaleTelt project, which is a celebration of Cumbrian Folktales, Fairytales, Myths and Legends. The library is promoting the project to encourage our customers to participate and will be hosting drop in events with the Story Researcher for people to come in and share their stories about Cumbria.
- 7.23 In response to customer demand, this summer Keswick Library has started a weekly craft and chat group. This takes place on Wednesday mornings 10.30am to 12pm and all are welcome.

8.0 Capital Projects Update

Flimby Flood Alleviation

- 8.1 The village of Flimby in West Cumbria has been subject to historic flooding, most recently in 2015 (Storm Desmond) with between 100 and 150 homes affected. During the 2015 event the 5 key watercourses feeding into the village became inundated with roads becoming major flow routes for floodwater and water overwhelming the surface water drainage network.
- 8.2 Cumberland Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority as well as the Local Highway and Transport Authority. Based on analysis and modelling, we have worked with the Environment Agency to deliver the following package of flood defence works across the village.

- Diversion of peak flows from Penny Gill to Furnace Gill. Diverted flows will be limited to a maximum allowable transfer flow.
- Construction of a detention basin located in the field to the north of Farmers Way development. It consists of a 1m high embankment with controlled outlet and local bank lowering to allow Penny Gill watercourse to spill into the detention basin. The basin will hold water during peak periods of rain overloading Penny Gill.
- The addition / upgrade of surface water drainage systems in the residential areas of Coniston Avenue.
- The full diversion (within a culvert) of existing Cat Gill from where it crosses Church Road into Bragg Beck located south of Flimby.
- Construction of an enlarged replacement culvert where Bragg Beck crosses the A596.
- Construction of additional leaky dams to 'slow the flow of water' in woodland to the east of Flimby.
- Remediation to an existing flood gate adjacent to the A596.

Maryport Regeneration

- 8.3 The regeneration work in Maryport continues and the CDO for the panel continues to support the project team on engagement of the following schemes:
- The Wave Centre - work to refurbish the building is progressing well and on track to reopen at the end of the year.
 - The Carlton - work continue to progress in relation to the refurbishment and extension of the building to provide a community arts and performance venue.
 - The Promenade - construction work for the new skatepark will start in September.
 - Event Space and Play Area - planning permission has been granted for the new events space at the harbourside. Construction work has been delayed until after the Taste of the Sea Festival in August. Work to replace the 'Shiver me Timbers' play area will take place after the schools summer holidays.
 - Christ Church – it was necessary to terminate the contract with the main contractor for this project as they were no longer able to complete the works. Whilst this has resulted in a temporary delay in work the project team are working to appoint a new contractor to complete the building work required.
 - Boardwalk – the wildflower planting next to the new boardwalk is starting to become established. This includes kidney vetch which is the food plant for the small blue butterfly although this won't flower until next year.

9.0 Options

Alternative Options Considered

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

Risks

- 9.2 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.

- 9.3 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

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

Legal Comment

- 9.5 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

- 9.6 The Lakes to Sea 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.
- 9.7 The 2024/25 budget allocation to the Lakes to Sea Community Panel is £60,184.50.

Impact Assessments

- 9.8 An impact Assessment has not been used.

Contact Officer: Hayley Bishop - Area Planning Manager

Appendices attached to report:

Appendix 1 – Public Participation protocol