



Workington Together Community Panel

Investing in our Neighbourhoods

Meeting Date – 18 March 2025

Lead Officer – Paul Musgrave

1.0 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to this Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive. Where they have been received, this report presents investment applications for consideration and approval from the budget allocation.
- 1.2 This report also presents the Workington Together Community Panel Neighbourhood Investment Plan for information, discussion and to report progress against it.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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
- 1.5 This Community Panel has developed its own local priorities which were shared and discussed with our local communities and agreed formally by this Community Panel. They have been used by the Community Panel to inform the development of the Neighbourhood Investment Plan and in assessing investment applications.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Members to agree an investment (CCGA/2284-25) to Citizens Advice Allerdale of £15,366 towards the cost of apprentice wages.
- 2.3 Members to agree an investment (CCGA/2280-25) to Soundwave of £8,675 towards the cost to start a new provision for young creatives in Workington based at the Carnegie.
- 2.4 Members to agree an investment (CCGA/2282-25) to Mo & Love CIC of £14,400 towards the cost of setting up a new Day Services provision in Workington.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF) budget allocation to this Community Panel for 2024/25 is £78,619 as agreed at Full Council on 30 April 2024.
- 3.2 A carry forward of 43,270.00 from 2023/24 was agreed at Executive on 17 September.
- 3.3 The total amount available to this Panel for the financial year 2024/25 is £121,889.
- 3.4 This allocation is intended to enable the Community Panel to plan activity in their communities through investment that will assist in the achievement of its priorities.
- 3.5 Now that the Community Panel has formally agreed its priorities, the Members will assess applications against the locally agreed priorities which are:
 - Empowering our Children and Young People
 - Supporting Communities to Help Themselves
 - Reducing Food Poverty
- 3.6 In addition to the priorities, there are a number of criteria that must be adhered to as this relates to public funds. These are set out on the application form. There may be occasion where applications are received that do not fit with the local priorities or meet the funding criteria. In these cases, the applications will not be presented to the Community Panel. However, the Council works with other partners and will often be able to advise on other funding streams or will support a group so that they can meet the funding criteria.
- 3.7 In addition, this Community Panel has considered other criteria that they wish to implement and these are:
 - Investments up to £1,500 can be agreed outside the meeting in consultation with the Chair, local Member and Senior Manager – Community Services.
- 3.8 Potential applicants are always advised to speak with the relevant Community Development Officer (CDO) prior to submitting an application. The CDO can offer advice and for this panel area. The CDO is Carole Tubman who can be contacted by email (Carole.Tubman@cumberland.gov.uk).

4.0 Investment Applications

Citizens Advice Allerdale – CCGA/2284-25 £15,366

- 4.1 Citizens Advice Allerdale are applying for £15,366 towards the total cost of £35,334 to employ two apprentices aged 16 – 18 for 18 months. Citizens Advice were awarded £16,118 towards these costs by Workington Together Community Panel in September 2024.
- 4.2 Citizens Advice Allerdale are a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. They provide free, confidential, and independent advice throughout the Workington Together panel area and have an office located in Workington. Their service aims are to deliver the advice people need for the problems they face and improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. They value diversity, champion equality, challenge discrimination and harassment. Main enquiries relate to debt, welfare benefits and housing however they advise on many other issues including consumer, employment, relationship and immigration. In addition, they actively tackle fuel poverty through providing information and energy efficiency advice at group sessions and 1:1 support.
- 4.3 The funding from this application will be used to cover the costs of employing two apprentices aged 16 – 18 years old for 18 months.
- 4.4 Citizens Advice Allerdale have secured £3,850 from The Hadfield Trust towards employing two apprentices.
- 4.5 The people who will directly benefit from this will be two young people who take the apprenticeship roles and the wider community who they will be able to support through these roles.
- 4.6 Costings have been submitted for the additional increase in wage costs to cover the increase in NI etc. and for the cost of employing two apprentices for 18 months, rather than 12 months. In the application considered by this panel in September 2024, the costings were based on the minimum wage at that time and for a 12-month apprenticeship. The organisation have now been informed that this type of apprenticeship will take 18 months, rather than 12. The additional 6 months of employment costs is required and funding to cover the shortfall due to the rise in costs for employers contributions to National Insurance and the National Insurance threshold dropping.
- 4.7 **The officer recommendation is £15,366**
- 4.8 The application meets the following priorities:
- Empowering our children and young people
 - Supporting communities to help themselves.

Soundwave – CCGA/ 2280-25 £8,675

- 4.9 Soundwave is a registered charity dedicated to enriching the lives of young people in West Cumbria through music and the arts. Their mission is to create opportunities for skills and social development. Since 2005, Soundwave has positively impacted thousands of individuals, collaborating with schools, colleges, and a range of organisations across the region.
- 4.10 Beyond their work with children and young people, they support several community initiatives, including choirs and jamming groups, and play an active role in advancing the Cultural Strategy for West Cumbria.

- 4.11 The funding from this application will be used to cover the costs of Lead deliverers, Trainee, project management and equipment.
- 4.12 The primary beneficiaries of this investment are young people aged 11–19 from Workington and its surrounding areas, many of whom face economic disadvantage or are marginalised. Others may already be pursuing further education but lack access to practical, high-quality training in the creative industries.
- 4.13 Soundwave are applying for a one off cost of £8,675. The overall cost of their project is £10,675 and applications are made to other funders which are Frances Scott Trust and National Foundation for Youth Music.
- 4.14 **The officer recommendation is £8,675.**
- 4.15 The application meets the following priorities:
- Empowering our children and young people

Mo and Love Day Services (CCGA/ 2282-25) £14,400

- 4.16 Mo and Love Day Services are a community interest company who provide day service provision. The provision is led by experienced professionals with expertise in elderly care, occupational therapy and cognitive development.
- 4.17 The service provides accessible care services for people over 60 in Workington and surrounding areas and addresses the issues of social isolation and declining physical and mental health in the way of structured activities in a safe and stimulating environment.
- 4.18 The project aims to support 100 people annually and improve health, social connectedness and independence. There will also be indirect benefit to family members and carers.
- 4.19 A letter of support from the council's Social Prescribing team has been received for the project.
- 4.20 Mo and Love Day Services are applying for £20,000 against project costs of £29,600. The costings include resources, food, room hire, insurance and legal fees, marketing resources, IT and software, staff training, a budget for social objective and a contingency. Some of the costings included in the application are not eligible for investment funding and this is reflected in the officer recommendation.
- 4.21 The service is chargeable to users and the costs are £55 daily or membership fees are £215 for 6 sessions or £650 for 12 sessions. The money received from fees goes towards staffing costs.
- 4.22 **The officer recommendation is £14,400.** This figure includes training, room hire, resources, IT equipment and software and marketing materials.
- 4.23 The application meets the following priorities:
- Supporting communities to help themselves
 - Supporting organisations in providing accessible services for all
 - Supporting and promoting community facilities and activities

Additional Investment

Capital Programmes - Workington Gateway Project

- 4.1 Planning approval has been granted for:
- Moving the boundary wall between Curwen Park and the A596 at in order to widen the carriageway at Hall Brow.
 - Upgrading the gravel path to hardstanding in Hall Park between the entrances to Horse Close Car Park and the Walled Garden.
- 4.2 Story Contracting are developing detailed designs for Ramsay Brow junction enhancement and road widening at Hall Brow. Once they have been confirmed with the Local Highway and Transport Authority, designs are subject to review by National Highways and Connect Roads.
- 4.3 Designs are being developed separately for improved links for pedestrians and cyclists between Workington Town Centre and Workington Academy. This will create a new, integrated route that improves safety and promotes active travel to enhance community health and wellbeing.
- 4.4 Community groups and other stakeholders are being engaged in a process that will inform design of a new Pocket Park area on the partial footprint of the former pub adjacent to the enhanced Ramsay Brow junction. The Pocket Park will provide a meeting point and green space that also highlights the approach to Hall Park. Focusing on local heritage and culture, this 'bottom-up' engagement process will enable local people see their input and the story of Workington, their story, reflected in the space. Further engagement and outreach are planned over the next couple of months.
- 4.5 West House have entered into a contract with Cubby Construction, who will start redeveloping the Walled Garden at Hall Park as a social enterprise hub on 17 March 2025. The new facility will include publicly accessible garden and café areas.

Workington Innovation Centre

- 4.6 Work has now commenced at the site of the new Workington Innovation Centre on the former Central Car Park. Work to the Piling for foundations has been completed with the foundation structure to commence.
- 4.7 Initial work involving the removal of slag material has been completed and construction of the building has commenced as above. The building is scheduled for completion in early 2026.
- 4.8 The Innovation Centre is adjacent to the new NHS Community Diagnostics Centre which is currently completed and both developments will attract additional activity and footfall which is anticipated to benefit town centre businesses.

Public Realm Improvements

- 4.9 Work on the planned public realm Improvements to Murray Road, Upton Street and Central Way have undergone a number of required amendments to the designs and will now commence in April / May 2025 and will be complete by Early 2026.

5.0 UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) Update

- 5.1 29 organisations were funded with UKSPF funding through Community Panels, 11 of which provided volunteering opportunities for residents in this Community Panel area.
- 5.2 Funding was to be fully utilised by 28 February 25 with project achievement reports returned by 15 March 2025. A full evaluation of the expenditure will be carried out and reported in the June panel reports.

6.0 Options

Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 There was an option not to put forward applications for investment, but they meet the criteria in place.
- 6.2 Members may review and evaluate the recommendations. Members may choose to approve, vary, defer, or reject the recommendations.

Risks

- 6.3 The risk associated with this report is that allocations proposed do not meet the criteria for investments. This is mitigated through officer experience, processes in place and awarding investments in a public forum.

Consultation

- 6.4 There has been no consultation associated with this report.

Legal Comment

- 6.5 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

- 6.6 The Neighbourhood Investment Fund is part of Communities and Localities within the Public Health and Communities Directorate.
- 6.7 The Neighbourhood Investment Fund budget for 2024/25 is £0.859m which is allocated to fund the 8 Community Panels. £0.727m of the budget is recurrent and £0.132m relates to the carry forward of underspend from 2023/24 as agreed at executive.
- 6.8 The 2024/25 budget allocation to the Workington Together Community Panel is £121,890 of which £78,619 is recurrent and £43,271 relates to the carry forward of underspend from 2023/2024.
- 6.9 Approval is sought to agree a proposed funding allocation of £38,441 which is in addition to £62,564 already agreed.
- 6.10 It is recommended that the funding allocation is approved as it is within the confines of the available remaining 2024/25 budget as shown in the table below:

Workington Together Community Panel	NIV000006	
2024/25 Budget Allocation		£78,619.00
Carry forward of 2023/24 underspend:		£43,271.00
Total 2024/25 budget		£121,890.00
Minus Approved Investments:	CCGA 2094-24	-1,500.00
	CCGA 2096-24	-713.00
	CCGA 2110-24	-1,299.00
	CCGA 2107-24	-6,500.00
	CCGA 2126-24	-8,000.00
	CCGA 2107-24	-6,000.00
	CCGA 2145-24	-16,118.00
	CCGA 2224-24	-1,232.00
	CCGA 2211-24	-4,962.00
	CCGA 2196-24	-4,590.00
	CCGA 2191-24	-1,650.00
	CCGA 2225-24	-10,000.00
Minus proposed Investments:	CCGA 2284-25	-15,366.00
	CCGA 2280-25	-8,675.00
	CCGA 2282-25	-14,400.00
Balance of budget remaining:		£20,885.00
Returned Funding:	CCGA 1902-23	1,750.00
Revised balance remaining:		£22,635.00

6.11

C Richardson

04/03/2025

Impact Assessments

6.12 An assessment has not been completed.

Contact Officer:

CDO: Lee Thorburn, Area Planning Manager