

## **38 AREA PLANNING REPORT**

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services that provided an update on work and activity undertaken to promote and progress Area Planning and advised the Local Committee on their current budget position.

The Area Manager informed members that the Millom Network Centre had been handed back to the County Council on 5 August 2019 with the aim to ensure that the community continue to benefit from access to and improvement of services from the facility.

An update on the Whitehaven Community hub was given. Planning permission had been granted and consultation and engagement would take place later in the year on activity and use of the facilities.

The Area Manager advised members on the current position of Borderlands. The Whitehaven Future High Street Fund bid was a successful Expression of Interest for the funding stream and the team were now developing the next stage of the bidding process. The Borderlines Place Programme was being finalised with an Outline Business Case and this would contain details of each local area being submitted. Copeland's area would be agreed between the Local Committee and Copeland Borough Council.

The grants panel had met on 31 July and their recommendations were contained in the report. In discussion, members had been pleased to support the Egremont Crab Fair by paying for the publicity costs required for a Traffic Regulation Order but were keen to ensure a resolution for future events. It was agreed that this issue be referred to the Highways Working Group.

A lengthy discussion took place around the Money Advice Contract and community skills and learning. Members were keen to develop employment opportunities and discussed using facilities, such as the Millom Network Centre, for adult education classes and training events. It was explained that the DWP funding was split between two areas, the north of Copeland controlled by the Whitehaven office and the south of Copeland by the Barrow office.

The discussion led on to Universal Credit and the breakdown of figures contained in Appendix 2 of the report. It was agreed that representatives from the Department of Work and Pensions and Citizen's Advice Bureau be invited to give a presentation on this issue at the next meeting of the local committee.

The Area Manager advised that, since the last local committee meeting, four local authority governors had been appointed in consultation with the local members.

Members were informed that the Archive Centre would temporarily close to allow for the extension work to incorporate the library, community learning and registrars and there would be no access during this time to original archives, facilities for depositing or enquiry services. Some popular material and microfilms would be available at Whitehaven Library on a self-serving basis. A consultation and engagement meeting with service users was being organised for October/November 2019.

Members were asked to note all the public health events and campaigns that had taken place and to note upcoming events. The local member for Mirehouse informed members of a local walk scheme established in his area and encouraged members to lead by example. The Public Health Manager was offering blood pressure and AF (Atrial Fibrillation) checks to members as part of her Stroke Prevention work.

The local member for Egremont North and St Bees drew members' attention to a presentation received at the Wellbeing Forum from Every Life Matters on Suicide Safer Copeland and encouraged communication to help those people at risk.

The Area Manager and the team were thanked for the report.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that a letter be sent by the Chair on behalf of the local committee congratulating Mr Gary Charlton, a County Council employee, on his success as manager of the local rugby team.