

Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 5 December 2018

### Portfolio Holder Updates

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<b>The Reason for the Decision</b>	To update Council on the activities and decisions of Portfolio Holders since the last meeting
<b>Summary of options considered</b>	N/a
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members note the content of the report
<b>Financial / Resource Implications</b>	None arising directly from this report
<b>Legal / Governance Implications</b>	None arising directly from this report
<b>Community Safety Implications</b>	None arising directly from this report
<b>Health and Safety and Risk Management Implications</b>	None arising directly from this report
<b>Equality Duty considered / Impact Assessment completed</b>	Not considered applicable to this report
<b>Wards Affected</b>	As indicated in the main body of the report
<b>The contribution this decision would make to the Council's priorities</b>	Portfolio Holder activity relates to the development and delivery of the Council's key priority themes
<b>Is this a Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Alan Smith – Leader of the Council
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Senior Management Team – as indicated

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#### Report Implications

Community Safety	N	Employment (external to the Council)	N
Financial	N	Employment (internal)	N
Legal	N	Partnership	N
Social Inclusion	N	Asset Management	N
Equality Duty	N	Health and Safety	N

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide full Council with an update and overview of the activities of individual portfolio holders.

## **2.0 Content**

The activities of the Portfolio Holders are as follows:

### **2.1 Leader of the Council: Cllr Alan Smith**

#### **The Nuclear Industry**

A number of meetings have been held with senior leaders from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Sellafield, in addition to senior officials from BEIS to discuss a range of nuclear issues. The announcement from Toshiba that they would not be progressing the Moorside project was unfortunate, but not unexpected. This announcement followed on from the publication of the Oxford Economics Report which highlighted further job losses at Sellafield and underlined how dependent the West Cumbrian economy is on the nuclear industry. There is clearly no quick fix to resolving these problems, but we will continue to work with a wide range of partners to explore options and identify possible solutions to benefit the West Cumbrian economy.

#### **Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership**

The LEP adopted a new assurance framework at their Board meeting in September. This document outlines a new governance structure for the LEP, which includes a number of new sub groups and an overall increase in the number of Board members. In a positive development it was also agreed that district leaders who are not on the Board will be able to attend future meetings as observers.

#### **The Local Plan**

The Local Plan (part 2), which was approved at the last Full Council meeting, was published for comment on 5 October with the closing date for comments being the 16 November. This now means that the Local Plan, along with the comments received, will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. It is anticipated the Local Plan will be submitted in January next year and the examination will take around six months.

#### **ICT Improvement Support project**

The Council was approached many months ago to consider leading on an ERDF bid that would take advantage of European Funding to improve the ICT take up of eligible businesses, on behalf of all partners in Cumbria. We were happy to take the lead on behalf of the partners as this project complements our Business Growth Strategy.

Our project will provide expert ICT advice to individual SMEs. Each eligible SME supported will undergo an intensive diagnostic review considering in detail how ICT is being used in the business and identifying areas for

improvements, which in turn will enable the SME to increase its performance and grow.

I am pleased to report that the Council have been informed that the application for £835,000 has been successful and now has approval in principle for ERDF funding, subject to contract and conditions that will enable a Funding Agreement to be drawn up between the Council and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

### **SIIF (Social Infrastructure Investment Fund)**

The Loans Fund is now up and running, with Enterprise Answers undertaking the scheme on the Council's behalf. 5 businesses have already approached for funding and the applications are in various stages of development.

In total 6 businesses have been assisted through the small grants scheme, 2 more ideas are being appraised and several are in the pipeline. This funding has now almost all been allocated.

All funding to undertake activity highlighted within our Business Growth Strategy has also been fully allocated.

### **Shared Stadium**

The Council is continuing to work with Workington Reds and Workington Town to develop proposals for a new community stadium for West Cumbria. As well as providing for first class facilities for the professional clubs an important aim of the development would be to support community sports development at all levels and this is a key component of the bid to host the Rugby League World Cup in 2021. The proposed development would build on the success of the leisure centre and be a catalyst for the further regeneration of the lower Derwent Valley in Workington including land at the former Lonsdale Park recently acquired by the Council

The design team are working to develop the design proposals and prepare the supporting documentation required for a planning application and a consultation event to help inform the planning application was planned for 4 December. Negotiations are ongoing with potential tenants which would provide income streams to help fund the development and I hope to be able to make further announcements in relation to these tenants and other funding streams in the near future. Work is also progressing to develop the detailed business case for the development which will be considered by the Executive in the New Year.

### **Tackling Poverty Grants**

The Council has introduced two new grants which contribute towards our Tackling Poverty Strategy Action Plan.

The Community Projects Fund supports small community groups with grants of up to £1,000, which can be used towards a single small project or as an initial contribution towards a larger project.

The Work, Skills and Training Fund is open to individuals who need support to access training courses or opportunities to increase opportunities for employment. Grants of up to £500 are available for those who are eligible.

Applications for both funds are now open, and full details and application forms can be found on the Council's website.

## **2.2 Deputy Leader: Economic Growth Portfolio: Cllr Mark Fryer**

### **Reedlands Road**

On the 24 January 2018 Members of the Executive approved the acceptance of a £1.5 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant to develop 23,500 sq. feet, (2,183 sq. metres) of industrial workspace at Reedlands Business Park, Clay Flats in Workington. Members also approved the £1 million match-funding requirement to be met from prudential borrowing. Keir have been appointed to carry out the build with work scheduled to start in March 2019. Allerdale Borough Council will gain an asset in the form of the 10 new units and the construction of the business park will have significant economic development benefits for the local area.

### **Tributes and Tunes Festival**

Funding for events in Workington to support the growth of the night time economy continued in November with the Tributes and Tunes Festival and which was held on 17 November. A range of music and entertainment was provided in town centre bars and venues.

### **Wigton Facelift Scheme**

The scheme to support property owners to improve the visual appearance of their businesses and homes in the town centre is fully subscribed. Eighty four properties have received grant approval. The total expenditure is £70,000 with property owners' match funding £43,700. There is a proposal within the revised budget to make a further £20,000 available for grants within the current financial year.

### **Cockermouth Independent Retailers**

We are working in partnership with independent retailers and the Chamber of Trade in Cockermouth to encourage shopping in town centre shops in the run up to Christmas. A leaflet drop to all homes in the town plus additional publicity will encourage resident to shop local and enter a prize draw at participating retailers. The winner of the draw will win the first prize of £1,500, comprised of goods donated by traders. Contact data from competition entrants will be used for Chamber of Trade follow up communications

### **Planning and Building Control**

Following difficulties in recruiting to the Building Control Manager post the management of the Building Control and Development Management Services has now been combined with the Planning and Implementation Manager taking over responsibility for the Building Control Service. This provides an

opportunity to further co-ordinate the work of the two services and improve the service offered to customers in supporting development in Allerdale. The two services recently supported the successful self-build and custom housing event held at Lakes College.

## **2.3 Housing, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio: Cllr Carni McCarron-Holmes**

### **Affordable housing**

A further community housing fund grant contract has been agreed with the Above Derwent Community Housing Trust to enable the delivery of affordable homes. Work will commence on site in March /April 2019 and grant payments will be staggered over the course of the build.

Grant funding has also been released to Borrowdale to fund pre development costs on a potential site in Borrowdale.

The team will be seeking additional funding to aid with the delivery of affordable housing in Allerdale through the newly announced Community Housing Fund. This will enable the continuation of the Community Led Affordable Housing Officer role and enable the good work to continue in other areas of the Borough.

Work on the development of a Cumbria and Lancashire Community Land Trust HUB has progressed to the stage where it is going out to tender in December.

### **Big Switch**

The October Big Allerdale Switch saw 160 households register to switch, with 60% of registrants able to save money on their energy bill if they switched. The average saving per registrant was £115.87.

### **Housing Grants**

This year's budget for Disabled Facilities Grants has now been fully committed. 162 DFGs have been completed and paid this year. From 1 September 2018 DFGs are being approved, but works are not being ordered until new budget is confirmed (April 2019). For urgent cases a criteria has been agreed with the Housing Manager and Housing OT to process urgent cases. These cases will be approved by a panel which comprises of Housing OT, Grants Officer and Housing Manager. To be urgent there must be an imminent risk to health and safety; including falls, injury, infection and risk to carer. This will be minimum criteria work only to be funded by grant repayments and additional ABC fee income received.

As part of the Autumn Spending review a further £55m in year was announced and it is expected that Allerdale will receive in excess of £100,000. This will enable the team to order works for those grants that have been approved and placed on a waiting list.

31 Discretionary Disability Grants, 25 Safe and Warm Grants and 3 Top Up Grants have been completed this year as well as grants to Registered

Providers to install 18 level-access showers installed in over 55s accommodation in Westfield to future proof homes, and installation of a level-access shower to a vacant room within a learning disability shared home.

Unfortunately all discretionary grants have stopped being processed due to the budget being fully spent and committed. It is unlikely that the discretionary grants will be available next year due to an increase in demand in the mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants.

### **Housing Options**

A PRS (Private Rented Sector) bid has been sent to MHCLG for £105k to assist with securing tenancies within the private rented market. Four of the Cumbria Authorities - Allerdale, Carlisle, Copeland and Barrow - have carried out a joint bid. We may know before Christmas if we have been successful.

The new Crisis Support Officer has established herself very well due to her current knowledge and background. She is proving invaluable with people fleeing domestic violence, two of whom are currently within our temporary accommodation. We have also successfully appointed a new Housing Options Officer, replacing Mandy who sadly passed away.

The team are currently looking at other external funding streams - the next one is the "Move On" pot from central government, it has been decided again to carry out a joint bid as it gives the application greater weight.

The rough sleepers count night was 14 November and we have had three confirmed cases. A follow up meeting was held at Cockermouth Hub on 16 November and there is a telecom audit on the 15 December to clarify our working methodology around the rough sleepers estimate process.

### **Food and Occupational Health**

The new Animal Welfare (Licencing of Activities involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 came into force on 1 October 2018. The implications of the Regulations were considered by the Licensing Committee on 31 October and the new fee structure was introduced through delegated powers. This introduces a single licence for animal welfare activities reflecting up to date welfare requirements. Each activity i.e. animal breeding, will have general and specific standards, but the level of protection will remain the same. A rating will be attached to each licence issued reflecting the level of compliance. Additional activities i.e. home based activities; performing animals etc. will become part of the licensing programme. The impact of the Regulations will be monitored and the implications for the local authority i.e. officer competency, cost recovery will be considered.

The team have been working with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to move forward on the delivery of 'Regulating Our Future' (ROF). The FSA are piloting an online food business registration service with a small number of local authorities. This will impact on how food business operators register with their local authority and will reduce local authority officer input as manual input is reduced. This is the first phase of moving forwards and we will continue to work with the FSA to deliver the ROF plans.

Public awareness on allergy related incidents has been increased with recent publicity. We continue work with Trading Standards and raise awareness with food business operators of their legal obligations relating to allergens.

### **Environment Protection**

A review is underway to look at the working practices of the department and identify how processes work and where there are opportunities for new ways of working. The team have lots of ideas for new initiatives to improve Environmental Protection, these include a toilet twinning campaign and exploring bids for external funding in the private landlord sector and for air quality initiatives.

### **Maryport Regeneration**

In October the Council's plans to regenerate Maryport were launched at an event held in the Wave Centre. Presenting the plans were Cllr Mark Fryer, Deputy Leader and Executive member for Economic Growth and Anne-Marie Cowperthwaite, Associate Director at Arup. Also speaking was Professor Frank Peck, Research Professor in Regional Development at the University of Cumbria who gave an overview of how coastal economies are performing, and Ian Hinde, the Council's Policy Officer (Scrutiny and Partnerships) on the Council's plans to submit a response to the House of Lords Select Committee on Seaside Towns and Communities. The event was well attended and the plans were well received by local residents and business owners.

The Maryport Delivery Plan aims to improve the town's most popular areas to increase tourism, employment opportunities and give a boost to the local economy. The plan includes a number of key projects, such as creating a calendar of events to encourage visitors to the town, housing renewal and, improvements to the promenade and harbour. Other projects include making enhancements to the town centre, including the areas around Curzon Street and Senhouse Street - bringing vacant units back into use and creating a more pedestrian friendly entrance to the town and linking the centre to the train station.

More recently, Graeme Wilson has taken on the role of Programme Director and has made a positive start in building relationships with local businesses, Councillors and community representatives.

## **2.4 Corporate Resources (Finance and Property) Portfolio: Cllr Barbara Cannon**

### **Workington Hall**

Scheduled monument consent has been obtained for a further phase of repair and consolidation works which should allow us to get the building off the at risk register. Consultants have been appointed to work up the tender documentation. Tenders will be returned by the end of February 2019. Heritage England will advise on the outcome of the grant application once tender figures have been returned. If the application is successful works should start on site in early April.

## **Multi Storey Car Park, Workington**

Further works planned for the MSCP include the replacement of light fitting to the top floor with more efficient fittings. This work will be carried out over the next two months.

## **Public toilets**

We are still waiting to hear from Aspatria Town Council as to whether they are interested in taking over the public toilets in the town. The offer to the Town Council involves a full refurbishment of the properties.

We are currently in discussions with the National Trust and Lake District National Park Authority in respect of a possible transfer of the toilet block in Grange.

## **Footway lighting**

Work continues to take place between Cumbria County Council and ourselves to establish ownership and actual numbers of footway lights within towns and parishes throughout the Borough. Once ownership and numbers have been established we will be speaking to the town and parish councils about the potential transfer of the lighting stock. All Members should have received a letter from the Portfolio Holder explaining the proposals and timescales for the transfer.

## **Finance Reports**

Over the course of the last quarter the finance team have been leading on the preparation of two key reports:

- Quarter 2 Finance Report and Revised Budget 2018/19.
- Treasury Management Operations – Mid-year review 2018/19

These reports play an important part in the strong financial management of the Council and each report will be presented at today's Council meeting.

## **Star Chamber**

The Council's Executive have continued with their approach of holding Star Chambers where the relevant Portfolio Holder and Head of Service discuss performance against budget in their areas with members of the Corporate Leadership Team.

A key message from the Star Chambers is that whilst the Council has managed its budgets and financial reserves to date, there are growing levels of uncertainty about our funding levels from 2020 onwards.

To manage this uncertainty, the finance team will continue to use all available resources to ensure the assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) remain in-line with latest available information.

## **Budget Strategy 2019-20 and beyond**

The Budget Strategy report is the first report of the Council's budget setting process for 2019-20 onwards, which sets out the financial pressures that the

Council is likely to face in the coming years and suggests an appropriate strategy to ensure that this authority remains financially stable.

This report details the key assumptions adopted as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan and which form the foundation of the detailed budget position for 2019-20.

The budget for 2019/20 will be considered by Executive in February 2019 and presented for Council approval in March 2019.

This Executive's financial strategy over the last few years has worked successfully in increasing financial sustainability and there is a well-planned approach to budget setting and the budget process. Our budget setting processes have been successful in delivering a balanced budget and engaging with the public.

## **2.5 Governance and People Resources Portfolio: Cllr Joan Ellis**

### **Democratic Services**

The Member Development Working Group continue to meet to develop the Induction Programme for May 2019, recently supported by recommendations made by the Scrutiny Task & Finish Group for Councillor Training. A review of the Council's North West Charter for Elected Member Development award will begin in January 2019 when the Council will re-sign its commitment to member learning and development.

Members are to be contacted by Democratic Services to review their Personal Development Plans and given an opportunity to discuss any support or development requirements they may have.

The Independent Panel for Councillors Allowances are due to meet in December to begin their review the Allowances Scheme for 2019/20. Members will receive an invitation to make representations to the Panel in due course.

### **Electoral Services**

The team has now almost completed the annual canvass work and is undertaking the final checks. The new register of electors will be published on 30 November and will be based on the existing council wards; a new version will then be published on 1 March 2019 to reflect the new Allerdale wards.

The five Community Governance Reviews have now concluded and Council will be making decisions on them later in the meeting. Work has begun on the polling district and polling station review and Councillors have been asked to submit comments on current polling arrangements in their ward. The final polling scheme will be presented to Council in January 2019.

Work has started on planning for the delivery of the Allerdale Borough Council and the parish council elections in May 2019. Briefings for potential candidates, election agents and parties will be arranged for the New Year to clarify the new Allerdale ward arrangements and to give details on all aspects of the election including the nomination process, postal vote opening procedures and count arrangements.

## **Legal Services**

The Legal Services Team continues to support the Authority in the delivery of the Council's priorities and objectives, working closely with officers from across all services, elected members and the public. Ongoing legal support is being provided in respect of the mobilisation of the waste contract post award. The loans fund for local businesses has now been implemented with the aim of job creation and significant interest has already been received. A variety of property matters are ongoing such as continued work regarding the acquisition of land at Lillyhall. In addition, planning enforcement work at the magistrates' court has been successful in recent weeks.

## **Licensing**

Following the successful implementation of the pilot scheme for the practical driving test for taxi drivers, the Licensing Team has now appointed a supplier for the knowledge test and the test has been formulated, with the first drivers having now taken the test. At Licensing Committee, the Street Trading Policy and Animal Licensing Policy have both now been approved. Both the practical driving test and the knowledge test are intended to improve the quality of the service provided in the Borough.

## **Assurance, Risk & Audit**

The Assurance Risk and Audit Team are working on the planned work for 2018/19, the revised plan based on current resources available will be presented to the Audit Committee on 26 November 2018.

A full refresh of the way assurance reports are presented has been undertaken by the team and the new reports will be more streamlined and visual. Risk Management facilitation work continues to be a priority, risk support has been provided to the stadium steering group and a risk workshop has been provided to management, this will be extended to the Audit Committee in the New Year.

## **People Resources**

A meeting has recently taken place with TUC to discuss the Great Jobs Agenda. The agenda will give the trade union movement a common set of bargaining asks in workplaces, it sets out what the TUC want the government to do to ensure that every worker has a great job, fair pay, regular hours and the opportunity to progress. The great jobs agenda will also extend to any of Allerdale's third parties to ensure that third parties are also an employer of choice. An action plan has been developed between the HR Team, Executive Member and Unison in regards to what needs to be strengthened in order to achieve. We are pleased to announce that the majority of items on the agenda are already being met by Allerdale.

The Executive and Senior Management Team at Allerdale met with North West Employers to ensure we were achieving all the benefits available to us through this partnership and to gain an understanding of what else they are going to put in place to assist their local government partners.

The Council is participating in Bright Stars and Dream Placement in conjunction with the Centre of Leadership in Cockermouth.

### **West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership**

The newly created Local Focus Hub based in Cockermouth for the Allerdale area continues to develop with partners. The nationwide Ask Angela campaign has been launched in West Cumbria in time for the Christmas season. Cyber Awareness training is taking place throughout Allerdale with communities. Under the Pub Watch umbrella, defibrillator training has been undertaken with pub door staff, taxi marshals and licensees.

## **2.6 Transformation Portfolio: Cllr Konrad Hansen**

### **Head of Programmes and Projects**

I am delighted to welcome Brendan Carlin as Head of Programmes and Projects. Brendan will have responsibility over Programmes and Projects and Procurement.

### **Programmes and Projects**

In order to support the Council's objective of becoming more innovative and commercial, we have created a programme and project environment that enables us to clearly focus on the priority projects for the Authority while simultaneously continuing to deliver our business-as-usual activities to a high standard. The newly-formed Programmes and Projects Service includes dedicated officers that will co-ordinate the resource, both internally and externally, that is required for success as well as leading on the Council's change programme and ensuring that key projects are being delivered in a way that is consistent with our strategic direction.

The initial programmes of work will focus upon:

- Transformation and Commercialisation – increasing productivity by using technology to deliver improved customer service and efficiency; and improving income across trading services. This programme is critical to ensure the Council has the capacity to fund key projects.
- Regeneration and Investment – delivery of key regeneration projects such as the shared stadium and commercial projects such as Lillyhall development;
- Strategic Influencing – improving the Council's influencing role on key issues such as road and rail infrastructure, strategic housing role and access to special funds;
- Maryport Regeneration Plan – delivery of key projects at the promenade, harbour and working with partners to enable improvements to the railway station and Curzon Street.

The Programme Office has developed a charter defining its principles, its objectives and measures to determine whether those objectives have been met. Additionally, the team is ensuring the successful delivery of the projects and programme outcomes through the use of consistent processes and robust

business cases for each of the programmes and all the individual projects within. Programmes and projects are being defined and developed throughout November and December through a series of workshops with the project leads, supporting officers and stakeholders.

## **Procurement**

The team attended procurement training with third tier managers from across the business in November to ensure that all departments now have someone in their team who can confidently procure goods and services in a transparent and compliant way and ensure best value in public procurement. The training provided guidance on the context of public procurement, the public sector regulations and guidance on how to ensure that expected benefits and outputs from contracts are delivered through good contract management. The training also identified areas where procurement can 'add value' by encompassing social value in tenders such as jobs or community, economic or environmental benefits.

## **ICT**

The team continue to support the day to day running of the Council as well as being involved in a number of projects including ongoing development of myAllerdale and the implementation of the new platform which replaces existing systems used by planning, land charges, building control and environmental health.

Over recent months a lot of work has gone on in the background by the team to set up systems which support new ways of working. This includes developing our use of the Office 365 suite of applications to enable flexible collaborative working across the organisation.

The next step in introducing the new ways of working is to roll out a programme of training for all staff, a digital training needs analysis to assess the digital maturity of the organisation has been completed and the results are being used to develop and tailor the training and the way in which it is delivered to ensure everyone can make best use of the systems and services available to help them deliver services efficiently for our customers.

## **Customer Operations (Revenues & Benefits, Council Tax, Customer Service Centre)**

This month Customer Services have appointed two apprentices to join the team, the apprentices will gain valuable experience of dealing with customers in a busy customer service environment using a variety of contact channels including face to face, telephone and on-line.

Customer Satisfaction when contacting our customer service team remains high with 89% of customers' surveyed rating the experience as satisfactory or highly satisfactory.

This financial year we have seen a reduction in telephone and face to face enquiries when compared to the same period last year. More customers are moving online to report issues and use of the myAllerdale on-line reporting

service has nearly doubled as customers report problems using smart phones, tablets or home computers.

In addition to myAllerdale we also offer our customers the option of signing up online for paperless billing which saves on paper and reduces printing costs.

There were four summons issued for non-payment of Council Tax which resulted in two arrest warrants being issued, one payment in full being received and one payment arrangement being made.

Council Tax collection rates remain high, so far this year we have collected £37.1m, though it is worth a reminder that Allerdale BC (as the collection authority) retains only 9.7% of funds collected with the remainder being collected on behalf of Cumbria County Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Parish Councils.

Processing of new benefit claims in October remains well ahead of target and to improve the service for customers we are starting to cross skill some benefits staff by training them on council tax legislation.

## **2.7 Environmental Quality Portfolio: Cllr Michael Heaslip**

### **Environment Heritage Initiatives**

Artwork for the Confluence, Cockermouth, has been granted planning permission following Environment Agency (EA) acceptance of the Flood Risk Assessment. The installation can now proceed pending a check on whether an EA licence is required. Habitat improvements for birds and animals at Siddick Pond are underway and are already being colonised by migrating birds.

### **Council Sport and Play Facilities**

GLL are refurbishing the gym and lavatories at Keswick Spa to improve the quantity and quality of usage at a cost of £180k which is being funded by GLL.

The new Gym at the Wave was recently opened and users are signing up to membership. The gym investment was funded by the Council and GLL and will result in a reduction of the annual subsidy paid by the Council.

A possible design for a new football hub on the former Leisure Centre sports pitches at Moorclose has been prepared with Cumberland FA and we are in discussions with the FA about funding it.

Major refurbishment of the sports pitches at Milltoft and Ennerdale Road, Maryport, is ready to go as soon as weather and the season permits - which probably means April.

### **Sport Development**

The recommendations of the Cockermouth Sports Facilities study were accepted by Executive in October and the first project to be under way is the refurbishment of paths and the tennis courts at Harris Park, which will also enable development at Grasmoor Sports Centre (Cockermouth RUFC). Harris Park has been offered to Cockermouth Town Council as a Community Asset Transfer once the improvements are complete.

A “Swimlink” programme is to take place at Workington Sports Centre; Swimlink is a national programme which gets youngsters taking swimming lessons involved in their local swimming club.

An “Exercise on Referral” (referral by GPs) programme funded by Sport England is starting at Workington Sports Centre and will then be provided at Wigton too.

### **Bereavement Services**

We are drawing up heads of terms for Holme Low Parish Council’s plans to take over Silloth Cemetery building as an asset transfer.

Memorial inspections have been completed at Maryport and are about to start at Salterbeck.

Repairs and improvements to footpaths are complete at Salterbeck Cemetery and work is about to start on resurfacing and white-lining the parking area.

### **Open Spaces**

We continue to work with other bodies and agencies to better manage river catchments and inshore waters with the West Cumbria Rivers Trust.

### **Parking**

Over 20 additional bays reserved for disabled people are being provided in car parks in Workington.

An “early bird” parking scheme is to operate in the Multi Storey Car Park for all-day parkers who arrive before 9am and leave after 4pm. Free parking is also being provided in the MSCP to coincide with late-night shop opening in the run up to Christmas.

### **Street Scene**

Work has started on the Council’s PSPO (Public Space Protection Orders), these replace all the dog control areas and are fundamental to the work of the Street Scene Team as without them the Officers are unable to enforce.

Joanne Fisher will be leading on these for the team and if any Councillors or Parish Councils would like an area to be considered then please contact her directly. This is the last call for suggestions as PSPOs are only reviewed every three years.

The dog fouling campaign (‘we are watching you’) in association with Keep Britain Tidy is being developed to be rolled out in the New Year. Parish Councils which would like to join in the scheme (there is a cost) are invited to get in touch – soon.

A new street scene and public realm maintenance and cleaning contract has been awarded from April 2019 and will integrate street cleaning and grounds maintenance.

### **Waste and Recycling**

A new Waste & Recycling collections contract has been awarded from April 2019 and will result in savings to the Council compared with the cost basis of

the existing contract. Weekly collections of residual waste will continue. Recyclate will be collected in bins or boxes instead of the current purple bags which are expensive and contaminate the recyclate.

## **2.8 Tourism and Culture Portfolio: Cllr William Jefferson**

### **Visit Allerdale website**

The website is frequently updated (e.g. 'Autumn in Allerdale') to provide compelling content to encourage more visitors especially during quieter periods of the year. A free listing for 'bricks and mortar' businesses not yet in a position to take up the paid marketing opportunities via the website has been implemented on the site.

### **Hadrian's Wall Cycle Path**

The route for the section between Allonby and Silloth has been agreed by the Silloth Coastal Community Team with completion due in 2019/20. Sustrans has been awarded Leader funding to upgrade signage and interpretation along the route. We will be working with them to ensure this ties in with our destination growth plans as well as working in partnership to alert businesses to the opportunities to attract more cycle customers along the route.

### **Business engagement**

We held our latest well attended Tourism Breakfast Briefing in Keswick on 22 November 2018. Attendees were brought up to date with our destination development plans and how we could work together in partnership to grow the value of the market. A range of external speakers shared their ideas and insights that were focused on being of use to businesses to attract and retain customers.

### **Virtual reality**

The project to create an exciting range of virtual reality films is due to receive a public launch at the next Tourism Breakfast Briefing in the New Year. The films highlight the very best of Allerdale will be used on the Visit Allerdale website and Tourism Information Centres. It is also hoped they will be available to use in Carlisle Lake District Airport.

### **The Green, Silloth – play area**

Funding from Allerdale BC, Silloth Town Council, Cumbria County Council and the Rotary Club has provided the investment to enhance the facilities for young children and families on The Green, with the provision of a nautically themed adventure playground that is accessible and DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant.

### **Solway Firth Partnership Solway Coast AONB Joint Conference 2018**

The conference was held in Carlisle on 2 November 2018. Highlights included Doug Allan, wildlife and documentary cameraman and author who delivered the keynote speech with interesting and informative discussion sessions on:

- Planning for the future of the Solway
- Our coastal heritage at risk – love it or lose it?
- The Solway Coast through performance and drama
- Arts and culture

### **Allerdale 100**

This was our commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War I. A community engagement company worked with schools and community groups across the Borough to create an installation in the Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre that reflected the experiences of people at the front and the home front. The installation was available for members of the public to view from 1 – 21 November 2018.

### **National Park**

The Lake District National Park has given park officers delegated approval to agree Honister Slate Mine's Aerial Flight or zip wire planning application – subject to conditions. The Aerial Flight will follow the path of old industrial workings which were in use up until 1926 transporting slate along the side of Fleetwith Pike via an aerial wire. The modern version will have the dual purpose of outdoor adventure and industry; offering an adrenaline fuelled descent for people climbing the Via Ferrata and providing a financially viable way to bring walling slate, piled up by previous generations of miners in the tunnels, down the mountain. This type of slate is scarce within the Lake District National Park with architects, builders and developers keen to keep the traditional look of the area, and we have tonnes of it sitting in tunnels ready to be brought down the mountain.

## **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Members note the content of the report.