

Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 23 February 2022

Portfolio Holder updates

Portfolio holder	Councillor Mike Johnson – Leader
Report from	Senior Management Team
Wards affected	As indicated in the main body of the report
Is this a key decision	No

1.0 The reason for the decision

- 1.1 To update Council on the activities and decisions of Portfolio Holders since the last meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the content of the report.

3.0 Background and Introduction

- 3.1 This is a regular report that comes to each meeting of Council. The purpose of the report is to provide full Council with an update and overview of the activities of individual portfolio holders.
- 3.2 The activities of the Portfolio Holders are given in the following sections.

4.0 Leader of the Council: Economic Growth, Community Development and Place-making Portfolio: Cllr Mike Johnson

Additional Restrictions Grant – Omicron Support Scheme

- 4.1 The Government funded grant scheme to support businesses severely impacted by the rise of the Omicron variant and Covid restrictions closes on 18 February 2022.

Welcome Back Fund – high street improvements

- 4.2 Service Level Agreements have been agreed with the seven Town Councils in Allerdale. As delivery partners for the Welcome Back Fund, the Councils will deliver a series of improvements to the value of £12,857 per town to aid the recovery and growth of the retail sector by making them more attractive to residents and visitors. A range of measures will be implemented which include providing planters,

additional seating, bike racks, additional lighting as well as undertaking deep cleans of pavements. All work will be completed by 31 March 2022.

Welcome Back Fund – the shop local campaign

- 4.3 The shop local campaign video that encourages residents to shop on their high streets has reached over 39,000 people on social media. The shop local win a hamper competition reached over 38,000 people on social media and received 1296 entries with the hamper containing £1,000 of goods and services kindly provided free of charge by Allerdale businesses.

Maryport Regeneration Programme

- 4.4 Planning work on the six Future High Street (FHS) Schemes continues at a pace with more detailed Architects plans being drawn up for the Wave, Christchurch and the Carlton. With construction costs increasing on these schemes initial cost plans are higher than anticipated. We are in discussion with the governments FHS team over this and also the viability of the Empire Yard scheme as site assembly issues are impacting on its viability.

Planning and implementation of the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) shop front improvement and FHS residential conversion grant schemes continues to progress. Work has now commenced on improvements for both the Heron Foods Store and Maryport Town Hall.

LGR – Commissioning, Procurement and Contract Management

- 4.5 Working with colleagues from across all the Cumbrian Authorities, the Procurement team has been developing and populating a single contract pipeline register across all seven councils. This work has now been substantially completed and remains a 'live' document. Similar work is also being undertaken on a grant register.

Next steps include the detailed analysis of each contract, assessing on a RAG rating (Red, Amber or Green traffic light rating) how fit they are for Vesting Day. Additionally, the workstream is preparing the development of detailed service delivery models for the options appraisals.

Strategic Commissioning and Procurement Strategy - Action Plan

- 4.6 The annual Procurement Action Plan has been updated and was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in line with the Strategic Commissioning and Procurement Strategy 2020-2030. Highlights include training and workshops for officers and councillors on contract exit arrangements, carbon reduction in council contracts, and risk management in contracts. Additionally, new contract checklists and management tools were created to ensure that all aspects are covered when awarding a contract, that all obligations and escalation procedures are tracked, and that exit and transition is planned for adequately in council contracts.

Carbon Reduction in Council Contracts

- 4.7 Following on from the training and accreditation in Carbon Literacy, the Procurement team facilitated a workshop with all officers in November 2021 to consider carbon reduction through procurement, noting how we can take account of carbon reduction in awarding Council contracts. The team also attended and

presented to the Climate Change Group last month to discuss how we will address actions around social value and carbon reduction through procurement. New contacts were made with other organisations so we can share ideas and work together going forward.

5.0 Deputy Leader of the Council: Policy, Governance and People Resources Portfolio: Cllr Marion Fitzgerald

Climate Change Advisory Group

5.1 Since the beginning of the New Year, there have been two further Carbon Literacy Training sessions offered mainly to staff who are involved in the procurement of goods and services on behalf of the Council.

Progress against the Climate Change Action Plan was reported to the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) on Thursday 3 February.

Work is underway to link our activities with those of similar groups attached to Carlisle City Council and Copeland Borough Council in order to harmonise our activities in advance of Local Government Reorganisation.

Investigations are currently taking place into the potential for electrical vehicle charging points to be installed in car parks in Wigton and Cockermouth.

The Climate Change Advisory Group would like to renew our invitation to councillors to join us if they have an interest in any aspect of the environmental work or perhaps some specialist knowledge or skill that can be developed within the group.

We are delighted to note that Allerdale was rated top among the Cumbrian district councils by Climate Emergency UK in their league table ranking the effectiveness of climate change plans. Allerdale Borough Council's plan can be viewed in full at <https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/en/your-environment/climate-change/climate-change-action-plan/>

Allerdale Community Partnership (Geological Disposal Facility)

5.2 The partnership met for the first time on Wednesday 26th January. At present, the membership consists of:

- Radioactive Waste Management (RWM)
- Allerdale Borough Council
- Inspira (Careers advice for young people in Cumbria and Lancashire)
- Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
- Temporary Chair (Executive Member of CALC)

Discussion focused on engagement with the public, expansion of the partnership and the setting up of sub-groups to handle individual tasks – for example the management of applications to the community investment fund.

Like its predecessor, the Allerdale Working Group, the Partnership has its own website which will be kept fully up to date on the programme of activities. Members are encouraged to visit the website and to sign up to the regular newsletter.

<https://allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk>

Homelessness

- 5.3 As reported in January, the new accommodation in Cockermouth and Workington has made a huge difference to the options which the Council can offer to people in crisis. Rather than just a bed and a room, our new service can address individual needs and to provide the support that is needed to make significant life changes.

We are putting the finishing touches to the Homelessness Strategy, which will no longer be a part of the general Housing Strategy. On 18 January, stakeholders were invited to an online meeting to share their views on the content of this new standalone strategy. The meeting was very well attended. Since we recognise that the Council cannot solve homeless issues without the support of our partners, their investment in the Council's Strategy is most welcome.

Our Rough Sleeping Coordinator has been working closely with the local GPs to encourage vaccination uptake amongst those who have been rough sleeping. Health teams have visited our temporary accommodation to administer vaccines. This was funded using the additional 'Protect and Vaccinate Funding' that we received from the government.

Children's Trust Board - Allerdale Locality Group

- 5.4 With Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon, work has been undertaken to look for synergies in the work of the various sub-groups operating within Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland. One particular area where similar objectives have been identified is Contraception and Sexual Health advice for young people. The Carlisle and Allerdale Locality Groups have now joined forces and hope in the near future to be able to launch an e-clinic with the purpose of offering contraceptive and sexual health advice for under 18s.

6.0 Environmental Services Portfolio: Cllr Jim Lister

Enforcement

- 6.1 Our new Education and Enforcement Manager started 1 February, they have joined our team from Cumbria Police and we look forward to him leading the team.

We are supporting the National We Are Watching You campaign which is focused on the reduction in dog fouling. The Allerdale Enforcement Team and council contractor Tivoli have fixed the bespoke signage in dog fouling 'hotspots' across Allerdale, to advise of the increased patrols and the Fixed Penalties due, should residents fail to pick up after their dog. We have seen a significant reduction in reports for dog fouling in three residential areas in Workington with reports reducing from 11 in November to 1 in December. Our team are out in the community every week on patrol and we have seen many examples of responsible dog ownership.

Targeted intelligence and complaint led high profile patrolling continues across the borough in areas with high instances of dog fouling, littering and fly tipping. Education and engagement activities have taken place including using leafletting, stencilling and signage in our hot spot locations. This is particularly important at the Bring Site locations; a more intensive plan of action will be delivered throughout Spring to help educate residents and businesses around the use of these sites and we will take enforcement action where there is sufficient evidence to do so.

As a Finalist for The Keep Britain Tidy Awards we will be attending the annual conference and awards event in Birmingham 10 and 11 February.

There are ten award categories, each with three shortlisted contenders, and the council has beaten off stiff competition from across the country to become a finalist in the Initiative of the Year Award 2022 category for its #OperationRespect campaign.

The #OperationRespect campaign has seen several key partners work together to tackle fly-tipping in the area and educate local residents on the issue. These have included the council's waste and street scene contractors, Cumbria Police, the Environment Agency, and local housing associations. A further day of targeted action is planned during February being led by our partners from the British Transport Police, a full press statement will be released upon completion of this operation.

Tivoli Services

- 6.2 Tivoli have now completed their sweep of the Allerdale beaches to collect the dead birds that were victims of the avian flu epidemic. They collected over 700 carcasses which were deposited directly to landfill at Hespian Wood landfill site. Throughout the exercise the health of the staff working on the collections was monitored by the UK Health Security Agency.

The LGR workstream concerning Street Cleansing has now received a baseline assessment and SWOT from Allerdale. Tivoli's vehicles are included in the LGR Fleet workstream too.

Allerdale Waste Services

- 6.3 The LGR workstream for waste has submitted both the SWOT and baseline assessment at a county level and for the new Cumberland Council and Westmoreland and Furness Council and are now working towards preparing a report for Cumbria Leaders' Oversight Forum (CLOF) in late February which will identify some future service options. As with Tivoli above the AWSL vehicles form part of the LGR Fleet workstream.

The Shareholder Committee met on 28 January 2022 to receive the quarter 2 and quarter 3 performance update reports in relation to the collections of waste and recycling carried out by Allerdale Waste Services. The reports highlighted collection rates of 99.930% and 99.935% respectively and showed how performance in all areas had improved compared to the same period in the previous year. The reports also highlighted improvements in staffing absence levels and a good standard of delivery in relation to the testing of private hire and hackney carriage taxis.

The Shareholder Committee also approved the Company's business plan for 2022/23 which provides details of the service to be provided along with planned efficiencies to be carried out in the new financial year. This includes a partial round re-organisation which will see a reduction of the waste collection fleet by 1 vehicle, and importantly helps to reduce the carbon emissions used in collecting waste and recycling. The partial reorganisation means that approx. 700 households in Allerdale will be required to have their weekly household waste collections changed from a Friday to a Wednesday. The households affected are in the Dearham,

Langrigg, Aspatria, Yearngill, Lowscapes, Bromfield, Threapland, Plumbland, Parsonby and Arkleby areas.

The Council manage 26 recycling “bring-sites” across Allerdale. These sites are used for people to take glass, tin cans, plastics, paper and card which are then collected by Allerdale Waste Services and then sent for recycling. Most of these sites are properly used by the local community and remain tidy and well managed. As reported at the last Council meeting a small number of these sites are being misused by the local community who are using them to dispose of general household waste which should be legally disposed of using the Household Waste Recycling Centres in Workington, Maryport and Wigton and managed by the County Council. The misuse of these sites is classified as fly-tipping and can be subject to fixed penalty notices or further prosecution options depending on the scale.

Corporate Health and Safety

- 6.4 The team have been working on mental health issues with officers and stress risk assessments, both personal and by groups. A revised COVID risk assessment for working in Allerdale House and attending external and internal meetings has been prepared.

We have been working with the Enforcement team and providing individual risk assessments. We have reviewed the health and safety for all external events held on Allerdale land. We have been working as part of the group on Avian Bird flu issues on Allerdale land. We have arranged first aid training for some officers especially those who are customer facing.

The team are currently revising the Corporate Driving Policy to incorporate the new Highway Code Legislation. As with many other officers we have been representing Allerdale on the LGR process. We have been overseeing health and safety works with contractors on Maryport Town Hall regeneration.

Pest Control

- 6.5 We have secured another contract with a Whitehaven School.

Emergency Planning and Resilience

- 6.6 We chaired the Cumbria Emergency Planning Group which is represented by all Cumbria’s Authorities and undertook further discussions and work ongoing around COVID reception centres. Storm Arwen de-briefs were completed, information collated and will be used to increase the ability of multi- agencies during any emergency to best combat situations as they arise. As above we have been representing Allerdale on the LGR process.

Property and Estates

- 6.7 Another phase of repair and consolidation works at Workington Hall was completed in mid-February. This included works to the ladies toilets, kitchen and Justice Hall.

This phase also included some additional work that needed to be carried out to the Gatehouse roof which had suffered from some vandalism.

Following a meeting with Heritage England (HE), a further phase of works has been identified to the northern range which will be required before the building can come off the at-risk register.

A grant application has been submitted to HE for funding of the design work and part of the contract works. The outcome of the application should be known by the end of February.

7.0 Leisure and Tourism Portfolio: Cllr Anthony Markley

Allerdale Tourism Conference

- 7.1 The conference takes place at Energus, Workington on 23 February 2022. Organised on our behalf by Cumbria Tourism, expert speakers will share their knowledge of how to recruit in the current difficult climate, how to develop and retain staff, how to exploit the growing ebike and cycling market as well as advice on how to get the most out of digital technologies.

Ebike destination report

- 7.2 A report has been commissioned to advise on how to increase the number of ebike owners, or those that wished to try ebiking, to choose Allerdale for their active break, to support business growth and jobs especially in areas of the borough with the scope to welcome more visitors.

The report found that there was a strong market opportunity based on the growing popularity of ebikes and ordinary cycles. In 2020 it was estimated that 7.5 million people actively participated in cycling every week. The total tourism spend from cyclists and mountain bikers was estimated to be £520m in 2018. In 2020 sales of ebikes accounted for approximately 23% of the market.

The report recommends a series of measures including promoting a range of new routes for ebikes and cyclists based on our 7 towns and develop a toolkit that can be used to successfully tap into the growing market.

Tactical Visitor Management Group (TVMG)

- 7.3 TVMG was established in 2020 by partners to prepare plans for the safe return of visitors when Covid restrictions were eased. The partners, the Police, Lake District National Park, District Councils, County Council, National Trust, Forestry England Cumbria Tourism, National Highways and Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association implemented a series of measures during 2020/21 and 2021/22 including more temporary car parks and camp sites, multi – disciplinary teams on the ground advising visitors and public information campaigns. The costs were funded by COMPF (Contain Outbreak Management Fund administered by Cumbria County Council). Evaluation of the work of TVMP has been submitted to the County Council with a request for funding to carry on the good work into 2022/23.

Fishing Faces promotional campaign

- 7.4 A range of promotional material including video, photography, web content and leaflet has been developed to highlight the people who: catch fish off our coast,

protect the coastal environment, protect mariners and the people preparing it and serving it in cafes and restaurants to residents and visitors. The materials will be launched in spring 2022 with our existing beaches guide and military trail leaflet to encourage visitors and residents to explore our coastal areas. The material will also support the promotion of our Taste Food Festivals.

Fleming Square, Maryport

- 7.5 Replacement planting of three semi-mature trees and reinstatement of cobbles paving surrounds has been completed.

Mote Hill, Maryport

- 7.6 Work has started on the stone walling on the site as part of the County Council Environment fund project.

Siddick Pond, Workington

- 7.7 100+ trees donated by Arcus have been planted on our recently acquired land at Siddick Pond. A further 100+ trees have been donated to Wigton to support their "Trees for Wigton" campaign

West Cumbria Cultural Strategy

- 7.8 The first draft of the strategy document has been received and is being reviewed by the steering group.

8.0 Customer Experience and Innovation Portfolio: Cllr Alan Pitcher

Allerdale Local Focus Hub (ALFH)

- 8.1 The Allerdale Local Focus Hub Partnership has experienced the busiest and most challenging year to date. We welcome new partners Together We, West Cumbria Carers, Victim Support, Riverside Housing, Eden Housing and Women Out West. Growing our partners and working closely with our Third Sector support services is vital to the success of the daily problem solving activity in the Hub.

We received 156 referrals in 2021 (Compared to 122 for the whole of 2020), referrals range from anti-social behaviour, neighbour disputes, noise complaints, drug issues and complex location based problems. It is great to see referrals coming in from a wide range of partners.

We have increased subscriptions to the monthly place based newsletters that are being published by Cumbria Constabulary, there are almost 8000 subscribers signed up already.

St Michaels ward continues to be a priority location for ALFH and work is focused around supporting the Safer Streets team, who have a tight delivery time scale of 31 March 2022. The team have now delivered 727 Crime Prevention packs to the residents in this ward and completed over 110 home security assessments. We have a full week of action planned with agencies, Police Cadets and Fire Cadets during half term, distributing home safety packs to the residents in St Michaels.

We have led the Youth Violence group in discussions around the emerging evidence in relation to youth violence in West Cumbria. An engagement event is

planned for 8th February to discuss the issues in Maryport and identify ways to work closely with the community and deliver solutions.

The Maryport Community Alcohol Partnership continues to gain momentum, the group have supported the successful training and development of 20 young health champions from Netherhall School Year 9 group. This cohort of young people will be an integral part of future public health and youth health campaigns in school and the community. We are working with Netherhall School, County Council, Barnardos and CADAS to look at some longer terms support for these young people to support Peer led interactions with young people in Maryport.

The Moorclose Stronger Together project is now in the closure stages, we are working with University of Central Lancashire and partners to support the final evaluation of this project.

In January we also welcomed the new Community Cohesion Officer to Allerdale, who is building up a network of contacts and gathering intelligence to inform and finalise our 2022/23 business plan for this priority area.

ICT – Gold Award for Spatial Services

- 8.2 I am pleased to report that we maintained our Gold Award for Spatial Services accuracy when assessed by GeoPlace, achieving gold service level in every criterion.

Cyber Security

- 8.3 We have been awarded Cyber Essentials Plus, which is an advanced Government-backed cyber security accreditation run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) confirming effective protection against cyber attacks.

Network Compliance

- 8.4 In improving our data network, we have achieved compliance with the Health and Social Care Network (HSCN) (including NHS code of compliance) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) code of compliance requirements.

ICT and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- 8.5 The interim ICT requirements of the Shadow Authorities are now being considered, with demand requests being received from a number of LGR programme workstreams. These include finalising hosting and support arrangements for the Shadow Authorities, identifying the ICT requirements of the Legal and Democratic, Assets, Organisation Design & Human Resources and Finance workstreams as well as the acquisition of .gov.uk domain names for the Shadow Authorities from the Cabinet Office.

A baseline and SWOT analysis has been completed for presentation to Cumbria Leaders Oversight Forum in early March and strong progress has been made on looking at future Microsoft enterprise agreements and possible future enterprise architecture designs. Work also continues on the creation of a data hub, with the infrastructure design and security protocols now agreed.

9.0 Finance and Legal Portfolio: Cllr Colin Sharpe

Revenue Budget 2022-23 and Capital Programme 2022-23 to 2024-25

- 9.1 Since the last portfolio update, preparation of the (draft) Revenue Budget for 2022-23 and proposed three-year Capital Programme for 2022-23 to 2024-25, along with their associated report, have been completed. At the time of writing, both are to be presented to Executive on 9 February and submitted for approval by Council on 23 February.

Q3 Finance Report April to December 2021

- 9.2 The team have been reviewing the projected outturn, as forecast by budget holders, as at 31 December 2021 in preparation of the Q3 Finance Report which is due to be presented to Executive on 23 March.

Covid-19 financial monitoring

- 9.3 Several financial returns have been submitted in relation to the financial monitoring of Covid-19 and associated grants. These include:

- Covid-19 local authority financial monitoring to the DCLG
- Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to the DHSC
- Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to Cumbria County Council

In addition, Service Managers have been supported in their financial monitoring of specific Covid-19 grants, and the team have contributed to the preparation of the Welcome Back Fund claim, due in the period.

Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP)

- 9.4 Preparation for the implementation of the new system has been the key focus for several staff in the team. Testing and tailoring of the system has continued, to ensure the system will be fit for purpose at its go live date of 1 April 2023. Plans for rolling out training are also being developed.

10.0 Delivery arrangements

- 10.1 Not applicable to this report.

11.0 Implications and Impact

11.1 Contribution to Council Strategy Priorities, Outputs and Outcomes

This is an update on Portfolio activity in line with the Council's priorities as set out in the Council Strategy 2020-2030.

11.2 Finance/Resource implications

None directly associated with this report.

11.3 Legal and governance implications

None directly associated with this report.

11.4 Risk analysis

Not applicable to this report.

11.5 Increasing satisfaction and service

None directly associated with this report.

11.6 Equality impacts

None directly associated with this report.

11.7 Health and Safety impacts

None directly associated with this report.

11.8 Health, wellbeing and community safety impacts

None directly associated with this report.

11.9 Environmental/sustainability impacts

None directly associated with this report.

11.10 Other significant implications

None.

Appendices attached to this report

Appendix number	Title of appendix
None	

Background documents available

Name of background document	Where it is available
None	

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