

Allerdale Borough Council

Council – 7 December 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

Taste Cumbria September

4.1 Taste Cumbria took place for the 13th time in Cockermouth on 24 and 25 September. Helped by some lovely weather on the Saturday and better than ever social media, printed and website promotion, the footfall and economic impact was comparable to Taste during the first few years;

- 69% of respondents rated the event very good and a further 30% rated it good.
- 97% of respondents would come to a similar event in the future and 99% would recommend the event to others.
- The total economic impact of the event is estimated at £1,942,947.
- An estimated 25,000 people attended the event.

- Spend at the festival averaged at £91.98 per group and £33.05 per person. People were asked if they would be doing anything else apart from visiting the festival and 78% said they would be going for a meal or a drink, while 42% were going shopping, which all generated additional spend.
- Two thirds of the people at the 2022 event were local to Allerdale, up from 50% in 2019. 22% were from elsewhere in Cumbria, and 11% from outside of the county. Visitors from outside of Cumbria came primarily from the North East, but also from the North West, Yorkshire and Humber, and London and the South East. On average, the tourists from outside of Cumbria were staying for 3.6 nights and spent £151.08 per person during their trip.

This year we introduced several ticketed events – Q&A with Carlisle-born food critic and TV personality Grace Dent, Supper Club with chef Alec Anderson who prides himself on using produce from Cockermouth, and the Tasty Quiz Night hosted by comic and radio personality Steffan Peddie. These mini events just added to the draw and highlighted some wonderful venues as well as the people and produce of the area.

We will also feature on a new BBC 2 show coming out early next year showcasing British food festivals – the crew and presenters were there all day Saturday speaking to traders but most importantly some of our best foodie businesses in Cockermouth. All the ticketed events sold out and we received good radio, TV and social media coverage.

Taste Christmas, 10 and 11 December 2022, Cockermouth

- 4.2 Now in their sixth year the Christmas markets in Cockermouth have proven really successful and a must do in peoples' calendars. We hope this year is no exception with a high trader sign up rate and yet more existing businesses getting involved in the event e.g a Market Place traders block on Main Street and crafty businesses offering children's activities in their shops.

Workington Hall and Parklands Winter Light and Sound

- 4.3 The second Winter Light and Sound event takes place on the evenings of 2 and 3 December 2022. It aims to encourage residents and visitors to appreciate the Hall and Parklands and become regular visitors in the future. The Hall and Parklands will be illuminated with a history of The Hall and Workington projected onto the side of the Hall. A soundscape, created by Soundwave, the Cumbrian music charity, will be played throughout the evening. We are working closely with Helena Thompson Museum to deliver the event. An independent report has been commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of the event.

An application had been made to Arts Council England for funding to support this event along with an art trail in Workington Town Centre. Funding of £70,000 has now been confirmed but due to a delay in the funding decision being made it has not been possible to run the planned event in full this year. It has however been agreed with Arts Council England that the funding can be used to run the event in 2023/24. We currently propose to run this event on 3 dates in December 2023 (light and sound show) and for the full month in January 2024 (art trail).

High Street Task Force

- 4.4 A High Street Task Force expert visited Cockermouth on 4 November 2022 to run a workshop with stakeholders to identify ways of improving the health of the high street. Following the workshop, the expert will submit a report on their ideas for supporting retail areas in the town. The High Streets Task Force provides support to local leaders in town centres and high streets in England. The High Streets Task Force was commissioned by the government in 2019 as part of its Plan for the High Street and in response to recommendations of an expert panel on the high street chaired by the highly successful entrepreneur Sir John Timpson. The Task Force was set-up to strengthen local leadership in high streets and town centres in England. It does this by providing information, advice, training, knowledge and data - helping people to make a positive difference to their local communities.

Cockermouth Outdoor Market Promotion

- 4.5 The market which was established in December 2021 following public consultation and operates each Friday in Sainsbury's car park. It has attracted on average, 15 traders offering a range of quality goods including locally designed and made crockery, bespoke jewellery, artisan food and drink, fruit and vegetables, soaps, plants and clothing. Before Christmas, a promotional campaign will be implemented to increase regular footfall from residents and visitors. The campaign will include radio advertising, leaflet distribution and social media promotion.

Workington Town Deal

- 4.6 Work continues to progress the further development and delivery of the Town Deal projects. The main focus at the present time is on design development and further survey work with intrusive site surveys being carried out at Central Car Park in Workington in November which saw car park users encouraged to use the multi-story car park as an alternative whilst survey work was ongoing. Business engagement and community consultation, led by the County Council, has been undertaken to inform the further development of the public realm project. An invitation to tender has been published for an operator for the proposed Workington Innovation Centre. The early appointment of an operator will enable them to influence the design and fit out of the centre as well as allowing for the marketing of the centre to attract suitable tenants in advance of the centre opening.

Lillyhall North project

- 4.7 The scheme to install enabling infrastructure including highways access, services, drainage and utilities to unlock 10.5HA of development land has been successfully completed in November. Fencing to proposed landscape areas has commenced with final seeding and planting during the next planting season. Discussions are progressing with prospective employers seeking to locate onto the site from 2024.

Kirkgate Centre

- 4.8 Following receipt and approval of Kirkgate Arts' refreshed five year strategy and an outline business case, Allerdale was able to make a £100k grant to support capital improvements to the Kirkgate Centre, including fire exit improvements to ensure fire safety, replacement of gas boilers, replacement of first floor windows, and installation of catering facilities. The £100k funds have been in the Council's budget

since 2017/18 so I am pleased that the funding can now be put to use to deliver essential upgrades to the building and contribute to improving the arts, cultural and heritage offer to residents and visitors.

Regeneration Programme Audit

- 4.9 The Council's Internal Audit undertook a comprehensive review of the management arrangements within the Regeneration Programme for ensuring effective governance, risk management and internal controls. I am pleased to advise that the audit testing confirmed that the current controls provide substantive assurance, which is the highest level of assurance available.

Maryport Town Hall

- 4.10 Renovation work to upgrade the historic Town Hall building has now been completed with £200k funding support from the Heritage Action Zone initiative, which is funded by Historic England, Allerdale Borough Council and Sellafield Ltd. The roof, render and windows have been repaired and an internal doorway widened to allow easier disabled access. Following the renovations water leaked into the building during a period of exceptionally heavy rainfall and I am pleased to be able to report that our property services team were quickly able to rectify the problem once it had been brought to their attention.

Inside, the rooms have been remodelled to provide flexible office space and an accessible toilet on the ground floor. The original coving and woodwork have been restored, and wood panelling replaced. The Town Hall will provide hot desking, act as a hub for the police, and feature work by local artists displayed on the walls. I held a launch event on 2 November 2022 that was well attended by the scheme's funders, architects, representatives from the Town Council, community groups and local people from the town.

Tenders for the Wave Centre, Christ Church and the Carlton

- 4.11 Tenders are now live for main contractors to deliver key schemes through the Maryport Future High Street Fund programme including for a new performance venue and community arts hub at the Carlton, extending the Wave Centre to provide a new swimming pool and e-bike hub, and providing a new home for the Maryport Maritime Museum at the attractive Christ Church building near the harbourside. Tender returns are due back early December for consideration and evaluation with target commencement dates in the first quarter of 2024. As always, I would encourage local suppliers to participate in the tender exercises and to contact the Council's procurement team if you have any queries.

1 Senhouse Street, Maryport (currently Maryport Maritime Museum)

- 4.12 Detailed design work has now been completed for this project that will see the creation of a new art gallery with residential flat to the top floor of the building for an artist-in-residence. Planning and Building Control consents are now in place with the contract for the capital works currently out to tender. The bulk of the capital works are due to take place early in 2023. The Maryport Maritime Museum will be temporarily relocated and displayed on the corner of Senhouse Street and Curzon

Street pending the renovation of Christ Church, which will become its new permanent home.

Maryport Boardwalk Project

- 4.13 Detailed design work is now underway to create a boardwalk across the beach within Maryport Harbour. The project will provide a safe link for pedestrians and cyclists between the Harbour area and the promenade. Ground investigation works have been completed. Following an open tender exercise in December 2022, capital works are expected to get underway early in 2023.

Maryport parkrun

- 4.14 With support from the Council, the Maryport parkrun was launched on 29 October 2022 with 128 runners participating. Parkrun is a free 5km event held at 9am every Saturday along the promenade and will be great for encouraging an active, healthy lifestyle and bringing increased footfall into the town. I look forward to seeing you run, walk or volunteer each week!

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

Electoral Services

- 5.1 The final stage of the 2022 Annual Canvass has concluded and the Annual Register of Electors has been published and distributed to statutory recipients. From 2023 the Annual Canvass will be conducted by Cumberland Council and the council intends to explore new innovative ways of canvass delivery.

Community Governance Review

- 5.2 The first consultation relative to the Community Governance Review (CGR) for Maryport/Flimby began in November and will close on 24 December 2022. Drop-in sessions have been hosted by officers in both Flimby and Maryport. Residents are requested to complete the online consultation. Officers will be meeting with the Working Group in early 2023 to discuss the next stage of the review. CGR consultations have also commenced in relation to the Parishes of Allhallows and Embleton and District. Each of these respective Councils has requested a review of Councillor numbers.

Photographic ID for voting at polling stations

- 5.3 Following changes to legislation contained in the Elections Act 2022, the 2023 Parish Council Elections will be the first to require voters to show photographic ID. The secondary legislation has now been laid and officers are working to ensure a smooth transition for voters and elections staff.

Voters who do not have photographic ID will be able to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

Democratic Services

- 5.4 Council Members are reminded to regularly review their Register of Interest forms and to ensure they are up to date. Any details which have changed recently - for

example home address, employment, membership of outside bodies – must be shown on members' Declaration Forms. These declarations can be accessed on the Councillor Profile page on the website.

Council Members must register any gifts or hospitality worth over £50 that they receive in connection with their official duties. All gifts or hospitality must be registered within 28 days of the date of receipt. Members must declare on the electronic form the value (or estimated value) and details of the gift or hospitality received.

Please contact Democratic Services if further information or any assistance is required.

Nuclear

- 5.5 The Allerdale Community Partnership continues with its programme of visits to Town and Parish Councils within the Area of Search to encourage discussion around geological disposal. At least two public exhibitions are planned for the early New Year.

The Community Investment Panel has allocated most of the funding that was made available for the Partnership's first year. Local schools have benefited from this funding as well as charities and voluntary groups providing assistance to the victims of domestic abuse and support for young people looking for employment or further education. More detailed information on the distribution of this year's grant funding can be found on the Partnership's website via the following link:

<https://allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk/projects-in-allerdale-receive-over-363000-in-funding-from-gdf-programme/>

Work is currently in progress to develop a cohesive vision of how continued funding, if it becomes available, can best be invested to bring significant benefits to the local community.

As always, it is recommended that members sign up to receive the regular Partnership newsletter by entering their contact details at the foot of any of the website pages.

A motion was brought to the full council meeting of the Shadow Authority for Cumberland in October requesting that the three Cumbrian Partnerships carry out a review of the existing Search Areas, taking into account the views of Shadow Authority members whose wards are wholly or partly within those areas.

The process of reviewing the Search Areas is already underway as it is one of the main Partnership functions. Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) has undertaken to engage with members of Cumberland Council to enable the discussion to continue during the run-up to and beyond LGR.

With regard to broader nuclear matters, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has recently published its Annual Report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-decommissioning-authority-annual-report-and-accounts-2021-to-2022>

Members may also find the following documents useful as they provide updated information on the impact of the NDA's activities on West Cumbria and on communities within the vicinity of Magnox sites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economic-contribution-of-the-nda-to-the-west-cumbria-economy-april-2022>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/economic-impact-assessment-of-magnox-sites-may-2022>

Following the closure of the Magnox Reprocessing Plant at Sellafield in July after 58 years of successful operation, a film has been produced about the plant's history and the dedication of everyone who contributed to this nationally significant work over the past six decades. The film can be viewed on Youtube via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_FhSgNOgsw

West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership

- 5.6 In September, partners received an update on matters raised at 'Safer Cumbria' county-level meetings, including Refugees and Asylums Seekers' programmes and their potential impact on local services.

Several different schemes are currently in operation across the county including management of the influx of Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war with Russia, Asylum Hotels, individuals arriving from Afghanistan and normal re-settlement work.

Each of the above schemes has a different way of operating depending on whether it is being led by the Home Office or a different organisation. All have different requirements and follow different routes.

There has been a significant increase in refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the county, with numbers recently climbing from approximately 100 to between 700 and 800 per year. This has placed a strain on the voluntary and public services including the Housing Options teams in both Allerdale and Copeland.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cumbria County Council are to jointly undertake a needs and risk assessment for each of the different refugee groups utilising available data and intelligence.

Another matter of concern is the increase in suspected drug related deaths in Cumbria which links to similar issues in other parts of the UK. Toxicology shows which drugs are involved but not the full breakdown of the quantities. A monthly meeting chaired by Recovery Steps Cumbria is reviewing and monitoring this information.

A Youth Drugs Misuse Review is taking place with the two new Unitary Authorities to consider the resulting report.

In line with national requirements, each upper tier Local Authority is required to form a Combatting Drugs Partnership. A Senior Responsible Owner must be appointed with the geographical footprint confirmed and submitted to the national Joint Combatting Drugs Unit. It is proposed that Safer Cumbria will be the Combatting Drugs Partnership with the PCC, as Chair of Safer Cumbria, taking on the role of Senior Responsible Owner. The Addictions Board is the proposed Delivery Arm of the Partnership.

The West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership has recently awarded funding for a local Community Gym to deliver its services to young people attending Workington Academy. Project Unbeatable follows a structured coaching

programme with the objective of confidence building and aspiration setting for young people from the age of nine years. The structured coaching programme includes physical activity but also encourages young people to set their own standards and improvement targets. This project is supported by the Child Policing Team and will run for an initial twelve weeks with the option to extend if it proves successful.

Funding for taxi marshals over the Christmas period in Workington and Whitehaven has also been agreed by partners, together with additional funding for the service to go into effect as soon as reasonably possible in Duke Street, Whitehaven, to address current issues which could pose a risk to female customers.

Following continual reports of the illegal use of motorcycles causing danger and nuisance to local residents, emergency funding has been granted for the police to purchase equipment including signage and a spray which cannot be removed from clothing and vehicles, thus enabling confirmation of the owner's identity at a later date. This scheme is to be piloted in the Cleator Moor area but will be extended if successful.

Resilient Communities

- 5.7 A main priority of the Council recently has been to channel any unallocated funding towards helping our residents with cost-of-living pressures whilst ensuring that every avenue of support offered by partners, such as Cumbria County Council, is also well publicised.

The Council already undertakes a wide range of activities that provide assistance to low-income households and help to address fuel poverty. As well as the successful delivery of recent government funded Council Tax rebates, this support includes the established Council Tax Reduction Scheme which offers up to 100% assistance with Council Tax bills. Discretionary Housing Payments are also made each year, using funding from DWP, to support residents requiring additional help with housing costs. This is very far from an exhaustive list of the current measures in place.

In looking at how best to use any unallocated funding, it has been important to consider how existing delivery mechanisms can be used to reduce the need for additional staffing capacity.

It is therefore intended to increase the amount available for Discretionary Housing Payments and for allocation through the Resilient Communities Fund using processes and partnership structures that already exist.

By expanding the Resilient Communities Fund, it should be possible for the Council to make additional contributions towards emergency temporary accommodation for rough sleepers during the winter, food bank vouchers, warm rooms/hubs, third sector grants and the Winter Warmth Fund.

Cultural Heritage

- 5.8 Over recent months Allerdale and Copeland councils have been working alongside stakeholders and experienced consultants to develop a new Cultural Strategy for West Cumbria 2022 to 2027. This is due to be published in the near future.

In the meantime, a Cumbria-wide list of buildings and places valued by local communities is being collated as a result of grant funding awarded by DLUCH.

Local listing can include every type of heritage asset which currently has no protection under planning regulation. Although Local Listing does not provide additional protections for the nominated asset, it can be a material planning consideration if the setting is affected by a proposed new development.

Additional information is available on the Council's website via the following link: <https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/en/planning-building-control/planning-policy/conservation-natural-historic-environment/cumbria-local-list/>

A warm welcome to Alison Williams who has recently joined Allerdale staff and will be taking the work on Local Listings forward.

Housing

- 5.9 Quarterly Performance statistics show that the awarding of Disabled Facilities Grants has started to improve following the interventions outlined in previous reports.

Work is currently ongoing to refresh the Housing Grants and Assistance Policy which will be published in due course.

Green Homes / Sustainable Warmth

- 5.10 The Green Homes Grants LAD 2 project concluded on 31 September 2022. In Allerdale 55 homes were retrofitted.

Applications that were not successful in the LAD 2 project are now being considered as part of the Sustainable Warmth LAD3 and Home Upgrade Scheme (HUGS). The Council continues to work in partnership with Carlisle City Council to improve more homes in Allerdale.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme

- 5.11 The Council continues to work with Home Group on the Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme. Home group have commenced work on their homes in Oughterside and Abbeytown. There are 90 properties to be retrofitted under this scheme which is due to end on 31 March 2023.

Affordable Housing

- 5.12 The Council has developed a nominations scheme to allocate the affordable rent houses on Farriers Field Stainburn, in line with the S106 obligation. A panel meeting was held recently to provisionally nominate applicants from the Council's Choice Based lettings register to the first two homes due which are due to be completed soon.

Email newsletters

- 5.13 Our email newsletters have continued to perform well. In the Council's annual review with the platform provider, it was highlighted that our engagement rate remained in the top performers of all councils using the same system. In the year to October 2022, the number of subscribers has increased by nearly 3,500 to over 11,000. We have sent out over 165 email newsletters to external audiences on a

number of topics. These have been opened nearly half a million times, -an open rate over 44% which is high for the sector. Some topics - such as the environment - are particularly popular.

The service is managed by the communications team working closely with the events, tourism and business engagement teams who, as part of their role, produce a weekly business newsletter.

Anyone can subscribe to the Council's newsletter by going to:
www.allerdale.gov.uk/email-newsletters

6.0 Environmental Services Portfolio: Cllr Jim Lister

Waste Services Team

- 6.1 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, all businesses (including those operating from home or as holiday lets), have a legal responsibility to safely contain and legally dispose of any waste produced from their business. The law applies to all types of business, no matter how small they are, what type of waste they create or how much. It is illegal to take waste from businesses and place it in a domestic bin or take it to a household waste recycling centre.

For our Trade Waste customers, we issue an Annual Duty of Care Waste Transfer Note which when signed by both parties provides evidence both to the carrier and the producer that we have a valid disposal route for the waste and are complying with the law. Often for a number of reasons these Duty of Care forms aren't returned in a timely manner, and we chase but often to no avail. With the advent of transferring our services to Cumberland we want to ensure that all paperwork is in place and all contracts are valid.

With this in mind we have issued all the Transfer Notes for this year and have given customers a period of 14 days to return them. If they aren't returned in that time, we are clamping their bin and giving them another 14 days to return the form. If after that time the Transfer Note hasn't been received, we will remove the bin and close the account. A similar process is being followed for outstanding debts.

Again with Vesting Day fast approaching are writing to all residents who are currently in receipt of an assisted collection service to establish if the service is still required. The purpose being to hand over to Cumberland an up to date register of legitimate assisted collections.

Defra continue to consult on the Extended Producer Responsibility policy which is an important element of the Environment Act 2021. Officers from the council and from CCC attended a consultation event in Leeds in November to discuss data preparation and the effectiveness and efficiency of packaging collection arrangements in preparation for 2024.

In broad terms the purpose of the legislation is to:

- reduce the use of unnecessary packaging and the producer bears the costs of managing it at the end of life
- ensure that more packaging will be able to be recycled with producers incentivised via modulated fees from 2025 to choose more recyclable packaging

- ensure that more packaging is recycled with statutory recycling targets evidenced via Packaging Recovery Notes and Packaging Waste Export Recovery Notes.
- help consumers recycle better with consumer information paid for by producers.

Producers of waste will pay for the cost of disposal of the packaging and Local Authorities will be paid their 'necessary costs' of collection, managing, recycling and disposing of household packaging.

The team have also been working with colleagues from the County Council to operate a weeklong Aids for Daily Living Take-Back scheme in Keswick Library. The items returned were passed onto the NHS or the Community Equipment Service. This pilot project makes it easier to return daily living aids has exceeded expectations to date resulting in over 500 items (3 tonnes) of equipment returned in just three months. By reusing these aids rather than buying replacements, the new service is also having an environmental benefit, saving an estimated 5.6 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, thereby helping the climate too.

Tivoli Services Limited

- 6.2 Tivoli has supported a number of schemes in recent months. This has included MP Mark Jenkinson's Spot the Grot campaign, as well as providing maintenance of the kids' football pitch in Moorclose free of charge. We have also supported the council's Operation Respect campaign. PPE, bags, and equipment have been provided to help community-led litter picks – most recently for 20 young people along Workington beach and nearby paths.

Allerdale Waste Services Limited

- 6.3 The paper and card recycling rounds have now been rebalanced, to allow for the roll-out of additional recycling collections to both newly built and existing households who don't currently receive a doorstep recycling service for paper and card. The changes to the 1,500 properties that required a paper and card week change, went smoothly. This change has allowed the capacity for paper and card collections to be increased to accommodate new housing growth and for new properties to be added. It is expected that an additional 400 properties will be added to the paper and card collection rounds in the new year. This will have a positive impact upon the Council's recycling rate as well as providing additional income through sale of collected material.

Work has started in rebalancing the commingled (glass, cans and plastics) recycling which is helping accommodate new properties being built and moved into. A more comprehensive rebalancing of the commingled recycling rounds is planned for the spring, which will also enable additional roll-out of recycling and the net benefits that this brings.

The collection service continues to perform well with very low levels of missed containers being reported by Allerdale residents. Allerdale Waste Services run the garage workshop on Solway Road in Workington where they carry out car, van, taxi tests and MOT's, branded as 'AWS MOTor' Services, as a trading arm of the business. Working with Lakes College, the business has recently taken on 2 apprentices in the workshop, to work in repairing and maintaining both the Refuse

Collection Vehicles and carry out repairs, servicing and MOT's to motor vehicles. A new commercial service is being introduced, which allows vehicle wheel alignments to be tracked and corrected, reducing un-necessary wearing and replacement of customers' tyres, therefore saving customers money.

Corporate Health and Safety

- 6.4 The team revised the main Covid-19 risk assessment for working within Allerdale House and various offices. This will be cascaded to all staff along with a HR memorandum around changes in reporting Covid-19 sickness. We attended various staff absence meetings with HR in order to address issues and quicken the process of managing people back into work. We oversaw, from an H&S perspective all events held on Allerdale land, either internally or externally. We revised the fire risk assessment and evacuation plan for Maryport Town Hall following the refurbishment works. We are working on a new fire management procedure for Allerdale House, in conjunction with Property Services and ICT. The fob system will then remove the necessity to sign in and out, this will be done electronically via the fob and used for emergency situations in appropriate roll call.

Emergency Planning and Resilience

- 6.5 Allerdale House Council Chamber hosted a multi-agency flood-training day for around 60 people on 2 November. The event scenario was obviously flooding and what actions all agencies should take during a flooding emergency. It was well attended and much appreciated.

The Safety and Resilience team are currently preparing the annual winter preparedness programme; this will be presented to Executive for approval and cascaded to all personnel.

The Safety and Resilience Manager has attended Cumbria meetings such as LAEPCG (Local Authority Emergency Planning Coordination Group), LRF Board (Local Resilience Cumbria Board) and appropriate LGR work streams. We are working with various agencies and Building Control on the dangerous structure (Honest Lawyer) building in Cockermouth.

Terrorism and Prevent

- 6.6 Officers attended a Cumbria Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) meeting chaired by CCC who are the current lead authority alongside the Detective Inspector of Police counter terrorism for Lancashire and Cumbria. Threat level to the UK is still at 'Substantial', the two levels above this are 'severe' and then 'critical'.

Information was shared on Prevent referrals in Cumbria during the last financial year, 73 referrals were noted which is an increase of 32 from the year before. The main referrals were still of extreme right-wing activities. It is as yet unknown where Prevent will sit within the two new authorities from 1 April 2023.

Pest Control

- 6.7 No issues reported with this service, as a reminder we have one pest control officer at Allerdale. No customer complaints have been received this financial year. There

has been a slight revenue loss with domestic pest control works so far this year, this is primarily due to reduced wasp nest removal requests.

Harrington Harbour and Dock Board

- 6.8 The MCA, Marine Coastguard Agency carried out a health and safety visit to the Harbour on 2 November 2022. The visit was the first in the last 14 years that have taken place as the MCA only visit around 8 harbours in a year and Harrington is an extremely small harbour in relation to many others in the UK. The Designated Person (Barry Chambers) had revised the full harbour management systems and all associated risk assessments during the financial year and all were presented to the auditors during the inspection and visit. The Designated Person also supplied all harbour bylaws and acts and completed the check list audit sheet and passed back to the MCA prior to the visit. The MCA will officially give a report on findings within the next month.

7.0 Leisure and Tourism Portfolio: Cllr Anthony Markley

Tourism Breakfast Briefing

- 7.1 Working in partnership with Carlisle City Council and Copeland Borough Council, we hosted another Tourism Breakfast Briefing meeting on 16 November 2022. Initiatives to support businesses in the visitor economy were explained by guest speakers including how recruitment recovery and how the budget and cost of living rises will affect businesses.

Residents' Week 2023

- 7.2 Cumbria Residents Week will be taking place for the second time on the week commencing 20 February 2023. Cumbrian residents and visitors have the chance to win fantastic prizes donated by participating businesses as part of Cumbria Residents Week.

Cumbria Residents Week was first launched in October 2021. The aim is to remind people of the fantastic array of tourist businesses and attractions we have in Cumbria along with helping businesses recover from what has been a difficult few years for the industry. We are currently at the process of collecting a group of businesses to take part. Previous businesses have been contacted to get involved again. We will also reach out to businesses to participate on social media, the Business E-newsletter and at the upcoming Breakfast Briefing.

Perfect Day Competition

- 7.3 The Perfect Day Competition came to an end on 5 September 2022. This year's winner of the Perfect Day competition is Kathy George. Kathy's winning entry was a reel she posted on Instagram which detailed all her favourite places in Allerdale accompanied by the well-known Fairground Attraction song, 'Perfect'. The winner and runners up entries have now been shared on the Visit Allerdale social media. Plans are underway for the competition winner to receive their prize in March 2022. The day will be filmed, and the video production will be used for promotional purposes.

Promotional performance – social media

- 7.4 This year a lot of effort has been poured into boosting the Tourism social media platforms. Our focus has been pushed to Instagram as well as Facebook. Just this year the Visit Allerdale Instagram page followers have increased by 153. Instagram has been used to promote Taste Cumbria and the use of 'reels' developed from Taste Cumbria has helped us reach up to 2,827 accounts.

This year's Perfect Day Competition was based around social media in aims to increase engagement whilst promoting Allerdale as a tourist destination. Participants had to post their favourite place in Allerdale and tag us to be in with a chance to win the competition. Posts based on the Perfect Day competition reached on average 152 accounts.

Cumbria 200 Campervan route

- 7.5 Ahead of the Year of the Coast 2023, a special 200-mile route exploring Cumbria's coast – the 'Cumbria Coast Route 200' – has been rebranded to inspire motorhome and campervan owners to explore some of the region's hidden gems. We have worked alongside Cumbria Tourism, the county council and the coastal district councils in Cumbria to give the route its own distinct identity and longevity. A toolkit has been produced to help businesses on the route promote all the CCR 200 has to offer. As well as camping and motorhome sites, local shops, attractions and food and drink providers are being given access to imagery, logos, social media content and other background information including the code of conduct.

Cumbria Coastal Community Forest

- 7.6 We are working with the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest Team to bring forward planting schemes on several council sites, including three sites currently licenced for grazing where we are hoping to be able to integrate new planting with the grazing arrangements.

Planting for Pollinators

- 7.7 Work on Planting for Pollinator sites has been progressing during September and October, including at Siddick Pond, land at Alexander Close and Salterbeck Reservoir (all Workington) and Mote Hill (Maryport).

Safe Play Areas

- 7.8 We are reviewing Annual Play Area inspections and other known issues with our play areas with a view to carrying out c£30K of investment over the coming months, along with a further £27.5K specifically to enhance the play area at Bellbrigg Lonning (Cockermouth) funded through S106 agreement with Storey Homes.

BMX Bike Club

- 7.9 The feasibility study for a BMX type facility in Workington is complete. Next steps are to confirm the recommended site and secure match funding.

Creative People and Places

- 7.10 The Creative People and Places programme has started in the first of the two Allerdale wards focused on in the first six months. Four 'Wish You Were Here'

workshops will be taking place in Ewanrigg, before Christmas followed by four in St Michaels.

Leisure provision appraisal

- 7.11 FMG Consultants have delivered their first update regarding the options appraisal for leisure provision in Keswick. A shortlist of feasible options will be put forward by the middle of December.

8.0 Customer Experience and Innovation Portfolio: Cllr Alan Pitcher

Community Safety and Resilience

- 8.1 This summer, Allerdale Local Focus Hub partners joined forces to deliver four community day events across Allerdale as part of an ongoing multi-agency collaboration known as Operation Respect.

The events were held at the following locations:

- Hillside, Maryport – led by Castles and Coasts Housing Association
- The Oval Community Centre, Salterbeck – led by Riverside
- Greenacres, Wigton – led by Home Group
- Windsor Road, Workington – led by Westfield Housing

Representatives from housing associations were on hand at each of the events to provide advice and guidance surrounding housing, homelessness, and financial advice. In addition to this, those who attended the events had the opportunity to discuss how they could access financial support and budgeting advice.

The housing associations provided skips at each of the events to enable residents to dispose of bulky items they were struggling to get rid of, such as sofas, garden furniture and mattresses.

Representatives from the partnership litter-picked at each of the events, collecting numerous bags of rubbish – creating a cleaner, greener environment for those living in the area.

At each event, representatives from Allerdale Waste Service and Tivoli were also on hand to help residents dispose of household waste and bulky items.

Representatives from the Hub and Cumbria County Council's Healthy Start programme issued 50 families with free children's vitamins and provided further information about how families can benefit further from the programme. In addition to this, 13 women benefitted from the free vitamins initiative.

Neighbourhood Policing Team Innovation Award Winners 2022

- 8.2 The Allerdale Neighbourhood Policing team of T/Inspector Scott Adams, PC Catherine Higson, T/PS Leesa Edwards, PCSO Rachel Pape and Senior Manager Community Safety & Resilience Emma Thompson received this award following the response to youth related ASB in Workington Town Centre.

To address the issues the team used a problem-solving approach to resolve issues. This included the implementation of a dedicated Community Beat Officer, a locally based officer working within the community to tackle local issues. This work saw a

significant reduction in calls for service, reduction in youth related crimes and a reduction in alcohol related admissions to Hospital. Local businesses and community leaders have fed back positively that this approach has improved their quality of lives and confidence in Cumbria Police.

Through the Allerdale Local Focus Hub the team proactively coordinated joint community engagement, targeted foot patrols, multi-agency community events and longer-term solutions, including apprenticeships with local business for key offenders.

Inclusion and Diversity

- 8.3 The training programme for professionals funded by the West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership has now been fully arranged and due to commence mid-November. There has been a great response from all our partner agencies, and we have a fantastic range of community leaders signed up to attend. We truly envisage that this will be the beginning of a cultural change in our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour. One that creates sustainable and positive approaches and benefits our whole community. There is also work been developed to capitalise on the training and ensure that the momentum gained is strategically focused.

Work has also been carried out to support local community groups in the development of their services to vulnerable groups. Over recent weeks this has primarily focused on the development of warm spots, support for the continuation of projects targeting women from multi-cultural communities.

Education and Enforcement

- 8.4 The Enforcement Team are continuing tackling the priorities of trade waste, fly tipping and dog fouling. New signage has been deployed across Allerdale for dog fouling, these signs are more innovative as they glow in the dark and also carry the "QR" code whereby a person can scan this and it will bring them to the online reporting tool enabling swift reporting and clearance.

Reporting figures this month indicate a decrease in fly tipping reports, our approach remains zero tolerance at the bring sites. We continue to use the re-deployable camera's, and these provide crucial evidence. To date a total of 156 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for a variety of offences, highest percentage is for fly tipping.

The Enforcement Team are continuing with Trade Waste checks and there has been some prosecutions taken in relation to some businesses not complying with their lawful obligations. There has been an increase in abandoned vehicles and stray dogs and there is some work being undertaken to try and identify what the cause may be in this spike and if the cost-of-living crisis is to blame.

Customer Services

- 8.5 The loss of experienced staff, time taken to recruit new staff and the training of our new colleagues when they join us has and will continue to impact on the time taken to answer customer enquiries. However, on a positive we continue to offer the free call-back service for telephone customers which remains a popular choice at busy times.

Appointments are now available at Maryport Town Hall where customers making appointments can discuss their Council Tax and Housing Benefit enquiries with a Customer Service Advisor in a comfortable meeting space. When the appointment is made during the initial call customers are advised of any documentation, they need to bring to the meeting to make sure the enquiry can be dealt with in one appointment wherever possible. Customer appointments can be made by calling 0303 123 1702.

ICT and Cyber Security

- 8.6 We successfully obtained our annual Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation, which is an advanced Government-backed cyber security endorsement run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) confirming effective protection against cyber-attacks.

The Council's firewall estate has been reconfigured to support and enable multiple organisations in order to allow us to provide services to third parties, while ensuring the safety of Allerdale and the future Cumberland Council.

Local Government Reorganisation - ICT Services for Cumberland

- 8.7 We have developed an interim print solution that will provide print capabilities to Cumberland users and will also enable users to print when they are not in a sovereign building.

Our ICT team has worked with the Digital team, to design the website, telephony and digital platforms that will be implemented by Cumberland Council for day 1.

We are working with colleagues across the various Cumbrian Authorities to complete the Tenancy Migration project that will migrate services from the current tenancies to the new Cumberland and Westmorland ones.

We are exploring new technologies such as virtual reality, artificial intelligence, augmented reality and looking at how we can develop the Microsoft portal to provide a similar solution to Allerdale's current digital workspace (ALICE) without the cost for the additional platform.

9.0 Finance and Legal Portfolio: Cllr Colin Sharpe

Assurance, Risk & Audit

- 9.1 Now fully staffed, Assurance, Risk & Audit continue to deliver work from their annual plan, with the first reports being finalised using the new working methodology.

Further support has been provided to the risk management process, with workshops taking place in November to help ensure registers are up to date.

Statement of Accounts 2021-22

- 9.2 The unaudited 2021-22 Statement of Accounts were published and submitted for audit in July 2022. The audit is ongoing and during the last quarter the Finance Team have been responding to queries and requests for information from the Authority's external auditors, Grant Thornton. At the time of writing, the audited

2021-22 Statement of Accounts are due to be presented to the Audit Committee for approval on 28 November 2022.

Grant Thornton have substantially completed their audit of the financial statements and subject to outstanding queries being resolved, anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion. However, they have indicated that they will not be able to issue their audited opinion on the financial statements until the anticipated statutory override and amendments to the Code in relation to infrastructure assets are implemented. This is expected in January 2023.

In addition to issuing an audit report on the statement of accounts, the Auditor is required to issue a report on the Authority's Value for Money arrangements. This work has not yet been completed. Grant Thornton have indicated that they expect to complete this work and issue their Auditor's Annual Report by March 2023.

Q2 Finance Report

- 9.3 Since the last update, the Finance Team have been leading on the preparation of the Quarter 2 Finance report to inform members of the Council's revenue and capital financial performance against budget for the period April to September 2022, along with the forecast position to 31 March 2023. At the time of writing, this is due to be presented to the Executive at their meeting on 23 November 2022.

Local Government Reorganisation – Finance and Commercial

- 9.4 Members of the finance team continue to participate in several workstreams within the LGR Financial and Commercial Theme to support the ongoing work to establish the new Unitary Authorities.

Payroll

- 9.5 In early November 2022, the National Joint Council for local government services agreed the 2022-23 pay scales reflecting an inflationary pay award, effective from 1 April. Payroll staff within the Finance team have been calculating the associated payroll adjustments to be reflected in the November 2022 payroll.

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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