

**EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE****CABINET**

**A record of the decisions made at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 9 February 2022, at 10.00 a.m.**

Present

Councillors

Jonathan Brook (Leader and Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation Portfolio Holder)  
(Chairman)

Robin Ashcroft	Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder
Helen Chaffey	Housing Portfolio Holder
Philip Dixon	Customer and Locality Services Portfolio Holder
Andrew Jarvis	Deputy Leader & Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder
Dyan Jones	Climate Action and Biodiversity Portfolio Holder
Suzie Pye	Health, Wellbeing and Poverty Alleviation Portfolio Holder

Also in attendance at the meeting were Shadow Executive Members Pat Bell (Shadow Cabinet (Housing Portfolio)), John Holmes (Shadow Cabinet Deputy Leader (Finance and Assets Portfolio)), Kevin Holmes (Shadow Cabinet (Climate Action and Biodiversity Portfolio)), Helen Irving (Shadow Cabinet (Health, Wellbeing and Poverty Alleviation Portfolio)), Janette Jenkinson (Shadow Cabinet (Customer and Locality Services Portfolio)) and David Webster (Leader of the Labour Group).

Apologies for absence were received from Shadow Executive Members Roger Bingham (Shadow Cabinet (Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio)) and Tom Harvey (Shadow Cabinet Leader (Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation Portfolio)).

Officers

Gareth Candlin	Operational Lead - Place and Environment
Lawrence Conway	Chief Executive
Linda Fisher	Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer)
Dan Hudson	Strategy Lead Specialist
Alastair McNeill	Senior Specialist (Strategy Group)
Adam Moffatt	Legal, Governance and Democracy Specialist
Claire Read	Finance Specialist (Deputy Section 151 Officer)
Simon Rowley	Director of Customer and Commercial Services
David Sykes	Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources

**CEX/85 CABINET EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

No Member having raised concern when asked by the Chairman, it was

***RESOLVED – That the Chairman be authorised to sign, as a correct record, the Executive Decisions made by Cabinet on 7 December 2021.***

**CEX/86 DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

No Member having raised concern when asked by the Chairman, it was

***RESOLVED – That the Delegated Executive Decisions made by Portfolio Holders or Officers on 16 and 23 December 2021 and 27 January 2022 be received.***

**CEX/87 EMERGENCY DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

- a 018 - 19-01-22 - Emergency Delegated Executive Decision - Business Support Grants - Omicron Response Jan 22**

No Member having raised concern when asked by the Chairman, it was

***RESOLVED – That the Emergency Delegated Executive Decision made by the Chief Executive on 19 January 2022, in accordance with the Leader’s decision noted by Cabinet at CEX/104 (2019/20), be received.***

**CEX/88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor Janette Jenkinson declared an other registerable interest for transparency in Agenda Item No. 15 ( 2022/23 to 2026/27 Draft Budget) due to the fact that she was a Trustee of Ulverston Community Enterprises.

In relation to Agenda Item No. 15 (2022/23 to 2026/27 Draft Budget), the Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) reminded Members of a dispensation which had been granted in February 2020 for a four year period. The dispensation covered Members who fall into the following groups:-

- Members of Council who are Parish Councillors who may have a DPI in relation to the Parish Budgets that will be funded through the Parish precept and Council tax;
- Members who are County Councillors who are involved in the setting of the County Council budget and the consideration of the County Council element of Council tax;
- Members who are appointed to Outside Bodies and who may have DPI interests as a result of these appointments (due to receiving any allowance, payment or indemnity) Elements of the budget relate directly to the organisation's to which they are appointed;
- Members who are dual and triple hatted and who may have a DPI due to receiving any allowance, payment or indemnity from the County and Parish / Town Councils;
- Members living in Council accommodation and who are affected by plans or programmes in the budget? "housing matters where the member is a tenant of the Council, provided the budget item does not relate to the member's tenancy or lease."; and
- Members of the Council who receive Independent Remuneration Panel Members Allowances.

#### **CEX/89 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS**

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

#### **CEX/90 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No questions, representations, deputations or petitions had been received in respect of this meeting.

#### **CEX/91 FORWARD PLAN**

No Member having raised concern when asked by the Chairman, it was

***RESOLVED – That the contents of the Forward Plan published on 8 February 2021, be noted.***

#### **CEX/92 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder provided Members with a verbal update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). He advised Members that they should be in receipt of regular updates through their respective group leaders and referenced the updates provided by the Communications Team.

**CEX/93****ESTABLISHMENT OF A WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS JOINT COMMITTEE****Summary**

The Leader of the Council and Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation Portfolio Holder presented a report which recommended that a Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee be established by the Councils making up the Westmorland and Furness Council.

As part of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) process, the Council had a requirement to establish a Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee within fourteen days of the Structural Changes Order (SCO) coming into force, with the Joint Committee being dissolved in accordance with the SCO, on the day following the first Shadow Authority for Westmorland and Furness Council meeting.

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder informed Members that the Cumbria Monitoring Officers had recommended that one authority should host the Joint Committee and that South Lakeland District Council had agreed to host the Joint Committee meetings. He added that the suggested terms of reference had been attached at Appendix 1 to the report and were based on the content of the SCO laid before Parliament on 24 January 2022.

The report set out the Membership requirements of the Joint Committee, which would be comprised of three nominated persons from each District Council as well as the County Council. For South Lakeland District Council, the political balance of appointments was two Liberal Democrats (with one being an Executive Councillor) and one Conservative.

In a response to a question regarding public attendance at Joint Committee meetings, the Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer) informed Members that the Joint Committee meetings would fall under the Local Government Act 1972 requirement to be held in public regulations regarding public access to information would apply. She added that although some Agenda Items may contain confidential information and this may not be available to the public, the Joint Committee meetings would, as much as possible be kept in the public domain.

**Decision*****RESOLVED – That***

- (1) the establishment of the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee be agreed, as detailed in the report and to the terms of reference attached at Appendix 1 to the report;***
- (2) the executive functions within the Terms of Reference be delegated to the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee; and***
- (3) Council be recommended to:-***
  - (a) agree to the establishment of the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee as detailed in the report and to the terms of reference attached at Appendix 1 to the report;***

- (b) delegate the Non-Executive Functions within the Terms of Reference to the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee;***
- (c) delegates to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Chairman, the making of any minor changes to the terms of reference following consideration by other councils making up the Joint Committee;***
- (d) authorise the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution and to update the Council's scheme of delegation in Part 3 of the Constitution;***
- (e) receive nominations and makes appointments to the positions on the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee in accordance with the political representation / balance calculation;***
- (f) agree that South Lakeland District Council act as the host authority; and***
- (g) agree that this Joint Committee is the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee for the purposes of the Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022.***

#### **Reason for Decision**

The Council is required to establish a Joint Committee within 14 days of the approval of the Cumbria Structural Changes Order 2022. The report ensures that we comply with the requirements of the order.

#### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

Members could decide not to proceed with a Joint Committee until the Order is made. However, speed is of the essence and it is considered that this will be more transparent and provide clarity on decision making and ensure that the Council is ready for Local Government Reorganisation. The Council is required to comply with the Structural Changes Order, not proceeding with the establishment of the Joint Committee would place the Council in breach of the provisions of the Order.

## **CEX/94 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 3 2021/22**

### **Summary**

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation Portfolio Holder presented an update report on the progress with the Council Plan for Quarter three of 2021/22. The report monitored success of the Council Plan 2021-2026 through scorecards and informed improvements and ensures Council service address the needs of the residents in an open and transparent way. The Council was committed to delivering high quality, cost effective services that met the needs of residents and improved quality of life.

The report set out targets which showed very good performance in general. However, in line with the national trend and the influence of Covid-19, the number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation had increased.

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation Portfolio Holder highlighted that the report would evolve in line with the move to the new Westmorland and Furness authority and as the new authority develops, South Lakeland would use its existing priorities to influence the strategy of the new authority in addressing the needs of the South Lakeland area.

Following a review of the Strategic Risks for Quarter 4 2019/20, it had been found that 65% of risks were above appetite which highlighted the significant impact of Covid-19. The report represented the most recent review and showed that a significantly reduced 19% of risks had been positioned above appetite.

### **Decision**

***RESOLVED – That the following be noted:-***

- (1) the Summary of Performance as detailed in the report;***
- (2) the detailed risks information contained within Appendix 1; and***
- (3) the detailed performance statistics in Appendix 2.***

### **Reasons for Decision**

Performance Monitoring underpins service delivery and provides good value for money. Performance Monitoring supports the delivery of all four Council Plan Priorities.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

No alternative options – the purpose of the report is to receive a performance update.

The Council must note successes, monitor progress and take action where appropriate.

**CEX/95**

## **COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICY FRAMEWORK - TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Summary**

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation Portfolio Holder presented a report on the Council Plan and Policy Framework (legacy). The report sought to ensure that during the transition to the establishment of Westmorland and Furness Council, efforts were focused on critical areas of delivery which would be a strong legacy and provide firm foundations on which the new authority can build. Furthermore, the report wished to ensure that the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority fully considers the vision and priorities of South Lakeland and its communities in developing its strategy and policy framework.

The report highlighted the method and criteria, which involved a Project Portfolio Management Approach (PPM) which had been adopted in prioritising the Council's work during the remainder of its existence.

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation Portfolio Holder emphasised a number of key priorities which it had been intended to complete by vesting day. He reminded Members that a number of projects were likely to be handed

over to the Westmorland and Furness Council but felt that overall, South Lakeland District Council would leave a long legacy for the future.

The Leader and Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation Portfolio Holder responded to a question raised by Members regarding the pooling of assets and liabilities. He informed Members that work on this matter was ongoing and that arrangements would become clearer as this work progressed. He added that a Section 24 directive would be put in place by the government which would put limitations on spending at all of the authorities involved in the Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria and emphasised that as progress was made more details would be made clear.

### **Decision**

#### ***RESOLVED – That Cabinet:-***

- (1) recommends the interim priorities set out in 3.8-3.10 to Council to be approved; and***
- (2) recommends that Council requests that the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority considers the priorities and proposals set out in Appendix 1 in developing the Policy Framework for the new authority.***

### **Reasons for Decision**

This report sets out how South Lakeland can ensure that the Community Priorities set out in the Council Plan are considered in the policy making framework for the new authority.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

The Council could take the view that no prioritisation is necessary for the final year of its operation and that the future of Council Plan, Local Plan and Policy framework is a matter for the Shadow Authority on which South Lakeland District Council should take no view. This however would negate much of the work that South Lakeland has done to develop strategic focus. It would deprive the shadow authority of soundly based policy and strategy and many years of experience in working with the people and communities of South Lakeland to promote their interests.

## **CEX/96**

### **CORPORATE FINANCE UPDATE QUARTER 3**

#### **Summary**

The Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder presented the third quarter financial monitoring report of 2021/22. The report provided the projected year end position based on performance to the end of Quarter 3 and officers' planned actions to ensure a balanced budget by the end of the financial year.

The report and appendices included details relating to the revenue budget, capital expenditure, collection of Council Tax and business rates and the Council's current position with regard to debt collection.

Appendix 1 set out the revenue variances to date, highlighting the best estimate of additional costs and loss of income from Covid-19 for 2021/22 which were £570,600 which suggested a saving against the contingency budget of £126,900. Regarding the

Business as Usual (BAU) position, there had been an overspend of £46,000 which was likely to be closed as the year end approaches.

Appendix 2 set out the position on the capital programme, following a review of the capital programme in the autumn of 2021, the programme was now valued at £14.602 million for 2021/22 with nearly £5 million being spent as at 31/12/2021, it was felt that most of the budget would be spent before the end of the financial year due to grants where agreements had been close to being finalised.

Table 4 in the report set out Local Taxation Collection rates which remained low but included more payment plans, the Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder added that improvements were expected moving forwards and that Section 3.6 referred to the write-off of two debts due to the age of the debts.

### **Decision**

#### ***RESOLVED – That***

***(1) The content of the report and appendices 1-3 be noted; and***

***(2) The write-offs as detailed in Section 3.6.1 be approved.***

### **Reasons for Decision**

This is a corporate financial update which contributes to sound corporate governance and ensuring that financial resources are available to deliver the Council's corporate priorities. This works towards delivering all of the Council strategic policies of:

- Working across boundaries;
- Delivering a balanced community;
- A fairer South Lakeland; and
- Addressing the climate emergency

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

There are no alternative options for Appendices 1-3.

## **CEX/97**

### **REVIEW OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022**

#### **Summary**

On 1 April 2013, the national Council Tax Benefit Scheme had been abolished and replaced with a locally-determined scheme known as the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. South Lakeland District Council had introduced a scheme that mirrored the previous national scheme, which meant that nobody was worse off under the Local Scheme and that the most vulnerable people in the District were protected from any reductions in support.

The Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder presented a detailed report, informing Members that the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (as amended) required Local



Authorities to approve their Council Tax Reduction Scheme on an Annual Basis by the 11 March for the following financial year.

After considering options for change, including the additional income, costs and risks associated with any changes, it was expected that the current Scheme would continue unchanged for the financial year 2022/23. This was with the exception of applying the annual upratings and other minor income and capital disregards.

Members were proud of the Scheme which supported the Council's commitment to enable the most vulnerable resident to survive and flourish. The Scheme continued to garner cross-party support.

## **Decision**

***RESOLVED – That Cabinet recommends the following to full Council:-***

- (1) approve and adopt the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, it being the most appropriate scheme for this Council for the financial year commencing 1 April 2022, subject to the Operational Lead Case Management in consultation with the Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder being authorised to:-***
  - (a) make all necessary updates to this Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme to comply with any statutory requirements that may be issued by central government;***
  - (b) make all necessary amendments to the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme to uprate the allowances and premiums in accordance with the HB Circular A11/2021 regarding annual upratings issued in December 2021 by the Department of Work and Pensions; and***
- (2) that any work on a further review of the Scheme be carried out as part of the Local Government Reorganisation work streams for the new Westmorland and Furness Council.***

## **Reasons for Decision**

To assist in the delivery of the Council Plan - "Our Vision" – Several Welfare Reform changes have already been implemented, including the abolition of the Council Tax Benefit Scheme and introduction of its replacement, the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Universal Credit full service was also rolled out in South Lakeland between September and December 2018. The Council has provided a large amount of information about the ways the changes will affect individuals and worked closely with our social landlords to try as far as possible to reduce the impact on vulnerable people. We will continue to monitor the impact of these changes.

The retention of the existing scheme offering support up to a maximum of 100% of the Council Tax plays a key role in supporting the Council's objective of helping to alleviate poverty.

## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

The Council is under no legal obligation to offer a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for Working Age residents. Therefore in theory it could reduce the amount of support

offered to this group from 100% to any figure it chose including having a full charge irrespective of income. If the Council were to reduce the amount of support for this group, they would also need to consider how viable the collection of the contributions would be. A number of authorities are reviewing their schemes to reduce the contributions from claimants as they have found these contributions difficult to collect and have seen increased levels of write-offs.

There are numerous ways in which the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme could be changed: These were fully examined as part of the Overview and Scrutiny review and were considered as part of the decision making process in approving the scheme for 2015/16. No further examination has taken place since this review apart from a brief indication of the likely income that could be generated if a minimum charge was to be introduced for Working Age Recipients of Council Tax Reduction.

It is likely that a review of South Lakeland's Council Tax Reduction Scheme will not be undertaken in 2022. It is expected that in light of the Local Government Reorganisation a full review will be required for Westmorland and Furness Council.

## **CEX/98      2022/23 TO 2026/27 DRAFT BUDGET**

### **Summary**

The Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder presented the 2022/23 to 2026/27 Five Year Draft Budget. The expected outcome was that Council will be in a position to deliver the priorities set out in the Council Plan within its resources. This enabled the statutory requirement to agree a balanced budget and to set the appropriate Council Tax level for 2022/23.

The successful implementation of staffing changes as part of Customer Connect had permanently delivered savings of over £1.5 million, although one-off costs around Covid-19 and Local Government Reorganisation, short-term, demand-driven pressures and inflation which have created significant new pressures. Despite these additional pressures, the latest draft budget presented a balanced budget for 2022/23 with significant deficits from 1 April 2023 with options being developed to balance future budget deficits.

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) provided a summary five year annual position and the proposed Budget Strategy had been agreed by Council at its 27 July 2021 meeting. The Council had a statutory duty to set a balanced budget and work was underway to resolve the projected deficits from April 2023 onwards, estimates were to be kept under review as part of the preparation of a MTFP for the new Westmorland and Furness Council to ensure that overall savings plans are sufficient to set balanced budgets.

The report set out government funding and other revenue budget uncertainties, referring to the incomplete fundamental review of local government funding, the 2021/22 funding had largely rolled forward with minor amendments being made.

In response to a question raised regarding procurement for the capital programme, the Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder informed Members that the level of expenditure had broadly remained the same and that he was confident that there would be material movements on key projects.

The Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder answered an additional question regarding revenue generation as a result of the improvements to Kendal Town Hall and South Lakeland House and informed Members that work was likely to be complete before the end of the financial year and that discussions were ongoing regarding tenanting the space.

### **Decision**

#### **RESOLVED - That**

- (1) the proposals contained in the report to achieve a balanced budget from April 2022; and**
- (2) Recommends the Draft Budget 2022-2023 to 2026-2027 and Appendices 3 to 10 to full Council for approval subject to:-**
  - a) revision for the Council Tax increase for Band D properties being 1½%, leading to a balanced budget; and**
  - b) that any further amendments identified with the S151 Officer being delegated to amend the proposals in consultation with the Leader and Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder.**

### **Reasons for Decision**

This report sets out the latest draft Budget to enable the consideration of how the Council's priorities will be delivered. Setting a sound framework for budget preparation assists in the delivery of all corporate outcomes. This draft budget has been developed within the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and supports all Council Plan priorities (working across boundaries; delivering a balanced community; a fairer South Lakeland; and addressing the climate emergency) through ensuring financial resources to deliver each priority.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

This report presents alternative options in relation to potential budget pressures and savings, new capital programme bids, one off revenue growth bids and fees and charges. The proposals together aim to meet the Council's statutory duty to set a balanced Budget for 2022/23.

## **CEX/99**

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL STRATEGIES**

#### **Summary**

The Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder presented a report setting out the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27 and Capital Strategy for 2022/23, which had been updated to reflect the 2022/23 budget and capital programme. He highlighted that the strategies had been revised in line with Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA) treasury management code changes along with fulfilling five key legislative requirements.

The report set out the key functions of the Treasury Management and Capital Strategies which were:-

- The timing and nature of income and expenditure within the budget needs to be understood and managed so that cash is available when required, which is a key function of the treasury management operation; and
- The funding of the Council's capital plans which provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council.

The report made reference to the change in bank rate to 0.25% as well as rising inflation and better than expected unemployment data, the expectation was that the bank rate would rise at least two times in 2022/23.

The Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder felt that the strategy had been prudent and allowed the Council to deliver services to residents, he added that there had been little change to the strategy shown last year and that he supported the long-term view of certain expenditures.

### **Decision**

***RESOLVED – That the Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategies and the authorised and operation borrowing limits within the report be noted and recommended to Council.***

### **Reasons for Decision**

This report sets out the framework and limits for managing the Council's finances enabling the Council's priorities to be delivered. Setting a sound framework assists in the delivery of all corporate outcomes of:

- Working across boundaries;
- Delivering a balanced community;
- A fairer South Lakeland; and
- Addressing the climate emergency.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

No alternative options are proposed; the Treasury Management Strategy, in particular, is driven largely by legislation and external guidance and reflects the 2022/23 budget.

## **CEX/100 PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE 2022/23**

### **Summary**

The Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder set out the Procurement Schedule by explaining that the wide range of projects included on the wide range of projects included on the Procurement Schedule allowed officers to conduct procurement without further authority on the projects as long as the Budget had also been approved. He reminded Members of the recent changes to the constitution which clarified the process for the procurement schedule and the subsequent approval process on award, developed the Delegated Executive Decision process for transparency and made changes to the thresholds at which decisions are made. In addition Members were

made aware of changes to the Public contracting Regulations (2015) thresholds which now included VAT.

The report explained that there had been a reduction in the number of procurement projects identified on the Procurement Schedule, it was thought that this reduction was due to Local Government Reorganisation and departments re-focussing on what was important in terms of Business as Usual.

### **Decision**

***RESOLVED – That Council be recommended to approve the Procurement Schedule for 2022/23 attached at Appendix 1 to the report.***

### **Reasons for Decision**

To deliver Value for Money in the provision of services and improve the efficiency of its procurement activities through the approval of the procurement exercises proposed for 2022/23.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

Council could decide not to approve all or part of the Procurement Schedule. This would mean that separate acceptance reports may be required for all or specific tenders. This would mean increased lead time to procurement and a greater administrative burden.

## **CEX/101 ULVERSTON LEISURE SITE**

### **Summary**

The Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder presented a detailed report on the Ulverston Leisure Site. He informed the meeting that Members had been looking at an opportunity which had been presented by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to co-locate facilities currently provided by GSK together with reinvestment in the Council's facilities.

The report set out proposals for a new leisure facility at the Council's Priory Road site in Ulverston and the rationale behind the scheme which was summarised as:-

- Investment in Place – providing a good leisure and sports offering, promoting the benefits of Ulverston as a place to live, work and invest;
- Improving health – providing facilities and programming which promote active lifestyles;
- Employment Land use – opportunity for the re purposing of land at the GSK site to support future employment use, enabled by the relocation of facilities at Priory Road;
- Sustainable facilities – addressing reinvestment in aging facilities, reducing cost and environmental impact, extending community participation in the provision and operation of facilities; and
- Responding to current circumstances – As part of proposals which mitigate the impacts of change at the GSK site.

The Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder referred to challenges faced with regard to the estimated costs being in excess of the funding available and the impact of the pandemic on leisure use and operational business plans. However, as the impact of the pandemic had eased and there had been progress on the interrelated developments at the GSK site, further work had been undertaken to consider progressing the proposals.

The Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder set out the recommended phased approach which comprise three proposed phases. Phase 1 included the provision of three football pitches along with changing facilities, the remodelling of the indoor tennis centre, a crown green bowling green and an informal running route. The estimated cost was £1.8 million with a delivery period of twelve to fifteen months and had been enabled by the GSK financial contribution.

Phases two and three were set out in the report and required more significant project development work to achieve a similar degree of confidence on costs. This would likely be a matter for the new Westmorland and Furness Council to consider as the completion of phase one, would likely run up to the end of South Lakeland District Council.

Members raised a concern that the Council had not committed to the implementation of the whole scheme. The Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder alongside the Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder commented that the further project development work was required to establish the detail of costs and funding and that it would be necessary for the new Westmorland and Furness authority to consider such a decision.

Members expressed their appreciation for progress on this important project and felt that it was crucial to move forwards on phase one of the proposals to allow the new Westmorland and Furness Council to move on with phases two and three in the future.

## **Decision**

### ***RESOLVED – That***

- (1) Council be recommended to receive the £2 million from GSK for replacement Leisure provision (subject to 2.1.3 and 2.1.4);***
- (2) the progression of Phase 1 of the Ulverston Leisure Site with the proceeds of the £2 million from GSK be approved ( subject to 2.1.3 and 2.1.4);***
- (3) the entering into of an agreement to receive the £2 million be approved and for this to be delegated to the Director of Customer and Commercial Services in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets;***
- (4) the amendment of the existing contract with GLL to facilitate the delivery of Phase 1 be approved and this to be delegated to the Director of Customer and Commercial Services in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Culture and Leisure;***
- (5) further project development be approved to take place on Phases 2 and 3, for the purpose of providing detailed proposals for consideration by the***

***new Westmorland and Furness Council with regard to future implementation; and***

***(6) the amendments to the Capital Programme be recommended to Council in light of the revised estimated costs of the scheme and a phased approach to delivery.***

**Reasons for Decision**

The proposals link to the following Council Plan priorities:-

- Working across boundaries – The proposals will improve prospects for employment growth by releasing land to repurpose as employment land.
- Delivering a balanced community – The proposals will help secure the provision of facilities which promote participation in active lifestyles, promote club and volunteer activity.
- A fairer South Lakeland – The proposals will help secure provision of facilities which can help work in partnership to reduce health inequalities
- Addressing the climate emergency – Planning for future built facilities provides opportunity to improve and sustainability of buildings and services.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

The project is at a pivotal point. It is intrinsically linked to the future use of the land at GSK which enables future employment use and as part of mitigation of the change at the GSK site. It has made progress in narrowing the funding gap of the previous proposals and has broad support from stakeholders to progress. Local Government Reorganisation is imminent which will bring the considerations of a new Council to future strategy and provision of services. The following options are considered:

**Do nothing.** The Cabinet could decide not to undertake further work on the scheme. This would mean that the opportunity to reinvest in leisure facilities and to repurpose land at GSK for employment use would be lost. The rationale for the scheme would be lost. It would increase the risk of sports facilities being closed at GSK without replacement or the economic benefit of future employment land. The financial contribution from GSK would not be realised. Whilst the Council's current facilities would continue, opportunities to investigate how they can be re provided and funded, addressing risk from the increased aging of the current facilities would be lost. The development of informed options for consideration by the new Westmorland and Furness Council would be foregone. This option is not recommended.

**Progress all Phases as a single scheme.** Further stages of design, funding and leisure contract renegotiation would be required in order to inform the Cabinet of all relevant considerations prior to a decision to progress all phases as a single scheme. Understanding the implications and requirements of the Leisure Contract post Covid will take some time. Progressing as a whole risks pushing the project back a number of years and doesn't allow earlier delivery of benefits which are possible through a phased approach and better meet the timetable of change occurring at the GSK site. This option is not recommended.

**Progress Phase 1 to implementation.** This option enables earlier delivery of benefits, including the future repurposing of the GSK land for employment use. It enables and secures the application of financial contribution from GSK and reduces risk of the potential for closure of sporting facilities. This is the recommended option.

**Continue project development work on Phases 2 and 3.** This option enables further development work to ascertain greater cost certainty, funding and associated contractual change. This work would be required to fully inform future options for the Council's facilities and leisure provision in Ulverston and helps mitigate the risks from the increased aging of facilities. It will enable options to be considered by the new Westmorland and Furness Council. This is a recommended option.

## **CEX/102 STRATEGIC CULTURAL PARTNERS GRANTS INVESTMENT**

### **Summary**

The Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder presented a report on Strategic Cultural Partners Grants Investment. He informed Members that the proposal aimed to continue the allocation of revenue funding to the Council's designated Strategic Cultural Partners (SCP), to maximise impact and benefit to communities and effectively deliver Council Priorities in the period leading up to the creation of the new Westmorland and Furness authority.

The report proposed to continue the funding commitment to the 12 SCP organisations for a two year period, with the total amount of funding investment per annum being at £187,150. The Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder emphasised the importance of providing this level of cultural offer to residents and referred to the positive impact this could have on the mental and physical wellbeing of residents. He added that this level of support from local authorities would provide leverage to allow cultural organisations to access funding at a national level and praised the strategic approach which was felt to be imperative in allowing these organisations in planning ahead for the future.

In responding to a question regarding three of the SCP organisation which had been marked with an asterisk in the report, the Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder informed Members that these three organisations acted as hub organisations supporting a number of smaller organisations across the district and assisted with the distribution of funding to them from their allocation.

### **Decision**

#### ***RESOLVED – That:-***

- (1) a funding period of two years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024 be agreed and the levels of funding for Strategic Cultural Partner (SCP) organisations to a total of £187,150 per annum in the sums and for the grant period of two years set out in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of this report be approved; and***
- (2) the Legal Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist in consultation with the Operational Lead Place and Environment Specialist, be authorised to finalise the terms of, and put in place, the necessary legal agreements with each SCP organisation for a period of two years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024.***



### **Reasons for Decision**

Working across boundaries, delivering sustainable regional growth across Morecambe Bay, promoting unique value propositions such as cultural, creative and marine industries, delivering a balanced community and addressing the climate emergency.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

End funding support for SCP organisations or make alternative allocations. This is not recommended because the council has reviewed SCP investment and adopted a strategic approach to investment in culture in the district that supports the social, economic, cultural and sustainability priorities of the council and levers in significant investment levels of other funding investment for the benefit of South Lakeland. The council's funding enables the delivery of nationally recognised cultural programmes, arts, events, festivals, and projects.

Two year agreements provide organisations with confidence in the revenue stream from the Council for a defined period and enables them to plan more effectively, whilst at the same time, the Council would be assured that value for money was being provided through monitoring of the agreements and SCP relationship management.

## **CEX/103 CARTMEL CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **Summary**

The Housing Portfolio Holder presented a report on the draft Management Plan for Cartmel Conservation Area. The draft Plan had been the product of a period of research and consultation across the Ward area which allowed for a wide variety of people contributing to the identification of the key features of the Conservation area. With the support of professional staff and consultants, a management plan has been prepared in order to preserve and enhance the Conservation Area's significance and character.

The Housing Portfolio Holder highlighted the objectives of the Cartmel Area Management Plan which were to:-

- Set out guidance for protecting the special character of Cartmel Conservation Area;
- Produce a List of unlisted Buildings or Features of Local Architectural or Historic Significance that are of particular merit in the Conservation Area;
- Consider whether an Article 4 Direction to control permitted development is justified, and provide evidence; and
- Provide a strategy for Buildings at Risk Identify opportunities for environmental enhancement and the need for grant-aid.

The report highlighted a consultation period of a minimum of six weeks in early 2022 although there was some uncertainty over the consultation period due to the departure of South Lakeland District Council's Conservation Officer.

Members expressed their support for the proposals and remarked that the amount of local involvement in the process had been impressive.

**Decision****RESOLVED – That:-**

- (1) The draft Cartmel Conservation Area Management Plan for public consultation under Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 be approved; and***
- (2) Authority be delegated to the Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources to make any changes considered necessary by Cabinet to the draft Cartmel Conservation Area Management Plan, prior to undertaking the public consultation on the draft document.***

**Reasons for Decision**

The application of a Cartmel Conservation Area Management Plan SPD in decision making will assist in delivering a balanced community and ensure the historic environmental qualities of Cartmel are retained and enhanced and this will support the attractiveness of Cartmel as a place to live, invest and visit.

The application of a Cartmel Conservation Area Management Plan SPD in decision making will assist in addressing the climate emergency and ensure new development is sustainable, enhances the district's green infrastructure, and promote local business

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

The alternative to not approving this document would be to leave it as an unadopted piece of work, which would serve no real purpose in the development management process. It would also prevent the completion of the CAMP and undermine the Council's ability to exercise its statutory duties to preserve and enhance the designated assets in the Cartmel Conservation Area.

**CEX/104 URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items to be considered.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.