

**LANCASTER AND SOUTH
CUMBRIA JOINT
COMMITTEE**

**THIS WAS A 'VIRTUAL'
MEETING HELD VIA TEAMS
LIVE EVENTS**

3.00 P.M.

21ST OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT:-

Councillors Erica Lewis (Chair, part) and Kevin Frea (Lancaster CC), Giles Archibald and Robin Ashcroft (South Lakeland DC), Derek Brook and Ann Thomson (Barrow BC)

Councillors Suzie Pye (South Lakeland DC) and Lee Roberts (Barrow BC) were present to contribute updates (minute 11 refers)

Officers in
attendance:

Lawrence Conway	Chief Executive (South Lakeland DC)
Kieran Keane	Chief Executive (Lancaster CC)
Sam Plum	Chief Executive (Barrow BC)
Steph Cordon	Director of People and Place (Barrow BC)
Anne Marie Harrison	Head of Economic Development (Lancaster CC)
David Sykes	Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources (South Lakeland DC)
Luke Gorst	Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer (Lancaster CC)
Debbie Chambers	Head of Democratic Services (Lancaster CC)
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer (Lancaster CC)

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3.01pm. This was due to an urgent briefing meeting which had been called for local authority leaders and MPs in the Lancashire region regarding the Tier 3 COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting re-convened at 4pm with the Vice-Chair, Councillor Thomson, in the Chair.

8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies. It was noted that Councillor Lewis was still required at the COVID briefing. She would join the meeting as soon as possible.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2020 were accepted as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair when the minute book was available.

11 UPDATES ON THE THREE WORK AREAS: POVERTY, CLIMATE CHANGE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

It was confirmed that the lead authorities on each issue were South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) for Poverty; Lancaster City Council (LCC) for Climate Change and Barrow Borough Council (BBC) for Health and Wellbeing. The Councillors leading would each issue be Councillor Suzie Pye (SLDC); Councillor Kevin Frea (LCC) and Councillor Lee Roberts (BBC). The Chair invited them each to give an update on progress made.

Councillor Pye's area was alleviation of poverty. She reported that she had attended a very positive and productive first meeting with Councillors Alistair Sinclair and Caroline Jackson from LCC and Councillor Derek Brook from BBC. It was apparent that all three authorities were 'on the same page' and that working together could enhance each authority's individual results. Sharing information and working as a Bay Group would make the three partners stronger.

Two strands had been identified, which were short term and long term goals. Short term they had discussed helping residents out with signposting, supporting and putting in place local initiatives and reaching people before they fell into poverty. Long term goals spilled over into housing, employment and retraining. They also planned to look at data to help measure levels of poverty and discussed the stigma that surrounded poverty and often prevented people from seeking out help. This stigma was something the Poverty Truth Commission was trying to address.

There was a further meeting planned in two weeks' time when Terms of Reference would be considered and then the group would report back further. The intention was to provide ideas and interventions which would be sustainable, not short term, 'stop/start' initiatives.

Councillor Frea reported on progress with the climate change emergency and the individual projects going on in the three authorities including the purchase of electric bin lorries, panel vans and pool cars at LCC. The intention would be for the public to be able to register with Co-Wheels and use the pool cars out of office hours providing a community resource. LCC had also been working with taxi proprietors to encourage and incentivise them to move to electric vehicles and would be installing three dedicated charge points for taxis. SLDC were carrying out some particularly inspiring community engagement work on climate change, having Cumbria Action for Sustainability to work with and projects such as the Ambleside to Zero Carbon (A-Z) group as well as interacting with Cumbria University and local businesses and accessing the Rural Community Energy Fund. Also, SLDC had invited match-funded bids for a pot of £20k to really get people thinking about how that money could be used to combat climate change. This had yielded some innovative ideas. In Barrow, there was a low carbon initiative funded in part by the LEP and European funding. It was aimed to make Piel Island carbon neutral. Each authority had its own action plan for the climate change emergency and one of the next steps would be to need to look at those plans together, harmonise and advance them. Councillor Frea reported that officers had been liaising with Cumbria authorities on this area, and also Planning, for some time, which was proving very useful.

Councillor Lewis returned to the meeting at this point (4.30pm)

Councillor Roberts then presented an update on the health and wellbeing area where a theme had emerged – bearing in mind that health was not something district councils were directly responsible for - regarding how the three authorities could collectively stop Bay wide residents' from either needing to present or re-present to primary care and other health services. This preventative work could help ease the pressure on the health service.

The group would look at their Council plans to see where health and wellbeing sat in those plans. Strands would be drawn together from everything the joint committee was doing, since the health and wellbeing was so closely linked to poverty and housing. Improving housing stock and providing affordable housing would have an effect on health and wellbeing. Collective resources and funding groups would need to be identified and the voice of the community built into plans, finding out residents' needs rather than imposing things on them. It was important to put the resident at the heart of everything.

Councillor Frea supplied names of Cabinet Members at Lancaster (Councillors Alistair Sinclair and Caroline Jackson) who might be the best contacts for health and wellbeing.

After the updates there was a discussion about how to link into existing groups so that there was no risk of replicating work going on elsewhere. This was a point made clear in the Joint Committee's terms of reference which required members to actively engage with a range of experts, community organisations and other stakeholders. Linkages would build partnerships and bring things together across the three Councils.

The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for their updates.

12 THE BAY PROSPERITY AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Councillor Lewis took the Chair at this point.

Members considered the Prosperity and Resilience Strategy which had been submitted to government. A standard acknowledgement had been received and a full response was awaited.

Councillor Ashcroft proposed:

That -

- (1) The final version of The Bay Prosperity and Resilience Strategy be endorsed.
- (2) It be noted that the strategy, including a request for £750,000 per annum for two years, has been submitted to government with a covering letter from all three Leaders.

Councillor Archibald seconded the proposition.

The Chair asked if there was any dissent. There were no indications of dissent, therefore the proposition was carried.

Resolved:

That -

- (1) The final version of The Bay Prosperity and Resilience Strategy be endorsed.
- (2) It be noted that the strategy, including a request for £750,000 per annum for two years, has been submitted to government with a covering letter from all three Leaders.

13 NEXT STEPS

There was a discussion about whether economic leads should look at aspects of finance and, if so, how that might sit with the three existing strands of poverty, climate change and health and wellbeing. Councillor Ashcroft and Councillor Lewis agreed to meet to discuss this further.

The Chair thanked Councillor Thomson for taking over chairing of the meeting whilst she had been detained in the COVID briefing.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 5.02 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact Debbie Chambers
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