

**Appendix 1: SLDC services' current activity in seeking to reduce poverty**

**Current activity includes:**

**- Specific:**

- The distribution of around £150m of Covid grants to businesses throughout the crisis, safeguarding thousands of businesses and livelihoods
- The subsidising of business support so it is free for new start-ups and existing businesses in South Lakeland.
- The provision of new affordable employment space through the renovation of South Lakeland House and Mintworks
- Great Place Lakes and Dales – delivering UK pilot programme to make our place more sustainable for younger generations to live, being more affordable, accessible and with increased career opportunities.
- Investment in Strategic Cultural Partners of around £200,000 per annum, creating and safeguarding jobs in the industry.
- Business Support programmes directly supporting the creation of new jobs and businesses through Cumbria Growth Hub and Future Fixers. Often helping those most in need who have fallen out of employment.
- Broadband Voucher Scheme take up by local communities – now 97% broadband coverage in South Lakeland
- Providing period poverty packs in rural locations across the district, liaising with schools and village shops to provide extra collection points.
- Helping develop a Poverty Truth Commission (referred in more detail in the accompanying paper)
- Partnered with the Money and Pensions Service, an arms-length body sponsored by DWP, to provide immediate customer referrals to access independent financial advice.
- Customer Service Advisors explore customer eligibility for council tax reduction and discount schemes as well as affordable payment plans and make referrals to other agencies, such as Citizens Advice and Age UK, as appropriate,
- Locality officers contact homeless people identified by the community to inform them of the winter shelter scheme and how to access support services. Referrals made to social services and homeless teams where appropriate.
- Enabling new affordable homes to rent and buy. Between 2014 to Q1 2021/22, 477 new affordable homes for rent have been delivered and 177 new affordable homes to buy. There are currently 15 large housing schemes under construction which will deliver around 400 affordable homes for rent and sale.
- Contributed funds towards a South Lakes Housing Scheme at Parkside Road in Kendal producing energy efficient homes, helping reduce the potential fuel poverty of the occupants. The five properties were developed on a former garage site comprising two three-bedroom homes for shared ownership and three three-bedroom homes for rent.
- Retained the use of six additional units of accommodation that were originally used under the Protect+ scheme these are for households with a lower level of support need which is provided by support staff working for SLDC.
- Gained funding to work with offenders to reduce homelessness and reoffending, this will be a partnership with another provider to deliver the service both in and out of custody settings.
- Recently appointed a Rough Sleeper co-ordinator.
- South Lakeland Housing have signed up to an early intervention approach when a tenant is facing difficulties with their tenancies to enable us to prevent homelessness

- Providing a range of specific schemes to assist customers in financial difficulty. These include: Discretionary Housing Payment; Council Tax Reduction Scheme; Temporary Council Tax COVID -19 Hardship Fund; and the Council Tax Discretionary Relief Scheme.
  - Employed additional resource to administer the increase in HB/CTRS claims as a result of COVID-19.
  - Referral partner for local foodbanks.
  - Customers now have online access to their accounts which gives them immediate access to the benefits entitlement and payments - helping them to budget.
  - Overpayments recovery and the ability to pay is taken into account when setting a recovery amount.
  - A number of schemes are in place to support energy efficiency measures, including Cold to Cosy which focuses on small domestic energy efficiency measures, switching providers and financial advice available from Cumbria Action for Sustainability.
  - Handy Person Scheme.
  - Better Leisure and fitness facilities in South Lakeland offer discounts of up to 50%.
- **More general:**
- Work with Connecting Cumbria to promote broadband availability and community take-up to widen and improve the quality of broadband coverage, reducing digital poverty.
  - Work with strategic partners on recruitment and skills agenda to improve employability, skills, and match people with jobs – encouraging links between further and higher education, training providers, businesses and apprenticeships.
  - Work with partners to promote the circular economy, encouraging spending and supporting local
  - Ongoing dialogue with local businesses and developers to help bring forward strategic employment sites identified in Local Plans for the District
  - Discussions with partners on the role they play in preventing homelessness within South Lakeland, including the neighbourhood policing team.

**Future planned activity includes:**

- Working with partners to ensure the completion of Cross-a-moor Roundabout Scheme, which once built by 2023 will enable the delivery of 1,000 new homes, a significant proportion of which being affordable.
- GSK Masterplan – leading on the redevelopment and reimagining of the GSK site in Ulverston to ensure high value employment and skills and retained and grown across the Bay.
- Partner working with the Environment Agency to enable the delivery of Kendal Flood Alleviation Scheme. The first phase will provide increased flood protection in Kendal for 1,480 homes and businesses.
- The production of an Economic Development Strategy for the area, setting out opportunities and actions to ensure a balanced, sustainable economy.
- The implementation of Kendal Town Centre Strategy and Kendal Vision, securing investment in our place, serving as a key service centre for the area.
- The delivery of a £3m Borderlands Place Programme investment for Ulverston to provide for the local community needs.
- Helping to shape employment site delivery and the creation and safeguarding of jobs through the Local Plan Review.
- Continuing to work with partners across the Bay to deliver on the Prosperity and Resilience Strategy – securing investment and high value jobs.

- The Council is working closely in partnership with Registered Providers and Community Led Housing Groups to enable more affordable homes for rent and sale to meet housing needs in local communities. Work has recently commenced at Levens on a community led housing scheme and approval has been granted to a further two community led housing groups to develop homes at Grasmere and Holme (subject to grant agreement). This would deliver 40 new homes subject to the necessary planning consents and legal agreements.
- The Changing Futures Programme has been set up and work is underway to address the needs of complex individuals and how they can best be supported away from poverty, homelessness and rough sleeping. The Council is to receive some funding from Cumbria CC (£50,000) to assist with this work during 2021/22. This will help support complex needs individuals and provide sustainable accommodation options.
- Looking to bring in more support staff to provide those facing homelessness with a key worker to ensure they sustain accommodation and do not end up rough sleeping or in temporary accommodation.
- Further funding is to be provided to Citizens Advice to increase access to services for residents experiencing financial and employment difficulties because of Covid-19 and the Government restrictions imposed in response to it and to ensure they can access the service funding provided to a project to pilot a dedicated webchat advice service.
- Working with Eden District Council, the North West Energy Hub and other Councils in Cumbria on a scheme for green homes which seeks to secure funding to assist income home owners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- Seeking to use the council's procurement to help achieve a Fairer South Lakeland, considering how to obtain social value in all tenders, and local employment and supply chains may weigh in a supplier's favour within a transparent, competitive process.