

# CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of CALC's Executive Committee held on **Saturday 19th January 2019** at 10.00 am at the Community Fire Station, Penrith.

#### **PRESENT: tbc**

Ann Byers  
Sue Castle-Clarke  
Bryan Craig  
Mike Cumming  
Roger Hart  
Mike Higginbotham  
Rick Petecki  
David Peters  
Jane Tea  
Margaret Throp  
Roger Burgin

#### In attendance:

Stephen Hall, Assistant Director for Highways, Cumbria County Council  
Samantha Bagshaw, Chief Officer.

#### **Stephen Hall – Assistant Director of Highways, Cumbria County Council**

Stephen Hall gave a presentation to update the CALC Executive on highways projects concerning local council on progress made over the last year. (See the Powerpoint presentation attached)

- 1. HIMS** – Stephen outlined the challenges and the progress made in improving the fault reporting and status functions of HIMS. The back office functions and systems have undergone a review and have been made more effective including how auto responses are made and trying to address the inaccuracies that occur in the information and status of highway faults.

Stephen explained about the large volume of calls and emails to the service annually – around 120,000. Previously up to 10,000 inaccurate messages were being sent out but now that has been significantly reduced (eg around 4,000 not fixed messages when the fault has been fixed). He explained this is due to the time lag in the system. Stephen also highlighted the acute shortfall in funding to address all the problems on Cumbria's roads and acknowledged that government wasn't going to provide the necessary money. Therefore, prioritising is and will continue to be very important for Highways.

- 2. Other Improvements** – Cumbria County Council has a number of regulatory obligations eg when people need a skip on the road outside their house. However they have now

released web-based software to use on mobile devices to make these type of permissions easier to access.

Cumbria Highways are also improving feedback on road closures. They are moving to a system which will require people to register for updates on road closures but this will, in time, allow for much more localised information. Tweeting road closures has led to a 237% increase in the number of people following Cumbria CC on Twitter.

### **3. Street Lighting Agreement**

Stephen updated the Committee on the status of the Agreement. This is a full management and lighting service (but not procurement of electricity for lights) that will be used for any parish or district council that would like Cumbria Highways to take on the management of lights they own. The service will be delivered at cost but, in the case of parish and town councils, it is based on the idea that parish councils will contract with the County in groups. (It was acknowledged that this agreement has not yet been finalised and further discussion is needed).

### **4. Working Together**

This project aims to standardise all the arrangements that parish councils enter into regarding taking on highways work in their parish – either via local contractors or via councillors and volunteers.

It aims to produce standardised agreements that offer enough protection to the County Council and are flexible enough for the parish councils to be able to make use of. Drafts of these agreements will be piloted in the next month and should be more widely available later this year.

Issues around parish councils managing resilience activities relating to highways will be considered after the initial roll out of general highways maintenance agreements.

Stephen then took a number of questions:

Q: How can councillors help to improve the funding situation for local roads?

A: Lobby local MPs to argue for greater budget for improving local roads ( funds have been moved to Highways England to improve motorways and trunk roads which is partly why A and B class roads are less well maintained)

Q: Can parish councils have input into how services are delivered locally? Eg less mowing of verges in the summer and more grit for icy roads in the winter?

A: Stephen agreed to look at how local priorities are set and will respond to this question. He also encouraged councillors to contact local County Councillors as they help set priorities at the Local Area Committee.

Q: What powers does CCC Highways have to require utility companies to repair cobbled streets ( ie not just covering the hole with concrete)?

A: Stephen will check this out too.

The Chairman thanked Stephen Hall for attending the CALC Executive Meeting.

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

5. Apologies for absence were received from Bob Mather and Cllr Keith Little from Cumbria County Council. Also from Cllrs Leslie Johnson, Leith Hallatsch, Brian Kennish, Andy Pratt.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2019**

6. The Vice Chair invited nominations for the position of Chair for 2019. Rick Petecki was nominated and seconded. There being no other nominations it was unanimously **agreed** that Rick Petecki be elected Chair for 2019.

(Rick Petecki in the chair)

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019**

7. The Committee noted the membership for 2019.

#### **MINUTES**

8. The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 20th October 2018 were considered and approved as a true record of the meeting.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

9. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2019**

10. Cllr Sue Castle-Clarke was nominated and seconded. In the absence of other nominees, it was agreed that Cllr Castle-Clarke be elected Vice Chair for 2019.

#### **CALC REPRESENTATION ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL BODIES**

11. The Committee received a schedule of bodies to which CALC made appointments. The Chairman confirmed that the Rural Crime Working Group had been disbanded – rural communities with concerns about policing have to refer to their local inspector with responsibilities for communities.

**It was agreed** that Cllr Bryan Craig be appointed to the Eden Regional Catchment Management Board.

**It was agreed** that the Chairman would:

- ensure that the names of the CALC representatives are on the circulation lists for the Catchment Management Boards.
- check that the Cumbria Health and Well-being Alliance still needs a CALC representative and will respond accordingly

See **Appendix 1** for the updated schedule of representatives.

### **CALC EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLANNING DAY**

**12.** The Chief Officer reported back to the Committee about the Forward Planning day held on 10<sup>th</sup> December at Newbiggin Village Hall. The day was arranged to allow councillors time to consider what the priorities should be for the organisation over the coming years. The strengths and weaknesses of the organisation were considered as were the challenges and opportunities. The findings of the day were put to the Executive Committee. (**See Appendix 2 for the notes of the day**).

It was **agreed** that:

1. CALC's training and development offer is a priority. This includes supporting member councils to be legally compliant; reviewing current development offer and addressing any gaps in training need, including specific programme for town councils.
2. A questionnaire be devised to assist in understanding which member councils may want additional support with becoming fully compliant, particularly with new legislation (transparency/new audit arrangements etc)
3. Parish Liaison Officers in each area to identify parish councils which would like extra support with legal/procedural compliance and to discuss how best to do this with the support of their district association executive members.
4. A skills audit of Executive Committee members will take place to identify skills that may be helpful in offering greater support to members.
5. The role of local councillor is promoted – what is the core expectation of the role; develop strategy to encourage more diverse, effective and democratic representation – share good practice
6. Role of the Executive Committee is considered – this is a core resource of the organisation; a methodology be devised for working with the Executive on achieving aims as set out in the Constitution.
7. A copy of CALC's Constitution is sent to all Executive Committee Members.
8. District association meetings be reviewed with district Chair and Vice Chair to ensure that they are meeting the needs of members.
9. If there are any resource implications in addressing the above issues, that they be brought back to the next Executive meeting in March.

### **PENRITH TOWN COUNCIL request to lobby EDC regarding adopting the Community Infrastructure Levy.**

**13.** The Committee agreed to write to Eden District Council but first requested confirmation that this was a resolution from the council.

**Agreed** that the Chief Officer would confirm.

## **CALC PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS TO DECEMBER 2018**

14. The Committee noted the statement of payments and receipts for the period ended 31st December, 2018.

## **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS**

15. The Committee noted the reports from the District Associations.

## **CHIEF OFFICER UPDATES**

16. The Committee noted the update from the Chief Officer and discussed future speakers at the Executive Committee.

**It was agreed that the following speakers would attend the next two Executive Committee meetings:**

- 1) Cumbria Safety Partnership re Child Sexual Exploitation
- 2) A representative of the Borderlands initiative.

## **REPORTS FROM CALC REPRESENTATIVES**

17. The Committee noted the reports.

## **PROPOSED MEETING DATES**

It was **agreed:**

Executive Committee meetings will take place at the Community Fire Station, Penrith, starting at 10.00a.m.

- Saturday 9th March 2019 (NALC National Council is on 13th March 2019)
- Saturday 15th June 2018 (NALC National Council is on 9th July 2019)
- Saturday 12th October (NALC AGM on 29th October 2019)
- Saturday 18th January 2020
  
- CALC AGM - Saturday 9th November 2019

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

18. The Chief Officer reported that the Northumberland Association of Local Councils has invited CALC's Executive members to meet with theirs and Durham members to discuss issues that might be of interest to them. These could include:
  - Devolution Deals

- Standards and Sanctions – the Committee for Standards in Public Life report will be in the public domain early in 2019
- Brexit impacts
- Relationships with upper-tier councils
- How to avoid reinventing the wheel in the northern parts of England

It was **agreed** that some Executive members would be interested in attending and that the Chief Officer contact Northumberland ALC to find out more and to let the Executive know more details.

**19. Highways** – it was **agreed** that CALC would contact the Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council to ask that each Local Area Committee has two parish co-optees (without voting rights) as is the case in South Lakeland.

### **CALC AGM 2018**

**20.** The Committee received, for information, the draft minutes of the CALC AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.

Signed by the Chairman

---