

**Copeland Community Fund Project Board**  
**Notes of the Meeting held on 7 April 2014 Nicholson Room, Copeland Centre**

**Present:**

Councillor T Knowles (CCC) (Chair)  
Mr B Hough (NDA)  
Councillor D Moore (CBC)  
Mrs E Parslow (Independent Member)  
Mr J Rowlands (Independent Member)  
Councillor D Southward (CCC)  
Councillor E Woodburn (CBC)

**In Attendance:**

P Dodson (CCC); H Askew (Community Development Team Leader)

1. **Apologies for absence**

Julie Betteridge (CBC)  
Pat Graham (CBC)  
Steven Szostak (Britain's Energy Coast)  
David Jones (Britain's Energy Coast)  
Elsa Braylee (Homegroup)  
Gillian Elliott (LEP/CCC)

2. **Disclosures of interest**

Councillor D Southward (CCC) – Professional as Councilor for Egremont  
Councillor E Woodburn (CBC) – Professional as Councilor for Egremont

3. **Egremont Flood Alleviation Scheme**

At the Board meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March a proposal for support of £1million towards the Egremont Flood Alleviation Scheme was put forward by the Environment Agency and Cumbria County Council.

The Board agreed the following:

- A more detailed proposal is needed to enable the Board to fully understand the scheme and the socioeconomic benefits.
- A meeting is to be set up with the other potential funders.
- A Special Board meeting may be needed to discuss any outcomes of the meeting with the potential funders. Monday 7 April 2014 was pencilled in.

Tim Knowles thanked the Board for attending this meeting at short notice, and explained that Officers had been asked to gather additional information about the scheme as well as talk to other potential funders about possible contributions to the scheme.

Heather Askew gave the following update: Additional information had been provided on the scheme including the following:

- The Environment Agency intend to put two priority large schemes forward for the Flood Defence Grant in Aid this year: Egremont and Ulverston
- BEC and LEP confirmed that funding would not be available from those sources

- Home Group Confirmed ‘in principle’ support of the scheme with a contribution of £200,000 in 15/16 and £200,000 in 16/17.

Further, Heather Askew confirmed that the speed at which this proposal had been brought to the Copeland Community Fund was due to a central change in timescales for the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) process.

Brian Hough confirmed that this proposal would fit with the NDA Socio-Economic Policy. The overall vision of that policy is to support the development of “dynamic, sustainable communities” near to NDA sites. In supporting this project SE policy was relevant given the objective of improving areas close to sites through environmental and infrastructure improvements to support residential and commercial sustainability. Priority themes had been adopted which geographically include West Cumbria and thematically “economic and social infrastructure, including environmental remediation”. As such the project fell within NDA Social Economic policy.

Paul Dodson stated that whatever decision the Board arrive at today, only an ‘in principle’ allocation could be made at this time. A full application and appraisal process would be required before a formal offer of grant could be made. This was further supported by Brian Hough, who said the outputs and outcomes adopted in CCF/RST appraisal process were consistent with the aspirations of the NDA’s policy and are required to be identified to meet the requirements of accessing funds.

The Board held a full discussion about the scheme and what level of commitment would be required. It was agreed that following the ‘in principle’ commitment of £400k over two years by Home Group, the ask of Copeland Community Fund would now be £600,000, being the balance of the initial request for £1million.

There were concerns that any commitment could set a precedent for future flood applications, but it was agreed that any decision was on the basis of the socio-economic benefits of this scheme and any future applications would also need to show suitable socio-economic benefits.

The following proposal was proposed by David Southward and seconded by John Rowlands. It was unanimously agreed by the full Board.

| Organisation/Project  | Amount Requested    |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Environment Agency/Cumbria County Council Egremont Flood Alleviation Scheme (Skirting Beck and Whangs Beck Proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme)</b>  | £600,000<br>Capital |
| <p><b>Decision</b><br/>Board <b>approved an allocation of £600,000 in principle only, and</b> subject to the following special conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is allocated as an in principle offer of £600,000 as an additional contribution in support of the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) application process.</li> <li>- It is understood that Home Group have also made an in principle allocation of £400,000 in support of the FDGiA application process.</li> <li>- It is subject to the normal Copeland Community Fund application and appraisal process following notification of the FDGiA process and completion of full appraisal of the scheme through the Environment Agency (ie full scheme detail and costings available).</li> <li>- The Environment Agency/Cumbria County Council will continue to investigate other sources of potential funding including Cumbria County Council, Copeland Borough</li> </ul> |                     |

Council and any other appropriate organisation so as to reduce the commitment of Copeland Community Fund where possible.

- The purpose of this funding is to support the economic sustainability of the area by an investment in environmental infrastructure that improves the attractiveness of the area as a place in which to live, work and do business.
- Any publicity about the scheme and its funding should be agreed by CCF in advance.

It was agreed that Tim Knowles and Brian Hough could approve any documentation issued on behalf of the Board.

Heather Askew and Paul Dodson to Produce Minutes and 'in principle' letter of allocation

**Action: HA, PD**

#### **4. Date of next meeting**

The Board were reminded that the next Board meeting had been moved to Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 14:00 for Annual meeting followed by the Board meeting at 14.30, the Nicholson Room at the Copeland Centre.