

Art project at Fairhill – myself and our Arts and Culture Officer are working to secure some funding to run a mural workshop with young people, the project will be based at Fairhill.

I have contacted our Assistant Director Commissioning and technical services and the Services Portfolio Holder regarding St Pauls Methodist Chapel, she is due back in the office on Wednesday so I will get some time with her later in the week to discuss.

Cabinet meeting 18th January 2022

The draft budget proposals for 2022/23 and the Impact on Medium Term Financial Plan report was presented and approved, it was resolved that: the implications of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement be noted; that the draft Revenue Budget 2022/23 be recommended for consultation; that the revised Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26 be noted; that the General Fund and Revenue Reserves movements for 2021/22 to 2025/26 be noted; that the Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26 be noted.

[See budget proposals on the Cabinet agenda for 18 January 2022](#), the Executive will seek to finalise these proposals, taking account of consultation responses on 22 February 2022. The outline budget proposals include a freeze in the district element of Council Tax.

The Council's Budget Consultation for 2022/2023 will take place between 19 January 2022 and 20 February 2022.

Full Council meeting on 24 February 2022 - Councillors will consider the Budget and set the Council Tax for Eden district, Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Police.

[The approved Corporate Plan 2019 to 2023](#) sets out the council's plans, vision and the priorities for Eden district over the next 4 years.

As part of the proposed budget, the Council is providing additional funding in 2022/2023 in the following areas to support its corporate priorities and provision of statutory services:

Name	Description	2022/2023
Open Space / Play Area Improvements	Additional funding for Open Space and Play Areas owned and managed by Eden District Council to maintain and/or renovate.	£50,000
Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022	Funding to support community events in relation to the celebrating of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.	£20,000
Cultural Development Initiatives	Subject to further cabinet approval.	£235,000

Name	Description	2022/2023
Business Support in Economic Development	Extension of contract for support.	£36,000
Development Management	Additional costs of resourcing due to backlog and staff market pressures on planning, enforcement and Ecology Officer.	£431,000
Local Plan Review	Additional funding for the review of the Local Plan to reach deadlines in 2022/2023.	£50,000
Zero Carbon Biodiversity initiatives	Subject to further cabinet approval.	£100,000
Resources	Additional Resources to support Licencing, Finance and Health and Safety and to ensure that legal obligations are met. This is partly due to difficulties with recruitment due to pending Local Government Reorganisation.	£163,000
Officer Training and Development	Increase in budget to support Eden staff toward the Local Government Reorganisation and support recruitment and retention.	£50,000
Single Site Project	Non-capital costs of moving staff into a single site during 2022/2023	£40,000
Microsoft Licences	Increased licencing costs due to old systems which have been delayed for upgrade due to Covid19.	£25,000
		£1,200,000

The Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022

The Structural Changes order for the new unitary authorities for Cumbria has now been laid before Parliament. This details the new warding and transition arrangements for the Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness authorities.

For Westmorland and Furness the Minister agreed that no new boundaries would be created and that existing District Ward boundaries could be used to create the new electoral areas. For our area we will be - Alston and Fellside, comprising of Alston Moor, Hartside, Kirkoswald, and Langwathby.

Eden COVID Business Grants – applications now open

Eden businesses can now apply for two new COVID grants, the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant is available for businesses in this sector which have lost out on trade because of the Omicron variant.

The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme has also been launched to support those businesses which are experiencing “severe hardship” resulting from Omicron.

The Council is reminding people to check their eligibility before applying, as Cllr Mary Robinson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economies and Enterprise at Eden District Council, explains:

“Unfortunately, just because some businesses have previously qualified for COVID grants, it may be different this time due to new eligibility criteria. In addition, Government has allocated reduced funds for this round of ARG.

“We’re urging businesses in Eden to check their eligibility through our website and to apply if they feel they have suffered as a result of recent restrictions, as the grant money is there to help and doesn’t need to be paid back.

“If you are a business like holiday accommodation, a restaurant, wedding venue, or night club, you will likely fall into the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant criteria.

“If you do not qualify for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant, but have been severely affected by the rise of the Omicron variant in December or the move to Plan B on 10 December 2021, you may be able to receive support from the ARG scheme.

“As well as these grants, we have a wide range of support to help your business during these challenging times. Initiatives such as apprenticeship grants and free membership of Cumbria Chamber or the FSB are open to Eden businesses. Contact econ.dev@eden.gov.uk for more information.”

Both the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant and the Additional Restrictions Grant (third top up) schemes are being administered locally by Eden District Council.

Businesses can apply by visiting www.eden.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/business-support-grants.

Council launches Inspiring Eden programme to boost local economy

Eden District Council has launched its Inspiring Eden Economic Prospectus, which looks to support local businesses and drive economic prosperity in the area.

The economic programme has been pieced together following feedback from local stakeholders and in collaboration with organisations including Eden District Council, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Family Business Network, the Cumbria Social Enterprise Network, Red Kite Innovations and several of the district’s businesses.

The new Prospectus provides an overview of the vision, direction of travel and work streams for driving economic recovery and prosperity across the district in the coming months and years.

Economic development activities will be taken forward through 14 work streams. These include: business support, employment and skills, connectivity, the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project, inward investment, sites and premises, and town centre plans. The work streams also focus on a range of sectors including the visitor economy, knowledge-based industries, rural economy and creative industries.

A critical cross-cutting theme in Inspiring Eden is decarbonisation, which seeks to both promote green tech-based businesses, as well as embedding decarbonisation principles across the whole economy.

To accelerate delivery of the programme, Eden District Council is investing £780,000 over the next 12 months.

Cllr Mary Robinson, Portfolio for Economies and Enterprise and Deputy Leader of Eden District Council, said:

“Inspiring Eden reflects our ambition to help local people and businesses through some of the most difficult times in living memory. I am very keen we support the local land based industries - in particular the farming and rural communities - which are part of the district’s DNA and that are facing significant challenges over the coming months and years.

“I am also very keen that we grasp the opportunities around decarbonisation and that this becomes the writing in the rock in everything we do.”

For more information on Inspiring Eden, visit www.eden.gov.uk or contact the Council’s Economic Development team at econ.dev@eden.gov.uk.

Time running out to apply for free household energy-saving measures worth up to £10,000

The Green Homes Grant is helping households right across Eden benefit from free energy-saving measures for their homes.

Residents are urged to apply as soon as possible, as the grant is available for a short time only.

All costs are covered by the grant funding, with no money needing to be paid back.

Eligible households must own their home, have a household income of below £30,000 and an EPC rating of D, E, F or G. Full costs of the works are covered by the grant and installed by E.ON.

Approximately 25,000 households in Eden are eligible to benefit from free energy efficiency improvements to their homes, including solar panels, air source heat pumps and external wall insulation, in a bid to help reduce fuel poverty and tackle the climate emergency. As part of the scheme, a full assessment of the property is carried out to check EPC rating and to determine which energy efficiency measures are most appropriate.

For eligibility criteria or to apply for the Eden Green Homes Grant, visit www.eonenergy.com/home-heating/green-homes-grant.