

Memorandum of Understanding between Kirkby Stephen Town Council and Eden District Council, ahead of vesting day for the new Westmorland and Furness Council

The following items have been agreed as commitments shared by KSTC and EDC. Where possible these will be enacted ahead of vesting day, and where this is not possible, the two councils will put these as a joint proposal to the new Westmorland and Furness Council.

1. Service Level Agreements

Currently EDC supports the employment of one Street Cleaner with a grant that covers 50% of his wage and which has been index linked. EDC also supports the delivery of Eden District Council Services and public service in the Kirkby Stephen Local Links with a grant of £4,000pa linked to a service level agreement.

The two councils wish to see this arrangement continue beyond 1st April 2023.

2. Stoneshot Car Park and Public Toilets

After negotiation, the Stoneshot Carpark and Toilets was offered to Kirkby Stephen Town Council without a restrictive covenant as to future use.

KSTC declined the offer to accept the devolution of from EDC because the cost of upkeep (est. £17,000pa) is beyond the means of the town council. KSTC wants public toilet provision in the town, for the use of residents and visitors, including, crucially, coast to coast walkers, and is also seeking a suitable location for a 'Changing Places' fully accessible toilet/wetroom and EV charging facilities in the Town Centre

KSTC would be willing to accept the full devolution of this facility along with the means to maintain it without needing to increase the town council precept, but would also wish to have the flexibility to upgrade/alter or even relocate public toilets in the town in the future.

The two councils wish to devolve the Stoneshot car park and public toilets to KSTC along with a grant to cover the maintenance of the toilets.

3. Devolved Footway Lighting

As a matter of urgency the footway lights that were devolved to the town council but never connected to the electricity supply should be connected under the terms of the devolution agreement with EDC. From that point the town council can take full and further responsibility for footway lighting, including any decisions, and expense, in either commissioning or decommissioning such lights.

The two councils wish to complete the devolution of the footway lighting in the town by ensuring all the devolved lights have been properly connected.

4. Play Areas

Until such a time as the town council is able to completely review the provision of play equipment the two current play areas are in urgent need of repair. KSTC seeks funding from EDC to secure this work immediately and would then be in a position to accept devolved responsibility for these areas, and would put in place contracts for the regular inspection

and maintenance of the play areas. Such devolution would need the flexibility for the town council to alter/relocate provision in the future.

Once the necessary repairs have been made, the two councils wish to devolve the play areas to the town council.

DRAFT