

## **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 a street cleaner with a grant that covers 50% of service costs and which has historically been index linked.

EDC also supports the provision of public service in the Kirkby Stephen Local Links with a grant of £4,000pa linked to a service level agreement. This payment has not been index linked and over the last decade its value has depreciated significantly relative to the real value of money.

**The two councils wish to see these arrangements continue beyond 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The Town Council would like to see the Local Links SLA increased to support service delivery and index linked.**

### **2. Devolved Footway Lighting**

Footway lights were devolved to the town council under an agreement dated 26 September 2018. 5 of the 53 footway lights have still to be fully commissioned under this agreement and one new pole has yet to be installed at 7 Westgarth Court. Kirkby Stephen Town Council was told in March that this work has been instructed by Eden District Council from Aptus & ENW. In respect of the five poles requiring connecting to an electrical supply the new pole has been installed but the old pole has not been removed. The electricity supply has in some cases not been switched between the old pole and the new pole. The Town Council does not believe that it will be possible for Eden District Council to deliver on its obligation to provide these lights. The Town Council is seeking a sum in compensation that would allow it to instruct these works or an assurance that the contracts with Aptus and ENW can be novated to Westmorland and Furness Council and the agreement honoured.

**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.**

## Eden District Council Devolution Legacy Issues – Westmorland and Furness Council.

### 3. Stoneshot Car Park and Public Toilets

KSTC declined the offer to 'devolve' this from EDC because the cost of upkeep (est. £17,000pa) is beyond the means of the town council. KSTC wants to see public toilet provision in the town maintained, 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.

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

**The council wishes to explore the devolution of the Stoneshot car park and public toilets to KSTC along with a grant to cover the maintenance of the toilets.**

### 4. Play Areas

The two current play areas are in urgent need of repair.

**Kirkby Stephen Town Council intends to review play area provision in the town and subject to the outcome of this review and any consultation would be willing to enter into negotiation over the devolution of play areas. Such devolution would require the flexibility for the town council to alter/relocate provision in the future.**