



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: Promoting Carlisle

Date of Meeting: 13 JUNE 2005

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: CUMBRIA VISION: PROPOSAL TO INTEGRATE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Report of: TOWN CLERK & CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report reference: CE11/05

Summary:

This report advises the Executive of proposals by the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) to merge their Cumbria team with West Lakes Renaissance (WLR), Rural Regeneration Cumbria (RRC) and Cumbria Vision.

The report also proposes a response on behalf of the City Council to be submitted to the NWDA.

Recommendations:

That the Executive approves the following response to the above proposal to be submitted to the NWDA following the Executive meeting, that:

1. There are grave concerns as to how the consultation process has been conducted by the NWDA, which has left little time for a full and proper discussion to be undertaken by Members and Senior Officers, making the deadline of 3rd June unrealistic and unhelpful.
2. Clarity is sought from the NWDA regarding the 'Governance / Company Structure'; and 'Organisational Arrangements' as set out in the proposal attached at **Appendix 1** and detailed in 2.0 of this report.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

3. Despite the concerns outlined above, Carlisle City Council welcomes the recognition of its inclusion into a single regeneration company, which once established will serve the whole of Cumbria.
4. It is also recommended that the Chief Executive be delegated by the Executive to submit this proposed response to the North West Regional Development Agency.

Contact Officer: Maggie Mooney

Ext: 7001

1.0 PROPOSAL

- 1.1 A copy of the letter from NWDA (12th May 2005), together with the Proposal to integrate delivery arrangements is attached for information at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 The proposal sets out the intention of the NWDA to integrate City Vision, West Lakes Renaissance, Rural Regeneration Company and North West Regional Development Agency sub-regional team to form a regeneration company.

2.0 PROPOSED RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

- 2.1 The proposed integration now includes Carlisle, which has to be welcomed. The City Council has lobbied the NWDA on behalf of the urban and rural areas of Carlisle for a long time and its exclusion to date has been unhelpful and illogical. Moreover, the lack of attention to Carlisle has adversely affected the focus of attention needed to address major economic issues with Carlisle. This lack of focus was brought to the fore during the recent floods and storms, when it was clear that none of the separate regeneration companies could give short-term assistance to the specific needs of Carlisle. Given that Carlisle is one of the principal population centres of Cumbria, its exclusion to date has been of grave concern.
- 2.2 It is hoped that the merger of the regeneration companies will result in significantly reduced overheads, which could be better deployed in supporting regeneration activities.
- 2.3 There are significant concerns about how the consultation process has been conducted by the NWDA. It is understood that consultation with District Councils was only added at the request of Cumbria County Council and that previous discussions had not included local authority partners.

The consultation letter and proposal was received by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive on 16th May 2005. The deadline date for responses to the Chief Executive and Chair of Cumbria Vision is the 3rd June 2005. This has left very little time for a full discussion to take place with Elected Members and Officers and this Executive meeting is the first opportunity to formally discuss the proposal.

- 2.4 The District Councils of Copeland, Allerdale and Barrow clearly have concerns about the integration proposals themselves and whilst these issues have no direct impact on Carlisle City Council itself (and indeed the inclusion of the City Council is

seen as positive), it is felt that Carlisle should join them in raising the joint concern about the consultation process.

- 2.5 There are some concerns about the proposals itself:

Governance / Company Structure – it is not clear how the governance arrangements will operate and this needs to be clarified.

Organisational Arrangements – the proposal identifies key themes to be delivered through a network of offices across the County; again this needs clarification. Does it mean, in relation to Carlisle Renaissance work (following the flood recovery programme) that support for different aspects of this work has now to be directed to each of the themes, rather than to a direct central point?

The relationship between Cumbria Vision Company and the Cumbria Strategic Partnership is not clear and the City Council will need to be reassured that the Sub Regional Economic Strategy remains the key driver for economic issues across the County.

Accountable Body Arrangements – it is proposed that Cumbria County Council will act as the Accountable Body for 'Cumbria Vision Company'. There needs to be an assurance that there is a separation between the day to day management of staff (which is not clear) and the decisions taken by the company, which should not be linked in any way to the County Council.

- 2.6 Members of the Executive may well have other comments that they wish to be submitted to the NWDA.

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 **Consultation to Date** – as outlined above.

- 3.2 **Consultation Proposal** – it is hoped that NWDA agree to a longer and more considered consultation process in the future to enable Members and Officers of District Councils to be fully involved.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive approves the following response to the above proposal to be submitted to the NWDA following the Executive meeting, that:

1. There are grave concerns as to how the consultation process has been conducted by the NWDA, which has left little time for a full and proper discussion to be undertaken by Members and Senior Officers, making the deadline of 3rd June unrealistic and unhelpful.
2. Clarity is sought from the NWDA regarding the 'Governance / Company Structure'; and 'Organisational Arrangements' as set out in the proposal attached at **Appendix 1** and detailed in 2.0 of this report.
3. Despite the concerns outlined above, Carlisle City Council welcomes the recognition of its inclusion into a single regeneration company, which once established will serve the whole of Cumbria.
5. It is also recommended that the Chief Executive be delegated by the Executive to submit this proposed response to the North West Regional Development Agency.

5.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 As a key stakeholder the City Council needs to be involved in the consultation process, despite the concerns as to how the process has been conducted.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – None
- Financial – None
- Legal – None
- Corporate – None
- Risk Management – None
- Equality Issues – None

- Environmental – None
- Crime and Disorder – None
- Impact on Customers – It is hoped that a single regeneration company will support and champion the needs of the Council's rural and urban areas.

Contact Officer: Maggie Mooney

Ext: 7001



Northwest

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

SB/CS/tcc/1205 01
12th May 2005

Ms Maggie Mooney
Chief Executive
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA8 8QG

TOWN CLERK & CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE	
FILE	
16 MAY 2005	
PASSED TO	
ANSWERED	

Response Rec'd - 3 June

Dear Maggie,

RE: CUMBRIA VISION – PROPOSAL TO INTEGRATE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Over the last couple of months Cumbria Vision, (CV) North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA), West Lakes Renaissance (WLR) and Rural Regeneration Cumbria (RRC) have investigated the potential to integrate regeneration delivery arrangements across Cumbria.

On 10th May 2005, the Chairs of the above organisations accepted the attached proposal and we are now seeking the views of key stakeholders across Cumbria.

The proposal seeks to ensure more effective integration of economic development and regeneration activity across Cumbria. To achieve this it is proposed that CV, WLR, RRC and NWDA sub-regional team are integrated to form one regeneration company.

It is essential that the momentum of current delivery is not lost through any change process. It is also recognised that a new regeneration company covering the whole of Cumbria should not dilute existing financial commitment to specific areas. It is not the intention of new arrangements to redistribute approved funding, but to find ways in which delivery can be achieved more effectively through a more integrated approach.

As a response to this proposal, it would be helpful to receive views and specific proposals from stakeholders on the potential for wider integration of regeneration/economic development functions across the County.

SB/CS/tcc/1205 01

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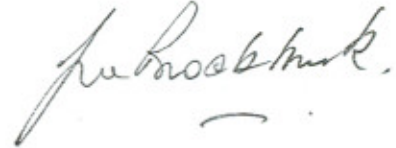
Please forward any comments or recommendations to Steven Broomhead or David Brockbank directly by 3rd June.

Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Yours sincerely,



STEVEN BROOMHEAD
Chief Executive
North West Regional Development Agency



DAVID BROCKBANK
Chair
Cumbria Vision

cc: Gill Bishop, Chief Executive (with effect 01.07.05)

Cumbria Vision: Delivery of Regeneration in Cumbria

Proposal for Discussion: May 2005

1. Introduction

Cumbria Vision has been operational since 1st April 2004. The strategic objectives for Cumbria Vision, as agreed by local and regional partners are:

- To lead the economic component of the Cumbria Strategic Partnership's Sub-Regional Strategy
- To liaise closely with a wide range of stakeholders through the Cumbria Strategic Partnership
- To maximise and manage the flow of external funding into the sub-region, including NWDA and European programmes
- To hold the range of delivery agents to account within an agreed framework
- To promote, with others, the ambition of Cumbria at a regional and national level

The longer-term vision is that Cumbria Vision will provide leadership on economic issues, and achieve more effective integration of the work of all partners engaged in economic development and regeneration in Cumbria.

David Brockbank was appointed as the Chair in November 2004. The new Board was formed in the early part of 2005. Following a series of local press adverts, a number of high-profile private sector leaders in Cumbria have been identified to join the representatives from Cumbria County Council, District Councils and the North West Regional Development Agency.

Chris Collier was appointed as the Chief Executive for Cumbria Vision on 1st April 2005.

During March/April, Cumbria Vision, NWDA, West Lakes Renaissance and Rural Regeneration Cumbria have developed a proposal to streamline delivery through integrating existing arrangements.

This proposal sets out the proposals to seek views of stakeholders, particularly Cumbria County Council and the District Councils.

2. Objectives Relating to Integrated Delivery Arrangements

- Integrate Cumbria Vision, West Lakes Renaissance, Rural Regeneration Cumbria and NWDA sub-regional team into one regeneration company.
- Establish a company structure that satisfies all legal and accountability requirements and separates strategic activity from delivery.
- Deliver both the Regional economic priorities, as outlined in the RES, and the sub-regional agenda with local buy-in.
- To ensure that the whole of Cumbria benefits from economic regeneration activity
- Retain all existing funding commitments for previously agreed areas.
- Deliver the current programmes without loss of momentum
- Increase outputs and outcomes through improved economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- Achieve at least 15% savings on premises, administration, programme management and monitoring functions

3. Governance/Company Structure

It is proposed that WLR and RRC are merged into a new company, Cumbria Vision Limited. Within it, all existing funding commitments will be honoured. The new company will incorporate the specific objectives to rural renaissance, and the regeneration of West Cumbria & Furness as approved by ODPM in 2003. It is intended that the unique benefits of having National recognition as an Urban Regeneration Company will be retained through the new arrangements.

4. Organisational Arrangements

Figure 1 demonstrates how integrated programme delivery can be achieved using a single regeneration company or a partnership approach.

Activity is integrated around key themes (depicted by the coloured boxes) and is delivered through a network of offices across the County, thus satisfying the need for local accountability. There will be a Board member champion for each theme.

A separate Strategy and Performance Unit will provide separation of accountability and delivery, undertaking activities such as:

- Performance monitoring
- Project appraisal
- Commissioning
- Procurement
- Research
- Ensuring Regional policy is delivered locally

It will provide research advice to Cumbria Vision Board, the delivery body/bodies and the Policy Advisory Group, so ensuring that all decisions are evidence based, and programme delivery is focussed on achieving the critical performance targets.

The Policy Advisory Group, chaired by Cumbria Vision Chief Executive, will bring together the leaders of all organisations and teams involved in delivering economic development, including Business Link, Learning Skills Council, Enterprise Agencies, Local Authority Departments and NWRDA officers.

In the longer-term, there is a clear opportunity for greater integration between delivery partners within the above framework. As a response to this proposal, it would be helpful to receive views and specific proposals from stakeholders on the potential for wider integration of regeneration/economic development functions across the County.

5. Geographical Coverage

Cumbria Vision will cover the whole of the sub-region, including those areas not currently covered in existing arrangements ie Carlisle. Future investment activity into areas such as Carlisle will be in addition to existing Cumbrian commitments in place through NWDA.

6. Existing Funding Commitments

All existing funding commitments in place with NWDA will be honoured through the new arrangements. It is not the intention to dilute existing funding allocations but to achieve better overall integration and achieve better value for money. The new arrangements may highlight more effective means of delivery leading to greater efficiencies but existing commitments will be honoured.

7. Staff Terms & Conditions

A new organisational structure will be fully developed in line with the above organisational arrangements. It is proposed that, in order to minimise unnecessary changes, all staff should retain existing employment terms and be seconded to Cumbria Vision Co. In the case of RRC, where staff are employed direct, TUPE arrangements may be required to transfer employment to a partner organization. All changes to staff terms and conditions will follow the necessary due process as identified by the current employing body. Cumbria Vision will demonstrate appropriate due care in relation to staffing issues and cover associated costs.

8. Delegated Activity

In order to ensure clarity and agreement over future commitment, current delegations will be withdrawn by NWDA. Appropriate arrangements will be put in place to ensure that the positive momentum of delivery against key priorities is maintained.

9. Accountable Body Arrangements

It is proposed that, subject to full agreement, Cumbria County Council will act in the capacity of Accountable Body for Cumbria Vision Co. The Accountable Body function will need to be further explored but the principle of utilizing current models of good practice should be included in new arrangements. It is not the intention of NWDA to act as an Accountable Body for Cumbria Vision.

10. The Process of Engagement

The Chairs of the North West Regional Development Agency, West Lakes Renaissance, Rural Regeneration Cumbria and Cumbria Vision supported the principles contained in this proposal in full on 10th May 2005. It is important to gain the views of a wider group of stakeholders before proceeding, particularly Cumbria County Council and the District Councils. This proposal will also be circulated to a number of other Cumbrian partners to gain additional views.

11. Timescales

Cumbria Vision, NWDA, WLR and RRC wishes to seek additional views on these proposals by Friday 3rd June. During this time, formal discussions will take place with Cumbria County Council on issues relating to staffing and the Accountable Body function.

Figure 1

