

## **CUMBRIA LEADERSHIP BOARD**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board held on Friday, 02 September 2011 at CREA Seminar Suite at 1.00pm

### **PRESENT**

Mr E Martin (Chair)

Ms J Holland	Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)
Ms H Stephenson	South Lakeland District Council
Mr W Jefferson	Lake District National Park Authority
Mr M Mitchelson	Carlisle City Council
Mr G Nicolson	Eden District Council
Mr W Williams	Cumbria Third Sector Network
Mr D Pidduck	Barrow Borough Council
Mr A Smith	Allerdale Borough Council
Ms E Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council
Mr R Cole	Cumbria Police Authority

Also in Attendance –

Dr D Roberts	Assistant Director, Policy and Performance, Cumbria County Council
Mrs T Moran	Policy Assistant, Cumbria County Council
Mr J Savege	Corporate Director of Organisational Development, Cumbria County Council

### **106. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Chair of the Lake District National Park Authority nominated Eddie Martin for Chair of the CLB, on the grounds of stability for the group. The Chair of the Cumbria Police Authority seconded the proposal.

It was **AGREED** that Eddie Martin be appointed as Chair of the CLB. It was also **AGREED** that a review of this partnership would be undertaken, with the election of the next Chair to be agreed at the meeting of the 25/05/12.

### **107. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

The Leader of Cumbria County Council nominated Mike Mitchelson for Vice Chair of the CLB; this was seconded by the Chair of the Lake District National Park Authority.

It was **AGREED** that Mike Mitchelson be appointed as Vice Chair of the CLB.

## **108. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Taylor and Mr B Jameson (Substitute Ms H Stephenson).

## **109. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2011 were agreed as a true record.

## **110. MATTERS ARISING**

On minute No 93 – Implications of Budget Cuts for Cumbria, it was **AGREED** that Dawn Roberts would email the group with details of the changes to business rates when this was completed by the County Council's Finance Department. **(ACTION DR)**

On minute No 93 – Implications of Budget Cuts for Cumbria, it was **CONFIRMED** that a report on Mineral Rights would be brought to the CLB at the November meeting. **(ACTION DR/TM)**

## **111. PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT**

The Cumbria Leadership Board considered a report by the County Council's Assistant Director – Policy & Performance which asked for the group to consider the proposal from the Cumbria Chief Executives' Group on the use of PRG.

Cumbria received a one-off payment of £6.7M of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) for the successful achievement of stretch targets in the 2007 – 2010 LAA. This is made up of £2.01M (30%) capital and £4.69M (70%) revenue grant.

At the Cumbria Leadership Board on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011, it was agreed that Chief Executives' be asked to come forward with firm recommendations on use of PRG, and agreed the principle of supporting only a small number of key projects.

Recommendations from CCEG were included in the report and the group were advised that the County Council, as the accountable body, is charged with making the final decision on use of PRG.

The CLB were asked to endorse the recommendation from CCEG to use the Performance Reward Grant in support of the Accessible Cumbria project.

Leaders were also asked to note that in the tranche of Local Area Agreements ending in March 2010, Cumbria received the highest amount of grant nationally, and acknowledge this in future publicity material once agreement is reached on which projects are funded.

The County Council's Assistant Director – Policy & Performance advised that an email had been received from the Chair of the Cumbria PCT supporting the recommendation from CCEG.

The CLB discussed the three projects that were considered by the CCEG, Accessible Cumbria; Family Passports and Disabled Facilities Grants.

It was **AGREED** that all projects were of good merit and that if the recommendation was accepted to support Accessible Cumbria that work should be done to find additional channels of support for the further two projects.

The Leaders requested further information on how the PRG would support the Accessible Cumbria project and how the CLB could be provided with updates on how the PRG would be spent.

The question of County Council's authority to decide on the use of the PRG was raised, as it was argued that to be the accountable body for the use of the PRG was not the same as to be the determining body for the use of the PRG. The County Council's Assistant Director – Policy & Performance advised that the County Council would need to confirm to government that the capital element of the grant had been used appropriately. The decision taken by the County Council's Cabinet would follow full consultation with its partners.

To answer some of the questions that the leaders had on the Accessible Cumbria project, the County Council's Corporate Director of Organisational Development was asked to give his presentation on Broadband/Accessible Cumbria

After the presentation the Leaders discussed the Accessible Cumbria project in relation to the PRG. It was **AGREED** that further information on the roll out of services and how the public investment was going to aid this was needed  
**(ACTION JS)**

The Chair of the Lake District National Park Authority proposed that the PRG be allocated to the Accessible Cumbria project with the condition that the grant be held in a strategic pot by the CLB that could be allocated to different stages within the project.

A proposal was received from the Leader of Carlisle City Council to split the PRG 50/50 between the County Council and the District Councils as this would allow a larger project such as Accessible Cumbria to be supported as well as localised projects within the districts. This was supported by the Leader of Barrow Borough Council and the Leader of Eden District Council.

It was proposed by the Leader of Copeland Borough Council that all three projects (Accessible Cumbria; Family Passports and Disabled Facilities Grants) be supported by the PRG.

The Chair of NHS Cumbria had confirmed prior to the meeting his support for the Accessible Cumbria project.

The CLB took a vote on the three proposals. Seven of those present supported the Accessible Cumbria proposal; three members supported a 50/50 split of the PRG and one member supported the proposal of using the PRG for all three projects.

It was **AGREED** that the recommendation of the CCEG to allocate the PRG to the Accessible Cumbria project be accepted, with clarity that the CLB has requested that it has a role in future in influencing the specific use of the use of PRG as part of the overall programme.

It was **AGREED** that the CLB asked Dawn Roberts, Assistant Director – Policy & Performance, Cumbria County Council to research how the further two projects could be supported.

## **112. BROADBAND/ACCESSIBLE CUMBRIA**

The Corporate Director of Organisational Development, Cumbria County Council gave a presentation on the Accessible Cumbria Project. This covered information on the background to the project; strategy for delivery and highlighted the opportunities for Cumbria.

Leaders discussed how the public sector investment would be best spent to encourage private sector investment and highlighted the danger of public sector investment being used where private sector investment would be expected. The County Council's Corporate Director of Organisational Development confirmed that the Accessible Cumbria project team were working closely with communities and the private sector to ensure the best coverage for Cumbria, and also that the team were busy highlighting the areas of Cumbria that would not be covered by the private sector, to clarify where the public sector investment would be needed.

The leaders agreed that the project would not only bring better services for the residents of Cumbria but would also benefit the economic growth of the area.

The Chair thanked Jim Savege for his presentation.

*Mike Mitchelson left the meeting (3pm)*

## **113. MRWS**

The Leader of Copeland Borough Council gave a presentation on the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership. This covered details of the volunteer process; what the proposal for disposal was; the members and the work of the partnership; the challenges the partnership had encountered and what is next for the partnership. The Leader of Copeland Borough Council advised that there will be a full consultation in the autumn which she encouraged all

members of the CLB to respond to. She also offered support from the partnership in the form of briefings to individual organisations.

The Leaders discussed the MRWS partnership and its work to date and asked for clarification on the volume of material that may be stored and details of when the decision will need to be made. The Leader of Copeland Borough Council advised that the details of volume would not be discussed for some time, as this was the preliminary stage of the project.

The Chair thanked Cllr Elaine Woodburn for her informative presentation.

#### **114. THIRD SECTOR ITEMS**

The Chair of the Third Sector Network gave an update on Transforming Local Infrastructure Funding in Cumbria and the Cumbria Bidding Consortium.

**Cumbria Third Sector bidding consortium** - the recently established Cumbria Third Sector Consortium provides a framework within which third sector organisations can come together to develop strong, good quality bids that draw on the combined strengths of a diverse range of delivery partners. The success of this development is, in part, dependent on the support and understanding of public sector bodies. Lead commissioners within the county have been actively involved in the development of this bidding consortium and have endorsed this model as an effective way for producing joint bids. However, the response of Procurement Officers to Consortium bids has still to be tested.

**Transforming Local Infrastructure** - up to £30 million short-term national funding (18 months approx) has been made available to provide better support for frontline civil society organisations by transforming local infrastructure services. It has been agreed that Cumbria CVS will be the lead applicant for Cumbria and will, with third sector infrastructure partners, develop and submit the application by the deadline of 31/10/11.

The Chair thanked Will Williams for his update.

*Hilary Stephenson left the meeting (3.30pm)*

#### **115. NORTHERN ECONOMIC FUTURES COMMISSION**

The Cumbria Leadership Board were asked to note a report by the County Council's Assistant Director, Policy & Performance on the Northern Economic Futures Commission.

The Northern Economic Futures Commission (NEFC) has been set up to lead various research and activity over the next 18 months to assess the issues facing the economy of the North of England and will seek to set out a new

approach to local and regional economic policy. The Commission aims to develop a 10-year strategy for economic growth across the North of England.

The Commission has launched a Call for Evidence seeking responses to a set of specific questions. The Call for Evidence was launched on 20 July 2011 and will run until 14 October 2011.

There is an opportunity for Cumbria to pro-actively engage with the Commission and jointly respond to this Call for Evidence by 14<sup>th</sup> October to ensure that the particular challenges facing the county are taken in to consideration and represented in the development of any resulting northern economic strategy.

There is also the opportunity to work alongside other northern county areas – Northumberland, Lancashire, North Yorkshire - to ensure a strong input about areas of a diverse nature to balance the strong focus on the big cities which is a feature of recent Government announcements.

Participation in the forthcoming regional roundtable events will be important. These are being held in:

- Newcastle Civic Centre – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (1.00pm – 4.00pm)
- University of York – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (1.00pm – 4.00pm)
- Manchester Town Hall – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (1.00pm – 4.00pm)

Councillors Tony Markley and Hilary Carrick of Cumbria County Council are due to attend the Manchester event. It would be useful for high level participation from Cumbria at these events to be supported with some shared key points from the county to influence initial thinking. These messages could also provide the core content for a submission in response to the Call for Evidence. The Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has been made aware of this opportunity and contributions to the work of the Commission can be developed working with the LEP if this approach is deemed appropriate

The report was **NOTED**.

## **116. PUBLIC SERVICES WHITE PAPER**

The Cumbria Leadership Board were asked to note a report by the County Council's Assistant Director, Policy & Performance that was taken to the CCEG to explore the option of making a collective response to the White Paper consultation.

The briefing was considered by the Cumbria Chief Executives' Group on 12 August where it was agreed that the potential of a collective response with shared key messages should be explored. This collective response would be in addition to individual organisations' responses and would be signed off via email by Chief Executives.

The White Paper confirms five principles for modernising public services:

- Increased choice wherever possible;
- Decentralise public services to the lowest possible level;
- Open up public services to a range of providers;
- Ensure fair access to public services; and,
- Ensure public services are accountable to users and to taxpayers

The White Paper sets out three broad categories of public service:

- Individual services – services that are used by people on an individual basis;
- Neighbourhood services – services that are provided on a local basis and used collectively by the community; and,
- Community services – local and national services that cannot be devolved to individuals or communities

The wide ranging nature of the reform agenda could potentially have a significant effect on the role of Elected Members and on the work and nature of Councils overall.

During July – September, Government will undertake a range of consultation and engagement activity with individuals, communities, public sector staff, providers and other stakeholders. The open public services website can be accessed at [www.openpublicservices.cabinetoffice.gov.uk](http://www.openpublicservices.cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

It is envisaged that organisations across Cumbria will submit individual responses to the consultation, and Chief Executives agreed at their last meeting that consideration should also be given to a joint Cumbria response on the key messages. This will be progressed through September. In addition, the County Council will be exploring the potential for a joint northern county/ unitary authorities' response through connections with Lancashire, Northumberland and North Yorkshire.

The Chair of CALC advised that they would be responding through the National Association of Local Councils and would share this response with the County Council's Assistant Director, Policy & Performance **(ACTION JH)**

The report was **NOTED**.

#### **117. LEP (STANDING ITEM)**

The County Council's Assistant Director, Policy & Performance advised that a paper had been received giving an update to the LEP, which would be circulated to the CLB **(Paper attached)**

#### **118. POLICE COMMISSIONER**

The leader of the County Council raised an additional item, the appointment of a Police Commissioner in Cumbria.

The Chair of the Cumbria Police Authority declared an interest in this item.

The Leader of the County Council, as the Chair of the CLB, suggested that a letter should be sent to Central Government opposing the need for a Police Commissioner in Cumbria. He suggested that due to the low crime rate in Cumbria and the high cost of electing a Police Commissioner this was not a good option for Cumbria. He went on to advise that there have been a number of other authorities were also opposing the election of a Police Commissioner.

It was **AGREED** to ask the Eddie Martin to draft a letter to circulate this to the CLB members for approval.

**119. CUMBRIA CHIEF EXECUTIVES' GROUP – KEY ISSUES  
(STANDING ITEM)**

The summary was **NOTED**.

**120. FORWARD PLANNER**

The Forward Planner was **NOTED**.

**121. DATE and TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday 25 November, CREA Seminar Suite at 1.00pm.