

CUMBERLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

Meeting date: 30 March 2022

Report of: Linda Fisher – Monitoring Officer and Technical Lead Legal and Democratic Work Stream

Subject: Future Meetings and Work Programme

1.0 SUMMARY:

1.1 This report sets out the proposed meeting dates and venues for the newly formed Cumberland Joint Committee. The Committee will meet approximately three times commencing in March 2022.

1.2 Meetings will be held in the Cathedral Room, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG, unless the Joint Committee wishes to rotate the venue.

1.3 The report further details the Committee's membership and key roles. The Committee will comprise twelve elected members; this will include three County Council seats and nine District Council seats.

1.4 The Committee has Procedure Rules including 'Terms of Reference' which set out the purpose, term, membership and voting, meeting arrangements and functions of the Committee. These are the subject of a separate report on this agenda.

1.5 The Committee has a 'Work Programme' of proposed business which is published on all relevant Councils' websites. Committee members are invited to review the Programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 That the Cumberland Joint Committee:-

(1) agrees the Joint Committee meeting dates as set out in section 3.5 of this report; and

(2) approves the Work-Programme attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND, INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATIONS:

3.1 The Secretary of State (SoS) has made a decision to implement the proposal for two unitary councils on an East-West geography. The Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022 creates two new Unitary Councils, Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness.

3.2 The Structural Change Order (SCO) will establish the implementation arrangements for the remainder of the transition period up until the unitary council is established on 1 April 2023.

3.3 This Joint Committee will create a collaborative democratic mechanism, which will establish a governance framework allowing the Constituent Councils (the County Council and three District Councils) to make effective and timely decisions in relation to the preparation for the establishment of the Cumberland Shadow Authority and the Cumberland Council. This will ensure that progress is made in the management of the implementation programme and that related decisions of the four councils are collaborative, open, transparent, and democratically accountable.

3.4 Cumberland Joint Committee Membership

3.4.1 The Committee membership is as follows:-

Cllr Mike Johnson, Leader – Allerdale Borough Council
Cllr Nicky Cockburn – Allerdale Borough Council;
Cllr Alan Smith – Allerdale Borough Council;
Cllr John Mallinson, Leader – Carlisle City Council
Cllr Gareth Ellis, Deputy Leader – Carlisle City Council;
Cllr Lisa Brown – Carlisle City Council
Cllr David Moore – Copeland Borough Council;
Cllr Mike Hawkins – Copeland Borough Council;
Cllr Linda Jones-Bulman – Copeland Borough Council;
Cllr Stewart Young, Leader – Cumbria County Council
Cllr Ceilia Tibble, Cabinet Member – Cumbria County Council; and
Cllr Keith Little, Cabinet Member – Cumbria County Council.

3.5 Meeting Dates for 2022

3.5.1 The Cumberland Joint Committee is requested to approve the following Committee meeting dates for 2022:-

10.00 a.m., 14 April 2022
10.00 a.m., 12 May 2022

4.0 OPTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES (IF ANY)

4.1 None

5.0 IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial and Procurement:

5.1.1 There are no direct financial and procurement implications associated with this report.

5.2 Staffing:

5.2.1 There are no direct staffing implications associated with this report.

5.3 Legal:

5.3.1 All four Councils were required to establish a Joint Committee no later than 14 days after the coming into force of the Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022 (Article 23). This is for the purpose of discharging, until the first meeting of the Shadow Authority for Cumberland, the functions which are listed within the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee. These are the functions listed in Articles 22, 24, 25 and 26 of the Order.

5.3.2 Further, within 21 days of the Structural Changes Order coming into force the Cumberland Joint Committee must form a single team of officers (“the Implementation Team”) for the purpose of assisting (a) the relevant Joint Committee in the discharge of functions and the Shadow Authority should it require. The Work Programme outlines the proposed dates for matters outlined within the Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022 to come before the Joint Committee.

5.4 Information Governance:

5.4.1 There are no direct information governance implications associated with this report.

6.0 HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

6.0.1 There are no direct health and sustainability implications associated with this report.

6.1 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT:

6.1.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

7.0 RISKS:

7.1 There is a legal obligation to establish the Joint Committee and for the Joint Committee to consider reports within the agreed Terms of Reference to comply with the Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022.

7.2 In the event that the Joint Committee does not agree the meeting dates and the Work Programme, all four Councils would find themselves in contravention of the legal requirements of the Order.

7.3 By receiving and approving this report the risks will be mitigated and compliance with the legal requirements of the Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022 will be met.

8.0 CONCLUSION:

8.1 The report requests that the Cumberland Joint Committee agree the Work Programme and the future meeting dates for the Joint Committee meetings. This will ensure that all Councils meet the requirements of the Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022.

Report Author - Linda Fisher – Monitoring Officer and Technical Lead Legal and Democratic Work stream (South Lakeland District Council)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Cumberland Joint Committee Work Programme

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>30 March 2022</u>	<u>14 April 2022</u>	<u>12 May 2022</u>
Terms of Reference and Procedural Rules	X		
Future Meetings and Work Programme	X		
Formation of the Implementation Team	X		
Implementation Plan and Programme Governance	X		
Members' Code of Conduct		X	
Members' Allowances	X		X
Constitution and Schemes of Delegation		X	
Calendar of Meetings	X		
Civic and Ceremonial		X	
Interim Statutory Officer Recruitment	X		X