



## PORTFOLIO AREA: POLICY, PERFORMANCE, FINANCE & RESOURCES

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Date of Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> June 04

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Public

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Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

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Outside Policy Framework

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**Title: JOINT CARLISLE & EDEN COMMUNITY STRATEGY**  
**Report of: Strategic & Performance Services**  
**Report reference: SP 23/04**

### Summary:

Attached is a re-draft of the Carlisle & Eden Community Strategy, based on Member's comments through the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The revised document has a greater focus on the high-level strategic issues, which affect both Carlisle and Eden areas and draws more heavily on the City Vision document. On agreement of the re-drafted strategy, the proposed joint action plan will be cancelled in favour of Carlisle and Eden specific action plans.

### Recommendations:

That Members:

- Endorse the redrafted Carlisle and Eden Joint Community Strategy

Contact Officer: Karen Hook

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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

## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was established in 2001 after successful joint working during the Foot and Mouth epidemic. The LSP is an umbrella partnership that brings together organisations from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors in Carlisle and Eden. Its key objective is to improve the quality of life for Carlisle and Eden communities.
- 1.2 The perceived benefits of an LSP are that: -
- Duplication of effort will be removed, with organisations working towards the same goals
  - The benefits of sustainable growth are achieved across the area
  - Deprived areas will see economic, social and physical improvements to their environment
  - Business and the community/voluntary sectors can play a full and equal part.
- 1.3 One of the core tasks for any LSP is to prepare and implement a **community strategy** for the area which identifies the most important things that need to be done to improve quality of life in the area, supported by an action plan of activities which can be used to monitor progress.
- 1.5 The re-draft takes into account the many comments made in the original consultation, which have resulted in:-
- A greater focus in the Strategy on the high-level strategic issues facing both Carlisle and Eden, drawing heavily on Carlisle City Vision. The more detailed, area specific commentary has been removed
  - The proposed cancellation of any further development of the joint Carlisle/Eden action plan, which accompanied the document, in favour of two area-based action plans – one for Eden and one for Carlisle, which will be developed by the respective authorities and their partners once the Strategy has been finalised.

1.6 The advantages of this approach are:-

- Clear community leadership is shown by Carlisle City Council via the Strategy
- Partners in the LSP are given a clear signal of the City Council's support
- An action plan can be developed focusing on Carlisle's priorities only, which is less confusing, a more useful management tool and gives greater control over progress.

1.7 Although individual action plans will be developed, they will highlight where synergy can be achieved by working jointly with Eden partners. Progress on action plans will be reported regularly to the LSP Executive.

1.8 Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been incorporated into the re-draft. Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomed the proposal of two separate action plans. The excerpts from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees minutes are attached.

## **2. CONSULTATION**

2.1 Consultation to Date.

Overview & Scrutiny Committees; Local Strategic Partnership partners; Corporate Management Team; City Vision partners

Priority areas based on City Vision document, which was based on wide-ranging consultation

2.2 Consultation proposed.

Corporate Management Team, Overview & Scrutiny Committees, City Vision partners

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members:

- Endorse the redrafted Carlisle and Eden Joint Community Strategy

## **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Strategy is now focused at the strategic level, which enables Carlisle and Eden to work together on areas of mutual concern, but also enables each to focus on

priorities within their own areas, as the two areas have some quite different issues to deal with. The production of separate action plans enables Carlisle City Council to maintain and build on its strong relationship with the City Vision partnership.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- Staffing/Resources – In adopting this Strategy, there will be a staff resource implication as policy officers develop and monitor the action plan and Business Units work towards achieving its objectives
- Financial – The intention of an LSP is that the resources of all partner organisations will be mobilised to achieve the Community Strategy. As the Strategy draws heavily on our objectives under City Vision, there are no financial implications specific to the production of this document
- Legal – There is an LSP constitution, the intention of which .
- Corporate – The report deals with corporate issues
- Risk Management – The risks associated with this latest draft are much reduced, particularly as the action plans will now be area specific. There is a reputational risk for the Council with its stakeholders if it fails to achieve improvements in these areas
- Equality Issues – Equality of access to services for the whole community is mentioned specifically in the document
- Environmental – Environmental concerns, and the need to balance them with economic development issues are referred to specifically in the document
- Crime and Disorder – As above
- Impact on Customers – There should be a positive impact on customers as partners work together on cross-cutting problems which are impossible for Carlisle City Council to solve alone



Carlisle and Eden Community Strategy

# **‘Vision for the Future’**

**Third DRAFT**

**February 2004**

**MAP first page**

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## INTRODUCTION

It is with great pleasure we introduce this joint Community Strategy. The key aim of this strategy is to ensure that different initiatives and services across the Carlisle and Eden districts support each other and work closely together to improve the quality of life for the local community.

This joint Community Strategy sets out the vision which the Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) will pursue in order **to ensure a high quality of life for all in our urban and rural communities.**

Much progress has already been achieved and with the continuing support of all our partners further developments on the themes identified within this plan are ensured.

The production of this strategy confirms our commitment to partnership working and we are confident that by working together, listening to our communities, **encouraging their active involvement** and pooling our efforts and resources where relevant and beneficial, we will improve lives of local people.

The people of Carlisle and Eden want to be involved in building a better future for our area and we aim to harness this energy and enthusiasm so that we all work together to achieve this. **We will also ensure that we liaise with the most hard to contact groups to encourage their participation.**

Making real and lasting improvements to local services will not happen overnight and we look forward to working in true partnership to improve the quality of life for the people of Carlisle and Eden over the coming years.

Kate Braithwaite  
Chair

## SECTION ONE

### CARLISLE AND EDEN IN CONTEXT

- The Carlisle and Eden area is located in the north and east of Cumbria and covers more than 1,200 square miles.
- The combined population is over 152,000, with 102,000 living in the Carlisle area and 50,500 in Eden district.
- There are two main population centres - Carlisle city and Penrith town.
- The area is sparsely populated. Carlisle has a population density of one person per hectare, while Eden is considered to be a super sparse area as there are only 0.2 persons per hectare.
- The districts of Carlisle and Eden are included within the North West region of England.
- The work of The North West Development Agency (NWDA), The North West Regional Assembly and The Government Office North West (GONW) and a wide range of other regional partners help to ensure the region's voice is heard.
- The Strategy is consistent with NW Regional priorities, maximising funding opportunities and providing synergy with the work of other agencies, as **Carlisle and Eden do not operate in isolation, events and priorities regionally and nationally affect local circumstances and initiatives.** (see appendix 1)
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## **SECTION TWO**

### **THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

The two district councils, Eden and Carlisle City, chose to come together to form a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in 2001. This was a response to the special circumstances of the Foot and Mouth outbreak, with the area being particularly badly affected and the economy and communities requiring significant recovery measures. This joint working has been successful and the LSP has developed, resulting in a number of regeneration programmes.

The area does not receive Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, so there are no dedicated resources to achieve the LSP's objectives apart from those allocated by the two councils to employ one full time LSP Officer and support the work of the partnership. Partners must therefore generate impact by the more imaginative deployment of existing resources and by continuing to develop, progress and assume the full responsibilities envisaged by the Government for Local Strategic Partnerships.

LSP members have identified the need for a sophisticated multi-disciplinary approach to solving some of the intractable problems experienced in this area of Cumbria. It is considered that partners now have a good understanding of the needs of the area and that at this stage sufficient consultation has taken place for initial priorities for action to be identified. A working structure for the LSP and its aims is given at appendix 2.

## **SECTION THREE**

### **THE THEMES**

This section of the strategy is devoted to the eight themes identified as being important to the social, economic and environmental well-being of Carlisle and Eden. These themes are:

- Communities
- Health and Well-being
- Economy
- Young People
- Housing
- Environment
- Transport
- Promoting Carlisle and Eden

These Themes were chosen as priorities as a result of widespread consultation in both the Carlisle and Eden areas (leading to the Carlisle City Vision and Eden Futures documents). Action Plans which set out how both the Carlisle and Eden areas will achieve improvement in these themes are under development.

The Local Strategic Partnership adds value to what is already happening through the co-ordination of the activities of multiple agencies, ensuring that we are all working towards the same goals and identifying opportunities for joint working where advantageous.

In order to monitor progress on achieving outcomes and to measure success, key partners will feedback achievements on agreed priorities through the LSP.

The following pages of this strategy explains how the Local Strategic Partnership will, through joint working between partners, contribute to the improvement in quality of life in these important areas.

## COMMUNITIES

*Our aim is:-*

**To ensure that people from all sectors of our local communities have equal access to services represented by the LSP; that our communities are safe and attractive and that participation and influence in the decision-making process across all sectors is significantly increased.**

Strong communities are vital to an inclusive society. Communities across Carlisle and Eden can be made stronger by effective action on issues like health, transport, safety and income maximisation. The LSP supports all partners in developing new approaches to the delivery of services at a local level to achieve greater integration and accountability to the communities which they serve. Addressing poverty and deprivation in our most disadvantaged wards is a key concern for the LSP.

We are concerned to ensure that our local communities have equal access to the services provided by LSP partners, especially those people living in the most deprived urban and rural areas of Carlisle and Eden. People in these areas often suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, low incomes, poor skills, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown. These issues can be tackled effectively by joint working from local agencies. The LSP is well positioned to co-ordinate this and looks forward to achieving early improvements in these areas.

Having a safe and secure place to live is vitally important to local people and so reducing crime and the fear of crime is a high priority for the LSP. Much progress has already been made through the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, which co-ordinates crime and fear of crime reducing activities, such as tackling anti-social behaviour, installing CCTV cameras and working with Neighbourhood Watch groups. However, there are still improvements to be made, especially around targeting initiatives to those Wards in greatest need. Carlisle City Council has begun to address some of these issues by adopting local guidance for new properties in line with the national 'secured by design' campaign.

We aim to increase the participation of local people in decision-making and encourage involvement in issues that affect their communities. We are committed to ensuring that the most hard to reach groups are represented on the Partnership and that views expressed are fully taken into account when attempting to influence decisions.

A thorough exercise on how to improve the effectiveness of engagement with citizens and to develop best practice in the area is currently being conducted by partners and the results will be made available to the LSP.

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

*Our aim is:-*

**To improve the health and well-being of our communities by reducing health inequalities, promoting healthy living and supporting locally accessible, high quality health care.**

Everyone has the right to good health and personal well being, regardless of who they are or where they live. The local Primary Care Trusts and many other organisations have a responsibility to make sure that people are encouraged to have healthy lives. The LSP has a key role in supporting this.

The NHS National Plan highlights the importance of reducing health inequalities and taking action through treatment and care. Giving children a healthy start, reducing smoking, improving diet and nutrition and tackling drugs and alcohol-related crime are all important national and local issues. The national priorities of reducing the extent of coronary heart disease, cancers and mental ill-health are also priorities for Carlisle and Eden.

In addition, The North Cumbria Health Improvement and Modernisation Plan 2002-2005 addresses both national priorities and local health improvement priorities, which include child health, diabetes, learning disability, teenage pregnancy and mobility and sensory impairment. The LSP will develop a partnership approach in identifying and addressing the priorities for Health & Wellbeing in Carlisle and Eden, particularly in our most deprived communities through a Carlisle and Eden Community Health Strategy, which the LSP will monitor and work towards.

## ECONOMY

*Our aim is:-*

**To support and develop an economically sustainable and prosperous area where investment is encouraged, skills are developed and retained and new and existing businesses are supported.**

The LSP is committed to developing a stronger economy enabling both Carlisle and Eden to be a centre for diverse, growing and competitive businesses of all sizes, bringing jobs and increased prosperity to the community. We will promote sustainable economic development by supporting the creation of new enterprises, particularly small businesses, nurturing existing ones and supporting communities, particularly disadvantaged ones, to reach their economic potential. Initiatives will be developed that will increase the ability of deprived communities to participate in diversifying and developing the local economy.

There are a number of initiatives that the LSP is committed to lobbying for and supporting as part of its Joint Strategy. These include: Carlisle South Economic Renewal programme, promotion of opportunities for businesses along the M6 Corridor; the West Coast Rail Mainline; the development of Carlisle Airport as a key economic driver and the development of access to Broadband Services.

The LSP is concerned that further and higher education participation rates are relatively low and that Basic Skills, especially literacy and numeracy, need to be significantly improved if our local communities are to be empowered. This will be addressed through increased joint working with our lifelong education partners; a particular example of this is the Learning City initiative in Carlisle. We understand clearly that to be educationally disadvantaged is often to be economically disadvantaged. For that reason, the LSP will develop strong links between post 14 education, work-based training, further education, higher education and employment to ensure an effective match between skills and job opportunities. This will also assist in arresting the steady flow of skilled Cumbrians away from Cumbria to job opportunities elsewhere, thereby retaining vital skills in the area.

## YOUNG PEOPLE

*Our aim is:-*

**To provide a framework where children and young people can thrive and improve their life chances.**

The LSP recently developed a strategy for Children and Young People, which includes a number of key objectives and is committed to progressing these throughout 2003-2006.

Investing in children and young people was identified as a key priority through the community planning process. The LSP's aim is to ensure that children and young people in local communities across both districts have the opportunity to reach their full potential by directly providing or lobbying for services tailored to their needs.

The LSP will work in partnership with key public agencies (particularly education & social service providers), private and voluntary sectors to improve and promote active citizenship and social inclusion among young people. Innovative ways must be found to involve young people in decision-making processes and to ensure that their views are taken into account. Such consultation will continue at Children and Young People's Events organised in conjunction with partners and bodies with a particular interest and expertise with this target group.

The LSP recognises the role schools, sports, voluntary, youth and arts organisations play in enabling young people to develop their full potential, raise their personal aspirations, improve their access to employment opportunities and provide an enhanced quality of life. Young people who are disengaged and disadvantaged must also be given every help to benefit fully from services, and the Carlisle and Eden Education Business Partnerships are committed to this priority, through a range of initiatives, to ensure children and young people's lives in the districts are enhanced and supported.

## HOUSING

*Our aim is:-*

**To support the development and maintenance of decent, affordable housing and related services which meet the needs of local people and support economic and community development.**

The quality of housing is an important element in the attractiveness of the villages and market towns of the Carlisle and Eden area. Increases in the local population, a national trend to smaller, dispersed family units and the popularity of the area to incomers and visitors all exert pressures on house prices and therefore the availability of good quality homes at affordable prices for everybody who needs them.

Nationally, the requirement is that new homes should be built, where possible, on previously developed land and in urban areas. Priorities exist for the re-use or conversion of existing buildings in local centres, particularly those, which are accessible by public transport. Where undeveloped land is used this should avoid areas of open space and be located near houses, jobs and other services. A proportion of housing in both urban and rural areas should be affordable and seek to satisfy need within a local settlement. The LSP partners will make the best use of the planning controls and lobby appropriate bodies to maximise housing availability and ensure the guidelines described above are adhered to. Where appropriate, Lifetime Homes Standards should be encouraged for all new housing and the feasibility of adopting some of these standards in refurbishment/renovated homes should be considered.

With the Office of National Statistics forecasting that the number of households is expected to grow by 7% over the next ten years, the LSP recognises that there is a direct link between housing and environmental issues. The partnership is committed to providing housing in our area that will be sustainable in terms of use of construction materials, access and ongoing energy and water usage.

Service provision for local people also involves the provision of housing aid and advice, support and resettlement together with accommodation for those who are homeless. Both Carlisle and Eden Councils hold the statutory responsibility for the development of Housing Strategies, which seek to maintain a fair balance of social and private housing. The Local Strategic Partnership will work closely with the relevant housing providers and local authorities to ensure this is achieved. Of particular priority will be addressing the needs of the homeless as well as those families who need refuge accommodation because of issues such as domestic violence.

## ENVIRONMENT

*Our aim is:-*

**To protect and enhance our environment.**

The area of Carlisle and Eden is one of the most attractive and unspoilt parts of the country, and the LSP recognises the need to conserve and enhance this. There are many different factors that can affect our environment, both the built environment and local landscape, and the way in which they are managed has an impact upon the community's quality of life. The LSP also recognises the potential conflict between the economic development of the area and conservation of the natural environment. This potential conflict will always be borne in mind when influencing decisions.

The LSP recognises the need to reduce, reuse and recycle all forms of waste, and also to use energy recovered from waste. An example of our continuing activity in this area is a recent £1m partnership contract with DEFRA to improve kerbside recycling across Carlisle and Eden.

We are committed to pursuing improved cleaner streets and open spaces in our urban areas, making them attractive places to live and work in. A key part of this work will be educating the local community on responsible approaches to litter and waste management.

Sustainable and renewable energy sources will also be encouraged by the LSP, in order to reduce the consumption of non-renewable fossil fuels and the pollution they can cause. One of the LSP's priorities for action is to encourage sustainable management practices in local businesses through continued consultation with the Carlisle and Eden Environment Forum and Business Environment Network.

The loss of greenfield sites and areas of open space must be minimised and developments on brownfield sites encouraged. The LSP will also promote and support sustainable design, construction, operation and ultimate disposal for existing and new buildings in the area.

Natural water resources in Carlisle and Eden need to be maintained and, where possible, improved.



## TRANSPORT

*Our aim is:-*

**To assist in the development of an effective, accessible and sustainable transport system.**

A good transport system is essential both for a strong economy and a better quality of life. The LSP wants to deliver more choice over how to travel whilst improving access to education, jobs, leisure and services and increasing the attractiveness of the area to inward investors. Reducing the environmental impacts of transport and improving transport safety are also vital.

Transport issues in the Carlisle and Eden district area are diverse. The needs and problems of city centre transport are very different from those of isolated villages and hamlets. The LSP will work towards developing a fully integrated transport system, which balances the needs of both our urban and rural communities. At the same time, the LSP will take actions to harvest the benefits of easy access to the M6 motorway, the A66 trans-pennine trunk route and to support the priorities of the Carlisle Local Transport Plan, particularly in relation to the A69 Newcastle to Stranraer trunk route, including access to Carlisle airport and the Carlisle North Development Route.

The LSP recognises the different transport needs of local communities and the balance needed to ensure that transport practices minimise damage to the environment. This will be done by lobbying appropriate bodies to ensure that environmental factors are given prominence in decision-making processes.

We are continuing to work in partnership with the Area Transport Advisory Groups on all aspects of transport and transport related issues in our area; issues as diverse as the Northern Development Route for Carlisle and the West Coast Main Line, improving cycle path networks and ensuring car parks are affordable and secure. By working towards sustainable transport, improving transport choices and reducing congestion, we will contribute significantly to environmental improvement.

## PROMOTING CARLISLE AND EDEN

*Our aim is:-*

**To promote the heritage and unique qualities of the area both locally, nationally and internationally.**

There are many positive aspects to the Carlisle and Eden district area such as the landscape, history and culture. We hold an important strategic position and have an enviable mix of urban and rural geography. Promoting Carlisle and Eden is embedded across all the themes within this strategy and promotion of the work of the LSP and its partners is an essential element in raising the awareness of the real benefits made to the community.

We will raise positive awareness of Carlisle and Eden to local residents and businesses and take steps to increase awareness regionally, nationally and internationally. An effective way of doing this is through the development of cultural and leisure facilities in Carlisle and Eden. Culture and leisure have a huge role to play in improving people's health and well-being and also increasing the area's attractiveness to visitors. There are proven links to increased social inclusion, youth engagement and appreciation of diversity. Tourism related economic activity can also be increased through the development of attractive, good quality cultural and leisure facilities, such as Rheged in Eden and the Sheepmount sports facility in Carlisle. Such developments are often beyond the capacity of one organisation to develop, so the LSP partners will work together on the development of cultural and leisure opportunities in Carlisle and Eden.

The LSP will:-

- Promote the participation of local people in decisions that affect their daily lives and their communities.
- Promote sustainable development and lobby appropriate bodies to ensure that environmental factors are given prominence in decision making processes.
- Promote and develop learning activities that support our commitment to inclusive lifelong learning.
- Support and promote the development and contribution of higher and further education facilities in our area.
- Uphold the principle of equality of opportunity and promote measures to reduce inequalities.
- Promote positive health and wellbeing in the communities we serve and reduce health inequalities.
- Promote the projects implemented by the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership making Carlisle and Eden a safer place to live, work, visit and invest.



## **SECTION FOUR**

### **PROGRESSING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

The integration of the two community plans will ensure progress on each of the themes identified and support the development of actions to address these.

#### **Priorities for Action**

The LSP will progress work to tackle some of the more intractable problems. This will be achieved by bringing together multi-disciplinary teams focussing on action initially in the South of Carlisle and Kirkby Thore areas. Local plans already exist in these areas and the Partnership will aim to support a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of services.

These two areas have been identified as priorities due to the multifaceted problems faced there and the recognised need for an innovative and joined-up approach to tackle the issues.

The Partnership will demonstrate that;

- There has been a rigorous identification of needs, and resources have been identified to meet these needs
- There is targeting and a concentration of resources where they will best deliver economic, social and environmental well-being
- That priorities are clearly set out and transparent. The partnership will also show that some things will not be a priority
- There is a commitment to share information about scale of budgets, timing of budget cycles and a timetable for agreeing a process of budget pooling

#### **How the plan will be progressed**

There will be a clear rationalisation of plans and the Partnership will show which parts of the community strategy and which targets will have the greatest impact on Carlisle and Eden's most pressing areas of needs.

- The LSP will build upon the wide range of existing strategies and activities from both the regional agenda and local partners.

Progress will happen through a commitment to improve and adapt the strategy through the dynamics of further consultation

- Ensure that the partnership focuses on a delivery plan for those strategic issues where joint action is the most efficient and effective means of tackling the matter
- Provide an initial strategic analysis of how partners currently contribute to delivering the vision of the partnership and identify quality of life high level measures to monitor progress in achieving the vision
- Provide an overview of local plans, partnerships and initiatives and ensure that key bodies work effectively together to deliver them

- Ensure that the delivery and commissioning of services in the Carlisle and Eden area corresponds with the agreed vision and objectives
- Seek the views and involvement of our communities and ensure this 'voice' is heard at a sub-regional, regional and national level
- Lobby European, national, regional, and sub-regional partners and seek access to funding and assistance to effect the Carlisle & Eden Community Strategy.

For many themes, existing partnerships and strategies are already in place and these are being monitored by key partners.

### **Effecting and monitoring action**

This community strategy now offers an opportunity to add value to existing partnerships. Actions will be brought closer together to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being for the people of Carlisle and Eden.

Greater co-ordination of existing activity, more effective use of time and resources and a greater understanding of partners' different cultures can help to tackle identified priorities.

All agencies and organisations are invited to use this strategy to reassess the potential of increased partnership working and to recognise the added value to other themes that each initiative may bring.

Monitoring partners' achievements against specific pre-set targets is an important development area for all partnership working. The LSP will wish to have the evidence to demonstrate progress and achievement over time. Therefore the identification of specific actions and targets to measure these is a priority for partnership development.

## **SECTION FIVE - PARTNERS**

### **List of Partners**

The following is a list of organisations that support the LSP. Many are either currently actively involved in the LSP or have expressed an interest to contribute in the future as the LSP develops and increases its scope for action:

***Age Concern, Carlisle & District***  
***Alston Moor Business Association***  
***Appleby Alliance***  
***Appleby Grammar School***  
***Appleby Heritage Centre***  
***Armstrong Watson & Co***  
***Breed UK***  
***Bulloughs (Carlisle) Ltd***  
***Business Link for Cumbria***  
***Capita dbs***  
***Carigiet Cowan***  
***Carlisle Parish Councils Association***  
***Cumbria Association of Local Councils***  
***Carlisle & Rural Tenant's Federation***  
***Carlisle and Eden Business Environment Network***  
***Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership***  
***Carlisle and Eden Local Health Group***  
***Carlisle City Council***  
***Carlisle College***  
***Carlisle Council for Voluntary Service***  
***Carlisle District Primary Care Trust***  
***Carlisle Environment Forum***  
***Carlisle Job Centre***  
***Carlisle Tourism***  
***Carlisle Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility***  
***Carrs Milling Industries***  
***Cavaghan & Gray***  
***Churches Together in Carlisle***  
***Churches for Agricultural and Rural Life of Churches Together in Cumbria***  
***Citizens Advice Bureau***  
***Classics***  
***Connexions Cumbria***  
***Countryside Agency***  
***Cumbria Chamber of Commerce & Industry***  
***Cumbria Institute of the Arts***  
***Cumbria Community Foundation***  
***Cumbria Constabulary***  
***Cumbria County Council***  
***Cumbria Inward Investment Agency***  
***Cumbria Learning & Skills Council***  
***Cumbria Probation Service***  
***Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency***  
***Cumbria Social Economy Forum***  
***Cumbria Strategic Partnership***  
***Cumbria Tourist Board***

**Cumbria Village Homes Ltd**  
**Cumbria Youth Alliance**  
**Cumbrian Newspapers Group Ltd**  
**Debenhams, Carlisle**  
**DEFRA**  
**Disabled Association Carlisle & Eden (DACE)**  
**East Cumbria Countryside Project**  
**Eden Health Alliance**  
**Eden Access for all Forum**  
**Eden District Council**  
**Eden Arts Trust**  
**Eden Education/Business Partnership**  
**Eden Forum against Domestic Violence**  
**Eden Housing Association**  
**Eden Local Health Partnership**  
**Eden Sports Council**  
**Eden Tourism Forum**  
**Eden Valley Primary Care Trust**  
**Eden Youth Work Partnership**  
**Eden Environmental LA21**  
**English Nature Cumbria Team**  
**Fell Runner**  
**Forestry Commission**  
**Government Office for the North West**  
**Marks & Spencer PLC**  
**National Farmers Union**  
**North Cumbria Ambulance Service**  
**North Pennines Partnership**  
**Northern Arts**  
**Penrith Civic Society**  
**Penrith Partnership**  
**Penrith Rotary Club**  
**Penrith Voluntary Transport**  
**Pirelli Ltd**  
**Queen Elizabeth Grammar School**  
**Rural Development Service (RDSS)**  
**St Aidans County High School**  
**St Cuthbert's (C of E) Church**  
**St Martins College**  
**Samuel King's School**  
**Scandahut**  
**Stagecoach in Cumbria**  
**Travelling Light**  
**Ullswater Community College**  
**University of Northumbria**  
**University of St Martins**  
**University of Central Lancashire Newton Rigg Campus**  
**Visual Link**  
**Voluntary Action Cumbria**  
**Volunteer Bureau Eden**  
**Youth Offending Team**

### CARLISLE AND EDEN IN CONTEXT

#### A Profile of North Cumbria

The Carlisle and Eden areas are located in the north and east of Cumbria and cover an area of more than 1,200 square miles.

They have a combined population of over 152,000, with almost 102,000 living in the Carlisle area and over 50,500 in Eden district. There are two main population centres - Carlisle city and Penrith town.

There are approximately 75,000 people living in Carlisle city (77% of Carlisle district's population) and 15,200 people living in Penrith (30% of Eden district's population). The remainder of the population lives in the many market towns and villages throughout the area.

The area is sparsely populated. Carlisle has a population density of one person per hectare, while Eden is considered to be a super sparse area as there are only 0.2 persons per hectare.

The population of the Carlisle area has increased slightly over the last ten years (1.1%), while the population of Eden has risen by approximately 10% over the same ten years. Much of this rapid growth has been due to people moving into the area and this is expected to continue in the future.

Unemployment is relatively low in the area, with less than 3% unemployment in Carlisle and under 1.5% in Eden, which is the lowest in Cumbria and one of the lowest in the North West. However, average weekly wages in Carlisle and Eden are much lower than both the national and Cumbrian figures. This is most apparent in Eden where the average gross weekly earnings are approximately £100 lower than national earnings.

#### The North West Region

The districts of Carlisle and Eden are included within the North West region of England. The following organisations work to maximise the voice of the region:

The North West Development Agency (NWDA) exists to further the sustainable economic development and regeneration through the promotion of business competitiveness, efficiency, investment, employment and skills development. It funds a wide range of initiatives throughout the region.

The North West Regional Assembly is a partnership of local government, business organisations, public sector agencies, education and training bodies, trade unions and co-operatives together with the voluntary sector, working to promote the economic, environmental and social well-being of the North West of England.



The Government Office North West (GONW) supports the delivery of a range of Government services and programmes and also assists councils throughout the regions, including support to Local Strategic Partnerships. GONW promotes the improved delivery of services that have cross-cutting outcomes and which make a real difference on the ground to local people.

A wide range of other regional partners also work to promote the area.

### **The National Agenda**

In November 2000 the Government published a Rural White Paper which promotes a fair deal for rural England. It has five key policy initiatives which comprise:

- the development of dynamic and sustainable rural economies,
- improved access to services,
- conserving and enhancing rural landscapes,
- increased opportunities for accessing and enjoying the countryside, and
- increased co-ordination between national and local agencies and government on rural initiatives.

**Similarly in its White Paper entitled: *Our Towns and Cities – the future*, the government expressed its desire to help and regenerate urban communities by enabling. Its key aims were to:**

- **To provide sustainable homes that are attractive, safe and practical.**
- **To retain people in urban areas and making the areas a more desirable place in which to live.**
- **To improve quality of, opportunity and economic success through tailored solutions in towns and cities.**

**Carlisle and Eden do not operate in isolation, events and priorities regionally and nationally affect local circumstances and initiatives.**

Existing national priorities which central and local government tackle together are very closely aligned to the themes identified for Carlisle and Eden's Vision for the Future. The national priorities are:

- Raising standards across our schools.
- Improving the quality of life for children, young people, families at risk and older people.
- Promoting healthier communities by targeting key local services, such as health and housing.
- Creating safer and stronger communities.
- Transforming our local environment.
- Meeting transport needs more effectively.
- Promoting the economic vitality of localities.

### THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE AND AIMS

The two district councils, Eden and Carlisle City, chose to come together to form a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in 2001. This was a response to the special circumstances of the Foot and Mouth outbreak, with the area being particularly affected and the economy and communities requiring recovery measures. This joint working has been successful, the LSP has developed and has resulted in a number of regeneration programmes

A Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is described as a single body that:

- Brings together at a local level the different parts of the public sector as well as private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together
- Is a non-statutory, non-executive organisation
- Operates at a level which enables strategic decisions to be taken and is close to individual neighbourhoods to allow actions to be determined at community level
- Should be aligned with local authority boundaries

This is important because public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations all have a part to play in improving quality of life. The more they can work together, with local people, the more they can achieve and the more likely it is that:

- The benefits of sustainable growth are achieved across the area
- Economic, social and physical regeneration happens – and is sustained in deprived areas
- Public services work better and are delivered in ways which meet people's needs
- Local people can influence decision making and take action to improve their neighbourhoods
- Business and the community and voluntary sectors can play a full and equal part

#### **How the Partnership Works**

In order to be able to work strategically and at a grass roots level it was agreed that the Carlisle and Eden LSP will have three elements:

#### **Management Board**

This meets bi monthly and is responsible for managing the work programme that contributes to the achievement of the strategic aims of the LSP.

#### **Local Strategic Partnership Group**

This meets twice a year, and its role is to oversee the overall strategic direction of the LSP. In addition this group provides a focus for the co-ordination of lobbying activities, accessing resources and for building links to county/regional and national bodies and initiatives. Its final, critical role is to set and agree a six month work programme for the Executive Group and Management Group

### **The Executive Group**

The group meets bi-monthly and is responsible for the multi-agency delivery of the strategic aims of the LSP. This Group will provide an effective dialogue between the two district councils and corresponding leaders of key partner agencies to

- Implement the LSP vision via the Carlisle & Eden Community Strategy
- Provide an overview of strategic issues relating to social, economic and environmental regeneration addressing key issues of health and well-being, housing, education, crime and jobs
- Define and agree the strategic policy direction for the area to be implemented through the Carlisle and Eden LSP
- Monitor progress of key actions against LSP outcomes and action plan
- Promote key actions for the further development and implementation of the joint community strategy for the Carlisle and Eden area
- Influence respective organisations/agencies at a strategic level to effect improvements in the planning, procurement and delivery of services and initiatives to achieve the effective implementation of the joint Community strategy
- Encourage and promote joint working between partner agencies and the reshaping of the individual agency resources **and pooling resources across Partnership members to meet the LSP's agreed priorities to the LSP's agreed priorities and outcomes.**