



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

Date of Meeting: 20 February 2006

Public Yes

Key Decision: No Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: CUMBRIA SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES
AGREEMENT 2006/07

Report of: DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Report reference: LDS.09/06

Summary:

The report informs Members of the proposed arrangements and outcome targets to be included in the Safer and Stronger Communities Agreement which is to commence on the 1 April 2006.

Recommendations:

The Executive is recommended to note and approve the proposed arrangements and outcomes targets.

Contact Officer: John Egan

Ext: 7004

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 Members will be aware that it is proposed that all the authorities in Cumbria, together with other relevant stakeholders, are to enter into an agreement with the Government Office North West in order to access funding from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. The intention is that the agreement will operate as from the 1 April next in respect of a range of services centred on crime and disorder and environmental issues and is intended to be a pre-cursor to a full local area agreement timetabled to come into operation from April 2007 and which will cover a much wider range of services.
- 1.2 The basis of the proposed arrangements is that the detailed agreement will be negotiated between the Government Office North West and representatives of the relevant authorities and stakeholders. The arrangements envisage that the County Council will act as the accountable body opposite GONW in respect of the funding, which it will then passport through to the various local authorities and stakeholders who, collectively, will then need to ensure that the various outcome targets stipulated in the agreement with GONW are met. A summary of the proposed arrangements is set out in the copy correspondence from the County's Corporate Director of Strategy and Performance in Appendix 1.

As mentioned above, the partner signatories to the agreement are, collectively, charged with ensuring that a range of targets are met following receipt of the funding. These targets relate to a range of measures but are directed principally to :

- reducing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- ensuring cleaner, safer and greener public spaces;
- improving the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, and
- giving local people a greater influence over local decision making and service delivery.

- 1.3 The targets have been worked up over a period, principally through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership upon which the Council is, of course, represented. The authority has therefore contributed to the evolution of the targets and they are consistent with the Council's own objectives in the relevant areas. The targets are set out in more detail in Appendix 2 for Members information.
- 1.4 Members will see from the proposed operating arrangements set out in Appendix 1 that it is envisaged that the agreement will be negotiated with GONW between February and the end of March 2006, and that it is proposed that a small negotiating team will act on behalf of the various partners which is intended to include a representative from the District Councils. After negotiations have been completed, then the agreement will be signed off by the County Council (as accountable body) and the Cumbria Strategic Partnership on behalf of the various partners and stakeholders which it represents.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date.

The various outcome targets have been negotiated over a period, principally through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on which the City Council is represented.

2.2 Consultation proposed.

Detailed negotiations with the Government Office North West will now take place prior to the final agreement being settled and signed on behalf of the various partners.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is recommended to note and approve the proposed arrangements and outcomes targets.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable the agreement in respect of Safer and Stranger Communities to be negotiated and signed with a GONW.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – The Council will be required to provide resources in implementing the various outcome targets for which it might be responsible and funding is allocated through the mechanism of the agreement to facilitate this.
- Financial – Once notification of the grant has been received from GONW, funding will be allocated across a range of schemes.
- Legal – It will be necessary for the formal legal agreement with GONW to be negotiated and then executed on behalf of all the partners.
- Corporate – The outcome targets which are required to be achieved are cross cutting in nature and therefore will touch most of the Council's service provision functions.
- Risk Management – These issues will need to be considered during the detailed negotiation stage.
- Equality Issues – Each signatory partner will be charged with ensuring that any equality issues are addressed during their contribution to fulfilling the outcome targets and one

of the targets (to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged people) is specifically geared to equality issues.

- Environmental – The targets generally contribute to the broader environmental agenda in terms of building communities and ensuring cleaner, safer and greener public spaces and are consistent with the Council's own objectives.
- Crime and Disorder – The outcome targets are specifically geared to achieving this.
- Impact on Customers – All the citizens in the Council's areas should benefit from the targets being achieved.

1st February, 2006

Your Ref:

Our Ref: AG/corres/DistrictCouncils/SSCFAgreement

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To: Gillian Bishop - Allerdale Borough Council
Ian Bruce - Eden District Council
John Stanforth - Copeland Borough Council
Maggie Mooney - Carlisle City Council
Mike Jones - South Lakeland District Council
Tom Campbell - Barrow In Furness Borough Council

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND 2006/07

I would like to take this opportunity to seek agreement with you on the way in which the County Council intends to fulfil its role, on behalf of partners, as accountable and negotiating body for the Safer Stronger Communities Agreement commencing April 2006.

The arrangements detailed here are intended to allow for the operation of the agreement from 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007, as interim measures prior to the full Local Area Agreement which will operate from April 2007.

Once the full Local Area Agreement (LAA) is established it may be necessary to amend the arrangements noted here, however, until the content of the full LAA is known it is not possible to foresee what changes may be needed.

The County Council in developing these arrangements with partners, has built upon what it believes to be some of the key principles for effective partnership working, these being:

- Clarity of each partners role and responsibilities
- The need for a shared agreement about the outcomes and type of activity to be achieved and undertaken in return for funding
- An agreed framework for sharing performance information.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Cumbria Strategic Partnership, Safer and Stronger Community Fund Thematic Partnership and Local Strategic Partnerships

Cumbria County Council will manage the operation of the Safer and Stronger Community Fund (SSCF) agreement with partners through the Cumbria Strategic Partnership (CSP) and its SSCF Thematic Partnership. The evolving thematic partnership has and will continue to provide a forum for developing the content of the agreement and facilitating the delivery of activity designed to achieve the agreed outcomes. Within this all partners will retain their own decision making powers. The District Councils and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) will also play a key role in developing and delivering the content of the agreement, particularly in the areas in receipt of neighbourhood renewal funding, where certain outcomes and indicators are mandatory in the agreement.

Accountable Body

In two tier counties the guidance dictates that the county council will act as accountable body. Arrangements for the way Cumbria County Council deals with this role for the full LAA are still in development, hence the need for interim arrangements that create the minimum of disruption, yet allow for outcomes to be achieved. For the SSCF agreement 2006/07, this will mean the passporting through of funds to organisations who had previously acted as accountable body, who will in turn be expected to direct the funds towards activity that will achieve the agreed outcomes. The organisations in receipt of these funds will no longer technically be the accountable body; this role will fall to the County Council. The County Council will provide these organisations with confirmed details of the outcomes, indicators and targets (that partners have developed) they need to achieve in return for the funds. The performance information that will be required will also be outlined, and the way in which it should be reported.

Organisations in receipt of passported funding

In practice, there are only a small number of key organisations that the County Council will need to passport funds through to for the purposes of the SSCF agreement 2006/07. As stated above, these are the public bodies who have previously acted as accountable body for these funds. These organisations will be asked by the accountable body to provide basic details of how the funds will be directed to ensure the outcomes are achieved and delivered on. Ideally this information would be provided in a plan. In addition to this performance information will also be required to allow for the effective management of the agreement. The County Council will also need to obtain confirmation of high standards of fiduciary care in the management of the financial resources, including arrangements for passing monies onto third parties. However, since this has been happening for the past few years anyway, I do not envisage this will be in any way onerous.

Negotiating team with Government Office North West

The agreement will be negotiated with Government Office North West (GONW) between February and the end of March 2006. I would envisage that GONW will discuss arrangements for Neighbourhood Element, Cleaner Safer Greener and Neighbourhood Renewal funding (where this is used to support SSCF activity) directly with the two LSPs for the areas that triggered the resources. In practice, any full standing plans / outcomes and targets can be included as appendices to the agreement, with a summary of the key issues in the main body.

For the rest of the agreement, I would envisage a small negotiating team acting on behalf of partners. I would propose a representative from the County Council, a representative from the District Councils and a representative from Cumbria Constabulary. Please contact me if you would like to discuss involvement from your district. Clearly it would be helpful if we could find one person who could represent a District Council, a CDRP and an LSP. After negotiations are complete the sign off will be by the County Council and the CSP on behalf of partners.

As the final content of the document becomes clearer and is agreed by all parties the finer detail of the roles and responsibilities set out here will become clearer and suitable processes and systems used or amended to allow the operation of the agreement in a clear and uncomplicated way.

A copy of the draft agreement is enclosed for your information. It is important that your organisation is happy with the agreement and has endorsed the content, we have discussed the need to do this with officers from your organisation through the LAA Steering Group, and I have no doubt that matters are in hand. As agreed through the Steering Group, there is an opportunity from now until 21st February for you to provide your organisations views on the draft. Feedback should be provided to Paul Musgrave no later than 21st February.

If you have any questions on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Gardner

**ANTHONY GARDNER
CORPORATE DIRECTOR STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE**

Copy To: Chairs of the Local Strategic Partnership
Chairs of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Section 4: Outcomes Targets and Finances

Outcome One	Reduce crime, harm caused by illegal drugs and public reassurance, reducing the fear of crime. To build respect in communities and to reduce anti-social behaviour											
<p>Key Indicators for Outcome One</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reduce people's fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) reducing fear anti-social behaviour from 60% in 2004/05 to 55%* in 2006-07 (* to be agreed by Police Authority) b) improving the rate of respondents who report feeling completely safe or very safe when out alone after dark from 26% in 2005-06 to 28% in 2006-07 2. To reduce the percentage of people who perceive high levels of disorder in their area from 14% in 2004/5 to 12% in 2006/7 3. To reduce the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour from 48,815 (2005/6 forecasted figure) by ?% to ?? in 2006/7 (tbc when Police Authority have agreed force targets) 4. To reduce people's perception of high levels of drug use or drug dealing from 28% in 2004/5 to 26% in 2006/7 5. To reduce British Crime Survey comparator crime from 26,514 in 2004/5 to 22390 in 2006/7 6. To reduce Cumbrian BCS Comparator offending by Prolific and Priority Offenders from 19% in 2005 to ? in 2006 7. To reduce the number of deliberate fires from 2252 in 2004-05 to 1914 in 2006-07 8. To increase the percentage of people in Cumbria who think the Criminal Justice system is effective in bringing offenders to justice from 52% in 2004/5 to 54% in 2006/7 												
CDRP Area	Allocated Funds	Contribution towards joint activity										
Barrow	£127,927	£37,000										
Carlisle and Eden	£289,526	£74,000										
South Lakeland	£140,120	£37,000										
West Cumbria	£259,446	£74,000										
<p>Joint Activity</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>DAAT Partnership Support Grant</td> <td>£89,000 (in addition to contributions to joint activity– paid directly from Government Office)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Domestic Violence</td> <td>£42,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PPO Project</td> <td>£25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neighbourhood Watch Development</td> <td>£95,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management Information</td> <td>£60,000</td> </tr> </table>			DAAT Partnership Support Grant	£89,000 (in addition to contributions to joint activity– paid directly from Government Office)	Domestic Violence	£42,000	PPO Project	£25,000	Neighbourhood Watch Development	£95,000	Management Information	£60,000
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PPO Project	£25,000											
Neighbourhood Watch Development	£95,000											
Management Information	£60,000											

8.

Outcome Two

To have cleaner, safer and greener public spaces

Key Indicators for Outcome Two

1. To increase the percentage of residents reporting an increase in satisfaction with their neighbourhoods from x in xx to x in xx
2. To increase the standard of cleanliness in the area as measured by the proportion of land that is assessed as having combined deposits of:
 - a. Litter and detritus from x to xx by x
 - b. Graffiti from x to xx by x
 - c. Fly posting from x to xx by x
 - d. Fly tipping from x to xx by x
3. To address recycling and improve waste minimization.
 - a. Increasing the amount of household waste recycled from x% in xxx to x% in xxx
 - b. Increase the amount composted from x% in xx to x% in xxx
 - c. Reduce (growth in) the total amount of waste produced per head of the population from x in xxx to x in xxx
4. Reduce the number of anti social behaviour fires (rubbish) from 1095 in 2004-05 to 945 in 2006-07
5. To improve the quality of Cumbria's parks and green spaces measured by an increase in the number of green flag awards from 2 in 05-06 to 3 in 2006-07

SSCF contains a Cleaner Safer Greener element which is targeted at the 3% most deprived super output areas. These are located in Barrow and Copeland districts and activity will be directed by the respective LSPs as follows:

Furness LSP £970,000

West Cumbria LSP £970,000

Outcome Three

To improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery.

Key Indicators for Outcome Three

1. To increase the percentage of residents that report an increase in satisfaction with their neighbourhoods from x% in xxx to x% in xxx (to be determined following completion of West Cumbria LSP and Furness LSP local plans)
2. To improve satisfaction with local bus services from 35% in 2005-6 to 37% in 2006-7 (to be determined following completion of West Cumbria LSP and Furness LSP local plans)
3. To reduce health inequalities (to be determined following completion of West Cumbria LSP and Furness LSP local plans)
4. To raise educational standards in line with West Cumbria LSP and Furness LSP floor targets (to be determined following completion of West Cumbria LSP and Furness LSP local plans)
5. To improve employment rates by reducing the gap between the by 10 percentage points between the super output areas and their respective defined travel to work areas (to be determined following completion of West Cumbria LSP and Furness LSP local plans)

SSCF contains a Neighbourhood Element which is targeted at the 3% most deprived super output areas. These are located in Barrow, Allerdale and Copeland districts and activity will be directed by the respective LSPs as follows:

Furness LSP	£413,000
West Cumbria LSP	£826,000

Outcome Four

To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services

Key Indicators for Outcome Four

1. Increase the percentage of residents who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area from 42% in 2005-6 to 45% in 2006-7
2. Increase the percentage of residents that feel that their area is a place where people can get on well together from 57% in 2004 to 59% in 2006-7
3. Increase the percentage of residents from (tbc) in 2004-5 who affirm that they carried out voluntary work from x in xxx to (1% increase) in 2006-7
4. Growth of the local voluntary and community sector
Activity: To establish a baseline for 2006-7 on the size of the local voluntary and community sector with a view to improving on this in following years.
5. To increase the proportion of public services delivered by the voluntary and community sector
Activity: To establish the current proportion of public services delivered by the voluntary and community sector with a view to increasing this in following years

SSCF contains a community engagement element which must be used to fund the Community Empowerment Networks (CEN) for one year. The CENs are located in Barrow and West Cumbria. Funds will be directed towards activity as defined by the respective LSPs

Barrow £80,196

Figure 1: Cumbria Strategic Partnership (CSP) Structure

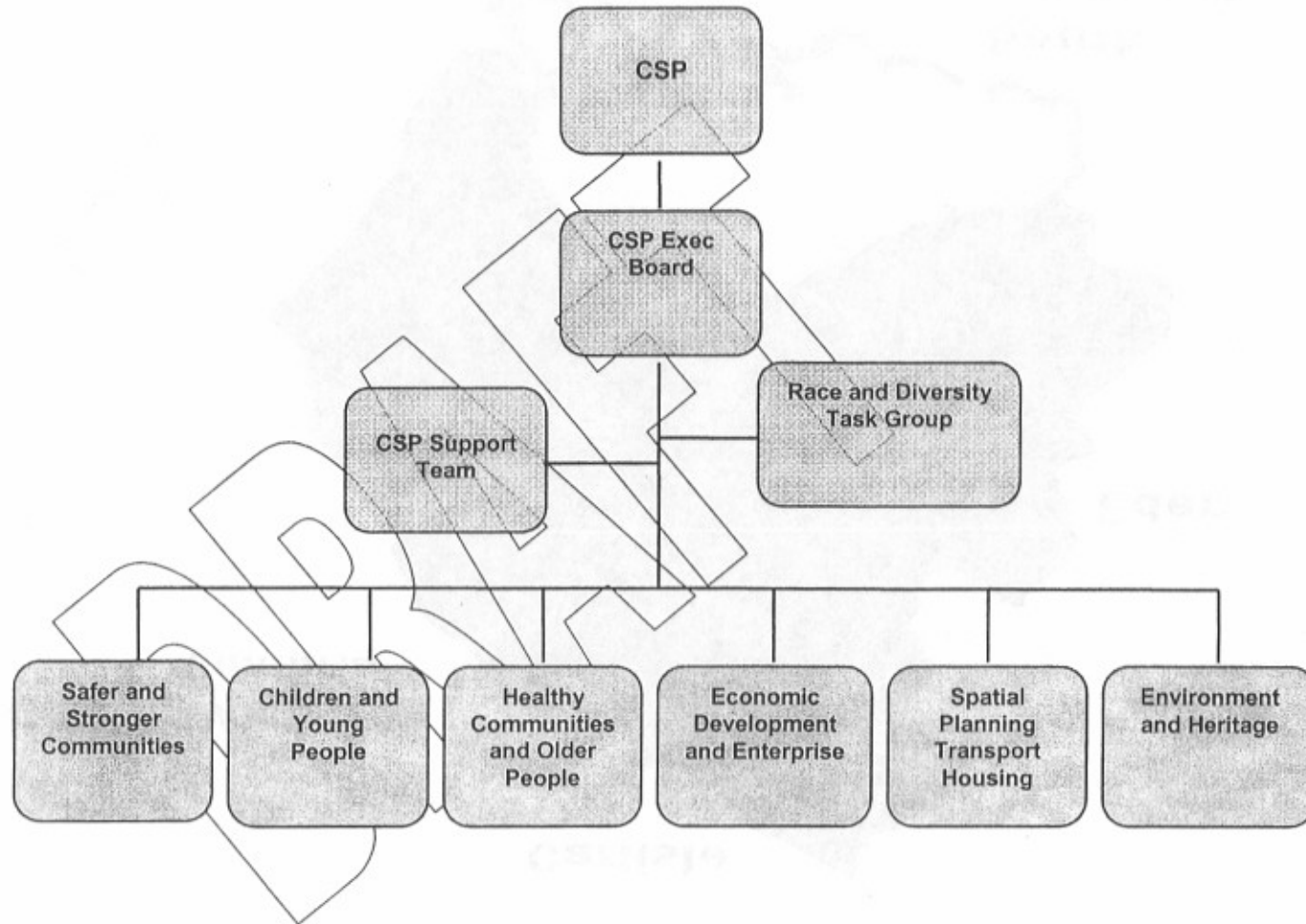
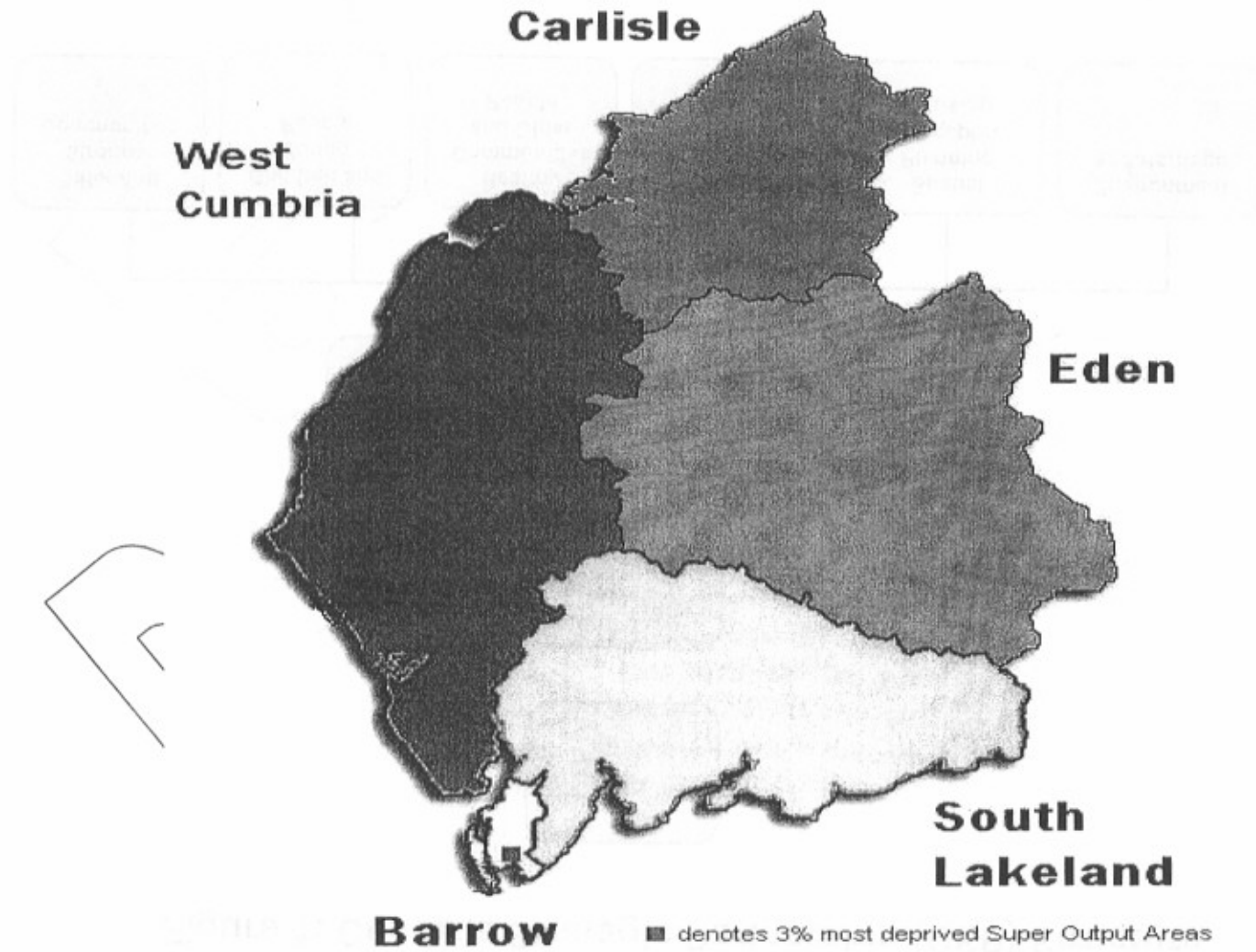


Figure 2: The Partnership Map of Cumbria



Overall Reduction **16.4%**

Category	Allerdale		Barrow		Carlisle		Copeland		Eden		SLDC		Cumbria	
	03/04 rate	07/08 target	03/04 rate	07/08 target	03/04 rate	07/08 target	03/04 rate	07/08 target	03/04 rate	07/08 target	03/04 rate	07/08 target	03/04 rate	Target
Theft or unauthorised taking of vehicle	247	225	135	123	373	340	136	124	85	78	84	77	1059	950
Theft from a vehicle	1087	992	475	433	653	596	360	329	184	168	296	270	3036	2702
Vehicle interference	28	26	67	61	151	138	12	11	61	56	46	42	364	331
Domestic burglary	381	348	277	253	591	539	242	221	113	103	195	178	1799	1648
Theft or unauthorised taking of a cycle	109	99	154	141	282	257	76	69	47	43	134	122	802	748
Theft from person	24	22	51	47	76	69	14	13	8	7	37	34	210	191
Criminal damage	2373	1910	1866	1502	3321	2673	1873	1508	674	543	1463	1178	11570	9245
Common assault	213	171	298	240	504	478	172	138	87	70	164	132	1528	1292
Woundings	769	619	775	624	715	576	696	560	232	187	521	419	3708	3066
Robbery of personal property	30	27	23	21	34	31	4	4	3	3	11	10	105	79
Total of selected offences	5261	4440	4120	3444	6790	5698	3585	2977	1495	1257	2951	2462	24201	20259

The elements within this table have been negotiated between each Cumbrian CDRP and GO-NW and will be updated annually