

CUMBRIA LEADERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board held on
Friday 25 November 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 A Smith	Allerdale Borough Council
Mr J Bowman	Copeland Borough Council
Mr R Cole	Cumbria Police Authority
Mr I Gordon	NHS Cumbria

Also in Attendance –

Dr D Roberts	Assistant Director, Policy and Performance, Cumbria County Council
Ms J Cullen	Policy Assistant, Cumbria County Council
Mr J Savege	Corporate Director of Organisational Development, Cumbria County Council
Mr P Feehily	Assistant Director, Planning and Sustainability, Cumbria County Council
Mr S Edwards	Chief Executive of Cumbria Police Authority
Mr L Conway	South Lakeland District Council
Mr A Haile	Assistant Director, Economic Development, Cumbria County Council

122. CUMBRIA TOURISM EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Leaders discussed the letter which Eddie Martin received from Cumbria Tourism, setting out changes to the Cumbria Tourism Executive board. It was **AGREED** that the Chair would respond, asking for clarity on the role of the Board and individual Board members. The Chair of Cumbria Tourism is to be invited to the next meeting of the CLB.

123. LOCAL MONITORING COMMITTEE

The Leaders were informed about regional arrangement changes to replace the Performance Monitoring Committee with the Local Monitoring Committee. The County Council's Cabinet had agreed to nominate Cllr T. Markley to the LMC. The Leaders requested clarity on the role of the committee.

It was **AGREED** that Dawn Roberts, Assistant Director – Policy & Performance, Cumbria County Council would be asked to provide this information.

124. EDUCATION ACT

It was **AGREED** that Dawn Roberts, Assistant Director – Policy & Performance, Cumbria County Council would arrange a future briefing to the leaders on the new Act to inform the Leaders of any implications.

125. LOCALISM BILL

It was **AGREED** that Dawn Roberts, Assistant Director – Policy & Performance, Cumbria County Council would seek to produce a plain English guide on the Localism Act.

126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Pidduck, Ms E Woodburn (Substitute Mr J Bowman), Mr B Jameson (Ms H Stephenson).

127. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2011 were agreed as a true record.

128. MATTERS ARISING

On minute 106 – Terms of Reference, Dawn Roberts informed the Leaders that the Chief Executives have requested that the Terms of References go back to their group for further discussions and will be presented at the next CLB. It was **AGREED** that the Terms of Reference would be brought to the CLB at the January meeting.

129. HOUSING IN CUMBRIA

The Cumbria Leadership Board received a report from the Chief Executive of South Lakeland District Council. The report identified the value of a joint strategic approach across Cumbria Districts and Countywide partners, at a time when resources are scarce but the need for decent affordable housing is essential for the economic vitality of Cumbria and the long term sustainability of its communities. He asked that the Leaders consider:

- Endorsing the Cumbrian Housing Strategy 2012-2016 as a framework for providing a joined up response to changing housing need, policies opportunities and challenges.
- All elected Members with a responsibility for housing, continue to support the delivery of joint priorities identified in the strategy through the

Cumbria Housing Executive Group, as well as their own identified community priorities.

The Leaders discussed the issues surrounding affordable housing and asked for clarification on what actions are being taken to move this forward. Lawrence Conway to forward to the Leaders the action plan which was discussed at the Cumbria Housing Executive Group. (**ACTION LC**)

The Leaders **AGREED** to endorse the Cumbrian Housing Strategy and that all elected Members with a responsibility for housing will continue to support the priorities in the strategy through the Cumbria Housing Executive Group. The CLB Members who are also LEP Members **AGREED** to raise housing at the LEP.

130. TRANSITION TO POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS

The Leader of Cumbria Police Authority thanked the Leaders for their letter to Central Government opposing the need for a Police Commissioner in Cumbria.

The Leader of Cumbria Police Authority presented a report summarising the main provisions in the Act related to Police and Crime Commissioners and the implications for partner organisations.

A Police and Crime Panel must be set up by the Local Authorities (County and District Councils). The Panel will consist of a least 10 members, with at least one member from each Local Authority, as well as an additional 2 co-opted members who are not councillors. There will be an opportunity for the Panel to increase their number of co-optees, both councillors and independents, up to a maximum panel size of 20. The Secretary of State will have a role in considering the appointment of these additional members. The Local Authority must ensure that the make-up of the Panel is balanced, both in terms of geographical representation and the political make-up of the Local Authority when taken together.

Ms J Holland questioned if Parish Councils could have a representative on the Police and Crime Panel. It was confirmed that this would be addressed as part of the work to establish the Panel.

The District Leaders confirmed that Harry Dyke will be the District Representative on the Police Authority Transition Board. The Leaders **AGREED** that a meeting should be held to agree the approach to the Panel, which would involve Leaders and Chief Executives of the County Council and 6 District Councils.

The Chair thanked Ray Cole and Stuart Edward's for their update.

(Stuart Edward left the meeting).

131. PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Corporate Director of Organisational Development, Cumbria County Council presented an updated report on the current situation and presented options for the on street enforcement operation. The aim of any changes to the current regime is that a more effective outcome is delivered with increased value for money and which remains customer focussed.

Leaders were asked to consider the following options and confirm their preferred approach prior to consideration of these options by the County Council Cabinet in December.

Option 1 – Countywide on and off street parking – Parking Connect

Option 2 – Districts delivering the enforcement of on street restrictions on behalf of the County Council

Option 3 – County Council in house on street enforcement (districts continuing with off street enforcement)

Option 4 – External outsourcing of parking enforcement

Following discussions with district Leaders, it was **AGREED** that the Corporate Director of Organisational Development, County Council would set up a meeting with the district Leaders and Chief Executives to discuss the options in further details within the next week. **(ACTION JS)**

(Jim Savage left the meeting)

132. ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WORKING PROJECT (WASTE)

The Assistant Director, Planning and Sustainability, Cumbria County Council gave an update on Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership – Enhanced Partnership Working. The Stage Two final report has just been published, which indicates potential savings and a timescale to work on the projects. Meetings are currently taking place between the County Council and each individual district council to discuss options.

(Allan Haile, Assistant Director, Economic Development, Cumbria County Council joined the meeting).

The Chair thanked Paul Feehily for his update.

The report was **NOTED**.

133. WELFARE REFORM

The Assistant Director of Policy & Performance presented a briefing report on the range of reforms the Government is putting place across the welfare

system. This follows from a discussion at the Chief Executives' Group on the 21 October 2011. The changes will begin being implemented in 2013 with significant implications for the personal circumstances for those in receipt of working age benefits and future claimants.

The Leaders **AGREED** for further work to be done to assess the impact of these changes across Cumbria. It was also **AGREED** that all Local Authorities and Partners are to work with The Cumbria Intelligence Observatory to undertake a more in depth analysis.

It was **AGREED** that the Leaders will submit a joint letter to ministers compiling the key concerns from each authority about the proposed localisation of Council Tax Benefit. (Action DR)

134. FOCUS ON ANTI POVERTY SUMMARY REPORT

The Assistant Director of Policy & Performance presented a paper summarising the key findings and observations made at the October 2011 Focus on Anti Poverty stakeholder event.

The Leaders queried whether fuel poverty was included in the Anti Poverty Strategy. Dawn Roberts confirmed this is included in the strategy. Dawn Roberts **AGREED** to distribute the collection of leaflets to the Leaders from the Poverty Conference.

The Leaders were asked to consider:

- The key messages from the event; and to agree that work to advance and develop the ideas generated at the event will be taken forward through existing groups already working on the anti poverty agenda; and through Countywide Policy Network – involving key partners from the Third Sector were appropriate. The Leaders to receive regular updates on this work from Cumbria Chief Executives' Group.
- Establishing a countywide members group which will champion the anti poverty agenda. The body would receive updates and reports from the existing working groups who are active under the 4 existing pillars of the anti poverty strategy: financial inclusion, fuel poverty, work and skills, and child poverty. The countywide members group would provide coherent collaborative leadership to partnership work which is tackling poverty in Cumbria. The wider logistics and practicalities of such a group would be explored by the Countywide Policy Network.
- Establishing a 'partnership pledge' to which partners from across all sectors can sign up to, to demonstrate the shared commitment in Cumbria to tackle poverty in all its forms.
- Encouraging the existing groups under the 4 pillars of the County Council Anti Poverty Strategy to reevaluate their wider partner and sectoral

engagement in the light of this report, and to reflect upon the thinking generated at the event.

The Leaders **AGREED** to the above recommendations in the paper.

135. MINERAL RIGHTS

At the meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board on 22 July 2011. The Leader of Allerdale Borough Council highlighted his concerns over mineral rights ownership and the apparent ability of mineral owners to hinder surface development on land owned by another party. The report from the Assistant Director, Economic Development, set out a number of options for taking the matter forward:

Option 1 – Do nothing. Developers would need to continue to negotiate terms with mineral right owners. Mineral Rights Owners would continue to control development on land owned by a third party. The impact this has on economic development and the potential financial viability of development would continue.

Option 2 – Cumbria Local Authorities challenge through the courts to secure court declaration. This could be lengthy, time consuming and expensive with no certainty of a positive outcome for the authorities. There is also the risk of compensation payments in the event that the challenge was unsuccessful.

Option 3 – Challenge through national organisation such as the Local Government Association. This would be less costly but there is currently no understanding of the degree of national support for this issue and could be lengthy and time consuming.

Option 4 – Proceed with development until a mineral owner brings court proceedings for an injunction to prevent the development continuing. This has the advantages of forcing the mineral owners to take the risk of bringing proceedings and within a limited time, as any unjustified delay by the claimant (in this case the mineral owner) can be a defence to injunction proceedings for the defendant (in this case the County). The disadvantage of this is that the mineral owners may be successful and it is likely that any development works already completed will need to be removed.

The CLB **AGREED** to proceed with option 4 and **AGREED** that further discussions are held with Nugen. The CLB also **AGREED** to follow up with the LGA, as suggested in Option 3. The Assistant Director, Economic Development **AGREED** to keep CLB informed.

136. LEP (STANDING ITEM)

The Assistant Director, Economic Development presented a report, which provided an update on the work of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership.

Expert Groups – following the success in securing funding support from the Local Enterprise Start Up Fund, consultants were appointed at the beginning of October to manage the work to be undertaken by this group. Ian Gordon felt that NHS could be involved and that the role of the health economy could be better reflected in the work of the LEP. **ACTION** AH

Growing Places Fund – The Coalition Government has announced the formation of a Growing Places Fund as part of its stated priority to promote the delivery of key infrastructure needed to unlock development to help generate the jobs and homes communities need.

The report was **NOTED**.

137. NHS TRANSITION (STANDING ITEM)

The Chair of NHS Cumbria updated the Leaders on the NHS transition, with structural changes due to be in place by March 2013. The Leaders discussed issues surrounding West Cumbria NHS and they **AGREED** to consider this further at a forthcoming board meeting.

138. CUMBRIA CHIEF EXECUTIVE GROUP – KEY ISSUES (STANDING ITEM)

The summary was **NOTED**. In relation to the merger of the Safer and Stronger Thematic Partnership Domestic Violence Board and Criminal Justice Board, the District Leaders informed the group that Paul Walker will be the District representative on the new Action Group.

139. FORWARD PLANNER

The Forward Planner was **NOTED**.

140. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 20 January 2012, CREA Seminar Suite at 1.00pm.