

CUMBRIA LEADERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board held on Friday, 18 March 2011 at 10.00 am at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Redhills, Penrith, Cumbria

PRESENT

Mr E Martin (Chair)

Mr T Heslop	Allerdale Borough Council
Ms J Holland	CALC
Mr B Jameson	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 J Richardson	Barrow in Furness Borough Council
Mr M Taylor	Cumbria PCT
Mr W Williams	Cumbria Third Sector Network
Ms E Woodburn	Copeland Borough Council

Also in Attendance:-

Mr G Beveridge	- Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
Mrs J Currie	- Cumbria County Council
Mr P Feehily	- Cumbria County Council
Dr D Roberts	- Cumbria County Council

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R S Cole and Mr A Haile.

61. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that minutes of the meeting held on Friday 14 January 2011 were agreed with the following amendments:-

Add Mr W Williams to the list of those present.

On Minute No 55 – NHS Restructuring for figure in Paragraph 2 should read £850 million, not 580.

62. RECYCLING REWARDS SCHEME

The County Council's Assistant Director – Planning & Sustainability presented a report which aimed to provide the Leaders with an update on the Recycling Reward Scheme for 2011/12. It had been prepared at the request of the Chief Executives Group and was supported by the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP).

The County Council was the Waste Disposal Authority and was responsible for the disposal of waste collected by the District and Borough Councils in Cumbria in their capacity as Waste Collection Authorities. Payments made by the County Council to support recycling had increased year-on-year; the rate and tonnage of recycle had also increased during that time.

At the Chief Executives Group meeting on 10 December 2010 the County Council reported that the Recycling Reward scheme in Cumbria was one of the most expensive in the Country. This observation was based on comparisons made with other Waste Disposal Authorities in published statistics and, whilst being a relatively simplistic comparison it served to highlight an area of expenditure which could benefit from an efficiency review.

The County Council budget approved on the 17th February 2011 did not make cuts to the Recycling Reward scheme in 2011/12, but nor did it allow for any increase in expenditure. Looking beyond 2012 the County and District Councils all faced considerable financial pressures which reinforced the need to identify the sources of potential inefficiency and identify options that would deliver savings from 2012/13 onwards.

Officers, working through the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership were addressing the issue and would report back to the Chief Executives' Group and the Cumbria Leadership Board prior to options being taken through decision making channels within the each council. The Chief Executives' Group had identified Tom Campbell, Barrow Borough Council, as the lead Chief Executive on this matter.

Leaders confirmed that they would need to understand whether any changes to the arrangements would affect local authority budgets in 2012 and asked the Assistant Director – Planning & Sustainability to ensure that the report came back to CLB in November/December, time to give them time to make required adjustments to their budget planning for 2012.

RESOLVED that a report be produced detailing options and comparators for the resolution of waste issues later in the year **(Action: PF)**

63. NHS TRANSITION (STANDING ITEM)

The Chair of NHS Cumbria updated the Leaders on the latest situation in relation to NHS transition. He detailed the plans for:-

- Community Services
- Public Health
- GP Consortia
- PCT Residual Parts

The Chair thanked him for the informative update.

64. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP)

Mr G Beveridge was in attendance for this item.

He reported that progress had been made with the formation of the LEP with the announcement of the Board Members. These included,

§ George Beveridge	(Interim Chair) Sellafield Limited
§ Fred Story	Story Construction
§ Jackie Arnold	BAE Systems
§ Maria Whitehead	Hawkshead Relish
§ Michael Cowan	M&J Cowan
§ Stephen Broughton	Lindeth Howe/Mountain Goat
§ Eddie Martin	Cumbria County Council
§ Brendan Jameson	South Lakeland and Barrow
§ Elaine Woodburn	Copeland and Allerdale
§ Mike Mitchelson	Carlisle and Eden
§ Bill Jefferson	Lake District National Park
§ Moira Tattershall	Skills and education, Carlisle College

A brief profile for each of the members could be found on the Cumbria LEP website: www.cumbrialep.co.uk

The first Cumbria LEP Board meeting would be held on 7 April 2011. The meeting would be assisted by a facilitator commissioned by the North West Efficiency and Improvement Partnership. The Board would initially be considering its roles and responsibilities and the roles and responsibilities of the members before considering a planned work programme.

A capacity fund for LEPs had been established by the Government and bids needed to be submitted by the end of March. Up to £1 million was available nationally in each of the next four financial years. Some 31 LEPs had now been established so the scale of the bid would need to be in the order of £40k to £50k. Bids must be for projects that met one or more of the following objectives:

- § Address a gap in the intelligence available to LEPs on business needs and barriers to growth;
- § Facilitate business engagement and interaction with the LEP; or
- § Boost board capacity to prioritise actions which will support business-led growth and jobs within the LEP area.

The Deputy Prime Minister announced recently that there had been a strong response to the first Round of bids to the Regional Growth Fund. The outcome of the first round would be announced during week commencing 21 March 2011. As a result of the strength of the bids received the Coalition Government planned to release more than the £250 million originally proposed. The second bidding round would open on 12 April 2011 and it was confirmed that bids for programmes would be accepted. There was no indication of the time allowed to submit bids.

The leaders discussed the relationship between the CLB and the LEP and how this could develop. The Assistant Director said this could be added to the agenda for the next CLB meeting. This was **AGREED (Action: DR)**.

Members asked that the LEP be added to the agenda for future meetings as a standing item **(Action: JC)**.

RESOLVED, that the progress with the creation of the LEP be noted.

The Chair thanked Mr Beveridge for the update.

65. ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY - REFRESH FOR 2011

The County Council's Assistant Director – Policy & Performance detailed the report, which presented the County Council's refreshed Anti Poverty Strategy. It was acknowledged in the report that whilst this was a County Council Strategy, success in addressing poverty would only be possible through partners working together. Joint action plans were currently in development.

The report closely aligned with the County Council principles and priorities. The Council's Anti Poverty Vision as expressed in the Council Plan was to: "Challenge poverty in all its forms ensuring that the most vulnerable people in our communities received the support they needed and Improve the chances in life of the most disadvantaged in Cumbria"

The refreshed Strategy focused on 4 key 'pillars' – relating to fuel poverty, child poverty, financial inclusion, and work and skills.

Cumbria Leadership Board felt that everyone around the table had shared aspirations around poverty and they felt work should be undertaken to make the strategy a countywide one.

One of the suggestions was for a 'Focus On' event to be held to look at this in more detail, where a number of case studies could be used to highlight best practice throughout the county. The Leaders also felt that this should be shared with LSPs as they could have contributions to make around this. This was **AGREED (Action DR)**.

RESOLVED that,

- (1) a 'Focus On' event be held on the issue of poverty to explore the key actions that should form the focus of a joint commitment, across partners, to address poverty in the County;
- (2) That work be undertaken to identify actions and interventions that have been successful in tackling poverty, and for this to be made available at the "Focus On" event and to partners.
- (3) The CCEG be asked to use the outcomes of the Focus On event to develop the Cumbria County Council strategy into a Cumbria- wide partnership strategy;
- (4) That the strategy be shared with all LSPs in the county.

66. WINDFARMS

The Cumbria Leadership Board had before it a letter written by the leader of Cumbria County Council to Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Department for Communities and Local Government, in relation to the planning decisions for on-shore windfarms.

Leaders expressed concerns that local planning decisions to refuse windfarm applications had been overturned by the Planning Inspectorate. Leaders commented that such action was contrary to the intent of the Localism Bill.

Whilst the Leader of the County Council had received a response to his letter, members of the CLB agreed that a further letter be sent to the Minister expressing their continuing concern with regard to planning decisions and the role of the Planning Inspectorate.

The County Council's Assistant Director – Planning & Sustainability noted that the Cumbria Planning Group had met recently, and the same disquiet was expressed there. He suggested that this group could be asked to undertake some evidence gathering to ascertain whether Cumbria was being treated unfairly in relation to the number of wind farm planning decisions being overturned.

RESOLVED, that

- (1) the Chair to write back to the Minister to be signed by all CLB partners asking for the detail of how the Localism Bill fits with the ethos of inspectors overturning decisions made by planning authorities for location of windfarms **(Action: EM and ALL)**
- (2) Cumbria Planning Group to be asked to undertake a piece of work investigating decisions in other areas of the country in relation to planning decisions for windfarms to assess whether Cumbria is being treated fairly **(Action: PF)**

67. FUEL COSTS

The Leaders considered a briefing note from the Assistant Director – Policy & Performance, on behalf of leader of Cumbria County Council, which set out the current position with transport fuel costs and described a range of potential impacts for Cumbria based on usage.

The rising cost of fuel in Cumbria could pose a number of issues in terms of impact on residents and the economy of the county given the rural nature of the county. Defra was working with the Treasury and the Department for Energy and Climate Change to investigate options available to help those in remote rural areas with the cost of fuel. There had also been a recent announcement that the government would be submitting a formal application to the European Commission to deliver a 5p discount on fuel duty for Highland communities, the Northern Isles, the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Islands of the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly.

Cumbria's dispersed settlement pattern, distance from the main urban centres and relatively poor connectivity meant the rising price of transport fuel was challenging for residents of the county to support day to day living as well as the economic activity of the county.

RESOLVED that the Chair drafts a letter to Ministers and copy to MPs and MEPs to raise concerns of CLB in relation to the rising cost of fuel and request that Cumbria be included in an application to the European Commission for a 5p reduction in fuel duty
(Action: EM)

68. CUMBRIA CHIEF EXECUTIVES' GROUP - KEY ISSUES

The key issues from the Cumbria Chief Executives' Group held on 4 February 2011 were noted.

69. FORWARD PLANNER

The following were identified as items to be added to the Forward Planner:-

27 May Broadband
 Housing in Cumbria
 Relationship Between CLB and LEP

Standards Regime for Cumbria (date not specified)

Nov/Dec Options for Waste

70. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

70.1 Housing for Cumbria

The Leader of Cumbria County Council raised his concerns about the issue of housing in Cumbria, especially in relation to low cost housing.

It was **AGREED** to invite the Chair of Cumbria Housing Group to the next meeting to talk about issues of housing in Cumbria and the differing needs of districts in relation to housing ie affordable/rentable for some districts, executive for others (**Action: DR**)

70.2 Teaching Assistants

At the request of the Chair of CALC, the Leader of Cumbria County Council gave leaders an update on the latest situation in relation to single status claims for Teaching Assistants. This was noted.

70.3 Standards Regime in Cumbria

The Assistant Director – Policy & Performance referred to the provisions within the Localism Bill in relation to the Standards regime, and suggested that options for how this was taken forward in Cumbria be considered at a future meeting of CLB. (**Action: JC for agenda planner**).

71. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

There will be a joint meeting of Cumbria Chief Executives' Group/Cumbria Leadership Board held on Friday 15 April 2011 held at CREA offices at 1.30pm.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 27 May 2011 (please note the change of date) at 10am at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency.

The Meeting ended at 1.10 pm