

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE			
PORTFOLIO AREA: STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE			
Date of Meeting:	17th December 2001		
Public			
Key Decision:	Yes	Recorded in Forward Plan:	Yes
Inside Policy Framework			

Title: **DEVELOPING A LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Report of: **Town Clerk & Chief Executive**

Report reference: **TC 242/01**

Summary:

This report summarises recent government guidance on gaining accreditation for a Local Strategic Partnership and the rationale for developing such a partnership. Accreditation only currently applies to those LSP's managing Neighbourhood Renewal monies. However it is likely to be applicable to all Local Strategic Partnerships in the future. The report identifies the options available for developing a Local Strategic Partnership – The Carlisle & Eden Strategic Partnership, The City Vision Partnership, the Cumbria Strategic Partnership or another grouping of local authorities.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

1. To consider the options available for developing a Local Strategic Partnership, as identified in section 4, and,
2. Recommend to Council a way forward and to consider how they wish to be represented on the Cumbria Partnership

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

Introduction

1. Members will recall, following approval by Policy and Resources Committee (5/7/00), that a high level strategic partnership was developed to act as the 'umbrella' partnership for all partnership activity in the Carlisle area. The Carlisle City Vision Partnership first met in October 2000 to develop a Community Plan for Carlisle and was formed based upon guidance issued on developing Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP).
2. The Carlisle & Eden Strategic Partnership was established in April 2001 as the basis for a two district Local Strategic Partnership. The catalyst for its development was the devastating and unprecedented impact of Foot & Mouth Disease over the two districts, with over 29% of the national cases in this combined area. Its present focus is wholly Foot & Mouth Recovery but the terms of reference for the partnership identified the long term development of the LSP from its current role into the broader role defined for LSPs in the DTLR's guidance on developing *Local Strategic Partnerships*, March 2001. The terms of reference of the LSP are appended.
3. At a County level, the County Council have instigated a Cumbria Strategic Partnership which it is argued will enable the County to 'punch above its weight' at a regional and national level. There is a lack of clarity over the terms of reference of this partnership and whether this partnership is strategic or merely advisory. However, recent reports from the County Council do indicate that the partnership will be designed 'on the Local Strategic Partnership model promoted across the UK'.
4. Developing a joint LSP with other local authorities has yet to be fully investigated but potentially could be considered in the future.
5. In October 2001, Central Government published its long awaited *Accreditation Guidance for Local Strategic Partnerships*. Accreditation will be the 'quality badge' for LSP's and developing an LSP that is capable of accreditation has to be key objective of any authority. It is currently only applicable to those LSP's managing Neighbourhood Renewal Monies. However, it is likely that accreditation will eventually be applicable to all LSP's and it is therefore important that any emerging LSP aims to align itself to the accreditation criteria.
6. This report therefore highlights the current and future role of a Local Strategic Partnership, describes the criteria for assessing if a LSP merits accreditation, and then summarises the options for developing such a

partnership.

7. Members are asked to give early consideration to the options available in order to recommend to full council their preferred means of developing a Local Strategic Partnership

2. Why do the people of Carlisle need an LSP?

1. As members will be aware, A Local Strategic Partnership is a single body that:

- Brings together at local level the different parts of the public sector as well as the 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 enough to individual neighbourhoods to allow actions to be determined at community level and
- Should be aligned with local authority boundaries

1. A number of recent and forthcoming initiatives are aimed at encouraging the development of LSP's:

- The introduction of statutory community strategies;
- Steps to rationalise and simplify existing partnerships
- The piloting of local public service agreements between central and local government to tackle key national and local priorities on health, education, community safety and other quality of life issues; and
- The launch of the National Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

1. The case for an effective and representative LSP for Carlisle is overwhelming. Indeed, the indications are that in future many funding streams will only be accessible via the Local Strategic Partnership for an area. What members now need to decide is how they wish this to be achieved.
2. The publication of accreditation guidance for Local Strategic Partnership is timely as we now need to consider the most appropriate option for developing a sustainable LSP for Carlisle. A number of drivers are demanding that this decision is made swiftly, as many organisations are anxious to engage with an LSP. With national guidance urging health, housing, and community bodies to engage with LSPs, organisations are rightly requesting membership of our eventual Local Strategic Partnership. In particular, an LSP has an important role to play in terms of scrutinising health provision.

3. Accreditation of Local Strategic Partnerships

1. The criteria for LSP accreditation covers six key areas:

- **Strategic**

They are effective, representative, and capable of playing a key strategic role.

- **Inclusive**

They actively involve all the key players, including the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

- **Action-Focused**

They have established genuine common priorities and targets, and agreed actions and milestones leading to demonstrable improvements against measurable baselines.

- **Performance Managed**

Members (organisations) have aligned their performance management systems, aims and objectives, criteria and process to the aims and objectives of the LSP.

- **Efficient**

They reduce, not add to, the bureaucratic burden.

- **Learning and Development**

They build upon best practice from successful partnerships by drawing on experiences of local and regional structures and national agencies.

3.2 The accreditation guidance also indicates that, by definition, an LSP should provide a single strategic point of contact for outside bodies. This means, in essence, that any strategic issue within an LSP area, whether defined locally, regionally or nationally, will be the concern of an accredited LSP. It will not be possible for the partnership to adopt a narrowly thematic or exclusive focus.

4. Options for developing a Local Strategic Partnership

Carlisle & Eden Strategic Partnership

1. This partnership would require a major revision of its membership, structure, work programme and timetable in order to develop as a full Local Strategic Partnership. However, this was identified in the partnership's terms of reference from the outset and is recognised by partners, and in particular Government Office and North West Development Agency who have worked closely with the partnership.
2. The partnership, with its focus on FMD, is making excellent progress and it is important that this work is not jeopardised by the wider LSP agenda.
3. There is a history of partnership working and co-operation across the two districts and this is developing all the time. Crime & Disorder, Recycling, M6 Economic Development, East Cumbria Countryside Project, and Tourism have all benefited from closer working across the two districts.
4. If the current focus and membership of the partnership is broadened to include the elements of a full LSP then an essential component will be the development and implementation of a joint community strategy. This would have major implications for the City Vision process in Carlisle and would necessitate progressing an overall vision for the two areas rather than a City based community planning process. It would not be possible to have two community plans covering the same area (Carlisle district) without unnecessary duplication and wasted resources.

Carlisle City Vision Partnership

5. Carlisle City Vision is the community planning mechanism for the Carlisle district. The Vision document, which has been endorsed by all partners, is the culmination of a successful year long consultation process with partners and the wider community. The Government Office for the North West and North West Development Agency have both endorsed the process and are key members of the Vision partnership.
6. The Carlisle City Vision partnership was established in accordance with the guidance on Local Strategic Partnership. Now the Vision is in place, its next task is to develop with other key partnerships, joint strategies which deliver the City Vision.
7. Indeed, the City Vision will provide the major focus for the Council's corporate plan for the forthcoming financial year and will concentrate on how this Council will address the priorities identified in the City Vision document.

Cumbria Strategic Partnership

8. The Cumbria Strategic Partnership (CSP) is in the process of being developed and aims to provide a strengthened voice for Cumbria at a regional and national level.
9. The intention of the County Council is that the CSP will take over the role of the Cumbria Sub-Regional Assembly (CSRA) and that this latter body will be disbanded. This will however require the agreement of the CSRA. A strengthened Cumbria Local Government Association with a wider remit would provide the 'member forum' for councils at the sub-regional level.

10. A CSP development seminar in January 2002 aims to clarify the role and core business of the partnership. However, in such a diverse county, where other Local Strategic Partnerships are already developed at a district level, there will still be the need to develop an accredited Local Strategic Partnership which is closer to our communities and able to deliver on their priorities whilst retaining a strategic focus.
11. Clear Terms of Reference would help to avoid the implicit conflict of a countywide *strategic* partnership covering areas where Local Strategic Partnerships are already established.
12. A countywide forum promoting Cumbria's best interests would be a valuable tool and members are therefore asked to consider how they wish to be represented on the Cumbria Partnership.

Other grouping of Local Authorities

11. It would also be possible for the council to open discussions with other Local Authorities in North Cumbria to establish the possibility for a wider partnership. The current situation in Cumbria is understood to be that Copeland and Allerdale are progressing an LSP, Barrow and South Lakeland intend to have single authority LSP's and Barrow, Copeland and Allerdale are promoting a New Vision for West Cumbria.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

1. To consider the options available for developing a Local Strategic Partnership, as identified in section 4, and,
2. Recommend to Council a way forward and to consider how they wish to be represented on the Cumbria Partnership

Carlisle & Eden Valley Local Strategic Partnership

Interim Terms of Reference

1. Description of partnership

- 1.1 These Terms of Reference relate to the establishment of a joint local strategic partnership covering the Carlisle and Eden local authority areas. This area is defined as Carlisle and Eden Valley.
- 1.2 The initial driver for the establishment of this partnership has been the need to co-ordinate a joint Foot & Mouth regeneration plan for the area.
- 1.3 Other long-term key drivers include agreeing a joint approach to common issues such as crime & disorder, health & well-being and supporting communities
- 1.4 Although the membership and remit of the partnership will be focused on Foot & Mouth recovery and regeneration in the short term, the partnership has been established as a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
- 1.5 The partnership will be guided by the DETR definition of an LSP¹ which is that it should be a body that *'brings together at a local level different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together.'*
- 1.5 The membership of the partnership reflects this guidance and is attached as Annex A.
- 1.6 Membership will need to be reviewed in the long term to take into consideration the eventual broadening of the remit of the LSP detailed below.

2. Remit of partnership

- 2.1 The Carlisle & Eden Valley Local Strategic Partnership is a non-statutory, non-executive body. Its remit is:
 - 2.1.1 to agree a vision for the economic, environmental and social advancement of Carlisle & Eden Valley areas
 - 2.1.2 to implement this vision via a Carlisle & Eden Valley Strategy
 - 2.1.3 to 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
 - 2.1.4 to bring together local plans, partnerships and initiatives and ensure that key bodies work effectively together to deliver them
 - 2.1.5 Ensure that the delivery and commissioning of services in the Carlisle & Eden Valley area corresponds with the agreed vision and objectives for this partnership.
 - 2.1.6 to seek the views and involvement of our communities in the development of an Carlisle & Eden Valley Strategy and ensure this 'voice' is heard at a sub-regional, regional and national level
 - 2.1.7 to lobby European, national, regional, and sub-regional partners and seek access to funding and assistance to effect the eventual Carlisle & Eden Valley Community Strategy.

¹ Local Strategic Partnerships, government guidance, DETR: London, March 2001

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Annex A

Initial Membership (focused on Foot & Mouth Recovery)

- **Carlisle City Council**
Chief Executive
Leader of Council plus 4 Councillors
- **Eden District Council**
Chief Executive
Chairman of the Council plus 4 Councillors
- **Cumbria County Council**
County Officer
Chair of both Area Committees
- **Members of Parliament**
Carlisle
Penrith and the Borders
- **Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency**
- **National Farmers Union**
- **Small Business Service**
- **Parish Council Associations (2)**
- **FMD Agri-business group**
- **Cumbria Chamber of Commerce**
- **Government Office for the North West**
- **North West Development Agency**
- **Countryside Agency**
- **Environment Agency**
- **Learning & Skills Council**
- **Newton Rigg**
- **Cumbria Inward Investment Agency**
- **Voluntary Action Cumbria**
- **East Cumbria Countryside Project**
- **Eden Tourism Forum**
- **Eden Economic Forum**
- **Carlisle Tourism**
- **Longtown Task Group**
- **Eden Valley Regeneration Initiative**

Notes:

Nominated representatives to send substitutes if unavailable