

CUMBRIA LEADERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board held on Friday, 12 November 2010 at 10.00 am at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Redhills, Penrith

PRESENT

Mr E Martin (Cumbria County Council) (Chair)

Mr RS Cole	Cumbria Police Authority
Mr T Heslop	Allerdale Borough Council
Ms J Holland	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
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

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs J Currie	-
Ms M Mooney	- Carlisle City Council
Dr D Roberts	-
Mr S Swift	- Area Manager - North West Development Agency

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms E Woodburn (substitute Mr G Clements).

36. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2010 be agreed.

37. THIRD SECTOR REPRESENTATION

Mr M Taylor declared a personal interest in this item, as he used to be the Chair of the Cumbria Third Sector Network.

The County Council's Assistant Director – Policy & Performance presented a

report which outlined the case from Cumbria Third Sector Network for representation by this sector on the Cumbria Leadership Board.

The Third Sector (TS) included a very wide range of voluntary and community action, with a delivery capacity of more than 6,000 staff and over 20,000 volunteers and an income in excess of £300m. Due to the fact that the TS was such a significant player for the economic and social well being of the County, there would be great benefits if the Chairman of the Third Sector Network (TSN), Dr Will Williams, could be a member of the Cumbria Leaders Group.

Dr Williams chairs an Executive Group of 16 different specialist networks, which covered all aspects of community life – health & well being, older people, children & young people, rural communities, equality & diversity, faith, culture, sport & recreation, transport, advice & information and volunteering.

These representatives were nominated by the specialist networks. Each specialist network met minimum criteria for involvement in the TSN. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Executive members all have role descriptions and core expectations, for leadership, coordination and communication, both within the network and as a focus for external engagement. In this way the TSN provides the mechanism for representation of all charities and community organisations in Cumbria.

In response to the government's expectation for the development and delivery of new approaches, the Third Sector had a vital contribution to make to strategic planning. Partnership working with both the public and private sector, within these new policy agendas would be critical in order to address the required funding cut backs, through both innovative and new ways of working.

The TSN was seeking representation on the Leaders Group because of the important role it saw the group having in considering the wider issues facing the county, particularly with the current agendas around "Big Society", "Localism" and individual responsibility. The TS cuts across economic, social and environmental action, the TSN will be able to contribute to the bigger picture as well as detailed matters.

As a member of the Cumbria Leaders Group the representative of the TSN would expect to adhere to the norms of the Leaders Group. The representative would expect to communicate and represent the views of the Leaders Group to the TSN Executive and be bound by collective decision making conventions in the same way as other members of the group.

Members felt there was a case for representation on the Board from the Third Sector but they still had reservations about increasing the size of the membership to Board, and how this could hinder the decision making.

However, in this instance they accepted the case presented.

It was **AGREED** that the Chair of the Cumbria Third Sector Network be invited to become a member of the Cumbria Leadership Board (**Action: DR/JC**).

38. JOINT MEETING OF CLB/CCEG

The County Council's Assistant Director – Policy and Performance presented a report which summarised the key outcomes from the joint CLB/ CCEG meeting that took place on 27 October 2010, and invited the CLB to consider holding an additional meeting in mid-December to consider the implications of budget proposals under development by individual organisations.

A joint meeting of the Cumbria Leaders' Board and Cumbria Chief Executive's Group took place on 27 October. At this meeting, Leaders and Chief Executives outlined the implications of the Comprehensive Spending review for their organisations, the approaches being taken to respond to the challenges, and plans for public consultation on changes to services as a result of the reduction in public sector funding. Each organisation provided a detailed assessment.

There was significant discussion about the potential of Shared Services to deliver savings in Cumbria, the challenges associated with the Shared Service development, including the lead in time required, and implications in terms of governance and sovereignty of individual organisations. The Chief Executives, at their last meeting, had supported a proposal to hold a Shared Services event in Cumbria to share knowledge in relation to Shared Services models. The Leaders supported this proposal.

Leaders considered a draft of a public statement which set out the shared commitment to work together to minimise the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review. Following discussion, and with the inclusion of some amendments, the statement was agreed for release the following day.

The following actions had been agreed, and had either been actioned or were being progressed:-

- To publish a public statement setting out the shared commitment to work together to minimise the impact of reductions in public spending.
- To progress with a Shared Services event.
- To develop a mechanism to ensure that the unintended consequences of any changes to services/ budget options going forward are considered before decisions are made.

- To develop a memorandum of agreement to prevent costs being shifted from organisation to organisation as a result of service changes.
- To progress with the NWIEP funded work on culture/ arts/ sports development.

The public statement was released and received coverage in the local media. The Chief Executives' Group had agreed to move forward with the remaining actions, and would be meeting before the end of November to bring this work together.

The Leaders updated the board on actions being undertaken within individual organisations to address the implications of the projected reductions in budgets.

It was

AGREED, that,

- (1) Leaders note the outcomes of the joint meeting, and the actions now being taken forward by the Cumbria Chief Executives' Group;
- (2) The CLB Secretary arrange an additional meeting in mid-December, once settlements have been confirmed, to consider the implications of any service changes on partner organisations, and on communities in Cumbria.

39. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS

A report was presented by the Chief Executive of Carlisle City Council and Stewart Swift from North West Development Agency which outlined the next steps for the setting up of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Cumbria Leadership Board had received reports and discussed the Cumbria LEP submission at its meetings of 16 August and 27 August. The Board was aware the Government had since given the go ahead to form the LEP in line with proposal submitted on 6 September 2010.

At the Cumbria LEP Steering Group's first meeting on 4 November 2010, it was agreed that a number of proposals should be considered by the Cumbria Leadership Board on behalf of the public sector, whilst, at the same time, the Chief Executive of the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce would facilitate a similar discussion with representatives of the private sector across Cumbria.

The most significant proposal agreed by the Steering Group was for the Cumbria LEP Board to be established as soon as possible, rather than as previously agreed by the Cumbria Leadership Board, that a Shadow Board be established in the interim period, for the following reasons:

- There was now a sense of urgency following the Government's announcement of the 24 successful LEPs with all of them now drawing together their own Boards, instead of Shadow or Interim Boards. Some LEPs have a structure agreed to quickly establish their Boards.
- The timescale of the first bidding round of the Regional Growth Fund had also to some extent dictated the speed of the setting up the Boards. Bidding to Regional Growth Fund was now open, with a deadline date of 21 January 2011. Members of the Cumbria Leaders' Board would be aware that following the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement, the Regional Growth Fund pot had now increased to £1.4 billion and the time period extended to 3 years. Whilst the Cumbria LEP would not be able to determine which bids were submitted from the county the Government expects it would play a role in coordinating and assisting bids in their area.
- The Steering Group felt that Cumbria needed to be seen as acting swiftly and decisively and in doing so to counteract some fairly negative media stories which had unfortunately surfaced in the national media over the last two weeks.

The Steering Group also recommended that an interim Chair of the LEP Board be appointed first, to enable her/him to lead on the appointment of the Board members. Cumbria Leadership Board was aware that the private sector had the responsibility for appointing the Chair, who would also be from the private sector. The CLB acknowledged, and this was emphasised by the NWDA, that the Chair needed to be a significant player, preferably running a business in Cumbria, experience in dealing with Government ministers etc.

The Steering Group recommended that the Cumbria LEP Board comprised 12 members and, in accordance with Government requirements, that the representation across the private and public sector is 50/50.

With regard to the public sector's representation, the CLB debated extensively the Steering Group's recommendation for the composition of the LEP and differing views were expressed. Members had concerns about the lack of places for democratically elected representatives and felt this was an issue which needed addressed. The CLB discussed a number of options for its preferred composition of the LEP board and suggested the following as an

alternative:-

13 Members 1 Chairman 6 Private Sector 6 Public Sector
1 x County Council
1 x LDNPA
3 x District Councils
1 x Skills/education

The Local Authority representatives would provide the linkage between the Cumbria LEP and the Cumbria Leadership Board and visa versa.

The appointment of the 6 members representing the private sector would be facilitated by the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce working with the Federation of Small Businesses and the private sector organisations signing up to the Cumbria LEP proposal and in accordance with the process outlined in submission document.

Some proposed Terms of Reference for the LEP had been drawn up by the Steering Group, and were attached as an appendix to the report. Members felt that it was better to wait for the LEP Board to be established before agreeing the Terms of Reference.

The Cumbria Leadership Board

AGREED, that

- (1) the Cumbria LEP Board be established as soon as possible;
- (2) an alternative LEP structure be proposed from the CLB, which comprised:-

13 Members 1 Chairman 6 Private Sector 6 Public Sector
1 x County Council
1 x LDNPA
3 x District Councils
1 x Skills/education

40. NHS RESTRUCTURING IN CUMBRIA

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

41. REGIONAL MATTERS (STANDING ITEM)

The Leader of Carlisle City Council had attended the Regional Leaders Forum recently and said there were a number of issues which needed to be resolved, including whether there was a need for any regional structure in the future, and if there would be a structure what Cumbria's subscription to this would be.

It was **AGREED** that Mr Richard Leese be invited to attend the next meeting of the CLB in January 2011, and this be added to the work programme **(Action: DR/JC)**

42. CUMBRIA CHIEF EXECUTIVES' GROUP

The key issues from the Cumbria Chief Executives' Group held on 1 October 2010 were noted.

43. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLANNER

It was **AGREED** that a number of new items be added to the agenda planner, including:-

- 4NW – invite to Richard Leese (14 Jan)
- Local Economic Assessment (14 Jan)
- Wind Turbines (not specified)
- European Issues (18 March)
- Review of Countywide Partnerships (not specified)
- Joint Waste Management Strategy

44. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 14 January 2010 at CREA offices, Penrith at 10.00 am.

The CLB Secretary would organise an extra meeting for mid December to allow the discussions/outcomes from the CSR individual settlements to be taken forward **(Action: JC)**.

The Meeting ended at 1.20 pm