

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA:

Date of Meeting:

25 March 2002

Public/Private*

Key Decision:

Yes/No

Recorded in
Forward Plan:

Yes/No

Inside/Outside Policy Framework

Title: IEG/PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

Report of: The City Treasurer

Report reference: Financial Memo 2001/02 No 151

Summary & Recommendations:

The Executive are asked to:-

1. Endorse the decision that Carlisle join the Connected Cumbria partnership
2. That the Head of IT represent the Council's interests within the Connected Cumbria partnership

Contact Officer: John Nutley

Ext: 7250

CITY OF CARLISLE

To: The Executive Financial Memo

25 March 2002 2001/02 No 151

IEG/PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1. At the Executive meeting on the 26th November 2001, the Executive asked that the Town Clerk and Chief Executive be requested to investigate the possibility of partnership opportunities in delivering e-government. EX.098/01 applies.
2. Since then the DTLR have been strongly signalling that they expect electronic government to be delivered through partnerships as a way of reinforcing the concept of joined up government.
3. Members will recollect that the Government have set aside £350 million over two years for the implementation of electronic government. As part of this initiative they have announced a flat sum allocation to every Council to help implement their Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) statements during the coming year. An additional sum of money is to be set aside for IEG Partnerships during the current year.
4. They have indicated that the balance of IEG funds will be distributed along partnership lines during the following year (2003/2004). Councils who aren't part of an IEG partnership are likely to find them selves financially penalised as they attempt to modernise their council services without this additional funding.
5. To meet this partnership requirement a tentative partnership has been formed within Cumbria and all local government bodies have been invited to participate. To date the six District Councils and the Lake District National Park Authority have responded positively and put their name to the partnership. This partnership has now been formally registered with the DTLR and the submitted registration details are appended.
6. The partnership is chaired on an annual basis by one lead Authority based on a rotating alphabetic basis. The Chair for the first year is Allerdale.

2. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date.
2. Consultation proposed.

3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

Not Applicable

4. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

As stated within the report

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

Not Applicable

6. CORPORATE COMMENTS

Not Applicable

7. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Not Applicable

8. EQUALITY ISSUES

Not Applicable

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive are asked to:-

1. Endorse the decision that Carlisle join the Connected Cumbria partnership
2. That the Head of IT to represent the Council's interests within the Connected Cumbria partnership

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Failure to participate in a partnership such as Connected Cumbria would result in the Council missing an opportunity of funding it's IEG programme.
2. As the author of the IEG statement the Head of IT is best positioned to align the Council's and Connected Cumbria's aims.

D THOMAS

City Treasurer

Contact: John Nutley Ext: 7250

Appendix A

Local Government Online Proforma for IEG Partnership Projects

Submission on behalf of Connected Cumbria

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Name of Partnership :

Connected Cumbria

1.2 Partnership Organisation :

District Councils, public sector and voluntary bodies based in Cumbria.

1.3 Lead Partner Authority :

Name of Authority : Allerdale Borough Council

Contact: Nick Fardon

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Address : Allerdale House WORKINGTON CA14 3YJ

1.4 Partnership Objectives :

- i. To develop and facilitate partnerships for the implementation of Electronic Government throughout Cumbria.
- i. To act as a vehicle for representing the Cumbrian perspective at regional

and national level.

- ii. Where appropriate to act as a focus for bidding for funds for the benefit of any or all of the parties.
- iii. Undertake a shared approach where possible to good practice, training and experience of initiatives

1.5 Description of Partnership :

1.5.1 Connected Cumbria is a partnership developed post IEG statement submission. The six District Councils in Cumbria and the Lake District National Park Authority together with other public and voluntary sector bodies have agreed a formal arrangement which will work to deliver a co-ordinated approach for Cumbria on the delivery of modern public services.

1.5.2 Connected Cumbria is the main driver for the integrated approach to the electronic delivery of services within Cumbria. Connected Cumbria will undertake this role by initially funding an egovernment resource unit. The unit will act on behalf of the partnership, supporting the objectives of the partnership by seeking alternative methods of funding to support joint working arrangements and exploring alternative service delivery options for all members of the partnership.

2. Partner organisations

2.1 The following parties are represented in the partnership:

1. Allerdale BC, Barrow BC, Carlisle City Council, Copeland BC, Eden DC and South Lakeland DC.

Nature of Business: District Councils.

Main Services Provided: Housing, Environment, Planning, Leisure, Economic Development and Local Taxation and Benefit Payment.

Potential Contribution to partnership: Funding, Expertise,

Project board members and local co-ordination of activities.

2.1.2 Lake District National Park Authority.

Nature of Business : National Park Authority

Main Services Provided : Planning – all services provided within the Park Boundary.

Potential Contribution to partnership : Expertise, Project board members and local co-ordination of activities.

2.2 The partnership constitution allows for the following parties to be represented on Connected Cumbria :

2.2.1 Voluntary Sector

Nature of Business : Charities and voluntary groups

Main Services Provided : Advice and lobbying

Potential Contribution to partnership : Exclusion champions, Project board members, Local opinion provider, Expertise.

2.2.2 Cumbria County Council

Nature of Business: County Council

Main Services Provided: Education, Social Services, Libraries, Magistrates, Emergency Planning, Fire.

Potential Contribution to partnership: Funding, Expertise, Project board members and local co-ordination of activities

2.2.3 Cumbria Police Authority

Nature of Business: Emergency and Public Order

Main Services Provided: Public Protection and emergency

Potential Contribution to partnership: Funding, Expertise, Project board members and local co-ordination of activities

2. Delivering the 2005 ESD Target

3.1 The fundamental problem facing Cumbria is the delivery of services to a large geographic and economically diverse community. The issues facing each service deliverer are not unique and Connected Cumbria will act as the driver in the delivery of e-government in Cumbria. Each partner is committed to an 'holistic' approach to service delivery. The Connected Cumbria partnership will establish an e-government resource unit. The unit (funded initially by the District partners) will be staffed, by an officer who will act on behalf of the partnership to support a co-ordinated approach to service delivery.

3.2 The e-government resource unit will support the activities of the partners to meet the 2005 ESD targets by undertaking a range activities including :

- Seek funding opportunities to support Connected Cumbria partners, this may include public sector and private sector initiatives.
- Co-ordinate the action plans of the partners (contained within each IEG) to develop joined up working to deliver more cost effective services.
- Work with the partners and the private sector to deliver an infrastructure to support the delivery of e government (including the Cumbria Broadband Initiative)
- Work with partners to develop strategies to enable greater access to information.
- Support the partners in addressing problems of rural inequality and social exclusion
- Develop partnerships with the private sector to support the delivery of 'web services' to the partners in Connected Cumbria. This may include hosting, web development or ISP provision.
- The development of a shared portal for the delivery of all electronic services.
- Assist the partners in the development of the IEG statements to meet government criteria during 2002/3.
- Developing the use of Smartcards within the community.

2. Delivering joined up local services

4.1 The partners are all committed to the delivery of joined up local services. Connected Cumbria will support and facilitate the process of delivering joined up services to the community.

The partners commitment to joint working will be supported by:

- the sharing of technical skills
- the provision of joint project development teams
- the sharing of good practice

4.2 The partnership will seek to develop a uniform IEG statement in its revised submission to the Government during 2002/3, which will evidence the commitment of the partners to the delivery of joined up local services.

2. Partnership Projects

5.1 Connected Cumbria is a post IEG partnership and has a number of issues to resolve in a short period of time. To this end the partnership have agreed the following approach:

- i. The partnership have agreed to develop an e government resource unit. The partners have agreed to fund the appointment of a post of egovernment co-ordinator. This position will be funded equally by all the District Council partners.
- ii. The partnership will seek further funding to support the development of the role of the egovernment resource unit in Cumbria to provide office accommodation and associated clerical support. The egovernment resource unit will then undertake the following projects which will be managed by a subgroup of the partnership:
 - i. Develop partnerships with the private sector to support the delivery of 'web services' to the partners in Connected Cumbria. This will include hosting, web development, ISP provision.
 - ii. The development of a shared portal for the delivery of all electronic services and integrates with the UKOnline portal.
 - iii. Assist the partners in the development of a uniform IEG statements to meet government criteria during 2002/3
 - iv. Develop the use of Smartcards within the community.

5.2 The indicative costing is as follows:

Project	Deliverables	Cost	Target
Establish office for egovernment resource unit	Accommodation Telephone etc, Technical/Clerical staff	£30000 (2002) £40000 (2003) £40000 (2004)	Initial setup June 2002. Office etc December 2002.
Research scope and develop web services	Web Services	£10,000	December 2002
Develop shared portal site around life events	Community portal	Setup costs £25,000 + Ongoing costs (£10,000)	January 2004
Assist partners in the development of IEG statements	Research and specify	Within egovernment resource unit anticipated expenditure	July/August 2002
Develop use of Smartcards	Research and specify	Within egovernment resource unit anticipated	January 2004

	expenditure	
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2. Project Management

6.1 The projects will be managed by the application of the principles of the PRINCE 2 methodology. The Connected Cumbria partnership will determine the project board for each of the specific projects. The project board will ensure the project is managed from initiation to delivery. Clear lines of authority are drawn from this methodology and at each stage the projects will be monitored.

3. Other Funding Sources

7.1 The District Council partners within Connected Cumbria have agreed to fund the establishment of a post of e-government co-ordinator in the year 2002. The funding will be drawn equally by the Districts from the LGOL funding (IEG capital grant) allocation.

7.2 Part of the responsibilities of the e-government resource unit is to attract other sources of funding to support the development of initiatives to deliver to the government's modernising agenda and meet the 2005 ESD targets.

To :

Stuart Harrington

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