

Cumbria Leadership Board

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board held on 21 December 2010 at Penrith Leisure Centre at 3pm.

PRESENT

Mr E Martin – Cumbria County Council (Chair)

Mr R Auld	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
Mr G Clements	Copeland Borough Council
Mr T Heslop	Allerdale Borough Council
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 Borough Council
Mr M Taylor	NHS Cumbria

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs J Currie, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Allan Haile, Assistant Director - Economic Development
Maggie Mooney, Chief Executive
Dawn Roberts, Assistant Director Policy and Performance

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R S Cole, Ms J Holland (substitute Mr R Auld), Mr W Williams and Ms E Woodburn (substitute Mr G Clements).

46. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 12 November 2010 were agreed with the following amendment:-

On page 5 under both the minute and the resolution it should read '12 members 6 private and 6 public sector'.

Matters Arising

On Minute No 43 – Future Work Programme/Forward Planner the leader of Carlisle City Council reported that Sir Richard Leese was unavailable for the January CLB meeting and it was agreed to invite him to the May meeting (**Action: MM/JC**).

On Minute No 39 – Local Enterprise Partnerships the leader of Barrow Borough Council queried the minute in relation to the responsibility of the appointment of the

Chair of the LEP being with the private sector. Officers said the guidance was ambiguous about this but in many of the other LEPs the appointment had been done by the private sector and the expectations of the government was that this would be the case. It was **AGREED** that the interim chair of the LEP be invited to attend the next CLB meeting on 14 January 2011.

47. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

47.1 Public Sector Representation

The Chair of the Joint District Forum updated the Cumbria Leadership Board on discussion that had taken place at the joint district meeting held earlier today. The agreement from this meeting was that the public sector representation on the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership would be 6, made up of:-

- 1 x County Council
- 3 x District Council
- 1 x Lake District National Park Authority
- 1 x Education/skills

The preference from the Joint Districts Forum was that this would be filled from the further education field. The district council representatives would be based on a 'pairing' arrangement, between:-

Allerdale/Copeland
Carlisle/Eden
South Lakes/Barrow

They would also be requesting that substitutes be allowed in the case of apologies, and that if there were any items being discussed specific to one district then their leader would be invited to attend.

This was **AGREED** by Cumbria Leadership Board.

47.2 Regional Growth Fund

Cumbria Leadership Board considered a report from the County Council's Assistant Director – Economic Development, supported by the Chief Executive – Carlisle City Council, as Chair of the LEP Steering Group, which updated them on the latest information in relation to the Regional Growth Fund.

The Coalition Government announced its intention to create a Regional Growth Fund (RGF) in July 2010. The Cumbria Leadership Board considered a joint response to Government consultation on the proposals for the RGF on 27 August 2010. Final details of the RGF were published in October 2010.

The size of the fund was agreed, as part of the Spending Review, as £1.4 billion over three years. The RGF had two main objectives:

- (a) To encourage private sector enterprise by providing support for projects with significant potential for economic growth and create additional sustainable private sector employment; and
- (b) To support in particular those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector led growth and prosperity.

The RGF would be a challenge fund spread over three rounds, with bids considered against the fund's core criteria and objectives. Bids that met one of the two objectives would be considered, but those that meet both would have priority.

The Fund would encourage private sector enterprise, including social enterprise, to create opportunities for people and places to adjust to reductions in public spending, and enable private sector investors, business, the public sector and communities to come together with an overall strategy for their area.

First bids for support from the RGF needed to be submitted by 21 January 2011. This report provided the key details of the fund and an update on the key messages from Government on how the fund would operate.

Given that the conflicting timescales for the submission of RGF bids and the selection of the private sector members of the LEP Board the Interim Chair of the Cumbria LEP had suggested a way forward that would enable support to be given for those bids known to be going forward from Cumbria. The proposal was as follows:

- The process be managed by the Steering Group, using resources from the Chamber and County and District Councils
- A Task & Finish Group is set up comprising the Interim Chair of the LEP and the private sector partner organisations and representatives of the Cumbria Leaders' Board, in equal numbers public and private sector
- A Technical Team is pulled together to advise and support the Task & Finish Group, composed of relevant staff from partner organisations who have attended RGF briefings and can provide supporting information on the county's economy, needs, etc., and which will provide a brief report on each bid to the Task & Finish Group.

The Cumbria Leadership Board requested that an amendment to the bullet point above be made to the proposals for the Technical Team, to read:-

'A Technical Team is pulled together to advise and support the Task & Finish Group, composed of relevant staff from partner organisations who have attended RGF briefings and can provide supporting information on the *county's socio economic and housing needs*, and which will provide a brief report on each bid to the Task & Finish Group.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Cumbria Leader's Board endorses the proposed approach to enable the Cumbria LEP to demonstrate support for bids to the RGF prior to the formation of the Board, with the amendment highlighted above to the Technical Team
- (2) a report be prepared for the 14 January meeting with a list of possible bids

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director – Economic Development, and the Chief Executive of Carlisle City Council for their report.

48. COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW - UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

The CLB considered a report from the Chief Executive – Carlisle City Council, as Chair of the Cumbria Chief Executives' Group, which outlined a summary of the issues identified by the Cumbria Chief Executives Group as needing to be kept under close review as the strategic planning activity of respective authorities progresses over the coming months. These issues had been discussed at the last meeting of the Cumbria Chief Executives' Group held on 10th December 2010.

At the joint CCEG/CLB meeting in October Leaders and Chief Executives discussed the issues they would be facing as a result of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review and the work they were undertaking to make the significant savings required by the Government. The focus of the discussion was the extent to which public sector organisations across Cumbria could work together to mitigate against the unintended consequences of the cuts. The Chief Executives' Group was asked to explore this further in terms of the key areas of risk and how working together could both reduce risk and promote innovative ways of working together.

The RSG announcement on Monday 13th December had now provided further detail about the situation the public sector faces in Cumbria; and therefore this discussion between authorities was felt to be essential in order to move forward in a way which had regard for each other and individual organisations autonomy; whilst seeking to maximise chances for all those in Cumbria.

The chief executives identified a number of areas which would need to be kept under close review as the strategic planning activity of respective authorities progressed over the coming months. The following broad themes were identified:-

- Visitor infrastructure
- Cultural infrastructure
- Safety
- Supporting people

Identified areas of risk and proposed action to mitigate potential unintended consequences, were identified as follows:-

CCTV and Safety Cameras

A number of authorities would be considering the funding for CCTV and the safety camera funding was also at risk. Collective reductions in CCTV may impact on willingness to invest/locate in the area by the business sector; public perception. There was potential for authorities to work together to consider alternative models in these areas and efficiencies. Proposed action was to take forward work by the SSCTP and build on the Joint Scrutiny Committee Report; coming forward with some principles for consideration.

CDRPs

Funding to CDRPs was at risk in many of the authorities. The potential impact of this may be a reduction in community building based activity which took place through the work of CDRPs; rather than seeing a rapid increase in crime.

Domestic Violence

Funding to support domestic violence was at risk. This was of concern to all as it would be the low key but supportive element of the work that might be at risk. Proposed action was for discussion to take place with Health and regular updates from Probation to be shared with all authorities.

Car parking, toilets, visitor centres

A number of authorities were considering closures or increase in charges; which potentially impacted on visitors to the area and the LDNP. Proposed action was for authorities to collectively discuss and consider the impact of this; particularly in relation to the LDNP.

Housing and homelessness

Concerns about potential collective impact on vulnerable people, hostels and homelessness were raised in relation to the supporting people funding. Proposed action included authorities keeping each other updated on how proposals progress.

Investment in Cultural infrastructure, Swimming Pools

Funding to support events, cultural activity, sports and leisure was at risk which may impact on the health and wellbeing agenda; as well as the cultural and sport offer in the county. Proposed action would be to keep each other updated on options as this progresses; in addition to progressing a piece of work funded by CIEP to consider the potential for increased collaboration on the cultural offer.

Sharing each authorities key areas of concern and focus of potential changes in funding was a valuable exercise. The discussion allowed for exploration of opportunities for collaboration as well as identification of areas or groups of people at risk of multiple changes to funding. There was agreement that the areas noted above should be kept under review and dialogue take place between organisations at a senior officer level.

It was **AGREED** that Cumbria Leadership Board notes the areas of risk identified and endorses the CCEG working together to maximise opportunities where appropriate and progress work to avoid or minimise unintended consequences of budget related decisions.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for the report.

49. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 14 January 2011 at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA), Penrith at 10am.

The meeting concluded at 16.30