

# Joint Districts' Meeting

## Notes of the Meeting held at 11am on 21 September 2007

**Present:**

Councillor Joe Milburn	Allerdale Borough Council
Gillian Bishop	Allerdale Borough Council
Councillor Bill Joughin	Barrow Borough Council
Tom Campbell	Barrow Borough Council
Maggie Mooney	Carlisle City Council
Liam Murphy	Copeland Borough Council
Councillor Colin Nineham	Eden District Council
Kevin Douglas	Eden District Council
Councillor Brendan Jameson	South Lakeland District Council
Peter Ridgway	South Lakeland District Council
Jo Brabbins (Minutes)	Eden District Council

**Action**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Mitchelson, Carlisle City Council.

**2. Notes of previous meeting held on 21 July 2007**

The notes of the previous meeting, held on 21 July 2007, were agreed as a fair and accurate record.

**3. Council Tax Income from Second Homes (South Lakeland District Council)**

Peter Ridgway presented a report further to previous discussions regarding the re-negotiation of the share of income from Council Tax payments on second homes within Cumbria.

The County Council had proposed a reduction of the collecting Districts' share of this income from 50% to 25%. It was noted that the original agreement regarding the use of this additional income had been to support rural services. It was felt important to take action as soon as possible to resolve this issue well in advance of the April 2009 end date for the current agreement as jobs and services were reliant upon this funding.

It was **AGREED** that

- |    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| a. | The District Councils share information regarding their current processes for using second homes income,                                | All |
| b. | A joint stance be taken in respect of negotiations with Cumbria County Council, and that an officer be identified within each authority | All |

- as a contact point on this matter
- c. The Districts join in a campaign to lobby for legislative changes as described in the report, and
- d. An item be prepared for the meeting of CLASB in order to invite the County Council to join in efforts for legislative clarity.

**Action**

SLDC

SLDC

**Liam Murphy joined the meeting**

**4. Local Area Agreements**

Gillian Bishop provided an update on the progress of the current Local Area Agreements and the group looked ahead to preparations for the new Agreements.

Although action appeared to be progressing, concern had been expressed that there were significant gaps in data in order to measure performance against targets and that insufficient information was being provided on a locality basis in order for funding to be drawn down.

It was **AGREED** that a representative from Cumbria County Council be invited to the meeting of CLASB on 7 December 2007 to provide a presentation on the performance of the current LAA, key indicators and funding of the new LAA. (The Chief Executives Group to discuss this matter in advance)

Allerdale

**5. Concessionary Fares National Scheme 2008**

Gillian Bishop presented a report setting out the possible implications of the introduction of the National Bus Travel Scheme. It was confirmed that, since the report was written, the decision had been made to use smart cards. Also, the initial payment to authorities to fund preparatory work was £1.44 per pass. The group expressed concern over the arrangements for the national passes and the uncertainties over budgeting.

It was noted that the Local Government Association had taken up this issue and was lobbying government.

It was **AGREED** that the LGA's position on the new travel scheme funding be clarified, that an item be added for consideration at the next meeting of CLASB (5 October) and a representative from the County Council be invited to attend.

Allerdale

**6. Cumbria Vision**

It was noted that Mr Roger Liddle had been appointed as the new Chairman of Cumbria Vision. Member authorities had broadly supported the Cumbria Economic Plan draft document.

**Action**

**7. Meetings of the Joint Districts**

The group re-affirmed its support for continuing with meetings between the Cumbrian Districts separately from the meetings that included the County Council and Lake District National Park Authority. Members considered it useful to have a forum to discuss matters common to District functions away from the more County-wide issues discussed at CLASB.

It was **AGREED** that the agendas and minutes of the meetings of the Joint Districts be made available to the County Council and that these documents be published on the Eden District Council web site for public access.

Eden

**8. Date for Next Meeting**

The next Joint Districts' Meeting will take place on Friday 23 November at Frenchfield, Penrith.

ALL

The meeting closed at 12.15pm