

Joint Districts' Meeting

Notes of the Meeting held at 11am on 25 January 2008

Present:

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

Action

1/1/08 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elaine Woodburn, Copeland Borough Council and Brendan Jameson, South Lakeland District Council.

2/1/08 Notes of previous meeting held on 23 November 2007

The notes of the previous meeting, held on 23 November 2007, were agreed as a fair and accurate record.

3/1/08 Cumbria Strategic Board

Members considered the Cumbria County Council report to Cabinet setting out a proposed structure for more effective delivery of the Local Area Agreement that included the creation of a new Public Service Board. Members considered the proposed structure of the PSB and the programme for approval of the proposed model. Members felt that the process of consultation on the proposals had been unsatisfactory in that a model had been consulted upon before full agreement with CLASB had been reached. The CSP had ensured that all Partners would have the opportunity to input through the appointed consultant. District Councils would utilise this to enable agreement to be reached. Members considered that the intended role and terms of reference

of the PSB and of CLASB and their relationship were still unclear. It was agreed that a 'pan-Cumbrian' strategic organisation such as a public service board should reflect the diversity of all the Districts within the county.

Following discussion the following action was agreed:

- Action:**
- a. Chief Executives draft a response to the County Council proposals on behalf of the Joint Districts through the mediation process to cover the following points:
 - i). The Joint Districts are in favour of the principle of the creation of a public service board for Cumbria, and
 - ii) the proposal to invite one District Leader and one Chief Executive is rejected, and it is suggested that six District representatives be invited onto the Public Service Board in order to fully reflect variations at District administrative level.
 - b. The Chief Executives' group researches good practice and experience of established public service boards and make recommendations as to the role and terms of reference of a Cumbrian public service board.

Ch.Execs

Ch.Execs

4/1/08 Local Government Act 2007 and the Implications for Unitary Government

L Murphy presented a paper reminding Members of the deadline for the Secretary of State to make a Direction to make a Unitary proposal under the Local Government Act 2007. It was noted that the opportunity still existed, following the 25 January deadline, for invitations for further proposals to be made. Members considered the option of including a wider area within potential District-led Unitary proposal.

Members were encouraged by the success of post 'Cumbria unitary bid' co-operation and preferred to concentrate limited resources on current progress in areas of joint concern.

5/1/08 The Delivery of Economic Regeneration in Cumbria – Joint District Discussion

Members considered a report submitted by Cumbria County Council through Eden District Council setting out interpretive notes on principles discussed for the delivery of economic regeneration in Cumbria.

Members outlined the progress made by economic regeneration bodies in different areas and plans for further development. Members accepted that with the loss of Rural Regeneration Cumbria there was a need for support in predominately rural areas and that a leadership team for the Eden and South Lakeland District areas (with the opportunity to share expertise in other rural parts) be formed. Barrow BC indicated that it did not support the principle of a single accountable body.

This would be discussed further at the meeting of the Cumbrian Chief Executives and would be brought back to future meetings of the Joint Districts.

6/1/08 Second Homes Funding – To agree the process for negotiation with Cumbria County Council

P Ridgway circulated a paper containing proposals for the renegotiation of the allocation of income from second homes within Cumbria to take effect from the end of the current arrangement from April 2009. Cumbria County Council had made proposals involving the identification of land in its ownership for release at market value for use as affordable housing. This was proposed as compensation for the reduction in the Districts' share of additional second homes income from 50% to the suggested 25%.

Following discussion the following action was agreed:

Action: P Ridgway be requested to organise negotiations, on behalf of the Joint Districts, with Cumbria County Council for the renewal of the agreement for the collection and distribution of council tax raised on second homes in the county. The negotiations to be based on the following framework:

- a. Obtain clarification on the County's asset disposal policy and evaluate the likely benefits for individual District Councils.
- b. Request that the County enters into a long term agreement for the sharing of council tax income from second homes.
- c. Seek an equitable share of the income from the County based on proposals presented.
- d. Consider the effects of non-collection of the discretionary income on second homes.

PR/SLDC

7/1/08 Concessionary Travel – Briefing Note

G Bishop joined the meeting

Members considered a briefing note submitted by Carlisle City Council inviting other Cumbrian Districts to consider the possible advantages of pooling specific concessionary fares grant to facilitate the introduction of a county wide Concessionary Fares Scheme for Cumbria under the NOWcard initiative.

The status quo with regard to resources was favoured by Members at the current time. Carlisle City Council and Copeland Borough Council would investigate sharing administrative resources for the scheme.

8/1/08 Cumbria Vision

Members re-visited a previous discussion regarding costs relating to the Cumbria Vision programme. The statement re annual under-spending was concerning and it was felt CLASB could have a role in preventing this.

Action: K Douglas to write to Cumbria Vision requesting an outline report to be made to a future meeting of CLASB

KD/EDC

9/1/07 Date for Next Meeting

The next Joint Districts' Meeting will take place on Friday 28 March 2008 at Frenchfield, Penrith.

The meeting closed at 12.50pm