

**ALLERDALE BOROUGH/LOCAL COMMITTEE JOINT LIAISON GROUP**

Minutes of a meeting of the Allerdale Local Committee and Allerdale Borough Council Joint Liaison Group held at St Michael's Church, Workington on Friday 18 June 2010.

**PRESENT**

**Allerdale Local Committee Members**

Mr J Holliday  
Mr G Humes  
Mr A Kennon  
Mr E Martin  
Mr E Nicholson  
Mrs M Rae

**Borough Council Members:**

Mr M Davidson  
Mr J Gardner  
Mr J Mumberson  
Mr G Scott  
Mr A Smith  
Mr D Wilson

**Also in Attendance:-**

Mr P Atherton	-	Area Support Manager (Cumbria CC)
Mr A Butler	-	Area Engineer (Cumbria CC)
Ms C Bradshaw	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer (Cumbria CC)
Mr D Martin	-	Director of Partnerships and Community (Allerdale BC)
Mr I Payne	-	Strategic Manager Places (Allerdale BC)
Ms S Stevenson	-	CSP Manager – Policy and Partnership Team (Cumbria CC)

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

**AGREED,** that Mr E Nicholson be elected Chair for the meeting.

**2. MEMBERSHIP**

It was noted that Mrs M Rae had replaced Mr W Cameron on the Group.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mr T Heslop (Mr G Scott substituting).

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

## **5. MINUTES**

- (1) The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2010 at 10.00 am were agreed as a correct record;
- (2) On Minute 5 of the last meeting (Arrangements for Local Gritting and Grit Bins) a Borough Council member felt that little progress had been made since the last meeting regarding a strategy to increase the provision of grit bins at specific locations in the preparation for the coming Winter.

The Chair explained that a review was ongoing looking at how to progress this and a report was expected to the County Councils Cabinet shortly. Scrutiny was also examining how the Borough Council and County Council could work better together, including providing improved gritting services. He sought to assure Borough Members that the County Council was very keen to promote better facilities for self-gritting and Parish Councils were also identifying the areas in which bins should be placed. The meeting was advised that the County Council had overspent by £2.2m on the Winter Services last year and this had to be avoided in future years. Where a Parish Council had provided a grit bin, the County Council would be committed to filling this.

- (3) In response to a question regarding the progress of the 'Together We Can' project (minute 8), the Area Support Manager, CCC explained that the Together We Can Project had been put on hold due to staff resources being directed towards the flood recovery programme but he hoped that the project could be taken forward in the coming Autumn.

## **6. RECONFIGURING THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP AS ALLERDALE PROJECT BOARD**

The Area Support Manager submitted a paper which advised of a decision made in 2010 by the County Council's Cabinet to support the development and implementation of the 'Allerdale Project' – a comprehensive, programme of activity designed to improve outcomes in Allerdale through improved locality working. Leading from this, a report had been made to the Local Committee for Allerdale when Members had proposed the reconfiguration of the Allerdale Local Committee and Allerdale Borough Joint Liaison Group as a Project Board to oversee the work of the Allerdale Project. The paper before the Liaison Group presented an opportunity for discussion on these proposals, and presented initial suggestions as to the possible terms of reference for an Allerdale Project Board.

The CSP Manager (Cumbria CC) felt that this was an exciting opportunity to explore providing services in a different way in Allerdale. There were considerable challenges in taking this forward but it was hoped that improved outcomes and value for money would be made and the multi-levels of service delivery that existed

in Cumbria. The Borough's Strategic Manager - Places shared these views and he felt that the opportunities for improved services could be tremendous.

A lengthy discussion followed during which Members considered the positive aspects of locality working together with the complexities of achieving this where there were different levels of service delivery and different groupings of organisations linked in a variety of partnerships. It was accepted that this could result in radical changes to the models that people were familiar with also presenting a cultural change. Members did not wish to see Locality Working resulting in a further tier of decision making. The CSP Manager (Cumbria CC) explained that the process would involve reviewing specific functions across organisations but there would no intention to introduce another layer of decision making.

With reference to the specific proposals for an Allerdale Project Board the following points were made:-

- If established, the Board would need to identify some specific, achievable objectives as a starting point and make visible progress towards achieving these. The Board would be about ensuring outcomes and delivery. Examples of areas that could be examined were grass cutting, streetscene, road sweeping. The 'common contact centre' (single phone number) for customer service provision enquiries was also suggested.
- the Board would have no executive powers and proposals emerging from its discussions would need to be managed in a timely way by either Council to ensure work can be steadily progressed. In respect of the County Council, there would need to a review of whether the Constitutional powers of the Local Committee were sufficient to enable any recommendations emerging from the Project Board to be properly agreed under executive function business by the Local Committee.
- the work would embrace a variety of organisations and there may be a need for engagement with Parish Councils, Town Councils and other specialist information groups on the Board as work progressed.
- provision remain for members to raise items of interest or concern at meetings relating to better joint working as is the current process for the Joint Liaison Group.

It noted that there were would be no additional staff resources for the work and that work would need to be paced, using existing resources.

Members were advised that some slight revisions had been made to the initial Terms of Reference since the papers had been circulated and a revised draft was circulated. A minor amendment to the Membership section was noted to clarify that 6 members from *each* Authority would be appointed to an Allerdale Project Board. The Terms of reference would need to be reviewed as the work of the Board progressed.

**AGREED,** that it be **RECOMMENDED** to the Allerdale Local Committee and the Borough Council that

- (1) the proposed reconfiguration of the current Joint Liaison Group/Allerdale Project Board as the Allerdale Project Board to oversee the work of the Allerdale Project be supported;
- (2) the proposed draft term of reference of the new Allerdale Project Board be endorsed, subject to each respective Council examining any issues of governance and delegated powers and, in the case of the County Council, whether there can be changes to the Constitution of the Local Committee so recommendations made by the re-configured group can be properly agreed by the Local Committee under executive function business;
- (3) the Allerdale Local Committee and Borough Council consider whether their current representatives on the Joint Liaison Group be appointed to the new Board or whether any changes should be made;
- (4) the first meeting of the re-configured Group be held on 30 July at 9.30am.

## **7. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UPDATE – ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Strategic Manager - Places (Allerdale BC) presented a paper updating the Group on the establishment of an Allerdale Local Strategic Partnership following the approval by its Executive of separate LSPs in December 2009. The WCSP Leadership Committee had agreed in November 2009 to revise the current shared partnership arrangements, agreeing the formation of separate partnerships for Allerdale and Copeland aimed at strengthening local input into Council decision making processes in each area.

The paper also gave details of the suggested governance structure for partnership working in Allerdale and Locality Working. 5 Locality Boards were proposed overseeing the development of shared delivery of action plans, including resource allocation & influencing priorities at both Allerdale and County Level. The Borough Council had moved towards the establishment of a shadow LSP arrangement for Allerdale Arrangements and the Locality Boards were being developed. It was intended that through consultation they would become active by April 2011.

Whilst Borough Members felt that this was a good start towards a successful LSP and that the proposed new Allerdale Project Board would work usefully with the new structure, County Council Members had a number of concerns regarding the proposed structure and whether this would be more effective than the former West Cumbria LSP. The meeting was advised that this was a suggested structure only

and an attempt to create a smaller LSP partnership that could run alongside the new Allerdale Project Board should this be established.

County Council Members stated that they would have preferred more time for consultation on the proposals which appeared to be a moving forward with some speed. It was felt that the proposed new Allerdale Project Board would help inform the necessary thinking to appropriately develop this structure and would allow an opportunity for further discussion in a timely manner to achieve consensus.

**AGREED,** that the report be noted and the Strategic Manager - Places (Allerdale BC) bring a report back from a joint officers group to the next meeting of the Joint Liaison Group/re-configured Joint Liaison Group for discussion.

The meeting closed at 1.10pm