

## LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership held on Monday, 26 November 2018 at County Offices, Kendal at 2.00 pm

### PRESENT:

Mr SF Young (Chair)

Mr N Cotton  
Mr P Dew  
Mr KR Hamilton  
Mr K Hitchen  
Mr C Hogg

Mr J Mallinson  
Mr AJ Markley  
Mr W McEwan  
Mr C Weber  
Mr D Whipp

Also in Attendance:-

Mr S Consterdine	-	Democratic Services Officer
Ms G Elliott	-	Area Manager - Copeland
Ms K Fairclough	-	Chief Executive, Cumbria County Council
Ms A Hatcher	-	Senior Manager - Economic Development & Infrastructure Planning
Ms T Ingham	-	Area Manager - Barrow
Mrs K Johnson	-	Area Manager - South Lakeland
Ms A Jones	-	Acting Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure
Mr P Musgrave	-	Area Manager (Carlisle)
Dr D Roberts	-	Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services
Ms L Shaw	-	Area Manager - Allerdale

### **PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

#### **44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Thornton, Deputy Leader, Mr A Barry, Vice Chair Allerdale Local Committee, Ms D Earl, Cabinet Member and Mr D Wilson Vice Chair of Copeland Local Committee.

#### **45 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED,** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 9 July 2018 be agreed as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chair.

## **46 AREA PLANNING**

A report from the Executive Director Corporate Customer and Community Services provided an overview of the principles of Area Planning and a progress update on the activity and achievements within each local committee area.

A presentation was given by the Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services providing an update on progress since the last meeting in July.

There had been a renewed focus on area planning as the approach through which Local Committees, directorates, partners and communities could work productively together to reshape services. Local knowledge on how to effectively deliver services in each of the areas could make a significant difference.

The recent review of Area Planning and Local Committees and the subsequently agreed changes to the Terms of Reference for Local Committees would provide a renewed focus Area Planning and opportunities for Local Committees to influence policy and service delivery on a broader basis. The presentation set out the early priorities for Area Planning in each area, and referred to emerging opportunities in relation to the High Street Fund, Local Industrial Strategy and Borderlands.

During Members' discussions examples of area working were mentioned and how Local Committee agendas may look in the future. A question was asked regarding Co Optees on Local Committees following the revised Terms of Reference being agreed by Council.

The Chair confirmed that one local District/Borough council member can be a Co Optee of a Local Committee, non-voting, but there would be nothing to prevent the Local Committee inviting people to the meeting as a guest. As the Terms of Reference were to be reviewed in the future this matter could be reconsidered.

The Chair also explained that there were opportunities for Local Committees to reconsider what goes onto agendas with regards to priority issues.

A further question was asked if there was a point of contact in the event any "blockages" are experienced so that the process could be speeded up. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services is the first point of contact.

The Members thanked the Executive Director - Corporate, Customer and Community Services for her presentation.

The report and presentation were noted by Members.

## **47 HIGH STREET FUND**

The Assistant Director - Economy and Environment gave a presentation on the High Street Fund.

In the Budget on 29th October 2018 it was announced that a budget of £675m had been identified for the establishment of a new fund to support high streets.

It was anticipated it was likely to be a challenge fund and more detail was expected to be announced in the spring of 2019.

The Assistant Director - Economy and Environment advised that the Local Committees, in conjunction with Area Planning, should start to consider town centres and potential projects for the fund. Also Local Committees to work with District Councils to jointly identify opportunities in preparation for the guidance being published.

It may be that District Councils are to bid and it is important that Local Committees can support and contribute to any bid made.

A discussion took place around what strategies need to be in place once the criteria for the bids are announced.

Members thanked the Assistant Director - Economy and Environment for her presentation.

## **48 BORDERLANDS GROWTH DEAL AND LEP INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

The Senior Manager – Economic Development and Infrastructure Planning firstly gave a presentation on the Borderlands Deal.

The presentation set out the ambition of the Borderlands Deal proposal and detailed the large geographical area covered by the deal, which covers Northumberland, Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway and the whole of Cumbria.

Also details of how the deal was being developed was explained including an ask for capital funding as well as asking for collaboration with various Government organisations and departments.

The Senior Manager - Economic Development & Infrastructure Planning explained the cohesive approach that was being taken which would benefit all areas, not just a few and detailed what the next steps are for the Deal.

There followed a discussion on local issues and a concern was raised that the concept was a good idea but that it was difficult to persuade all parts of Cumbria that they will benefit from the Deal, particularly South Cumbria.

The Senior Manager - Economic Development & Infrastructure Planning explained that all areas within the Borderlands Deal share common economic challenges and opportunities and the Deal is seeking to secure funding that will allow investment across the whole area that responds to these shared issues. Digital Borderlands was used as an example to show how an issue that is important to the whole area and through delivery of a programme the whole geography of the Borderlands can benefit. There is also a place programme that is seeking to secure investment to revitalise a number of town centres across the whole area.

The Senior Manager - Economic Development & Infrastructure Planning then gave a presentation on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP).

A Government report on 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' was published in July 2018. In this report Government has introduced a number of changes, including the requirement for LEPs to have a single accountable body, and the board membership would include 66% from the private sector and comprise of up to 20 members.

The LEP role will continue as a strategic lead on economic development and all LEPs are to prepare a Local Industrial Strategy.

A Government white paper called Industrial Strategy; building a Britain fit for the future was produced in November 2017 and outlined plans to boost productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK and was framed on five foundations of productivity and on four grand challenges.

The Senior Manager - Economic Development & Infrastructure Planning detailed the foundations and the challenges as they related to the County of Cumbria. Also the economic challenges of working age population, small pool of higher skill levels, areas with high rates of unemployment and deprivation, low rates of business start-ups and innovation as well as inadequate infrastructure relating to Cumbria were detailed.

The emerging priorities for the Cumbria Local Industrial Strategy were described and details of the next steps clarified.

Members thanked the Senior Manager - Economic Development & Infrastructure Planning for her presentations.

#### **49 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 24 January 2019, 10.00 am Conference Room A/B, Cumbria House, Carlisle.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm