

**LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY VISIONING PROJECT**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Cllr Mike Ashbrook  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Liam Murphy, Chief Executive  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Terry Chilcott, Corporate Director

**Summary:** This report asks the Executive to agree to a request received from the Lake District National Park Authority for Copeland Borough Council to sign up to a new Vision statement for the Lake District and to join a Partnership to support the implementation of that Vision.

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| <b>Recommendation:</b> | That Copeland Borough Council support the Lake District Visioning process and agree to participate in the Partnership and support the current version of the Visioning statement as attached at Appendix A. |
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**Impact on delivering Copeland 2020 objectives:** Key focuses for the vision are a prosperous economy and vibrant communities. A more successful Lake District National Park Authority would increase visitor numbers in the area.

**Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):** The draft Vision statement is designed to be inclusive of all groups and therefore supports the Council's Equality and Diversity strategy.

**Financial and human resource implications:** The Visioning process does not require the Council to undertake additional expenditure but there will be time for both staff and councillors involved in the partnership.

**Project & Risk Management:** N/A

**Key Decision Status**

- **Financial:** No

- **Ward:** No

**Other Ward Implications:** Wards within the National Park would be affected

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Lake District National Park Authority commenced its Visioning process as part of its Improvement Programme in late Autumn 2005. A series of meetings have been held with invited partners which in turn led to the calling together of a group of potential partners on 27<sup>th</sup> February. At that time a first draft of a Vision Statement was discussed and the proposal to create a support partnership suggested. The discussions at that meeting led to a revised document being considered and approved by the Lake District National Park Authority in April. The Borough Council and other Partners have subsequently been asked for its support.

## 2.0 **CURRENT POSITION**

- 2.1 A copy of the current version of the Vision Statement is attached for the Executive's comment at Appendix A.
- 2.2 A wide range of other bodies indicated in the draft Vision are also being asked for their formal endorsement. It is understood that there is broad support for this approach but with a recognised need to avoid duplication of effort.

- 2.3 The following organisations have recently endorsed the vision:

Friends of the Lake District

Forestry Commission

Government Office North West

Eden District Council

Environment Agency

Lake District National Park Authority

North West Development Agency

Allerdale Borough Council

South Lakeland District Council

- 2.4 A strong and vibrant Lake District National Park Authority with a clear and widely shared sense of direction would be a great asset to Cumbria. It is therefore felt that we support, in principle, this approach.

## 3.0 **CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 Copeland Borough Council has been asked to support a Vision Statement for the Lake District National Park which would help secure positive changes in the way this key asset of the County is developed and used. It is recommended that the Executive support this approach.

**List of Appendices:** Appendix I, A Vision for the Lake District National Park 2006 - 2030

## **List of Background Documents:**

### **List of Consultees:**

Corporate Team, Portfolio Holder, Leader, Cllr Tony Johnson