

OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTING

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Elaine Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER Paul Walker, Chief Executive
REPORT AUTHOR Julie Betteridge, Head of Customer and Community Services

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council is recommended to

- a) note the annual reports from Outside Body representatives for 2013/14 Appendix A; and
- b) note the new reporting arrangements for representatives to report on outside body activity during 2014/15.

1 2013/14 DETAIL

- 1.1 Full Council received and endorsed the Outside Bodies representation for Copeland Councillors in June 2013.
- 1.2 Appendix A sets out the annual reports from member representatives related to their Outside Body activity. Member reports particularly highlight the following:
 - Importance of representative activity to highlight council issues and achieve aims and priorities in the council Corporate Plan. Representatives have been working in partnership around specific issues key to delivering our Corporate Plan including health inequalities, welfare reform, housing and growth;
 - Partnership role in offering balance to fund allocation decisions;
 - Able to take advantage of training, understanding and assistance through the outside body role to assist them as individual representatives and the Council generally;
 - Community Leadership through its knowledge of local need, roles and responsibilities, including scrutiny, has assisted the Outside Bodies deliver and develop;
 - Influence and shaping of policy, strategy and services through representation is a core part of the outside body representation;
 - There has been increased challenges of limited resources to outside bodies;
 - There has been a clear role in representation on outside bodies to maximise resources for the benefit of Copeland and all its residents;

- Continued role of outside bodies to lobby and feed into consultation, policy developments and delivery;
- Outside bodies representation offers the council a valuable route for maintaining engagement with major policy changes and their impact on Copeland and its residents;
- Networking, sharing issues and identifying joint solutions as key outcome from outside bodies activities including building shared capacity;
- Liaison opportunities through Outside Bodies representation;

2. 2014/15 DETAIL

- 2.1 Full Council received and endorsed the Outside Bodies representation for Copeland Councillors in June 2014.
- 2.2 This Outside Bodies list is integrated with the strategic and operational partnership lists, review and assessment in line with delivery of our Corporate Plan. The annual partnership review takes place in November to January each year.
- 2.3 All Outside Body representatives have been required to report annually to Full Council in previous years. As reported to June 2014 Full Council we have revised the reporting arrangements offering a template to be used by member representatives to outside bodies following each meeting. This will provide a key summary record of the key points, outcomes and issues of the outside body meeting/forum/event by Council Members during the year as meetings take place.
- 2.4 This new approach to receiving feedback from outside bodies will ensure regular feedback into the Council by the representative in addition to the minutes or notes of the outside body meeting. The aim of this new approach is to ensure specific issues and risks identified from member feedback from outside bodies that impacts or affects Corporate Plan aims and delivery is known and any necessary follow up action undertaken.
- 2.5 The summary feedback forms produced during the year will then be used to inform the end of year report from outside body representatives to the Full Council. Currently, risks and actions arising from the Council's strategic and operational partnerships, including those within the Outside Bodies list, are monitored and investigated quarterly and more frequently if required. Member feedback is important to this process and the summary feedback forms offer a tool to assist this.
- 2.6 This new reporting procedure will be distributed to all Outside Body representatives. The Council's Policy and Scrutiny Officer will act as the co-

ordination and central holding point for all complete summary feedback forms and will ensure these are passed on to the relevant senior responsible officer or highlighted to CLT regularly to ensure any issues or risks highlighted by members are known.

3. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

3.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: report requires submission to Council as previously agreed.

3.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: No Comment

List of Background Documents:

Previous reports.

Appendix A Outside Bodies Members Feedback 2013/14

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Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: John Bowman

Name of Outside Body: Connecting Cumbria

Frequency of meetings: 4 / year

Number of meetings attended: 4

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

This is a County Council Committee and has invited representation from many other organisations and has ultimately developed with BT and BDUK Superfast Fibre Optic Broadband to 97% of Cumbria. Our communities within the 97% are being connected in a structured way and is on-going. This will fit in with our Corporate Plan.

Do you have any further comments?

More exact information can be found on the roll out on the Connecting Cumbria Website, or availability is also available on broadband providers websites by simply entering your Tel No.

Or visiting BT Openreach Website.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **John Bowman**

Name of Outside Body: **North West Employers Organisation**

**Frequency of meetings: 12 / Year for Executive + Regional Development Committee
+ AGM**

Number of meetings attended: 11 of Each + AGM

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

North West Employers provide training and support to the highest level within the Copeland structure of both Members and Staff up to the Chief Exec.

They also provide advice and training for members to help them complete requirements they have highlighted in their Personal Development Plans.

Do you have any further comments?

Through the partnership working developed over many years support has been specifically developed to almost individual levels.

Prices have also been held as low as possible and kept at times at cost.

We have also shared training with other Councils and Parish and Town Councils.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Jackie Bowman

Name of Outside Body: West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) –
Decommissioning and End States

Frequency of meetings: Has not met yet

Number of meetings attended: N/A

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

N/A

Do you have any further comments?

N/A

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Jackie Bowman

Name of Outside Body: West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) –
Low Level Waste Repository

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Number of meetings attended: All.

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Corporate plan advises working partnerships with local businesses.

Do you have any further comments?

N/A

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **Hugh Branney**

Name of Outside Body: **Community Safety Partnership.**

Frequency of meetings: Bi-Monthly

Number of meetings attended: 6

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public sector partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

The Community Safety Partnership offers a co-ordinated strategic assessment, priority setting and monitoring in line with our statutory responsibilities. The Strategy Group sets direction and links with partners and developments including the Cumbria office of the police and crime commissioner. An annual action plan is agreed which enables us to work effectively in partnership to target activity to need

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **Hugh Branney**

Name of Outside Body: **Cumbria Tourism Partnership**

Frequency of meetings: **Quarterly but December meeting cancelled**

Number of meetings attended: **2**

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public sector partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

Cumbria Tourism Partnership oversees, funds and develops tourism in Cumbria which brings more than £2 billion into the county and directly employs more than 14,500 in West Cumbria located tourism activity.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **Hugh Branney**

Name of Outside Body: **Western Lake District Tourism Partnership**

Frequency of meetings: **Quarterly**

Number of meetings attended: **2**

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

Although no longer funded by BEC the Partnership continues to meet to attract funding and visitors to the West and keep promotional activity and the website up to date.

Copeland, despite having some of the most spectacular landscape and coastline, attracts only approximately ten per cent of Cumbria's enormous visitor economy.

West Cumbria Tourism Partnership activity is focussed on helping to provide a stronger and more diverse local economy.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **Hugh Branney**

Name of Outside Body: **Lake District National Park Authority.**

Frequency of meetings: **Authority - Monthly**
 Development Control – Monthly
 Site Inspections – Monthly
 Park Strategy and Vision – Bi- Monthly

Number of meetings attended: **34 out of a possible 40**

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Being an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

2/3 of Copeland borough lies within the Lake District National Park and the Authority is, through its Development Control Committee, the planning authority for this area. The vision of the LDNPA is that it will be 'An inspirational example of sustainable development in action'

Prosperous economy, world class visitor experiences and vibrant communities all come together to sustain the spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage.

The Lake District is the UK candidate for World Heritage Status and is developing its local delivery through Distinctive Area groups which bring together Authority members, officers and local communities.

It is represented on Cumbria LEP

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **Keith Hitchen**

Name of Outside Body: **Lake District National Park Partnership**

Frequency of meetings: 4 per year

Number of meetings attended: 2 attended

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

It ensures that the partners working within the National Park take into account issues affecting the residents of Copeland and the Corporate Plan.

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **Lena Hogg**

Name of Outside Body: **West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) –
Risk and Hazard Reduction and Waste Management
Working Group.**

Frequency of meetings: **Quarterly**

Number of meetings attended: **All (as Chair)**

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Supports the community by scrutinising the Risk & Hazard Reduction and Waste Management

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Lena Hogg

Name of Outside Body: Home Housing – Copeland Steering Group

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Number of meetings attended: Has not met yet

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

The Steering Group has responsibility for:-
Monitoring the Community Investment fund,
Monitoring performance of contractors and sub-contractors employed works regarding the investment programme, and
Considering the impact of change on the commitments made under the stock transfer.
Key issues are communicated by the Home Group to stakeholders.

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: John Jackson

Name of Outside Body: North Country Leisure Board - Copeland

Frequency of meetings: SEVEN

Number of meetings attended: FIVE.

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

I TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT NCL PROVIDE THE SERVICES THAT THE PUBLIC REQUIRE. MAKING CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME WHEN FASHIONS CHANGE.

Do you have any further comments?

THE ABOVE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY KEEPING THE SERVICES SUSTAINABLE. SO COSTS MUST BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. N.C.L, IN MY OPINION, HAVE IMPROVED OUR LEISURE SERVICES AND MANAGED THE FINANCIAL SIDE VERY WELL.



Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Peter Kane

Name of Outside Body: Cumbria Waste Partnership

Frequency of meetings: Twice per year. The partnership board however has not met formally since June 2013.

Number of meetings attended: 0

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 1: Deliver efficient and effective statutory services

Do you have any further comments?

While the CSWP board has not met formally for over 12 months the officer group has continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis. Through the partnership and the use of joint grant funding, Copeland residents are able to access significantly discounted food waste digesters. Councillor Kane as portfolio Holder for the environment and his county councillor counterpart launched the scheme in Copeland in Whitehaven's market place in August. The scheme, which now operates Cumbria-wide supports the partnerships waste minimisation aims.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Michael McVeigh

Name of Outside Body: Cumbria Planning Group

Frequency of meetings: QUARTERLY.

Number of meetings attended: ALL.

Cumbria Planning Group consists of the Six Districts, Lake District National Park, ALSO County Council. Believe it is important that we are round the table with same reps making sure our Borough is represented both by Member and appropriate Officer. Example agenda 30TH June 2014. Presentation by the operations manager of the LEP operations and how it will impact in relation to Housing, Planning, Example of Funding assistance to help infrastructure. Question and Answer session

Do you have any further comments?

We will never have any influence from an empty seat...

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Michael McVeigh

Name of Outside Body: Heritage Champion.

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Number of meetings attended: all.

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Varied Agendas in various parts of the North West of England, Last meeting held in Lancaster. Agenda. Enforcement. The Role of Heritage Champions in "Enforcement", Sources of support, English Heritage will provide training Free Gratis for officers and Members. Previous Agendas. Lottery Funding changes to access Funding. Are we up to date. Yes.

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **David Moore**

Name of Outside Body: **Copeland Community Fund**

Frequency of meetings: **Every two months**

Number of meetings attended: **Five in the last year**

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

It supports the aims of the Council by providing, a balanced board to allocate the funds across the whole of the borough

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Graham Sunderland

Name of Outside Body: West Cumbria Cycleway Partnership

Frequency of meetings: NO FORMAL CYCLE.
 AD HOC BASIS.

Number of meetings attended: TWO.

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

COUNCIL HAS A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SUSTANS, ALLERDALE AND COUNTY. EACH PARTNER GIVES A GRANT AND THE GROUP OVERSEES THE WORK AGAINST THE CONTRACT.

Do you have any further comments?

THE PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE COUNCIL'S AIMS IN REGARD TO HEALTH, ECONOMY, LEISURE, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT. THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES SOCIAL INCLUSION AND VOLUNTEERING.

A CONSTANT CHALLENGE TO THE PARTNERSHIP IS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ATTRACT ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING AND PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: Energy Coast West Cumbria Board (ECWC) BEC

Frequency of meetings: Bi-Monthly

Number of meetings attended: 4

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

BEC has gone through significant change over the last 12 months, the result being that 4 key priorities have been agreed and BEC are now undertaking an internal restructure to ensure that resources are aligned against the delivery.

Their priorities are

- (1) Site Assembly and development to facilitate the I Zone with an early focus on Whitehaven
- (2) Whitehaven Education Campus development as a mechanism to assist skills and career opportunities and educational attainment in Copeland
- (3) Enabling research and development and supply chain opportunities in support of businesses and economic support
- (4) Enhanced locally grown vocational skills development in support of the Centre of Nuclear Excellence

The £1 Million social investment 2014/15 was signed off with both Allerdale and ourselves against our priorities

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group (WCSSG)

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Number of meetings attended: 2

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Fulfils Priority 2 objective which is to be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

The WCSSG is an independent group that scrutinises the nuclear sites in Copeland. It meets quarterly and alternates between scrutiny and in depth scrutiny of particular areas of interest, the most recent being an update on the Evap D project. There are four sub committees – all of which have CBC representatives. Twice yearly the sub committees give updates to the WCSSG. The full reports are all available at www.wcssg.co.uk

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: Cumbria LEP

Frequency of meetings: Monthly

Number of meetings attended: All (Council Leader attends as a substitute when apologies are submitted by the West Cumbria representative through Allerdale Borough Council)

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

The district membership of the LEP alternates every two years, with Allerdale representing West Cumbria until May 2015

In July Government announced the growth deal for Cumbria which secured £1.5 million to invest in the Nuclear Technology Gateway. The feasibility work will aim to create a new £26.5 million facility in Copeland to showcase the UK

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: Cumbria Community Foundation – West Cumbria Grants
Panel (Substitute Member) – CLLR GARRITY TO COMPLETE

Frequency of meetings:

Number of meetings attended:

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: Cumbria Health & Wellbeing Board

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Number of meetings attended: 4

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland
Priority 3 Working in partnership with Communities

Do you have any further comments?

Copeland represents West Cumbria on this board, which is tasked to help improve the health of the population in the county. It brings together local commissioners of health and social care, public health, Councillors and Healthwatch.

There are a lot of health inequalities throughout Cumbria, many adversely affecting Copeland so it is important that Copeland has formed its own Copeland Health Forum, which is in its infancy but whose role will be to feed into the Cumbria board and ensure they are aware of our needs and what they can and should be doing to help us reduce these inequalities.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: Joint District Leaders Board

Frequency of meetings: Bi Monthly

Number of meetings attended:

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

The Distract Leaders Board is made up of all the Leaders from the Districts. Discussions range from Unitary Authority to on street parking

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: Copeland Community Fund

Frequency of meetings: Bi Monthly

Number of meetings attended: 6

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 3: Working on Partnership with Communities

Do you have any further comments?

The fund was established to recognise the unique role that Copeland plays in hosting the low level waste repository. The £9 million spend since its inception has brought in £18 million.

The Board is made up of two representatives from CBC and CCC, 1 from the NDA and 3 independent members, one of which is the current Chairman

A full copy of the 13/14 annual report is available at www.copelandcommunityfund.co.uk

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: Cumbria Leadership Board

Frequency of meetings: Bi-Monthly

Number of meetings attended:

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

Attended by all Cumbrian LA Leaders, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chair of the Third Sector and Chair of the Cumbrian Clinical Commissioning Group. They discuss many Cumbria wide issues and recently commissioned the Bishop of Carlisle to lead on the production of the Cumbrian Welfare report.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: NULEAF

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Number of meetings attended: 2

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

This Partnership seeks to build capacity within Local Government to engage effectively with nuclear legacy management and works to represent the views of member local authorities to national bodies. There is also an officer working group that specifically discusses areas of interest

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Elaine Woodburn

Name of Outside Body: West Cumbria Strategic Board

Frequency of meetings: when requested

Number of meetings attended: 2

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

Priority 2: Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland

Do you have any further comments?

This forum working with both members and officers and our member of parliament gives the opportunity to liaise with Government to raise issues relevant to West Cumbria. The Forum has gone through a period of change and it is now proposed that the forum is aligned to one similar to the forum for Hinckley Point which will concentrate on Nuclear new build, decommissioning and the centre of nuclear excellence.

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: **Carole Woodman**

Name of Outside Body: **WCSSG – Low Level Waste Repository**

Frequency of meetings: **Quarterly (4)**

Number of meetings attended: **3**

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

The stakeholder group acts as an interface between the repository, regulators and community.
Supporting the aims of Council; representing the community and working in partnership.

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies

Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Henry Wormstrup

Name of Outside Body: The Alliance

Frequency of meetings: ~~86~~ NATIONAL ~~86~~ NW/WEST REGION

Number of meetings attended: MANY HAVE MISSED REGION
BUT NOT MANY

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

COUNCIL HAS ACHIEVED THROUGH
THIS OUTSIDE BODY TO HIGH LIGHT
ITS ISSUE

Do you have any further comments?

IT IS VITAL THAT WE RETAIN
THIS AVERAGE TO HIGH LIGHT
AND ACHIEVE OUR ISSUES

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Henry Wormstrup

Name of Outside Body: WCSSG – Low Level Waste Repository

Frequency of meetings:

4 TIMES A YEAR

Number of meetings attended:

ALL

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

WITHIN THE COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN
TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
LOCAL BUSINESS

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Henry Wormstrup

Name of Outside Body: West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group (WCSSG).

Frequency of meetings: 2 TIMES @ YEAR

Number of meetings attended: ALL

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

WITHIN THE COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN
TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
LOCAL BUSINESSES

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Henry Wormstrup

Name of Outside Body: West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) –
Spent Fuel Management and Nuclear Materials.

Frequency of meetings: 4 TIMES @ YEAR.

Number of meetings attended: ALL

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

WITHIN THE COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN
TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL
BUSINESS.

Do you have any further comments?

Members on Outside Bodies
Annual Review Feedback Form 2013/14

Name of Councillor: Henry Wormstrup

Name of Outside Body: West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) – Risk and Hazard Reduction and Waste Management Working Group.

Frequency of meetings: 4 TIMES @ YEAR

Number of meetings attended: ALL

How does representing the Council on this Outside Body support the aims and objectives of the Council?

WITHIN THE COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

Do you have any further comments?

Outside Bodies Annual Review

Report by Cllr George Clements

Cumbria's Six Districts Councils have statutory housing responsibilities. The County Council and the Lake District National Park also have some housing responsibilities. Together with representation from the Registered Housing Providers they form The Cumbria Housing Executive Group. They recognise that by working together they can add real value to creating and sustaining homes and communities across Cumbria, that respond to changing social and economic needs.

In these changing times, housing is going through the biggest review for many years. So it is important that we have a strong CHEG. To Lobby and feed into consultation locally, regionally and where appropriate nationally for a fair share of resources, as well as to influence and give a Cumbria voice to the Northern Housing Consortium, North West Housing Forum and/or other local, regional and national consultation.

We worked on many topics during year 2013/14 I have just listed a few of the more important ones

Progress on Young Persons Review: Copeland review, Barrow review, Countywide Protocol

Background:

CHEG and Children's Services (and the safeguarding Board) have agreed to carry out rolling reviews of existing services and ways forward for young people's services in each of the 6 districts. They have also agreed to carry out a countywide review of the protocol for joint working.

Detail:

Barrow: We are hopeful that the Barrow work will complete in September. We have identified gaps in provision and the need for improved referrals. We have started to draft a flow chart identifying the key stages in a young person's

pathway from homelessness to being housed in the community. We are costing the option of a Barrow Foyer and a remodelling of existing services for young people in the borough.

Copeland: This group has met 3 times and, again, we hope we will be able to report back in September. We have carried out a similar process and the primary need that has been identified there is an improvement in joint working and the key responsibilities between the county's Triage Team, its local Children's and Families Team and the housing pathway; we have started to look at the third pathway which is of young people who are in the looked after system. The flowchart will be identical to the Barrow flowchart, but obviously the network of services on offer will be different.

Countywide Protocol: We have met twice and identified the need for the Protocol to operate at a high level as a formal agreement between the County and the districts in respect of vulnerable homeless young people. To this end, its implementation should continue to be monitored by CHEG and the Safeguarding Board. The other aspect to the Protocol is the linkages with the 6 local reviews which will, when completed, highlight across the County the resources available and the relationships in each area which when added together, form the integrated approach that we have been aspiring to in Cumbria for a considerable amount of time. Again, the flowchart will be broadly similar in respect of the Countywide Protocol as it is in the 6 local districts.

I enclose a copy of the flowchart that we have developed to date, please note that this is "work in progress" and is nowhere near finished. However, it is clear that there are 3 different pathways and that there are certain routes that a young person should go down, with their first point of contact being the Triage Team based in Penrith. As time goes by, we will continue to fill in the detail.

In conclusion, hopefully we will be bring back the draft final Protocol to CHEG in September for its onward discussion by members.

Update on Housing Associations' Regulation & other matters

Background & Detail:

Housing Associations in Cumbria own over 30,000 properties, and employ over 1000 staff and spend anywhere up to £100m a year in the local economy. This picture is replicated across the Country and it is quite easy to see why Government would like to influence this very significant resource. This report highlights two or three of the current issues:

1. Welfare Reform

The government revisions to housing benefit and under occupation came into force on 1st April and Housing Associations in Cumbria have now implemented the major changes to support tenants to either pay or downsize and have incorporated the anticipated loss of rental income into their budgets.

More seriously, will be the increasing strain in households due to increasing poverty. We anticipate our workers being under significant greater stress and that rent arrears will gradually rise when tenants are faced with multiple debts. By the time this report goes to the Executive, we should know the Government's intentions for public spending in 2015/16 and to some extent beyond. There are rumours that Government will wish to reduce Housing Associations' rent increases, though Government acknowledges that increasing rents will be the way to fund a capital development programme.

2. Regulation

Government is increasingly concerned about the risk to its previous investment in Housing Associations if a Housing Association goes bankrupt. They are also concerned about how to secure their investment in the private sector that is increasingly funded by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), either to develop new homes for private sale or for the private rented market. The discussion period (not a consultation period) has just come to an end and the regulator's recommendation to date is that mainstream housing activities should continue to be provided within the main Association (which tends to be a Charitable body) whilst any other

activities will have to either cease or transfer into some other legal entity. This will mean that Associations that do not have a non-registered, non-charitable subsidiary will need to consider setting one up. This proposal could form a significant threat to the diverse activities that many local Associations carry out and would seem to fly in the face of the Government's Localism Agenda. For this reason, Impact has contacted Rory Stewart MP on behalf of the Housing Associations Group to ask if he will keep an eye on how this issue develops over the coming months.

Update on Welfare Reform

Background:

There is a Countywide Welfare Reform Task Group which consists of representatives from a wide range of key organisations and I was asked by the group to represent Cumbria CHEG and Housing Providers.

Detail:

The group has met 3 times now and is carrying out the following key activities:

1. Identifying those households which are most at risk due to welfare reform changes. Particularly, families with children have been identified by the Department of Work and Pensions and they are in dialogue with Cumbria's Children's Services to ensure that these high risk households are contacted and supported.
2. As Government expects most claimants and applicants for employment to communicate primarily online, the group is identifying a set of access hubs across the County where people can have access to a computer and the internet; in some of these cases they will also have support provided to help them to use the computer.

3. The group is monitoring the increasing stress caused by welfare reform. We have set up a small number of indicators including: housing association rent arrears, evictions, homeless presentation and incidents of domestic violence. It is not clear what the group would want to do, but at the very least we will be starting to keep the picture.
4. We are identifying areas of stress which will affect workers, and a number of agencies are providing additional training for their staff on how to handle aggressive behaviour. Other agencies (with some funded support from County) are sending staff on self-harm awareness courses because as we know early intervention can be extremely effective.

The last meeting that I attended we looked at the future of the group we held a workshop in Kendal in January the notes below were the catalyst on the way the group would forward.

Discussion was opened around the new operating environment – considering the opportunities and threats this presented with an emphasis on the importance of housing in achieving inclusive economic growth and on the potential emerging from City Deal type approaches. This generated a lively debate with a considerable degree of consensus around the following areas:

- a need to engage with the LEP to both make sure that the case for investment in housing had a strong voice and to raise awareness of the commercial opportunities coming through. In particular, the need to ensure that the work of the Group helps deliver the LEP's Economic Plan
- a need to refresh and tighten the overall purpose/ToR of the Group and make sure there is a clear narrative around this
- that governance issues need to be resolved – e.g. where does the Group report to? How is Councillor involvement strengthened? What are the differing roles of CHEG and CHOG?
- that the wide range of activity covered by the Group is a strength and that a review of structures is needed to make sure that work both fits within/contributes to a clear strategic framework and provides practical skills sharing opportunities

- that there is a need for more shared services and clarity of roles in anticipation of ever more restricted LA budgets

Cllr George Clements.