

COPELAND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

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Summary: The report sets out the preferred delivery framework for a Copeland Local Strategic Partnership.

Recommendation:

1. Full Council is requested to agree to the recommendation of the Choosing to Change Board for a Copeland LSP Framework and delivery approach based on a twice yearly Copeland Community Partnership Conference supported by localities, wider communities and service deliverers, as detailed in this report.
2. To note the gathering of Copeland evidence in support of developing a Copeland Sustainable Community Plan possibly linked into a Cumbria Sustainable Community Strategy in the future.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Choosing to Change Board at its on 4th August 2010 endorsed the partnership principles for a Copeland LSP including having the six localities in the borough at its core. The locality partnership arrangements and community plans continue to be developed with the planned expectation that all six partnerships and locality plans with agreed key priorities will be in place by December 2010.
- 1.2 Further consultation activity with localities and partners has assisted with identifying two preferred options for an appropriate and fit for purpose Copeland LSP delivery framework. Both options embraced the feedback from the consultation with partners, communities and localities over the past six months and both options will be supported by existing partnership and liaison arrangements. Both options enable localities together meetings and community conferences twice a year. The Choosing to Change Board at its meeting on 14th September agreed to recommend the option for a Copeland LSP delivery framework provided below.
- 1.3 A Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) is a non statutory body that brings together the different parts of the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, to work at a local level. The lead role in the LSP is taken by the local council. The LSP helps different organisations work together to improve the quality of life and deliver public services more effectively. An LSP's main task is to oversee the preparation and delivery of its area's sustainable community strategy. The Copeland LSP will work within the principles detailed at Appendix 1.

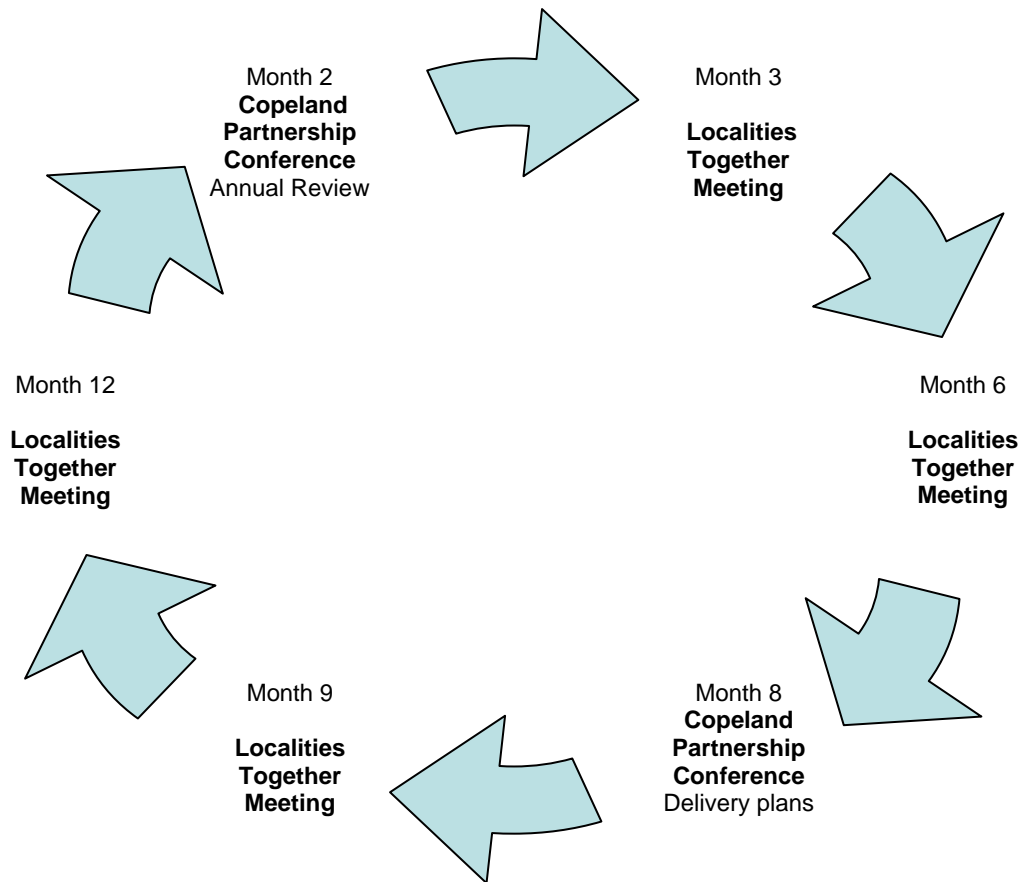
- 1.4 The Copeland LSP framework is built on its grassroots connections via existing mechanisms including parishes, towns, wards, local business, voluntary community groups, local partnerships and projects feeding into our six localities. Locality working is a flexible way to improve partnership working between Parish, Town, County and District community leaders. Locality led partnerships aim to help communities to identify and address their issues and priorities and make public services provided to an area more responsive to local needs. They are developing in line with an agreed model underpinning the Copeland LSP that enables interaction between the community leadership led partnerships, the communities and public service deliverers.
- 1.5 The preferred option is building on the core principles of inclusion, enabling activity, partnership working, influence and decision making to take place at the right level to deliver service improvement and local priorities. Within our locality planning there is a need to report back to the wider community once a year on priorities – investment – impact and check continued priorities. Each locality supports this principle. At borough-wide level this need is also present to bring all the localities together at least once a year – effectively a Copeland Stakeholder Conference – to report on tasks and outcomes from the LSP and look at forward priorities and action planned.

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 The structure for a Copeland LSP being proposed in this report reflects the keen wish by all partners to minimise meetings. It does not include a Partnership Board within the LSP framework. It is based on the assumption that officer liaison arrangements amongst partners are important to ensure effective strategic overviews and enable engagement. We are looking to a Copeland LSP which is rooted in the localities and ensures effective engagement by public service providers and wider partners to the conference to be active participants and be held accountable to previously agreed priorities and actions. The following structure offers this.

3 COPELAND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 Locality partnerships and their delivery arrangements are central to the Copeland LSP as are the quarterly localities together meetings each with their own arrangements and terms of reference.
- 3.2 The Copeland LSP aims to enable:
 - a. Work and interventions to happen at the level that is most appropriate;
 - b. Community engagement to happen at all levels;
 - c. Priorities to be developed and shared starting from local neighbourhoods / parishes to inform services and interventions at the right level;
 - d. Independent and voluntary engagement within a partnership offering equality of rights and responsibility.
- 3.3 The partners from the three core elements underpinning all levels ie Wider Community, Local Leadership and Service Providers will participate in a Copeland LSP annual cycle as set out below. This is informed by another cycle in each locality where communities and service providers work with the locality partnership to identify and deliver shared priorities.



- 3.4 The Copeland Partnership Conference** will be structured to provide a minimum number of named core representatives from the range of partners supporting localities and borough wide activity. These core representatives will be able to offer local data and evidence, answer and account for activity and work together through the Conference agenda to set priorities annually. These reps will work to a representative protocol providing clear roles and responsibilities at these two conferences. A named representatives list will be updated annually and will comprise:
- Community, including young people’s forum, and Business network representatives borough wide;
 - Locality representatives (12 per locality from any sector);
 - Public service providers at both operational and strategic level;
 - Thematic partnership representation.
- 3.5 Conference reports will be produced and disseminated. The Conferences will be open to the general public.
- 3.6 The Copeland LSP will be launched in Month 8 with the first Locality Conference in November 2010. This will receive a mid year report on the existing community strategy “Future Generations” and look to influence delivery plans of service providers from early priorities identified by the Localities and Copeland Plan.
- 3.7 The relationship between the localities together and the conference will be key to the success of the LSP. The localities will inform and be informed by the Conference in shaping the priorities of the Copeland Plan. It is anticipated that a new Copeland specific Sustainable Communities Plan will be the central topic at the second

Conference in May 2011 and priorities and delegations for activity agreed by all partners.

- 3.8 **Localities Together Quarterly Meetings** are currently informal but once the Locality Partnership arrangements and plans are in place for all six localities, this quarterly meeting will formalise and each locality will be mandated to send a set number of reps from each locality, ie five per locality including the Chairperson in the first instance. The localities will be able to decide on their own reps which may change from meeting to meeting according to the topics to be discussed but keeping a consistent core representation of each locality chairperson or their deputy. Appendix 2 provides a brief update on the locality developments.
- 3.9 These quarterly meetings will be run in a workshop style, facilitated as needed, and chaired and hosted on a rotational basis by each locality partnership. The meeting will be serviced and minutes produced. The Copeland LSP framework proposed here requires formal quarterly meeting arrangements to ensure accountability to and from the localities. Preparations for the two annual Copeland Partnership Conferences will be undertaken using this mechanism supported by input from public service providers, theme groups and wider community engagement.
- 3.10 **Roles and Responsibilities** will be set out within the operating procedures so all participants at any part of the framework will be provided with clear information on the roles, responsibilities and accountability in line with a package of Copeland LSP principles, protocols and procedures. An annual training cycle will be set up to support the annual operation cycle and to support reps and participants. The Council as a key partner has offered to facilitate this framework and have currently offered to resource the administration of the LSP and to deliver a current LSP website.

4 Communication

- 4.1 The consultation highlighted the importance of accessible and timely information. This framework will rely on a Copeland LSP website, integrated with the existing and developing Copeland Localities website. The use of localities and existing partnerships and mechanisms to distribute information will be at the core of the Copeland LSP Communication Plan. This Communication Plan, along with detailed operational procedures and protocols for the LSP, will be presented to the first Copeland Partnership Conference in November 2010.

5 Theme and Sub group framework

- 5.1 The core message throughout the consultation and development process is to build on existing mechanisms and use a task and finish approach at the appropriate level of the Copeland LSP framework to progress themed activity or partnership developments.
- 5.2 Copeland LSP will enable formal linkages through the Copeland Partnership Conferences and localities with the following existing partnerships:

<i>Theme Partnership</i>	<i>Engagement</i>
West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Formal Representation b) Influence, Strategy Development and Projects at WC, Copeland and Localities through the partners and themes eg young people and alcohol abuse.
Britain's Energy Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Formal representation for private/public economic partnership
West Cumbria Tourism Partnership Copeland Skills and Work Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Influence, strategy development and projects at West Cumbria, Copeland and Localities through the partners and theme action plans.
West Cumbria Health Group (PCT led officer group on health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Formal representation b) Influence, strategy development and projects at West Cumbria, Copeland and Localities through the partners and theme action plans. c) To engage with the health and financial inclusion action plan for West Cumbria through the localities and localities together activity.
Children and Young People (County led working group for West Cumbria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Formal representation

5.3 Current and planned work on the following partnership arrangements will enable linked theme engagement at all levels within Copeland's LSP framework.

<i>Theme Partnership</i>	<i>Engagement</i>
Young Persons Forum/Council (being developed with the young people within and across the localities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Formal Representation d) Influence, Strategy Development and Projects at WC, Copeland and Localities through the partners and themes eg young people and alcohol abuse. e) Inputting directly to locality and neighbourhood

	engagement, influence and community planning and delivery.
VCS Network (linked to the Council's Compact commitments and building on the existing West Cumbria activity of the Cumbria CVS)	Would engage at all levels within the structure and specifically enable engagement.
Sustainable Communities Partnership (starting with place delivery partners, ie RSLs, CBC, CCC, LDNP)	Would engage at all levels within the structure particularly in responding to locality and theme based priorities.

6 A Copeland Community Plan

- 6.1 The Council is collecting data and information from a number of activities to form a Copeland evidence base. This includes an impact report on our existing Future Generations community strategy outcomes, ie the state of Copeland Sept 2010, consultation outcomes on priority themes from a range of development workshops for the Copeland LSP and Cumbria Sustainable Community Strategy and key partners and partnership strategic assessments and priorities. These will then be combined with the Locality Plans from each locality in December 2010 to produce a draft Copeland Strategy and Plan. This will provide the priorities and strategy framework for the Copeland LSP, reviewed and amended annually at the May Copeland Partnership Conference. The Copeland priorities will in turn influence and deliver the Cumbria Sustainable Communities Strategy the benefit of Copeland.

List of Consultees:
Background Papers:

Choosing to Change Board, localities, partners
Copeland LSP Development consultations, workshops, localities together and Standing Conference, choosing to change reports

Appendix 1: The Copeland Partnership Principles

The Copeland LSP is being developed around the following principles:

- Create added value through focussing partnership work on those problems and issues that no one organisation can solve on its own.
- Aim for excellence through continuous improvement.
- Create a learning culture in how we do things.
- Encourage public engagement and participation.
- Promote equality and diversity.
- Work to create sustainable and cohesive communities.
- Stimulate a facilitating and enabling culture in our organisations.
- Take in to account the aims of other relevant strategies.
- Maximise the potential contribution of the voluntary and community sectors.

Appendix 2: Localities Update

- All six localities will have their priorities and locality plan by December 2010. These will be refreshed on an annual cycle which all the localities will adhere to which enables them to influence delivery and service plans within public and other delivery bodies through whichever framework option is delivered.
- Each locality partnership is currently anticipated to meet at least quarterly and have a range of project groups as decided locally to progress plan priorities. The locality team broker wider linkages and the co-ordination across the borough and links to specific providers to develop issues within and across localities. The core themes will be reported back through the LSP framework.
- Localities will feed into the Copeland LSP through their plans and representatives. Key issues, themes, project and programmes will be identified and located in the appropriate place – within neighbourhood, localities or clusters of localities, at borough-wide LSP or within a thematic/task focus possibly under a county thematic group or a new partnership initiative. This will keep partners focused on the issues and meeting for a purpose. Localities want progression on issues and a key principle is to deliver against identified tasks. The LSP framework using the Copeland Plan will monitor and evaluate outcome and impact. Each locality will have the opportunity to host their own locality annual reporting, potentially as part of one of their planned partnership meetings.