

<b>CUMBRIA JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Paper No.  10</b>
<b>Meeting Date: 17 December 2009</b>	
<b>From: Joint Scrutiny Manager</b>	

## JOINT SCRUTINY BRIEFING

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT:

1.1 To update members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee on new issues of relevance to its remit and purpose, report back on matters of potential interest previously raised by members and provides details of any Councillor Calls for Action received across Cumbria's 7 local authorities. It also invites members to agree, amend or adjust the Committee's Annual Work Programme.

### 2.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE:

2.1 At the September meeting, members determined that they wished to invite a representative of the Lake District National Park Authority to join the Committee as a co-opted non-voting member. The Scrutiny Manager duly contact the Director of Planning & Partnerships at the LDNPA to extend the invitation from Joint Scrutiny members.

2.2 The Director responded quickly to confirm that he would progress this request within the Authority and asked for background to the purpose and remit of the Joint Scrutiny Committee. *The Joint Scrutiny Manager will provide a verbal update at the meeting.*

### 3.0 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION:

3.1 Members agreed at the September meeting that future performance reports on the LAA and Community Strategy would take the form of 'exception' reporting. This would mean a shorter report highlighting lower areas of performance. However, members are asked to note that perhaps this should not be the case whenever an annual performance report is provided. This allows members to take an overview of the year's performance and ensure they are fully briefed in preparation for the ensuing year.

#### **4.0 BRIEFING WITNESSES**

- 4.1 At the September meeting members suggested that a document be drawn up providing an overview of the Joint Scrutiny Committee's purpose and the scrutiny function for prospective witnesses attending task and finish group meetings. This is also useful for guest speakers attending formal meetings of the Committee.
- 4.2 A briefing document has been prepared by the Joint Scrutiny Manager which was designed specifically with officers in mind. A slightly different version was sent to the Lake District National Park Authority. For members' information the officer brief is attached at Appendix 1. Members are invited to make any comments or suggestions on its contents.

#### **5.0 CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**

- 5.1 Carlisle and Eden scrutiny members attended a workshop on the future arrangements for joint scrutiny of the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on 25 November 2009. This was well attended by members and scrutiny/CDRP officers and the Police Authority.
- 5.2 The event was organised following guidance from the Home Office on implementing Sections 19 and 20 of the 2006 Police & Justice Act. The primary focus for the event was the requirement for joint scrutiny arrangements by local authorities where a CDRP is joint or merged. The outcomes of the event are shown at Appendix 2, for members' information.
- 5.3 In accordance with the aforementioned guidance, where a crime and disorder topic has a truly county-wide resonance, it is appropriate that this is dealt with by the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

#### **6.0 CUMBRIA VISION: IMPROVE SKILLS THROUGHOUT CUMBRIA**

- 6.1 At the September meeting, Councillor McCarron-Holmes raised the issue that job seekers in Maryport have to complete a new information form for each employment agency they register with. With 36 agencies in Maryport all holding data relating to people currently without work, and no data-sharing protocol, this can lead to frustration for people seeking work in that area.
- 6.2 The Joint Scrutiny Manager looked into this issue and found a report from April 2009 entitled 'Tackling Worklessness in Maryport: Towards an Action Plan for Service Agencies'. The report detailed the findings and outcomes of a project called 'Maryport Worklessness Circles of Need', commissioned by Allerdale Borough Council and running from January to April 2009.
- 6.3 One of the project aims was:

“Allerdale Borough Council is the lead authority for the Transformation Agenda in Cumbria and is working with the Cumbria Improvement & Efficiency Partnership to deliver a pilot project aimed at meeting the needs of workless people in the Maryport locality.” [*Tackling Worklessness in Maryport, p1, para 2.1*]

Key findings of the project included the issue of ‘workless record keeping’ and found that due to confidentiality and data protection issues, agencies did not share individual records and “less than a third of the service providers in Maryport hold records of workless people and only five of them share statistics” [*p4, para 5.6*] Some service providers involved in the study pointed out that many workless people would not want to be identified, which would be another reason for not sharing data.

- 6.4 The project report included a number of recommendations for improving opportunities for workless people in Maryport and these included the following, specific to the issue raised by the Joint Scrutiny member:

“ More effective networking and information sharing between service providers; Establishing a user-friendly one-stop-shop for local services in Maryport.” [*p10*]

The project brought together the views of service providers and users in Maryport, which culminated in an Action Plan for improving services. The aims of the Plan is for service providers to:

- “1. Improve access to services, with a more personalised approach towards workless people, a review of customer care procedures, improved access to services and information at locality level.
2. Better inter-agency working, including the establishment of an information sharing protocol and an emphasis on holistic support packages for workless people.
3. Regular performance monitoring, continuous improvement and impact assessment.” [*p11*].

- 6.5 To follow through the project outcomes and recommendations a Worklessness Sounding Board was established (meeting for the first time in September 2009) comprised of 18 service providers and service users. This meets quarterly and its first task is to draw up a 12-month Action Plan.

- 6.6 In contact with the Partnership Officer for Regeneration, at Allerdale Borough Council, the Joint Scrutiny Manager found that progress was ongoing, with the outcomes including a conference of service providers; actions being pursued are wider than just the Maryport area; a database being constructed by Cumbria University, along with a website joining up providers’ services; working towards a one-stop-shop across all of West Cumbria.

- 6.7 The Partnership Officer noted that information can be provided on the progress of activities should members require this.

**7.0 TASK & FINISH GROUP UPDATE**

### Place Survey Review

- 7.1 *Members will find this as a separate item on the main agenda.*

### CDRP Funding

- 7.2 A task and finish group comprising members from Carlisle, Eden, South Lakes and Cumbria County was established following an email request from the Joint Scrutiny Manager after the September meeting.
- 7.3 The task and finish group are examining what the implications would be for individual CDRPs should the current funding arrangements change. Subsequent to the referral to joint scrutiny, the Safer & Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership decided not to implement the proposed changes from March 2010, instead opting to conduct a widescale consultation of partners in 2010 to determine the best way forward. The outcomes of the task and finish group's review will feed into this process.

### CCTV in Cumbria

- 7.4 Following challenges in assembling a task and finish group from the pool of Joint Scrutiny members alone, the Joint Scrutiny Manager sought advice from senior colleagues at county and district. A solution suggested was that the membership of the task and finish group could be recruited from across all scrutiny members in the 7 local authorities.
- 7.5 This process is progressing well, with a task and finish group to be assembled shortly and to begin the review work in January 2010. This is an important issue for Cumbria and a report will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee on its progress.

## **8.0 REFERRALS TO JOINT SCRUTINY**

- 8.1 A referral was received from a member of the public, concerning the accountability of local authority monitoring officers. The Joint Scrutiny Manager sought advice from a number of quarters and was advised that this was not an appropriate issue for referral to the Committee.
- 8.2 In addition, this related to an ongoing complaint against a Cumbrian local authority and it is not appropriate for scrutiny to examine an issue that is currently being pursued through a complaints system. This does, however, raise an interesting point about the wider perception of scrutiny's role and the public perception of scrutiny as an extension of established complaints systems.

## **9.0 WORK PROGRAMME**

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the Work Programme, attached at Appendix 5. This sets out for members the following:
- standing items for formal meetings;
  - one-off items for formal meetings, with relevant dates shown;
  - scrutiny reviews in progress by the Committee;
  - monitoring items.
- 9.2 Members are asked to consider, amend and agree the Work Programme.

## **10.0 COUNCILLOR CALLS FOR ACTION**

- 10.1 Since the last meeting there have been no CCfAs in Cumbria that the Joint Scrutiny Manager has been made aware of; however, it is understood one is being progressed in the west of the county and will be considered by the relevant district scrutiny panel in January 2010. Members will be updated on this at the next meeting of the Committee.

## **11.0 NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE**

- 11.1 As members are aware, the timing of Joint Scrutiny Committee meetings is dictated by the date when performance information is available to scrutiny members. The third quarter date for performance information to scrutiny members is 3 March 2009.
- 11.2 Given the need to ensure papers are distributed in advance of the meeting, the Joint Scrutiny Manager suggests a date either on or after Thursday 11 March 2009. The meeting will be held at an Eden venue. **Members are asked to identify a mutually convenient date for this meeting.**

**Vic Milbourne** – Joint Scrutiny Manager [vic.milbourne@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:vic.milbourne@cumbriacc.gov.uk)  
9 December 2009

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### **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 - Cumbria Joint Scrutiny Committee – Quick Guide for Officers (81-82)  
Appendix 2 - Carlisle and Eden CDRP Scrutiny – Workshop Outcomes (83)  
Appendix 3 - Updated Work Programme – Dec 09 (84-86).

## **CUMBRIA JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **QUICK GUIDE FOR OFFICERS**

#### Membership

The Cumbria Joint Scrutiny Committee (CJSC) has 2 elected member representatives from the 7 local authorities in Cumbria:

Allerdale Borough Council  
Barrow Borough Council  
Carlisle City Council  
Copeland Borough Council  
Cumbria County Council  
Eden District Council  
South Lakeland District Council

In addition, there is 1 elected member from the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) representing the parish and town councils.

The Committee also has 2 named substitutes from each of the 7 local authorities and 1 from CALC.

At its second formal meeting on 22 September 2009, the Committee's members decided to invite a representative from the Lake District National Park Authority to join as a permanent co-optee.

#### Remit

The primary purpose of the Committee is to keep an eye on the progress of the Cumbria Community Strategy and the performance of the Local Area Agreement. Where there is continued lower performance, members may wish to look at this in more detail via a scrutiny review.

The Committee also provides an opportunity for a balanced, strategic view to be taken on countywide issues referred to the Committee.

A long term aim is for the Committee to contribute to the refreshment of the Community Strategy, the LAA and the Comprehensive Area Assessment (from 2010 onwards).

#### The Scrutiny Process

Either by Community Strategy and LAA performance reports, or a direct referral to the Committee, members may decide to undertake a short, medium or longer term scrutiny review on a particular topic.

A scrutiny review is usually undertaken by a small group of members (2-5) drawn from the Committee to look at a topic in greater detail. Through informal meetings of this small group of members (known as a task & finish group) a body of evidence will be built up on a topic and this process may also include:

- questioning witnesses;
- site visits;
- consulting with partners/stakeholders/service users.

A task & finish group may also decide to co-opt other people onto the group, to help with the review process, including:

- external experts;
- partner representatives;
- other elected members.

### Outcomes

After a review is completed (lasting anywhere from 2 to 6 months in duration) a final report is produced by the task and finish group. This document brings together all of the members' key findings on the topic and will also include a series of recommendations. This will be forwarded to the appropriate bodies for consideration, agreement and implementation.

The key to arriving at a set of recommendations that are accepted by those bodies/partners to whom they are directed, is to ensure that the pertinent people are involved through the duration of the scrutiny process. Expert input helps members to elicit a set of realistic, evidence-based, workable and measurable recommendations, which have a far greater likelihood of being accepted and implemented. This is why partnership working is an integral part of scrutiny work.

It is usual for members of any scrutiny committee to keep a monitoring eye on the progress of their final report and the recommendations made. It is usual practice to have updates at 6 monthly and/or yearly intervals.

## **Recommendations from Carlisle & Eden CDRP Scrutiny Workshop – 25 Nov 09**

### Key Outcomes

Members agreed the following at the workshop:

- (i) Members would like to develop Joint Scrutiny of the Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership;
- (ii) It is proposed that the joint scrutiny panel would comprise Members from Eden District Council's Housing and Community Panel, Members from Carlisle City Council's Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel along with representatives from the County Council's Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Board and the Police Authority;
- (iii) At a minimum, the Joint Scrutiny would consider each year the CDRP's draft Strategic Assessment and draft Partnership Plan – this would fit with the emphasis in the legislative guidance that scrutiny should focus on strategy, rather than detail;
- (iv) The proposed timetable is to start any joint scrutiny of the CDRP at the beginning of the next Civic Year ie May 2010. Until then, scrutiny of the CDRP will continue in the separate Panels of the two councils;
- (v) The development of a Protocol between the CDRP and the two Councils is key to the success of scrutiny. The Protocol would aim to lay out the reasonable; expectations of all parties and must be developed jointly by Members from the two Councils and representatives of the CDRP. The Protocol should also aim to clarify the involvement of the County Council and the Police Authority;
- (vi) Officers should explore how scrutiny of health matters currently operates within Cumbria and consider using this as a starting point for developing the protocol and arrangements for scrutiny of the Carlisle and Eden CDRP, particularly as this relates to the relative responsibilities of the joint scrutiny panel and the respective panels of Carlisle and Eden Councils;
- (vii) If Joint Scrutiny of the Carlisle and Eden CDRP is successfully developed then this approach could be used as a model for the other joint CDRPs around Cumbria;
- (viii) Scrutiny staff will take the outcomes back to both Carlisle and Eden scrutiny to get formal member approval on the planned activities and progression of arrangements.
- (ix) The possibility of including the Police Authority in the scrutiny SharePoint facility should be examined and reported back.



**CUMBRIA JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 2009**

Topic	Issue	Lead Officer/ Contact	Progress & Timescale	24 Sept 09	17 Dec 09	Mar 09	July 09	
<b>OVERVIEW/ PRE-SCRUTINY</b> – <i>To maintain an overview of Protecting and Enhancing the Environment in Cumbria. To consider proposed scrutiny topics for inclusion on the work programme.</i>								
<b>Overview Report</b>	To update and inform members on issues and topics arising, with relevance to the Committee's role & remit.							
<b>LAA Performance Report</b>	To provide members with a quarterly/annual update on the performance of National, Local & 'Stretch' Legacy Indicators in the Local Area Agreement.	Vic Milbourne	Information available to members on a quarterly basis. Each meeting will provide members with detail of a different area of low performance or where there are issues with predicted performance reduction.					
<b>Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)</b>	This is the new Audit Commission inspection regime for local authorities, which will be in 2 parts: Area Assessment and Organisational Assessment.	Duncan McQueen (County Council)	The published report for Cumbria will be available from 10 December 09, with despatch to Committee members as soon as possible thereafter.					
<b>SCRUTINY</b> – <i>To scrutinise priority areas agreed by the Committee (supported by Project Outline)</i>								
<b>Cumbria's 2008 Place Survey</b>	To examine variations in public satisfaction levels across the county with regard to 3 identified service areas.	Kieran Barr (CCC)	The final report to be considered and agreed at the December meeting.		◆	◆		

**CUMBRIA JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 2009**

Topic	Issue	Lead Officer/ Contact	Progress & Timescale	24 Sept 09	17 Dec 09	Mar 09	July 09	
<b>CDRP Funding in Cumbria</b>	Referral from South Lakeland CDRP Chair. Proposed changes to the funding arrangements for Cumbria's 4 CDRPs for 2010 onwards.	Mark Clements	<i>Members will find an update in the Joint Scrutiny Briefing at 7.0</i>					
<b>CCTV in Cumbria</b>	Referral from Chief Inspector of Cumbria Constabulary.	Stephen Halliday	<i>Accepted at the September meeting of the Committee. Work ongoing to recruit to task and finish group.</i>					
<b>MONITORING SCRUTINY OUTCOMES</b> - <i>To examine responses to the Committee's reports or comments and check on subsequent progress</i>								
<b>Councillor Calls for Action</b>	CCfAs received by any of the 7 local authorities represented on the Joint Scrutiny Committee.	Vic Milbourne	Members will be informed at each formal meeting, via the Joint Scrutiny Briefing.					
<b>REFERRALS TO JOINT SCRUTINY</b> - <i>To examine responses to the Committee's reports or comments and check on subsequent progress</i>								
<i>This section will detail any referrals received for submission to the Joint Committee, prior to each formal meeting. Upon acceptance each referred topic will be moved to the appropriate section of the Work Programme.</i>								

**NOTES:**  Provisional dates  Firmly planned dates  Task & Finish Group

## CUMBRIA JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 2009

### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

#### Members:

Mr T Fee	Mrs C McCarron-Holmes	-	Allerdale Borough Council
Mrs D Dawes	Mr T Callister	-	Barrow Borough Council
Mr P Farmer	Mr M Boaden	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr B Dixon	Mr K Kitchen	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr T Clare	Mr D Southward	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr S Simpson	Mr J Thompson	-	Eden District Council
Mrs V Rees	Mrs M Wilson	-	South Lakeland District Council

#### Substitutes:

Mr N Hardy	Mr J Lister	-	Allerdale Borough Council
<i>To be confirmed</i>		-	Barrow Borough Council
<i>To be confirmed</i>		-	Carlisle City Council
Mrs Y Clarkson	Mr J Kane	-	Copeland Borough Council
Mr J Airey	Mr B Bleasdale	-	Cumbria County Council
Mr M Holiday	Mr G Savage	-	Eden District Council
Mrs S Eccles		-	South Lakeland District Council

Responsible Officer: Vic Milbourne 01228 226564 [vic.milbourne@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:vic.milbourne@cumbriacc.gov.uk)

## **Cumbria Joint Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday 24 September 2009**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Carni McCarron-Holmes – Allerdale Borough Council  
Cllr Brian Dixon - Copeland Borough Council  
Cllr Keith Hitchen - Copeland Borough Council,  
Cllr Keith Morgan - CALC  
Cllr Sydney Simpson – Eden District Council  
Cllr John Thompson – Eden District Council  
Cllr Vivienne Rees - South Lakeland District Council  
Cllr Mark Wilson – South Lakeland District Council

**Officers Present:** Mr D Claxton - Head of Members Services & Scrutiny,  
Cumbria County Council  
Ms N McClellan - Scrutiny Officer, Allerdale Borough  
Council  
Ms V Milbourne - Cumbria Joint Scrutiny Manager  
Mr N White – Scrutiny Officer, Copeland Borough Council

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Boaden, Peter Farmer, Trevor Fee, Tony Callister, Dorothy Dawes, Tom Clare, Davie Southward and Mary Wilson.

Mr Mark Wilson attended the meeting for Councillor Mrs Wilson.

### **2 MEMBERSHIP**

Following the restructure of Allerdale Borough Council the substitute members are now full members of the Committee.

### **3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4 DECLARATION OF WHIP**

There was no declaration of the whip.

## **5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Committee agreed that there were no items on the agenda to be heard while public and press were excluded from the meeting.

## **6 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Item 7 – the resolution be reworded to include reference to the fact that the Committee had agreed to undertake a scrutiny review on the 2008 Cumbria Place Survey.

The minutes were agreed subject to the above amendment and would be signed by the Chair at the next formal meeting of the Committee.

## **7 SCRUTINY OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

Susan Dungworth from the Centre of Public Scrutiny gave a presentation on Building on Solid Foundations that highlighted ways in which Councils can work together to develop joint scrutiny and provided an overview of joint scrutiny arrangements nationally, and the progress being made in Cumbria.

## **8 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – COMMUNITY STRATEGY & LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

The report provided a commentary on performance for each of the three outcomes in the Community Strategy. These commentaries were provided by thematic partnerships of the CSP and were based on the relevant Performance Indicators from the 188 in the National Indicator Set (NIS) and associated delivery plans.

Items highlighted included:

- Improve Skills Throughout Cumbria – the Employment & Skills Board had agreed to commission three pieces of employment and skills research including an analysis of current skills provision in Cumbria and initial assessment of gaps in provision;
- Improve Life Expectancy – the smoking indicator showed that the numbers of people stopping smoking continued to improve with 20% for 2008/09 and already 16% by the first quarter of 2009-10.;
- Reduce Crime and Fear of Crime – the Place Survey showed strong correlations between service satisfaction, information about services, satisfaction with place and community influence. The Task and Finish Group on Place Survey would look at ways to try to improve those indicators;
- Provide Balanced Housing Markets – 2008/09 figures for net additional homes and for affordable homes delivered would not be reported until later in the year. The economic climate meant the new target would not be achieved, and targets are to be reviewed nationally;

- Performance Reward Grant – there was a total of £3.2million performance reward grant (PRG) attached to 'Average Performance Score' and Cumbria was on target to achieve that target.;
- A representative from Cumbria PCT had expressed an interest in attending a future meeting of the Committee to illustrate the ongoing successes of the smoking cessation indicators.

There was discussion regarding a situation of worklessness in Maryport and the lack of co-ordination between agencies. Members asked that this query be pursued and the outcomes reported back at the next meeting of the Committee.

Figures are on target to receive the Reward Grant of £10.7million but if there was an improvement in the Domestic Violence figures that would rise to £12million.

Councillor Hitchen advised that for SI 12 – Influence decision making – the situation was the same throughout the country.

Although the indicator for Community Empowerment had gone down the revised Community Strategy would focus on more communication and energy focus and there would have a greater focus on safer & stronger communities.

Mr Claxton advised that Cumbria was looking at other authorities doing well under this indicator, and to see how they were improving.

With regard to NI004 it was felt that councils could do more to strengthen community empowerment by improving communication to advise when there are service changes and improvements. Six key actions had been developed to help improve this indicator, under the Safer & Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership Delivery Plan for community empowerment. It was suggested that information should be shared at district and possibly parish level to encourage greater involvement at second and third tier local government.

Councillor Wilson felt that in respect of NI132 proper assessments were not being done. Councillor Mrs Rees advised that the Task & Finish Group had found that there were a number of initiatives that did not focus on some specific issues. The Lake District National Planning Board was trying to encourage younger people to reply to questionnaires by offering incentives. She felt that communication and involving people was not taken seriously enough and that it was the only way to succeed.

Councillor Dixon suggested holding the next meeting at the Copeland Stadium. It was suggested that there could be an informal meeting, on the activities on community empowerment, in the morning following by the formal Committee meeting in the afternoon that the public could attend if they wished.

Mr Graham Hale, Environmental Planning Officer, Cumbria County Council, gave a verbal presentation on the issues affecting balanced housing. Mr Graham advised that housing issues were dealt with by the Cumbria Housing Group which comprises officers and Members from district councils, the Lake District & Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities and the County Council as well as other groups such as the Planning, Transport and Housing Group which is part of the CSP.

The Executive Group meets on a quarterly basis with the officers' group meeting before the Executive and feeding information in. He advised that when the target for affordable housing was set it was based on NI154. The structure plan set the overall housing regulations against the political framework and the basic policy infrastructure is still in place. The limit set in the Regional Spatial Strategy for NI155 was 1137 in 2007/08 but had been increased to 1796 in 2009/10. Local Plans had been set around the lower figure and Mr Graham advised that there was not the housing allocation to meet the extra target. Other reasons why the target had not been met were around the current economic climate and a lack of land availability.

There was discussion around affordable housing and the high levels of migration and efforts to keep young people in the area. As local needs cannot be used as a reason for housing there needs to be a lot of supporting evidence to make the case and at times that evidence is not put together as well as it could be. Councils need to ensure that the housing, planning and environment departments are working together. Houses sold on the open market would subsidise affordable housing. Registered social landlords received a grant from the Government but due to a downturn in the wider housing market the cross subsidy is not available. More people are depending on funding from national Government.

Mr Hale advised that unit costs were higher in Cumbria than Liverpool but there are smaller schemes and, due to the nature of Cumbrian geograph, there were problems getting materials to specific sites, particularly in rural areas, which drove up unit costs.

Councillor Rees advised that within the Lake District National Park there was more co-operation from the National Park Authority and parish councils.

Mr Hale advised that councils need to develop in sparse rural areas and look at the wider rural context.

## **9 JOINT SCRUTINY BRIEFING**

The report updated members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee on new issues of relevance to its remit and purpose, reported back on matters of potential interest previously raised by members and invited members to agree, amend or adjust the Committee's Annual Work Programme.

Councillors Farmer and Hitchen, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, had met on 31 July 2009 to discuss the outcomes of the first meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 22 July.

### Membership of Committee

The Joint Scrutiny Manager provided background to discussions that had taken place within the Committee, and at district scrutiny meetings across the county, concerning the inclusion of the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA).

RESOLVED: 1) That the LDNPA are represented on the Joint Scrutiny Committee  
2) That the YDNPA not be represented on the Joint Scrutiny Committee

### Performance Information

The Chair and Vice-Chair agreed that as a result of members' comments at the meeting on 22 July 2009 a different approach was needed for reporting on LAA performance and Community strategy progress that would succinctly relay the headlines of the quarterly report without focusing entirely on the figures themselves. In discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair it was proposed that relevant officers and LAA partner representatives attend meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Committee to provide members with greater detail on those areas of the LAA that were achieving lower than desirable target attainment.

The Joint Scrutiny Manager suggested members might find it useful to establish a small group from the Committee to undertake quarterly, more detailed examination of the performance information available.

Resolved: That the Committee continue to receive more detailed presentations from partners on areas of lower performance.

### Place Survey Task Group Update

The Joint Scrutiny Manager requested that Members noted the Interim Report of the place Survey Task Group, which outlined the initial findings and further areas of investigation for the group.

### Comprehensive Area Assessment

The Joint Scrutiny Manager advised that the Comprehensive Area Assessment would be available from 10 December and would be discussed at the next meeting. She advised that Members would be able to access the report on the Audit Committee website. The Audit Committee lead for Cumbria, David Hoole, had been invited to the next meeting to aid those discussions.



## Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy Refreshment 2009-10

The refreshed Community Strategy will be in place by September 2010 and the process will commence in earnest in early 2010. In parallel to this, the thematic partnerships, under the Cumbria Strategic Partnership, are being reviewed, with a view to reducing them from 7 to 5. The new Community Strategy will be more community focussed. Between March and June 2010 scrutiny members will have the opportunity to feed into the process of identifying priorities for the new Strategy. These would then be signed off at the end of the summer and there will be discussions on this issue at the next meeting.

### Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

The Joint Scrutiny Manager advised Members that a referral had been received from South Lakeland District Council on the issue of CDRP funding in Cumbria. Changes have been proposed to the way CDRPs are funded in Cumbria which would mean applications for funding on a project by project basis, with the monies being held by the Safer & Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership, in its role as the countywide CDRP. At present, it is also proposed that funding requests would need to demonstrate a direct link between a project and indicators in the LAA.

It was proposed and agreed that this issue should be pursued as a scrutiny review and added to the Committee's Work Programme.

A referral had also been made to the Joint Committee concerning the future of CCTV in Cumbria. This had originated from the Chief Inspector of Cumbria Constabulary but been referred from the Cumbria County Council Safer & Stronger Communities Advisory Board.

RESOLVED: 1) that the Committee undertake a scrutiny review on CDRP funding;  
2) that the Committee undertake a scrutiny review on CCTV in Cumbria;  
3) the Joint Scrutiny Manager email all members of the Committee to ask for volunteers to sit on the task and finish groups for these 2 reviews.

## **10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Members were asked to note it was proposed that the next meeting would be held on

**Thursday 17 December 2009 at 10:30am at the Copeland stadium (to be confirmed).** The morning session would be with the public on community empowerment whilst the formal meeting would commence after lunch, at around 12:45pm.

The meeting ended at 16:00.