

Appendix 1 to Scrutiny Report

West Cumbria Strategic Partnership Joint Scrutiny

Report back from Cllrs Mrs Anne Bradshaw; Mrs Yvonne Clarkson; Keith Hitchen; Mrs Margaret Woodburn.

1. Members will recall that a joint committee with Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council was established earlier this year to provide the scrutiny function for the Local Strategic Partnership (and its constituent parts) and ensure that scrutiny was well-engaged at all levels of the development of the Local Area Agreement for Cumbria through which future funding on specific targets will be aligned. This Committee has now met three times and this report is intended as feedback to Members.
2. A terms of reference has been set to include monitoring of the Annual Review process, an annual report to Government detailing the achievements against Government-set targets for neighbourhood renewal areas and 'assessed by Government'.
3. The West Cumbria Strategic Partnership (WCSP) received a *conditional* Amber/Green marking in their Annual Review for 2005-06. Failure to meet the conditions set by Government and to sustain this marking (it was previously Amber/Red for two years running) will result in the loss of some or part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Funding allocated to West Cumbria.
4. This, and the probability of a move towards examination of the effectiveness of the local strategic partnership by the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process (rather than individual Councils), are the two key motivating factors for Scrutiny Members at this time.
5. Emerging from questioning on this issue are several recurrent themes which Members of the Committee are likely to pursue in the next few months.
 - Officer and Member engagement with the Local Strategic Partnership (at all levels)
 - Resources (inc performance management)
 - Communication
 - Leadership
 - Public sector engagement across the Board.
 - Private sector engagement