

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER - STRONG AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES**

LEAD OFFICER Chief Executive

REPORT AUTHOR Hilary Mitchell

Summary: Seeks the Council's views of future developments in Cumbria and Copeland as a result of the Local Government White Paper

Recommendation:	That the Council debates issues raised in the White Paper following a presentation to the meeting; and That the Council also approves delegation of the authority to respond to the White Paper on Council's behalf to the Executive.
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Resource Implications: None as a result of this report

LA21 Implications: Depends on the views reached following the debate

Rural Implications: Depends on the views reached following the debate

Crime and Disorder Act: Some of the proposals in sections of the Local Government White Paper, if implemented, would contribute to improving community safety

Key Decision Status:

- Financial Status None
- Ward Yes – Impacts on all wards

Other ward implications None

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Local Government White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities was published on 28 October. It contains a vision for change in English communities and many proposals to make that change happen. One aspect of change is the opportunity for local authorities to seek unitary status through a short deadline process.

- 1.2 The Council in common with other local authorities in two-tier areas has been invited to make a bid for unitary status on its own account or jointly with other authorities. An alternative opportunity arising from the White Paper is to work with other Cumbrian authorities to develop radically improved two tier working and to volunteer to be path-finders in this.
- 1.3 A presentation will be made to the Council at the meeting which summarises the main proposals in the White Paper.
- 1.4 Members are then invited to express their views in order to contribute to any response that the Council would wish to make to partners, other local authorities or the Secretary of State. It would then be for the Executive to finalise the response, having heard the views of as many Councillors as possible.