

## **CUMBRIA (LOCAL AREA) AGREEMENT**

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** Cllr E Woodburn

**Lead Officer**  
**Report Author** Chief Executive  
Hilary Mitchell

**Summary:** Seeks the Council's endorsement of the draft Cumbria Agreement.

<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	1) That the Council supports the Cumbria Agreement as a means of improving the quality of life for people throughout Cumbria; 2) That the Council will continue to participate in its delivery and development
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan	Many of the objective in the Council's Corporate Plans will be achieved through the Cumbria Agreement
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Impact on other statutory objectives	Some of the Council's statutory objectives are included in the Cumbria Agreement
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Financial and human resources	Allowed for in existing budgets
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### **1. Introduction**

The Cumbria (Local Area) Agreement is a new plan which sets out objectives to improve the quality of life for people in Cumbria under four main blocks:

- Children and Young People
- Health Communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise
- Safer and Stronger Communities

Of prime importance in developing aims for this Agreement is reducing the gap between the most disadvantaged people in Cumbria and the average.

Local Area Agreements enable central Government to encourage locally-based agencies to raise their level of performance in delivering services by working together. They are also in future to be the conduit through which grant funding is made for initiatives such as Neighbourhood Renewal.

The Cumbria Strategic Partnership on behalf of Cumbria has been negotiating with central Government on the development of the Cumbria Agreement and

working with a wide range of agencies. Negotiations have covered what the detailed performance measures for Cumbria should be and where any incentives for improved performance might be applied.

The County Council is required to approve the Cumbria Agreement on 25 January 2007, and seeks the endorsement of partner organisations to it.

## **2. Copeland Borough Council's Involvement in Developing the Cumbria Agreement**

As the Cumbria Agreement has been developed during 2006/7 there have been a number of opportunities for Copeland Borough and other district councils to contribute to the direction that the Cumbria Agreement is taking.

The original information gathering included a significant input from the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership and many of the objectives and measures from West Cumbria are included in the draft Cumbria Agreement, which will be the primary means of delivering them in future.

Copeland Borough Council's Executive considered the draft outcomes of the Cumbria Agreement on 13 June 2006, 5 September and 26 September 2006. Special joint meetings of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees were held on 19 September 2006 and 9 January 2007 to examine in detail the developing Agreement's objectives and measures, and feedback was provided to the Cumbria Strategic Partnership on our views.

In addition the Council has been active on the Cumbria County Overview Scrutiny Group's examination of the work undertaken to compile the Cumbria Agreement. In addition officers have been involved in a number of groups and events contributing to the Agreement.

## **3. Conclusion**

As Copeland Borough Council has been a partner in the process and ultimately will be a beneficiary from the outcomes from the Cumbria Agreement, Council is recommended to support the Cumbria Agreement as a means of improving the quality of life for people throughout Cumbria. The Council is also recommended to continue to support the development of the Cumbria Agreement to ensure that it increasingly meets the needs of the communities in Copeland.

**List of Appendices:**                      **None**

**List of Background Documents:**        **Draft Cumbria Agreement to be found at [www.cumbriastrategicpartnership.org.uk](http://www.cumbriastrategicpartnership.org.uk)**

**Consultees:**                      **Leader**  
   **All Overview and Scrutiny Committees**