

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP GROUPS – (SECOND DRAFT)

It has been agreed that the preparation of detailed options for the future school network be developed locally within county-wide criteria. The local area means one of the five acknowledged learning zones/consortium areas for secondary and special education in the County. These are the areas on which Cumbria's early planning for the 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative was based. They are as follows:

- Carlisle
- Eden
- Furness
- South Lakeland
- West Cumbria

Each Local Partnership Group (LPG) will work with the professional Project Team to develop, negotiate and consult on some realistic options for the review of school provision in the area within the scope of the vision and principles established by the Cumbria School Organisation Forum (SOF). These options for the local area will be presented to the SOF and then to Cabinet with subsequent decision-making following on.

Guidance on proposed partners and numbers of representatives to be involved in each LPG which has been agreed by SOF is reflected below. However, local partnerships may wish to use some flexibility in determining representation, around the parameters of the proposed structure, to reflect the local context. It is possible, therefore, to add to it or adopt minor variations.

- | | | |
|---|-----|--|
| • Representatives of district, town and parish councils | 2 | (On West Cumbria LPG 2 from Allerdale and 2 from Copeland) |
| • Representatives of the relevant CCC local committee | 2 | * (On West Cumbria LPG 2 from Allerdale and 2 from Copeland) |
| • Local MPs | 1/2 | |
| • Representatives of primary schools | 3 | (Headteachers) |
| | 2 | (Governors) |
| • Representatives of secondary schools | 3 | (Headteachers) |
| | 2 | (Governors) |
| • Diocesan representatives | 2 | |
| • FE college principal and governor | 2 | |
| • Connexions representative | 1 | |
| • Higher Education representative | 1 | |
| • The CCC Cabinet Member for Children's Services | 1 | |
| • LSC representative | 1 | |
| • Representative of work based learning organisations | 1 | |
| • Employers representative | 1 | |
| • Early Years representative | 1 | |
| • Local Strategic Partnership representative | 1 | † |

*Where there is more than one Local Committee area involved, additional representatives may be appropriate.

†Where possible, the nominated individual should come from an organisation not otherwise represented on the LPG.

This model indicates a Partnership Group of 27/28 people.

It was felt that LPGs needed to be large enough to accommodate all potential stakeholders. However, to proceed effectively, it is envisaged that the Group will wish to establish a much smaller group of people from within its membership (say, 6 to 8) to work closely with the Project Team in designing options for the specific area for consideration, initially by the larger group. As both the County Council and the LSC have statutory powers and responsibilities in connection with school organisation, it is anticipated that they would be represented on the smaller working group. It is suggested that a number of representatives from schools should also be involved.

Set out below are the Expectations, Responsibilities and Terms of Reference agreed by SOF.

Expectations/ Responsibilities of Members

Members of the Local Partnership undertake to:

- Conduct all discussion and debate through the Chairperson who will endeavour to give all members a fair opportunity to contribute
- Respect collective decisions reached by majority vote: one member, one vote
- Recommend options and priorities in the area of the county concerned
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to the views and opinions of others
- Maintain confidentiality about any decisions reached, until they are put into the public domain
- Endeavour to attend all meetings of Partnership; where attendance is impossible, please invite a named substitute to take your place
- Conduct all the business of the Partnership within the scope of the vision and principles established and agreed by the Forum

Terms of Reference

- To work together, and with the professional Project Team, to establish realistic options for the area
- To ensure that all options pay due regard to the differing ages of children and young people and that they meet local circumstances appropriately
- To ensure that any local recommendations for consultation are within the vision and principles established by the School Organisation Forum
- To ensure that correct procedures are followed at all times
- To make sure that consultation is undertaken with all interested parties in a fair and open way

November 2005