

## LOCALITY WORKING PILOTS

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor John Bowman  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Julie Betteridge / Sarah Mitchell / Simon Walker

## WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS

The proposals in this paper will make public services more responsive to local communities and enable the Council and its other public service partners, including County and Parishes, more effective at delivering to locally determined needs and agendas.

## WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE? (eg Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council, etc.)

Executive requested a progress report on the locality pilots at the time they agreed to the development of pilots. This report updates the position of the Howgate/ Distington and the North East Copeland Partnerships, two of the three pilot areas for Locality Working. It highlights activity by these two pilot localities specifically partnership arrangements between the three tiers and locality plan priorities.

### RECOMMENDATION:

This report recommends that the Council:

- Notes the partnership governance arrangements for the two pilots, endorses the role of Copeland Borough Council members involved in developing these arrangements for both pilots;
- Notes and endorses the commitment of Copeland Borough Council members from the two pilot localities to sit on their Locality Partnership as a Borough representative in line with the attached constitutions;
- Endorses the role and responsibilities of Copeland Borough Council members in the remaining localities to a) be involved in developing and agreeing governance arrangements for their localities and b) to sitting on their Locality Partnership as a borough representative in line with their locality constitutions;
- Notes priorities raised in the individual community led Locality Plans as issues to be considered as part of Borough Corporate Planning and annual service planning; and

- Continues its commitment of worker resource to support the Locality Partnerships in delivering against the Locality Plans and Future Generation commitments.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Council have already committed to the principles and model for locality working that enables local democratic governance and partnership working across all tiers. A key part of this, supported by the Council is the added value of shared locality plans developed with community and public engagement, building on existing work in local areas.
- 1.2 At the core is the opportunity for Localities to focus on influencing strategic and local public service delivery to benefit the economic, social and environmental well being of residents and enable sustainable communities in Copeland.
- 1.3 Locality working will deliver improvements in two key National Indicators:
  - NI 4 Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality;
  - NI 5 Overall / general satisfaction with the local area.
- 1.4 The Howgate/ Distington and North East Copeland areas are two of the three pilot areas. The third is Mid Copeland being developed with the Five Rivers Partnership. All of these pilot areas were chosen due to the existing strong partnership working already in place. Two of these pilot area existing partnerships are now in a position to adopt new governance documents and are working towards fully refreshed community plans. It is appropriate at this stage that the Council receives progress and reasserts its commitment to the process and these Localities.

## **2 ARGUMENT**

### **2.1 Governance**

- 2.1.1 The Howgate/ Distington Partnership has committed to a new governance document (appendix A). This agreement sets out the aims towards which the partners in all three tiers of democratic community representatives will work. It makes it clear that each tier retains its powers, obligations and autonomy, and that they have committed to work together in order to empower our local communities and to provide locally focused services. The individual agreements also makes clear the contribution that working in this way can make to area based regeneration.

- 2.1.2 The NE Copeland Partnership has drawn up a new Partnership framework document (appendix B) that allows it to embrace locality working, whilst also using their existing structure of Regen North East Copeland Ltd as a local regeneration delivery vehicle. Regen North East Copeland Ltd has been in place since 2006 with a Board of Directors drawn from across Parish, Borough and County Councils in the area, plus business representatives. All play a key role in the locality. Regen North East Copeland has agreed to formally act as the locality Partnership that embraces delivery across public services, the private sector and regeneration. It also wishes to continue to maintain 3 tier representation to support local governance in addressing key priorities. It has decided to maintain the regeneration company as a vehicle to process local funding and support key projects that are driven forward as part of local planning.
- 2.1.3 Both agreements contained in the appendices do not bind all elected members at Parish, Borough and County Council to attend all Partnership meetings. Both localities have independently agreed that a representative from each parish, Borough and County will commit to being part of the Partnership on behalf of their Council. The Parishes, Borough and County will support their representatives by recognising and working within the locality partnership framework; it's constitution, agreed local community led plan and by helping to champion local priorities and deliver against key issues.

## **2.2 Planning**

- 2.2.1 A locally owned plan informing and informed by those of public service delivery bodies is central to community led working.
- 2.2.2 The Howgate/ Distington Partnership has committed to a draft Community Plan for the locality, which draws on its recent survey work, backed up with data from the Place Survey, the Index of Multiple Deprivation and other data. The Plan also makes the connections between locally identified needs and the Council's Corporate Plan, as well as the County Council's plans and the existing Community Strategy, Future Generations.
- 2.2.3 The NE Copeland Partnership has a plan in place that was update in 2008. The Plan is being updated again in 2010 drawing on the information and engagement carried out through the Connecting Communities programme. Each parish in the Partnership is carrying out funded engagement work within their areas to update priorities and refresh parish plans. This work will inform the Locality Team who will integrate it into the rewriting of the plan, along with targeted work at young people; local health; built and green environment; worklessness and financial inclusion.

- 2.2.4 Both plans in the pilot areas are working documents that will be developed; updated and delivered against by the Partnerships over coming months. The Locality team and wider partners are there to help and support. The Plans highlight issues raised as local priorities and engages with local service providers including Copeland Borough Council who will each identify how they are best able to commit to the issues linked to their service delivery. For Copeland Borough Council these priorities will inform current Corporate planning. Where possible and appropriate, joint actions will be agreed between the Partnership and Partners, including services of the Borough Council, to support and enable delivery of the locality plans.

### **2.3 Pilot Programme – Next Steps**

- 2.3.1 Having agreed their governance and draft plan Howgate/ Distington are now focused on a) delivery and engaging with the broader spectrum of Public Service Delivery organisations; and b) to look at how best to extend the Partnership membership to include associate membership for other public sector and third sector organisations through co-option of representatives from, for example, the local Disability Forum, youth partnerships and the Police. Associate members will be kept informed of the Partnerships progress and be able to opt into appropriate meetings to support and report back on key issues as appropriate or attend in response to a direct request from the locality partnership.
- 2.3.2 North East Copeland have strong longer term relationships with public and third sector partners and will continue engagement on Public Service Delivery through established task groups involving public and third sector organisations focused on key issues and identified project delivery. The Connected Communities work within the locality is due to complete in July 2010 and outcomes and learning on wider engagement arrangements for the partnership and local projects will be integrated into the work of the partnership. The existing Task Groups in the locality are kept informed of the Partnerships progress and be able to be requested or opt into appropriate meetings to support and report back on key issues as appropriate.
- 2.3.3 Working arrangements in these two pilot areas offer distinct and different models to the other locality areas in the borough. Each reflects the different circumstances of the existing Partnerships, local relationships and needs of the communities involved. Learning from the pilot programme will start to inform the roll out to the remaining areas of Whitehaven, South and West Copeland. This has begun in May 2010.

### **2.4 Links into LSP**

- 2.4.1 The development activity to scope the options for a Copeland Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has started in June 2010. Locality arrangements will be core building blocks for any of the model options. A programme of engaging the localities with the Cumbria Sustainable Community Strategy early consultation, linking to locality plans and priorities is taking place in June. Further work with all locality areas to engage them in helping to shape the Copeland LSP is being undertaken over the next four months. This is being undertaken with all the localities at whatever stage of development they are at. The Local Improvement Adviser we commissioned to undertake a strategic review of the West Cumbria LSP to inform the development of a Copeland LSP is assisting the development of options.

### **3 CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 The pilot programme to further locality working in Copeland has been successful in the two localities covered in this report by:
- Engaging all three tiers of elected community representatives in developing and agreeing locally relevant governance (partnership) arrangements;
  - Enabling formalised and supported representation by all three tiers in line with each locality governance arrangements;
  - Building on existing local relationships and deepening partnership arrangements;
  - Discussing, developing and agreeing locality priorities as a partnership;
  - Maintained the independence of each of the partners involved in the pilots;
  - Enabled each pilot area to develop at their own pace. (The third pilot area are taking the time they need to consider their options for governance arrangements and to develop and refresh parish and locality plans).
  - The continuous connection between the three pilots by the locality team has been helpful in sharing learning and activity;
  - Early progress and focus on priorities in the action plans has been an important engagement tool in the locality development process.
  - The pilots have been able to take advantage of complementary and external opportunities and linkages, specifically the Government's Connected Communities initiative where North East Copeland successfully bid as one of four North West England pilot areas.

- 3.2 The pilots have focused on the governance and partnership arrangements between the three tiers and other key partners in their areas. They have also focused on the action plan refreshes and priority setting as key tools for locality working through the partnerships. As this element of the pilots activity and models developed is shared with other locality areas, the pilot areas will be undertaking further work on engaging the wider community and public service providers in their area in the partnership arrangements, discussing and identifying priorities and influence and deliver services that meet the needs and priorities within each locality.
- 3.3 Maintaining and restating partners commitments to locality working , the Partnerships in each area and to locally led and owned plans is essential to driving improvements in local services and delivering local prosperity and quality of life.

#### **4 WHAT ARE THE LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS?**

- 4.1 The locality team has now expanded to include three locality workers during April to June 2010. These workers will be allocated to locality areas and work at a boroughwide level on shared topics. The contracts are in place until March 2012.
- 4.2 Working Neighbourhoods Fund supports the locality working developments until March 2012.
- 4.3 The locality based Partnership arrangements that Councillors will sign up to on behalf of the Council are non-statutory and therefore have no legal implications.

#### **5 HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?**

- 5.1 The pilot process is being used to trial arrangements with learning being used to inform the development in other areas. Each area is individual and new working arrangements are being developed with the involvement of local partners.
- 5.2 The Locality team are overseen by a Member Advisory Group and steered by an Officer Working Group from all three tiers. This is helping to keep work on track and identify issues needing attention throughout the programme.
- 5.3 The team sits within the Development Strategy service and is managed by the Head of Service. Close working relationships are being built with

## **6 WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?**

- 6.1 The two pilot localities have an agreed local area Partnership arrangement recognised as the representative body championing local priorities in the locality, namely a) Howgate/ Distington and b) North East Copeland areas.
- 6.2 A reinforcement of the Council's existing commitment to using the locality priorities identified within Area Plans to inform the new Corporate Plan and service planning delivery priorities.
- 6.3 An endorsement from the Council 's Executive to the outcomes from the pilots and commitment to the roles and responsibilities of council members in actively participating in their locality on behalf of Copeland Borough Council.

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Constitution of the Howgate/ Distington Partnership

Appendix B – Framework Agreement of the Regen NE Copeland Partnership

### **List of Background Documents:**

Locality files

## **Appendix 1**

### **Constitution of the Howgate/Distington Partnership**

#### **1 Name:**

The name of the Organisation shall be the Howgate/Distington Partnership.

#### **2 Locality Area:**

The Howgate/Distington Area covers the Parishes of Parton, Lowca, Moresby and Distington, the Borough wards of Distington and Moresby

and the County Council division of Distington Moresby. Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council have endorsed Locality Working and recognise this group as representative of this area.

### **3 Representatives:**

- (i) Each of the Parish Councils shall nominate up to two members of their communities to the Group. At least one of those representatives shall be a member of the relevant Parish Council.
- (ii) The County and Borough Councillors can agree a minimum of one representative from each authority with the Group.
- (iii) The Howgate/Distington Partnership shall have the power to co-opt such other representatives as it thinks fit in order to achieve its objectives and shall aim to reflect a balance between the Public, Private, Community and Voluntary sectors.
- (iv) The Howgate/Distington Partnership supports the role of elected Parish, District and County Councillors and encourages their involvement.

### **4 Purpose:**

The Howgate/Distington Partnership is a community partnership which will exist to facilitate the regeneration of the locality comprising these parishes. The Howgate/ Distington Partnership is a lobbying support and in no way replaces the direct roles and accountability of its member councils.

### **5 Objectives:**

The objectives of the Howgate/Distington Partnership shall be:

- (i) To identify common strategic interests where the councils may with advantage be able to act together in an effective way to improve service provision and to make recommendations as to how this can be achieved.
- (ii) To identify specific interests relating to the activities of one or more councils where help or information from the other councils may be helpful.
- (iii) To prepare a Community Led Plan (Locality Plan) covering the area of all the councils.
- (iv) To provide to the partnership members information and advice about any funding or grant aid which may be available for any of the above matters.



- (v) To work with local, regional and national organisations, statutory bodies, commercial organisations and associations, voluntary groups and associations, and with individuals, to encourage, support, initiate and develop new and existing projects/organisations which contribute to the economic, environmental and social well being of the Howgate/Distington area.
- (vi) To ensure that effective project management takes place.
- (vii) To ensure that all work associated with the Howgate/Distington area is carried out to the highest quality standards.
- (viii) To update the Locality Plan regularly and ensure community projects are recognised within the Plan.
- (ix) To monitor and evaluate the success of the Locality Plan process.
- (x) To effect changes within the Howgate/Distington area to assist in the achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **6 Management**

- (i) The Howgate/Distington Partnership will meet at least twice per year.
- (ii) The Howgate/Distington Partnership shall elect the following key officers from among its members at an Annual General Meeting:
  - Chairman
  - Vice Chairman
  - Secretary.
- (iii) The Howgate/Distington Partnership shall elect one of its members to represent it on the Local Strategic Partnership, at its AGM.
- (iv) The Howgate/Distington Partnership will take all actions, consistent with law, to further the objectives of the group.

## **7 Finance**

- (i) The Howgate/Distington Partnership shall have the authority to raise funds on behalf of the group and apply those funds only to further the objectives of the Howgate/Distington Partnership.
- (ii) The Howgate/Distington Partnership shall have the authority to open a bank account and shall authorise members to operate the

- (iii) If the Howgate/Distington Partnership is dissolved all remaining funds shall be returned to the relevant agencies and any free reserves donated to a community organisation operating in a 'not for profit' manner.
- (ii) No payment shall be made to a member of the Howgate/Distington Partnership, except to reimburse approved expenses (for which a receipt shall be required) incurred in the work of the Howgate/Distington Partnership.

## **8 .Quorum**

- (i) The quorum for making decisions by the Howgate/Distington Partnership shall be at least 3 representatives as appointed under clause 3 of this constitution.

## **9 Amendments**

- (i) This constitution may be amended by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of members of the Howgate/Distington Partnership present and, and voting at a Special General Meeting. The notice of the meeting must set out the terms of the amendments proposed.

## **10 Dissolution**

- (i) The Howgate/Distington Partnership shall be dissolved upon the following grounds:
  - Two thirds of the membership of the Howgate/Distington Partnership attending at a properly convened Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting agrees to dissolution.
  - Failure to meet as the Howgate/Distington Partnership for a period of 12 months.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Framework Agreement for Regen NE Copeland Partnership**

#### **11 Context:**

This is a Framework Agreement for the Regen NE Copeland Partnership. The Partnership has operated in NE Copeland since 2005 through Regen NE Copeland Ltd, a company limited by guarantee. Since embracing the Locality Working agenda the Partnership has formally agreed to broaden its business, community and regeneration remit to include public service delivery and will serve its locality on these issues as the Regen NE Copeland Partnership.

#### **12 Locality Area:**

The NE Copeland Area covers:

- the Parishes of Arlecdon & Frizington, Cleator Moor, Ennerdale & Kinniside, Lamplugh and Weddicar,
- the Borough wards of Cleator Moor North, Cleator Moor South, Frizington, Arlecdon and Ennerdale, and
- the County Council divisions of Cleator Moor North Frizington, Cleator Moor South Egremont, Gosforth Ennerdale and Hensingham Arlecdon.

Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council have endorsed Locality Working and recognise this group as representative of this area.

#### **13 Purpose and Delivery:**

The Regen NE Copeland Partnership is a community partnership, which will exist to facilitate the regeneration of the locality comprising these parishes. The Partnership is a lobbying support and in no way replaces the direct roles and accountability of its member councils.

Regen NE Copeland Ltd will continue to exist as the delivery mechanism for the Partnership using its bank account to process funds of behalf of the Partnership, with ongoing operation of those funds managed through its Board of Directors. Regen NE Copeland Ltd will continue to operate under the guidance of its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### **14 Objectives:**

The objectives of the Regen NE Copeland Partnership shall be:

- (xi) To identify common strategic interests where the public sector may with advantage be able to act together in an effective way to improve service provision and to make recommendations as to how this can be achieved.
- (xii) To identify specific interests relating to the activities of one or more public sector bodies where help or information from their partners may be helpful.
- (xiii) To prepare and regularly monitor/ update a Community Led Plan (Locality Plan) covering the area of all the councils.
- (xiv) To work with local, regional and national organisations, statutory bodies, commercial organisations and associations, voluntary groups and associations, and with individuals, to encourage, support, initiate and develop new and existing projects/organisations which contribute to the economic, environmental and social well being of the NE Copeland area.
- (xv) To effect changes within the NE Copeland area to assist in the achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **15 Representatives:**

Directors of Regen NE Copeland Ltd are automatically part of the NE Copeland Partnership and included within the quota of representatives outlined below. The Partnership has representatives from the following:

- (v) Each of the Parish Councils shall nominate up to two members of their communities to the Group, with normally one in attendance and one as substitute. At least one of those representatives shall be a member of their Parish Council and may also be a director of Regen NE Copeland Ltd.
- (vi) The County and Borough Councillors can agree a minimum of one representative from each authority with the Group. At least one Councillor from each authority may also be a Director of Regen NE Copeland Ltd.

- (vii) The Partnership shall include other representatives as it thinks fit in order to achieve its objectives and shall aim to reflect a balance between the Public, Private, Community and Voluntary sectors. Members from these sectors may also be a Director of Regen NE Copeland Ltd.
- (viii) The Partnership supports the role of elected Parish, District and County Councillors and encourages their involvement.

## **16 Management**

- (v) The Regen NE Copeland Partnership will meet at least twice per year.
- (vi) The Regen NE Copeland Partnership shall share the following key officers with the Board of Directors of Regen NE Copeland Ltd, elected from among its members at an Annual General Meeting of that Company:
  - Chairman
  - Vice Chairman
  - Secretary
- (vii) The Regen NE Copeland Partnership shall elect one of its members to represent it on the Local Strategic Partnership.
- (viii) The Regen NE Copeland Partnership will take all actions, consistent with law, to further the objectives of the group.

## **17 Amendments**

- (ii) This Framework may be amended by a resolution passed by a simple majority of the full members of the Regen NE Copeland Partnership. If the agreed numbers are not in attendance, an extraordinary meeting would be called within 7 days, with a single agenda item of the amendment only and at that time a simple majority of 'those in attendance' applies. All amendment resolutions must be agenda items and cannot under any circumstances be accepted under 'any other business'.

## **18 Dissolution**

The Regen NE Copeland Partnership shall be dissolved if:

- (i) A simple majority of the full members of the Regen NE Copeland Partnership, attending at a properly convened meeting, agrees to dissolution. If the agreed numbers are not in attendance, an extraordinary meeting would be called within 7 days, with a single agenda item of the amendment only and at that time a simple majority of 'those in attendance' applies. All amendment resolutions must be agenda items and cannot under any circumstances be accepted under 'any other business'.
- (ii) Failure to meet as the Regen NE Copeland Partnership for a period of 12 months.