

DRAFT

CUMBRIA LEADERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Leadership Board held on
24 September 2018 at Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, Penrith at 1.00 pm

PRESENT

Rick Petecki (Chair)	Cumbria Association of Local Councils
Councillor Alan Smith	Allerdale Borough Council
Councillor David Pidduck	Barrow Borough Council
Councillor Colin Glover	Carlisle City Council
Mayor Mike Starkie	Copeland Borough Council
Councillor Stewart Young	Cumbria County Council
Councillor Kevin Beaty	Eden District Council
Michael McKinley	Lake District National Park Authority
Jon Rush	NHS North Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group
Councillor Giles Archibald	South Lakeland District Council
Peter McCall	Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

Also in attendance:

Carolyn Otley	Third Sector Network
Clare Killeen	Cumbria County Council (Item 4)
Oliver Viney	Atlantic Geomatics (Item 2)
Laura Kay	Atlantic Geomatics (Item 2)

1. Apologies of Absence

Apologies were received from Geoff Jolliffe. Carolyn Otley was in attendance, substituting for John Holland.

2. Burial Ground Management System

Oliver Viney and Laura Kay introduced the background and rationale for the Burial Ground Management System through a brief presentation and live demo. They said that, if agreed, Cumbria would be the first region in Europe to adopt the system. Atlantic Geomatics have also had initial conversations with national genealogical companies to develop it further.

Oliver and Laura set out the potential project costs which would require buy-in from many authorities, as well as the contracted options if leaders were to consider the proposal.

Leaders were broadly supportive of the proposal, and many Leaders said that they had already discussed the proposal with Atlantic Geomatics, and would explore adopting the system on a collective basis.

Leaders queried whether there were alternative funding options, such as private contributions. Oliver said that this was currently being explored, and a proportional contribution for each council would be proposed following a calculation of burial sites in each area.

It was agreed that Atlantic Geomatics continue their conversations to assess support on a county-wide basis.

AGREED: Atlantic Geomatics to develop their conversations with Leaders to assess appetite for adopting the burial ground management system.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The amended minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

Councillor Kevin Beaty raised the question of the Terms of Reference (ToR), as the Chair ahead of the meeting had asked the Leaders to review whether this accurately reflected the Board's purpose. This was within the context of the Board, by a majority vote, agreeing to commission work to further the proposals made as part of the Local Government Reorganisation. There had not been a consensus and subsequent statements made of not taking part in the proposals.

The Chair said that from the few replies he had received, there had been no particular desire to discuss a review at this meeting, and that Leaders agree that the TOR still represent an accurate reflection of the Board. It was also agreed that each organisation has an equal contribution to make to the discussions on issues of common interest where there is a consensus.

As a matter arising from the last meeting, the Chair said that the Joint Districts' letter to Councillor Stewart Young following the previous Board meeting would follow onto item 4, and that this is considered prior to consideration of the report on Local Government Reorganisation

AGREED: CLB Terms of Reference still represented an accurate reflection of the Board's purpose.

4. Local Government Reorganisation

Councillor Alan Smith stated that the six districts collectively agree local government reorganisation in principle, but not a particular model. Due to this, they wrote a letter, dated 15 August, which detailed that there would be no collective action from the 6 district councils taken at present on developing work further.

Clare Killeen, Strategic Policy & Scrutiny Advisor at Cumbria County Council, introduced the report commissioned at the last Board meeting, which expanded on the customer benefits and financial information for the following 5 options:-

- Current status quo (as a comparator option)
- One single Unitary
- Two unitary authorities, with the split being a north/south split
- Two unitary authorities, with the split being an east/west split (the split being based on Carlisle/Allerdale/Copeland forming one authority, with Eden/SLDC/Barrow being the other)
- Following the CCG lines, and including Morecambe Bay (as originally discussed in the report)

Leaders thanked Clare Killeen for her work on developing the report.

Clare Killeen said that the covering paper considered national developments, following on from previous reports. The report also considered potential area/member arrangements, which were indicatively calculated on the basis of recent unitary developments nationally, population size guidance, and analysis of existing strategic alignment of priorities.

Councillor Colin Glover queried 3.4 in the covering report, which stated that there had been 'non-participation of district councils' in the work, and that Carlisle City Council officers would have provided information to support the work if asked. Clare Killeen responded that, following that there may have been a lack of clarity from Cumbria Chief Executives Group on participation in the work, and following confirmation that district council service information would not be provided covering the whole of the county the work was progressed on the basis of CCC-owned and publicly information available. However, it was recognised that additional relevant information would add value to any further work.

The Leader of Eden DC expressed disappointment that Combined Authority models had not been included in earlier work from the Chief Executives Group.

Councillor Stewart Young said that the Joint Districts' letter was clear and although he was disappointed, he recommended that the report be considered by each of the seven local authorities if they wish to, as there was no appetite to consider the proposal further at the Board at the current time.

AGREED: That each of the 7 local authorities consider the information provided in the Local Government Reorganisation paper if they wish to do so.

5. The Impact of a Brexit Need in Cumbria

Councillor Giles Archibald stated that it was important for Leaders to discuss the implications of Brexit on Cumbria as well as identifying a particular champion to be responsible for progressing any identified potential threats and opportunities to government. He presented several background papers which would assist discussion.

Rick Petecki said that the Local Government Association's (LGA) *Moving the Conversation Forward* Brexit report is particularly helpful in identifying the key issues for local government to consider.

Leaders said that they are currently working with the several national bodies to ensure that the main issues that impact local government are being addressed on a national scale.

It was agreed that Rick Petecki write a letter inviting the LEP Chairman to the 7 December meeting, and that this meeting focus on Brexit, with the intention to invite the county's MPs.

Actions:

1. Chair to invite the LEP Chairman to the 7 December meeting to present on understanding the implications of Brexit on Cumbria, consider the LEP's work in regards to this, and to advise on how best to proceed with influencing central government on behalf of Cumbria.
2. Chair to invite MPs to the next CLB meeting on 7 December to discuss the actions they are taking in respect of the implications of Brexit on Cumbria.
3. Leaders to present the work they are undertaking on Brexit at the next CLB meeting on 7 December.

6. Impact of Climate Change on Cumbria and Beyond

Councillor Giles Archibald presented on the impact of climate change on Cumbria and beyond, which included the main causes of climate change, the possible impact on Cumbria as well as the action required from Leaders. He said that Cumbria has significant assets which it could act on, and that it wouldn't possible to rely on central government on this issue.

Councillor David Pidduck stated that the recent development of the world's largest offshore windfarm opening off the coast of Barrow demonstrates the action which local authorities can take.

Councillor Stewart Young said that councils had signed up to Local Agenda 21, which committed local authorities to reducing emissions, and it was therefore important to build on this.

It was agreed that this item is further developed for the CLB meeting on 1 February.

Action: Councillor Giles Archibald to bring forward a list of specific steps which Leaders can take in relation to climate change for the 1 February meeting.

7. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

- 7 December 2018, 1.00 pm
- 1 February 2019, 1.00 pm
- 5 April 2019, 1.00 pm

8. Any Other Business

Councillor Alan Smith brought an urgent item relating to the recommendation as Vice Chair of the public sector for the LEP Board, ahead of its Annual General Meeting on 28 September. He proposed Councillor Stewart Young for this position, which was agreed.

AGREED: Councillor Stewart Young is recommended as Vice Chair of the public sector for the LEP board.

Meeting closed 3.00 pm