

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

South Lakeland & Barrow Community Safety Partnership (CSP) – Leith Hallatsch

The minutes as always are on the website: www.onesouthlakeland.org.uk/community-safety-partnership/

CALC Executive Committee – David Peters

The 25 June 2016 meeting marked the death of Keith Morgan after 33 years as (Appleby) town councillor and 25 years on the CALC Executive. Keith had been prominent in NALC and Rick Petecki will replace him on its National Council.

The Finance Working Group reported its deliberations on how to reconcile CALC's increasing workload of supporting parishes with the prospect of reduced grants from principal authorities. An up-to-date survey of assets and services being delivered by parish councils will be carried out, and a draft medium-term financial/business plan for CALC brought to the next meeting. This extra work will be funded by additional resources drawn from reserves. The President counselled prudence when using CALC's reserves and suggested a 'service level agreement' approach towards persuading principal authorities to award grants. The Chief Officer had produced a paper informing Cumbria County Council about CALC's role and the benefits CALC brings to Cumbrian governance (the paper – described as "brilliant" – can be found on CALC's re-vamped website as "Appendix 2 CALC information" with the Executive's minutes).

There were updates on the Cumbria Flood Partnership, Connecting Cumbria, and the problems of providing affordable housing.

A request from the Barrow Joint Rural Committee (comprising Cumbria CC, Barrow BC and the three parish councils) that CALC's constitution should provide for an additional seat on the Executive for Barrow's parish councils (Askam & Ireleth, Dalton with Newton, Lindal & Marton) was considered. It was agreed that they should first be encouraged to attend the South Lakeland District Association meetings as a means towards greater involvement and representation in CALC.

Health and Wellbeing Forum – Peter Smillie

No report received.

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

The Group's minutes are on the One South Lakeland website: [One South Lakeland website](#) and not SLDC website, because it is not a "committee." At the 10 August 2016 meeting a report was presented of a study by Ark Housing Consultancy (commissioned by SLDC) into whether the Council should take a more direct role in the development of new housing, particularly affordable homes. Where SLDC is the planning authority the Local Plan's land allocations are not producing the expected numbers, while developers are claiming that some allocated sites may be too expensive to develop. In the LDNP allocated sites are being snapped up by private developers and the registered providers cannot compete. The report's recommended strategy is that SLDC should establish, in conjunction with key local housing associations, a 'land promotion vehicle' focussed on finding housing land, and should support it through 'on-lending' – raising capital by borrowing within its General Fund then on-lending to the new vehicle. This proposal was generally supported by the Group and will go forward via Overview & Scrutiny Committee to the Cabinet in September. A business plan could be commissioned for early 2017 with possible implementation later that year. The full report was not yet public but would be in the Cabinet papers. My concern was that the new system might bring forward sites otherwise deemed unsuitable for housing within a viable community.

The latest draft of SLDC's Housing Strategy 2016 to 2025 was considered. It was admitted some of the targets were ambitious, but there was no criticism of the document aiming high. Following the demise of the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust SLDC has carried out the first commissioned parish housing needs survey (for Crosthwaite & Lyth), but it's not a free service.

CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead

Allan was unable to attend the last meeting of CCC South Lakeland Local Committee.

SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters

This has not met since the June District Association meeting, with its next meeting taking place on 20th September 2016, with training first.