

Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Annual General Meeting 2024

Notes of the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils held on Saturday the 12th October 2024.

Attendees

Name	Council
Mary Bradley	Chairperson of CALC
Ged McGrath	Treasurer CALC
Sonia Hutchinson	Chief Officer CALC
Rachael Kelly	Town & Parish Development Officer – CALC
Lindsay Nicolson	Parish Support Officer – Westmorland and Furness
Scott Thornley	Parish Support Officer - Cumberland
Karen Wood	Admin – CALC
Jo Atkinson	Cumberland Council
Mark Fryer	Leader Cumberland Council
Sam Plum	Westmorland & Furness Council
Jonathan Brook	Leader Westmorland & Furness Council
Dan Visser	Cumbria Tourism
Trevor Allison	Cummersdale PC
Val Ayre	Cumberland Council
Lisa Beken	Great Salkeld PC
Lynn Bell	Pennington PC
Ann Byers	Dalston PC
Sue Castle-Clarke	Ousby PC
Andy Coles	Barrow TC
Pamela Davidson	Appleby PC
Jonathan Davies	Clifton Community Council
Judith Derbyshire	Dacre Parish Council
Christine Downey	Allithwaite & Cartmel PC
Sue Gilbertson	Appleby TC
Christine Hallatsch	Windermere TC
Janey Hassam	Sedbergh PC
Meg Hancock	Newby PM
Phil Hancock	Newby PM
Sarah Harden	Brougham PC
Michael Heaslip	Workington Town Council
Mike Higginbotham	Wetheral PC
Holly Ho	Alston PC
Deb Holden	Penrith TC
Linda Housby	Holme St Cuthbert PC
Julie Huck	Burneside PC
Will Huck	Burneside PC
Vivien Little	Keswick TC
Karen Mason	Holme PC
Katie Moore	Ulverston TC
V Newton	Windermere TC

Jane Ollerenshaw	Cockermouth TC
Sally Parkyn	Windermere TC
Nick Perie	Dalton TC
A Povey	Dent with Cowgill PC
Andy Pratt	Drigg & Carleton PC
Joan Raine	Crosby Ravensworth PC
Douglas Sim	St Bees PC
Anna Smith	Westmorland & Furness Council
Danny Smith	Penrith TC
Lesley Smyth	Barrow TC
Lucy Stevens	Holme St Cuthbert PC
Jane Tea	Kirkoswald PC
Sandie Watson	Askham/Barton/Bampton/Dufton PCs
David Wilson	Brigham PC
Peter Winter	Preston Patrick PC

WELCOME: Councillor Mary Bradley, Chairperson of CALC welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced representatives from Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. This would be the first CALC AGM held under the new Governance arrangements.

M I N U T E S

PART 1

Business Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from:

Name	Council
Andrew Bedford	Brough PC
Alan Brocklehurst	Brough PC
Becx Carter	Parish Clerk
Steph Cordon	Westmorland and Furness Council
Charlene Iredale	Lakes PC
Elaine Lynch	Cumberland Council
Ian Parker	Penrith TC
Hilary Snell	Penrith TC
Carolyn Cripps	Threlkeld PC

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 September 2023

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 September 2023 were agreed.

3. Presentation of the CALC 2023/24 Annual Review

The CALC 2023/24 Annual Review is a snapshot of CALC work and it is a celebration of a vibrant membership organisation. Mary Bradley encouraged everyone to read it.

4 To note the Statement of Accounts for 2023/2024

The Statement of Accounts for 2023/2024 were noted. It was explained that the two sets of Accounts need to be read together as CALC became a Limited Company in August. The first set of Accounts run from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023 and the second set run from 1st August 2023 to 31st March 2024. CALC have strong financial reserves.

5. To note the current financial position

The current financial position was noted.

6. Appointment of Auditors

It was noted that Saint & Co have been re-appointed as the auditors of Cumbria Association of Local Councils Limited on the recommendation of the CALC Board.

7. Director Election results

It was noted that the Elected Directors will form the new CALC Board from 12th October 2024.

8. Subscription Fees

It was noted that the annual increase of the NALC portion of the subscription fees will increase by 5% in 2025/2026 and the CALC portion of the subscription fees will increase by 3% in 2025/2026 as agreed by the CALC Board. There may be a possible challenge for the 5% NALC increase at the AGM which is to be held in November and it may be reduced to 3%.

PART 2

Guest Speakers

Mark Fryer

Leader, Cumberland Council

Jo Atkinson

Director of Business Transformation and Change, Cumberland Council

Jonathan Brook

Leader, Westmorland and Furness Council

Sam Plum

Chief Executive, Westmorland and Furness Council

Cumberland Council

Improved Communities is a common theme with Cumberland Council and CALC.

Cumberland highlighted the following as focus areas

- Improving Services and ensuring value for money,
- Focus on health and wellbeing.
- Dentist/GP appointments are difficult to make in the West and Cumberland Council are working with the NHS regarding improvements.
- Suicide issues are being addressed particularly focusing on young men.

- Children's Services are inadequate, and improvement is required, challenging as there is no cap on care costs and care packages are in place or often available in Cumbria.
- Working with multi-agency partners and a new family hub has been set up in Whitehaven.
- Equality Objectives have been agreed and there is an advanced Equality of Opportunity. Hopefully this in time will address the educational attainment gap.
- There are improvement plans in place and Community Panels are beginning to function to identify local priorities.
- Services need to be transformed further
- Devolution is now on the table but needs more work for all.

Westmorland and Furness Council

There is a Vision and Ambition Council Plan and Framework in place, and it will take 5-10 years to integrate all Services.

Westmorland and Furness highlighted the following as focus areas:

- Working on inclusion, collaboration
- Improving ICT and waste collection services
- Supporting active healthy happy lives for young and old
- Supporting people in need and reducing equality
- Providing Leadership in the drive to become net zero
- Confident, empowered resilient communities
- Sustainable, inclusive economic growth
- Customers are at the heart of everything we do
- Workforce should be confident, empowered and inclusive.
- Westmorland and Furness council has a community powered vision with Town and Parish Councils a critical friend and partner on this journey. There is a Building Safe and Strong Communities compact in place, encouraging a focus on action and opportunities together with a programme of interactive workshops co-designed alongside CALC improving the lines of communication with Town and Parish Councils.
- Locality Boards are in place where local councillors make decisions and influence Westmorland & Furness service development and policy, each has a non-executive CALC representative sitting on the board.
- Community Teams are in place to assist and support parish and town councils. Going forward there will be challenging and exciting times working in collaboration.

Q&A Panel questions highlighted the following:

1. Both Councils are party to an electoral ward review by the boundary commission and the outcome hopefully will assist stronger links between town/parish councils and the unitary authority
2. Locality boards and panels have the potential to support local decision making and although in their infancy, there is a wish to fully involve CALC members.
3. Rural transport issues are being addressed with the assistance of grants based on a more strategic approach which is considering a wider variety of provision.
4. Devolution expression of interest has been submitted to government, but more local work is required as it needs to benefit Cumbria and deliver to identified need, this includes the role of a potential Mayor.
5. There are challenges integrating a number of IT systems, but the aim is to have a much better process for handling documentation.
6. Coastal erosion is an issue that is on the agenda of both authorities.
7. Town Centre managers have been both effective and ineffective, but the role can be revisited.

Dan Visser, Cumbria Tourism

Dan explained who Cumbria Tourism are and what their vision is which includes:

- Growing staying visitors;
- Lobbying for businesses;
- increasing the number of people visiting less well known areas of the Lake District; increasing reputation and economic value to the county as an all year destination;
- investing and creating new sustainable tourism experiences.

Dan went onto explain.

- The Tourism and value statistics for 2023 compared to 2022
- The change in Tourism in 2023 compared to 2022 by area and unitary
- The Cumbria Destination Management Plan for 2024 to 2030 including it's principals, key objectives and value of the visitor economy.

Dan then took questions from the audience:

1. **Can tourist tax help to improve tourism in certain areas?**
PR happens already. There could be a place for a levy.
2. **What is the potential size regarding visitors over the next 5-10 years?**
There is a need to welcome everyone and there is a potential for more visitors. Capacity varies at different times of the year.
3. **How can we influence overcapacity without affecting the people living in certain areas?**
Addressing this is a challenge and there is a Strategic Management Group in place to look at accessing these areas during high impact times. Local Schools need supported. Visitors go for cheaper prices. There is a need work together.

PART 3

Mary Bradley presented Certificates of Achievement for all Clerks who have achieved the CiLCA qualification since 2018.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mary Bradley thanked everyone for attending the AGM.