

**Cumbria Strategic Partnership/ Local Area Agreement for Cumbria**

**A Report by the Chief Constable**

**Summary**

This paper aims to provide an update on developments within the Cumbria Strategic Partnership/ Local Area Agreement arena. It provides a picture of Constabulary activity.

**Recommendation**

That the Authority note the report.

**Detail**

Please see attached report and Appendices.

**Michael Baxter  
Chief Constable**

## **The Cumbria Strategic Partnership – development of a Local Area Agreement for Cumbria**

The Cumbria Strategic Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership for Cumbria. The LSP at district and county level is seen by central government as the 'partnership of partnerships', having a central role in their aim to provide shared local democratic leadership and effectively join together services for people and communities. There are a number of implicit assumptions in this relationship:

- The Local Authority has a leadership role accepted within this – primacy is given to either unitary authorities, or in two tier areas to the county authority.
- Local Authority providing local democratic leadership – leading local partnership and setting an area's objectives
- The Scrutiny role of Local Authorities is being given more weight. This will include the power to scrutinise health bodies, the duty to scrutinise CDRPs (in the Police and Justice Bill) and the power to scrutinise the Local Area Agreement. Not all of these powers have yet been enacted, but these are firm government proposals.
- Complementary duties to co-operate with the Local Authority are placed on key public sector agencies, such as Children's Trusts, CDRPs, and PCTs, as well as an overarching duty to co-operate proposed within LSPs.

The outcomes of this changing relationship are expected to be local area agreements for each Local Authority area. These will:

- Be accompanied by pooling of central funding
- Create Legal duties for the Local Authority and partners to co-operate
- Provide greater influence over partner targets e.g. councils define a subset of targets for local partners
- Individual partners will be responsible for each local target, with collective responsibility through the Local Area Agreement.

In Cumbria the first stage in the production of a Local Area Agreement was the introduction of a Stronger and Safer Communities Agreement for 2006-7.

**Not Protectively Marked**

**The Stronger and Safer Communities Agreement for Cumbria**

The Vision of this agreement is *to play a role in building* communities that are reassured by low levels of crime and environmental nuisance, by a strong sense of belonging and by a positive identity where diversity is valued and there is a strong sense of respect within and between communities.

The Aim is for partners to use the agreement as a mechanism for harnessing the collective skills, knowledge and activity in the County to create safer and stronger communities and to secure improved outcomes for the people of Cumbria. Community cohesion will improve because of tackling crime, environmental issues and securing greater involvement of local people, particularly those in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The Stronger and safer Communities Agreement is the result of negotiation and collaboration between partners in Local Strategic Partnerships, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, the voluntary and community sector, the business sector and other relevant bodies.

The building blocks for the agreement have been the various community strategies and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships' strategies, the Sub Regional Strategy and, where relevant, neighbourhood renewal strategies. A variety of other plans have been considered and drawn upon to ensure that both national and local issues have been considered in developing the finer detail of the agreement. This agreement provides the link from these strategies and plans at a local level to a set of nationally identified outcomes.

## **Future Development**

The need to develop the Stronger and Safer Communities agreement using a partnership approach has been facilitated through the structure of the countywide Local Strategic Partnership - Cumbria Strategic Partnership.

In order to develop and co-ordinate delivery of the Local Area Agreement from 2007, Thematic Partnerships have been established within the Cumbria Strategic Partnership to develop and manage block outcomes and associated delivery activity.

The partnerships will develop existing activity, and work in negotiation with central government (through the Government Office for the North West) to produce a wider Local Area Agreement for Cumbria effective from April 2007. Negotiations are underway, and the constabulary is heavily involved in this work, particularly in the Stronger and Safer Communities partnership, but also via the developing Children and Young Person's Partnership Board. We are represented in this work through the Chief Constable, the Assistant Chief Constable (Organisational Development and Partnerships) and the HQ Partnership Department.