

South Lakeland District Council
Council
18 December 2018
Executive Report – Mid Year 2018/19

Portfolio: Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio
Report from: Cllr Giles Archibald

Portfolio Responsibilities

Working with partners and stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary sector, at national, regional and sub-regional level. To act as an ambassador and advocate for the Communities of South Lakeland.

To represent the Council on local and other strategic partnerships including nominated representative on the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership as appropriate.

The development and implementation of the Council Plan.

The Council Plan objectives in relation to quality of service and high performance culture.

Policies, Plans and Strategies

- Council Plan (incorporating the Five Year Strategy)
- Performance Management
- Equality Scheme
- Emergency Plan
- Communications Strategy

Key Areas:

- Community strategy/ area planning/ development of recovery group
- Emergency Planning
- Performance Management
- Local and Cumbria Wide Strategic Partnerships
- Relationships with Government Departments and other relevant authorities at a sub-regional, regional and national level
- Media and Communications

Council Plan

The current Council Plan is in place until 2019. A review of the Council Plan is currently underway. This has involved a consultation with key stakeholders to reflect key strategic developments. The draft will be presented at Overview and Scrutiny in January 2019, leading onto Cabinet and finally Council in February.

Community Strategy/ Area Planning and Development of the Recovery Group

The Council is working closely with the EA to develop and implement plans to adapt the local infrastructure to protect the communities against the increased frequency and intensity of storms resulting from climate change.

Emergency Planning

South Lakeland District Council is supporting Community Resilience Groups by ensuring that they receive situational awareness information at the earliest opportunity. The Council is working with agencies to formalise a Cumbria Resilience Forum process that communicates this information to Community Resilience Groups. In the meantime the Council has put in place a temporary email arrangement and this was implemented during Storm Callum this October. As a result many 'thankyous' were received from community groups.

The Council is supporting the Resilience Unit to provide a new online facility where Community Resilience Groups can upload their emergency plans and update their contact details. There should also be the opportunity for two way agency to community communication - and for community to community networking. The facility should also allow the public (and organisations) to register offers of voluntary support and register offers to donate goods.

The Council is also working with agencies to put in place a public online portal - where real time information can be 'posted' during an emergency. All 'posts' will be validated and might include information on areas flooding, blocked roads, closed bridges etc. This might include pictures and videos and commentary. Any member of the public would be able to keep an eye on this site for the latest updates on the situation. This has already been trialled by Dumfries and Galloway Police and has proved very popular with the public.

The Multi-Agency Intelligence Cell is a high priority for Cumbria Resilience Forum. The Multi-Agency Intelligence Cell will collate intelligence during an incident and will inform multi-agency responses and enhance prioritisation. The Council is working with the Police and other agencies to formalise this arrangement within Cumbria Resilience Forum planning.

Staff and Members continue to be provided with training opportunities for key emergency roles. The annual training for the Member's Emergency Role was held recently on November 28th.

The Government is currently consulting on a set of National Resilience Standards for Emergency Planning – there is an opportunity for the Council to benchmark against these standards once they are finalised.

The Councils Business Continuity planning underpins emergency response and critical services. This October the Council was awarded the highest level internal audit result of 'Substantial Assurance' for Business Continuity planning.

The Environment Agency are looking to install river level gauges in Ambleside on Stock Ghyll, in Coniston on Church Beck and in Grasmere on the Rothay. The plan is then to

introduce a new flood warning area for each of these communities. The Kendal flood warning area boundaries are being updated to take into account the flooding from Storm Desmond in December 2015.

Performance Management

Throughout 2018/19 Performance Management will focus on the Council Plan measures of success to monitoring progress towards the priorities for South Lakeland.

- Estimates show that the Council is on target to achieve 1000 new jobs in the area by 2025. Since 01/01/14 an estimated 489 new jobs have been created in South Lakeland.
- The Council is on target to deliver the 1,000 new affordable homes for rent by 2025 with a cumulative total of 431 since 01/01/14.

Local and Cumbria Wide Strategic Partnerships

The Council is continuing to engage with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Cumbria County Council through a technical officers group to shape and influence policy and specific strategic documents. The LEP Annual report has now been released and I will share a copy with all members for their information.

The Council is working jointly with Lancaster City and Barrow Borough Councils to enhance the South Cumbria and Lancaster Economic Region strategy to enhance economic activity which will benefit all three districts. The Leaders have contacted all the Local MP's to highlight the vision, outcomes and priorities that the initiative will deliver for the benefit of our residents and businesses.

The prospectus has now been agreed and the Leaders and Chief Executives plan to host an event where key business leads from each area and MP's will be invited to launch the prospectus and actions moving forward in the New Year.

Another local partnership the Council has supported to date include sponsorship of the Cumbria Sports Awards held on 30 November, led by Cumbria County Council, at which SLDC presented an award.

Relationships with Government Departments and other relevant authorities at a sub-regional, regional and national level

The Council has continued to raise any concerns to government offices and other relevant authorities surrounding issues that cause the district difficulties. For example as Leader, I have attended meetings in London, Ulverston and Carlisle to discuss with Government, Northern Rail and Network Rail the poor quality of the rail service in the County as well as writing to the Minister of Transport.

I recently attended a meeting in Westminster with Senior Management leads of GSK to discuss the closure of part of their operation in Ulverston to highlight some potential rationales for the future.

As Leader I also attend the Cumbria Leaders Board to discuss key Cumbria wide issues and seek partnership working to implement resolutions. I have recently raised concerns regarding the increasing levels of child poverty and addiction, effects of Climate Change on Cumbria to raise awareness and encourage other districts to mitigate actions. Throughout the summer myself and Cllr Jones met with members of different communities across the

district to develop a list of Council led actions to help mitigate against Climate Change. The Green Team has been established to help support the actions moving forward.

Media and Communications

The Council's communications team aim remains to keep residents and other stakeholders fully informed about what the council does in a way which supports Council Plan priorities.

The Council has been delivering messages using all available channels including newspapers, TV, radio, websites, social media, and other digital platforms. The Communications operation is merged with Customer Services to provide a consistent joined-up approach to how we interact with the public. The use of digital channels to target communications more effectively is being built upon.

Most recently the winter edition of South Lakeland News has been sent to all households throughout the district to highlight the Council successes to date and keep residents up to date with Council projects and initiatives.