

THE CUMBRIA AGREEMENT

PRACTICE NOTE 3

DECISION MAKING

VERSION 3 – 28th February 2007

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INTRODUCTION

This practice note explains the decision-making process to support the Cumbria Agreement. These arrangements apply for 2007-08. The framework will require revision in 08-09 to reflect the government's proposal for all LAA funding to be paid as a single pot from April 2008.

This note includes arrangement for:

- * Locality Funds
- * Other Pooled Funds
- * Pump Priming Grant

LOCALITY FUNDS

In 2007-08, pooled funds include former Neighbourhood Element, Cleaner Safer Greener, and Neighbourhood Renewals Funds. These allocations are triggered by indices of multiple deprivation in individual electoral wards. Currently, allocations are made for wards in Allerdale, Barrow and Copeland. Neighbourhood Element and Cleaner Safer Greener were pooled in the SSCF agreement for 2006-07 and NRF is pooled from 2007-08. Previously, these funding streams were paid under separate grant determinations directly to the District Councils. In 2007-08 they are all paid under the conditions and monitoring framework for the LAA.

The LAA includes 'floor' targets aimed at closing the gap between the most deprived communities and Cumbria overall. The decision-making framework for funds relating to these targets provides a locality focus linked to the outcomes in the LAA.

Funding allocations will therefore be made on the recommendation of the Local Strategic Partnerships and /or Neighbourhood Management Boards for those areas. In formulating recommendations the LSP task groups will need to work closely with CSP Thematic Partnerships to ensure funds support the outcomes. Area Support Managers will have delegated authority to formally approve these allocations, or any amendments to them, acting on the advice of the Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director – Finance & Central Services. Their role is to ensure that funds are allocated towards achievement of those outcomes, and that allocations are within the overall financial framework for the management of pooled funds.

OTHER POOLED FUNDS

Thematic Partnerships will make recommendations on the allocation of pooled funding to lead partners within each block. Funding will be allocated so as to best support the achievement of agreed outcomes and targets. Thematic Partnerships need to consider what activities best support outcomes and targets, which are the appropriate delivery

bodies, and whether proposed allocations are good value for money. Recommendations by Thematic Partnerships will be subject to formal approval by the County Council.

Overall allocations have already been agreed for 2007-08, but procedures need to be in place in the event that there are reasons to amend allocations during the year. This could be appropriate if, for example, there was a difficulty in spending pooled funds and partners agree that reallocation of resources is appropriate to avoid exceeding limits on carry forwards. The government conditions for 2007-08 only allow reallocation of pooled funds within blocks, although this will change with the introduction of the 'single pot' approach from April 2008.

The arrangements to manage this depend on the range of partners involved. Broadly, they aim to speed up decisions on recommendations from Thematic Partnerships. This will be achieved by giving County Council Corporate Directors, as representatives of the Accountable Body, delegated authority to approve decisions within certain parameters. The different scenarios are summarised below.

- * **Virement within LAA block across Directorates within Cumbria County Council.** The Corporate Directors for the Directorates affected, with agreement of Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Finance & Central Services, to have delegated authority to agree recommendations from Thematic Partnerships for virements up to £100k, subject to not having policy implications that require Council approval.
- * **Virement within LAA block from a County Council budget to an external partner.** Corporate Director for the Directorate with the agreement of Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Finance & Central Services to have delegated authority to agree recommendations from Thematic Partnerships for virements up to £20k, subject to not having policy implications that require Council approval.
- * **Virements within LAA block to County Council budget from other partners or between external partners.** The Corporate Director on the Thematic Partnership to have delegated authority to approve recommendations from the Thematic Partnership with the agreement of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Finance & Central Services. Their role in this scenario is primarily to check that any reallocation of funds does not diminish overall capacity to deliver LAA outcomes.

Any decisions exceeding these parameters would still require approval by full County Council.

PUMP PRIMING GRANT

Allocations of Pump Priming Grant have been agreed and in principal are three-year allocations. Exceptionally, the CSP Executive may recommend that any uncommitted underspends against be reallocated to other targets where that might enhance performance. In the event that the CSP makes such recommendations the process for

formally approving any reallocations would be largely as for pooled funds, except that these funds are not ringfenced to LAA blocks.