

West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group

Socio-economic Sub Group Meeting 2nd September 2008

A Social Investment Strategy for West Cumbria / Communities That Work Strategy

Earlier in the year discussions took began between representatives of Copeland Borough Council and the Community Foundation around the need to substantiate which actions and priorities are required to guide what was broadly termed 'social investment'.

This led to discussions with the Local Strategic Partnership which was working on developing the 'Communities that Work' element of West Cumbria Sustainable Communities Strategy which has very similar aims.

A meeting was held on 30th June 2008 involving most major stakeholders (Allerdale and Copeland Borough Council's, Cumbria County Council, the Local Strategic Partnership, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, LLWR Limited and Sellafield Limited, University of Cumbria and the Community Foundation).

At this meeting it was proposed that a 'social investment' strategy should be developed. The core principles of this strategy are to include that it should:

- be a strategy for all sectors (not just third sector)
- influence existing resource allocation by organisations through the LSP and other processes
- support creation of socio-economic plans and strategies
- make the case for new funding to West Cumbria
- build on the what has already been done and existing data and reports
- deliver the "Communities that Work" element of the West Cumbria Community Strategy.
- not be judged on a purely economic basis (it's outcomes are about addressing disadvantage)

This piece of work is felt to be very important because it fills a gap in the overall regeneration strategies for West Cumbria. The proposal was unanimously supported by stakeholders. A working group has been formed involving officers of the three local councils the LSP and Community Foundation.

With the support of LLWR a consultant has been engaged to work with members of the working group and a draft strategy will be presented to partners on 15th September.

Any questions relating to the Strategy should be directed to Andrew Beeforth, Director, Cumbria Community Foundation, andy@cumbriafoundation.org 01900 825760.