



Agenda

**Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 15 April 2025 at 10.30 am
Conference Room A&B - Cumbria House, 107-117
Botchergate, Carlisle, CA1 1RD**

The press and public are welcome to attend for the consideration of any items which are public.

**Enquiries and requests for supporting papers to: Rose Blaney
Email: rose.blaney@cumberland.gov.uk**

Membership

Cumberland Council

Cllr B Pegram (Chair)
Cllr R Dobson
Cllr C McCarron-Holmes
Cllr J McDermott
Cllr M Mitchelson
Cllr M Hawkins

Westmorland & Furness Council

Cllr M Rudhall (Vice Chair)
Cllr T Biggins
Cllr M Brereton
Cllr S Evans
Cllr H Hodgson
Cllr H Ladhams

Access to Information

Agenda and Reports

Copies of the agenda and Part A reports are available for members of the public to inspect prior to the meeting. Copies will also be available at the meeting.

The agenda and Part A reports are also available on the [Cumberland Council website](#).

Public Participation

Any member of the public who wishes to ask a question at the meeting should apply to do so no later than midday five working days before the date of the meeting.

Information on how to apply can be obtained from the Democratic Services Officer named on the front of the agenda.

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absences.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations by Councillors of disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests, other registrable interests or any other interests in respect of items on the agenda.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items of business on the agenda.

4. Minutes of Joint Executive Committee (Pages 5 - 22)

To note the minutes of the Joint Executive Committee meeting held on 3 March 2025.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 23 - 26)

To consider the minutes of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 February 2025.

6. Hosted Waste Disposal Contract and Service and Waste Inter Authority Agreement (Pages 27 - 34)

To receive an update on the Hosted Waste Disposal Contract and Service and Waste Inter Authority Agreement.

7. Connecting Cumbria (Pages 35 - 42)

To receive an update on Connecting Cumbria and the full Fibrus roll out.

8. Programme for Proposed Disaggregation (Pages 43 - 52)

To receive an update on the programme for proposed disaggregation.

9. Joint Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 53 - 62)

To consider a report from the Scrutiny Officer on the Work Programme.

10. Urgent Items

To consider any urgent items of business.

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Westmorland
& Furness
Council

JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Joint Executive Committee** held on Monday, 3 March 2025 at 10.30 am at Patterdale Room, Voreda House, Penrith

PRESENT:

Cllr J Battye	Westmorland and Furness Council
Cllr P Bell	Westmorland and Furness Council
Cllr J Brook	Westmorland and Furness Council (Co-Chair)
Cllr B Cannon	Cumberland Council
Cllr M Fryer	Cumberland Council
Cllr A Jarvis	Westmorland and Furness Council
Cllr E Williamson	Cumberland Council

Officers in attendance:

Assistant Chief Executive (Cumberland Council)
Chief Executive (Cumberland Council)
Chief Executive (Westmorland and Furness Council)
Chief Financial Officer (Cumberland Council)
Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer (Cumberland Council)
Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer (Westmorland and Furness Council)
Director of Enabler Services (Westmorland and Furness Council)
Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) (Westmorland and Furness Council)
Director of Thriving Places (Westmorland and Furness Council)
Director of Business, Transformation and Change (Cumberland Council)
Interim Waste Manager (Cumberland Council)
Programme Manager (Westmorland and Furness Council)
Project Manager (Cumberland Council)
Democratic and Electoral Services Manager (Westmorland and Furness Council)

Also in attendance:

Enterprising Cumbria Programme
Enterprising Cumbria Programme Director

PART I ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Hinton.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

69. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED, That the press and public be not excluded during consideration of any items on the agenda today.

70. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

71. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There had been no requests received to ask any questions or statements or receive any petitions from members of the public.

72. JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME

The Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer (Westmorland and Furness Council) informed the Committee that the Work Programme would be presented to each future meeting to set out the business of future meetings and agendas.

The secretariat of the Committee switched every six months between Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Council's, so the Work Programme updates would sit with the authority providing the secretariat.

In line with Access to Information legislation any key decisions to be taken by the Committee would also need to be published on each Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the 28 days before the decisions were taken.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Executive Committee received and noted the Joint Executive Committee Work Programme.

73. WASTE INTER-AUTHORITY AGREEMENT (WIAA) - ANNUAL BUDGET REVIEW 2025 - 26

The Project Manager (Cumberland Council) reminded the Committee that Project Agreement (Waste Disposal Contract) was subject to the Waste Inter Authority Agreement (WIAA) entered into on 31 March 2023 between Cumberland Council (Host) and Westmorland and Furness Council (Recipient) for the management of the Waste Disposal Contract.

A draft budget for 2025/26 for the WIAA of £43.893m was considered.

The proposed budget of £43.893m was an increase of £1.083m on the original budget 2024/25 of £42.810m agreed by this Committee on 22 November 2024. The reasons for the proposed increase of £1,083m were:-

- £1.165m forecast contract inflation 2025/26 (estimate assumption 3%)
- £0.116m net additional cost of disaggregating land fill transport costs from waste contract unitary charge
- £0.081m Business Rates taper relief ending
- £0.041m forecast pay award 2025/26 (estimate assumption 3%)
- £0.011m Kendal Fell contract revisions
- (£0.290m) Impact of sale of Cumbria Waste Management £0.127m reduction in rental income less (£0.417m) reduced expenditure
- (£0.041m) Pay award and contract inflation variations reduction to original budget 2024/25.

He also updated the Committee with the discussions with Biffa.

Cllr Jarvis asked whether National Insurance (NI) was a significant issue. The Project Manager (Cumberland) commented that the NI costs would be absorbed.

Cllr Jarvis emphasised the importance of having the split of this financial year completed by June 2025.

Cllr Brook moved the recommendations which was seconded by Cllr Fryer.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Executive Committee approved the overall Waste Disposal budget for the Financial year for the hosted service - FY25/26 combined budget value of £43.893m.

74. DISAGGREGATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Director of Business, Transformation and Change (Cumberland Council) updated the Committee on the Disaggregation Programme Delivery.

She commented that this Committee was responsible for the oversight and management of the hosted services including the development and implementation of disaggregation plans. Any changes to disaggregation dates must be approved by this Committee following consideration by the Joint Officer Board (JOB).

On 13 February 2025, the JOB had considered the proposed disaggregation of services detailed in the report and recommended to this Committee that they were disaggregated in line with the proposals set out below.

The Connecting Cumbria team worked to deliver the Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2025 and its attendant action plan. That included Project Gigabit, support for voucher funded community broadband projects, Very Hard To Reach premises, 4G coverage and 5G programmes. The team and related contracts were hosted by Cumberland Council, with oversight provided by the Connecting Cumbria Governance Board.

Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council had agreed that Connecting Cumbria would run as a hosted service until 31 December 2025, in line with the 2020-25 Digital Infrastructure Strategy, with that arrangement to be reviewed annually by the Connecting Cumbria Governance Board. Due to the continued successes of the hosting arrangement and increasing interoperability of the work across the whole county, it was recommended that changes were made to ensure that the hosting arrangement continued on a long-term basis.

It was proposed that Connecting Cumbria moved to long-term hosting and continued to provide a service to both authorities, reporting into the Connecting Cumbria Governance Board, with oversight from the JOB and this Committee. This would be supported by the Connecting Cumbria Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2026-30.

The Apprenticeship service supported all apprentices and trainees engaged via any of the new authorities and the completion of their apprenticeship programme. The service was initially agreed to be hosted by Westmorland and Furness Council for a period of up to 24 months, to the disaggregation date of 31 March 2025. Following a review, it had been agreed by this Committee on 13 November 2023 to bring forward the disaggregation date of elements of the service from 31 March 2025 to 30 September 2024. That included disaggregation of workforce planning and resourcing, marketing and communications, inclusion, mentor training and support, support for wider strategic objectives, employability pathways, ambassador network, and external partnerships. Interim arrangements would be required for the digital apprenticeship service account and additional work required for apprenticeship levy/associated funding through to March 2025.

Cllr Brook moved the recommendations which was seconded by Cllr Fryer.

RESOLVED; That the Joint Executive Committee:-

1. Noted the recommendation from the Joint Officer Board to move Connecting Cumbria, currently due to disaggregate by 31 December 2025, to long-term hosting by Cumberland Council; and
2. Noted the recommendation from the Joint Officer Board to extend the date of Apprenticeships disaggregation from 31 March 2025 to 31 March 2026.

75. LONG-TERM HOSTED SERVICES Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Assistant Chief Executive, Cumberland Council reminded the Committee that under the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) entered between Westmorland and Furness Council and Cumberland Council governing the provision of hosted services, the Councils had agreed to establish a Joint Executive Committee.

The Terms of Reference set out within the IAA stated that this Committee was responsible for reviewing the performance of hosted services against budget and indicators for service quality, performance, and efficiency.

The Committee would also receive an annual report on performance, finance, and proposed service improvements.

On 25 January 2024 this Committee had agreed the performance measures for each of the long-term hosted services, with a further request to provide additional qualitative data where possible.

The performance data collated for Quarter 3 of 2024/25 was detailed at Appendix 1.

He commented that overall performance was still doing well with 75% of the green targets and 25% red targets. There were a few areas for improvement in terms of physical activity of children, system related issues with Registration Services and data for the adoption service. He outlined positives which included the digital infrastructure coverage continued to improve and there was a high completion rate for Emergency Planning.

Cllr Battye asked for an explanation why no fostering assessments had been completed in the last quarter. The Assistant Chief Executive (Cumberland Council) agreed that the information be circulated to Members of the Committee.

Cllr Bell asked whether the Registration Service should be made more accessible. The Assistant Chief Executive (Cumberland Council) agreed that a response would be circulated to Members of the Committee.

Cllr Jarvis asked if the targets for the Registration Service could be looked at alongside the opening times of the service.

The Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer (Cumberland Council) commented that this was being looked at and that the Team were in the process of being disaggregated by the end of the month. When a Lead was in place at both authorities their task would be to improve the performance of the service. She commented that there were some KPI's that were statutory and it was pleasing to see that they had increased. The percentage of births and marriages registrations did continue to fall but that was down to customer choice.

Cllr Fryer commented that assessments did fluctuate between quarters and that there was clearly an issue with either reporting or performance. The Director of Business, Transformation and Change (Cumberland Council) commented that performance was assessed on completions. She agreed to take back the comments to the Service for them to confirm.

He also commented that main stream carers had fluctuated by one and for three quarters of a year there had been no increase in the number of careers.

Cllr Williamson commented that data won't be able to be downloaded for a number of weeks and that may be having an impact on the figures reported.

Cllr Fryer also suggested that the recycling and composting target of 60% were not the right target but should be a stretched target of 75% to 80%.

The Director of Enabler Services (Westmorland and Furness Council) advised the Committee that the Children Social Careers was still a single live instance but there would be a planned downtime later in March.

Cllr Brook asked that for the next meeting could an explanation be provided of the relevance of some of the KPI's and the data.

Cllr Brook moved the recommendations which was seconded by Cllr Fryer.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Executive Committee noted the performance update for long-term hosted services during Quarter 3 of 2024/25.

76. IAA AMENDMENTS AND BUDGET 2025/26

The Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer (Westmorland and Furness Council) reminded the Committee that the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) between Westmorland and Furness Council and Cumberland Council had been entered into on 31 March 2023 with the purpose of providing the arrangements for the governance and delivery of hosted services and functions. The authorities had agreed that for varying periods of time the exercise of their duties would be served by certain functions and services being discharged and delivered as a number of shared services. The IAA sets out the arrangements for this Committee to undertake responsibility for the governance of those functions and services, and the arrangements and general terms on which the authorities administer and exercise responsibility. A Service Schedule was in place for each hosted service. That was the schedule that detailed the agreed approach to delivering the functions described within the Inter Authority Agreement in terms of service provision, performance monitoring and costs.

The disaggregation of services had been implemented in accordance with the terms set out in the IAA. This Committee had also approved recommendations to bring disaggregation dates forward, postpone the date of disaggregation, implement revised delivery arrangements, and move to long-term hosting. That had meant that a Variation to the IAA had been required.

Cumberland Executive on 19 March 2024 and Westmorland and Furness Cabinet on 26 March 2024, had considered reports setting out proposed changes to the IAA. Both authorities had approved those changes and delegated authority to Senior Officers of each authority to enter into a Deed of Variation, following consultation with the respective relevant Members.

A Deed of Variation to update the IAA with 12 2024/25 Service Schedules had been sealed by Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council in December 2024. The Deed of Variation updated Service Schedules for hosted services in accordance with changes agreed by this Committee, revised the Hosted Services budget for 2024/25 and updated finance information within Service Schedules, and noted Service Schedules for hosted services that had disaggregated by 31 March 2024.

The drafting of a Deed of Variation to update the IAA with the remaining nine 2024/25 Service Schedules was in progress, to be completed by 31 March 2025.

At its last meeting on 27 January 2025, this Committee had received a report with timescales for Amendments to the IAA and Budget 2025/26 and had agreed to receive draft amendments and draft revenue Annual Budgets to this meeting.

The IAA provided that once agreed by this Committee, the budget proceeded to the Cabinet and Council meeting as part of the annual council budget setting process. Both Councils had included within their 2025/26 proposed budgets the estimated IAA 2025/26 budget requirements. The 2025/26 IAA elements of the budget had been updated for any agreed increases/decreases in annual budgets by the SROs and updated for planned service disaggregation timelines. Both Councils had included the appropriate inflationary uplifts (including pay award) for 2025/26 in the proposed budgets and they were allocated to the IAA services in year.

In terms of the draft revenue Annual Budgets for each Hosted Service, the latest budget monitoring position for Q3 (end of December 2024) had been used to determine any required changes to the 2025/26 budgets. Increases had been applied for the 2024/25 pay award and annual inflation. Additional changes to the budget reflected any changes to the scope of the Service Schedule or other changes to the agreement.

Budgetary implications had been included and that information was set out at Appendix 1. Of the 20 hosted services, seven had been signed off by the Senior Responsible Officer. The position with each Service Schedule was set out at Appendix 2 (A and B). Service Schedules to be removed from the IAA following disaggregation were set out in Appendix 2 (C).

Waste Disposal was long-term hosted and subject to a separate Waste Inter Authority Agreement (WIAA) entered into on 31 March 2023 between Cumberland Council (Host) and Westmorland and Furness Council (Recipient) for the management of the Waste Disposal Contract. The draft 2025/26 budget was part of a separate WIAA report to this meeting.

An agreement under s.113 of the Local Government Act 1972 had been entered into on 31 March 2023 for a duration of 12 months and had been subsequently extended into 2024/25. The authorities had agreed that because of the specialist nature of key roles which formerly sat in the County Council, the allocation of these roles to one or other authority would leave either Cumberland or Westmorland and Furness Council exposed to risk in terms of service delivery or skills shortage.

It was proposed that further recruitment and/or training would take place with a view to ending these roles within a 12-month period.

Approximately eight staff employed by Westmorland and Furness and 12 employed by Cumberland in this position, with a proposal for them to continue in shared roles. That was a reduction to the original number of shared roles of 333.

The arrangements put in place to govern the shared roles, enabled authorities to work effectively together, with appropriate protections in place for each would continue to mean that costs of the shared roles were met equally between both authorities.

There were a number of other legal agreements that were required as a result of shared service or other arrangements between the two authorities, these include but were not limited to, an agreement for the Coroners Services, services offered to the Cumbria Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority. As these arrangements were continuing into 2025/26, there was a need for the continuation of these Agreements, the principles of which had been agreed by the respective authorities.

Cllr Brook moved the recommendations which was seconded by Cllr Fryer.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Executive Committee:-

1. Agreed the proposed amendments to the Inter Authority Agreement and Budget for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2;
2. Noted that the 2025/26 Service Schedules will be finalised by 31 March 2025, and the Deed of Variation to update the Inter Authority Agreement to be completed after this date;
3. Noted progress on the Deed of Variation to update the Inter Authority Agreement with the remaining 9 Service Schedules for 2024/25 by 31 March 2025; and
4. Delegated the authority to agree final terms of the Deed of Variation for the Inter Authority Agreement, the s.113 Agreement and any other arrangements between Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Council which require a legal agreement between the two authorities, to the Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officers for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness in consultation with the respective Leaders of the Council and Finance Portfolio Holders.

77. ENTERPRISING CUMBRIA LIVE PROGRAMMES UPDATE

The Programme Director, Enterprising Cumbria submitted a detailed report relating to the four key programmes being delivered by Enterprise Cumbria. The report provided an update on activities, both planned and delivered, since the last meeting of the Committee.

She highlighted in particular the changes to seek change control approval to support businesses in the Kirby Lonsdale Area. In terms of Live Programmes grant letter offers were still outstanding and bids for the Borderlands Energy Programme had been oversubscribed. She also commented on the positive Learner Numbers for the Skills Bootcamp.

The report highlighted that at the end of 2024 (the last reporting period) 67 businesses had received grant funding to help them grow, 198 businesses had been

supported via an advisor, 179 individuals had been supported to develop their business idea and 33 of these had received £500 to help to launch their business.

There was a projected underspend of circa £350,000 on the programme due to under-delivery, which if unspent would return to central government. A grants programme had been devised to support businesses impacted by the tragic fire in Kirkby Lonsdale in December 2024 which could see the underspend used to offer financial assistance to help businesses in the area to begin their recovery.

Enterprising Cumbria had responded quickly to Westmorland and Furness Council's request for support and were looking to obtain approval via the appropriate change controls through Cumberland Council, who, as the Accountable Body would need to make any payments.

Westmorland and Furness Council had proposed to continue the business support activities in 2025/26, albeit with a reduced budget due to the lesser funds available for local authorities next year under the UKSPF programme. All exiting projects had been offered the opportunity to apply to deliver again with a Westmorland and Furness Council Investment Panel assessing these proposals.

Delivery continued to SMEs across Cumbria as part of the Cumbria Accelerator service. By 17 January 2025, 296 businesses had received a three-hour support session with an advisor to troubleshoot issues and move them towards growth. That was against a target of 555 and represented 53% of targeted delivery.

There was likely to be under-delivery by year-end as three providers were struggling to achieve their targets due to lack of enquiries. Due to procurement regulations, it was not viable to remove or reduce their contracts and bring in alternative suppliers, therefore, operating within the Department of Business and Trade (DBT) programme deliverables, they were looking to deploy funding into other activities such as marketing and events to avoid underspend on that programme.

By 17 January 2025, 27 of the targeted 55 businesses had received 12 hours of support. There were a few businesses awaiting support under that aspect of delivery which typically focused on ongoing coaching and mentoring.

While there was no expectation of clawback of funding linked to underperformance there was clearly a need to review activities so that 2025/26 funding was used to its full potential. Key to this would be earlier procurement and contract start dates (in the current year delivery did not commence in earnest until August 2024) and better marketing of the programme.

The DBT were keen to see more businesses in Barrow-in-Furness supported on the back of the investment in the area, with the possibility of increased funds under that programme for 2025/26.

Workshops continued to be delivered, focusing on key issues affecting businesses across the county. Recent successes had included events on effective online

communication and understanding the impacts of menopause in the workplace. Planned events included a hospitality workshop and a marketing masterclass.

Support continued to around 40 businesses within the portfolio of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) businesses.

Meetings had been held in January 2025 with the following businesses to advise and support Cumbria Marketing Ltd, Enesco Ltd, Futamura UK Ltd, Hollingsworth & Vose Ltd and Holmen Iggesund.

Support to Sealy UK and Anord Mardix was ongoing to facilitate new periods of growth.

Enterprising Cumbria oversaw the submission of five Cumbrian Expression of Interest (EOI) bids for the NWNZH SPARK public sector net zero project pot (£525K total) with applicants able to apply for funding in £25k increments, to a maximum of £75k in a single bid. They were now working to support full applications by 9 February 2025.

We are working to facilitate bids for the Borderlands Energy Programme Call for Projects - £1.5-3.5 million pilot projects with approximately £4 million available to both Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils (EOI 19 Feb 2025).

The Junior Policy Officer, funded through NWNZH, had started in January 2025.

Cllr Mark Fryer and David Beeby, Chair, Economic Growth Board, had attended the first North-West Senior Leaders Forum, ensuring Cumbria's voice was heard across the region.

Enterprising Cumbria's Head of Net Zero took up her position on the Net Zero North West Board (working to deliver a co-ordinated net zero vision for the region). Planning was underway to host the next Board meeting in Cumbria, showcasing Cumbria's impressive net zero projects.

They were exploring options for leading the development of a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for Cumbria. A LAEP was a key enabler to delivering Cumbria's net zero ambitions. It provided a practical roadmap to delivering net zero and would provide a strong evidence base for a devolved strategic authority to deliver on new powers and funding, as well as helping Cumbria make the case for investment in local energy networks.

The Head of Net Zero had attended events during Nuclear Week in Parliament, supporting the Nuclear Regions event as part of the North West Nuclear Arc, and making connections for promoting Cumbria as centre of excellence for new nuclear.

They followed up on the successful Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Workshop, by visiting Anns Hill Farm, which had installed an AD plant that was powering the farm. They were writing up a case study for Anns Hill and working to understand blockers to further agricultural AD projects.

The Head of Net Zero had attended the Solvency UK Investment Delivery Forum, connecting with investors and spreading the message that Cumbria was going for growth and seizing the opportunities provided by greater devolution.

84% of contracted/targeted Learner had been achieved since training began in August 2024.

Contract Modifications made under change controls, had been granted to allow further provision in Project Management, Logistics, Event Management and Construction (£180,050). As noted at this meeting in January 2025, learning had started/or was due to start for candidates and would be completed by the deadline of 31 March 2025, with learning providers advertising for learners.

Of the learners who had completed a Skills Bootcamp (SBC), the Milestone three outcome (unemployed into employment, employed in a new role, self-employed with further business opportunities or employed having increased roles/responsibilities), we have achieved an outcome of 71% to date. (Our DfE target by September 2025 is 75%).

Following this Committee's meeting in January 2025, the ITT for Wave 6 Skills Bootcamp had gone 'live' on The Chest (portal) with tender Lots available in:

- Logistics
- Project Management
- Construction
- Leadership and Management
- Digital
- Engineering and Manufacturing
- Other (Carers, Hospitality, Early Years, Learning Support and Assistants)

The aim was to contract with Learning Providers to allow SBC provision to commence as close to start of the 2025/26 financial year and was on track at present.

Cumbria Careers Hub was funded by the Department of Education through the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) and match funding provided by Enterprising Cumbria core budget.

Cumbria Careers Hub was responsible for supporting the delivery of the careers guidance programme from Year 7 to year 13 in Secondary Schools, Special Education Needs Schools (including Section 41 independently funded schools) and Pupil Referral Units and the four Further Education Colleges in Cumbria.

That equated to 53 Institutions. Funding was allocated each academic year and started on 1 September 2024. The programme employed a team of 3.7 staff on fixed-term contracts to 31 August 2025. The programme required up to £70,000 match funding to contribute 50% funding towards staff salaries.

The 2024/25 Careers and Enterprise Company contracts operated on an academic year basis with the current contract operating from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The table at Appendix 1 outlined the targets within the main CEC contract. Performance against these targets would be reported at the end of each academic Term with results to 31 December 2024 listed. There was very low risk to not achieving the targets set out for this academic year.

The Department for Education and Careers and Enterprise Company had confirmed that the strategic priorities for the next academic year would remain the same as last year, namely:

Priority 1: Improve careers provision in schools and colleges against the Gatsby Benchmarks through support, training for the education workforce and quality assurance.

Priority 2: Provide more high-quality experiences with employers for students and teachers – with a focus on current ‘cold spots’.

Priority 3: Amplify apprenticeships, technical and vocational routes – including supporting the implementation of the Provider Access Legislation (PAL).

Priority 4: Target interventions for economically disadvantaged young people (Free School Meals (FSM)) and those who face barriers (SEND, PRU, Rural, Home Educated)..

Priority 5: Connect careers provision in schools and colleges to the needs of local economies (as articulated through Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs)).

Specific Projects of Note to support achievement of the above targets:

- Cumbria Careers Day on 5 March 2025.
- Cumbria Talent Force Development and scheduled launch March 2025 (Countywide alumni of 18-35 year olds who would provide career pathway posters and support schools to promote careers across all sectors).
- Ongoing training of trainee teachers to integrate careers into the curriculum, understand vocational and technical pathways and provide targeted support to pupils facing barriers.
- Food technology project for year 10 and 11 students to improve social mobility, attainment and career awareness.

Cllr Jarvis commented that he was grateful for the work being done to support Kirkby Lonsdale.

Cllr Brook moved the recommendations which was seconded by Cllr Fryer.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Executive Committee:-

1. Noted and comment on the activities and deliverables of all programmes;

2. Noted the plans in paragraphs 3.4/3.5 to seek change control approval to support businesses in the Kirkby Lonsdale area;
3. Noted the Skills Bootcamp ITT outlined in paragraph 3.28; and
4. Noted the comments on the progress of Careers Service outcomes at Appendix 1.

78. ENTERPRISING CUMBRIA - ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The Programme Director, Enterprising Cumbria commented that to support the transition of LEPs into Local Authorities or devolved administrations, a range of guidance had been released by government to support the transition of functions. That included guidance on developing governance, accountability and transparency in decision making. For areas with a devolution deal that guidance had been provided in the “English Accountable Body Devolution” guidance, however for areas without a devolution agreement, areas were expected to ensure that there was transparent governance in place, evidence was provided as to how all upper tier authorities in the area were involved in decision-making and how service provision would be ensured across the whole area. It was also a requirement to ensure that an Economic Strategy was in place, and an Economic Growth Board was in situ.

To support the new arrangements, a Collaboration Agreement had been agreed by the two Councils which details the activity and relationship between the two Councils for the delivery of functions transferred from the CLEP. That did not provide sufficient detail on the day-to-day management of the Enterprising Cumbria delivery or the governance and economic growth functions within it.

In line with the Terms of Reference for this Committee, it was the responsibility to “Agree and keep under review the assurance framework to deliver Cumbria wide economic growth functions, including any sub boards or advisory groups”. The paper sought to provide an overview of the Enterprising Cumbria Assurance Framework and requested approval of the Assurance Framework attached at Appendix 1.

In developing the Assurance Framework, the following guidance had been applied.

- Local Enterprise Partnerships: integration of LEP functions into local democratic institutions- August 2023 and December 2023.
- English Devolution Accountability Framework
- Best practice from other national governance guidance such as the Grants Functional Standards on Fraud Risk Assessments and the UK Subsidy Control regime.

The Assurance Framework had been split into three parts that reflected the areas of assurance that Government expected to see in place to demonstrate effective and transparent decision making.

- Roles, Responsibilities and Decision Making
- Local Scrutiny, Checks and Balances
- Programme Management and Delivery

That section detailed the roles of the different elements within the Enterprising Cumbria structure including this Committee and the Accountable Body. It provided an overview of the function of this Committee in making decisions, and the role of the Accountable Body in formalising these decisions. The role of the Economic Growth Board as an advisory body within the structure, and the means by which other subgroups could be established, in line with the Committee's Terms of Reference was also explained. Finally, it detailed the role of Enterprising Cumbria in the programme management, strategy development and delivery across the Cumbria geography.

Transparency and appropriate scrutiny of decision making was a key element of any Assurance Framework. That section considered the importance of maintaining standards of public life across the governance structure, and the mechanisms by which all Officers or Members working across the Enterprising Cumbria activity was charged with upholding these requirements. It included the requirement for identifying and declaring conflicts of interest, including those members of the Economic Growth Board who would not be covered through the conflict-of-interest policy of either of the local authorities.

The section also included how Enterprising Cumbria would demonstrate transparency of decision making to government through its approach to Value for Money, Audit and the required performance monitoring. It also demonstrated its approach to transparency and decision making to the public with details of the documents that would be published on the Enterprising Cumbria website and the two Council websites.

The section focussed on the programme management delivery of existing and legacy programmes as identified within the Collaboration Agreement. The Assurance Framework references the reporting and management requirements for the programmes and included a proposed approach to the management of scheme changes which would allow minor changes to projects to be considered and approved by the Enterprising Cumbria team, which would be considered in line with the scheme of delegation that was to be finalised and included as Appendix 5. That section also included the proposed approach to Fraud and Risk, and Subsidy control.

That version of the Assurance Framework purposefully focussed on the existing and legacy programmes. It was recommended that the Assurance Framework be reviewed on an annual basis to allow it to reflect government policy developments, as well as adoption of the Enterprising Cumbria approach to the development of new schemes.

Cllr Brook moved the recommendations which was seconded by Cllr Fryer.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Executive Committee:-

1. Approved the adoption of the Enterprising Cumbria Assurance Framework attached at Appendix 1 and its publication on the website, subject to agreement of the scheme of delegation; and

2. Authorised Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council Section 151 Officers, Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Cumberland Council and Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Westmorland and Furness Council in consultation with the Leader of Cumberland Council and the Leader of Westmorland and Furness Council to agree and finalise a scheme of delegation in relation to Enterprising Cumbria for inclusion in Appendix 1 within the Assurance Framework.

79. ENTERPRISING CUMBRIA 2025/26 BUDGET

The Programme Director, Enterprising Cumbria reported that the primary drivers behind the budget increases were the Skills Bootcamp grant increase relating to Wave 6, DWP Connect grant, UK REiif and Devolution preparation costs.

Enterprising Cumbria budget had increased from £3.611m 24-25 to £5.897m 25-26 was primarily due to the commencement of skills bootcamp Wave 6 budget increasing grant income £1.111m and carry forward of grant from 24-25 £0.299m from Wave 5. Drawdown from reserves had enabled the budget to increase £0.776m primarily to be used for Devolution preparation and to contribute toward UKREiif costs. Other income £0.100m increase was due to Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council contributing £0.050m each towards UKREiif costs.

The Interim Programme Director/Core Budget consisted of the Programme Director costs and Devolution work to be commissioned by Westmorland and Furness (W&F) and payment to W&F for assurance work. The cessation of DLUHC Grant of £0.234m had resulted in the necessary drawdown from reserves to fund the core budget to reflect the 2024-25 budget. The £0.006m decrease from the £0.370m budget 2024-25 was due to the grant award being £0.234m which when the budget was set was estimated to be £0.240m.

The Business Support budget 2025-26 was expected to reflect the 2024-25 budget position subject to grant approval.

The Cumbria Career Enterprise Hub budget reflected 2024-25 budget assuming all grant funding would be the same. The increase from 2024-25 reflected the careers hub team grant which was £0.021m more than anticipated when received during 2024-25. It was assumed the same level of grant would be received during 2025-26.

The Net Zero Programme budget would be as 2024-25 subject to clarification of grant to be received for 2025-26.

The Skills Bootcamp budget for 2025-26 would comprise of the former Wave 5 carry forward of grant from 2024-25 estimated to be £0.299m. The budget would be adjusted accordingly depending on the year end outturn position at the end of 2024-25 if there was difference from the £0.299m. Wave 6 grant was expected to be £2.945m and included a request from Enterprising Cumbria to Department for Education for specific additional support for BAE Systems focussed SBC of

£0.955m. If the BAE Systems SBC did not materialise the Wave 6 expenditure would be rebased to reflect any change.

Department for Work and Pension (DWP) grant had been received for £0.100m to commence preparatory work towards supporting people back into work. Work was expected to commence October 2025 to administer the grant that would be received to pay individuals. The full grant received late 2024-25 would be carried forward to 2025-26 if no expenditure occurred in financial year 2024-25.

It was reported that the devolution programme may require expenditure of £0.500m during 2025-26 funding from drawdown of reserves.

The Committee considered the earmarked reserve balance that was estimated to be £0.239m. It was essential that these earmarked reserves be maintained at a minimum level that meet all potential exit costs, if Enterprising Cumbria were to cease. That would ensure any financial risk for either authority was sufficiently mitigated.

Cllr Brook moved the recommendations which was seconded by Cllr Fryer.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Executive Committee: -

1. Agreed the forecast 25-26 budget for Enterprising Cumbria as set out in the report;

2. Agreed to reduce the former LEP Reserves by £0.776m (from £1.015m to £0.239m) to fund any costs associated with mobilising activity for engagement in the Devolution Priority Programme £0.500m, loss of core grant MHCLG Grant funding £0.226m and UKREiiF (Real estate investment infrastructure forum) budget shortfall £0.050m; and

3. Noted that the Section 151 Officers would work together to determine a minimum level of reserves to be held as a contingency balance and review the overall usable reserve position and that this would be reported back to a future meeting of the Committee.

80. CUMBRIA ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The Programme Director, Enterprising Cumbria reported that the Cumbria Economic Strategy sets out a new economic vision for Cumbria. Grounded in robust evidence and extensive engagement, it provided the direction for collective efforts to unlock the full potential of assets and address persistent barriers to growth and would form the basis of the devolution ambitions.

Going for Growth was about showcasing the potential and contribution to national priorities, but it was first and foremost a Cumbria document, focused on the region-wide solutions whilst recognising the need for tailored approaches that reflected the diversity of our places.

The strategy was more than just a policy document—it's a renewed partnership approach and a call to action. It urged local and national partners to leverage every available tool and take an active role in driving Cumbria's growth story.

The strategy was composed of four key sections:

- Introduction to Going for Growth: sets the context for the strategy and provided an overview of its development.
- State of the Region 2025: summarised the economic evidence base that underpinned the strategy.
- Cumbria 2045: presented the vision for growth and six key priorities for action.
- Delivering our vision: defined the core strategic outcomes that would be monitored through forthcoming delivery plans.

She commented that a draft amendment and an updated Strategy had been circulated.

Cllr Williamson asked that the descriptions of abbreviation be used in the Strategy and also that engagement with the Young Peoples Group was representative of Cumbria.

Cllr Fryer asked how we could encourage businesses to consider the Strategy and how they could develop their businesses further across the whole of the County.

The Chair of Enterprising Cumbria thanked everyone who contributed to developing the Strategy. He commented that, in general, there was a need to increase "Start Ups" while ensuring the sustainability of existing businesses. There was a need to raise the profile of Cumbria whilst helping to drive those existing businesses forward.

Cllr Jarvis commented that the physical infrastructure was not emphasised as it could be and that the whole resilience of the network was poor. He also asked about how the Strategy was being communicated to residents.

The Programme Director, Enterprising Cumbria mentioned that the document would be placed in Youth Centres, Libraries and public buildings to encourage community engagement.

Cllr Battye raised points regarding infrastructure with a focus on the M6 and West Coast Main Line along with Affordable Housing and Education and Skills.

Cllr Williamson suggested for each theme a podcast or video content creation which would reach a wider audience and be more appealing.

Cllr Brook moved the recommendations as amended which was seconded by Cllr Fryer.

RESOLVED, That the Joint Executive Committee unanimously :-

1. Approved the draft Cumbria Economic Strategy – Going for Growth 2025-2045 and delegate non-material amendments to the Cumberland Council Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport, and Westmorland and Furness Director of Thriving Places, following consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders from both authorities;
2. Noted the four Strategic Outcomes and measures outlined in the Strategy; and
3. Approved the development of a delivery plan.

The meeting ended at 11.31 am

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 10 February 2025

Time: 10.30 am

Location: Conference Room A&B - Cumbria House, 107-117 Botchergate, Carlisle, CA1 1RD

Present: Cllr B Pegram (Chair), Cllr T Biggins, Cllr S Evans, Cllr H Hodgson, Cllr H Ladhams, Cllr M Rudhall (Vice Chair), Cllr R Dobson, Cllr C McCarron-Holmes, Cllr M Mitchelson, Cllr M Hawkins, Cllr J McDermott and Cllr H Carrick (as substitute for Cllr M Brereton)

In Attendance Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland)
Senior Manager - Children Looked After (CLA) Provider Services (Cumberland)
Assistant Director Quality and Safeguarding
Assistant Director of Commissioning and Procurement
Group Lawyer, Corporate and Governance (Westmorland and Furness)
Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (Cumberland)

53 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Matt Brereton (Westmorland and Furness), Assistant Chief Executive (Westmorland and Furness) Director of Business Transformation and Change (Cumberland), Director of Children and Family Wellbeing (Cumberland), Director of Thriving Places (Westmorland and Furness) and Programme Director, Enterprising Cumbria.

Apologies were also received from Director of Children's Services (Westmorland and Furness) who attempted to join virtually but was unable to due to IT issues.

54 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

55 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:

- 1) That items listed on the agenda in Part A be dealt with in public / when the public is present.
- 2) That the item listed on the agenda in Part B, as set out below, be considered when the public were excluded on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the 1972 Local Government Act:

- Agenda item 9. Appendices 1-4 Children's Services Report

The report's appendices were not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the 1972 Local Government Act as they contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information.

56 Minutes of Joint Executive Committee

A Member queried whether there were an equal number of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness members on the Joint Executive Committee as there were only two Cumberland members in attendance compared to four Westmorland and Furness members at the previous Joint Executive Committee meeting. The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) confirmed that that there the membership of the Joint Executive Committee was an equal split and the number of members in attendance was due to exceptional circumstances and was not the norm.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Joint of Executive Committee held on 22 November 2024 be noted.

57 Minutes of Previous Meeting

A Member queried whether an answer had been received concerning the missing question regarding disaggregation on mines and quarries. The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) explained that the question had been asked and they were hoping for an answer by the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the Joint Overview of Scrutiny Committee held on 2 December 2024.

58 Enterprising Cumbria - Economic Growth Update

The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) provided an overview of the report on behalf of Enterprising Cumbria (EC). He highlighted the current timescales, with the final document due to be presented to Joint Executive Committee for agreement on 3 March 2025, the impact of the devolution accelerated programme announcement, the work still to be one and the opportunities available through both devolution and the Economic Strategy.

[Councillor J McDermott arrived at 10:38)

A Member queried whether the final approval for the EC Economic Strategy would be from Joint Executive Committee or the individual local authorities and his concern regarding the timeline not including an opportunity for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide their comments and feedback. The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) explained that the EC Economic Strategy would be agreed by the Joint Executive Committee, with Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness responsible for agreeing their own individual Economic Strategies. He also shared the Councillor's concerns around the Committee being able to provide their comments and the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) suggested setting up a workshop to provide their comments on the final EC Economic Strategy before it was presented to the Joint Executive Committee for agreement.

A Member questioned whether the tasks set out at the end of the Economic Summit had been completed. The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) assured the Committee that all of the tasks from the Summit had been addressed with the expectation that, if and when devolution was agreed, the Economic Strategy be handed over to the Combined Authority as a blueprint to help lay the groundwork for their own strategy.

A Member asked how the EC Economic Strategy would help with the planning process. The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) explained that there were still more details to be provided, especially with the upcoming changes to the national planning process coming in, but noted that the strategy would help to improve Cumbria's ability to work with providers, developers and land trusts across all major planning sites in Cumbria. He also commented on the Spending Review recently submitted and the request for further support from the government moving forward and further potential changes with devolution.

A Member queried what the EC underspend was being used for and the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) explained that all reserves were being monitored by the EC and both local authorities with an agreement in place to identify reserves which could be used to support devolution while waiting for government funding. He also noted that the programme for 2025/26 had not been agreed yet, though ongoing projects were expected to continue on from 2024/25 with confirmation to be received in the next few months.

A Member questioned who ensured that the three economic strategies, from EC, Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness, aims and objectives aligned appropriately and whether the strategic planning targets were Cumbria-wide or for each authority. The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) clarified that the EC economic strategy would be Cumbria-wide and allow for opportunities to promote and seek support and investment into Cumbria, while being used as evidence for the need of Cumbria. Both the Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness economic strategies would reflect the political priorities of each authority with a local focus. The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) also noted that the strategic planning targets were at a local authority level though there were ongoing conversations to consider what vehicles would work better for a wider level, the development of each authority's new local plan and the impact a Combined Authority Mayor would have on Cumbria.

A Member questioned whether the grid connections mentioned referred to transport or electricity, which the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) confirmed was electricity, and noted the current poor connectivity. The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport (Cumberland) agreed that the current connectivity needed improvement but that conversations with Electricity North West and DNO National Grid to understand the current position as well as the potential to develop a local area energy plan to provide further understanding of the grid system, the opportunities and the vulnerabilities for further grid resilience.

RESOLVED that,

- a) The actions take to co-design the Economic Strategy and comments made by the Committee be noted.
- b) The timelines for publishing of the Economic Strategy and comments made by the Committee be noted.
- c) A workshop be organised for the Committee to provide their comments on the final Enterprising Cumbria Economic Strategy before it was presented to the Joint Executive Committee for agreement.

59 Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) provided the Committee with an overview of the current Work Programme before inviting Members to ask any questions or propose any amendments. This included a note on the organisation of workshops on both the final Enterprising Cumbria Economic Strategy, as mentioned in agenda item 6, and on the future work programme.

A Member noted that cyber training had taken place, at least for Cumberland, and suggested that another session take place for those who were unable to attend which the Democratic Services Office (Scrutiny) agreed to follow up on.

RESOLVED that,

- a) The progress on resolutions from previous meetings be noted.
- b) Any changes to the work programme for 2024/25 be noted and agreed.
- c) The information presented within the report in relation to the development of the Committee's work programme and comment on the work programme, in particular on items for the next Committee meeting be noted.
- d) The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) highlight the suggestion for an additional cyber security training session to the appropriate Director and Assistant Director.

[The Committee took a break to try and resolve IT issues from 11:12 to 11:30]

60 Children's Services Report

The Senior Manager – Children Looked After (CLA) Provider Services (Cumberland) provided the Committee with an overview of the report on residential care, fostering and adoption. She highlighted the current situation, the plan for the future through service reviews, the plans for disaggregation and the funding provided from both Government and Mockingbird.

The Committee decided to move the meeting into Part B before questions were raised, to ensure that there were no possibilities for a question to be asked which related to the appendices.

RESOLVED that the contents of the update report be noted

61 Press and Public

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Section 4(b), Part 2 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they likely involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the 1972 Local Government Act.

62 Appendices 1-4 of Children's Services Report

The appendices 1-4 for agenda item 8 Children's Services Report were considered and discussed by the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee asked numerous questions to understand and expand on the information provided within the update report and the appendices related to the report.

RESOLVED that the contents of the appendices related to agenda item 8 be noted.

63 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

The meeting finished at 11.52 am



Report to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date – 15 April 2025

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Councillor Denise Rollo – Cumberland Council
Councillor Giles Archibald – Westmorland and Furness Council

Directorate – Place, Sustainable Growth & Transport – Cumberland Council
Thriving Places – Westmorland and Furness Council

Lead Officer – Graham Harrison, Interim Waste Manager, Cumberland Council
Anna Smith, Assistant Director Waste and Environmental Service,
Westmorland and Furness Council

Overview of Waste Disposal Contract and Benchmarking

1. Introduction

In 2009, Cumbria County Council entered into a 25-year contract with Shanks Waste Solutions. The Contract was to provide a solution for waste disposal for Cumbria that would achieve landfill diversion and ensure provision for treatment of municipal solid waste (MSW) to serve all six District Councils in Cumbria as they meet their statutory duties as Waste Collection Authorities (WCA). The contract also included a requirement to operate and maintain the County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre network of which there are 14: 7 in Cumberland and 7 in Westmorland and Furness.

The treatment solution was Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) at two state of the art plants - one in Barrow and the other near Carlisle. The MBT process involves receiving MSW into both plants, shredding the material to reduce its size, then a 15-18 day period of "bio-drying" before entering a secondary refining process. This achieves around 50% reduction on the inputs made up of 30-35% moisture loss and the balance through refining which organic fines, glass and stones, and metals alongside leachate extracted. The "residual" dried waste produces a Solid Recovered Fuel, which is sent under contract to be further refined and used in cement kilns to supplement their fuel and reduce their reliance on traditional fossil fuels. To ensure the facilities are fed evenly, the contract also encompasses the provision of two Waste Transfer Stations for (WCAs) to deliver into. These are located in Workington (Distinguon) and Penrith (Flusco).

In addition to MSW, the Contract also includes provision of disposal for street sweepings, litter bins waste, fly-tipped waste and bulky waste although this material is not generally suitable for the MBT process so is subject to responsible disposal at Landfill.

There has been changes in the near 16-year history. In 2017, Shanks merged with Van Gansewinkel Groep B.V. to create Renewi PLC. In October 2024, Renewi’s UK “municipal” portfolio, consisting of various treatment contracts including Cumbria, was formally “acquired” by Biffa Limited. What was Renewi Cumbria Limited (RCL) is now Biffa Cumbria Limited (BCL) in terms of whom the contract is now legally held with for Cumbria. This presents new opportunities for the Councils and with Biffa being a UK business only, it is hoped that the relationship and contract performance can be improved further over the remaining term.

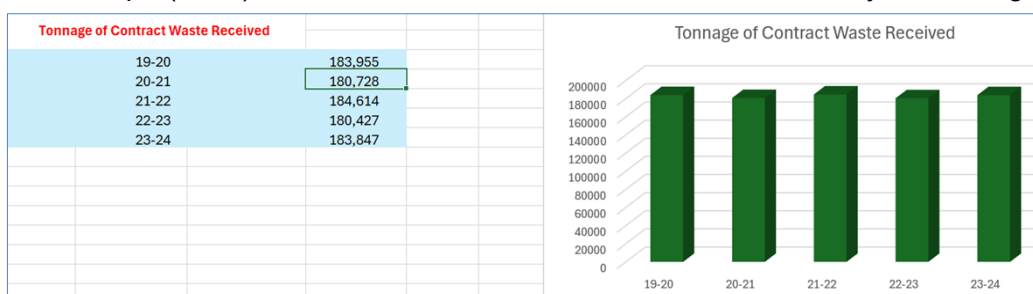
Following Local Government Reorganisation the contract is managed by Cumberland Council under Hosted Team arrangements with a Waste Inter-Authority Agreement (WIAA) in place between Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils. The scope of the WIAA includes a hierarchy of escalation for decisions including a Project Manager through to Joint Executive Committee and Full Councils.

2. Contract Performance

Contract Waste Treatment

The Hosted Waste team are the direct interface with BCL and are responsible for monitoring the performance of BCL and ensuring that obligations under the contract are met.

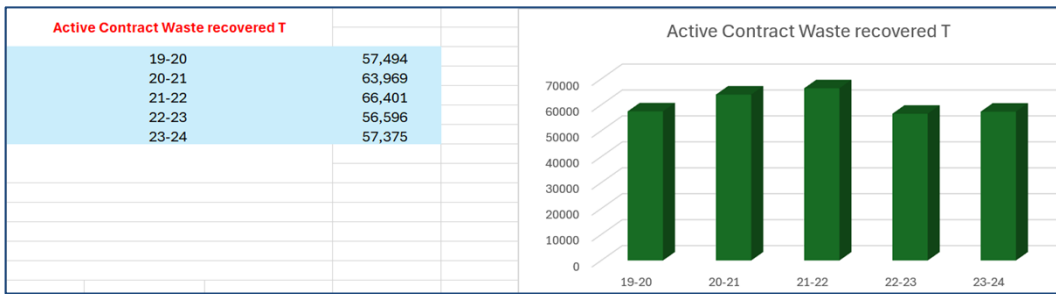
The Contract averages just over 180,000 tonnes per annum (tpa), this is a fairly consistent volume over the past five years. The Councils are contractually required to deliver a guaranteed minimum of 125,000 tpa (GMT) so there is little risk that there would be difficulty in meeting that requirement.



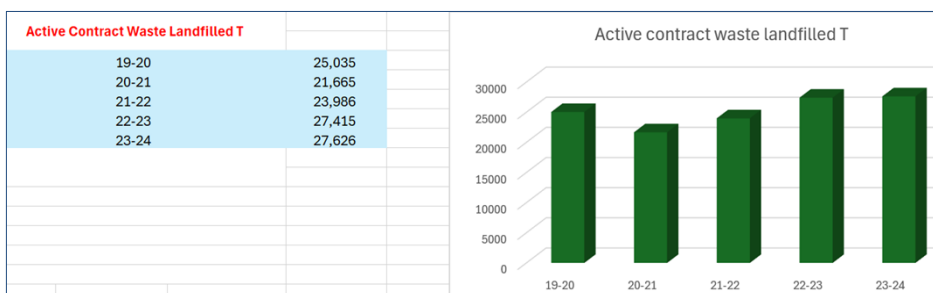
In FY20/21, the impact of the pandemic saw the volume of tonnes received at the MBTs increase by just over 11k tonnes compared to previous year, which was attributed to waste that would have been generated at work, now arising at households whilst people stayed away from the workplace.

Total MBT Tonnes IN	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
19-20	9,650.06	9,925.86	8,933.68	9,979.90	10,010.74	9,319.56	10,445.80	9,194.11	9,741.86	10,703.30	8,679.66	10,273.42	116,857.95
20-21	11,116.14	9,824.38	10,488.24	11,279.94	9,706.98	11,267.70	10,648.10	10,582.96	11,464.58	10,518.08	9,731.98	11,489.18	128,118.26
21-22	10,881.32	9,708.54	10,723.16	10,916.28	10,094.78	10,794.56	7,903.30	10,424.26	10,992.38	10,222.48	9,218.67	10,949.16	122,828.89
22-23	9,761.46	9,862.04	9,987.98	9,412.78	6,392.56	10,256.82	9,264.05	10,468.28	9,394.01	10,780.30	9,195.82	9,476.77	114,252.87
23-24	8,731.10	9,642.48	10,005.96	8,614.72	10,677.80	9,778.84	9,605.54	10,057.60	9,476.10	10,058.30	8,482.80	7,841.46	112,972.70

The outputs in terms of fuel from the MBTs are summarised below which is disposal via “recovery” into Cement Kilns. This method of disposal is a step up on the waste hierarchy above landfill.



Landfill is the contractual disposal route for a number of waste streams that cannot be processed through the MBTs; specifically, all non-Recyclable waste at the HWRCs, Bulky Waste, Fly-tipped waste as well as MSW when any of the MBTs are unavailable (such as extended periods of downtime). The Contractor consistently performs well against the contractual landfill.



Our Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

HWRCs provide facilities provide a valuable service to local residents; they accept significant tonnages of waste and can achieve high recycling rates, providing a valuable service to local residents. These sites also provide residents with an alternative to kerbside collections for the responsible disposal, recycling or re-use of their household waste, particularly for items that are not collected at the kerbside.

There are 14 HWRCs of which each Council has 7 in their administrative areas. Each site accepts a range of materials, and opening hours can vary. Detailed information on the sites can be found on the Councils' websites.

The HWRCs are of varying sizes and layouts, with some having limited space and capacity for a wide range of materials.

The waste disposal contract includes a number of performance indicators relating to the operation of the HWRCs. The Contractor, BCL, is required to achieve a 60% Recycling Rate for all waste received at the HWRCs. BCL have consistently met this KPI (see end column highlighted yellow). HWRCs performance at an average of 63% is just above the average in England of 62%.

Waste Recycled & Composted T	Ambleside	Barrow	Bousteads Grassing	Brampton	Clay Flatts	Flusco	Frizington	Grange over Sands	Kendal	Kirkby Stephen	Maryport	Millom	Ulverston	Wigton	Combined annual Recycling Rate
19-20	672.61	3,523.20	4,102.41	1,186.67	2,246.86	3,408.65	2,290.03	608.49	2,359.18	773.93	1,813.58	558.65	1,458.05	1,018.73	
20-21	882.87	2,176.16	2,655.90	1,131.79	1,524.46	2,353.04	1,703.55	379.50	1,795.14	721.69	1,673.47	558.38	1,272.23	766.92	
21-22	931.38	2,718.73	3,218.88	1,229.62	1,888.83	3,001.61	2,229.65	466.86	2,039.12	831.95	1,795.73	602.30	1,414.56	926.90	
22-23	824.75	2,540.59	3,804.05	1,136.51	1,889.42	3,143.71	2,199.61	489.53	2,040.31	816.70	1,759.89	555.90	1,418.44	825.82	
23-24	794.29	3,002.53	4,165.44	1,345.93	2,132.58	3,355.04	2,255.47	522.71	2,143.81	857.37	2,236.18	519.64	1,465.32	1,193.97	
Waste Recycled & Composted %															
19-20	73.40%	62.45%	58.01%	66.17%	48.46%	66.66%	53.45%	75.22%	70.16%	69.77%	58.93%	54.43%	64.23%	72.52%	63.85%
20-21	73.29%	61.12%	54.36%	62.06%	47.23%	62.31%	53.07%	68.73%	67.21%	69.93%	57.56%	55.37%	62.88%	66.57%	61.55%
21-22	72.96%	59.84%	55.16%	61.37%	49.71%	64.11%	54.53%	68.79%	66.88%	69.56%	59.14%	55.99%	63.27%	68.99%	62.14%
22-23	72.41%	60.17%	56.07%	63.49%	48.84%	66.57%	54.46%	67.65%	67.64%	72.29%	59.88%	56.32%	63.27%	71.36%	62.89%
23-24	74.60%	61.32%	53.86%	64.40%	49.48%	64.05%	56.01%	67.81%	64.50%	74.20%	56.68%	58.64%	60.19%	75.50%	62.94%

However, closer scrutiny shows that there is a range of recycling rates achieved across all HWRCs with some exceeding 70% and others in the low 50%. Clay Flatts HWRC (Workington) is consistently the worst performer explained by the site being a busy site with limited capacity for an extensive range of containers for recycle.

2023/24 Contract year tonnage data summary

BCL report the data below on a monthly basis as part of the Monthly Monitoring Report* which is a contractual requirement. The table summarises the overall tonnage received as Contract Waste and shows where the volumes (expressed in tonnes and percentage of total) are treated. The missing value is the “mass loss” achieved through the MBT process.

Category	Contract Month		Contract YTD		Rolling 12 month	
	tonnes	%	tonnes	%	tonnes	%
Tonnage of Contracted Waste Received	15,027	n/a	184,016	n/a	184,016	n/a
Contract Waste Recycled and Composted	3,656	24.3%	41,983	22.8%	41,983	22.8%
Active Contract Waste Recovered	4,200	28.0%	57,375	31.2%	57,375	31.2%
Active Contract Waste Landfilled	3,387	22.5%	27,626	15.0%	27,626	15.0%
Inactive Contract Waste Diverted from Landfill	1,219	8.1%	13,515	7.3%	13,515	7.3%
Inactive Contract Waste Landfilled	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Tonnage of Non Contract Waste Received	56	0.4%	635	0.3%	635	0.3%

*Extract from March 2024 MMR

Waste Reduction

Waste reduction, at its core, is the practice of minimising the amount of waste we generate in the first place. Unlike recycling or waste treatment, which focus on dealing with waste after it has been created, waste reduction aims to prevent waste from entering the waste stream altogether. This preventative approach targets the source of the problem, shifting the focus from end-of-pipe solutions to sustainable consumption and production patterns. The Hosted Waste Disposal Team carry out waste minimisation work supporting community groups, Collections colleagues, public health and many others to engage residents with support to

reduce their overall waste arisings. The team can be seen attending various outreach events in both Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness and have a dedicated budget to work with to support this public engagement.

Benchmarking

In order to provide some comparisons, this report looked at what other neighbouring Authorities are reporting through Waste Data Flow (WDF) which is where all Authorities report their waste and recycling volumes. **Note** that this is looking at reported Residual tonnage (MSW) only and not some of the other wastes that we looked in in the contract performance section earlier in this report. We are using this as the most accessible means to compare like for like with our domestic household waste.

Our nearest neighbours geographically in England include County Durham, Northumberland and North Yorkshire but Lancashire is discounted as it is a very large administrative area and Dumfries & Galloway have different drivers for recycling and diversion.

This report takes the last five years annual figures and collates number of tonnes (table 1), number of households (table 2) and produces a Kgs per household metric (table 3).

Table 1: Residual Waste Tonnages

Residual	Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
North Yorkshire County Council		173,841.81	177,192.30	173,900.64	181,088.43	182,502.23	172,810.99
Cumbria County Council		148,433.16	146,320.29	145,186.39	150,431.68	147,463.95	142,424.00
County Durham		138,779.84	142,299.65	143,403.93	163,006.61	160,231.47	149,108.17
Northumberland		101,426.30	102,777.70	104,344.60	112,124.30	117,018.60	109,285.20

Table 2: Number of Households

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Authority	Households	Households	Households	Households	Households	Households
North Yorkshire County Council	284,120	286,440	289,170	294,610	294,610	300,670
Cumbria County Council	244,970	245,880	247,490	249,920	249,920	252,650
County Durham	242,160	244,120	246,440	249,510	249,510	252,880
Northumberland	151,390	152,580	154,270	156,810	156,810	159,390

Table 3: Kilograms of Waste per Household

Residual KG Per Household	Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
North Yorkshire County Council		611.86	618.60	601.38	614.67	619.47	574.75
Cumbria County Council		605.92	595.09	586.64	601.92	590.04	563.72
County Durham		573.09	582.91	581.90	653.31	642.18	589.64
Northumberland		669.97	673.60	676.38	715.03	746.24	685.65

By comparing Kilograms per household, the data shows that Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness is performing well against its near neighbours in respect of waste generated per households, the lesser the number the better.

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities - in delivering excellent services. We want to be a high performing council. Our Services have a direct and indirect impact on our residents' health and wellbeing. We want our residents to benefit from excellent, efficient and enterprising public services. We will deliver what we need, when they need it, with a focus on collaboration, dialogue and delivering strategic impact at a local level.

Contribution to the Westmorland and Furness Plan Priorities - the service contributes to the Westmoreland and Furness Council plan for the economy and culture. Sustainable, inclusive economic growth is essential to deliver high quality jobs.

Consultation / Engagement

Legal – Administration of the hosting arrangements will be subject to the conditions set out in the Waste Inter Authorities Agreement. Oversight and governance will be provided by the Joint Officer Board. (JOB) and Joint Executive Committee (JEC) at their scheduled meetings as appropriate.

Finance – Recharging between the two authorities will be subject to the conditions set out in the Waste Inter Authority Agreement (IAA).

As part of the IAA the Joint Executive Committee approves the draft annual budget for the hosted service. The IAA also sets out how this may be reviewed and updated, including quarterly position statements.

Information Governance – Not applicable. The report is for information.

Impact Assessments – Not applicable. The report is for information.

Have you screened the decision for impacts using the Impact Assessment? Not applicable.

If you have not screened the decision using the Impact Assessment, please explain your reason. The report is for information.

Contact details:

Contact Officer: Graham Harrison
Email: graham.harrison@cumberland.gov.uk

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

Data sources:

Resource Efficiency Data (subscription)

WasteDataFlow

Waste Disposal Contract transactions and performance monitoring data compiled by the Hosted Waste Disposal Team

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Report to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date – 15th April 2025
Key Decision – Update only
Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Christopher Southward, Digital Connectivity and Customer Focus Portfolio Holder, Cumberland Council
Peter Thornton, Cabinet Member for Highways and Assets, Westmorland and Furness Council

Directorate – Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Lead Officer – Jonathan Harris, Programme Director Connecting Cumbria

Title **Update on Connecting Cumbria and the full fibre network roll out**

1. Summary:

- 1.1. This report is provided as an update to the Committee on the roll out of full fibre broadband by a range of networks across Cumbria. Please note for this report UK Government policy is focused on the delivery of gigabit capable broadband, irrespective of technology, however almost all deployment of gigabit capable services in Cumbria is through the deployment of full fibre infrastructure.
- 1.2. Digital connectivity is vital to support the objectives of local authorities in Cumbria as this infrastructure supports delivery of services, education, business, leisure and social inclusion. Therefore, over the past 15 years there have been a number of initiatives to encourage telecoms investment and augment this with publicly funded investment to help the county catch-up with the connectivity in the wider UK. The Digital Champions for Cumberland Council, Cllr Chris Southward, and Westmorland and Furness Council, Cllr Peter Thornton, assisted by the Connecting Cumbria team, are responsible for delivering the Cumbria-wide Digital Infrastructure Strategy which includes a strong focus on the expansion of gigabit capable broadband services.
- 1.3. In March 2021, UK Government announced the Project Gigabit programme, managed by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), with a commitment of up to £5 billion in funding, to expand gigabit broadband services through:
 - Encourage competition and investment into gigabit capable infrastructure through the commercial telecoms market. Seeking to encourage maximum delivery at the maximum possible speed across the UK.
 - Deploy gigabit capable services to all GP surgeries, libraries and primary schools.
 - Fund gigabit vouchers to support rural community projects.
 - Contract for delivery of gigabit connectivity to areas where commercial deployment is not planned
- 1.4. Across Cumbria there is significant commercially funded roll out of gigabit capable broadband with the majority of this work focused in urban areas. Work is also progressing, both as a result of the commercial deployment programme and some programmes managed through the Departments of Health or Education, on expansion of connectivity to GP surgeries, libraries and primary schools. Applications for new community voucher projects were paused by DSIT in 2023 but areas where a community project had already been agreed work is ongoing using this funding and top up funding provided through the Connecting Cumbria Voucher Top Up scheme.

- 1.5. With respect to contracted delivery, in November 2022 a contract was awarded by Building Digital UK (BDUK), an executive agency of DSIT which manages the Project Gigabit contracts, to Fibrus Limited for delivery of gigabit connectivity to areas where commercial deployment was not planned. As of March 2025 over 10,000 properties are able to order services as a result of the works under the contract and work is expected to accelerate through the course of the next 18 months. All works under the contract were expected to be finished in 2026. However, BDUK and Fibrus have recently agreed the addition of further properties into the contract and because of the additional works needed it is expected that deployment will extend to the end of 2027.
- 1.6. Subject to the completion of all Project Gigabit programme activity in Cumbria and all declared commercial deployment activity it is predicted that circa 97% of properties in Cumbria will be able to access gigabit broadband. Work is ongoing between the Connecting Cumbria team and DSIT to seek to understand policy and intervention options for the last 3% of properties in Cumbria. Solutions may include support for community self-build, Low Earth Orbit satellite or external antennas for 4G broadband.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- I. **Notes the progress of full fibre broadband rollout by a range of networks across Cumbria.**
- II. **Advocates for continued investment in digital infrastructure to support local communities and businesses through the Digital Infrastructure Strategy.**

2. Background

- 2.1. Digital connectivity is vital to support the objectives of local authorities in Cumbria as this infrastructure supports delivery of services, education, business, leisure and social inclusion. High levels of rurality, low population density and challenging geography has meant that Cumbria has struggled to attract the same levels of commercial telecoms investment as more urban areas of the UK. Therefore, over the past 15 years there have been a number of initiatives to encourage telecoms investment and augment this with publicly funded investment to help the county catch-up with the connectivity in the wider UK.
- 2.2. In 2012 the initial phase of the Connecting Cumbria programme was agreed between Cumbria County Council and BT Plc to expand superfast broadband (of at least 30Mbps download) across Cumbria; today these services are available to 95.7% of properties in the county. To build on the success of the superfast broadband work a Digital Infrastructure Strategy was developed - [Digital Infrastructure Strategy | Connecting Cumbria](#). The current strategy runs from 2020 to 31st December 2025.

Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2020 to 31st December 2025

- 2.3. The Digital Champions for Cumberland Council, Cllr Chris Southward, and Westmorland and Furness Council, Cllr Peter Thornton, assisted by the Connecting Cumbria team, are responsible for delivering the Cumbria-wide Digital Infrastructure Strategy. Connecting Cumbria is hosted by Cumberland Council and overseen by the Connecting Cumbria Governance Board which includes senior officers for both Councils and both Digital Champions.
- 2.4. The focus of the Digital Infrastructure Strategy is to maximise deployment of full fibre and mobile infrastructure, which generally relies upon access to full fibre for mast backhaul. Priorities for investment are currently identified as providing connectivity to all residents and businesses in Cumbria, either through supporting commercial deployments, or working with central government to secure funding where intervention is required to ensure that **no one and no place is left behind**.
- 2.5. The Connecting Cumbria team are currently undertaking a number of activities to progress the aims of the Digital Infrastructure Strategy, including:
 - 2.5.1. Monitoring and supporting roll out of gigabit broadband through both commercial programmes and the Project Gigabit contract. Gigabit broadband can be delivered through a range of technologies but in most cases it is delivered through full fibre technology. The Project Gigabit contract was awarded by BDUK, an executive agency of DSIT, to Fibrus in December 2022 and is expected to run until the end of 2027. Subject to completion of planned works gigabit coverage is expected to be available to circa 97% of properties in Cumbria.

- 2.5.2. Monitoring and supporting expansion of 4G coverage in Cumbria through the Shared Rural Network (SRN) and Emergency Services Network (ESN) programmes. The SRN programme across the UK is split between a £532m commercial investment in partially covered areas and £500m of public investment in total not spots. Most new build in the ESN programme will become part of the SRN.
- 2.5.3. Working with Planning and Development on proposals for policies to encourage developers to work with broadband and mobile infrastructure providers to meet the needs of new or expanding communities.
- 2.5.4. Provide support and expertise to the development and running of projects under the digital theme of the Borderlands Growth Deal.
- 2.5.5. Delivery of the Borderlands 5G Innovation Region programme – not funded by Growth Deal but integrated into the partnership – which is looking at delivery and development of self-sustaining models for private 5G connectivity and use cases for rural tourism. The initial deployment area in Cumbria is at Windermere Ferry Nab.
- 2.6. To aid in the above work the Connecting Cumbria team meet regularly with suppliers delivering full fibre broadband into the county, mobile phone infrastructure delivery programmes and the Home Office team delivering the SRN in total not spot areas.
- 2.7. The Connecting Cumbria team, under the direction of the Connecting Cumbria Governance Board, reports progress into the Cumbria Joint Executive Committee and other corporate reporting for both Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. Information is also shared on an as requested basis with Members of both Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council, MPs and other stakeholders.
- 2.8. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the programme, as of March 2025, are:

	Cumbria	Cumberland	Westmorland & Furness	UK
Percentage of properties that have gigabit capable broadband coverage of at least 1,000Mbps download	69.3%	64.7%	74.5%	86.8%
Percentage of properties that have broadband coverage of at least 30Mbps download	95.7%	95.0%	95.9%	98.3%
Percentage of properties that have broadband coverage of <10Mbps download	2.4%	2.5%	2.2%	0.7%
Percentage of 4G outdoor geographic coverage from all four Mobile Network Operators (MNO)	75.8%	75.3%	76.1%	80.0%

When comparing the above four areas – Cumbria, Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness and the UK – it is worth noting the following points:

- The most significant contribution to areas of coverage, fixed line and mobile, is from commercial investment into urban areas where deployment costs are relatively low, ongoing maintenance costs are forecast to be low and there is a dense resident population of people in the age range 18-45 (many companies target areas with a high proportion of online gamer account registrations) which indicates a strong return on investment. The market focus on London, Birmingham, Manchester and other major cities is understood to contribute most of the initial 80% of the current 86.8% UK gigabit coverage.
- In Cumbria we currently have higher gigabit coverage in Westmorland and Furness due to early deployment by commercial programmes, Openreach in particular, with a lot of activity being focused in Barrow, Kendal, Penrith and other market towns. In addition, deployment by B4RN is almost exclusively in Westmorland and Furness. We are expecting that the coverage in Cumberland will catch

up over the next 12 months as more of the current commercial deployment in Carlisle completes and we see more expansion to the larger communities on the west coast.

- Much of the coverage reported for properties that are able to access at least 30Mbps (superfast) is related to deployment of Fibre to the Cabinet technology. This hybrid fibre approach is most effective in dense clusters of properties which are within 1km of the network cabinet therefore the technology has been more effective in urban areas of the UK than in the rural areas of Cumbria.
- Properties with speeds below 30Mbps in the wider UK are likely to still be relatively close to a network structure thus able to access speeds of at least 10Mbps. However, in Cumbria, Wales and Scotland there is a high level of sparsely distributed properties that can only benefit from fibre in the core network if they are connected to full fibre. This means that while UK wide there may only be 0.7% of properties, circa 250,000, unable to access basic broadband there is a higher proportion of properties in Cumbria in this category. It is anticipated that a number of these sub 10Mbps properties in Cumbria can be addressed using full fibre technology, through the existing programmes or development of community voucher schemes, but where properties are very isolated (such as fell side farms) alternative technology will need to be considered.
- 4G mobile geographic coverage targets, agreed between Ofcom and each MNO as part of their licensing conditions, are more likely to be delivered first in areas where that MNO will see a return on investment and face less obstacles to deployment. Urban areas and near urban areas, especially in large cities, therefore, attract investment and result in greater overlapping geographic coverage across the UK relative to the coverage delivered in Cumbria. Cumbria is also considered to be a challenging place for planning approvals for this type of infrastructure deployment with two national parks and a perceived high resistance to mast deployment. There is also an expectations from MNOs that operating and maintenance costs in rural areas, combined with a low resident population will mean that such infrastructure would run at a loss with return on investment seen as unlikely. Engagement with public funded mast deployment programmes has been challenging due to the difficulty in agreeing running costs for MNOs using such masts.

3. Full Fibre Deployment and Project Gigabit

3.1. In March 2021, UK Government announced the Project Gigabit programme with a commitment of up to £5 billion in funding, to expand gigabit broadband services across the UK through:

- Encourage competition and investment into gigabit capable infrastructure through the commercial telecoms market. Seeking to encourage maximum delivery at the maximum possible speed across the UK.
- Deploy gigabit capable services to all GP surgeries, libraries and primary schools.
- Fund gigabit vouchers to support rural community projects.
- Contract for delivery of gigabit connectivity to areas where commercial deployment is not planned.

3.2. Commercial Telecoms Market

3.2.1. The commercial market for gigabit broadband and deployment of the full fibre infrastructure has significantly expanded over the past few years UK wide. Openreach and Virgin Media remain the most extensive networks across the UK but there are also a large number of broadband network builders active in deploying competing full fibre networks and in Cumbria - there are at least seven separate gigabit capable networks being deployed. This deployment activity are collectively expected to provide connectivity across circa 200,000 properties predominantly in Carlisle, market towns and some larger villages. Fibrus Ltd, closely followed by Openreach, has the largest commercial deployment programme announced currently in the county.

3.2.2. These commercial deployments, which may over-build each other, are typically focused in Carlisle and market towns. Some of the commercial deployments use Openreach Physical Infrastructure Access (PIA) agreements to install their fibre networks into ducting and poles previously installed by Openreach but in some cases this is not possible or appropriate. Where PIA is not available, or a broadband network deployment programme chooses not to use it, commercial deployment programmes will install their own physical infrastructure.

- 3.3. Deploy gigabit capable services to all GP surgeries, libraries and primary schools. Across Cumbria 464 locations fall into this part of Project Gigabit programme with 50% of these able to access gigabit connectivity currently with the coverage level expected to increase to circa 95%; subject to completion of declared commercial plans and the Project Gigabit contract. Through commercial telecoms deployment to urban areas many GPs, libraries and schools have been covered by gigabit services but there have also been a number of interventions on behalf of the NHS and Department for Education that have been managed through DSIT. A breakdown is provided below of the coverage achieved and predicted at the different types of locations.

	Cumbria	Cumberland	Westmorland and Furness
GP Surgeries	153	71	82
Gigabit Current	45%	53.5%	37.8%
Gigabit Expected	94%	95.8%	92.7%
Libraries	34	24	10
Gigabit Current	52%	50%	60%
Gigabit Expected	97%	95.8%	100%
Primary Schools	277	150	127
Gigabit Current	52%	46.7%	59.1%
Gigabit Expected	96%	98%	95.3%

3.4. Gigabit vouchers

The DSIT Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, which pre-dates that wider Project Gigabit Programme, was integrated into Project Gigabit in March 2021, the following figures only relate to voucher activity after March 2021. There have been:

- 3,012 Project Gigabit Broadband Vouchers from the DSIT scheme taken up in Cumbria.
- 1,190 of these vouchers have received top up funding, from the Borderlands Gigabit Voucher Top Up scheme or the Cumbria Gigabit Voucher Top Up scheme (which replaced the Borderlands Top Up in May 2022), providing over of £2.4m of additional support to connect properties with speeds below 30Mbps download.

DSIT chose to suspend applications for new community voucher projects under the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme in Cumbria in 2023, to allow more efficient delivery through the Project Gigabit contract. The Connecting Cumbria team is currently lobbying DSIT to reopen the community project application process for vouchers to provide a route forward for properties that are not able to be reached through the Project Gigabit Contract or are in areas where commercial deployment programmes have shrunk. Of the £2m allocated to the Cumbria Gigabit Voucher Top Up scheme in May 2022, £1.35m of funding is remaining to support top ups of future vouchers across Cumbria.

3.5. Project Gigabit Contract

3.5.1. In November 2022, a contract was awarded by BDUK, the executive agency of DSIT which manages the Project Gigabit contracts, to Fibrus Limited for delivery of gigabit connectivity to areas where commercial deployment was not planned. Work by Fibrus on this contract is in parallel but separate from their commercially funded works which are typically focused in urban areas. Cumbria was the first area covered by this type of regional contract (referred to as a Type B contract) and is one of the earliest areas within the UK where these types of works commenced. Local Authorities are not parties to the contract but provide essential support for maximising deployment and ‘barrier busting’. Infrastructure deployed under the contract must be available to offer services on a wholesale basis, the wholesale product is sold under the brand name Hyperfast GB, and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) which include Fibrus and others offer packages for customers using this wholesale offering.

3.5.2. Public funding may only be targeted at properties in areas of market failure. BDUK establishes which properties are in areas of market failure through a rolling Open Market Review (OMR) which all broadband providers are encouraged to submit information to about their current and planned networks. Of the properties that may legally be targeted with public funding, Fibrus provides a list of properties in their bid to BDUK and this target list of properties are the basis of the contract. This means that not all properties that are eligible to be targeted with public funding will be included in the contract. Fibrus are only paid under the contract for targeting the agreed properties but are able to use their own funding to target non contracted properties that are in

proximity to the network if they choose to do so. It is understood that this contract mechanism has allowed the contract to target more remote properties than it would have otherwise.

3.5.3. Members will have noted that since 2022, there has been a large increase in telecoms related work on the highways. While a lot of such works are in urban areas, works under the Project Gigabit contract are required to work on many smaller routes in order to target the contracted rural properties. On such small routes there is often a need to undertake road closures, even for survey works, in order to comply with highways safe working regulations. In order to support the same delivery of works under the Project Gigabit contract the Highways and Streetworks teams for both Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils are engaging regularly with Fibrus. The Connecting Cumbria team has also appointed two Fibre Streetworks Compliance Officers to work with broadband networks deploying in Cumbria to aid these companies in developing pragmatic and compliant work plans. There have been health and safety issues raised with Fibrus in relations to a small percentage of their overall works and Fibrus is working with both Streetworks teams as well as their contractors to resolve and avoid the reoccurrence of issues.

3.5.4. As of March 2025 over 10,000 properties are able to order services as a result of the works under the Project Gigabit contract and work is expected to accelerate through the course of the next 18 months. All works under the contract were expected to be finished in 2026. However, BDUK and Fibrus have recently agreed the addition of further properties into the contract and because of the additional works needed it is expected that deployment will extend to the end of 2027.

3.6. Last 1% and Very Hard to Reach Properties

Subject to the completion of all Project Gigabit programme activity in Cumbria and all declared commercial deployment activity it is predicted that circa 99% of properties in Cumbria will be able to access gigabit broadband. There are estimated to be 8,000 properties which are expected to need development of additional market intervention to support them in accessing gigabit capable services. Work is ongoing between the Connecting Cumbria team and DSIT to seek to reopen the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme to new projects which could support many of the properties in this situation to work with their community to access improved services. DSIT are working on a national policy for delivery of services under the Project Gigabit programme to the most challenging 0.3% of properties in the UK and some of Cumbria's last 3% properties will need to be supported under this policy. Solutions under the Very Hard to Reach policy may include support for community self-build, Low Earth Orbit satellite or external antennas for 4G broadband. It should be noted however that DSIT have not so far been able to provide a timescale for the development of policy or solutions.

4. Mobile Coverage

4.1. The focus of this paper is on the delivery of gigabit broadband but mobile connectivity is a key service for digital connectivity around the county. The Connecting Cumbria team is working to monitor and support the delivery of the Government's Shared Rural Network and Emergency Services Network programmes which are seeking to expand 4G coverage across the UK through a £1bn investment. This programme is made up of £500m of public funding for total not spot areas and £532m by mobile network operators for partial not spot areas. The Connecting Cumbria team is continuing to monitor these programmes and look at ways to encourage investment to improve mobile connectivity across Cumbria

5. Proposals

Report is for Information.

6. Alternative options considered

Report is for Information.

7. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

The progress so far on the rollout of full fibre broadband is a significant step towards a more digitally connected Cumbria. Ongoing monitoring and support of the roll-out and continued collaboration with providers will be essential to maximise the benefits for all residents and businesses.

Implications: Report is for Information.

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities

Cumberland Council's vision is that it takes a fresh approach to the delivery of inclusive services that are shared by residents and communities. By enabling positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, prosperity and the environment, it is possible to fulfil the potential of people and area. The Council believes passionately in the delivery of excellent public services, and in order to this it is essential to be clear about the values and behaviours needed to drive change and achieve high standards. Improvement in digital connectivity is essential to support Cumberland Council's priorities and ambitions.

Contribution to the Westmorland and Furness Plan Priorities -

Westmorland and Furness vision is to be 'a great place to live, work and thrive' and will work collaboratively with partners, communities, and residents to deliver the best outcomes for all.

The Council's priority is for sustainable, inclusive, economic growth, with:

- opportunities for jobs, learning, skills and enterprise
- a sustainable, inclusive, diverse, economy
- a growing work force and high quality jobs
- support to encourage business creation
- improved infrastructure and connectivity

Improvement in digital connectivity is essential to support all of these priorities

Relevant Risks – Report is for Information.

Consultation / Engagement – Not required

Legal – There are no legal implications, as this report is provided for information and noting.

Finance – There are no Financial implications, the report is provided for information and noting.

Information Governance – Not required, the report is for information.

Impact Assessments – Not required, the report is for information.

Contact details:

Contact Officer: Jonathan Harris

Email: jonathan.harris@connectingcumbria.org.uk

Appendices attached to report: None

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: Not required

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Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Report to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date – 15 April 2025

Key Decision – No

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Cllr Mark Fryer, Leader, Cumberland Council and Cllr Jonathan Brook, Leader, Westmorland and Furness Council.

Directorate – Business Transformation and Change, Cumberland Council and Assistant Chief Executive, Westmorland and Furness Council.

Lead Officer – Jo Atkinson, Director of Business Transformation and Change, Cumberland Council and Alison Hatcher, Assistant Chief Executive, Westmorland and Furness Council.

Title – Programme for Proposed Disaggregation

Summary:

To receive an update regarding progress against the proposed disaggregation programme for hosted services in Westmorland and Furness Council and Cumberland Council.

Recommendations:

For the reasons set out in this report, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

Consider the update on progress of the disaggregation of hosted services provided in the report.

Refer any proposed amendments to the disaggregation programme to the Joint Executive Committee for consideration.

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) entered by Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council to govern the provision of hosted services, the Joint Executive Committee is responsible for the oversight and

management of the hosted services including the development and implementation of disaggregation plans.

- 1.2 In some cases, the disaggregation date detailed in the IAA has been changed to meet the needs of each council and to support effective service delivery. All proposed changes to disaggregation dates have been reported to the Joint Executive Committee following completion of an options appraisal and consideration given to the ability for the service to disaggregate safely and legally.
- 1.3 An update on the services successfully disaggregated to date, and those due to disaggregate is set out below.

Hosted services successfully disaggregated

- 1.4 Since the previous report to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 December 2024, the following services have successfully disaggregated:
- Finance – Core Financial Systems (Banking and Control Team) – 31 December 2024
 - Finance – Purchase to Pay/Accounts Payable/Account Receivable - 31 March 2025
 - Finance – School’s Finance Team - 31 March 2025
 - Registration Service - 31 March 2025
- 1.5 The following services have been successfully disaggregated since the programme commenced on 1 April 2023.

Hosted service	Host authority	Proposed disaggregation date (as per IAA)	Actual disaggregation date (achieved)
Global Resettlement Team	Cumberland	30 September 2023	30 September 2023
School Organisation and Admissions	Westmorland and Furness	30 September 2023	30 September 2023
Customer Service Team (former County Service Centre)	Westmorland and Furness	31 October 2023	31 October 2023
Human Resources / Organisational Development (HR/OD) Centralised Resourcing	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2025	31 October 2023
HR/OD Pay and Reward and Pension Advisor	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2025	31 October 2023
HR/OD Organisational Development and Workforce Training	Cumberland	31 March 2025	31 October 2023

Hosted service	Host authority	Proposed disaggregation date (as per IAA)	Actual disaggregation date (achieved)
Children's Services - Improvement / Quality Assurance	Cumberland	31 March 2024	30 September 2023
Children's Services - Integration and Partnerships	Cumberland	31 March 2024	31 October 2023
Children's Services - Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Cumberland	31 March 2024	31 December 2023
Public Health – Education Infection and Prevention and Control Team	Cumberland	31 March 2024	31 March 2024
Public Libraries – Operational Leadership and Delivery Lead, and Culture and outreach management	Cumberland	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
Former County HR/OD – Social Work Academy	Cumberland	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
Independent Placement Team (Commissioning)	Westmorland and Furness	No date stated	31 March 2024
Finance – former county Insurance Team	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2024	31 March 2024
Digital Innovation and Customer Experience	Westmorland and Furness	30 September 2024	31 March 2024
Economic Programmes - Accountable Body Assurance	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2024	31 March 2024
Human Resources (HR) Payroll Administration: Recruitment and DBS	Cumberland	31 March 2025	30 April 2024
County ICT: Family Information Service	Cumberland	At least 31 March 2025	31 July 2024
Apprenticeship Service (Workforce planning and resourcing)	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2025	30 September 2024
Adults Urgent Care Team	Cumberland	31 March 2024 (extended to 30 September 2024, or 31	30 September 2024

Hosted service	Host authority	Proposed disaggregation date (as per IAA)	Actual disaggregation date (achieved)
		March 2025 at the latest)	
Family Group Conferencing Service	Cumberland	This service was part of the long-hosting arrangement for Residential Edge of Care	31 October 2024
Finance – Core Financial Systems (Banking and Control Team)	Cumberland	31 March 2025	31 December 2024
Finance – Purchase to Pay/Accounts Payable/Account Receivable	Cumberland	31 March 2025	31 March 2025
Finance – School's Finance Team	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2025	31 March 2025
Registration Service	Cumberland	31 March 2026	31 March 2025

Services due to disaggregate after 1 May 2025

1.6 On 27 January 2025 the Joint Executive Committee:

- Approved the recommendation to plan for a phased disaggregation of the Hosted ICT Service that will result in individual teams and functions within the Hosted ICT Service (including people, systems, and services) disaggregating at different times rather than as a full ICT service in one instance.

1.7 On 3 March 2025 the Joint Executive Committee:

- Approved the proposal to move Connecting Cumbria, currently due to disaggregate by 31 December 2025, to long-term hosting by Cumberland Council.
- Approved the proposal to extend the date of Apprenticeships disaggregation from 31 March 2025 to 31 March 2026.

1.8 The services detailed in the table below are due to disaggregate after 1 May 2025.

Hosted service	Description of service	Host authority	Current forecast disaggregation date
Human Resources (HR) Payroll Administration: Payroll and HR Administration Services	Provides the safe and legal administration of employment and payment of wages and other employee costs/expenses, in accordance with HMRC and National Insurance legislation. Includes interfacing with finance teams and systems to facilitate in general ledger and payment of 3rd party payments.	Cumberland	31 July 2025
Human Resources (HR) Occupational Health	Human Resources Occupational Health Service providing occupational health and wellbeing support to all employees across each new authority.	Westmorland and Furness	1 October 2025
Finance – Core Financial Systems (Financial Systems Team that provides support to the E5 system)	Provides support and maintenance of core financial systems for the combination of new systems and operation of sovereign County Council systems.	Cumberland	31 March 2026 at the latest, in line with the separation of the systems.
Apprenticeship Service (Apprenticeship Levy)	Managing and reporting on the Apprenticeship Levy and allocation of funds/apprenticeships for all authorities via the government's Digital Apprenticeship Service. Managing and administering all associated apprenticeship funding.	Westmorland and Furness	31 March 2026
County ICT	Services included are ICT Service Desk, Field Engineering, ICT Service Support, Applications & Data, Infrastructure, ICT Programme Management Office, Information and Cyber Security, ICT Systems Support Teams.	Cumberland	At least 31 March 2025

Services currently hosted under a long-term arrangement between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.

1.9 The following services are currently hosted under a long-term arrangement.

Hosted service	Description of service	Host authority
Active Cumbria	Its purpose focuses on 'Improving Lives through Physical Activity', working with partner organisations, networks, and systems across Cumbria to support the achievement of a range of outcomes through increased levels of physical activity in communities.	Cumberland
Active Travel	Active Travel for Schools monitors the delivery of the annual Bikeability training contract and supports schools to adopt active travel alternatives. The Active Travel Social Prescribing Pilot Programme provides cycling and walking interventions and improvements in Carlisle and Barrow-in-Furness as part of a social prescribing offer.	Cumberland
Adoption	Four teams in Cumbria providing statutory adoption services: Adoption Recruitment and Support Team, Adoption Support, Panels and Permanence Team and Children's Adoption team.	Cumberland
Adult Learning	Delivers the Adult Education programme to the community across Cumbria. The service delivers courses to adults age 19+ across a broad curriculum, from non-qualification-based courses, up to Level 2 GCSE. The service also delivers education provision to a cohort of High Needs learners and a small proportion of 16-18 provision to individuals not funded through study programmes in Schools and Colleges.	Westmorland and Furness
Archive Service	Collects, preserves and facilitates access to the written heritage of Cumbria. The service is delivered through the four Archive Centres in Barrow, Carlisle, Kendal and Whitehaven. Each Centre manages collections relating to a historic part of Cumbria. The service provides online information about its holdings, facilities and activities.	Cumberland

Hosted service	Description of service	Host authority
Children's Emergency Duty Team	Provides statutory child in need/in need of protection on an emergency basis under the statutory duties of the Local Authority at all times outside office hours.	Westmorland and Furness
Commons Registration	Statutory function covering all the county including the national parks.	Cumberland
Digital Infrastructure / Connecting Cumbria	Delivers the Digital Infrastructure Strategy: Connecting Cumbria 2020-2025 which seeks to improve fixed line broadband and mobile connectivity on a Cumbria wide basis.	Cumberland
Emergency Planning and Resilience	Provides emergency planning services covering key statutory and discretionary duties including preparing, responding and recovering from emergencies.	Westmorland and Furness
Fostering	The service recruits, trains, and supports foster carers and staying put/homestay providers to care for children who are or have been looked after by the local authority.	Cumberland
Historic Environment	Provides archaeological advice to the planning authorities as required by the National Planning Policy Framework and maintains the Historic Environment Record (HER) as a statutory duty under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (2023).	Westmorland and Furness
Public Libraries Back Office & Stock Management, and Library Services for Schools (LSS)	Public Library Service provides core back-office stock management, systems, applications and performance. Library Service for Schools supports schools in Cumbria with resources to support curriculum teaching and reading.	Cumberland
County Records Management	Manages paper records, maintaining Retention Schedule, providing Records Management policies, guidance, and advice to staff.	Cumberland
Residential and Edge of Care Homes	The service delivers six residential homes providing care to children; and a Family Group Conferencing Service that works with family networks to facilitate their own plans to meet children's safety and care needs. The Emotional Health and Wellbeing team is a countywide team providing support to Children Looked After, Children on the edge	Cumberland

Hosted service	Description of service	Host authority
	of care and care leavers who have additional complex needs in relation to their emotional health and wellbeing. The team provide support to parents/carers, direct work with children and consultation and training to other stakeholders across Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness.	
Waste Disposal	Provides Cumbria wide management of waste disposal services and ancillary contracts. This covers waste data, waste contract compliance and waste reduction.	Cumberland

2. Proposals

- 2.1. The report sets out the current hosting arrangements and the proposed programme of disaggregation for services currently operating across both Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.
- 2.2. Delivery of the disaggregation programme will continue in line with the dates set out in paragraph 1.8 above unless alternative proposals are approved by the Joint Executive Committee and sovereign councils as appropriate.

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee could choose to refer any suggested amendments to the disaggregation programme for consideration by the Joint Executive Committee.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 4.1. The report sets out the current hosting arrangements and the proposed programme of disaggregation for services currently operating across both Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.
- 4.2. Delivery of the disaggregation programme will continue in line with the dates set out in paragraph 1.8 above unless alternative proposals are approved by the Joint Executive Committee.
- 4.3. Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to note the update on progress of the disaggregation programme and refer any proposed amendments to the disaggregation programme to the Joint Executive Committee for consideration.

Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities - The report sets out the arrangements in place for the planned disaggregation of hosted services following Local Government Reorganisation. These arrangements provide the opportunity for each authority to deliver the services in a way that contributes towards each of their council plan priorities.

Contribution to the Westmorland and Furness Plan Priorities – As detailed above.

Relevant Risks – The following risks associated with the Joint Disaggregation Programme have been identified:

- There is a risk that there is insufficient officer capacity to deliver safe and legal disaggregation of services.
- There is a risk that the financial costs of disaggregation impact negatively on the financial plans of the two councils and the fire service.
- There is a risk of failure to recruit to key officer roles in sufficient time to ensure safe and legal disaggregation.

A risk register is maintained for each individual service disaggregation project, if there is a risk to delivery of the safe and legal disaggregation, the Senior Responsible Owner and relevant Programme Manager are responsible for escalating risks to the Joint Disaggregation Group, the Joint Officer Board and to the Joint Executive Committee.

Consultation / Engagement – No consultation is required in relation to the recommendations set out in this report.

Legal – The terms of reference for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee include conduct of the Authorities' functions under sections 9F and 9FA of the Local Government Act 2000 in respect of: (a) those functions exercised by the Joint Executive Committee (b) the shared Functions and Services for which the Joint Executive Committee is responsible (c) those decisions taken by the Joint Executive Committee, including those as delegated to an officer and those prospective decisions set out on the Forward Plan of decisions published in respect of the Joint Executive Committee (d) the 'call-in' function relating to these responsibilities, which shall be in the place of those call-in functions that might otherwise be exercised by the individual Authorities.

Legal Services for both Westmorland and Furness and Cumberland are continuing to liaise and co-operate insofar as documenting approved dis-aggregation dates, extension of any proposed dis-aggregation dates and the removal of and updates to

the Service Strategy Schedules to the Inter Authority Agreement and the updating and amendments to the S113 Agreement insofar as shared staffing arrangements.

Finance – Recommendations in this report are to note progress, so there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resources – This report notes progress to date and there are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

Information Governance – There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessments – Impact Assessment screenings are being undertaken for service disaggregation projects.

Contact details:

Contact Officer: Jo Atkinson

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Appendices attached to report:

None

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: Programme for Proposed Disaggregation Report, Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 December 2024



Report to Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date 15 April 2025
 Key Decision No
 Public/Private Public

Portfolio Cross cutting
 Directorate Cross cutting
 Lead Officer Rose Blaney, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)

Title Joint Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Summary:

To provide Members of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of matters related to the committee’s work. The report also sets out a draft work programme for the committee.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Note progress on resolutions from previous meetings.
- (2) Note and agree any changes to the work programme for 2024/25.
- (3) Review information presented within the report in relation to the development of the Committee’s work programme and comment on the work programme, in particular on items for the next Committee meeting.

Tracking

Executive:	n/a
Scrutiny:	Joint OSC 15 April 2025
Council:	n/a

1. Background

1.1 The Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) between Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council sets out that the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee will seek at their meetings to:

3.1.1 develop a forward work programme of activities;

3.1.2 review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken by the Joint Executive Committee;

3.1.3 seek reassurance and consider whether the Functions and Services are operating in accordance with the Service Strategies, including the budgets and any implementation plans for disaggregation and continuing service provision;

3.1.4 identification of barriers to progress, best practice and possible improvements; and

3.1.5 holding the Joint Executive Committee to account by providing critical challenge to ensure that it provides the high-level strategic direction for the implementation of the Service Strategies.

1.2 The minutes of the last meeting are considered as a separate agenda item and the Chair will seek declarations of interest at the start of each scrutiny meeting. This Scrutiny Committee Update Report will provide detail on references to the committee, responses of the Joint Executive and any Councillors Call for Action.

2. References to Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.1 None.

3. Councillors Call for Action

3.1 None.

4. Responses of Joint Executive Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1 None.

5. Progress on resolutions from previous meetings

5.1 The following table sets out the meeting date and resolution that requires following up. The status is presented as either "completed", "pending" (date expected), or "outstanding". An item is considered outstanding if no update or progress has been made after three panel meetings. All the completed actions will be removed from the list following the meeting.

Meeting date	Item	Resolution	Status
21.10.24 02.12.24	Hosted Waste Disposal Contract and Service and Waste IAA Update	That details of the tonnage of waste disposed of be provided. Addition – with bench marking with other authorities within the UK, combined recycling rates, whether incineration or leading to landfill, to help provide context	Pending – Waste is on the Work Programme for April 2025
21.10.24	Programme for Proposed Disaggregation	That details of the shared arrangements in respect of waste be circulated to members.	Pending
02.12.24	Minutes of Previous Meeting	That confirmation be provided on whether the Cyber Security Training had been delivered.	Complete
02.12.24	Minutes of Previous Meeting	That information as to why a question on the disaggregation of mines and quarries was not included within the minutes from 21.10.24	Pending – Answer to be provide at the meeting
02.12.24	Programme for Proposed Disaggregation	That an update on the disaggregation of the HR Occupational Team be provided.	Pending – the item was added to the Work Programme date TBC
02.12.24	Programme for Proposed Disaggregation	That a review of the hosted services following the publication of the Devolution White Paper be conducted when possible.	Pending – the item was added to the Work Programme but the date is yet to be set
02.12.24	Joint Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme	That an update on Connecting Cumbria and the roll out of Full Fibre be provided.	Pending – the item was added to the Work Programme for April 2025
10.02.25	Enterprising Cumbria -	A workshop be organised for the Committee to provide their comments on the final Enterprising Cumbria	Complete – 13.02.25

	Meeting date	Item	Resolution	Status
		Economic Growth Update	Economic Strategy before it is presented to the Joint Executive Committee for agreement	
	10.02.25	Joint Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme	The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) highlight the suggestion for an additional cyber security training session to the appropriate Director and Assistant Director.	Complete – officer to confirm dates

6. Work planning

- 6.1 A robust work programme is important for scrutiny. Work planning activity will take place across the year to ensure that the work programme remains up to date. A copy of the current work programme is provided at Appendix A.
- 6.2 The work programme should be a living document and be reviewed regularly. Activity will take place across the year to ensure that the work programme remains up to date.

8.0 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 8.1 This report provides Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of matters related to the committee's remit. The report also sets out a draft work programme. Members are asked to consider the recommendations to ensure that scrutiny activity remains effective and focussed on the priorities from the IAA.

Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Council & Westmorland and Furness Council's Priorities - Effective scrutiny plays an important part in the delivery of the priorities of both Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.

Relevant Risks - None directly associated with this report.

Consultation / Engagement – n/a

Legal – None directly associated with this report.

Finance – None directly associated with this report.

Information Governance – None directly associated with this report.

Impact Assessments – Not required. Report for information only.

Contact details:

Contact Officer: Rose Blaney, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)
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Appendices attached to report:

- Appendix A - Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2024/25

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

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Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee				
	Issue	Description	Lead	Timeline
Committee meetings	Minutes of the Joint Executive Committee for Hosted Services	To review the minutes from the Joint Executive Committee for Hosted Services in September.		October 2024
	Review of Identified Risks/Learning and Improvement	Identification of barriers to progress, best practice and possible improvements.	Alison Hatcher / Jo Atkinson	October 2024
	HR Payroll Systems, ICT Systems and Cyber Security	Progress of disaggregation of ICT Systems, ICT programme plan overview and cyber security arrangements. Progress of HR Payroll System disaggregation	Jo Atkinson / Paul Robinson	October 2024
	Hosted Waste Disposal Contract and Service and Waste Inter Authority Agreement	JOSC 21 June requested 6 monthly updates – last update 26 February 2024.	Darren Crossley / Angela Jones	October 2024
	Programme for Proposed Disaggregation	Update on disaggregation progress and changes to scope agreed by Joint Executive Committee.	Alison Hatcher / Jo Atkinson	October 2024
	Committee Briefing	Incorporating the Committee's action log and work programme	David Stephens	October 2024
	Cumbria Economic Strategy	To receive an update on the Cumbria wide economic strategy.	Isobel Brown / Darren Crossley / Angela Jones	December 2024

	Committee Briefing	Incorporating the Committee's action log and work programme		December 2024
	Minutes of the Joint Executive Committee for Hosted Services	To review the minutes from the Joint Executive Committee for Hosted Services in January		February 2025
	Enterprising Cumbria/ Economic Growth Update	To receive an update on the Economic Growth Strategy.	Darren Crossley / Angela Jones	February 2025
	Children's Services (Adoption, Fostering, Residential Edge of Care)	To receive an update on Children's Services including adoption, fostering and Residential Edge of Care.	Martin Birch / Mil Vasic	February 2025
	Committee Briefing	Incorporating the Committee's action log and work programme		February 2025
	Minutes of the Joint Executive Committee for Hosted Services	To review the minutes from the Joint Executive Committee for Hosted Services in March		April 2025
	Hosted Waste Disposal Contract and Service and Waste Inter Authority Agreement	To receive an update on the Hosted Waste Disposal Contract and Service and Waste Inter Authority Agreement.	Darren Crossley / Angela Jones	April 2025
	Review of long-term hosting focus and services to disaggregate post March 2025	To receive an update to allow for a review of long-term hosting focus and services to disaggregate post March 2025.	Jo Atkinson / Alison Hatcher	April 2025

	Connecting Cumbria	To receive an update on Connecting Cumbria and the full Fibrus roll out.	Darren Crossley/ Angela Jones	April 2025
	Committee Briefing	Incorporating the Committee's action log and work programme s		April 2025
	HR Occupational Team Disaggregation Update	To receive an update on the disaggregation of the HR Occupational Team	Paul Robinson	TBC
	Review of Hosted Services	To review the hosted services following the publication of the Devolution White Paper.		TBC

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