

Induction Day for Unitary Authority Councillors.

Report: Michael Hanley.

1. Introduction: Sam Plum, Returning Officer

Sam discussed the capital plan, medium term financial plan and future models of delivery.

2. John Metcalfe, CEO of Cumbria County Council.

This will be an opportunity to take the best practice from district councils. Children and Adult Services, which is governed by law, is the biggest spend. Also highways, waste management which will be more flexible. There will be 10 months of planning time so that the new council will start on a strong and efficient footing. Cumbria has a population of 500k, WAF (Westmoreland and Furness) having 225k and Cumberland 275k. There are 9k potholes, 45k street lights. In Childrens Services there are 39 secondary schools, 268 primary schools and 6 childrens homes. 89% achieved good or better with Ofsted. There are 700 looked after children (460 in WAF). It has a £396 million budget.

With adults, there are 6000 in receipt of care, 300 social care providers, 1112 extra care housing and supported living units, 150 care homes, 5800 care staff and a £227 million budget.

In Public Health there are 21 specialist staff. In Active Cumbria there are 12 staff. There are also Health and Wellbeing coaches. Budget: £19 million to Public Health (18th lowest allocation per head in England).

There are 21 fire-stations. 4 full time crews, 17 on call. 219 on-call firefighters, 62 regular firefighters.

There are 50 response vehicles including 1 aerial ladder platform, 7 wildfire vehicles and 2 joint incident command vehicles. There is a proposal that the Fire Services go to the Police and Crime Commission.

County wide facts: 951 vehicles, 14 household waste recycling centres (47.9 % recycling rate), 5800 planning applications per year, 800k library items, growing in-house transport provider: 55 coaches and mini-buses.

The budget is £524.5 million (Cumbria (County Council): £451, Allerdale: £13m, Carlisle: £14m, Copeland: £11m, Barrow: £10m, Eden: £9m, South Lakes: £14m)

The income is £493 million. There is a gap of £30 million.

Revenue income: £645m, revenue spend: £1170m.

Total workforce: 9000.

3. Westmoreland and Furness- Context

Size: 37,759 square kilometres. Population: 225k. 11k business units. 27.2 million visitors per annum (post pandemic).

We provide 115k households with waste management and recycling collections. 17 parks, 70 car parks, 1100 planning applications.

Services: Planning, waste and recycling, street cleaning, homelessness and housing, revenues, leisure, culture and arts, regeneration programmes and licencing and environmental/health protection.

Vision: We have a once in a generation opportunity to shape the county's public services for the better. The journey is likely to take 5-7 years.

Design principles: strong and accountable leadership, outcome focused, creating sustainable communities, place-focused, promoting Public Health, climate and environment focused,

promoting inclusive economy approaches, collaborative approaches, evidence based, financial sustainability and value for money, creating positive organisational cultures and valuing the workforce.