Allerdale
Local Development Framework

Issues Vision & Objectives
August 2009
Introduction

The Emerging Issues

Towards a Spatial Vision for Allerdale

Strategic Objectives

Appendix 1: Visions

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Allerdale is a District of contrasts. Whilst the majority of the Borough is rural there are major centres of population in the south of the borough, with the settlement pattern more concentrated than elsewhere in the District. The economic and social history of the area is dominated by past coal mining and iron and steel making, the decline of which has left its legacy of economic and social problems.

By contrast, the rural hinterland, closer to the boundary of the Lake District National Park, is characterised by rural villages, large and small, which are relatively prosperous and subject to more severe development pressure. The north of the District is predominantly rural with only a handful of substantial settlements. Agriculture and tourism play a key role in this area, with the Solway coast and National Park being important tourist destinations.

The Evidence
The Local Development Framework requires a substantial evidence base to underpin its policies and proposals. Evidence highlights the issues which the LDF must address and therefore it must be comprehensive. A wide range of sources have been used to make up our evidence base.

Our starting points were the substantial evidence available from;

- The 2001 Census and other demographic data;
- The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS);
- The Local Area Agreement (LAA);
- Allerdale’s Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP).

However, these sources are not sufficiently comprehensive for LDF purposes (for instance, concerning housing markets and land availability), and we have had to fill the substantial gaps from;

- Other statistical data and profiling;
- Commissioned studies;
- Community consultation;
- Review of other strategies; and
- Sustainability Appraisal.

In particular, much of the more specialised evidence necessary to support an LDF has had to come from specially commissioned work, much of which has been completed by consultants with a specialist knowledge of the
relevant subject.

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
- Open Space Audit;
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA);
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA);
- Housing/ Affordable Housing Viability Study;
- West Cumbria Retail Study;
- West Cumbria Employment Sites Review;
- Cumbria Biodiversity Database;
- Locality profiles;
- Infrastructure Deficit Plan.

Of these, several have been completed in partnership with other Cumbrian Local Authorities, notably, for those covering West Cumbria, with Copeland Borough Council.
It seems appropriate to split the issues between those at a strategic, borough-wide, cross boundary, level and those at Locality level. At a local level we have split the Borough into the same “Localities” as are defined in “Future Generation” the West Cumbria Sustainable Communities Strategy; these are:

- Workington Locality;
- Maryport Locality;
- Cockermouth Locality;
- North Allerdale Locality;
  - Wigton;
  - Silloth;
  - Aspatria.

All these Localities encompass one main settlement plus a hinterland of related villages, (See attached maps).

**Borough-Wide Issues**

**Demographic:**
- Ageing population;
- Loss of young adult age group;
- Pockets of high deprivation;
- Pockets of lower life expectancy;
- Pockets of long term illness;
- Pockets of high benefits claimants.
- Increasing obesity.

**Accessibility:**
- Poor road and air links;
- Remote from markets;
- Obstacles for inward investment and tourism;
- Poor connections between towns;
- Poor access to services.

**Economy:**
- Nuclear decommissioning;
- Reliance on few large employers;
- Low skilled, low paid work;
- Low business startups;
- Oversupply of land and poor quality commercial premises;
- Locally driven markets;
- Limited private sector interest;
- Last 5 years; only 3.95 ha. commercial land developed.

**Skills:**
- Below average NVQ attainment;
- Decommissioning skills;
- Some relatively poorly performing schools;
- Lack of enterprise skills.
Housing;
- Uneven access to affordable housing;
- Homelessness;
- Housing for the elderly;
- Unbalanced housing markets;
- Decent homes.

Quality of Infrastructure;
- Poor transport network;
- Cultural and Leisure facilities;
- Uneven retail “offer”;
- Poor tourism infrastructure;
- Patchy health and education distribution;
- Uneven quality of public realm.

Green Infrastructure;
- Pressure on the landscape at the urban fringe and on fringe of National Park;
- Enhancing biodiversity outside designated sites;
- Identification/enhancement of wildlife corridors.

Climate Change;
- Renewable energy;
- Energy conservation;
- Reducing the need to travel;
- Rural sustainability.

Locality Issues/Locality Strengths
Workington

Workington Issues;
- Areas of highest deprivation,
- Long term illness (incl. obesity) and lowest life expectancy in Borough;
- Relatively poorly performing schools;
- History of loss of major employers;
- Poor “image”;
- Quality of leisure facilities and open space;
- Quality of older housing fabric.
- Over-reliance on social housing stock.
- Poor quality of many commercial premises.

Workington Strengths;
- Only town that is net importer of workers;
- Principal retail centre for West Cumbria sub-region;
- Port of Workington;
The Emerging Issues

Maryport

Maryport Issues;
- Pockets of high deprivation, long term illness and poor health (including obesity);
- Relatively poorly performing school(s);
- Poor retail “offer”; loss of shoppers to Workington;
- Poorly maintained historic environment;
- Poor “image”;
- Economically “overshadowed” by Workington;
- Relatively poor housing “offer”;
- Poor skill levels;
- Lack of economic investment.

Maryport Strengths;
- Rich heritage and historic environment;
- Harbour area;
- Festivals;
- Potential for significant Roman related tourism;
- Improved facilities; the “Wave”, etc.
- Availability of affordable housing;
- High quality natural coastal environment/biodiversity;
- Relatively good local accessibility to public transport and cycleways.

Cockermouth

Cockermouth Issues;
- Lack of affordable housing;
- Ageing population;
- Lack of employment land and employment opportunities;
- High levels of commuting;
- Poor public transport connections overall;
- 18-30 year olds under-represented;
- Flooding;
- Limited infrastructure capacity;
- Accessibility of rural communities to services.

Cockermouth Strengths;
- Rich historic character;
Allerdale Issues, Vision and Objectives

- Low levels of deprivation;
- Good range of services;
- High quality natural environment;
- Vibrant town centre;
- High average wage;
- High performing schools;
- Festivals/Markets.

North Allerdale

Wigton Issues;
- Net exporter of commuters and retail spending to Carlisle;
- Poor access to services in rural communities/high reliance on cars;
- Poor quality public realm and historic fabric;
- Major deficit in public open space/sports facilities;
- Flooding;
- Lack of employment land;
- Town centre traffic/poor pedestrian environment;
- Housing affordability in rural areas;
- Limited housing “offer”;

Wigton Strengths;
- Good accessibility by road and rail;
- Main service-market centre for North Allerdale;
- Rich historic character;
- Housing generally affordable;
- High quality environment;
- High performing school(s);
- Low crime rate;
- Strong agricultural sector;
- Large stable employer in town;
- Good range of services including cottage hospital;
- Potential for sustainable growth.

Silloth Issues;
- Inaccessible;
- Ageing population;
- Low weekly incomes/low car ownership;
- Limited retail “offer”;
- Lack of economic investment;
- Poor public transport links;
- Tired/poor infrastructure for visitors;
- Poor access to services in rural communities;
- Limited housing “offer”;

Wigton Issues;
- Net exporter of commuters and retail spending to Carlisle;
- Poor access to services in rural communities/high reliance on cars;
- Poor quality public realm and historic fabric;
- Major deficit in public open space/sports facilities;
- Flooding;
- Lack of employment land;
- Town centre traffic/poor pedestrian environment;
- Housing affordability in rural areas;
- Limited housing “offer”;
The Emerging Issues

- Limited “service” economy;
- Flooding.

Silloth Strengths;
- High quality natural environment/ Solway Coast AONB;
- Tourist destination;
- Roman Heritage;
- Biodiversity;
- Low crime rate;
- Good range of services;
- The port;
- Low levels of unemployment/ homelessness;
- Good opportunities for walking/ cycling/water sports/horse riding.

Aspatria Issues;
- Net exporter of commuters;
- Poor housing “offer”;
- Lack of economic investment;
- Overshadowed by other service centres;
- Second homes in Allonby;
- Poor rural accessibility to services;
- Limited retail “offer”;
- Relatively poor performing school(s);

Aspatria Strengths;
- Accessibility;
- Attractive location;
- Allonby tourism role;
- Housing generally affordable in the town;
- Good range of services;
- Attractive villages in the locality;
- Low crime rate;
- Relatively strong manufacturing sector.

Whilst these issues cover all the localities, it is inevitable that they have an urban focus, in order to redress this we have also looked at the issues for the North Allerdale “Hinterland”;

Hinterland Issues;
- Lack of affordable housing;
- Poor access to services and jobs;
- Ageing population;
- Loss of younger age group;
- Poor transport links;
- Dispersed, occasionally remote, populations;
- Vulnerable local facilities;
- Future sustainability.
The Priority Issues
In coming to an appreciation of which issues are most important Borough-wide we have taken into consideration the priorities of the “Energy Coast” Masterplan and the Sustainable Communities Strategies for both West Cumbria and the County. Consultation with Councillors, Parishes, and the Local Strategic Partnership has also informed the overarching priorities.

At the Locality level greater emphasis has been placed upon local evidence and local consultation with Parishes and the Local Strategic Partnership to identify the priorities.

The priority issues below are not necessarily listed in strict order of importance. Also it is important to keep in mind that the Localities are much more than the named main town.

Plan-Wide Priority Issues
- Accessibility of West Cumbria, including electronic accessibility;
- Sellafield/Nuclear Issues;
- Low level of investment;
- Climate Change;
- Relatively low skill levels;
- Poor infrastructure, including electronic;
- Housing Renewal/ Housing Mix;
- Demographic Challenge of Ageing Population;
- Rural Sustainability;
- Access to Affordable Housing.

Workington Locality Priority Issues
- Pockets of high Deprivation/ Poor Health (incl. obesity);
- Low skill levels;
- Housing Renewal/ Housing Mix;
- Town Centre Shop Vacancies;
- Capacity of Infrastructure;
- Poor Quality of Employment Premises “Offer”;
- Relatively poor “Reputation” of schools;
- “Turns its Back” on Coast and River;
- Perceived Surplus of Employment Land;
- Nuclear Waste.
The Emerging Issues

Maryport Locality Priority Issues

- Pockets of Deprivation/Poor Health;
- Low Skill Levels;
- Relatively Poor “Reputation” of School(s);
- Limited Housing “Mix”;
- Poorly performing Retail Sector; loss of shoppers to Workington; Vacant Shops;
- Limited Employment Opportunities;
- Condition of Historic Fabric is variable.

Cockermouth Locality Priority Issues

- Affordable Housing;
- Ageing population/Care Homes;
- Poor Public Transport Connections;
- Poor Rural Services;
- High Levels of Commuting;
- Limited Employment Opportunities;
- Limited Infrastructure Capacity;
- Flooding;

Wigton Locality Priority Issues

- High Levels of Commuting to Carlisle;
- Poorly performing Retail Sector; loss of shoppers to Carlisle;
- Poor accessibility of Rural Communities to Services/ Rural Remoteness;
- Poor state of Town Centre fabric and Public Realm;
- Deficit of Open Space/ Sports Facilities;
- Traffic in Town Centre;
- Flooding;
- Rural Affordable Housing;
- Limited Housing “Mix”;
- Limited Employment Land;
- Vulnerable Rural Facilities.

Silloth Locality Priority Issues

- Isolated;
- Ageing Population;
- Poor Public Transport Links;
- Low Level of Investment;
- Low Skills Levels;
There is a scattering of rural issues amongst the Locality issues above, but there is an inevitable focus on the main urban area of each locality. Furthermore, the Government wants Local Authorities to “rural proof” planning policies and so therefore, it is appropriate to list those issues which are a priority to rural communities.

Rural Priority Issues

- Affordable Housing; for rent and shared ownership;
- Poor accessibility to Services/ Education/Jobs;
- Vulnerable Local Facilities;
- Variable Skill Levels;
- Poor public Transport/ Dependence upon car;
- Impact of Wind-Turbines;
- Future Sustainability of Communities; especially remote communities;
- Heavy vehicles on inadequate roads;
- Ageing Populations;
- Climate Change/ Agricultural Change/ Flooding.

Aspatria Locality Priority Issues

- Overshadowed by other towns;
- High levels of Commuting;
- Low levels of investment;
- Historically, low levels of demand for Housing;
- Limited Housing “Mix”;
- Limited Employment Opportunities;
- Poor Accessibility of Rural Communities to Services/ Jobs;
- Limited Retail Sector;
- Rural Affordable Housing;
- Second Homes in Allonby;
- Flooding of Low-Lying Coastal Areas/ Climate Change;
- Vulnerable Rural Facilities.

Finally, it is considered important to separate out those issues which are specifically rural.
Cross-Boundary Issues
No District is an island (unless it is an island of course!), administrative boundaries can be arbitrary, and so there is always interaction and influences between one area and another. Allerdale interacts closely with three other areas and the main issues arising from those relationships are as follows;

Cross-Boundary Issues: Lake District

- Roles of Cockermouth and Caldbeck inside and outwith the NP;
- Highway links to the M6;
- Potential to accommodate NP’s housing and employment needs outside NP;
- Spreading the benefits of Tourism;
- Implications of World Heritage Site Status.

Cross-Boundary Issues: Carlisle

- Impact of Carlisle “Growth Point” on North Allerdale;
- North Allerdale is within Carlisle SHMA;
- Implications of “Carlisle Renaissance”.

Cross-Boundary Issues: Copeland

- “Energy Coast” Masterplan;
- Sellafield; Nuclear New-Build; Nuclear Waste;
- Sub-Region recognised by RSS;
- Shared Sustainable Communities Strategy;
- Shared Evidence Base;
- Joint Infrastructure Needs;
- Align LDF Core Strategies.
What is the nature of local “Spatial Planning”? The Government’s Planning Policy Statement 12 “Local Spatial Planning” has this to say at paragraph 2.1;

“2.1       Spatial Planning is a process of place shaping and delivery. It aims to;

Produce a vision for the future of places that responds to the local challenges and opportunities, and is based on evidence, a sense of local distinctiveness and community derived objectives, within the overall framework of national policy and regional strategies;…….”

PPS 12 goes on to say at Paragraph 4.2;

“4.2      The vision should be informed by an analysis of the characteristics of the area and its constituent parts and the key issues and challenges facing them. The vision should be in general conformity with the RSS and it should closely relate to any Sustainable Community Strategy for the area. ….”

Accordingly, we consider that the vision for Allerdale should;

Be spatial, ie. relate to places in a cross-thematic way;
Address the key issues identified through evidence and consultation;
Respond to the opportunities inherent in the strengths of our localities;
Take forward the key elements of the Sustainable Communities Strategies’ Visions;
Be “transformational” for certain localities.
Be in general accordance with RSS and national planning guidance.

In drafting the Vision below, our first point of call has been our evidence base, then we looked at the key issues this has thrown up (as above). These issues have been subject to consultation and the outcomes of 4 Workshops with Councillors, Parish Councils, and the Local Strategic Partnership. Appendix 2
includes the presentation made to those workshops with meeting notes of the outcomes. The LDF is seen as the spatial expression of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and so we have also looked at the key elements of the Visions for “Future Generation” the SCS for West Cumbria, and the Cumbria SCS. The West Cumbria SCS Vision is virtually the same as that of the “Energy Coast” Masterplan and so this will also be automatically taken on board. (All 3 of these Visions can be seen in Appendix 1 to this paper). Spatially, the Vision is expressed in terms of the Localities defined in the West Cumbria SCS. Finally, this being part of a formal Development Plan Document, our vision must be in general conformity with national planning guidance and the North West RSS.

A SPATIAL VISION FOR ALLERDALE

“Allerdale will, in 2025, be recognizable as the Allerdale of today in that it will have retained and enhanced its positive spatial and environmental characteristics. New development will have met the needs and aspirations of Allerdale’s communities, both urban and rural, and in places will have been transformational in supporting the regeneration and enhancement of our most deprived communities.

Allerdale’s economy will be strong, diversified and well connected, with a highly skilled population, and will be recognized as a leading energy, environment, and related technology, business cluster, building on West Cumbria’s nuclear assets and its technology and research strengths. All development will have been broadly sustainable, will have accorded with the best environmental practices and contributed to the mitigation of climate change.

A VISION FOR WORKINGTON LOCALITY

Workington, in 2025, will have retained and enhanced its role as West Cumbria’s main residential, educational, leisure, cultural and commercial centre. It will be home to a strong, highly skilled, active and healthy community and offer all its people a good quality of life where deprivation has been significantly reduced. Major development will have taken place to enhance the locality’s housing, education, employment and visitor “offer”, taking advantage of its coastal and riverside location, and its working port.
Community facilities and the local environment will have been significantly enhanced, particularly in the Lower Derwent Valley.

A VISION FOR MARYPORT LOCALITY

Maryport, by 2025, will have enhanced its role as a key residential, commercial, employment and visitor centre, taking every advantage of its locational, historic and environmental assets. It will be home to a strong, active, healthy and highly skilled population and offer all its people a good quality of life, where deprivation has been significantly reduced. The role of the town centre will have been enhanced, such that it serves the majority of the shopping needs of its catchment population. The historic fabric of the Conservation Area will be in first class condition. Major tourism development will have taken place taking particular advantage of Maryport’s Roman and Georgian heritage and its coastal location.

A VISION FOR COCKERMOUTH LOCALITY

Cockermouth, by 2025, will have retained and enhanced its role as a key housing, commercial, employment, leisure, cultural and visitor centre taking every advantage of its locational, historic and environmental assets. It will be home to a strong, active, healthy, and highly skilled population and offer all its people a good quality of life, where deprivation has been reduced. Infrastructure will be put in place to enable the needs for housing, particularly for affordable housing, for wider employment opportunities, and for the mitigation of the risk of flooding, to be met, whilst also protecting the best of the outstanding local environment.

A VISION FOR NORTH ALLERDALE LOCALITY

WIGTON

Wigton, by 2025, will have an enhanced role as the predominant housing, commercial, employment, educational and visitor service centre in the North Allerdale Locality, taking every advantage of its accessi-
bility, its existing services and its loca-
tional, historic and environmental assets. It
will be home to a strong, active, healthy
and highly skilled population and offer all
its people a good quality of life, where dep-
privation has been reduced.
The role of the town centre will have been
enhanced, such that it meets the majority
of the shopping requirements of its catch-
ment population. The condition of the fab-
ric of the town centre and the quality of the
public realm will have been significantly
improved, as will the provision and quality
of open space and sports facilities.

SILLOTH

Silloth, by 2025, will have an enhanced role
as a local housing, commercial, employ-
ment, education and visitor service centre
in the North Allerdale locality, taking every
advantage of its existing services and its
locational, environmental and historic as-
sets as well as its port. It will be home to a
strong, active, healthy, and highly skilled
population and offer all its people a good
quality of life, where deprivation has been reduced. Improved educational and employ-
ment opportunities have created a more
balanced age structure and improvements
to transport facilities have improved acces-
sibility to public services. Silloth’s tourism
role has been consolidated and enhanced
whilst, at the same time protecting its out-
standing environmental and historic as-
sets.

ASPATRIA

Aspatria, by 2025, will have an enhanced
role as a local housing, commercial, educa-
tion and employment centre in the North
Allerdale locality, taking every advantage
of its location and accessibility.
It will be home to a strong, active, healthy
and highly skilled population and offer all
its people a good quality of life, where dep-
privation has been reduced.
Modest development, both residential and
commercial, will have occurred to underpin
and enhance Aspatria’s wide range of ser-
vices.

A VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

In all localities, the role of rural settlements
as local housing, education, commercial or
employment (including agriculture) centres
will have been consolidated or enhanced especially in those settlements with schools and other existing facilities. They will be home to strong, active, healthy and highly skilled populations and offer all their people a good quality of life with improved access to public services and employment, and reduced deprivation.

The viability of local facilities will have been underpinned by housing and commercial development of an appropriate scale, and including, in particular, affordable housing. In smaller settlements small scale residential and commercial development has improved local communities’ access to housing and jobs, whilst at the same time, the quality of the local environment has been protected and enhanced, and flooding has been prevented or mitigated.

This Vision can only be delivered in partnership with others. Allerdale Borough Council will work with all relevant partners, in both the public and private sectors, to bring about the transformation this Vision requires.”

National guidance on LDF Core Strategies goes on to say, in PPS 12 at paragraph 2.1, that Local Planning Authorities should go on to;

“translate this vision into a set of priorities, programmes, policies, and land allocations....”

We have seen our priority issues above and our Vision addresses these. We now need to carry this further by putting forward our Strategic Objectives which begin to focus upon what the planning system can do to translate the Vision into reality.

PPS 12 goes on to say at paragraph 4.3;

“4.3 The strategic objectives form the link between the high level vision and the detailed strategy. They should expand the vision into the key specific issues for the area which need to be addressed, and how that will be achieved within the timescale of the Core Strategy. .....”
It is considered that our strategic objectives should strike a careful balance between properly addressing the Vision and the key issues identified, whilst not pre-empting the forthcoming debate on the spatial options which will decide the distribution of development throughout the Plan Area. Accordingly, whilst our objectives give a steer towards the spatial option most likely to deliver our Vision, they do so only at a high level and we feel that at this stage it is not appropriate to have objectives which specify the scale of development which should take place in particular settlements or localities. That is a decision yet to be made.

PPS 12 at paragraph 4.35 states, among other things:

“4.35 The Core Strategy is critical in delivering corporate and community aspirations (in the context of the Regional Spatial Strategy). Therefore, the key spatial planning objectives for the area should be in alignment with priorities identified in the SCS. ....”

In preparing our objectives we have therefore had particular regard to;

- The priority issues;
- Locality strengths;
- The key elements of the Vision;
- “Future Generation”, the West Cumbria SCS; and in particular the “Coastal Renaissance” chapter;
- The Cumbria Community Strategy, the SCS for the County.

Unfortunately, we have 2 SCSs to consider and the West Cumbria SCS is not structured in a way that is compatible with the government’s criteria for sustainable communities as outlined in PPS 1 “Delivering Sustainable Development”, whilst the Cumbria SCS is so structured. Nevertheless, the priorities and proposals in “Future Generation” can be fully endorsed, especially those in the Coastal Renaissance chapter. Therefore, whilst our objectives have been structured under the 5 Sustainable Communities strands in both the PPS and Cumbria SCS, the detailed objectives themselves are more closely aligned with those in “Future Generation”. Finally, to ensure these objectives are “rural proofed” we have paid particular attention to the above Vision for Rural Areas.
OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. A SAFE, STRONG, DIVERSE BUT INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
   - To plan, manage and enable development to meet the needs of the whole community;
   - To focus the majority of development into the main towns and villages of Allerdale; in rural areas to focus an appropriate scale of development, including affordable housing, into those settlements with appropriate facilities;
   - Major development will be mainly confined to the larger urban areas of West Cumbria;
   - To ensure that design and location of all development reflects the character and local distinctiveness of Allerdale, and promotes inclusiveness, safety (including flood risk), well being, the principles of sustainability and quality of life;
   - House building will take place to meet the needs of all communities, including the need for affordable housing, both for rent and shared ownership.

2. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY
   - To ensure that all communities have good access to health, sports and leisure facilities;
   - To support the enlargement of the footpath, cycleway and bridleway network;
   - To ensure that the natural and built environment can be enjoyed by all people, now and for generations to come, and thereby contribute to health, quality of life and economic prospects.
   - To support, wherever possible, proposals which are in line with a healthy communities agenda.

3. A DYNAMIC AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
   - The nuclear, energy, environmental, educational and tourism sectors of Allerdale’s economy will be supported and encouraged, to support the delivery of the “Energy Coast Masterplan” and West Cumbria SCS;
   - To support and enable transformational development in the urban areas of Allerdale to support the economy and promote the regeneration of Allerdale’s most deprived communities;
Strategic Objectives

- Lillyhall will be developed as a Strategic Employment and Educational Site;
- Town centres in the main towns will be supported and enhanced;
- Development in the main rural settlements will be of a scale that supports and enhances the rural economy, and sustainability of rural communities;
- Major tourism development will be located in sustainable locations in West Cumbria including “Derwent Forest”. Other tourism development, of an appropriate scale will be located in sustainable locations, including settlements along the coast.

4. A WELL CONNECTED COMMUNITY
- To support and enhance access to the Internet, fast Broadband, education and skills training.
- To support the enhancement of all modes of transport infrastructure, including air travel, and particularly of public transport.

5. A WORLD CLASS ENVIRONMENT
- The environmental, heritage and other cultural assets of Allerdale will be protected and enhanced;
- The prevention/mitigation of climate change will be at the heart of all decision making;
- The countryside and important landscapes will be protected from unnecessary and/or damaging development;
- Greenfield development will be minimised, and the use of natural resources in the most sustainable way will be encouraged, by the support of recycling, the re-use of previously developed land and buildings, the reduction of energy consumption and the promotion of renewable energy;
- To prevent pollution and minimise carbon emissions to further mitigate the impact of climate change.
APPENDIX 1

(i) “Energy Coast “ Masterplan Vision;

(ii) Cumbria Community Strategy Vision;

(iii) “Future Generation” Vision;

(iv) North West RSS Vision.
Appendix 1: Visions

(i) “Energy Coast” Masterplan Vision;

“By 2027 West Cumbria will be a confident place that prides itself on its strong economy providing opportunities for all and offering a lifestyle of choice. It will;

- be globally recognised as a leading nuclear, energy, environment and related technology business cluster, building on its nuclear assets and its technology and research strengths;

- be a strong, diversified and well connected economy, with a growing, highly skilled population with high employment;

- project a positive image to the world, and be recognised by all as an area of scientific excellence, outstanding natural beauty and vibrant lifestyle, which attracts a diverse population and visitor profile;

- provide opportunities for all its communities, where geography is not a barrier to achievement and where deprivation, inequality and social immobility have been reduced.”

(ii) “Cumbria Community Strategy Vision;

“Cumbria will be a place where we work together to energise;

- safe, strong and inclusive communities. Children and young people will see bright prospects and diverse opportunities. They will get the best possible start in life and be empowered to get involved in their communities. Young people have an important part to play in Cumbria’s future and they will be provided with excellent learning and training opportunities to help them achieve. Our communities will be made safer, stronger and more inclusive by helping more people to get involved and make a difference to the place they live, confident that everything is being done to further reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour;

- health and well being throughout life. We will live healthier lives and enjoy high quality support whatever our health and social care needs. We are committed to helping people more in decisions in their lives and their communities. Health inequalities across the county will be reduced by targeting neighbourhoods in greatest need. Cumbria will be a great place for people to enjoy active, healthy and fulfilling lives. We will value the contribution that people of all ages make to social, economic and cultural diversity of the county. In particular we recognise the
contribution that older people make to the community. We want to empower Cumbria’s older population to influence and shape their communities, live independently and have maximum control over decisions that affect them;

- a sustainable and prosperous economy. A dynamic and diverse Cumbria that earns a place in the global economy by capitalising on our world class assets – our landscape and our energy. We aspire to be the fastest growing economy in England, delivering jobs and world class skills and training in order to address worklessness. We will concentrate efforts on areas and neighbourhoods in greatest need, and on creating opportunities which reduce the need for young people to leave the county.

- effective connections between people and places. The energy and potential of our people will be realised through transport connections which help people access jobs and services and link us to the rest of the UK and beyond. More sustainable transport modes will be promoted to help reduce CO2 emissions. As well as these physical links, better connections between organisations and communities in Cumbria will encourage learning from best practice and sharing resources and expertise to maximise value for money;

- world class environmental quality. We will have a passionate enthusiasm for celebrating, conserving and enhancing our inspiring world class environment, culture and heritage. We will lead international thinking on climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable energy, lifestyles and communities. Energetic communities will be helped to flourish by providing decent, high quality and affordable homes for everyone in places where people want to live and work and through a public realm which matches the quality of our landscape.”

( iii ) “Future Generation” Vision

“By 2027 West Cumbria will be a confident place that prides itself on its strong economy, providing opportunities for all and offering a lifestyle of choice. It will;

- be globally recognised as a leading nuclear, energy, environment and related technology business cluster, building on its nuclear assets and its technology and research strengths;

- be a strong, diversified and well-connected economy with a growing, highly skilled population with high employment;

- protect and enhance its special natural environments and be recognised by all as an area of outstanding natural beauty
and vibrant lifestyle, which attracts a diverse population and visitor profile;

• be home to a strong and healthy community which offers all of its people a good quality of life and enables them to play a full part in their community."

(iv) North West RSS Vision

“By 2021 we will see a region that has acted to deliver sustainable development, leading to a higher quality of life for all, and reduced social, economic and environmental disparities. Development will be seen in a global context, and the region will contribute to the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

• By 2021 we aim to see Manchester and Liverpool firmly established as world class cities thanks to their international connections, highly developed service and knowledge sectors and flourishing culture, sport and leisure industries. The growth and development of the Central Lancashire City Region as a focus for economic growth will continue, building on the existing individual strengths of the urban centres around commerce, higher education, advanced manufacturing and resort tourism. The economy of Cumbria will be improved. The region’s towns and cities will offer strong and distinctive centres for their hinterlands, with attractive, high quality living environments that meet the needs of their inhabitants. Our rural communities will enjoy increased prosperity and quality of life, whilst respecting the character of their surroundings and natural environment.

• The Implementation Framework that accompanies this Regional Spatial Strategy establishes a set of indicators and targets to monitor performance against this vision, the objectives set out at the start of subsequent chapters, and the overarching spatial framework. Together these comprise the high level outcomes that this strategy seeks to achieve.”
APPENDIX 2

Presentation to Series of Workshops and Meeting Notes
ISSUES
What does the evidence show

Starting Point
• Sustainable Community Strategy
• Local Area Agreement
• Corporate Improvement Plan

Sources of evidence
• Statistical data and profiling
• Commissioned studies
• Community consultation
• Review of strategies
• Sustainability appraisal

The Big Issues

Accessibility
• Poor road, and air links
• Remote from markets
• Obstacles for inward investors and tourism

Appendix 2: Workshop and Meeting Notes
Economy
- Decommissioning
- Reliance on a few large employers
- Low skilled and low paid work
- Low business start ups

Economy
- Over supply of poor quality land and premises
- Locally driven markets
- Little private sector interest
- Last five years only 3.95 ha developed

Housing
- Access to affordable housing
- Homelessness
- Housing for the elderly
- Balanced housing markets
- Decent homes

Quality of infrastructure
- Transport network
- Cultural and leisure facilities
- Retail offer
- Tourism infrastructure
- Health and education
- Public realm

Green Infrastructure
- Pressure on the landscape on the fringe of the National Park
- Enhancing the biodiversity outside the designated site
- Wildlife corridors

Climate change
- Rural sustainability
- Energy conservation
- Renewable energy
- Reducing the need to travel
Appendix 2: Workshop and Meeting Notes

Local Issues

Local Strengths

Workington

- Areas of highest deprivation, lowest life expectancy and long term illness
- Poor performing schools
- Loss of major employer
- Image
- Leisure facilities/open space
- Housing renewal

Maryport

- Only town that is a net importer of jobs
- Principal retail centre for West Cumbria
- Port of Workington
- Higher education
- River Derwent
- Administrative centre for Allerdale

Maryport

- Pockets of deprivation, poor health and long term illness
- Poor performing school
- Failing retail offer
- Poorly maintained historic environment
- Poor image
- Overshadowed by Workington

Cockermouth

- Affordable Housing
- Lack of employment land
- Exports 70% of workforce
- 18-30 year olds under-represented
- Flooding
- Health, schools and road network capacity

Maryport

- Historic environment
- Harbour area
- Blues festival
- Roman connection
- Tourism
- Improved facilities such as The Wave
Cockermouth

- Vibrant town centre/ good facilities
- Historic core
- Higher weekly wage
- Concentration of managerial jobs
- High performing schools
- Rivers Derwent/ Cocker
- Festivals/ market

North Allerdale

Wigton

- Net exporter of jobs and retail trips to Carlisle
- Low car ownership
- Poor quality of public realm/ built environment
- Flooding
- Lack of employment land
- Deficit of open space
- Poor quality sports facilities

North Allerdale

Aspatria

- Poor performing school
- Loss of retail
- Biggest exporter of workers
- Low take up of employment land
- Low demand for housing

North Allerdale

Silloth

- Lowest weekly income
- Low car ownership
- Ageing population
- Poor retail
- Inaccessible
- Poor infrastructure for visitors
Appendix 2: Workshop and Meeting Notes

North Allerdale
Silloth

- AONB/ quality natural environment
- Tourism potential
- Hadrian’s Wall
- Water sports
- Cycling/walking

North Allerdale
hinterland

- Affordable housing
- Poor transport links
- Access to services/jobs
- Loss of younger age group
- Future sustainability
- Ageing population
- Dispersed of population

The Sellafield Factor

- West Cumbria towns exchange 3758 people in terms of work
- Sellafield accounts for 4628
- Sellafield is more important than the towns are to each other

Cross Boundary Issues

- Lake District
- Role of Cockermouth and Caldbeck
- Links to M6
- Spreading the tourism benefit
- Accommodating housing and employment need outside the Park

Cross Boundary Issues

- Carlisle
- Growth Point
- Shared SHMA
- Fit with Carlisle Renaissance

Cross Boundary Issues

- Copeland
- Energy Coast
- Sellafield/ nuclear new build
- Sub-region recognised in RSS
- Joint evidence base
- Joint infrastructure
- Align Core Strategies
A Vision for Allerdale

Transformational Change

- Build on existing expertise
- Need to develop the whole skills base
- Improve quality of employment sites and premises
- Value existing businesses
- Develop employment hubs in rural areas
- Live/work units

Spatial Vision

Allerdale will, in 2021, be recognizable as the Allerdale of today in that it will have retained and enhanced its positive spatial and environmental characteristics. New development will have met the needs and aspirations of Allerdale’s communities, both urban and rural, and in places will have been transformational in supporting the regeneration and enhancement of our most deprived communities.

Allerdale’s economy will be strong, diversified and well connected, with a highly skilled population, and will be recognized as a leading energy, environment, and related technology, business cluster, building on West Cumbria’s nuclear assets and its technology and research strengths.

Spatial Vision

Spatial Vision for Workington Locality

Workington, in 2021, will have retained and enhanced its role as West Cumbria’s main residential, educational and commercial centre. It will be home to a strong, highly skilled and healthy community and offer all its people a good quality of life where deprivation has been significantly reduced.

Major development will have taken place to enhance the locality’s housing, education, employment and visitor “offer”, taking advantage of both its seaside location, and its working port. Community facilities and the local environment will have been significantly enhanced, particularly in the Lower Derwent Valley.
Spatial Vision for Maryport Locality
Maryport, by 2021, will have enhanced its role as a key residential, commercial, employment and visitor centre, taking every advantage of its locational, historic and environmental assets. It will be home to a strong, healthy and highly skilled population and offer all its people a good quality of life, where deprivation has been significantly reduced. The role of the town centre will have been enhanced, such that it serves the majority of the shopping needs of its catchment population. The historic fabric of the Conservation Area will be in first class condition. Major tourism development will have taken place taking particular advantage of Maryport’s Roman and Georgian heritage and its seaside location.

Spatial Vision for Cockermouth Locality
Cockermouth, by 2021, will have retained and enhanced its role as a key housing, commercial, employment and visitor centre taking every advantage of its locational, historic and environmental assets. It will be home to a strong, healthy, and highly skilled population and offer all its people a good quality of life, where deprivation has been reduced. Infrastructure will be put in place to enable the need, for housing, particularly for affordable housing, for wider employment opportunities, and for the mitigation of the risk of flooding, to be met, whilst also protecting the best of the outstanding local environment.

Spatial Vision for N. Allerdale; Wigton
Wigton, by 2021, will have an enhanced role as the predominant housing, commercial, employment, educational and visitor service centre in the North Allerdale Locality, taking every advantage of its accessibility, its existing services and its locational, historic and environmental assets. It will be home to a strong, healthy and highly skilled population and offer all its people a good quality of life, where deprivation has been reduced. The role of the town centre will have been enhanced, such that it meets the majority of the shopping requirements of its catchment population. The condition of the fabric of the town centre and the quality of the public realm will have been significantly improved, as will the provision and quality of open space and sports facilities.

Spatial Vision for N. Allerdale; Silloth
Silloth, by 2021, will have an enhanced role as a local housing, commercial, employment, education and visitor service centre in the North Allerdale locality, taking every advantage of its existing services and its locational, environmental and historic assets. It will be home to a strong, healthy, highly skilled population and offer all its people a good quality of life, where deprivation is reduced. Improved educational and employment opportunities have created a more balanced age structure and improvements to transport facilities have improved accessibility to public services. Silloth’s tourism role has been consolidated and enhanced whilst, at the same time protecting its outstanding environmental and historic assets.

Spatial Vision for N. Allerdale; Aspatria
Aspatria, by 2021, will have an enhanced role as a local housing, commercial, education and employment centre in the North Allerdale locality, taking every advantage of its location and accessibility. It will be home to a strong, healthy and highly skilled population and offer all its people a good quality of life, where deprivation has been reduced. Modest development, both residential and commercial, will have occurred to underpin and enhance Aspatria’s wide range of services.

Spatial Vision for Rural Settlements
In all localities, the role of rural settlements as local housing, education, commercial or employment centres will have been consolidated or enhanced especially in those settlements with schools and other existing facilities. They will be home to strong, healthy and highly skilled populations and offer all their people a good quality of life with improved access to public services and employment, and reduced deprivation. The viability of local facilities will have been underpinned by housing and commercial development of an appropriate scale, and including, in particular, affordable housing. In smaller settlements small scale residential and commercial development has improved local communities’ access to housing and jobs, whilst at the same time, the quality of the local environment has been protected and enhanced.
Strategic Objectives; under SCS “Themes”

A SAFE, STRONG, DIVERSE BUT INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

- To plan, manage and enable development to meet the needs of the whole community
- To focus the majority of development into the main towns and villages of Allerdale
- Major development will be mainly confined to the larger urban areas of West Cumbria
- To ensure that design and location of all development reflects the character and local distinctiveness of Allerdale and promotes inclusiveness, safety, well being and quality of life
- House building will take place to meet the needs of all communities, including the need for affordable housing

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- To ensure that all communities have good access to health, sports and leisure facilities
- To support the enlargement of the footpath and cycleway network
- To ensure that the natural and built environment can be enjoyed by all people, now and for generations to come, and thereby contribute to health, quality of life and economic prospects

A DYNAMIC AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

- The nuclear, energy, environmental, educational and tourism sectors of Allerdale’s economy will be supported and encouraged, to support the delivery of the “Energy Coast Masterplan”
- To support and enable transformational development in the urban areas of Allerdale to support the economy and promote the regeneration of Allerdale’s most deprived communities
- Lillyhall will be developed as a Strategic Employment and Educational Site
- Town centres in the main towns will be supported and enhanced
- Development in the main rural settlements will be of a scale that supports and enhances the rural economy, and sustainability of rural communities
- Major tourism development will be located in sustainable locations in West Cumbria including “Derwent Forest”

A WELL CONNECTED COMMUNITY

- To support and enhance town centres and to maximise their accessibility
- Most new development will be located in places accessible to a range of travel modes including public transport
- To enable development in sustainable locations to support rural communities
- To protect and enhance community services and facilities and maximise their accessibility
- To support and enhance access to education and skills training

A WORLD CLASS ENVIRONMENT

- The environmental, heritage and other cultural assets of Allerdale will be protected and enhanced
- The prevention/mitigation of climate change will be at the heart of all decision making
- The countryside and important landscapes will be protected from unnecessary and/or damaging development
- Greenfield development will be minimised, and the use of natural resources in the most sustainable way will be encouraged, by the support of recycling, the re-use of previously developed land and buildings, the reduction of energy consumption and the promotion of renewable energy
- To prevent pollution and minimise carbon emissions to further mitigate the impact of climate change
Appendix 2: Workshop and Meeting Notes

**Workshop Meeting Notes;**

**Member’s workshop; 2nd July 2009**

**Issues presentation**
Workington- disagreed with the statement that the town’s schools were performing badly
Maryport- same comment on school performance. Also comment that Maryport needed a hotel

Aspatria- Ward Councillor disagreed that the school performance is poor, retail offer was better and housing demand was not as low as suggested.

Under issues for transport- Carlisle airport should be mentioned as well as Northern relief road under cross boundary issues.

Affordable Housing- this must be social rented

**Workington Locality Discussion**
- Workington should be recognised as the sporting centre of the district
- High levels of deprivation is perhaps the greatest concern to local people, it is also a major deterrent to investors
- Agree isolation from M6 is a major block to investment and subsequent cause of deprivation
- Query regarding poor housing conditions – suggestion things are improving
- Pointed out that it would be hard to build and fill higher quality homes without the right kind of jobs to attract people to the area
- Suggestion that office space isn’t that much of an issue – there are spaces at Clay Flatts which aren’t being filled
- Need to highlight importance of skills academy – this will make Workington the centre for Research and Development for the area
- Query that houses are generally affordable – are issues of affordability being masked by the statistics?
- Suggestion that unemployment and low wages are a major concern for Workington
- Workington needs an improved public transport offer, particularly to out of town retail areas
- Concern that expensive parking in town centre will push people towards out of town shops
• Concern that high rents are causing some of the vacancies in the town centre
• Suggestion that new dental/GP centres may improve health service provision
• Query regarding provision of proposed student accommodation for new university – where will it go? Will it be covered by public transport? What impact will it have?
• Concern that while there is a surplus of green space, this masks a lack of facilities for children

Maryport Locality Issues
• Concern that the people of Maryport are too parochial
• Agreement that there is high retail leakage to Workington, but that the town holds its own with high provision of independent retailers
• Suggestion that the town has many cultural strengths – eg Blues Festival
• Suggestion that public transport isn’t that good – though connections exist, it can still take an hour and a half just to get to Cockermouth. Connections to Workington and Whitehaven are good however.
• Similar issue with affordability of housing – do the stats mask the real situation?

Cockermouth Locality discussion
• Need rented accommodation and too many residential homes in the town.
• The school is the biggest employer in the town and brought the town prestige
• The castle should be opened more as a tourist attraction
• Mitchell auction was an asset to the town/agricultural role
• Festivals were also important

Hinterland
• Post office closures
• Poor public transport- the timetable did not allow journeys to work, and connection times to Penrith and Carlisle are unworkable.

Priorities
• Rank of major concerns
• Affordable housing
• Public transport
• Poor rural services
• High levels of commuting
• Ageing population should also be added to
major concerns
• Disagreed that there was a lack of facilities for teenagers there are a lot of clubs in the town. Under age drinking and drug abuse was highlighted as an issue.

North Allerdale Locality Discussion

Wigton;

Discussion of concerns;
• Rural accessibility to services
• Poor built environment in Wigton town centre
• Traffic flows in town centre
• Affordable Housing

Discussion of Strengths;
• Accessibility a great strength
• School(s)
• Presence of Cottage Hospital
• Historic market centre for Solway Plain
• Low crime rate considered a valuable strength.

Silloth;

Discussion of Concerns;
• Isolation
• Flooding is of greater concern than suggested
• Ageing population
• Poor health concerns
• Retail is not such a concern
• Poor public transport connections.

Aspatria

Discussion of concerns
• Poor public transport
• Retail concerns not so important
• Unemployment
• Poor built fabric
• Number of second homes in Allonby
• Rural Affordable Housing

Discussion of Strengths
• Well connected
• Strong manufacturing sector is an important strength
Attractive villages in the hinterland
Rugby Club

Vision

Discussion on overarching Vision
- Diversification of employment needs to be mentioned
- Also healthy and safe

Safe and stronger objectives
- Affordable housing for sale and rent

Workington Vision
- Use coastal instead of seaside
- Include the word active

Well connected objective
- Mention air link

Maryport Vision
- Include active
- Coastal for seaside
- Park and ride to Camp Farm

Parish Council workshop- Broughton Craggs; 13th July 2009

Cockermouth Vision
- Include rented housing not just affordable

Workington Locality

Discussion of concerns;
- Access to affordable housing
- Quality of Housing
- Port Derwent implications
- Town centre vitality/vacancies
- Accessibility to M6 and national markets
- Rail Infrastructure
- Deprivation

Silloth Vision
- Mention the port

Discussion of Strengths;
- Commercial centre of West Cumbria
- Affordable housing

Rural settlements Vision
- Flooding
- Rented housing

Agriculture
- Derwent Forest should be mentioned in overall Vision
Appendix 2: Workshop and Meeting Notes

- Port of Workington
- Coastal location

Cockermouth Locality
- Affordable Housing especially first homes for young people is a big issue. Many are leaving the villages because cannot afford housing. Need affordable housing for local people. Need the right mix of housing for families as well as single people.
- Paddle school is very influential on the housing market as well as Cockermouth School.
- Access to services is very important therefore need to expand Cockermouth to act as a centre for the surrounding villages. Area around Mitchells is the logical area for expansion.
- Papcastle is dominated by managerial jobs. A lot of single people in large houses. Need a better mix of housing which may then free up the larger properties.
- Second homes. Some disagreement as to whether this is a problem. Some viewed it as boosting the local economy while others saw it as taking up the housing which was not occupied for most of the year.
- Public Transport. Timetabling a big issue. Services only run between 10am and 2pm. No late night buses out of Cockermouth. No co-ordination between services which means either a long wait between services or just a few minutes.
- Impact of wind farms are a big concern. Felt that Allerdale had contributed enough.
- Concern of spread of low level nuclear waste sites in West Cumbria and the impact of this on West Cumbria.

Cockermouth Vision
- Nuclear related jobs will not re-locate to Cockermouth. They will remain at Lillyhall and Sellafield therefore there is likely to be a continuation of exodus of workers.
- Need to improve public transport to Lillyhall and Sellafield
Rural Settlements Vision

- Reference to cumulative impact of wind turbines in relation to protecting character of surrounding landscape

Parish Workshop- Greenhill Hotel; 16th July 2009

Wigton Locality

Discussion of Concerns;
- Affordable Housing
- Town centre traffic
- Condition of town centre built fabric/public realm
- Housing “mix”
- Impact of Tesco
- Rural accessibility to services
- Viability of rural facilities
- Flooding
- Rural “local” housing

Discussion of Strengths;
- Cottage Hospital
- Market centre for Solway Plain
- Potential for tourism
- Accessibility

Aspatria Locality

Key Issues

Transport
- Public Transport is poor but the community bus service is reliable.
- Poor taxi services
- A lot of road accidents involved young drivers
- Issue of heavy goods vehicle through the villages.

Housing
- Affordable Housing for local people; should not import people from outside the town/village
- Good mix of housing is important
- Allonby has an issue of second homes and holiday lets. It was debated whether there was any local demand for these properties in the first place.
- There is an issue of hidden household in terms of young and elderly living with their families.
Appendix 2: Workshop and Meeting Notes

Employment
- Sellafield was not an influence in the area and did not feel connected to West Cumbria and the Energy Coast initiative.
- Small employment units were too expensive. A lot of small businesses worked from home. Did not see a need for extra work units.

Retail
- A lot of concern that the proposed Tesco at Wigton would have big impact on the retail businesses in Aspatria.
- Free parking in town centres is a real benefit to shops.

Facilities
- Pubs in a lot of trouble
- Very few facilities in the villages
- Mobile services are vital and need to be increased.

Flooding
- Issues of road and bridges being undermined by flood water
- Crime was not seen as an issue. Generally close communities who knew each other. A lot of clubs for children.

Vision
- Mention partners involvement in delivering the Vision and the availability of resources.

Healthy Community Vision
- Bridlepaths should be included.

Silloth Locality Discussion
- Major issues with sea flooding on coast
- Poor roads - particularly coast road
- Poor links with other towns - particularly via public transport
- Public transport needs to be a lot more convenient and integrated
- Has a lot of potential for tourism—but could do more
- Important deer habitat (biodiversity)
- School needs a 6th form centre
- Potential to build on isolation as a strength—health spas, slow, relaxed pace
- Solway plain needs to be better advertised
- Strong heritage with Border Reevers
- Key horse riding centre—need to ensure protection and enhancement of bridleways
LSP Workshop; 28th July 2009

Comments on Issues from Thematic Groups;

(i) Children and Young People Group Comments;

- Cockermouth curfew in operation due to teenage drinking, Night time economy is an issue in the town centre.

- A perceived lack of aspiration from young people in terms of education

- The role of University of Cumbria is important to the local skills economy.

- Young people tend to leave between 18-35 years but return later to bring up their families.

Priority Issues;

- Workington; Isolation from M6 etc, Deprivation, Unemployment.

- Maryport; Health Services, Deprivation, Skills/Schools.

- Cockermouth; Affordable Housing, Commuting.

- Wigton; Rural Services, Limited retail.

- Silloth; Isolation, Flooding.

- Aspatria; Overshadowed by other towns.

(ii) Living Environment Group comments;

- Discussion of overarching issues, emphasis on accessing services through Internet/Broadband etc.

- Perceived lack of restaurants/cafes;

- Poor sports provision for swimming and athletics;

- Housing offer;

- Maryport supermarket;

- Affordable Homes to rent;

- Youth services in villages;

- Employment diversity in Wigton;

- Coastal flooding;

Priority Issues;

- Workington; Access to Internet/Fast
Appendix 2: Workshop and Meeting Notes

Broadband, Deprivation, Housing Mix;  
- Maryport; Unemployment, Deprivation, Health, Limited Employment Sector;
- Cockermouth; Affordable Housing, Ageing Population;
- Wigton; Rural Services, Affordable Rural Housing;
- Silloth; Public Transport, Rural Services, Flooding;
- Aspatria; Rural Public Transport, Affordable Housing to Rent, Low Incomes.

(iii) Healthy Communities Group Comments  
- Discussion of overall issue of the demographic challenge posed by ageing populations and the proportion of the population over 65 compared to the working population.
- Impact of Obesity agenda.

Priority Issues;  
- Workington; Deprivation, Poor Health, Low Incomes, Schools Performance, Obesity, GP/Dentist capacity.
- Maryport; Deprivation, Unemployment, Poor Health, Poor Skills, Limited Health services.
- Cockermouth; Ageing population, Health Services Capacity.
- Wigton; Ageing Population, Lack of Rural Services, Town Centre Traffic, Town Centre Fabric, Rural Accessibility.
- Silloth; Ageing Population, Poor Public Transport, Isolation, Poor Health, Access to Services, Low Incomes.
- Aspatria; Ageing Population, Poor Health, Low Incomes, Poor Skills, Poor Rural Public Transport.

(iv) Vibrant Economy Group Comments  
- Need to consider Whitehaven and North Copeland as part of this exercise.
- Need a picture of economic role of each locality in West Cumbria as a whole.
- What does “Energy Coast Masterplan” mean at locality level?

Priority Issues;  
- Workington; Isolation from rest of country; Mixed schools performance; Shop Vacancies; Out of town retail; Poor Quality Office space; Deprivation; Unemployment; Crime and Disorder.
- Maryport; Vacant Dwellings and Shops;
Deprivation; Isolation; Unemployment; Poor connections to Sellafield; Limited Employment Sector, Poor Health; Retail Leakage to Workington.

• Cockermouth; Commuter town; Affordable Housing; Reliance on Car.
• Wigton; Lack of Rural Services; Retail Leakage to Carlisle; Reliance on Car.
• Silloth; as per Profile;
• Aspatria; Poor public Transport.

Comments on overall Vision;
• Relocation of the nuclear procurement or supply chain to West Cumbria should be mentioned.

• An ageing population should be mentioned in the Vision

Workington Vision;
• Leisure and culture could be mentioned

• General comment on the long term future of the social housing estates in Workington and Maryport (this was raised as an issue as opposed to a comment on the Vision)

Cockermouth Vision;
• Reference to culture and leisure could be made

• Balanced population could be mentioned.

• Comment- issue of how affordable elderly accommodation will be in the town
• The town’s ageing population is a big issue
• Need to take pressure off Cockermouth by dispersing development elsewhere, especially executive housing and elderly accommodation.

Comments on Objectives

Health
• Comment from the PCT about the issue of the location of fast food outlets especially in terms of the obesity agenda

Well connected
• Internet connection could be mentioned.
Alternative Document Formats

This document and the comments form are also available on the Council’s website. Further information on the Local Development Framework is also available www.allerdale.gov.uk.

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