

# 5E. **The County Council and Partnership Working**

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## **E. THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

The Council's Constitution deals in the main with how the Council operates, how decisions are made, and the procedures which are to be followed. Increasingly the County Council works with a broad range of public, private and voluntary bodies to improve the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the people of Cumbria. It does this through a variety of mechanisms, commonly referred to as partnerships, and the importance of these is reflected in the extract below from the Council's Corporate Strategy 2004 Update:

*“The delivery of the Corporate Strategy is increasingly dependent on a partnership approach and it is now agreed that effective engagement in a range of key partnerships can in fact demonstrate real benefits both to the Corporate Strategy and also to the scope for members to act as Community Leaders.”*

The County Council is fully committed to continuing its key role in the Cumbria Strategic Partnership and the associated Local Strategic Partnerships in Cumbria.

The Council's approach to all partnership working is governed by a set of principles and standards as follows, so that maximum benefit is gained through partnership activity for the communities served by the Council and its partners.

### **PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

The effectiveness of the Council's approach is underpinned by five key principles as follows, and all our partnership work will be based on them.

- 1. Leadership.**
- 2. Trust.**
- 3. Learning.**
- 4. Managing for Performance.**
- 5. Equality.**

### **STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

In order to achieve excellence in partnership activity, the following standards will be observed:

- 1. Members and officers should only develop and support partnerships which support the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives.**

- 2. The principles of partnership working should be clearly understood and demonstrated by all members and officers.**
- 3. Budget and policy decisions should openly take account of the partnership approach, acknowledging the implications and impact of this way of working.**
- 4. Reviewing and monitoring all partnership activity should be completely integrated into the work of members and officers.**

These principles and standards are set out in more detail in Management Circular 1 and a Guide to Partnership Working, which can be obtained from the Assistant Chief Executive's Office.