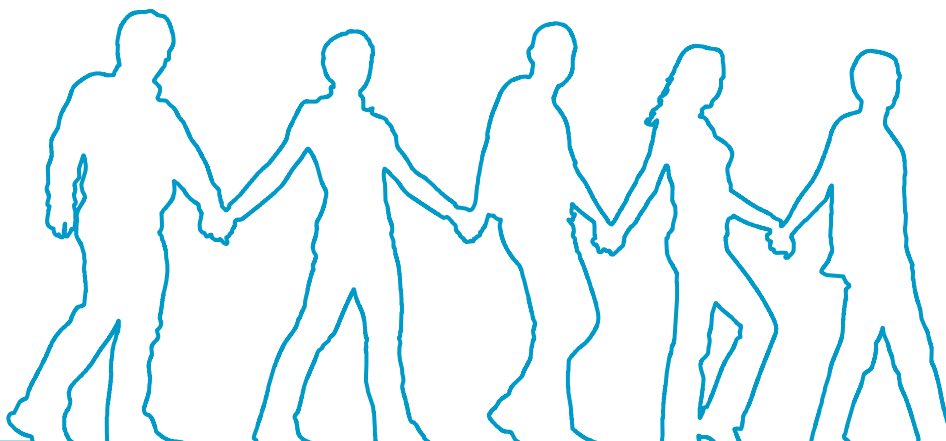




UPPER EDEN **COMMUNITY PLAN**



Upper Eden Community Plan Group



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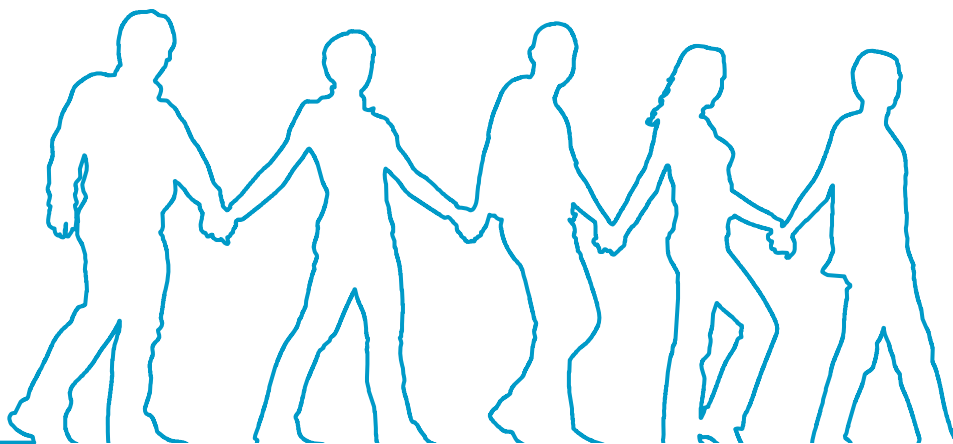
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Chair's Foreword

During these last two and a half years – the life thus far of the Upper Eden Community Plan - it has become clear to me that initiatives such as this lie at the heart of good local governance. As expressions of the hopes, fears and ambitions of the communities which have shaped them, Community or Parish Plans may be said to represent a snapshot of an area's well-being at a particular juncture, together with its vision for the future. Accordingly, it could be said that such Plans should provide the foundations on which policies and strategies at District, County and even national levels of government are built. Clearly, however, one cannot expect policy-makers to determine a community's future solely by reference to the thoughts and observations of those residents who, ultimately, will be affected by their decisions. That would be naïve and fanciful. I do believe though that communities which take the trouble to formulate plans of this kind deserve to know that their considerable efforts have, at the very least, informed the work of those who act on their behalf.

What the seventeen Parishes of the Upper Eden Valley have achieved during the time in which the Upper Eden Community Plan has been conceived, debated, drafted and refined, is quite remarkable. Although collaborative working between Parishes of this kind is not unprecedented, it is rare, I believe, to find such work carried out on quite this scale. To draw together such a broad range of interests, concerns and personalities and to maintain the momentum generated by the initial, inevitable flurry of interest, is something about which the Parishes involved and the communities they represent can be immensely proud. Accordingly, I should like to offer my thanks to all those who have seen this project through to its completion. By virtue of their size and the length of time they take to reach the public domain, initiatives like this inevitably experience difficulties and times when interests wane or wander. To their credit, none of the Parish volunteers involved in the preparation of the Upper Eden Community Plan ever once allowed themselves to be distracted by seemingly more pressing concerns or to become disheartened by the need for thoroughness, accountability and deliberation at every turn.

What this group of Parishes now has, as a result, is a document which reflects and encapsulates the concerns and aspirations of the communities which, together, make up one of England's remotest and most sparsely populated areas. For a good number of years now communities like this have been encouraged, by local and national government alike, to identify priorities for the future, to advise those authorities how they might better attend to residents' needs and, as a result, how government might be rendered more accountable. In the light of such entreaties, like many towns and villages today, in Cumbria and beyond, this close group of Parishes has taken up the challenge, building on the solid foundations laid in 2002 by the Kirkby Stephen Vital Villages Action Plan.

These Parishes speak here as one, articulating their considered views in a remarkably concise and trenchant document. Now, therefore, if parish planning is to be rendered truly meaningful, it is incumbent upon us as a community and, more specifically, our partners in local government to act on those views.

Alex Birtles
Chair, Upper Eden Community Plan Group
March 2008

1.0



BACKGROUND

1.1 What is the Upper Eden Community Plan?

Parish Plans are an important step in helping local rural communities to take charge of their own destinies and also an opportunity to strengthen the first and most local form of government we have in this country - the Parish Council.

Our Countryside, the Future - Government Rural White Paper, 2000

Plans and Strategies in the Region's rural areas should seek to empower local communities to address their own needs.

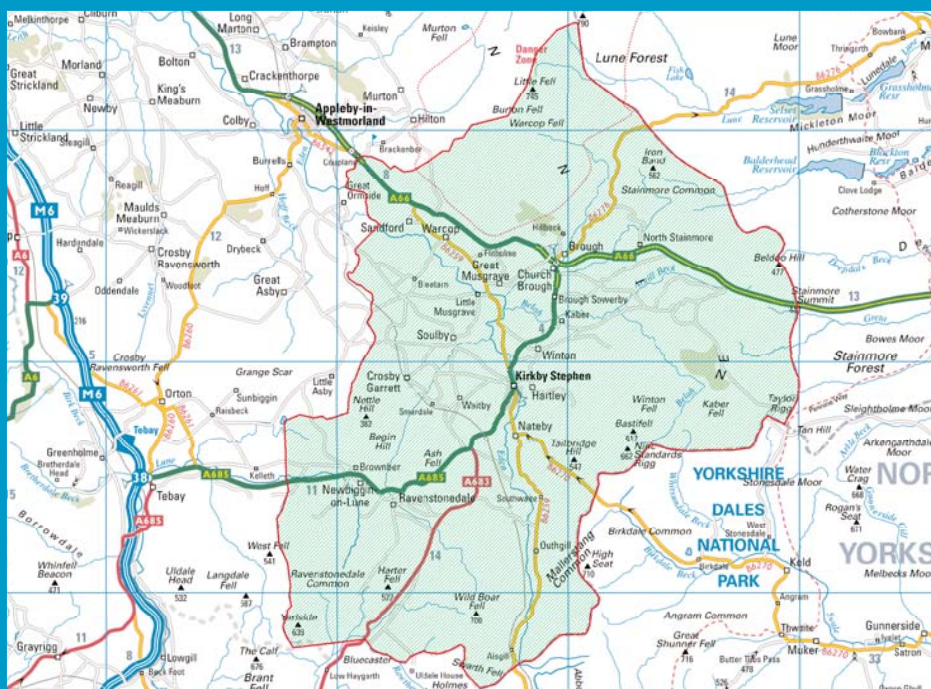
Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West of England, 2006.

Parish, or Community Plans, are used to bring together the views of local people and represent them to a wide range of organisations that set policies and deliver services to rural areas. The Upper Eden Community Plan serves this purpose for the wide community made up of residents of Kirkby Stephen, and the sixteen parishes surrounding the market town.

The Upper Eden Community Plan can be described in three ways.

- It is a **Document** which sets out what people value in this community and what they would like to change.
- It is a **Process** which has involved the wider community and has its own value distinct from the document itself, and
- It is an **Action Plan** for projects to achieve the aspirations of local people.

The area covered by the Plan, and the parishes who worked together to produce it, is indicated below:-



- Kirkby Stephen Town Council
- Hartley Parish Meeting
- Waitby Parish Meeting
- Wharton Parish Meeting
- Mallerstang Parish Meeting
- Brough Sowerby Parish Meeting
- Stainmore Parish Council
- Crosby Garret Parish Meeting
- Ravenstonedale & Newbiggin Parish Council

- Winton Parish Meeting
- Kaber Parish Council
- Nateby Parish Meeting
- Soulby Parish Council
- Brough Parish Council
- Musgrave Parish Council
- Warcop Parish Council
- Hellbeck Parish Meeting

1.2 Community Planning in Kirkby Stephen and District

The Upper Eden Community Plan is not the first plan of its type to have been completed for this area. In 2002, the Kirkby Stephen and District Healthcheck and Action Plan was published. It was a detailed audit of existing features and facilities of the area under four headings:-

Environment
Social & Community

Economy
Transport & Accessibility

The Healthcheck and Action Plan also gave Strategic Objectives and actions to be achieved, grouped under these headings.

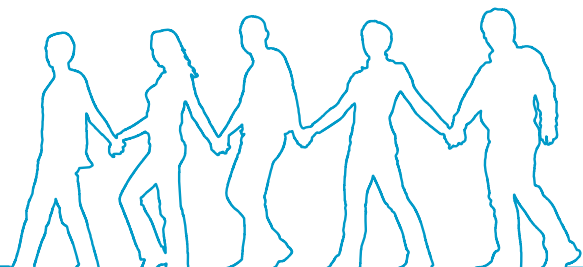
Many of the details of the Healthcheck and Action Plan were still relevant in 2005 when the Upper Eden Community Plan Group first came together. Therefore, instead of starting from scratch, the Upper Eden Community Plan process built on what was already known about the area and people's needs.

1.3 Community Planning in Cumbria

The concept of a plan produced by the community, for the community, based on consultation to establish local people's views and closely involving the parish or town council is not new. Forerunners of this approach have included Village Design Statements, Parish Appraisals and Village Plans. In 2001, the Countryside Agency made Parish Plan grants available as a part of the Vital Villages scheme, and many parishes in Cumbria seized that opportunity. It was Vital Villages funding that allowed the 2002 Healthcheck and Action Plan to take place.

Today, Community Planning is funded through Defra's Rural Social and Community Programme, and supported by Voluntary Action Cumbria, the Rural Community Council for Cumbria. As this Plan goes to print, there are over 100 parishes participating in Community Planning. Some already have Parish Plans or Market Town Plans, some are developing new Community Action Plans, some have reached the stage of refreshing their original documents.

The 'cluster' approach, where a group of parishes and/or towns work together to achieve a joint Community Plan, is more rare, however. The Upper Eden Community Plan's group of seventeen parishes is the largest of its type in the north-west region.



2.0 THE PROCESS

2.1 Forming the Upper Eden Community Plan Group

It was agreed that the group should work towards an Upper Eden Community Plan, and should make an effort to think and act for the 'whole area' rather than parochially, while still representing the views of their parishioners.

From Notes of the Upper Eden Community Plan Group meeting, 26th May 2005

By 2005, the Kirkby Stephen Market Town Healthcheck and Action Plan was in need of updating. At the same time, it was recognised that very few parishes in the Upper Eden area had produced a Community Plan, and that the area formed a natural cluster where many social and economic needs were shared. Issues such as affordable housing, public transport, support for developing local businesses and road safety were important to many of the parishes in the area, and more could be achieved to address these issues if parishes were to work together.

To develop these dual opportunities of a Healthcheck update and a potential joint Community Plan, Kirkby Stephen Town Council and Voluntary Action Cumbria held a workshop for the parishes around Kirkby Stephen in March 2005. Agreement was quickly reached that such an initiative would be of great potential benefit to the wider community, and representatives of the parishes agreed to meet again to form a steering group.

The Upper Eden Community Plan Group held their first meeting in May 2005, and quickly progressed to planning the process and applying for funding to support it. By September, the Group had agreed a budget and timetable, secured nearly £13,000 of grant aid to fund the process, and appointed a Co-Ordinator for the Group. In January 2006 they began to consult the community.

The funding package is indicated in the table below.

The grants were matchfunded by £3,200 worth of 'in kind' contributions, made up of voluntary effort on the part of parish representatives and Group members. In the event, the value of this voluntary contribution far exceeded this conservative effort, and represents hundreds of person hours of effort on behalf of the community.

GRANT SOURCE	AMOUNT
Defra RSCP (administered by Voluntary Action Cumbria)	£12,000
Cumbria County Council	£250
Eden District Council (through the Local Strategic Partnership)	£400

steering group

The Steering Group was made up of representatives from all the parishes involved in the process. However many representatives attended, each parish had one vote if votes were needed. It is perhaps worth noting that the great majority of decisions taken by the Group were made by consensus, and there was rarely strong disagreement.

It was the responsibility of Steering Group representatives to report back to their Parish Councils and communities. Representatives talked to their local schools, met with other organisations in the parish and used noticeboards, newsletters, meetings and word of mouth to keep people informed.

timetable

The Steering Group agreed a timetable for the process. Of necessity, this needed to be flexible, and the final timetable looked like this:-

■ Sept 05	Appointing Co-ordinator
■ Oct - Dec 05	Planning consultation & designing questionnaire
■ Jan - Feb 06	Circulating questionnaire and planning further consultation
■ Feb - June 06	Community consultation
■ July - Nov 06	Collecting and analysing results
■ Dec - Jan 07	Drafting Vision and Strategic Objectives
■ Feb - Mar 07	Action planning with strategic agencies
■ Mar - May 07	Action planning with working groups
■ June - Aug 07	Refining the draft Action Plan
■ Aug - Oct 07	Writing draft Community Plan
■ Oct - Nov 07	Proofs and planning launch
■ Jan 08	Distribution and launch of Plan. Completion.

The Upper Eden Community Plan Group adopted a robust, detailed process of producing their Plan. Keeping the community informed, feeding back to Parish Councils and Parish Meetings (some of which only met twice a year) and taking advice from a wide range of strategic organisations were all activities which take time to do well. In all cases, the best result was more important to the Group than the quickest.

2.2 Community Consultation

A key part of the Community Planning process is using a variety of methods of consultation to reach different audiences, especially groups of people who sometimes find it difficult to make their voice heard, or who rarely get involved in community projects.

Before finalising our consultation plans, an Agencies Meeting was held, where strategic bodies were invited to make short presentations and discuss with the group what information they would like to see come out of the consultation, and how the results might influence their work.

At the Agencies Meeting in March 2006, these bodies/departments were represented:-

- Eden District Council, Planning
- Eden Local Strategic Partnership
- Cumbria County Council, Waste and Minerals
- Cumbria County Council, Local Transport
- Cumbria County Council, Highways

The Upper Eden Community Plan was compiled from the results of the following consultation events and activities:-

Parish Meetings	The Co-Ordinator or Voluntary Action Cumbria attended parish meetings to discuss the Community Planning process, raise awareness of the Upper Eden Community Plan Group and find out the chief concerns of local people.
Schools Work	Local schools were invited to do projects with their pupils to look at what they liked about where they lived, what they disliked, and what they would like to change.
Newsletter & Press Articles	Regular articles in local press and newsletters helped to keep local people informed and encourage participation in consultation events.
Posters	Posters were produced and displayed on parish noticeboards and other key locations to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to participate.
Business Survey	A working group was formed to undertake telephone interviews of 38 of the largest local businesses representing 385 employees. The survey was designed to find out the key issues affecting business and the barriers to growth.
Website	The Kirkby Stephen Town Website (www.kirkby-stephen.com) was used to post questionnaires, results and progress reports for the process.
Questionnaire	A questionnaire was sent out on a parish basis to all households, using a combination of hand and postal delivery/collection. We achieved a return rate of 32%.
Affordable Housing Focus Group	Working with the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust and Voluntary Action Cumbria, the Upper Eden Community Plan Group held a Focus Group for local people in housing need, to find out what type of housing was needed and where. This work put us in touch with articulate young people with a real awareness of the issues around affordable housing in rural areas.
Spatial Planning Exercise	Displays of large-scale maps, supplied by Eden District Council, at Kirkby Stephen and at Brough Show, allowed people to make comments specific to real locations. Sixty comments were made this way.
Youth Consultation	Targeted work was carried out with a local youth group to identify the issues that matter most to young people in the area.

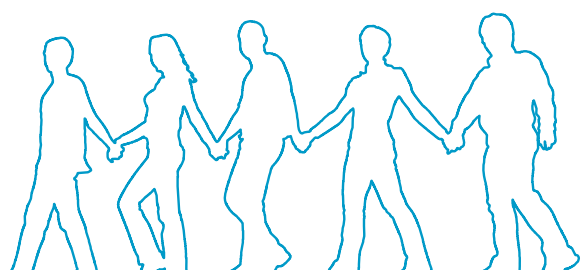
2.3 Action Planning

The action planning stage was supported by smaller working groups, and followed a logical process as outlined below:-

1. Working groups set up, each to work on one of the four main themes of Environment, Economy, Social & Community and Transport & Access
2. Draft Strategic Objectives and Vision from the Healthcheck and Action Plan updated with reference to consultation results
3. Working groups meet to refine Vision and Strategic Objectives and draft actions
4. Working groups draft action plans combined and edited
5. Draft Action Plan shared with strategic organisations for comment and discussion
6. Whole Upper Eden Community Plan Group prioritise actions using facilitated group exercises
7. Co-ordinator and Voluntary Action Cumbria further refine the Action Plan, combining similar actions and reducing repetition
8. Upper Eden Community Plan Group meet to discuss amendments
9. A Co-ordinator to produce final draft

A further round of Agencies' Meeting was held to share the draft action plan and invite comment. The following organisations were represented at these meetings.

- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust
- Eden Housing Association
- Eden District Council, Housing
- Eden District Council, Economic Regeneration
- Eden District Council, Planning
- Cumbria County Council, Minerals and Waste
- Cumbria County Council, Highways
- Cumbria Primary Care Trust (NHS)
- Eden Local Strategic Partnership



2.4 Spatial Planning Exercise

Large scale maps of Kirkby Stephen, Brough and Ravenstonedale were displayed at; the Cloisters, Kirkby Stephen on Saturday 16th June and Brough Agricultural Show on Thursday 16th August 2007.

Members of the public were invited to make comments in response to the following questions or any general comment that they wished to make:

- What improvements would you like to see?
- What do you like about the area?
- What do you dislike about the area?
- Where would you like to see more houses, more jobs, more shops?
- Should anywhere be knocked down?
- Should anywhere be protected?

Approximately 70 people viewed the stall at each event, and a total of 32 responses were made at Kirkby Stephen and a further 33 responses were made at Brough Show. The table below shows summaries of comments made by individuals and the different categories into which they fall.

Type	No.	Summary of comments by individuals
Policy based	16	More low cost houses; not rented houses; more self build houses for local people; more jobs and affordable houses; no more barn conversions for holiday houses (local housing only); more local small shops.
Site specific	6	Housing at Brough Market, Nateby, behind Croglin Pub, Hwith, Ravenstonedale; light industry at Hartley; no building at Quarry Close; more bungalows at Castle Garth.
Transport based	15	South Road Kirkby Stephen traffic and speed; footpath to station; Nateby Road, traffic speed and footpath; open train line KS - Warcop; Dual A66; cycle path Brough - KS; better tourist signage; Hartley Quarry relief road.
Facilities based	11	Swimming pool; gym; more for youth, youth centre; keep toilets; more litter bins; dog bins; plastic and green waste at recycling centre; keep post offices.
Environment based	7	Anti-social behaviour on South Road and Cloisters; too many caravan sites; better facilities at Tip; better street lighting and pavements; better historical interpretation at Brough Castle; no change at Brough Sowerby.

Analysis

The greatest concern was for securing the right form of affordable housing, which in general, includes a strong call for self-build barn conversions. The other main concern raised was for footpath and cycle links to and from Brough, Kirkby Stephen and the rail station.

2.5 Strategic Links

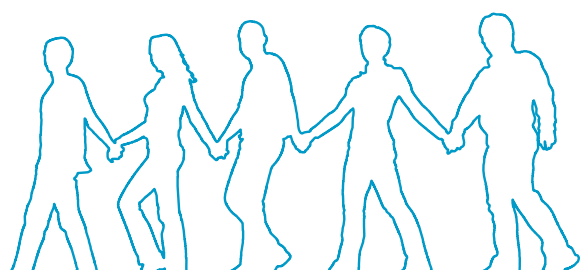
Throughout the Community Planning Process, the Co-ordinator worked to develop links between the Group and strategic and policy-making organisations. These links included:-

- Representation of the Upper Eden Community Plan Group on the Eden Local Strategic Partnership.
- Participation in the Rural Excellence Programme on Affordable Housing.
- Responding to consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement for the Local Development Framework.
- Hosting a meeting to develop a joint Upper Eden response to the consultation on the Housing Development Plan Document.
- Commenting on the Regional Spatial Strategy and participation in the Examination in Public.
- Connecting with the development of Community Boards.
- Meeting with planning officers to develop an adoptable policy to allow some development of affordable housing in the Upper Eden Community Plan area.
- Meeting with regional planning advisors to discuss rural planning policy.

These links have made the Plan stronger and created more effective connections with policy-makers and service deliverers.

This plan has been informed by, and relates to:

- The Draft RSS13
- Joint Cumbria and Lake District National Park Structure Plan
- Cumbria County Council Interim Transport Plan
- Cumbria County Council Waste and Minerals Plan
- Eden Community Strategy Action Plan
- Eden District Council's Emerging Local Development Framework
- Eden District Council's Developing the Economy of Eden 2006 - 2016



VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Introduction - The following sections 3 - 6 provide the link between the 2002 Healthcheck and the current Action Plan. They show for each of the four themes (Environment, Social and Community, Economy, and, Access and Transport) the main or Headline results of the most recent research. The Vision and the Strategic Objectives are revised versions of the 2002 Healthcheck text which has been amended in the light of the new research.

3.0 Vision for the Future - Environment

3.1 Headline Results

- More and better recycling facilities at Hobsons Lane.
- Concern over effects of Appleby Horse Fair.
- Interest in community owned renewable energy schemes.
- Environment generally appreciated.

3.2 Vision

A resident population aware of and knowledgeable about the distinctive and valuable character of the Upper Eden Valley countryside & built environment. A resident population committed to protecting the landscape and buildings for future generations whilst capitalising on them to promote the economic prosperity of the area. Widespread countryside access for the benefit of local people and tourists. Targeted provision of recycling facilities. Promotion of renewable energy.

3.3 Strategic Objectives

- Employ strategic marketing to capitalise on the area's natural and built assets.
- Promote access to the town and countryside through a programme of countryside-related events, attractions and facilities.
- Increase provision for the recycling of waste materials.



3.4 Action Plan Aims

These Strategic Objectives relate to the following Aims in the Action Plan:-

AIM	ACTIONS
3 Increase range of business support	3.1
4 Increase targeted training and educational initiatives	4.2, 4.3, 4.4
5 Increase effective marketing of area as tourist destination and for other commercial activities	5.4, 5.5, 5.8, 5.9
9 Safeguard and increase range of services and facilities in local and sub-regional locations	9.15, 9.16
10 Promote green initiatives to: Reduce, Reuse, recycle	10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13, 10.14
12 More dispersed development strategy for local businesses and housing	12.1, 12.2
13 Improve road safety	13.3, 13.7, 13.8, 13.10, 13.11,
14 Improve Public & community transport	14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6

3.5 Strategic Fit

The overall environmental aims of the Upper Eden Action Plan are in tune with the views coming out of Eden's Local Strategic Partnership. They also fit with the general thrust of draft RSS13, especially with the view that innovative solutions are required in the more sparse rural areas. It is clear that the aim of seeking a more dispersed strategy for local businesses and housing cuts across the locational strategy implicit in the Joint Structure Plan in which greater concentrations of development should occur in larger settlements and almost no development should occur elsewhere. However, the Structure Plan will be replaced by RSS13 when it is approved by the Secretary of State in 2008. It is not clear how the Upper Eden Action Plan will fit with the emerging LDF being prepared by Eden District Council as the submission version of the Core Strategy is as yet unpublished (December 2007). However, the Upper Eden Community Plan Group has made submissions at every stage of the LDF's preparation and it is hoped that those views will be taken into account.

The Government is consulting on proposed extensions to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and to the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These extensions will impact greatly on the Upper Eden area. The consequences of the extended designation will provide additional environmental protection, but will also seek to limit any further development within those areas. There is concern that these extensions will prevent the adoption of a general dispersed development policy, the rural housing allocation policy and, the affordable rural housing policy. It will be important to have this matter clarified as part of the consultation exercise for these extensions.

3.6 What You Can Do

- Reduce your energy and resources needs
- Reuse and recycle as much as possible
- Insulate your house
- Buy local produce

4.0 VISION FOR THE FUTURE ECONOMY

4.1 Headline Results

- High levels of retired households (34%), high levels of self employment (20%).
- Economic diversity and vitality is the top concern for people in the Upper Eden Valley.
- Support for employment land allocation in smaller settlements to support communities.
- Training need identified (60 people).
- Low level of public sector employment (18%).
- Firms want to grow by 10% in five years.
- Size of economy, training and site development seen as barrier to growth.

4.2 Vision

A vibrant and diverse economy and a dynamic business community which has the capacity to allow existing businesses to expand and attract new ones. High levels of employment transformed in part by higher added value employment. A local workforce that is encouraged to stay in the area and has access to a broad range of training opportunities and is committed to take advantage of those opportunities for personal and career fulfilment. To tackle underemployment. A strategically marketed Upper Eden Valley image which capitalises on the distinctive natural assets of the area and helps promote sustainable tourism.

4.3 Strategic Objectives

- Work in partnership with the District Council to identify and develop a range of commercial and industrial property sites capable of attracting new business, relocations and business expansions.
- Increase broadband access to 100% coverage.
- Market the area as an attractive tourism destination focussing on the area's natural assets developing website, tourism publications, attractions, facilities and events.
- Explore opportunities presented by ageing population for economic growth.
- Promote working population increase.
- Focus business support on SMEs, green technology (reducing overheads) and site development.
- Increase childcare and appropriate training facilities.



4.4 Action Plan Aims

These Strategic Objectives relate to the following Aims in the Action Plan:-

AIM	ACTIONS
1 Broaden the local economic base to include businesses other than tourism and farming while supporting those existing businesses	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5,
2 Increase range, quality and quantity of commercial premises suitable for new businesses, relocations and expansions	2.1, 2.2, 2.3
3 Increase range of business support	3.1, 3.2, 3.3,
4 Increase targeted training and educational initiatives	4.1, 4.3, 4.4,
5 Increase effective marketing of area as tourist destination and for other commercial activities	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.8
6 Generate positive initiatives from ageing population and seek to increase younger population	6.1, 6.2
7 Increase general and youth awareness of public services and stimulate entrepreneurial imagination	7.1, 7.3, 7.4
9 Safeguard and increase range of services and facilities in local and sub-regional locations	9.5, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 9.14, 9.15, 9.16
10 Promote green initiatives to: Reduce, Reuse, recycle	10.1, 10.3, 10.4, 10.6, 10.8, 10.10, 10.12, 10.14
11 Increase work from home	11.1, 11.2
12 More dispersed development strategy for local businesses and housing	12.2
14 Improve Public & community transport	14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.6

4.5 Strategic Fit

The overall Economic aims of the Upper Eden Community Plan fit very closely to the Regional and Sub-regional strategies prepared by the Regional Assembly and the County Council, in that they all seek a higher wage economy, and a level of economic growth. The Local Development Framework is in preparation, and it will need to fit with the higher level strategies to be valid. The Community Plan and the research that informed it, show that economic growth is restricted by planning and site identification issues, the size of the local economy, and training shortages. It is clear that long term action on increasing the size of the population, market and economy are needed to underpin any short term gains made in the economy. An emphasis on assistance to small enterprises would be welcome, as would the attraction of a major public sector employer. This research has also highlighted a tension between some strands of Government policy; namely, the move in farming support towards environmental management and diversification, yet the limits placed on any successfully diversified farm businesses to remain on the farm by restrictive planning policies. Clearly the relevant planning policies are formulated locally, and they should reflect the wider thrust of public policy to keep small farms viable and less dependant on public subsidy.

4.6 What You Can Do

- Support local businesses
- Buy locally
- Lobby for faster broadband with your ISP.

5.0 VISION FOR THE FUTURE - SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

5.1 Headline Results

- 85% are owner occupiers (65% own outright).
- More housing for local people.
- Housing required in all communities.
- Support for self build.
- Concern over hospital provision.
- Indoor swimming pool and Play Area in Kirkby Stephen wanted.
- Low expectations of influence of decisions at District County and Regional Level.

5.2 Vision

A good quality of life for all residents in which most of the day-to-day needs for services and facilities can be met within the town and surrounding villages. Health services which meet the increasing needs of local residents whilst addressing shortages within the service which place undue burdens upon practitioners. High quality emergency services and community policing. Enhanced provision for the young people of the town and a voice in town affairs. Affordable housing targeted at community and business needs and specialist housing for local people. Opportunities for people to enjoy the arts, cinema, entertainment and sport both locally and outside the area. Preservation of a strong community spirit.

5.3 Strategic Objectives

- Safeguard and develop the range of public services and facilities available to town and village residents to meet their daily needs.
- Build a network of support with statutory providers to enhance health care provision, particularly addressing shortages.
- Lobby for high levels of emergency service cover and community policing for the area from service providers.
- Provide improved facilities for leisure and recreation for young people in the area and promote young people's involvement in town affairs and events including indoor swimming pool and Play Area at Kirkby Stephen.
- Develop opportunities for participation in sport.
- Promote the formation of a culture and arts association for the area to facilitate visits by touring arts groups and a programme of cultural visits outside the area.
- Promote community events, access to community groups and associations, community networks and community information.
- Promote housing aimed at stable populations and communities in all parishes especially self build as affordable housing.
- Explore positive consequences of greater numbers of older people in the population.
- Promote a social enterprise project as an exemplar.
- Lobby Regional and Local Councils.
- Develop agreed letting policies with RSLs to target Affordable Housing occupancy on the most local people.

5.4 Action Plan Aims

These Strategic Objectives relate to the following Aims in the Action Plan:-

AIM	ACTIONS
1 Broaden the local economic base to include businesses other than tourism and farming while supporting those existing businesses	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5,
2 Increase range, quality and quantity of commercial premises suitable for new businesses, relocations and expansions	2.1, 2.2, 2.3
3 Increase range of business support	3.1, 3.2, 3.3,
4 Increase targeted training and educational initiatives	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4,
5 Increase effective marketing of area as tourist destination and for other commercial activities	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8
6 Generate positive initiatives from ageing population and seek to increase younger population	6.1, 6.2
7 Increase general and youth awareness of public services and stimulate entrepreneurial imagination	7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4
9 Safeguard and increase range of services and facilities in local and sub-regional locations	9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 9.11, 9.12, 9.13, 9.14, 9.15, 9.16
10 Promote green initiatives to: Reduce, Reuse, recycle	10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.6, 10.8, 10.10, 10.11, 10.12, 10.14
11 Increase work from home	11.1, 11.2
12 More dispersed development strategy for local businesses and housing	12.1, 12.2
14 Improve Public & community transport	14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.6

5.5 Strategic Fit

The general thrust of these aims is for increased levels of development for shops, jobs and housing in order to provide a greater range and level of facilities both in Kirkby Stephen and in smaller settlements too. Draft RSS13 supports a degree of development in rural areas, but does not specify how it should be apportioned in a sparse area like the Upper Eden Valley, other than to say that innovative and flexible solutions should be used to meet their particular development needs. It is considered that the overall level of development envisaged in this Plan is greater than that set out in the draft RSS13. However, it is acknowledged, by the EIP panel that the housing levels in Cumbria require an urgent review, and it is hoped that this plan can help inform that review to secure a higher level of development. Eden District Council's emerging LDF is currently being prepared. However, there is concern that the allocation principles that have been discussed in the consultation on the Core Strategy do not reflect the dispersed development policy or the overall level of development for this area that has emerged through the development of this document. There is therefore a potential for a significant conflict between this plan and Eden's emerging LDF.

5.6 What You Can Do

- Buy locally
- Recycle more
- Support Kirkby Stephen Swimming Pool Committee

6.0 VISION FOR THE FUTURE - TRANSPORT & ACCESS

6.1 Headline Results

- Provided cars are available access to services considered OK except hospital.
- Work from home at 13%.
- Increase jobs and shops in KS to reduce travelling.
- Indoor swimming pool at KS would reduce need to travel.
- Kendal is most popular destination after KS.

6.2 Vision

A range of co-ordinated public transport services that meet the varied day-to-day needs of all town and village residents. Reduced carbon emissions from local transport use. A range of dispersed facilities to serve local needs.

Public transport services, parking facilities and information that meet the demands of visitors to the area. A network of well-maintained, signed and publicised footpaths and cycle ways. A better environment within Kirkby Stephen through improved traffic management.

6.3 Strategic Objectives

- Present a substantiated case to the appropriate authorities for improvements in the facilities, co-ordination of transport services, traffic management, parking and information dissemination taking into account the resident and visitor perspectives.
- Promote and publicise walks and cycle routes within the area through facilities, website, tourist publications and event marketing.
- Engender support from the responsible bodies for improvements in the maintenance and signing of footpaths and cycle ways through continued dialogue.
- Increase work from home.
- Promote electric cars and renewable energy.
- Promote development and facilities in Kirkby Stephen as a service centre.
- Allow appropriate small scale development in all communities.



6.4 Action Plan Aims

These Strategic Objectives relate to the following Aims in the Action Plan:-

AIM	ACTIONS
1 Broaden the local economic base to include businesses other than tourism and farming while supporting those existing businesses	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5,
2 Increase range, quality and quantity of commercial premises suitable for new businesses, relocations and expansions	2.1, 2.2, 2.3
3 Increase range of business support	3.1, 3.2, 3.3,
4 Increase targeted training and educational initiatives	4.1, 4.3, 4.4,
9 Safeguard and increase range of services and facilities in local and sub-regional locations	9.5, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 9.14, 9.15, 9.16
10 Promote green initiatives to: Reduce, Reuse, recycle	10.1, 10.3, 10.4, 10.6, 10.8, 10.10, 10.12, 10.14
11 Increase work from home	11.1, 11.2
12 More dispersed development strategy for local businesses and housing	12.1, 12.2
13 Improve Road Safety	13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 13.10, 13.11, 13.12, 13.13
14 Improve Public & community transport	14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.6

6.5 Strategic Fit

The aims of the Action Plan fit well with the policies in the Local Transport Plan and the progress of the tasks in the Action Plan will to a large extent depend on the availability of funding rather than any change of policy. Again, the vision for this theme includes a reference to a dispersed policy for facilities. This is generally supported by the emerging Regional Strategy, rather than the existing Sub Regional Structure Plan. However, the former will replace the latter in 2008. It is hoped that the emerging LDF from the District Council will take account of this plan and make provision for a sensible degree of dispersed development to meet the needs and demands of local communities.

6.6 What You Can Do

- Car share commuting trips
- Work from home if possible
- Support Kirkby Stephen Swimming Pool
- Develop renewable energy schemes if appropriate and use electric hybrid vehicles

7.0 Action Plan

The Action Plan set out below is a table showing, in the second column, the specific actions that have been identified through the Parish Planning work. It also shows how those actions fit with overall aims which in turn help identify the strategic rationale for those actions. The columns on the right hand side of the table show which groups, agencies, or authorities are likely to be involved in doing the action, and; which one is likely to be the lead body. They also show what specific output is considered sufficient to complete the action and what the result (outcome) of that action might be.

In the course of doing these actions, it may become apparent that further actions are required. These can be added in to the table at any time, as a way of recording progress, and through the annual monitoring review.

It is hoped that the organisations mentioned in the Action Plan will recognise the legitimacy of the process and the result of this Parish Planning work and use their best endeavours to accommodate the Actions with which they are tasked, either as part of their normal functions or, as special specific projects. In any case, it is also hoped that all agencies will be able to respond constructively to the Action Plan, and be able to set out how they approach the actions identified here, or provide reasons why they are unable, to do so.

AIM	ACTIONS	LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
0. Ensure delivery of Aims and projects identified in the Action Plan	0.1 Seek funding for Action Plan Co-ordinator	UECP, KSTC, EDC, CCC, CV, CREA, VAC	Person employed	Increased chance of delivery of Action Plan	High
1. Broaden the local economic base to include businesses other than tourism and farming while supporting those existing businesses	1.1 Seek public sector employers	EDC, CCC, Parishes	Inclusion in EDC Economic Strategy	At least one new public agency located in Upper Eden valley.	Medium
	1.2 Seek hi-tech employers	EDC, CCC, Parishes	Inclusion in EDC Economic Strategy	At least one new high tech employer in Upper Eden or Identification of site.	Medium
	1.3 Support successful farm diversification projects to expand	EDC, VAC, CREA	LDF policy	Growth of farm based SMEs	High
	1.4 Support working from Home	EDC, VAC, CREA	LDF policy	Increased no. of small firms, reduced CO2 emission	High
	1.5 Seek public sector purchasing protocol to ensure local firms can be given preferential status	EDC, CCC	Purchasing protocol established	Increased work for local firms	Medium

AIM	ACTIONS	LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
2. Increase range, quality and quantity of commercial premises suitable for new businesses, relocations and expansions	2.1 Site identification	Parishes, EDC	Sites identified	Increased commercial investment, higher wage economy, reduced carbon emissions, built heritage protected, better access to jobs particularly for women.	Medium
	2.2 Seek flexible planning policy on business use in rural locations	EDC, UECP	LDF policy		
	2.3 Seek rate relief for businesses which reuse buildings, provide childcare, or use green technology	EDC, MP	Letter to Govt Department and response		
3. Increase range of business support	3.1 Provide assistance to SMEs to develop green technologies and solutions;	CREA, NWDA, L&SC	New business support initiative	Vision Lower carbon emissions, higher wage economy.	Medium
	3.2 Provide assistance to SMEs to provide childcare	CREA, CCC, NWDA	New business support initiative	Better access to jobs, better access to skilled workers	Medium
	3.3 Seek increased provision of quality, affordable and extended childcare	CCC, CV, NWDA	Letter to CCC and Cumbria	Increased awareness of child care issues in business support	High
4. Increase targeted training and educational initiatives	4.1 Support University of Cumbria	All	Achieved	Increased awareness at UoC of potential of Upper Eden valley	High
	4.2 Seek Upper Eden location for field centre/campus	UECP, UoC, EDC	Letter to UoC and response, site identified when appropriate		
	4.3 Seek local apprentice scheme to ensure trades are trained and local distinctiveness is maintained	UECP, UoC	Letter to UoC	Increased local awareness of issues relating to trades and training	High
	4.4 Set up good practice seminars for local businesses, farmers, public sector	CREA, CLA, NFU, KSTF	Seminars held	Increase in good business practice	Medium

AIM	ACTIONS	LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
5. Increase effective marketing of area as tourist destination and for other commercial activities	5.1 Seek twinning with similar area overseas	KSTC	A twinning accord signed	Overseas trade potential increased	Low
	5.2 Seek direct links with overseas market	KSTF	Discussion at KSTF	Ideas to take this forward	Medium
	5.3 Prepare local area wide tourist strategy	UECP, EDC, CV	Project brief and funding bid prepared	Consultation and strategy produced	Medium
	5.4 Seek webcams in suitable locations	Landowners, Parishes	Webcams installed	Increased awareness of area	Medium
	5.5 Promote new tourist attraction	Landowners, EDC	Feasibility study or business plan prepared	New tourist attraction developed	Medium
	5.6 Revive walking festival	KSTC	Festival takes place	Increased brand awareness and tourism	High
	5.7 Support 9 Standards Festival	All	Festival takes place		Medium
	5.8 Employ project and events manager to promote local initiatives	CREA, EDC, KSTC, CV	Person employed	Increase number and quality of local events, increase in tourism	High
	5.9 Seek parish representation on Appleby Horse Fair co-ordinating group	EDC, CCC, Parishes	Letter and response from CCC, and EDC	Increased awareness of local concerns at EDC and CCC and of understanding of issues locally	Medium
6. Generate positive initiatives from ageing population and seek to increase younger population	6.1 Survey older residents to establish social and economic needs and opportunities. Prepare strategy to address identified issues.	EDC, UECP	Survey and analysis undertaken	Better policy response to challenges and opportunities of ageing population.	Medium
	6.2 Seek retention and in migration of younger people and increase overall population	EDC, NWRA, UoC	RSS and LDF policy and Education facilities	Positive change in demographics	High

AIM	ACTIONS	LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
7. Increase general and youth awareness of public services and stimulate entrepreneurial imagination	7.1 Set up Junior Chamber of Trade	KSTF	Junior Trade set up	Increased chance of successful local businesses	Low
	7.2 Support local volunteers and spread volunteer load through time limited commitment agreements	Parishes, Volunteer Centre Eden	Volunteer accord prepared	Volunteer capacity increased	Medium
	7.3 Set up a youth shadowing scheme for business and councillors	KSC, EDC, CCC	Shadowing scheme and Youth Council set up	Increased awareness of business and local governance among young people	High
	7.4 Increase vocational guidance for school leavers	KSGS, CCC, UoC	Letters to lead body and partners	Increased awareness of local concern among providers	Medium
8. Increase range, quality and quantity of rural housing in all communities	8.1 Prepare planning policy to allow dispersed housing allocations	UECP, EDC	LDF policy	Housing needs of small rural communities met	High
	8.2 Prepare planning policy for self build affordable housing	UECP, EDC	LDF policy	Housing needs of small rural communities met	High
	8.3 Identify employers seeking employee housing	Parishes	List of employees passed to EDC and CRHT	Better understanding of local housing needs	High
	8.4 Investigate local Community Land Trust	UECP, CRHT	CLT feasibility study/business plan prepared	Alternative mechanism to provide affordable housing created	Medium
	8.5 Identify sites and buildings for reuse as housing	Parishes	Sites identified and passed to EDC	Increase in reuse of buildings for housing	Medium
	8.6 Rolling programme of parish based Housing Needs Surveys	Parishes, UECP, CRHT	Housing needs surveys prepared	Better understanding of local housing needs	High

AIM	ACTIONS	LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
9. Safeguard and increase range of services and facilities in local and sub-regional locations	9.1 Seek wider police presence in all communities	Cumbria Constabulary	Letter and response from CC	Raised awareness of policing issues	Medium
	9.2 Develop existing health centres to provide greater range of services	PCT	Letter to PCT, more services provided	Lower carbon emissions, better access to health care	High
	9.3 Develop play area at Westgarth	EDC, PARKS, KSTC	Play area complete	Better opportunities for play, fewer police call outs	High
	9.4 Develop skate park at Soulby Road	EDC, ??	Skate park complete	Better opportunities for play, fewer police call outs	Medium
	9.5 Promote Hotel with Spa in Kirkby Stephen/Brough	Parishes, EDC	Site(s) identified in LDF	Increased inward investment, better local facilities, better employment opportunities	High
	9.6 Seek sports hall at KSGS	KSGS, EDC	Grant funding bid submitted	Better local facilities	High
	9.7 Undertake audit of youth facilities in area	UECP	Audit prepared and passed to CCC	Better understanding of facilities and gaps in provision	Medium
	9.8 Seek arts centre and association	KSTC, KSTF, UECP, Eden Arts	Invitations for Steering Group sent	Potential for arts centre explored	Medium
	9.10 Protect Westmorland General Hospital in Kendal and Penrith Hospital	PCT, NHS Trusts	Hospitals retained	Better health care	High
	9.11 Increase range and size of KS website	KSTC, local businesses	More pages and hits on website	Increase brand awareness, facility awareness, tourism and local business turnover	High
	9.12 Seek return of travelling Registrar to KS	UECP, CCC	Letter to and response from CCC	Increased awareness of issues regarding Registrar	Medium
	9.13 Retain and increase range of travelling specialist health services at KS and Brough	PCT	More specialist health services in Upper Eden	Better local facilities, lower carbon emissions	High

AIM	ACTIONS	LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
	9.14 Support retention of rural Post offices	Royal Mail	Letter to and response from Royal Mail and MP	Increased awareness of issues regarding Post Offices	High
	9.15 Support retention of KS TIC	EDC	Statement in Economic Strategy	TIC retained	High
	9.16 Protect and develop KS Community and Council Centre and other multi-service facilities in other communities	KSTC, EDC, CCC, parishes	Centre Development Plan published, Village Halls retained	Community and Council Centre, and village halls retained	High
10. Promote green initiatives to: Reduce	10.1 Promote farmers markets	Parishes, EDC	More farmers markets	Lower carbon emissions, better local food	Medium
	10.2 Promote food miles initiatives with local businesses, schools, public	EDC, Parishes, CCC	Contact with similar initiatives	Increased understanding of initiative.	High
	10.3 Seek fair trade status for the area	UECP, Parishes	Contact with similar initiatives	Increased understanding of initiative	High
	10.4 Promote 'shop locally' initiatives	Parishes	Campaign leaflet	Lower carbon emissions	High
	10.5 Promote no car days for employees and public	Parishes, KSTF	Campaign leaflet	Lower carbon emissions	Medium
	10.6 Promote household insulation and green technology to public	Parishes	Campaign leaflet	Lower carbon emissions	High
	10.7 Promote walking bus to school	Parishes, CCC, schools	Letter to and response from CCC	Lower carbon emissions	High
	10.8 Develop community owned renewable energy scheme for hydro or wind power	UECP CCC	Feasibility study prepared	Better understanding of issues and ability to take decisions	High

AIM	ACTIONS		LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
Recycle	10.9	Public transport operators to use hybrid engines/bio fuel	EDC, Parishes	Letter to and response from CCC	Increased awareness of local concern at CCC, and issues locally	Medium
	10.10	Increase number of small scale renewable energy permissions	CCC	LDF policy, more renewable energy permissions granted	Reduced carbon emissions	High
	10.11	Increase opening times for Hobsons Lane Recycling Centre	EDC, KSTF	New opening times	Increase level of recycling	High
	10.12	Increase trade waste recycling	EDC, KSTC	Letter and response to EDC	Increased awareness of local concern at EDC and of understanding if issues locally	High
	10.13	Expand kerbside recycling	EDC, Parishes	Letter and response to EDC	Increased awareness of local concern at EDC and of understanding if issues locally	High
Reuse	10.14	Reuse buildings for housing and employment uses		List of buildings passed to EDC, LDF policy	Increase in reuse of buildings, better housing and job opportunities locally	Medium
11. Increase work from home	11.1	Ensure 100% Broadband connections in the area	BT, Parishes	100% Broadband connections	High wage economy, lower carbon emissions	Medium
	11.2	Ensure larger post boxes for collections where rural businesses require it	Royal Mail, Parishes	Letter to and response from Royal Mail	Increased awareness at Royal Mail of local concerns and of issues locally	High
12. More dispersed development strategy for local businesses and housing	12.1	Settlement plans for KS, Brough, Warcop, Ravenstonedale	Parishes, UECP	Plans produced and passed to EDC	Increased certainty for development	Medium
	12.2	LDF Core Strategy to promote dispersed allocations	EDC, UECP	LDF policy	Retention of younger people in rural areas, local housing needs met, lower carbon emissions	High

AIM	ACTIONS	LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
13. Improve road safety	13.1 Seek South Road, Kirkby Stephen parking solution	CCC, EDC, KSTC	Letter to EDC, and Nateby Road developers	Resubmitted planning application providing parking on Nateby Road site	High
	13.2 Install solar panel at Brough Sowerby Slow Down sign	CCC	Panel installed	Reduced road speed	Medium
	13.3 Construct footpath to KS Station	CCC	Footpath constructed	Better integration of public transport with town	High
	13.4 Construct central reservation for RT from A685 to A683	CCC	Inclusion in LTP	Safer road network	Low
	13.5 Construct deceleration lane for LT from A66 to Sandford	HA, CCC	Inclusion in LTP	Safer road network	Low
	13.6 Dual A66	HA, CCC	Inclusion in LTP	Better communications	Low
	13.7 Construct cycle/foot path on A685 from KS to Brough	CCC	Path constructed	Safer transport network, healthier living, increased business and job opportunities	High
	13.8 Ensure suitable verge maintenance	CCC	More appropriate maintenance regime	Increased biodiversity on verges	Medium
	13.9 Relocate snow gates on A66 to prevent backing up in Brough	HA	Snow gates relocated	Improved environment in Brough	High
	13.10 Improve maintenance of footpaths	CCC	More efficient and effective maintenance	Improved pedestrian environment, and walking opportunities	Medium
	13.11 Prepare local walks booklet	Parishes, CCC, EDC			
	13.12 Increase HGV checks on A685	Cumbria Constabulary	Booklet published More checks	Increased walking, and tourism Improved environment on A685	High High
	13.13 Install parking control measures at Victoria Corner on Nateby Road	CCC, KSTC	Parking measures in place	Safer environment	High

AIM	ACTIONS	LEAD BODY & PARTNERS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	PRIORITY
14. Improve Public & community transport	14.1 Install phone or taxi phone at KS station	Network Rail, BT	Phone installed	Better integration of public transport system	Low
	14.2 Improve bus service from KS station to KS	CCC	Letter to and response from CCC	Increased awareness of local concern at CCC	High
	14.3 Support reopening of Warcop/KS rail line	All	Inclusion in relevant strategic documents	Progress towards reopening of line	Medium
	14.4 Start direct bus service from KS to Kendal	CCC	Letter to and response from CCC	Increased awareness of local concern at CCC and of understanding of issues locally	Medium
	14.5 Maintain and support Plusbus	CCC, EDC, Parishes	Inclusion in relevant Strategic Document	Plusbus retained	High Medium
	14.6 Instigate local transport forum to help co-ordinate local transport services	CCC, Parishes	Forum set up	Increased awareness of local concern at CCC and of understanding of issues locally, and better co-ordination	

8.0 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT

8.1 There are a number of tasks from the Action Plan that require a policy solution. These are listed below:

ACTIONS	POLICY DOCUMENTS	NOTES
1.3 Support successful farm diversification projects to expand	EDC LDF	Expand Farm Diversification SPG to include criteria to allow expansion of existing diversified businesses i.e. allow increase in business floorspace, deliveries, housing for workers.
1.4 Support working from home	EDC LDF	Include working from home as a sustainability criteria in assessing rural housing schemes, ie nature of work, broadband connection, work on site.
2.2 Seek flexible planning policy on business use in rural locations	EDC LDF	Allow more temporary or personal consents to encourage business start-ups
6.2 Seek retention and in-migration of younger people and increase overall population	EDC LDF RSS13	Increase overall housing allocation to 300+, adopt self-build policy.
8.1 Prepare planning policy to allow dispersed housing allocation	EDC LDF	See section 8.2 Rural Housing Allocation Policy
8.2 Prepare planning policy for self build affordable housing	EDC LDF	See section 8.2 Self-build affordable housing policy
10.10 Increase number of small scale renewable energy permissions	EDC LDF	Encourage renewable energy schemes below 5MW with minimal assessment
10.14 Reuse buildings for housing and employment uses	EDC LDF	Encourage uses with positive policy seeking reuse particularly if linked to renewable energy scheme
12.2 LDF Core Strategy to promote dispersed allocations	EDC LDF	See section 8.2 Rural Housing Allocation Policy

8.2 Adoption as statutory policy requested

Below is text for endorsement by parishes to help secure appropriate affordable housing for local people in their communities. It is also hoped that subject to a Sustainability Appraisal, and the necessary statutory Consultation these policies could be adopted within the appropriate part of the emerging LDF, or at least be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document for the Upper Eden Area.

Following discussions with Eden District Council Planning Policy Manager, it was understood that in order for the UECP policies to be 'in conformity' with the emerging Local Development Framework Documents, the text below may need to be amended. However, the UECP Group remain committed to planning policy that:

- Enables small housing development in all parishes for local people
- Provides a degree of certainty to communities that future generations/the next generation/their children can remain and settle in their locality
- Grasps the opportunities for affordable housing to be provided in rural areas, particularly through the possibilities of self-build projects

It is considered that the text below represents a policy approach that could provide these (and more) outcomes without offending higher tier planning policy. The UECP group will seek to secure this throughout the forthcoming LDF adoption process and the newly announced Partial Review of RSS13.

Affordable Housing for local people in Rural Areas

This is a difficult issue to address through planning policy. The planning issues to be dealt with include:

- How to keep small rural communities sustainable
- How to prevent undesirable building in the open countryside
- How to preserve a rural way of life including rare skills
- How to improve the income of the rural community
- How to safeguard the environment for future generations
- How to prevent second home ownership from impacting on rural communities
- How to ensure that new building in the countryside is affordable and available for local people and can remain so

To successfully address all these issues requires a delicate touch and intervention in the housing market. Sometimes policy initiatives are too blunt an instrument to deal with this delicate issue. National guidance (PPS3) seeks a local response to both the needs and demands of rural and urban housing issues. Regional guidance in RSS13 seeks innovative ways of addressing housing issues, and seeks to focus, but not exclusively, development in the larger settlements. The Panel report into RSS13 states '...policy that precludes development outside centres entirely is not reasonable...' It is considered that the policy initiative set out below can achieve all these objectives. The Commission for Rural Communities has rightly questioned the assumption that rural settlements are inherently less sustainable than urban ones.

It is recognised that a national and regional policy framework that excludes some areas from development is not reasonable. Similarly, it is not felt that the small scale development that is required in rural areas should not be considered only as exceptions. Such an approach puts too high a burden on small development and is too easily resisted by LPAs. The approach set out below seeks to redress the balance between conserving the countryside and rural communities and allowing the appropriate scale of development for rural areas.

By providing a housing allowance for each parish set at about the household formation figure, the total population of settlements can remain stable. This rate is currently a little over 1% per annum. Therefore a parish of 100 households could be given an allowance of 1 unit per year. Throughout a district this could equate to between about 100 dwellings per year in non-KSC locations leaving 140 or about 60% for Penrith, Appleby, Alston and Kirkby Stephen. Such figures would not be fatal to the overall strategy of directing the majority of development into the larger settlements.

UECP1 - Rural Housing Allocation Policy

The LPA will permit housing development in line with the Rural Affordable Housing policy within parishes listed in the table shown below in a managed way using the Housing Trajectories for each Housing Market Assessment Area, the Overall Allocation figure, and the Annualised target for each parish as a guide. However, if the relevant Parish Council decide to waive, suspend or reduce their allocation, then the nearest LSC or KSC may be nominated and offered that allocation by the LPA.

PARISH	EXISTING RESIDENT HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE ANNUALISED DWELLINGS PER YEAR	GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT RATE
Kirkby Stephen (KSC)	814	15	15 every year
Hartley	63	0.6	2 every 3 years
Brough	286	3	3 per year
Brough Sowerby	55	0.6	1 every 2 years
Warcop	190	2	2 every year
Waitby	22	0.2	1 every 5 years
Mallerstang	39	0.4	1 every 3 years
Stainmore	106	1	1 per year
Ravenstonedale & Newbiggin	227	2.3	5 every 2 years
Winton	94	1	1 per year
Kaber	36	0.3	1 every 3 years
Nateby	44	0.4	1 every 2 years
Soulby	77	0.8	3 every 4 years
Musgrave	57	0.6	1 every 2 years
Crosby Garrett	46	0.5	1 every 2 years
Wharton	13	0.1	1 every 7 years
Helbeck	7	0.1	1 every 10 years
Total	2176	29 per year	Approx 280 over 10 years

Nationally set cost indicators. Conversion of existing buildings can also result in an expensive development, particularly if the cost of the site has to be taken into account. There can also be difficulties in matching the housing provided in small settlements to local occupancy because of the small pool of suitable people for the housing.

However, often in rural settlements the housing need is mostly seen in the emerging households of existing families in the area. These households often have access to land or buildings suitable to conversion to housing, which, if properly developed, could provide low cost housing specifically designed to meet an identified housing need locally. Indeed it would be 'tailor-made' for an individual household taking into account likely changes in their life-stage. However, there has not been a mechanism within the policy framework that has allowed such local people, who cannot afford to buy a house on the open market, yet can afford to build or convert a house for themselves on land they already own or can inherit. Naturally, it is important in developing a policy to achieve this to make sure that safeguards are in place to prevent abuse of the idea of providing low cost housing for local people secured in perpetuity. It would be necessary therefore to ensure that housing provided this way is secured as bona fide affordable housing through the use of a s106 agreement.

UECP2 - Rural Self-build Affordable Housing Policy

Self-build housing in rural areas will be permitted as affordable housing where it can be shown that the dwelling

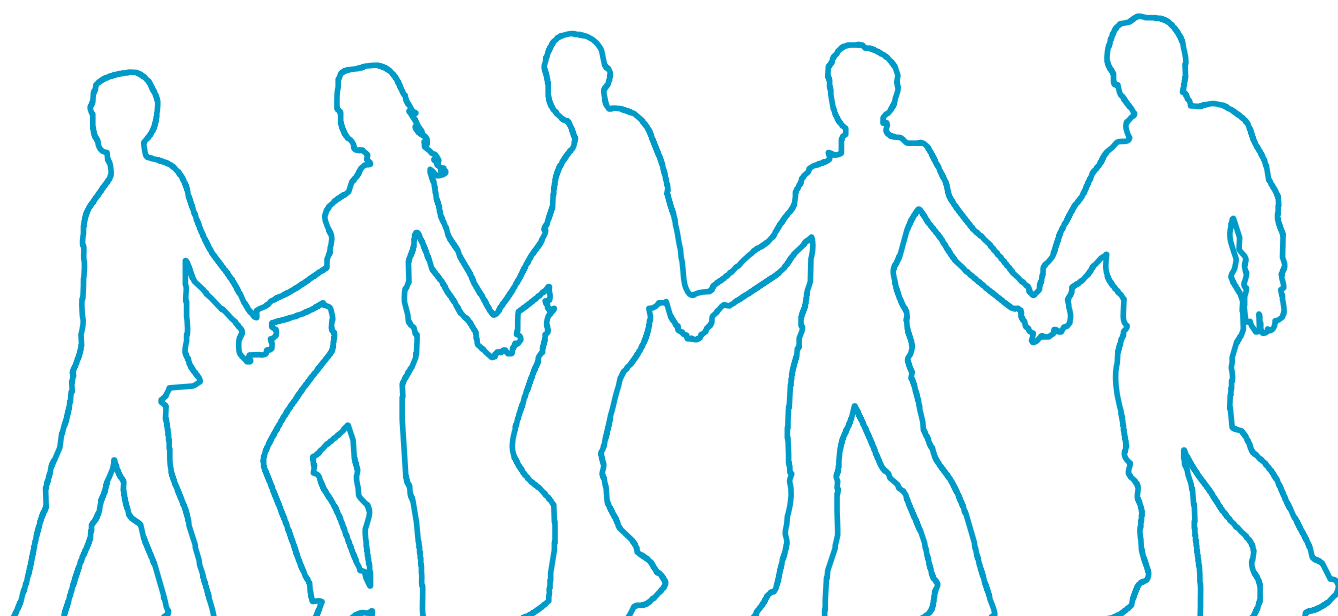
1. meets an identified housing need, and
2. is to be built by or on behalf of a person with a local connection, and
3. the building is built to suitable standards for affordable housing
and where a s106 agreement secures the property as affordable housing in perpetuity.

Some of the benefits of a policy such as this are:

- Multiple generations of families can remain in rural settlements. The informal support provided by family living closely counters many of the hardships otherwise associated by living in isolated rural communities. Maximising the use of social capital in this way could reduce the reliance on public support services in the longer term.
- Young people will be enabled to remain or return to the areas where they were brought up. The local connections and knowledge will increase the retention of rural skills, the passing down of culture and ways of life increasingly lost in modern society.
- Traditional buildings no longer required for agriculture in settlements can be re-used as dwellings resulting in greater retention of the existing built environment. This will lead to a more sustainable, interesting and vernacular built heritage than other models of affordable housing provision.
- The housing need within settlements will be met largely without any need to draw upon Government subsidy. This policy will allow local people to invest in their own communities for the benefit of themselves and their future generations.

9.0 Making it happen

Delivery is not the sole responsibility of participating parishes. Activity will depend on partnership working with a range of bodies, as identified in the Action Plan. UECP will continue to participate in the Local Strategic Partnership steering group - raising awareness of Action Plan priorities and networking with partners/influencing policy etc. There is a proposal that the UECP Group should continue as an Implementation Group. The Group may need to consider changes to or expansion of its membership to suit this new role. A staff post to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan may be a good way forward, and this has been included as an early action for the UECP Group.



10.0 Monitoring & Evaluation

This is a live document without a restricted shelf life. It is therefore an ongoing process to record progress and develop new areas of work (as supported by appropriate consultation) to benefit the Upper Eden Area. There will be a quarterly review of progress against the Action Plan, which could be used in annual parish meetings throughout the area. Parish Councils and Parish Meetings will be able to bring new issues to light for discussion and action through their representation on the Implementation Group.

In the event that a staff post can be funded to help facilitate and champion the Action Plan Projects then a degree of monitoring and evaluation of the projects can be undertaken by that person.

A working version of the Action Plan can be maintained electronically on the Kirkby Stephen Website (www.kirkby-stephen.com) with key milestones, targets and achievements logged as they occur.

11.0 Glossary

Glossary of terms

CCC	Cumbria County Council	RSS13	Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West, (due to replace RPG13)
CLA	Country Landowners Association	RSL	Registered Social Landlord
CREA	Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency	RPG13	Regional Planning Guidance for the North West Region
CRHT	Cumbria Rural Housing Trust	PARKS	Play Area for Kirkby Stephen
CV	Cumbria Vision	PCT	Primary Care Trust
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	PPG3	Planning Policy Guidance 3 Housing (now replaced by PPS3)
EDC	Eden District Council	PPS3	Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing
EIP	Examination in Public	RSCP	Rural Social and Community Programme
HA	Highways Agency	S106 Agreement	Legal agreement which accompanies a planning permission to secure certain conditions such as affordable housing
KS	Kirkby Stephen	SME's	Small to Medium Enterprise
KSC	Key Service Centre	SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
KSGS	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School	UECP	Upper Eden Community Plan
KSTC	Kirkby Stephen Town Council	UECPG	Upper Eden Community Plan Group or Implementation Group as appropriate
KSTF	Kirkby Stephen Town Forum	UoC	University of Cumbria
JSP	Cumbria and the Lake District National Park Joint Structure Plan	VAC	Voluntary Action Cumbria
LDF	Local Development Framework		
LPA	Local Planning Authority		
LSC	Local Service Centre		
L&SC	Learning and Skills Council		
MP	Member of Parliament		
NFU	National Farmers' Union		
NWDA	North West Development Agency		

