

Cumbria's experience of Local Government Reorganisation

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Cumbria's LGR Timeline

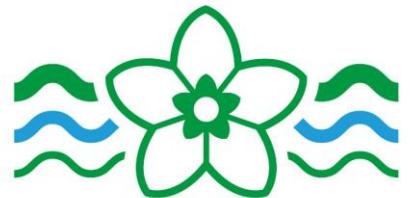
- ▶ Discussions in 2009, and then in 2015
- ▶ Local VCS generally supportive of move to Unitary Authorities
 - ▶ Split of responsibilities between Districts and County wasn't logical



And then hot on the heels of Covid.....

- ▶ October 2020 – Secretary of State invited proposals from 3 areas
- ▶ December 2020 – 4 proposals submitted for Cumbria
- ▶ March – April 2021 – 8 week public consultation
 - ▶ Online event for local VCS organisations to explain these
 - ▶ Cumbria Third Sector Network response to consultation:
 - ▶ Support for LGR, preference for some proposals
 - ▶ Willingness to work together to make it work.....





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Cumbria's LGR Timeline

- ▶ [June 2021 – CCC Chief Executive moved to Liverpool]
- ▶ July 2021 – Decision from the Secretary of State
- ▶ May 2022 – Elections
 - ▶ Shadow Authorities formed (Leaders, Cabinet, etc.....)
 - ▶ Interim Heads of Paid Service (CEOs) appointed
- ▶ [July 2022 – CCC Deputy CEO moved to Dumfries & Galloway]
- ▶ Autumn 2022 – Online events for VCS around Council Plans
- ▶ December 2022 – Chief Executives appointed
 - ▶ CVS (and other VCS) involved in Stakeholder Interview Panel
- ▶ April 2023 – Vesting Day! “Safe and Legal”
- ▶ Still TBC – All the IT systems sorted!



Learning from Cumbria?

- ▶ Splitting a County Council in half was harder than merging Districts
- ▶ Relationships are easily disrupted as staff move about
 - ▶ Senior staff tended to have more “space” to engage
- ▶ Grant funding is hard to keep track of.....
- ▶ The experience has been different for different VCS organisations
 - ▶ Small groups who'd dealt mainly with one District often feel that the new Unitary is very distant
 - ▶ Bigger groups who'd dealt mainly with the County Council now sometimes have to deal with two Unitaries
 - ▶ Many strategic partnerships (e.g. HWBB) have doubled up (and sometimes VCS representation has been lost)
- ▶ Practical things can make a huge difference – e.g. structure charts

