

What we have done in Eden

The county council has:

Improved access to services by:

 Reviewing our library provision to provide more responsive services across Eden.

Developed strong communities by:

- Investing in school buildings through the 'Transforming Learning Programme' and thereby provided additional primary school places to meet increased pupil numbers.
- Providing new state of the art fire stations in Penrith and Patterdale.
- Safeguarding residents from rogue traders, by developing No Cold Calling Zones in priority areas in Eden.
- Encouraging volunteering, by working with Cumbria CVS to encourage people to volunteer to help others in their communities.
- Supporting our communities to engage with us on key issues ranging from traffic problems to developing more modern library services.
- Spending £3.1m on extra care housing in Kirkby Stephen.

Supported a better quality of jobs by:

- Creating career opportunities for young people through apprenticeships: Seven young people in Eden were placed in apprenticeships with Cumbria County Council, with four now having a permanent job or progressing to higher education. Thanks to grants and support from Eden Local Committee and Eden District Council, 20 apprentices have successfully been recruited by small and medium employers in Eden.
- Working with partners to encourage Rural Growth, for example by working alongside the award winning Cybermoor project in the Alston area.
- Securing major funding for the Gilwilly access improvement from the Department for Transport's Pinch Point Fund.
- Supporting the roll out of superfast broadband to our area making sure that key towns are among the first to benefit.

Our focus in Eden for 2014-17

- Access to services.
- Developing strong and resilient communities.
- Supporting a better quality of jobs in the area.

What we will do in Eden

- Gilwilly Industrial Estate access Improvement and economic growth around Penrith.
- Extra care housing in Kirkby Stephen.
- Extra care housing in Penrith.
- Through community engagement developing new ways to deliver services.
- Integrating the new Public Health responsibilities within the county council.
- Working with Health to integrate assessment and hospital discharge pathways and to coordinate reablement and rehabilitation services.
- Working to the new safeguarding protocols to keep people from harm.

These are just a selection of the many projects we plan to undertake in Eden over the next few years – further information is set out later in the plan and on our website at cumbria.gov.uk

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1. Foreword

I am very pleased to present the Area Plan for Eden which builds on our previous 2012-2014 Area Plan. The county council delivers and commissions a broad range of services for the communities of Eden but we are facing unprecedented challenges to maintain services while meeting the demands of reduced funding.

The Plan sets out how we can work with communities to meet those challenges. It describes not only the pressures but also the opportunities that exist within this part of Cumbria and the role the council will play in the future to support the area and its residents. It brings together in one place the story of the county council in Eden and how it is working across all of its directorates to deliver high quality services and support in response to local needs while taking full account of the significant budget pressures the county council faces.

The members of Eden Local Committee have given their wholehearted support to the development of this Plan and are pleased to endorse it. We value the opportunity the Plan gives us to celebrate the achievements and monitor the service delivery of the County Council in Eden.



Martin Stephenson
Chair of Eden Local Committee





2. Introduction

In February 2014 Cumbria County Council agreed its Council Plan for the next three years. The Eden Area Plan describes how the council's priorities will be delivered across the district – being clear about what needs to be tackled and what the county council will be doing locally to improve the quality of life for people in Eden. It provides a current snapshot of life in Eden and describes how Cumbria County Council is working with its partners to deliver relevant, quality services in support of local communities.

The county council delivers and commissions a wide range of services, many of which, such as schools, libraries, care homes and children's centres, are located in local communities. The council maintains highways (other than trunk roads and motorways) delivers support services to many vulnerable people in their own homes and provides a number of services that are issue-based or specific (e.g. Trading Standards, Fire and Rescue); therefore the county council plays a critical role in local communities

However the government is taking a big bite out of the council's budget as part of its efforts to balance the nation's books. The county council has already made savings of £88million over the last three years (2010-13) – and another round of reductions in government grants over the next three years (2014-2017) means further savings of £88 million are needed. This adds up to one in every four pounds which the council used to receive to pay for services.

To meet the scale of the challenge Cumbria County Council will undergo significant change over the coming years. By 2017, the council will look, act, and feel like a different organisation.

So, faced with the twin challenges of reducing budgets and the need to maintain service delivery, work has begun to look afresh at how the county council delivers its services locally. The council is developing the concept of "service hubs" through a Delivery Plan that is being developed over the next few months and will sit alongside the Area Plan.

The county council is proud of the way in which it ensures that wherever possible the service that you receive is as locally accountable as possible. This is why there is continuing and increasing emphasis being placed within the council on the Local Committees' delegated responsibilities particularly with regard to the following services provided by the county council:

- Highway maintenance
- Minor highway improvements
- Delivery of major maintenance and improvement schemes
- Provision of School Crossing Patrols
- Money advice
- Support to 0-19 youth services
- Community grants

All of the council's local work takes place within the framework of the county council plan, which has 8 key priorities:

- To safeguard children, and ensure that Cumbria is a great place to be a child and grow up
- To enable communities to live safely and shape services locally
- To promote health and wellbeing, and tackle poverty
- To protect and enhance Cumbria's world class environment
- To provide safe and well maintained roads and an effective transport network
- To promote sustainable economic growth, and create jobs
- To support older and vulnerable people to live independent and healthy lives
- To be a modern and efficient council



The Local Committee for Eden has considered key local information for the area and has agreed that, within the context of the council's broader set of priorities, the following will have an emphasis/focus for the county council in Eden.







3. About Eden

Eden – the place

Sitting in the east of the county, Eden is predominantly rural and has a rich and varied natural landscape which includes sections of the Lake District National Park, the Eden Valley and the moorlands that make up the North Pennines, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Geography, population and demography.

With a geographical area of 2,142 km2, Eden is Cumbria's largest district in terms of land mass. However, with a population of 52,700 people, Eden is the least populated district in Cumbria and therefore has the lowest population density in the county by far, just under 25 people per km2. While Eden has good north-south road and rail links, given the rural nature of the district with its sparse population, many communities experience disadvantages in accessing services.

Eden's population has grown by 4.7% since 2002 and the district has experienced the greatest increase in residents aged over 65 years in the county. Over 65 year olds make up 23% of the population, which is higher than the national and county figures (17% and 21.6% respectively).

Residents aged 14 years and under make up 14.7% of Eden's population, less than the national figure (17.7%) and the average for Cumbria (15.4%).



The median household income in Eden is £25,458, just above the county average of £25,043 but below the national average of £28,024. Proportions of low-income households in Eden are above national levels with more than 3,299 households receiving an income of less than £10,000.

Workplace earnings in the district are below the national average which is partly influenced by the number of family-run farms in the area. The rate of self-employment in the area is well above average, and the level of part-time employment is high, perhaps reflecting a lack of full-time employment opportunities

Welfare and benefit take-up.

Eden has the lowest 'out of work benefit' claimant rate in the county at 6.0%, below the average for Cumbria at 10.3%. A total of 2,600 people of working age (16-64years) are claiming some type of benefit, and 75% of those are claiming an out-of-work benefit.

Most claimants are aged between 45-54 years. However, proportions of benefit claimants are low in Eden. Planned changes to welfare will impact on a relatively low number of the population, although those changes may still have a significant impact on those who are at risk.

In Eden there are 2,317 people claiming housing benefit. Approximately 70% of housing benefit claimants are of working age with the greatest proportion of claimants accounting for those aged 35-64 years.

Changes to housing benefit criteria are more likely to impact on those who live in rural areas. This is a significant issue for Eden due to its rurality. Because of the make-up of rural communities and housing there will be less alternative accommodation of appropriate size for individuals and families.

Skills, education and training

Eden has the highest proportion of its working age population educated to NVQ Level 4 or above at 45.4%, above the average for Cumbria at 30.1%, and England at 34.2%.

The most up-to-date attainment figures show 63% of children attained five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, including English and Maths. This is the second highest in the county. The county average is 56.3% and the national average is 58.6%.

Accessibility and transport.

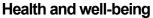
The M6 motorway and A66 (which are the responsibility of the Department for Transport) the A6 and A686 (which are the responsibility of Cumbria County Council) all intersect the town of Penrith, and Penrith railway station is a stop on the West Coast Rail Line. A number of smaller settlements in the Eden Valley are served by stations on the Carlisle to Settle railway.

Access to services and transport is an issue in Eden and in particular for young people living in rural areas, who without accessible employment or training are particularly vulnerable.

Deprivation.

Overall levels of deprivation are low so Eden is the second least deprived area in Cumbria and 8.5% of children are living in poverty which is the second lowest rank in the county.

28.3% of households in Eden are living in fuel poverty and this figure is the highest of all local authority areas across England, above the county average of 21.5% and the average for England at 14.6%.



Average life expectancy for males and females in Eden is the highest in Cumbria at 80.1 and 83.2 years respectively. The district is also rated lowest in the county in relation to mortality from cancer and hospital admissions for conditions attributable to alcohol abuse.

Eden is rated second lowest in Cumbria for mortality relating to cardiovascular disease, teenage pregnancy and excess winter deaths. However, the area has a higher than national average level of obesity amongst primary school children in year 6, and a higher rate of mortality from suicide than both the county and national averages.

One quarter of households in Eden have a limiting long-term health problem or disability. This is below both county and national averages.

Council assets and services

The council has services spread across Eden, from residential care homes, children's centres, schools, to fire stations, libraries and much more. But buildings are only part of the picture – it has been estimated that the council provides around 800 different services. This ranges from comparatively small to multi million pound services.

It is usual for the council to undertake individual reviews of its services and its estate to ensure we provide the best outcomes possible for local people. This has resulted in the creation of facilities such as the new Penrith Fire Station.

However, a key aspect of the council's work over the next three years will be to undertake a more fundamental review of the council's services and estate not only in light of the changing needs of people in Eden but also with regard to reducing budgets. (More detail of this is contained later in the plan). The county council has delivered a number of key projects in the Eden area over the last year and it invests significant time and resources in delivering services which help meet the needs of people and businesses in the area.











4. Highlights and achievements

The county council has delivered a number of key projects in the Eden area over the last year and it invests significant time and resources in delivering services which help meet the needs of people and businesses in the area.

In the last Area Plan we said we would:

- Modernise library services.
- Open new fire stations at Penrith and Patterdale.
- Support the roll out of Superfast Broadband through the Connecting Cumbria Project.







Fire Service Improvements

The new Penrith Community Fire
Station and Emergency Co- ordination Centre
opened in August 2012. This has the most upto-date and comprehensive firefighter training
facilities in the county and greatly improves the
council's ability to deal with major incidents. It
followed Patterdale's community fire station, which
was the first in a project that has delivered new
facilities across Cumbria.





Modernising Library Services

Appleby's new Local Links service at Appleby Library was opened in January 2013, providing a focus for information and advice services to the local community. For example, the Trading Standards teams ran a drop in last August offering advice on issues ranging from the sales of goods, services, problems experienced with obtaining refunds or to report illegal trading activity. Businesses were encouraged to use the surgeries to seek advice on compliance with consumer legislation and other regulatory matters.

The council has also established book drops in Bolton and Tebay, and increased the online resources available at our libraries to support the local community to access information and services of all kinds.

At Penrith Library the checking in/booking out facilities have been modernised and the building now opens earlier in the mornings, and no longer closes for a half-day on Wednesdays. There are now increased dementia resources in the libraries and the council has successfully delivered a local "Stories on Saturdays" project to engage young people in the reading experience who would not have otherwise been engaged. By providing increased online access and support in libraries the council is helping local people access services such as Job Search.



New traffic lights on Eden Bridge

The communities of Lazonby and Kirkoswald told the Council that road safety was a concern on Eden Bridge. After an extensive consultation with the local community the council invested over £95,000 to install a new traffic light system. The investment has been made in permanent signals to improve safety for road users, improve traffic flow and protect the listed bridge structure, which has suffered damage in the past by vehicles being forced to reverse when meeting oncoming traffic at the bridge's blind summit.

Study

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The county council is the accountable body managing the Regional Growth Fund (RGF), Cumbria Infrastructure Fund (CIF) and Rural Growth Network (RGN) on behalf of the LEP. To date, the council has achieved the following through working with the LEP for the Cumbria and area and in particular Eden:

- Four businesses have been provided with a total of £557,200 RGF grant invested to create 25 jobs and safeguard 14 positions.
- A £250,000 loan from CIF committed by the LEP to unlock delivery of 22 new homes in Penrith.
- The opening of the Rural Growth Network Business Hub at Appleby, with further developments planned at Alston.
- Business support and networking opportunities via Rural Growth Network. with health and social care services.





5. Developing and delivering our services

Our overall focus in Eden for 2014-17

- Access to services.
- Developing strong and resilient communities.
- Supporting a better quality of jobs in the area.

Existing plans for delivery

Over the next three years the county council will invest resources in its priorities and aspirations for the Eden area through the provision of targeted services and transformational projects. As mentioned earlier this will have to be done in the context of reducing budgets and the need to save a further £88 million in 2014-17. Details of some of the key projects are provided below (with more details to be set out in the Area Delivery Plan later this year):

- Improving access to Gilwilly Industrial Estate, Penrith.
- Edenhall junction Improvement.
- Improving education provision arising from new housing growth especially in Penrith.
- Launch of home food waste digester project.
- Provision of new extra care housing projects in Kirkby Stephen and Penrith.

To safeguard children, and ensure that Eden is a great place to be a child and grow up we will:

- Deliver a youth service contract which will have a focus on early help and prevention.
- Work with families and individuals to support their development and needs.
- Work with primary schools, secondary schools and other providers to develop and improve the attainment or our young people in Eden.
- Work to ensure there will be sufficient school places to address the effects of new housing growth, especially within Penrith.
- Work with communities and providers to challenge young people's risk taking behaviours that effect their health and wellbeing (obesity, alcohol, safe sex, road awareness training).
- Support initiatives to enable children to walk and cycle to school and to improve safety around schools and in residential areas.







To enable communities to live safely and shape services locally we will:

- Establish a hierarchy of key service hubs in the area i.e. Penrith, Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and Alston, to allow local people access to libraries, community development centres, children's centres, schools etc.
- Support community groups to deliver local community projects through grant investment.
- Work with community groups to enable the transfer of council assets to the communities.
- Engage with communities on issues that matter to them and seek local solutions.
- Deliver a modern Library Service that is accessible to all, encouraging reading, providing books, supporting learning across all ages, brokering access to a wide range of types of information, acting as a community space, linking to other public and community services, and supporting digital participation.
- Deliver home accident reduction interventions including, smoke alarms, deaf alarms, bedding packs, signposting to other organisations / departments.
- Put in place traffic management measures working with communities.

To promote health and wellbeing, and tackle poverty we will:

- Work to support the credit union in the area to provide affordable loans and encourage saving.
- Provide people with access to a money advice service in the area and undertake preventative work to help people avoid getting into debt.
- Provide people with access to an advocacy service in each area, with local drop ins taking place to offer advice and support.
- Establish a health and wellbeing forum for Eden to coordinate projects across organisations to address key health issues in the area
- Work to target specific health issues in the Eden area:
 - Premature mortality (cancer, heart disease and stroke)
 - Childhood obesity
 - Smoking
 - Alcohol-related harm
 - Accidents and suicides
- Invest in Community Development Centres (CDCs) to support activity focusing on employability, supporting people on low incomes, raising educational attainment and healthy lifestyles.
- Fund a range of cultural events and activities in Eden.
- Develop educational and outreach activities for the archive service, including partnerships, to maximise opportunities for young people, adults and communities to engage with local heritage.
- Work with public health and other expert agencies in Eden to tailor the services delivered to our clients when delivering home safety checks.
- Identify particular issues in Eden such as carbon monoxide poisoning and promote, educate and raise awareness.
- Develop and promote infrastructure and initiatives that encourage and facilitate active travel and help to improve health including rights of way, walk/cycle to school and work.
- Work with Eden District Council on Air Quality Management Areas and manage traffic speeds to make walking and cycling more attractive.









To protect and enhance Eden's world class environment we will:

- Ensure an adequate response to deal with any environmental issues, eg flooding and wildfire.
- Engage with communities affected by local floods and provide analysis and solutions to local flooding issues by working with the local flood action and making space for water groups.
- Support communities to be resilient to unforeseen events like flooding and develop their capacity to respond.
- Provide support to communities to develop local solutions that utilise resources more efficiently and effectively in their communities.
- Work to reduce the need to travel through the planning process and developers accordingly.
- Minimise the negative visual impact of highway infrastructure.
- Work with Eden District Council as local planning authority to deliver the Local Plan process to promote and achieve a sustainable environment for the district.
- Work collaboratively with local partners on operational and strategic development of waste management infrastructure across the county and within Eden.
- Work with local partners and communities to deliver and support waste prevention measures including the provision of education and information.

To provide safe and well maintained roads and an effective transport network we will:

- Maintain the existing highway roads and paths (including winter service) to ensure that people and goods can move around safely by different forms of transport.
- Work with partners to develop rail services and passenger facilities.
- Support communities to improve accessibility to services for people without access to a car.
- Maximise opportunities for investment in new infrastructure and existing service through development and grant funding including Pinch-points funding for the Gilwilly Access Improvement Scheme by March 2015.
- Safety Schemes identified by CRSP (Cumbria Road Safety Partnership) local CRASH Group.
- Review school speed limits and village speed limits.
- Deliver the Edenhall junction improvement.
- Continue the historic fingerpost restoration project.



To promote sustainable economic growth, and create jobs we will:

- Secure Superfast Broadband roll out across Eden.
- Work with Eden District Council as local planning authority to deliver key development projects and mitigate the effects of new development through the District Local Plan process.
- Deliver the council's apprenticeship scheme to support small and medium sized businesses and other opportunities.
- Identify necessary infrastructure required to support development and economic growth and maximise investment through government grant and developer contributions.
- Focus on the identified Local Enterprise Partnership priorities to develop infrastructure that enables development in the Eden area.

To support older and vulnerable people to live independent and healthy lives we will:

- Prevent people from losing their independence by working more closely with local communities and facilitating prevention services.
- Reduce dependence on longer term support through the development of short term rehabilitation programmes and assistive technology.
- Support people in their own homes for as long as possible before considering a change in accommodation and provide new extra care housing provision in Kirkby Stephen and Penrith.
- Protect adults at risk from harm by ensuring the best outcomes for individuals, working
 effectively with our customers and partners and aiming for the highest standards of
 safeguarding recording.
- Personalise our services ensuring people have maximum choice and control over the support they receive.
- Target our home safety visits (including the provision of fire alarms, deaf alarms, CO
 alarms, bedding packs and cold alarms) to those most vulnerable in our communities
 and provide an enhanced service working in partnership with other agencies.
- Deliver home accident reduction interventions.

To be a modern and efficient council we will:

- Implement Better Places for Work in Eden to ensure staff can work flexibly and utilise technology to support their work.
- Deliver a Registration Service that is efficient and responsive to service users.
- Work in partnership with communities and other organisations to deliver services.
- Review and rationalise the buildings we need in Eden to deliver services.
- Develop new ways of commissioning and procuring services that uses local supply chains and the Third Sector.
- Work closely with our partners in Eden, e.g. the district council and health providers to ensure there is joined up delivery for the benefit of the Eden area.
- Consolidate the amount of office space used by the county council in Eden
- Recognise communities and individuals as our greatest assets and work with them to improve services.

Reshaping local services through the development of service hubs

The council delivers a wide range of services in Eden, some of which are focused on particular individuals or groups of people who live in the area (for example children in the care of the local authority and older adults living in care homes) and some of which are available to a much broader range of people (for example library and archive services, road maintenance and adult education).

The council wants to deliver these services in the most effective and efficient way possible. This means understanding where and how local people prefer to access local services. This may also include recognising where people do their shopping, banking, where they work and access leisure facilities. A better understanding of these factors will enable the Council to shape its services to ensure they are in the most appropriate places and can reach the largest number of people. Some people prefer to access services in person whereas others are comfortable to use other means, such as telephone and the internet. This of course will depend on the nature of the particular service and the requirements of the individual.

However, the complexity of modern life means that people travel, work and engage with each other in a range of ways that don't necessarily reflect historical government boundaries. As this work develops the Council will endeavour to reflect this complexity in our planning and service delivery, although we recognise that our aspirations will have to be tempered by the financial challenges that we face.

The county council does not deliver its services in isolation. There is strong recognition that delivering services will be done in the context of understanding other statutory provision. Work will be done to map what other organisations and public bodies deliver so that the county council can work closely with these partners to align delivery and support for the benefit of the communities of Eden.

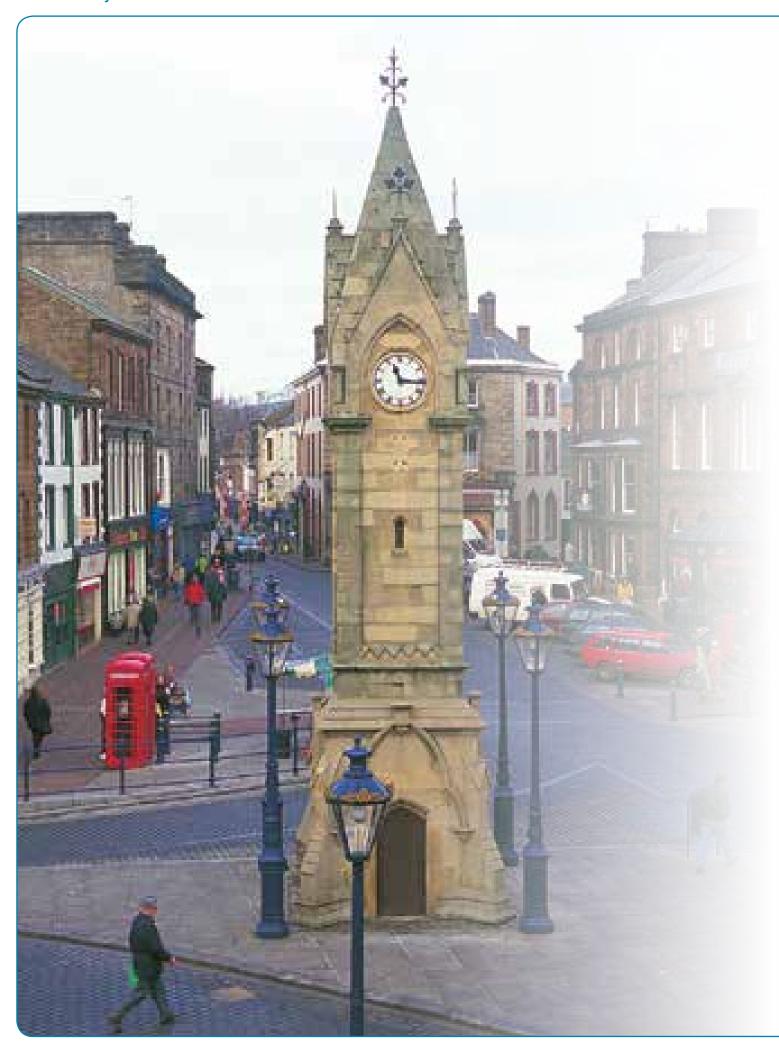
The council has begun to explore in greater detail where local people in Eden and the wider area access services and the changing requirements.

The model of "service hubs" for Eden will recognise the importance of main towns, Penrith, Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Alston. Many people see these towns as not merely residential and business centres but also natural hubs for community activity.

How can you get Involved?

Working together with local residents will be key to help us reshape our services in Eden especially given the scale of the challenges that Cumbria County Council are facing with £88 million to save over the next three years. Therefore we would encourage you to get involved and have your say on this plan and on the areas of focus that we talk about within it. To have your say you can either go online to **cumbria.gov.uk** or contact your local councillor as listed at the back of this document.





Serving the people of Cumbria

6. Monitoring the plan

The development and monitoring of Area Plans are integral to the broader approach to area planning. A key component to supporting the monitoring process will be the development of the Delivery Plans, which will identify key local projects that will be monitored and reported under the council's performance framework and service plan delivery.

Through the local committees we will produce achievement reports in mid-year and at the end of year that will identify key progress against the priorities in the Area Plan and the projects in the Delivery Plans.

7. Key Area Contacts

Councillors for Eden

Electoral Division	Councillor	Contact Details
Alston and East Fellside	Mary Robinson	01768 896147
Appleby	Martin Stephenson	017683 51378
Eden Lakes	Neil Hughes	01931 713401
Greystoke and Hesket	Bert Richardson	01768 483704
Kirkby Stephen	Libby Bateman	07759 665233
Penrith East	Patricia Bell	01768 867826
Penrith North	Hilary Carrick	01768 898147
Penrith Rural	Gary Strong	01228 599435
Penrith West	Helen Fearon	01768 892731

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