

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2006

Present: Councillors P Connolly (Chair); K Hitchen (Deputy Chair); D Banks; Cllr R Cole

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Barnes; Mrs M Docherty; D Moore; J Prince.

Also in Attendance: Councillors Mrs E Eastwood; W Southward; E Woodburn.

Officers: F Mc Morrow, Corporate Director, Economic Prosperity and Sustainability; M Tichford, Head of Regeneration; B Kirkbride, Community Renewal Manager; D Davies, Head of Nuclear and Sustainability; Ms Z Bergmann, Nuclear and Sustainability; J Murray, Scrutiny Support Officer; L Taylor, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also Present: T Hirst, Chief Executive, West Cumbria Development Fund; J Jenkin, NDA Strategy Manager; N Thacker, Millom Market Town Initiatives Manager

OSC-EW129 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 7 September 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC-EW130 West Cumbria Development Fund

(Councillor D Banks declared a personal interest in this item due to being associated with Florence Mine)

The Committee received a presentation from Tim Hirst, Chief Executive of the West Cumbria Development Fund, which included an overview of the work of the fund, a financial overview of project initiatives for 2005/06 and commitments for 2006/07.

Members noted that between 1988 and 2006 West Cumbria Development fund had invested £27 Million in West Cumbria

OSC-EW131 Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Draft Socio-Economic Policy

(Councillors R Cole and F McPhillips declared personal interests in this item).

Members received a presentation from Jonathan Jenkin, Strategy Manager on the NDA's draft socio-economic policy. The presentation outlined the NDA's objectives and priorities for communities located near designated sites.

Members considered the policy and made the following points.

- That the basic criteria to access requests for funding had not been discussed with local stakeholders
- That, as the sub group set up to decide who would receive funding would consist only of members of the NDA, local needs would not necessarily be met

Members were informed that the consultation end date was 17 January 2007 and that any responses to the document would be welcomed.

OSC-EW132 Millom and Egremont Market Town Initiatives

Councillors F McPhillips, R Cole and K Hitchen declared personal interests in this item

Members were provided with a presentation detailing the progress of the Millom Market town initiative.

Members were informed of the NWDA's approval in August 2005 of £1M for Millom Town Initiative to be spent on a range of projects.

The presentation outlined the various projects funded and updated Members on progress made in the following areas.

- Network Centre – Excellent progress all round to provide training facilities to local businesses and people
- Millom Outreach Team – Suitable youth workers have been recruited and the project is now up and running and well attended
- Tourism Officer – Officer now delivering tourism action plan and further funding has been secured

- Swimming Pool – Feasibility study completed, funding consultant appointed to start applying for capital funding
- Palladium Feasibility – Feasibility study completed in March 2006. Tender for construction is expected to go out in December. The Palladium is being transferred to Millom and Haverigg Economic Development Group to become a development trust

Members were provided with a written update on the Egremont Market Town initiative (attached as appendix)

The update included progress reports on projects already underway and informed Members of other regeneration projects scheduled to take place.

Councillor E Woodburn declared a personal interest due to being the Chair of the Egremont and Area regeneration Partnership

OSC-EW133 South Whitehaven

Members were given a progress update on the South Whitehaven Management Plan, an initiative created to change the quality and social life of residents within the targeted neighbourhoods.

Members were introduced to the new neighbourhood manager, Mr Eric Poole. It was noted that the geographical boundary for investment had been extended to include Hensingham and the Valley areas.

The Committee were informed that a meeting of the Governance Board would be taking place on the 10 November where a number of projects would be considered for approval which included

- Community Engagement Officer – To create a new post to support community engagement within the South Whitehaven area
- Community Wardens - The creation of a team of community wardens to be appointed and managed by Copeland Homes
- Community Pot – A fund to support a range of community projects

OSC-EW134 Work Plan

Members received and noted the work plan of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

Chair:.....

Signed:.....