

**EXECUTIVE REPORT****FULL 12 04 05****BUSINESS GROWTH PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR BRIAN DIXON - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****FERGUS McMORROW, CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SUSTAINABILITY) - LEAD OFFICER****1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 Investment**

Galemire Court, the new building for the NDA was completed in mid March. Internal fitting to meet the specific needs of the NDA will now be taking place. On 1<sup>st</sup> April the NDA will be up and running on a temporary basis at Pelham House with 110 employees.

The contract to provide a ring-road and sewer serviced high quality plots at Westlakes is now complete. Most of the landscaping work will be carried out in April and be effectively complete in the Summer within the projected budget of £6.3 million.

Construction of a new 23,200 sq ft office building, Kelton House, has been put out to tender and is planned to be complete by Summer 2006. This includes a £2.8 million funding package.

**1.2 Business Support****Conversion and Renovation scheme for the former Cleator Moor Co-op**

The plans to develop the former Co-op building in Cleator Moor as managed office workspace is now close to becoming a reality, as the Council has recently received funding approvals from North West Development Agency (NWDA), and through Rural Regeneration Cumbria (RRC) for the EU/European Regional Development Fund (EU/ERDF) part of the scheme. It is hoped that the contract for the conversion/redevelopment works at the site can be made during April, with the conversion works to commence shortly afterwards.

The project has developed by the Council in partnership with a number of different agencies, with half of the funding secured from NWDA, Heritage Lottery Fund/Townscape Heritage Initiative, Single Regeneration Budget/Cleator Moor Development Ltd, and Copeland Borough Council's own capital programme. The remaining 50% of the £1.5million for the scheme is to be met from the RRC managed EU/ERDF.

The conversion of the listed building to managed office workspace, which will be run by Cleator Moor Business Centre as an extension of their existing operations in the square, will take around forty weeks to complete. The premises should be ready to take their first occupants early in 2006.

Developing the complex project funding for the improvement scheme, has taken a considerable period of time, and was aided by the Council's purchase of the building in September 2004. Nevertheless Cleator Moor can now at last look forward to the new investment and employment that the conversion of the building will bring.

## **2 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

## **3 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Subject:** Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan

**Date of Decision:** 22 February 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0160

**Context:** To consider the draft final Economic Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan for Copeland "Gearing Up for Change"

**Decision**

**That this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive.**

**Subject:** Egremont And Millom Market Town Programme Submissions

**Date of Decision:** 10 March 2005

**Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0181

**Context:** To seek the commitment of the Council to the Market Town Programme bids for Millom and Egremont that have been developed by the Millom and Haverigg Market Town Partnership and Egremont and Area Market Town Partnership

**Decision**

**That**

1. **the Council acts as accountable body for both Partnerships;**
2. **the Council be signatory to the bids and gives it its full support;**
3. **the financial commitment to the bids at this stage is only to the level of current commitments in the Capital Programme; and**
4. **a further report be submitted to a future meeting on the role of the Council as an accountable body.**

**Subject:** Copeland Employment Support Fund

**Date of Decision:** 10 March 2005

**Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0184

**Context:** This report provides an update on the financial position of the Employment Support Fund, and proposes the re-allocation of underspend from within the overall fund to support an extension to the provision of Western Lake District Visitor Centre Information Assistants during part of 2005/06

**Decision**

**That**

- a. to note the current financial position of the Fund;
- b. the continuation with the employment of the Western Lake District Visitor Centre, Information Assistants at the Lakeland Sheep and Wool Centre until October 2005 be agreed; and
- c. £2500 be allocated from the underspend on the Classroom Assistants Project to support the extension of the employment of the Visitor Centre Information Assistants

**Subject:** Urgent Action

**Date of Decision:** 10 March 2005

**Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0187

**Context:** To note actions taken under Executive procedure rules

**Decision**

**That urgent action, ref:04/05, taken by the Head of Economic Development and Local Plans in consultation with the Business Growth Portfolio Holder be noted.**