

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR HENRY WORMSTRUP – PORTFOLIO HOLDER

FERGUS McMORROW – LEAD OFFICER

1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT

1.1 CLEATOR MOOR TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

A request has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to extend the end date of the THI programme to enable maximising of expenditure in Cleator Moor Town Centre.

Approval has now been obtained to extend the programme end date to 31st March 2007, which will enable further schemes to access the programme.

1.2 TRANSPORT

A595 Parton – Lillyhall Improvement

On 17th August I chaired a meeting of the Liaison Group which maintains a watching brief on the Scheme. At the meeting the Highways Agency confirmed that approval had been granted by the Secretary of State and that Orders to proceed were being made this month. They expect to officially commence on site from 1st January – with major works beginning in March. The Group will be meeting again on 22nd November to hear details of a “Start of Works Exhibition”. I took the opportunity to raise the issue of resurfacing along the existing trunk road at Distington which is scheduled to take 5 weeks during Sept/Oct and made the point that this was less than timely given previous, fairly recent roadworks on this section.

Regional Transport Strategy

Continuing the consultation process on the draft Regional Transport Strategy we will be submitting statements to the Examination Panel this month, particularly drawing together the relationship between the RTS and the West Cumbria Spatial Masterplan. The Examination itself begins in October.

1.3 COALFIELDS

We have seen over a period of time a substantial amount of funding from Coalfields coming into Copeland. This has equated to over £2.5 million which has been spent on projects which have improved the quality of life for a lot of our residents.

It has been further confirmed that Government will continue to fund the coalfields which again creates the opportunity for further spend in Copeland. The new funding will be allocated in 2008 but we need to start thinking now about any potential projects we have in our wards and make sure we spend the funding we are due.

As always I am available if any member would like to talk through any possible projects.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None