

Executive Report**HEALTH & DIVERSITY PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR GEOFF BLACKWELL – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****MARTIN JEPSON – LEAD OFFICER****1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 Meeting with Marie Burnham and Patrick McGahon – 15th August 2006**

On 15th August 2006, 26 Members met with Marie Burnham, Chief Executive of the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals Trust and Patrick McGahon, Acting Chief Executive North Cumbria Primary Care Trust for a question and answer session.

Both representatives gave us brief updates on the present situation with regard to the West Cumberland Hospital and allayed some of the fears raised by Members. Obviously we still have concerns with regard to the future of the WCH especially after hearing similar concerns about the possible impact of the CAT (Capture, Assess Treat) centre proposed for West Cumbria. Re-assurances were sought and received that the Acute Hospital Trust will be talking to representatives of the CAT centre to see where they need to complement each other rather than compete.

Patrick McGahon reported that a full scale consultation on what services will be provided in West Cumbria will be carried out in the Autumn. The outcome of this consultation will consequently lead onto forming the outline of a new hospital.

Although the meeting proved to be very informative, there was still uncertainty over the future service provision here in the West, hopefully this will become clearer as we move through the consultation period.

As this could have a major impact on Copeland we will be asking for a public meeting to allow the local community a say on the proposals, but we need to continue to be vigilant and to ensure we protect and lobby for the best interests of the people of Copeland.

1.2 Bootle and District Swimming Pool

This pool is run by a committee of volunteers. Recently, a need for training of the volunteers in pool sampling and other aspects of pool management was identified by the Council's Environmental Health Section. An offer to carry out such training was made by the Environmental Health Section and accepted by the committee. The training was carried out during an evening.

The provision of such training is not a statutory duty of the Council and is not normally done; however, it was considered that there were exceptional circumstances in this case, which justified it.

1.3 Swimmers Rash

Recently 2 cases of “Swimmers Rash” occurred affecting persons who had been bathing in the lagoon at Port Haverigg Holiday Camp. The condition is spread by parasites associated with water fowl and is rare – in fact these cases are thought to be the first, and so far the only cases to have occurred in Cumbria. The condition is not serious but is a nuisance. Once the cause and source of the condition had been identified by the Council’s Environmental Health Section (working closely with the Health Protection Agency) appropriate advice was given to the persons who control the use of the lagoon.

1.4 Contact Dermatitis

Contact Dermatitis is one of the conditions included in the National Disease Reduction Programme – a joint initiative of the Health and Safety Executive and Local Authorities. This Council’s involvement in the initiative commenced recently and involved visits by an officer of the Environmental Health Section to all 12 florist businesses in the Borough, to raise awareness of the subject and to give advice. Florists are one of the sectors in which workers are particularly susceptible to Contact Dermatitis. In October hairdressers are to be targeted.

1.5 Planning Policy Issues

Further to my last report a draft Statement of Community Involvement has now been published and considered by the Executive at its 5th September meeting. It will go out to formal consultation for six weeks before being reported back to Full Council with proposed changes in November. This is a key policy item setting out how local communities and stakeholders will be involved in the production of all future planning policy documents and in the process of development control.

A draft Supplementary Planning Document on Wind Energy is also on the Executive’s 5th September Agenda. This has been prepared primarily by the County Council as a joint Cumbrian Councils Advice and Guidance document. In the main it concentrates on the issues involved in assessing the landscape and visual impact of proposed wind energy schemes. Again the document is to go out to wide consultation the results of which will be reported directly back to Full Council.

This month officers will be submitting statements in support of the Council’s earlier representations against the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy. We have also requested time at the Examination in Public in October and January to discuss the points raised, particularly the need for the RSS to provide the means of delivering the output from the West Cumbria Spatial Masterplan.

1.6 Emergency Planning

Under the Civil Contingencies Act Copeland Borough Council – along with all the District Councils within the County and throughout the Country – have a duty to respond in emergencies as a Category 1 Responder.

To this end all district councils within the County have signed up to a memorandum of understanding, which means in the event of an authority having an emergency – which is a situation beyond the capabilities of the blue light services – help in dealing with it will be available on request.

A presentation by the County Council's Emergency Planning Unit was recently made at our Management Group and a timetable of training and exercises for relevant members of staff is being drawn up. At the same time details of requirements for setting up a District Control Centre at these offices are being prepared, which will reflect on similar work being done at other authorities throughout the County.

Recent table-top exercises in which Copeland participated have included stakeholder input from various bodies outside the Council and feedback from these stakeholders has been incorporated into plans for future exercises.

1.7 Equality & Diversity

I am pleased to report that The Council has achieved Level 1 of the Equality Standard for Local Government and is now working towards Level 2. Managers and Members have attended training on Equality and Diversity and plans are now in place to roll this out to all staff. A toolkit has been developed so the Council can equality proof all of its services and policies which is a requirement for Level 2.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Cumbria County Council's Minerals and Waste Development Framework 2007-18

Date of Decision: 25 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0059

Context:

To consider a response to the County Council's consultation on an Issues and Options Paper for its Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Decision

That the views of the Nuclear Working Party and the Environmental Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee be combined and endorsed as the Council's formal response to the consultation.

Subject: Building Control And Town Planning Resourcing

Date of Decision: 25 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0061

Context:

The report sets out proposals for ensuring the Council has adequate resources to deliver its Building Control function and proposes investigation of a Building Control Partnership with Allerdale Borough Council.

Decision

That

- a) **Option 3 be pursued, the Building Control Partnership element being subject to securing agreement with Allerdale Borough Council within three months, the remainder of the Option being implemented immediately,**
- b) **a further report be brought back to Executive for a decision on the details of any proposed Building Control Partnership scheme,**
- c) **a potential redundancy situation as detailed be noted and redeployment opportunities are investigated,**
- d) **up to £10,000 be made available to support investigation and development of a Building Control Partnership scheme, funded from Regeneration Department under spend carried forward from 2005/06,**
- e) **officers investigate options for planning enforcement work to be undertaken by the Council's Enforcement Team,**
- f) **officers ensure that Building Control staff are kept informed on a regular basis of developments as the Building Control Partnership is investigated.**