

Executive Report**HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR GEORGE CLEMENTS – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****TERRY CHILCOTT – LEAD OFFICER****1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Our Community Safety Officer, Louise Kelly is now based within our Regeneration Dept approx two days per week. She can be contacted by email lkelly@copelandbc.gov.uk or telephone 01946 833353.

Violent Crime

In terms of violent crime figures, there are downward trends shown in Whitehaven and Cleator Moor, but a slight increase in Millom. The town centre reductions can be linked to the success of Nightsafe and the Pubwatch schemes. Other towns and villages are now being given the same level of support to ensure their levels of violent crime reduce also.

Pubwatch exclusions are also very successful. Once a person has been banned, they realise that their friends can continue to go out and socialise – and they cannot. We have had no repeat offenders given a pubwatch ban – once was enough?

It is worth noting that Copeland is still one of the safest areas in the country and according to the National Police statistics violent crime in Copeland has overall reduced by 15%.

Closed Circuit Television.

A review of the provision of CCTV in the Borough has taken place and made a number of recommendations, which has been supported through the budget process and will see an improved CCTV coverage and monitoring in the Borough.

The proposals continue to concentrate in the main on provision in the four main population centres of Whitehaven, Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom but will be updated and enhanced offering proactive monitoring. It will include two more cameras to cover the Duke Street/Tangier Street area of Whitehaven, a camera in Frizington, for which the police have lobbied hard, an additional camera in Millom to cover Rottington Row and possibly some static car park coverage.

Tenders are being invited for the upgrading and enhancing of the CCTV system and dependent on a successful tender process, the Council will enter into a Service Level Agreement for monitoring. A partnership agreement is also being drawn up with the police setting out respective expectations.

Anti social behaviour

The partnership is going to launch the Respect campaign locally in October. The launch will be a showcase of what partners, including the Council are doing to make the campaign a success. The campaign focuses on:

- Activities for children and young people.
- Schools – Improving behaviour and attendance.
- Supporting Families – focus on parents who need the most help.
- Tackling Irresponsible parents.
- A new approach to the most challenging families.
- Strengthening communities.
- Effective enforcement and community justice.

The Take a Stand awards will be held on the 29th September 2006. These awards have been introduced under the Together banner launched by the Government back in 2002. Awards are given to people who have stood up to unacceptable behaviour and also provides incentive to others to take action too. Winners are invited to an awards ceremony and given gifts, sponsored by local businesses and the CDRP. Anti social behaviour ranges from:

Noisy neighbours, vandalism, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, harassment and intimidation, youth nuisance, dumping rubbish or litter and criminal damage.

1.2 SINGLE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER (SNEN)

As I reported to the last Council meeting the 101 Single Non-Emergency Number is a Home Office Project designed to improve public access to services concerned with Crime & Disorder and Community Safety.

Copeland Council have been working with the other Cumbrian Authorities to bring this service to Copeland as soon as possible. If our bid in October is successful it will mean that we could be launching a new service for customers in June 2007.

All of the anti social behaviour mentioned in the previous report will be able to be reported through the 101 number 24 hours a day. It will then bring a co-ordinated response from many public bodies including the Council and the Police with a committed response time.

1.3 CUMBRIA HOUSING STRATEGY

The Cumbria Housing Strategy has been assessed 'Fit for Purpose' by Government Office; all that is required now is an action plan for Copeland. This will be brought to Members in due course. This is a good example of Cumbria wide collaborative working.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

Subject: Housing Strategy 2006/07

Date of Decision: 25 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0054

Context:

To consider progress to date with the countrywide arrangements to develop the Cumbria Housing Strategy.

Prior to consideration of this item Members congratulated officers for their hard work in producing the document.

Decision

Council be recommended that continued participation in the Countywide arrangements to develop the Cumbria Housing Strategy be supported.

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: CCTV

Date of Decision: 25 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0052

Context:

This report presents the findings of a working group, led by Cllr Clements with Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Social Well-being, set up to review the provision of CCTV

Decision

That a) a tender brief and specification be prepared and tenders invited for the upgrading and enhancing of the CCTV system

b) the Lead Officer in consultation with the Head of Finance and Business Development and Portfolio Holder, be delegated authority to conclude the tender process within the available resources;

c) subject to a successful tender process, the Council enters into a Service Level Agreement with Allerdale Borough Council for the purchase of a specified number of hours monitoring per annum; and

d) a partnership agreement be drawn up with the police setting out respective expectations.

Subject: Neighbourhood Management Defined Boundary

Date of Decision: 25 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0055

Context:

To present to members confirmation of the proposed Neighbourhood Management boundary for investment of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund.

During consideration of this item it was noted that only a portion of Hensingham Ward was to be included and not the whole of it as stated in the recommendation.

Decision

That the defined boundary for targeting of the Neighbourhood Management Element of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, which includes the communities of Sandwith/Greenbank /Woodhouse/Mirehouse/Kells a portion of Hensingham and Harbour.

Subject: Single Non-Emergency Number (Snen)

Date of Decision: 25 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0058

Context:

This paper advises the Executive of developments relating to a single non-emergency number service for Cumbria

Decision

That the Executive notes the current position and agrees proposals for further work

Subject: Housing Market Renewal Investment Programme

Date of Decision: 15 August 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0066

Context:

To present the Housing Market Renewal Investment Programme for 2006-2008.

Decision

That

- a) **the Housing Market Renewal Investment Programme to support Housing Renewal in South Whitehaven and Whitehaven Town Centre be approved;**
- b) **the revised Housing Investment Programme be approved in light of the increased resources to support the Housing Renewal Investment Programme; and**
- c) **the setting aside of £47,200 be approved in principle from the balance of preserved Right to Buy capital receipts.**

Subject: Restrictions on Alcohol Consumption

Date of Decision: 15 August 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0077

Context:

Recommends consultation on making parts of Frizington "Designated Public Places

Decision

That the necessary consultation on making these parts of Frizington Designated Public Places take place as referred to in the report.