

Executive Report**ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR HENRY WORMSTRUP – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****FERGUS McMORROW – LEAD OFFICER****1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 Coalfields Update**

It was reported from the NWRDA that throughout the north west there was to be a reduction in spend from the Coalfields Programme. The unallocated funds for Copeland of £59k will be programmed into the 2006/07 financial year. If the monies committed to spend are not used in the financial year 2006/7, it will be lost to Copeland and the north west coalfield.

The application to the North West Coalfield Board held on 16th September for the Copeland Stadium has now been approved.

1.2 Review of Transport Infrastructure

The Area Transport Group previously agreed that a study should be undertaken into the impact of major transport infrastructure on regeneration and options for reducing journey times, to support implementation of our wider transformation vision, should be considered. This proposal was presented at the West Cumbria Strategic Forum. The Department for Transport agreed to assist in the scoping of the work. The study is now being progressed as part of an integrated approach to West Cumbria Masterplan requested by the Strategic Forum.

1.3 Parton/Lillyhall Bypass Inquiry

The inquiry will open on Tuesday 22nd November and is scheduled to run for 2 weeks. A pre inquiry meeting was held on 4th October. In addition to the Highways Agency there are three supporting organisations, including Copeland and six objectors.

1.4 Broadband Infrastructure

The investment in broadband connectivity has been a major success with 98% of Cumbria now having access and take up rates being relatively high. It is now important we build on that opportunity and encourage maximum use. On that note I am very pleased to see that

the Connecting Copeland Project is achieving significant success in encouraging take up.

1.5 Cycleways

Following the demise of the West Cumbria Cyclepath Company there is a need for new arrangements to ensure that the cyclepath network is properly managed and maintained. Council officers have been discussing options with our partners: Sustrans, the County Council and Allerdale Borough Council and a draft agreement has been drawn up which will be reported to the Executive shortly.

1.6 Lake District Transport Strategy

I have represented the Council on the LDTS Advisory Group for a number of years. There is a view that the Strategy has outlived its usefulness and that it no longer fits in with the other arrangements for production of the Cumbria Local Transport Plan. An alternative Lake District Transport Partnership has now been proposed composed of County councillors and Park Authority members. This body will liaise with the Area Transport Advisory Groups (I represent the Council on the Copeland Area TAG) and directly with District Councils on specific initiatives. There will also be a link to Local Strategic Partnerships through the Transport Thematic Group advising the Cumbria Strategic Partnership.

2. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

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

None