

## **NORTH WEST COALFIELD PROGRAMME**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Cllr H Wormstrup

**LEAD OFFICER:** Mike Tichford

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Brian Kirkbride

**Summary:** To inform Members of the progress of the NW Coalfield Programme for 2004/05 and 2005/06 and to present monitoring reports on activity and spend.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	That the following is noted: 1. The agreed programme for 2005/06 2. Monitoring Reports on approved projects up to June 2005 3. Progress on the Copeland Stadium Application 4. To agree proposals for the unallocated funding from NW Coalfields Programme including allocation of £50,000 from the Major Projects Fund.
------------------------	--

**Impact on delivering Copeland 2020 objectives:** This is a regional programme focusing on the economic regeneration of coalfield wards. The five strands of the programme : health, enterprise, competitiveness, community engagement and environmental improvements all complement the Council's regeneration strategies. The three projects in Phase 1 have been approved under the environmental, competitiveness and enterprise themes.

**Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):** A number of projects within the programme will have a direct impact on addressing environmental and crime issues and therefore support the Council in achieving its statutory objectives.

**Financial and human resource implications:** The total project costs identified in the 17 January 2005 Executive Report amounted to £356,759. Expenditure incurred against the Council Capital Programme in 2004/05 was £47,797 (slight underspend on original profile) the balance of £174,260 is approved for 2005/06 and £128,266 in 2006/07.

Due to the liquidation of Groundwork West Cumbria a previously claimed contribution totalling £10,000 from Wigan Council has been requested to be reimbursed.

Prior to any approval on this Executive agenda the Major Project Fund balances are £423,151 it is requested that £50,000 be allocated to this programme. Further resources are being recommended for addition to the Major Capital Fund at Full Council on the 28 July.

**Project & Risk Management:** Each project has been subject to an appraisal as part of the programme approval process. Current risks associated with the programme relate to Environmental Schemes previously managed by Groundwork West Cumbria. Details of actions taken to address these risks are contained

within the report. A presentation has also been given to OSC Environmental Well Being on 11 July 2005

### **Key Decision Status**

<b>- Financial:</b>	None
<b>- Ward:</b>	None

**Other Ward Implications:** Impacts on Coalfield Wards

### **1. NORTH WEST COALFIELD PROGRAMME 2005/06**

- 1.1 The projects identified for 2005/06 are substantially a role over the project identified in the Executive Report dated 17 January 2005. These projects are detailed below.

### **2. DETAILED PROJECTS**

2.1 Mining Communities Environmental Programme

- 2.2 This project will undertake community led environmental improvements to poor quality open spaces in the coalfield wards of Howgate, Bransty, Hensingham, and Cleator Moor North. The need for these improvements has been established through local consultation. The project will also contribute to the Engaged Communities theme of the Programme through the development of local partnerships and the Competitive Communities and Enterprising Communities themes through its support for the Groundwork Roots and Shoots ILM project.

- 2.3 The programme brings together five projects under three strands:

1. A “Gateway Project” which improves the approach to Whitehaven from the north and south along the A595 trunk road and a key route into Cleator Moor from the east.
2. A “Mining Villages Community Space Project” designed to improve the public realm in the coal mining villages of North Copeland Borough Council
3. The development of a community space in Hensingham on the site of an old quarry

- 2.4 With the liquidation of Groundwork West Cumbria the impact on the “Mining Villages Community Space Project” and the “Community Space Hensingham” has stalled progress. Further details are presented in **3.7**.

2.5 Clean and Green Team

- 2.6 The project entails the employment of two trainee operatives by the Council to form a “clean and green” team. The trainees will be unemployed people from the coalfield eligible area. They will work with the Council’s street cleansing team and parks section trainees and focus on local community environmental problems and grot spots including the removal of chewing gum. Where appropriate the Council will involve local volunteers and school pupils in the environmental improvements. The clean up team will have a dedicated works van and cleansing equipment and will be able to provide a rapid response to community requests.

2.7 Enterprising Communities

- 2.8 The Enterprising Communities Copeland Programme represents three specific projects which aim to co-ordinate a range of activities within the Coalfield wards to support growth in the capacity for establishing enterprises. The projects are as follows:

- Social Enterprise in North Copeland
  - InBiz Enterprise Support
  - Haig Colliery Mining Museum
- 2.9 Each project represents a key element/progression within a structure for supporting and growing enterprises within Copeland and are seen as integral in developing local capacity for stimulating entrepreneurship growth starting from a low skill level (Social Enterprise in Enterprise Support) and finally supporting a key community enterprise (Haig Mining Museum). To achieve the objectives identified the project s will target groups of people of employable age who are unemployed and unwaged or seeking to develop enterprises and have:
- Little or no experience of employment
  - Poor basic key skills
  - Few or no work skills

### **3. MONITORING REPORTS ON OUTPUTS**

#### **3.1 Enterprising Communities**

	2004/2005		2005/2006	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Jobs Created	0	0	5.4	0.7
Jobs Safeguarded *	2.0	0	4.0	0
Social Enterprises started	0	0	1.0	1.0
Other Business Supported	0	0	3.0	0
No completing vocational training	5.0	12.0	21.0	12.0
No Assisted with man/leadership skills	0	0	3.0	0

Note: Jobs safeguarded cannot be claimed until the post has been in existence for twelve months\*

#### **3.2 Progress is proceeding within all 3 schemes as follows:**

##### **Social Enterprise in North Copeland**

Project is progressing well and over achieving on vocational training to the unemployed and expenditure is on profile.

##### **InBiz**

An initial pathfinder event has been held and further events are proposed on 25 July in Whitehaven and 26 July in Cleator Moor to encourage new clients. Expenditure is less than originally profiled but expected to increase in quarter 2.

##### **Haig Colliery Mining Museum**

Four jobs have been safeguarded at the museum. Expenditure is on profile.

3.3 Clean and Green Team

	2004/2005		2005/2006	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Jobs Created	2	2	0	0
Jobs Safeguarded*	3	0	0	0
No undertaking work based training	0	0	8	0

Note: Jobs safeguarded cannot be claimed until the post has been in existence for twelve months\*

3.4 Two trainees have been appointed and the project is progressing well. A number of key sites have been addressed by the team ie

- King Street – Gum clearance
- A595 Whitehaven Gateway clean up
- Supporting maritime clean up

Expenditure is on profile for 2005/2006

3.5 Mining Communities Environmental Programme

	2004/2005		2005/2006	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Jobs safeguarded *	8	0	0	0
Reclamation of Brownfield Land **	0	0	89,500pri	0
Hectares of Brownfield	0	0	4	0
No undertaking work based training	1	1	0	0

Note: Jobs safeguarded cannot be claimed until the post has been in existence for twelve months\*

Note: £89,500pri relates to level of private sector funding secured to deliver the schemes.\*\*

3.6 A number of projects within this programme were to be delivered through Groundwork West Cumbria. Discussions are being held with a new Social Enterprise "Environment Cumbria" to determine how these schemes can be taken forward to completion. Current discussions are promising a further report will be presented to the executive and NW Coalfield Board in September detailing agreed delivery structures.

3.7 Gateway Project

The project is significantly finished and has provided new images and enhancements to Whitehaven. This scheme was not linked to Groundwork and will complete shortly.

### Community Space, Hensingham

This project was being led by Groundwork and work has now stopped. A meeting has been held with Environment Cumbria who have expressed an interest in seeking to complete elements of the scheme subject to meeting with representatives of the Community Group and Toni Megean and funding still being available. A meeting is being arranged in July. This project bid has expenditure in 2004/05 and Copeland did draw down funding of £10,000 this has subsequently been requested to be returned to Wigan Council.

### Mining Villages Community Space

*Birks Road* – Initial design work has been completed by Groundwork. Further land investigations are required prior to finalising the scheme. A meeting has been held with a representative of the Community Group and Environment Cumbria on the 5 July. Environment Cumbria are interested in completing this scheme and are currently clarifying funding still available and seeking estimates for land investigation.

*Parton Car Park* – A substantial amount of the scheme has been completed and paid for by the Parish Council. A meeting was held with a representative of the Parish Council on 4 July to identify a way of completing the outstanding elements of the scheme. Environment Cumbria will contact the Parish Council to discuss how they can assist.

*Lowca Footway* – Groundwork finalised a scheme design but no works have commenced. Environment Cumbria will contact the Parish Council to discuss how to take forward the scheme subject to funding still being available.

*Moresby Back Lanes* – Discussions are being held with CCC to determine detailed design requirements for the scheme. An independent project manager will be appointed by the Community Group to oversee the scheme decisions on who this will be are still to be made. Environment Cumbria have expressed an interest in this role and will contact the group directly. This project has £100,000 allocated from the NW Coalfield Programme with expenditure anticipated to be incurred this financial year. It is not anticipated that the funding and detailed scheme will be started until early next year.

## **4. COPELAND STADIUM APPLICATION**

- 4.1 A revised application for the Copeland Stadium has been developed and submitted to Wigan Council for appraisal under written procedures. It is anticipated that a decision on the £150,000 Coalfield contribution will be made in early August.
- 4.2 Subject to approval of the scheme by Wigan Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council will require confirmation of all match funding being secured and in place prior to approving the scheme locally. A report presenting details of the final scheme will be presented to a future Executive Meeting in September.

## **5. UNALLOCATED FUNDING**

- 5.1 The balance of unallocated funding approximately £50,000 is still available for designation. The Coalfield Regeneration Trust have approached the Council to present an opportunity to match unallocated funds and potentially other funds against a Coalfield Strategic Capital Fund Application to support Community Projects which provide new or refurbished facilities for community use. There is an opportunity to further increase the amount available if the Council can identify additional resources to support a bid to the Strategic Fund. It is recommended that the Council makes available an additional £50,000 from the Major Projects Fund to enhance the level of funding we can match.

- 5.2 This would give the Council the opportunity of matching the funding to create a Coalfield Capital Scheme for Copeland totalling approximately £200,000. Clarification on the administration of this fund and the requirement to ringfence for designated Coalfield areas will be confirmed prior to any formal allocation of funds.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Council notes current progress of the NW Coalfield Programme and agrees to utilising the unallocated funds as detailed within the report.

### **List of Background Documents:**

Executive Report 17.1.05

### **List of Consultees:**

Corporate Team  
Catherine Nicholson  
Phil Sutton  
Cllr Janet Johnston  
Janice Carroll  
Cllr G Blackwell  
Paul Robson