

Executive Report

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR GEORGE CLEMENTS – PORTFOLIO HOLDER

TERRY CHILCOTT – LEAD OFFICER

1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT

1.1 Community Safety

The first round of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 member training has been completed; dates for the second round will be available at the next full council. The training sessions give Members information on who in the Council is responsible for dealing with nuisance, abandoned vehicles, anti social behaviour etc. It also provides a clear outline of how we can report incidents and get support from partners.

A criminal damage task group has recently been established and they will be focussing their efforts on Greenbank, which has been highlighted as a 'hot spot area'. The types of criminal damage we will be looking at are damage to vehicles and property/dwellings.

The CDRP is working closely with the Probation Service on the 'Community Payback Scheme'. The scheme replaces the old community service punishment handed down by the Magistrates Courts. Offenders can be sentenced in court to carry out up to 300 hours unpaid work that will be of direct benefit to their community. We have a referral process in the place and you can obtain details through Louise Kelly, Community Safety Officer.

The safe and sound initiative in the South Whitehaven Partnership continues and has been extended to areas of Woodhouse covering Fell View Avenue and Basket Road, Kells. Year 1 output target was 120 houses, however 126 were actually done.

The official launch of the 'No Cold Calling Zone' took place on the 20th June. The scheme is in partnership with Trading Standards. If the scheme is a success then it will be extended to similar schemes in the area.

1.2 101 Single Non-Emergency Number (SNEN)

The Single Non-Emergency Service is a Home Office project designed to improve public access to services concerned with Crime and Disorder and Community Safety to ease pressure on the 999 service and to raise public confidence and bring improvements in non-emergency services.

The SNEN project will allow the public across England and Wales to access with one phone call information, advice and action on such subjects as anti-social behaviour, vandalism, noise, rubbish – e.g. fly tipping, drunkenness, rowdiness, abandoned vehicles, intimidation and harassment etc. Scotland and Northern Ireland are developing their own systems.

The project is being rolled out in three waves and a Cumbria wide expression of interest was submitted on 2nd June 2006 in line with the Home Office required programme for wave 2. We have now been informed that the 101 Programme Board has selected the Cumbria Partnership to move forward to Stage 2 (the bidding stage) of Wave 2.

Stage 2 will now focus on the Partnership developing a proposal to deliver the 101 service based on the detailed requirements from the Home Office and has been allocated a £100,000 grant to deliver a proposal by 6th October 2006.

1.3 SUPPORTING PEOPLE

The Commissioning Body approved the Supporting People Plan last month. This plan sets out the focus for Cumbria Supporting People for the next two years. The Supporting People Five Year Strategy that was approved by Members in 2005 has informed the plan.

The following themes are within the plan

- To improve Supporting People services
- To improve services to people living independently with support only, for example floating support provided to victims of domestic violence
- To improve services to people in receipt of care and support, for example helping adults with learning difficulties to live independently
- To improve services to people experiencing or at risk of social exclusion for example young homeless people

A copy of the plan is in the Members room.

1.4 HOMELESSNESS

I am pleased to be in a position to report that we still have no families in bed and breakfast.

1.5 CUMBRIA HOUSING STRATEGY

The Cumbria Sub Regional Housing Strategy is now completed for adoption. The strategy has been developed in two phases. The strategy and action plan are being adopted as working documents, the second and final phase consists of 20 housing market studies that will provide detailed evidence to back our strategic priorities. The whole

strategy, as a living, working document, will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and formally after 5 years.

1.6 TRUSTEEL PROGRAMME

A meeting was held with residents of Millom on the 10th July 2006 at which officers updated residents in regard to the process being undertaken and the requirements that need to be met in order to then place a contract for the works. Further engagement with each property owner will be undertaken over the next 2 months to confirm the funding and associated costs of implementation.

1.7 HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL PROGRAMME

The HMR prospectus has been approved although a formal funding offer is still pending from Government. A meeting of the Chief Executive Officer group has been held on the 11th July.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Neighbourhood Renewal Proposals

Date of Decision: 13 June 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0025

Context:

To present to Members the Neighbourhood Renewal Proposals for South Whitehaven and Hensingham and to seek endorsement to advertise for a dedicated Manager.

During consideration of this item Members asked what criteria was used for the inclusions of the areas

Decision

That a) approval of the draft delivery plan outlining the implementation of Neighbourhood Management in the wards of Sandwith, Mirehouse and Hensingham be deferred for further clarification on the criteria used for wards being included; and

b) approval be given for the appointment of a Neighbourhood Manager as detailed in the report.

Subject: Housing Capital Allocation 2006/07

Date of Decision: 4 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0033

Context:

To present to members the recommended Housing Capital Allocation for 2006/07

Decision

That

- a) the Housing Investment Programme utilising the approved Housing Capital Allocation be approved; and**
- b) the Housing Renewal Policy currently under review and which may impact on the current years Housing Investment Programme be noted.**