

RECESSION EFFECTS ON COPELAND - UPDATE

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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS

This report reviews the impact of the recession on Copeland as an area and the Council as an organisation over the past six months. It allows the Council to ensure that as far as possible its actions help to fight the impact of the recession locally to benefit the economic and general well being of its residents and communities.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE? (eg Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council,etc.)

The information keeps the Executive informed of trends in order to inform its decision making. The report specifically picks up impact over the past six months relating to the continuing private sector recession impact effects and highlights early indications of the impact of the recession on the public sector which will affect the borough severely over the next period due to its economic reliance on public sector resource and contracts.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive is asked

- a) to note the report; and
- b) take this context into account when taking decisions that could help to offset the current private sector recession impact on Copeland and the anticipated public sector cuts impact, already beginning to be felt on the local Copeland economy, residents and service providers.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This updates the Executive Report of March 2010. Since then a number of the key indicator data sets from established published sources have been released relating to 2008/2009 when the global recession started to take effect.

2. NATIONAL VIEW

- 2.1 The IMF think that the UK growth prospects have got notably worse with the forecast for 2010 reduced from 1.3% to 1.2%, with the Budget being the most likely reason. However latest official figures have confirmed that the UK economy grew by 0.3% in the January – March 2010 Quarter, while the British Chamber of Commerce predicted growth for the second Quarter to the end of June 2010 of between 0.6% and 0.7%.
- 2.2 UK inflation fell for a second month in June, to 3.2% from 3.4% in May. The Retail Price index inflation measure also fell to 5% from 5.1% in May. Unemployment seems to have peaked with the total claimant count of 1.44 million in July 2010, being 9.1% less than July 2009. However, the new Office for Budget Responsibility has forecast that 610,000 public sector jobs are expected to be lost in the next 6 years. With our reliance on public sector funding this could have a severe impact on the Cumbria economy.

3. UNEMPLOYMENT

- 3.1 One of the most significant data updates relates to unemployment which received the most direct effect in a recession. The Copeland total and percentage rate has stabilised over the last 12 months, with our formal claimant rate falling slightly between June and July 2010. Our relative position nationally is slightly worse than last year as shown by the following 'league table' rankings:-

	<i>Nos</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Position (out of 406 in GB)</i>
May 2008	1043	2.4	103
May 2009	1425	3.3	230
Dec 2009	1473	3.4	216
July 2010	1416	3.2	193

With 1 being the worst, Copeland is in the mid range position in the league table of borough unemployment rates. The recent reduction is in a seasonal high position and we are aware of a significant number of our residents on redundancy notices. We do not have an accurate figure but believe this to be around 700 residents. (checking)

- 3.2 Jobless figures measured nationally with regard to claimants and non claimants fell by 49,000 over the quarter ending June 2010 to reach 2.46 million. This relates to a jobless rate of 7.8%, a drop by 0.2%. The numbers claiming unemployment benefit has decreased on a national basis over the last 12 months with the Copeland total reducing by 16 ie 1.1%. This percentage decrease is the lowest in Cumbria and much less

than the National and Regional figures. The table shows the immediate impact of the recession was felt in Copeland, albeit less aggressively and we have till now maintained a significantly lower impact than other areas. We would argue this is linked to our employment base being reliant on public sector resource.

	<i>Copeland</i>	<i>Cumbria</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>GB</i>
May 08 - 09	+36.6%		+76.8%	+88.1%
July 09 - 10	-1.1%	-3.8%	-10.4%	-9.1%

- 3.3 The longer term figures for Copeland, ie unemployed over 12 months, are also increasing, but at a much lower rate than the Regional and National trends:-

	<i>Copeland</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>GB</i>
July08 - Jan09	+4.5%	+7.2%	+8.2%
Dec 08 - Dec09	+76.2%	+101.1%	+107.2%
July 09 - July10	+12.9%	+67.8%	+81.8%

- 3.4 The actual long term rates for Copeland over the last 12 months are now significantly less than the Regional and National figures. This is calculated as the numbers of long term unemployed expressed as percentage of total unemployed.

	<i>Copeland</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>GB</i>
December 08	8.4	9.2	8.9
December 09	12.7	14.2	13.8
July 10	12.6	17.9	18.3

- 3.5 The Job Centre ratio of claimants to vacancies at July 2010 in Cumbria was 3.4 compared to the British average of 4.88. The ratio varies significantly between districts from Copeland (7.27) and Barrow (7.15) to Eden (1.52) and South Lakeland (1.3). Copeland has the highest vacancy rate in Cumbria, well above the County and National average. However, the figure for Copeland is distorted by agencies such as Capita dealing with 75% of Sellafield vacancies and just notifying JobCentrePlus on the harder to fill occupations. Looking at the actual job vacancy numbers, the situation has improved from March 2010, although Copeland is still much higher than the County and National ratios. Also, as a general rule, the Jobcentre only receive details of about a third of all vacancies.

	<i>March 10</i>	<i>July 10 (latest)</i>
Vacancies	143	198
Claimant Count	1,547	1,416
Vacancy Ratio	10.82%	7.15%

- 3.6 The May 2010 NEET statistics for Copeland highlight that 97 of our young people are not in education, employment or training. The current rate is 6.18%. Our hot spots for high numbers of young people in this position are Distington, Harbour, Sandwith, Mirehouse, Frizington, Egremont North and Cleator Moor South.

4. LOCAL AUTHORITY CHANGES

- 4.1 This section examines how unemployment has changed over the past year at local authority district level. It uses statistics on the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) as a proportion of resident population of working age. As explained below, this is not the only measure of unemployment, but is more timely and more reliable than the main alternative at the district level. The tables show the percentage point changes in the unemployment rate over the last year.

Copeland ranks 61st nationally (out of 406) on unemployment levels which brings us within the 15% highest jobless LA areas. Recent and anticipated announcements on public sector resources may worsen this position within the next six months.

The Copeland unemployment rate has remained consistent for the last 12 months and with less volatile changes in the rest of the Country this has resulted in much smaller % point changes.

- 4.2 As unemployment, particularly in the private sector, has stabilised, the changes have become more difficult to analyse. The changes in the claimant count are varied across the Country, but in the last 12 months the percentage point changes have become much smaller, resulting in hundreds of Authorities covered by a small similar change rate. The Authorities that are still worsening are almost all in Northern Ireland and Scotland, while the ones with most improvement have perhaps been Authorities with traditional low unemployment and have been in a better position to recover.

4.3 Employment and Jobs

- 4.3.1 The Employment Census data (ABI) was released in late December and records a decrease of over a 1,000 employee jobs (mainly in manufacturing). The data needs to be treated with caution before drawing any conclusions, as the total has ranged from 27,000 – 30,000 for the last 12 years, with an average figure of 28,500.
- The Council with its partners continues to be very successful in delivering its long term target on new jobs to Copeland. In 2002 the Council set a target of helping to create 5,000 new jobs over the ten years to 2012.

When introduced this target was considered unrealistic by many as it was significantly higher than previous annual targets. Our Comprehensive Performance Assessment Inspectors in 2003 described the target as 'aspirational'. Up to the end of March 2009 (after 7 years) we had succeeded in reached a total of 4,306 new jobs created in the Borough, putting us ahead of the target.

- 4.3.2 VAT registrations have now been replaced by new and more comprehensive business demography data, containing data on 'births, deaths and survival rates' in line with new EU Legislation. The key difference is the inclusion of PAYE registered units, which will include starts and closures of businesses that are not VAT registered. The new data shows an increased stock of businesses in Copeland with a total of 2,125. In 2008 there were 265 business births and 195 business deaths, resulting in a net increase of 70. The births and survival rate figures are particularly encouraging, as the Borough has had a low stock of enterprises due to the dominance of large employers in the area:-

	<i>Copeland</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>GB</i>
New enterprises (% of stock)	12.5%	11.7%	11.7%
Survival Rates over 5 yrs	57.7%	47.2%	46.5%

- 4.3.3 The Annual Earnings Survey also shows Copeland with higher than average earnings for full time employees working in the District:-

	<i>Copeland</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>GB</i>
Gross Weekly Pay	£675	£460	£491

However, these figures mask the fact that for those not employed in the nuclear industry, Copeland can be a low wage area. Average earnings for full time employees are not available at ward level, but household income provided by CACI show the difference between the more affluent areas of the Borough North Whitehaven £609 / week and St Bees £649 / week, compared to the lower income areas such as of South Whitehaven £371 / week, Cleator Moor £414 / week and Millom £395 / week.

- 4.3.4 Tourism: According to the most recent visitor survey by Cumbria Tourism in 2009, Copeland attracted the largest number lapsed visitors – 31% of visitors to Copeland had last visited over 2 years ago. The proportion of new visitors to Copeland was the lowest in the country.

Copeland has fewer serviced accommodation than other districts. Copeland's annual occupancy rate has only dipped slightly at 51.5% as

has the average length of stay. Almost half of visitors to Copeland were accommodated by caravan / camping. The borough has significant business tourism, accounting for 32% of bed nights in 2009 (last figures available).

49% of visitors to Copeland commented that Cumbria has lovely scenery but not much else. Yet the major tourist attractions in Copeland have reported the visitors figures are up this year. For Muncaster Castle there are 6% up on summer visitors from last year. This is attributed to more people holidaying at home but there is concern that planned vat increases and fuel price increases may affect their numbers in the future. Weather plays a key part with some benefitting from rain others not.

- 4.3.5 Retail: Whilst national trends are for more vacant properties, commercial vacancy levels in Whitehaven and the smaller town centres like Cleator Moor, Millom and Egremont have been stable over the past six months. A recent survey in 2010 has shown a very slight improvement with 30 now vacant in Whitehaven, previously 31. The vacant floorspace has reduced overall with half of the Woolworths store now occupied by Poundland. The Council is talking to shop owners in line with the recognition that a number of these vacant stores need work on them by the building owners to enable them to be able to be let. The trend for low value shops to move into the town centre is continuing. This is a long term problem which requires an increase in footfall and spend to attract new retail.

5. HOUSING

5.1 House Sales

- 5.1.1 House sales provide an indication of the level of activity in the housing market. The table below shows the number of sales for England, North West, Cumbria and all the Cumbria districts between 2006 and 2009. Please note data for the whole of 2010 has not yet been published.

Table: Housing Market: Property Sales 2006-2009

	2006	2007	2008	2009	% difference (2008-2009)
England	1,223,129	1,190,311	609,840	586,894	-3.8%
North West	158,242	156,647	78,726	66,213	-15.9%
Cumbria	11,584	11,636	6,054	5,830	-3.7%
Cumbria Districts					
Allerdale	2,036	2,007	1,006	952	-5.4%
Barrow-in-	1,914	1,927	936	873	-6.7%

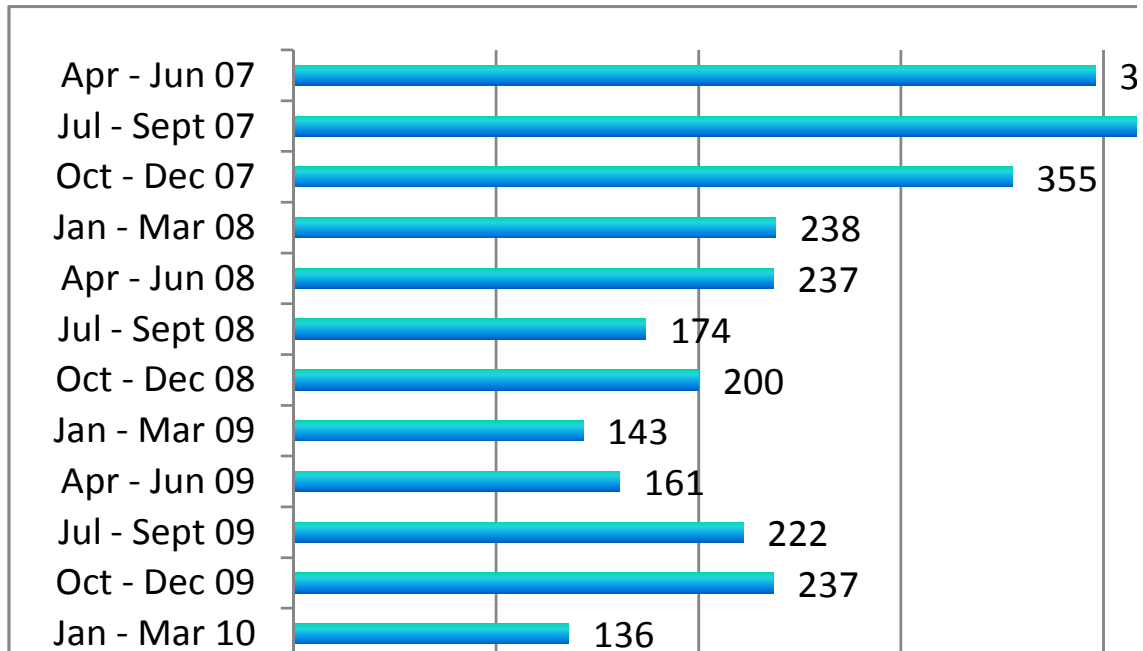
Furness					
Carlisle	2,652	2,730	1,285	1,203	-6.4%
Copeland	1,476	1,541	847	763	-9.9%
Eden	985	1,043	564	563	-0.2%
South Lakeland	2,521	2,388	1,416	1,476	+4.2%

Source: Land Registry Data from CLG website

House Sales for Copeland Borough by Quarter 2007 - 2010

- 5.1.2 The graph below provides more detailed and up to date data for Copeland in relation to house sales to show the level of activity in the market from 2007 to 2010.
- 5.1.3 Total sales for Quarter 1 of 2010 (Jan - Mar) shows a decrease in activity compared to the previous 4 quarters with only 136 sales recorded for Copeland, the lowest level recorded in data going back to 1996. This illustrates how sensitive our housing market is. Our current survey will enable us to better understand local issues impacting on sales.

Graph: House Sales – Copeland 2007 – 2010 by Quarter



Source: Land Registry Data

5.1.4 An increase in the number of sales was experienced across all property types between Q1 and Q3 2009, the largest increase was reported in the sale of semi-detached properties which rose from 45 sales in Q1 of 2009 to 78 in Q3 of 2009, terraced dwellings increased from 54 sales to 83, flats/maisonettes from 13 to 23 and detached properties from 31 to 36.

5.2 House Prices

5.2.1 The table below provides detailed median house price data for England, the North West, Cumbria and Cumbria Districts by quarter from Q1 of 2009 to Q1 of 2010.

5.2.2 The table shows that generally median house prices are either rising or staying the same over the year period where Copeland's median house price rose from £96,825 to £112,750 between Q1 of 2009 and Q1 of 2010.

Table: Median House Prices by Quarter (from Q1 2009)

	2009				2010	% difference Q1 2009 - Q1 2010
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
England	159,000	165,000	175,000	174,000	185,000	16.35%
North West	120,000	125,000	131,252	135,000	123,000	2.50%
Cumbria	130,000	132,750	144,000	150,000	133,000	2.31%
Cumbria Districts						
Allerdale	130,000	130,000	135,000	144,500	127,000	-2.31%
Barrow in Furness	85,000	95,000	100,000	112,500	100,000	17.65%
Carlisle	113,000	115,950	122,500	129,975	112,000	-0.88%
Copeland	96,825	104,000	106,375	127,000	112,750	16.45%
Eden	160,000	163,500	175,000	175,000	178,000	11.25%
South Lakeland	180,000	187,500	186,000	192,000	195,000	8.33%

Source: Land registry data from CLG website

5.3 Housing Approvals and Completions

5.3.1 Over the last year housing completions have improved, with a number of larger schemes being finished.

In 2007/08 177 gross new dwellings were completed but in 2008/09 this fell to 131, a reduction of 25%.

In 2009/10 there were 179 gross completions, although with social housing demolitions taking place in North Copeland the net figure was only 84. A significant proportion of these were on small sites with hardly any completions by the larger developers in Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom.

5.3.2 The number of net approvals of 270 (90% brown) also improved in 2009/10, compared to 253 net approvals in 2008/09 and 287 in 2007/08.

5.3.2 Affordable housing completions in Copeland were very low in the first 8 years of this decade, with only a Housing Association redevelopment for 14 units during the 6 year period up to 2009. Since then there has been an improvement, with 50 homes completed between 2008 and 31 March 2010. We have had positive redevelopment of our social housing in South Whitehaven as part of the Housing Market Renewal approach to enable a rebalance of the social housing available to match need where 98 social housing demolitions with no market or difficulties bringing up to the Decent Homes Standard at reasonable expense have been undertaken. This provides a net loss over the past 10 years of 34 housing units although when the planned 41 affordable housing completions for 2010/11 are delivered we will be in a net position of 7 affordable homes delivering to current housing need.

6. NATIONAL POLICY CHANGES

6.1 Early decisions by the Coalition Government have resulted in a number of early impacts on service delivery and economic regeneration activity in the borough. The following table highlights the key early impacts we are able to quantify. Work is being undertaken to understand the full implications of early and ongoing policy changes on the council and its residents.

Source	Loss	Impact
WNF	£98,000	Unable to underpin early community based interventions within the emerging locality plans as originally intended. Still £5k allocated to each locality and £10k to Whitehaven.
LABGI	£28,586	Unable to deliver intended retail development support activity.
NWDA	25% total budget 10/11 Expect approximately £5m to be lost to Britain's Energy Coast this financial year. Copeland's share of the loss is likely to be at least £1.5m	No full detail available on impact on BEC projects. All projects not contractually committed not receiving funding. Minimum loss to Copeland has yet to be fully calculated.
NW Coalfield Programme West Cumbria Worklessness Projects	25% total budget 10/11 £170,060 across West Cumbria	One of three project helping Copeland worklessness no longer running. Sub contract delivery of the remaining two project by a Copeland based deliverer under threat as core contractor taking all delivery in house, Workington based.
HCA		This is impacting on the delivery of the Local Investment Plan for Cumbria. HCA has £2.8m to spend in

		Cumbria in 2010/11. In practice this is small and the HCA is prioritising early deliverable schemes. Both Copeland schemes, in Millom and Egremont, did not get on the short list.
Free swimming	£82,823	Free swimming oversubscribed and now only annual budget of £21,492 so local people will have to pay. Impact on numbers using the pool is monitored by NCL.
Playbuilder	£85,901	Not able to deliver two new playgrounds in our key towns.
DCMS	£190,000	Planned remodeling of access and changing rooms for Whitehaven Pool not able to go ahead.
LAA reward grant DFG approval times stretch target	£91,667	Was £1.2m, now reduced to £650,000 for Cumbria. We would have received at least one sixth of this lost resource as we were a major contributor to over performing on the target.
Bids in process		
Future Jobs Fund Extension	£156,000	Bid for 24 additional places had favourable response to pick up unspent national resource. All unspent money withdrawn.
TOTAL early impact able to be quantified	£788,007 + £1.5m NWDA minimum	The total does not include the HCA or NWDA loss to the borough as the full detail is not available as yet.

7. EFFECT ON COUNCIL SERVICES

- 7.1 The recession, depending on its severity and duration, will impact upon the Council's own resources, both in terms of income generation from fees and charges, rates of Council Tax collection and in expenditure, in areas such as benefit claims. These areas are subject to routine monitoring and will be reported through the quarterly monitoring processes if the actual position differs to the budget.
- 7.2 Both Building Control and Development Control fee income from private sector sources continues to match expectation along with the usual fluctuations. Both teams have key schemes to deliver, including the Hospital development.
- 7.3 Over the last couple of months, Copeland Borough Car parks have seen a decrease in usage. This is related to a number of key car parks namely the Sport Centre, St Bees and School House Lane. These have seen less usage than usual. The overall impact has been financial with a difference in the region of £10k income loss based on the same time last year, ie looking at periods 1 to 5 for 2009 and 2010.
- 7.4 In the three months June to August 2010, the council's workload re housing benefit for residents of working age has increased by 2%. In the last report in March 2010 we reported a slight increase of 1.4% in the benefit caseload over the period July 2009 to February 2010.
- 7.5 Crime figures are low for Copeland and coupled with the regular police forums in our local neighbourhoods is offering a positive message to residents and communities that community safety action is being delivered. Copeland has seen a decrease in anti social behaviour incidents being 3.1% lower in 2009/10 compared to 2008/9. Youth disorder incidents have reduced by 3.8% over the same time period. The community safety partnership have ranked our top 20 super output areas as vulnerable localities using burglary, criminal damage, income, employment, education and demographic statistics. The top 20 most vulnerable areas in Copeland are in the North of the borough except one in Millom ranked at 17.

8. COUNCIL ASSISTANCE

Our Suppliers

- 8.1 In terms of payment of invoices, the Council is responding to central government's encouragement to pay suppliers promptly and in terms of the national indicator regarding the % of invoices paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice, Copeland's performance for the 5 months to 31

August 2010 was 96.1% which is an improvement on our annual performance for 2009/10 of 95.7%.

- 8.2 The Procurement team has recently held a handful of tendering workshops for local businesses. The events promoted ‘The Chest’, the website where Copeland and all the Cumbrian councils advertise their tenders, and offered hints and tips about how to put together good tender responses. Business Link also provided support packs to be distributed to attendees.

Housing

- 8.3 The Housing Options Team is able to advise on a series of options to prevent people from becoming homeless, or to help them find a new home. These include:
- Help with people experiencing landlord problems;
 - Housing Benefit and other benefit issues;
 - Providing access to mediation for families suffering problems;
 - Administering the Government’s Mortgage Rescue Scheme and advice with other mortgage problems;
 - Access to bonds to help find private lets working in conjunction with our partner DIGS;
 - Providing advice or signposting to others to give advice on complex debt problems, particularly with the Citizens Advice Bureau;
 - Along with our HB Department administering Discretionary Housing Payments;
 - Homeless prevention fund to prevent homelessness: this gives staff the ability to use their own flexibility to work with a customer to prevent homelessness;
 - Help victims of Domestic Violence.
- 8.4 After a slow start, the recession has had an increasing effect on the circumstances of some Copeland residents and in the second half of 2009/10 there was an increase in pressure on the above services compared to 2008/09. The table below illustrates but shows only limited information.

Homelessness acceptances of full housing duty	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Nos	83	54	68

It is equally significant that the Housing Options Service gave advice and assistance that helped prevent another 190 households from becoming homeless in 2009/10. At August, 2010, there are also three Copeland households in the early stages of the government’s Mortgage Rescue Scheme, having been referred by the Council’s housing staff.

- 8.5 The Council's housing capital programme made a very substantial contribution towards improving private sector housing conditions and supporting the local economy in 2009/10, as the next table shows.

Copeland Borough Council Housing Capital Programme 2009/10			
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Spent</i>	<i>Committed spending carried forward to 2010/11</i>	<i>Total combined spent and committed</i>
Disabled Facilities Grants	£598,323	£300,129	£898,452
Housing Renewal	£559,555	£193,000	£752,555
Totals	£1,157,878	£493,129	1,651,007

- 8.6 Expenditure on disabled facilities refers to the building works and services relating to installation of typically (but not exclusively) chairlifts, through-floor lifts and level access showers. These enable otherwise disabled people to remain living safely and with dignity in their own homes. Housing renewal refers to financial assistance for building works and services that remove the most serious statutory Housing Health & Safety hazards from homes in poor condition (Housing Act, 2004). Apart from making the homes of vulnerable people safe, weatherproof and warm, these activities are also an investment in the private sector stock from which this and future generations will benefit. They also support the economy, and mitigate the effects of the recession, by providing necessary and valuable employment for local building companies, heating and plumbing engineers, electricians and other trades.

Business

- 8.7 The Council has designed and is implementing a range of new projects to assist business utilising both the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives (LABGI) scheme funding and Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) to the benefit of the Copeland economy in 2009-11 reported in the last recession report. These are performing well:

- a) 'Backing Business in Copeland'

This project delivered by WCDA to assist existing business trading over 2 years has been very successful and over met targets. Outputs Sept 2009 to July 2010 are:

Business advised	88
Business reviews	85
Consultancy	25
Avg increased turnover	£69,320
Increased jobs	14
Safeguarded jobs	140
Grants provided	55

b) Ways into Successful Enterprise

Core Copeland statistics since the project began in April 2009:

Total People assisted	247	(167 male, 80 female)
JSA Claimants assisted	153	(119 male, 34 female)
IB People assisted	10	(5 male, 5 female)
Age mix:	10%	under 25 years
	15%	over 50 years
	75%	aged 26 to 50 years

Areas of most activity: Cleator Moor, Millom, Beckermeth, Egremont, Harbour, Mirehouse

c) Intensive start up project delivered by Cumbria Chamber of Commerce support statistics:

Year	Engagements	Supports	Business Starts
2009/10 (7 mths)	55	13	5
2010/11 (5 mths)	unknown	17	17

Worklessness

8.8 Appendix A highlights the outcomes to date of a range of interventions commissioned against the Council's Worklessness Framework or North West Coalfield Action Plan. These impacts provide a significant impact particularly with regard to Young People and our high NEET rates in Whitehaven, Cleator Moor and Frizington.

9 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 In summary, the highlights of the report are:

- The housing sector continues to be affected through lower house prices and . An increase in advice, assistance and homeless prevention work being undertaken by the Council has helped families and individuals to either stay in their homes or find other solutions to prevent becoming homeless.
- Unemployment has slightly reduced in terms of numbers claiming JSA yet we are now just moving into the worst 15% area nationally for unemployed claimants. This is matched with a higher than average jobs to claimants ratio than other Cumbria neighbours although this position has improved due to the seasonal factor. This is also being picked up through our increase in benefit caseload.
- The private sector has been helped by some of the measures the Council, the NWDA and the nuclear sector has funded to assist both new starts and existing businesses.
- Tourism remains a challenge in the West although families holidaying at home has maintained and increased visitor figures this summer.
- Affordable housing outputs have maintained delivery targets this year but public funding cuts are likely to impact on this in future. On a positive note, our housing strategy and LDF development activities are encouraging new private sector opportunities on the back of regeneration schemes such as housing market renewal activity in South Whitehaven.

8.2 Overall the impact of the recession on the Borough's formal stats over the past six months has evened out. Any effects on town centres have been low as our product offer is low value and is matched by the generally low spend profile of our local residents in the towns. Any impact to date has been related to the private sector response to the recession and we have expected our economy which is heavily reliant on public sector resources (especially through the nuclear industry) to be more buoyant over the past six months than other areas. We need to work more effectively with the private sector on promoting and stimulating the market in our towns and non nuclear sectors to support their sustainability whilst recognising many of our private sector providers are reliant on public sector incomes and contracts.

8.3 Positively, the council has been able to be flexible in supporting and delivering services and targeted initiatives to assist local people affected by the recession directly. Our LABGI resources have been used to deliver and commission services to assist local businesses. The worklessness partnership we lead has been more effective in working

together to assist young people and people at threat of redundancy. The council's services continue to work with individual cases, eg homelessness and benefit support to ensure residents are able to feel confident that they will be supported at a time of increased personal stress. Particularly, improved partnership working has been key to the council being able to respond flexibly to meet the challenges faced by residents from the global recession.

- 8.4 However, we are now in a rapidly changing situation which is threatening the public sector spend necessary to support our local economy. The national policy changes implication detail in Section 6 sets out the beginnings of an ongoing picture of recession related impacts as a result of the public sector response to addressing the national effect of addressing the global recession. The actions we are delivering and developing with our partners, including Britain's Energy Coast, face uncertain futures. The Council will need to continue to use all its influence to oppose any major reductions in local public sector spending programmes locally to protect our economy. Our regeneration aspirations remain key to enabling increased economic activity in our major settlements and to assist our smaller settlements to be sustainable. The council is preparing to manage with significantly smaller annual revenue resources but will be looking to maintain its existing improvements and recession actions including payment turnaround times and prevention work eg around homelessness.
- 8.5 As highlighted through the priority setting work of the Council's Choosing to Change, the Cumbria Sustainable Community Strategy, the localities and Copeland LSP, jobs and young people continue to be a core priority for Copeland. The councils actions are making a strong contribution to assisting business and alleviating worklessness. How we can continue this post 2011/12 is a clear workstream for staff working with partners on strategy, joint projects and identifying improvements for joint working and possible low cost interventions. Our partnership relationships have become increasingly important.

9. WHAT ARE THE LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS?

- 9.1 There are no direct financial or human resource implications arising from this report.

10. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?

- 10.1 The report provides an overview only individual project details have been considered elsewhere

11. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?

11.1 This report a review report which will influence policy and decisions made by the Council. The outcome will be Council decisions more sensitive to the the current economic circumstances.

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Worklessness activity in last 12 months

List of Background Documents:

Existing statistics and national websites

Appendix A

Copeland Statistics around Worklessness / Unemployment (last 12 months)

(Initiatives funded by WNF, Department of Work & Pensions, North West Coalfields)

Young People aged 18 – 24 securing employment through Copeland’s Future Jobs Fund initiative (Scheme runs till March 2012)

Jobs created: 48

Permanent Job Outcomes to date: 2

Geographical locations where jobs have been created:

Whitehaven – 26

Cleator Moor – 7

Egremont – 2

Muncaster – 1

Millom – 6

Maryport – 1

Workington - 5

Support to the recently made redundant:

- 57 redundancy clients engaged, 42 of which accessed vocational and accredited training

Support through Intermediate Labour Market initiatives:

-35 residents received front line support,

-16 NEET young people engaged,

- 9 year long training placements with NVQ being undertaken,
- 6 year long construction training placements being undertaken,
- 6 supported jobs &
- 7 new jobs created
- 36 clients engaged with (North West Coalfields activity)

Support to Incapacity Benefit claimants:

- 55 clients engaged with (NW Coalfields)
- 88 clients engaged with (Pathways to Arts)

Support to the hard to reach through grassroots interventions:

-198 clients engaged with on the Grassroots intervention initiative

Support to young people accessing employment, education & training through transport scheme:

-5 individuals supported into employment, education or training

Support to young people into volunteering:

- 226 young volunteers engaged with