

**Executive Report to Full Council – 11 September 2014**

**Leader – Councillor Elaine Woodburn**

**Beacon Museum**

The Beacon after a break of two years resurrected its popular summer workshop programme for families. Nearly all have been fully booked which is a really positive achievement. It will also continue this focus on encouraging family engagement with the Museum and exhibits this summer. A four week Family Summer Pass has been on offer at £15 for 2 adults and 3 children during the school holidays, 68 families took advantage of this offer reusing the ticket by returning more than once during the 4 weeks.

Artwork from the Copeland Collection has been out on show in the Harbour Gallery with “The Fowlers” Exhibition this summer. Taught by one of the most celebrated portrait painters of the Victorian era, the setting of Eskdale inspired much of the work seen by over 70 visitors each week in the free to access gallery. The new exhibition in the Harbour Gallery from 13<sup>th</sup> September is ‘Gone Fishing’ a photographic portrayal of the commercial fishing industry in Cumbria.

**Copeland Partnership**

50 Participants engaged in the 9<sup>th</sup> Partnership Conference which focused on housing, mental health and healthy weight in Copeland. A number of issues and potential joint actions were identified including

**Action 1: Mental Health**

Individual partners are working on actions below – the partnership is considering what can be jointly worked on:

- Strengthen partner protocols and responsibilities - joint working around topics. CBC as the strategic housing authority will continue with their work in this area re housing related issues.
- Better co-ordination and sharing information - Who is best placed to enable this?
- Open education and awareness to shift pride and cultural barriers – Is there a project here with partners and a natural lead?
- Importance of access and social action particularly linked to isolation – How should this happen is there a natural lead partner?
- Comment and influence emerging mental health strategy - request to the Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum to influence the co-ordination of information out and incorporate the range of local agency and partner feedback within their response.

## **Action 2: Healthy Weight**

The Copeland Healthy Weight Group is already in place. The suggestions to address the issues will be fed into the next group meeting. The developing action plan will set out partnership actions which can then be fed back at future Copeland Partnership meetings. Healthy Weight PIs will be monitored by the Copeland Health and Wellbeing Forum.

## **Action 3: Housing Need**

Partners were invited to add in to the questionnaire feeding into the housing needs refresh. The draft refresh along with vulnerable household housing issues will be taken to the next Copeland Housing Partnership for further discussion. Housing development issues will get picked up at the Housing Partnership and through the Growth Strategy activities in Copeland and at the LEP.

## **Geological Disposal Facility**

Following a period of stakeholder consultation on 24th July Government published 'A New Process for Siting a Geological Disposal Facility for the Long-Term Management of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste' in the form of a White Paper. This White Paper sets out a number of initial actions that will be undertaken by the UK Government and by the developer (Radioactive Waste Management Limited) to help implement geological disposal. It also sets out a number of key principles and commitments that will shape the subsequent process of working with communities to identify and assess potential sites. Initial actions include establishing an upfront process of national screening, based on known geological information and in England, bringing GDFs, and the borehole investigations that support their development, within the statutory definition of 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' within the Planning Act 2008. A further initial action will be around developing the process of working with communities, including deciding on an approach to community representation, which will be informed by a community representation working group convened following publication of the White Paper. Formal discussions between interested communities and the developer will not begin until the initial actions set out in this White Paper have been completed, in around 2016.

## **Sellafield Socio-Economic Plan**

The Council continues to work with Sellafield Ltd on the company's approach to socio-economics and their socio-economic plan and this work is likely to continue until the end of the year. Also members will heard first hand more about the plans of the nuclear partners at a special meeting arranged for the day before Full Council.

## **Cumbria Nuclear Summit**

On 10<sup>th</sup> June Leaders and Chief Executives from all Cumbria local authorities along with representatives from Cumbria Police, Lake District National Park Authority, Sellafield Ltd, BAE Systems Ltd, NuGeneration Ltd and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority were invited to a meeting to hear about key proposals within the energy and nuclear sectors in Cumbria and to consider the cumulative impact and opportunity of those proposals. The summit was in response to a request from District Leaders to learn more about the nuclear sector.

## **Centre for Nuclear Excellence (CoNE)**

The Summit attendees also heard about the work to develop West Cumbria as the Centre of Nuclear Excellence for the UK, which continues to move forward. Although at an early stage the partners involved in the process have agreed a concept paper and are implementing a communications plan which will aim to establish the concept amongst stakeholders across the County and into UK Government. Partners are also working on developing collaborative approaches to key issues around skills, infrastructure, R&D and opportunities to commercialise local specialist skills.

## **Finance and HR Portfolio – Councillor Gillian Troughton**

### **Accommodation**

As part of the Delivering Differently Programme, we want to make the most efficient and effective use of our office accommodation for our staff and all Members. We want to make sure we are accessible to the public and provide our services in the best way possible within our tight budget constraints. We have formed a Members' Accommodation Working Group, Cllrs Woodburn, Holliday, Troughton and F Wilson, to look at the options available. The first meeting was held on 11 August where some key policy principles and guidelines were discussed.

In parallel, we are very keen for our staff to have a say in any outcomes so staff and trades union representatives have been invited to get involved with a Staff Accommodation Working Group. There has been a good response so far and the first meeting will take place in September. We will keep all Members updated at key milestones as the project progresses.

## **Transition and Performance Portfolio – Councillor Allan Holliday**

### **Corporate Plan Performance Report**

The first quarter Council Plan performance report of 2014/15 has been compiled and sets out the Council's performance in relation to its three priorities.

These are:

- **Deliver efficient and effective statutory services**
- **Be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland**
- **Working in partnership with communities**

Whilst our operating conditions remain difficult, the report demonstrates how our teams continue to strive to deliver key services and a range of projects on behalf of the people of Copeland.

### **Delivering Differently**

Delivering Differently is a portfolio of projects and other work which will deliver the strategic priorities of the Council.

Several Phase 1 projects are now complete. This includes process improvements and installation of Multi-Function Printers.

Projects which are currently underway include installation of the Environmental Health system which will provide enhanced functionality allowing information to be managed and reported in one place and a customer access portal for Planning and Building Control is being developed in house and will go live in September.

The next areas of project activity will be to introduce better IT systems into Waste Services and Housing and a work programme around accommodation and mobile working.

Delivering Differently also includes workforce development of which includes up skilling staff. Areas of training identified, as part of the programme, include Project Management, Managing Change, Strategic Risk, and Working Commercially.

## **Environment Portfolio – Councillor Peter Kane**

### **Waste changes**

Despite the significant changes already made the ongoing project to drive efficiencies into waste collection continues to progress. Changes earlier this year saw wheeled bins being introduced to around 500 further homes in Millom and Haverigg. The most recent large

scale change took place at Pica where around 90 homes moved from a weekly sack collection to an alternate weekly wheeled bin collection. Making the service more efficient enables the service to accommodate the large number of new properties being developed without the need for additional vehicles. As work has already begun on producing the new annual waste calendars in October, to avoid any confusion this is likely to be the last large scale set of changes for some time.

### **Enforcement Activities**

Members may have noted from the local media the Enforcement team have been working hard to raise the profile of one of the most prolific nuisances in Whitehaven town centre, cigarette litter. The campaign began with leaflets being produced and distributed for display to a wide range of premises throughout the town including public houses. Early indications are that the campaign has had some success with cigarette litter being less evident in the main retail areas. Some problem areas still exist but the combined approach of raising awareness, thorough cleansing and enforcement has highlighted an improved position in the town.

The team have also been targeting irresponsible dog owners and dog fouling through the use of stencilled signs painted on pavements and other hard surfaces in identified problem areas. Stencils have been applied in areas of Egremont, St Bees, Frizington, Bransty, Moresby, Millom, Beckermest and in Whitehaven on the cycle path. In some areas officers have been working alongside members from parish councils to identify the most suitable locations. This work has been highlighted in the local press and has also been used on a number of social media sites.

Linked to this I can report that 22 fixed penalty notices have been issued in the first quarter of 2014-15 for a variety of environmental offences ranging from dog fouling and dropping litter to breaches of dog control orders. A commercial premise also received a fixed penalty notice for a breach of their duty of care relating to how they managed their commercial waste.

### **Community Planning Portfolio – Councillor Geoff Garrity**

We have carried out a benchmarking exercise which shows excellent improvements in the number of households with children in temporary accommodation compared to last year. Of the six districts in Cumbria, four have shown an increase, Copeland has shown a decrease of over 50%. The housing options team have been working very closely with families to keep them in their current accommodation, preventing evictions and ensuring private landlords make repairs to properties that are 'unfit' has resulted in a reduction in the number of children in temporary accommodation.

The Housing Services Manager is working with the other five district leads in Cumbria to develop a whole systems approach for residents needing adaptations to their properties. This will ensure an increase in collaborative working; a consistent approach across Cumbria; sharing knowledge and information and joint working to maximise the use of resources.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) is almost complete and will be reported to the Strategic Housing Panel in September.

## **Community Regeneration Portfolio – Councillor Hugh Branney**

### **Leisure**

#### **Copeland Pool Fitness Extension**

Works on the new gym facility at the pool are progressing with an expected completion date of 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014. The new fitness suite will be open to existing Be Active and Be Active Plus members on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, general public on the 25<sup>th</sup> with the official opening on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

#### **Youth Regeneration and Engagement**

- Young people continue to be introduced to the democratic process: during the summer over 100 attendees of the National Citizens Service scheme have worked with the Youth Regeneration and Development Officer on awareness-raising.
- Signal Film and Media have been commissioned to work with young people across the borough to create video action plans for each locality this autumn 2014.
- Young people are getting involved in the Copeland coastal regeneration project starting Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2014, with the Great British Beach Clean: six stretches of coastline will be cleaned and litter logged as part of the Marine Conservation Societies national scheme.
- Youth forums are developing a greater online presence by using social media to address barriers to participation. Online ‘champions’ are being trained in each locality.

### **Work and Skills**

The Council have been a key partner with Morgan Sindall and Arup in designing and piloting a new employment initiative “Creating Careers in Cumbria”. The pilot aimed at bringing local residents out of unemployment and into work, training and skills development ran in May with 30 participants. All 30 received training in the areas of Site Operations, Health and Safety, Commercial and Administration. 13 participants received a work placement within both companies. All participants obtained updated CV and their details passed into

the supply chain with 50% securing direct employment within Morgan Sindall, Arup or the Supply Chain locally. This pilot will now be rolled out in the autumn.

### **Community Regeneration**

The following is a flavour of some of the work being undertaken in the localities with the support of the community regeneration team:

- Millom Recreation Centre: the centre continues to develop the business plan around the extension of the existing building to create a soft play centre and a state of the art gym. The 30 year lease will enable them to apply for funding for this project with some confidence and helps to consolidate their current position creating a more sustainable future. The idea of a new swimming pool has not been forgotten but the focus is on developing the project around plans that have already been approved.
- Millom Network Centre has started rolling out work on the new Work and Skills centre which is the refurbishment of a redundant industrial unit on Devonshire Road into a modern facility designed to deliver vocational training and business incubation. The new business incubation workshops are now in place and work had started on the new entrance, doors and windows. This development known as MNC Unit3 is part of the Rural Growth Network and is designated as an employment site.
- Following funding from CCF and HLF work is currently being carried out in Boot Eskdale to open up footpaths and bridleways around the river Esk to allow better access for all and to celebrate and interpret the Religious and Industrial Heritage of the area. The work is being project managed by the National Park but is a great example of partnership working between the community, LDNP/CCC/NT and CBC.
- The proposal for a new café and toilet amenity on Silecroft beach has been submitted to Lake District NP planning board following extensive work from the group driving the Community Actions Plans which has been supported and coordinated by one of the Council's community regeneration officer.