

Executive Report to Full Council – 7 December 2010

Transformational Leadership

Budget Update - Councillor Elaine Woodburn

The Government announced the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review on 21st October 2010. The full details of this announcement are still being worked through and further clarification is still being sought on a number of issues. Initial estimates, based on projections supplied by the Local Government Association suggest that the impact for Copeland will be a budget shortfall of approximately £2 Million in 2011/12 rising to between £3-4 Million by 2014/15.

Work on closing the budget gap for 2011/12 is already on going through the “Star Chamber” process which has been led by our Corporate Leadership Team, and the Resource Planning Working Group are currently working through a list of options for recommendation to close the budget shortfall.

The budget process is still on target to make recommendations to the Executive and ultimately Full Council on the 22nd February 2011

Nuclear New Build – Councillor Elaine Woodburn

The recent announcement by NuGeneration Ltd – the new consortium of Iberdrola S.A, GDF SUEZ S.A and Scottish & Southern Energy plc that is progressing plans for a new nuclear power station on land adjacent to Sellafield, was welcomed by everyone. The newly formed company will also shortly confirm the date for a local stakeholder launch event in January and progress regarding establishing an interim local office at Westlakes.

The focus for the company over the next 18 months will be on assessing whether or not the site can be built on for a nuclear reactor. Initial site assessment/borehole work is underway and the aim is to resolve all major planning issues before an investment decision is made in 2014 with a projected start on site date of 2016.

As the nuclear power station project is dependent on upgrades to the National Grid network the consortium partners are meeting with National Grid on a regular basis to ensure the planning processes for both projects are compatible.

Discussions between National Grid and Cumbria and Lancashire local authorities continue regarding National Grid proposals for enhancing the grid route through Cumbria with the focus being the mechanism for consulting with the community regarding potential route options.

A Nuclear New Build Spatial Planning Group led by the Borough Council and including all Cumbria and Lancashire local authorities and the Lake District National

Park Authority is jointly considering the spatial implications of potential nuclear new build and potential grid route options

The new coalition government announced in the summer that it intended to re-consult on the draft National Policy Statements for Energy and the consultation period was launched in October. The Government intend to hold 3 national consultation events in London, Bristol and Manchester during November. In addition the Government's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has accepted an invitation from Copeland Borough Council to attend a local consultation event in Whitehaven on 9th December to which all Members of the Council have been invited. The consultation process allows stakeholders and local people to comment on the government's response to the original consultation. The response proposes that the sites at Braystones and Kirksanton are taken out of the Nuclear NPS as potential sites for new nuclear power stations based on issues of visual intrusion and deliverability by 2025. The consultation exercise closes on 24th January 2011 and the Government intends to publish the final documents later in 2011. All Members will be given the opportunity to feed into Copeland's response to the consultation.

Cumbria LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) – Councillor Elaine Woodburn

The Government has in the past two months approved the Cumbrian bid for a Cumbria LEP. The Cumbria Leadership Board agreed to establish a Cumbria LEP Board as soon as possible with an interim private sector Chair being appointed first. Current thinking is to have a board of 12 members in accordance with Government requirements and provide an even balance of private and public representation.

Work is ongoing by a small steering group from private and public sector bodies to develop a transition plan, prepare a communications protocol, look at possible structures and advise both the Cumbria Leadership Board and the private sector representative organisations during the establishment phase. Cumbria is receiving feedback from the North East Transition Group and the North West Project Boards (on transition) and using this to inform the possible future sub regional functions for Cumbria, including Cumbrian assets, which will be overseen by the Cumbria LEP.

Hospital Update – Councillor Elaine Woodburn

I had hoped to provide Members with information on the outline business case that is needed for the WCH, but at the time of writing there is no further information, that we have being made aware of. Members raised concerns at the last meeting around the headlines over job losses and even though I have wrote to the Trust I am still awaiting a response, but what I did receive was the following statement issued by Carole Healty.

As you all know the Trust continues to face significant challenges this year, and over the forthcoming years to respond to the well publicised reductions in NHS funding whilst still needing to maintain high quality safe patient care and to progress our application to become a Foundation Trust.

In order to respond to this fast changing environment we must also continue to implement service improvements and efficiencies within the Trust and this work has been taking place over the last few months.

The Trust Board realises that this has been a very difficult time for all our staff and understands that this has affected morale in some parts of our hospitals. It is important to stress that although some tough decisions have been taken, and continue to be taken, our actions do in fact mean no nursing staff on our frontline have been placed at risk of redundancy.

We said in our *Fit for the Future* road shows in April and October that it was important our efficiency plans while saving money continued to maintain high standards of patient care and also ensure that patient safety remained our top priority.

We have informed staff of the key reviews that are being carried out and this briefing has been developed to provide you all with a progress report.

Bed reconfiguration at both hospitals to ensure that we have fully implemented our requirements under Closer to Home

A key strand of work in our efficiency plans was to review the bed utilisation across the Trust to ensure that the bed numbers matched the needs of the service as well as continuing to deliver effective patient pathways.

Changes are taking place at the Cumberland Infirmary which includes the reduction of 10 beds within the medical floor. This has been achieved through efficiencies and by introducing a day case unit for oncology and haematology patients.

We have also separated the pathway of care for surgical and medical emergency patients, where surgical emergency patients will be managed within the Beech Floor.

There is also a reduction of 10 beds within surgery and this has been achieved by developing our elective services in line with best practice, for example increasing our Day Case Procedures as well as providing a new 23 hour ward within the Day Case Unit to allow patients to return home quicker after their procedure. The Aspen Ward will continue to function in its present format and location but it will also include other female surgical patients.

The Family Services Division is also reviewing the provision of inpatient beds within children's services and it is anticipated that this will lead to changes to the patient pathway, which will be agreed by the clinical teams.

The Clinical Teams at West Cumberland Hospital have been working towards reducing bed numbers in line with Closer to Home, which is now near completion. The next stages of this will include the physical moving of ward areas to accommodate the planning and preparation requirements for the new build.

The Palliative Care Unit is currently being temporarily housed within Ullswater Ward due to staff sickness. In the long-term, there is a proposal to provide this service within the Copeland Unit and discussions are at an advanced stage to move forward to implementation as soon as possible.

There has also been a reduction of beds within paediatrics, which happened in the summer. This includes the provision of 8 assessment beds and 7 inpatient beds. The model will continue to be reviewed in conjunction with our primary care colleagues and is linked to the development of community services.

It is important to stress that this work supports our commitment to the bed reconfiguration proposals set out in Closer to Home in consultation with our primary care trust and GP colleagues.

Nursing review

You will be aware that we are in the process of reviewing our nursing structures to ensure that we can meet the needs of our patients in the future.

Nursing is at the forefront of ensuring our patients receive the best and safest care our hospitals can provide. To deliver this, our ward areas should have strong and visible leadership with the rights skills and staffing levels being in place.

This work started in September and we have been carrying out weekly meetings through planned drop-in sessions to discuss this review with our nursing teams.

One of our main considerations for this review is to ensure that we have the right leadership, nursing skills and staffing levels in our ward areas to deliver high quality care and maintain patient safety.

Through these weekly discussions we were asked to benchmark our proposed nursing structure against other hospitals in the region. We have now completed this benchmarking and will be sharing this with the teams in the week commencing Monday 29 November 2010.

It is important to stress that a significant portion of our workforce is nursing therefore we need to ensure that procedures are in place to support our nursing teams through this organisational change.

Management structure review

We announced following our *Fit for the Future* road shows in October 2010 that we would leave no stone unturned in driving forward our efficiencies and promised that our overall Trust management structure would also be reviewed

A review of the management structure will start on Monday 29 November 2010.

Locality Working – Councillor John Bowman

Across the county, Locality Working is being recognised as the primary way in which service providers can support communities to make the most of opportunities that might arise within the Big Society. The network of localities in Copeland that is now emerging and growing stronger provides a strong base for increasing engagement and encouraging and coordinating community activism, sharing learning and best practice across our communities and increasing grassroots influence. Progress is being made in all the localities with the newer partnerships coming on line and starting to deliver against identified priorities. Established partnerships, with agreed structures, such as Howgate/Distington and NE Copeland are concentrating on existing projects and priorities. The latter is completing its Connecting Communities programme over the next two months and will use the information both to refresh the Locality Plan and engage with local public and third sector organisations to improve delivery against the issues identified. The Whitehaven locality has agreed an interim constitution and is gaining strength through tackling immediate environmental problems and setting out its framework for engagement with the business and tourism sector as well as its support to young people. West Copeland is using a Community-led Planning approach to pull together parish and town priorities, which will inform its Locality Plan. West is consulting on an interim partnership agreement to oversee their joint working. South Copeland and 5 Rivers are seeking to add further detail from available evidence and existing parish plans to inform their action plan. South Copeland is currently pursuing key regeneration projects, including its tourism agenda.

A more complete update on all the localities has been sent separately to all members. All locality plans will be available in draft form by the end of the year for inclusion in the draft Copeland Sustainable Community Plan. All Localities are now working on a quarterly basis together to agree priorities and share learning, which they will feed into the Copeland Partnership conference twice a year,

Improving Quality of Life

Housing Implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review – Councillor George Clements

The announcement of the Comprehensive Spending review (CSR) and the documents published at the same time have profound consequences for customers of Local Authorities' and Registered Social Landlords' housing services.

The national Supporting People Programme (SP) faces a 12% cut over 4 years with 2.7% in 2011/12. The accountable body in Cumbria is the County Council with a Commissioning Body drawn from the District Councils and other partners. At the time of writing the County Council's response is unknown and the Strategic Housing Panel will receive more information in due course

The Homelessness Revenue Grant remains relatively unchanged (Copeland's allocation was £36,050 in 2010/11). Ministers and their advisers see the prevention of homelessness in recent years as a success worthy of continuing investment. We must wait to see whether there is any change to our annual allocation of £36,050

Increasing the age threshold for the shared room rate in Housing Benefit from 25 to 35. Raising the age threshold of the shared room rate in Housing Benefit to 35 years is expected to save £570M by 2015 and affect over 88,000 people. It is most likely to impact on levels of homelessness.

This and other announced or forthcoming changes to the Local Housing Allowance or Housing Benefit, and a potential increase in social housing rents to 80% of market rents for new tenants and a new tenure model for them are worthy of a separate report to the Strategic Housing Panel and consequently Full Council if needed.

Government funding for the National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP) will reduce from £8.4B in the last spending round to £4.5B over 2011/15.

Funding for Disabled Facilities Grants has been protected and will rise with inflation. Copeland's allocation for DFGs in 2009/10 and 2010/11 was £210K in each year. For 2011/12 we have bid for £675K against an anticipated expenditure of about £1M

The reduction by half of Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) funding for the National Affordable Housing Programme appears severe in headline terms but it comes against a background of a very high level of investment in 2008/11, the highest in the decade. Just over half of the £4.5B that is available will be spent on existing commitments, so funding will not be withdrawn from schemes that have already been agreed by the HCA.

Yet the government have announced that their package of measures can deliver 150,000 new affordable homes by 2015, though it is unclear how they intend this to happen in reality.

Housing Pages on the Website – Councillor George Clements

In supporting the Council's move to have more information for self service on line it is good to report that there has been a great improvement in the housing information on the Council's website with some forms available for completion on line with more to follow.

Neighbourhood Forums – Councillor George Clements

Along with housing staff I attended Neighbourhood Forums across the Borough to deliver presentations on the forthcoming Cumbria Choice Based Lettings System. The scheme is currently scheduled to go live in April 2011 and staff are currently being trained in anticipation of the start date

Equality and Diversity Assessment – Councillor Norman Williams

As Members will know this Council is to be assessed against the "Achieving" level of the Equality Framework for Local Government on 29 and 30 November.

However, it is clear that the Council continues to make positive progress in this area. A recent example is the decision of the Taxi and General Licensing Panel on 5 November 2010 that as from that date all hackney carriage vehicles licensed by the Council shall be accessible by disabled persons whilst in a wheelchair and that they should be able to travel in safety and reasonable comfort whilst in a wheelchair. The decision does not apply to vehicles already licensed as at that date or vehicles subsequently licensed under an existing plate number.

A consultation exercise is also to be undertaken to help the Panel to decide generally how to move taxi accessibility forward in light of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which came into force in October.

Community Safety Partnership – Domestic Abuse - Councillor Norman Williams

The Community Safety Partnership Domestic Abuse Task Group meets every other month. A range of actions are being looked at to address the continuing priority area of reducing domestic abuse incidents and repeat offences. Some of the partners that attend this meeting include Copeland Borough Council housing options team, the Police, Health Service, Probation, CAB, Fire Service, Allerdale Borough Council and many more. A recent project focused on 'Not in My Home' which is a Domestic Violence reporting website. Action is to have a link available on all partners website for West Cumbria Residents to report incidents. This website would work in conjunction with other community safety activities and encourage developing the ability for third party reporting on domestic abuse incidents. Another activity is

looking at a 'Champion' from each agency who would be trained in the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) procedures relating to Domestic Abuse and then to roll out awareness and use of procedures to all front line staff, raising the awareness of Domestic Violence. Copeland Borough Council working with partners does have a sanctuary scheme to help victims to stay safely in their homes with specific support.

Christmas Waste Arrangements – Councillor Allan Holliday

The 2011 waste collection calendars are currently being printed and will be distributed to homes in the Borough shortly. All households on the twin bin service as well as those who have their recycling collected will receive a calendar showing collection dates for both the Christmas period and the whole of 2011.

Acting on past feedback from residents, garden waste collections will continue further into December than they have in the past thereby maximising the opportunity to recycle. This means that collections of garden waste (brown bins) are suspended for 5 weeks from Monday 13 December until mid January. During this period black bins will be collected weekly except for the week between Christmas and New Year when there will be no refuse collections at all. Collections in the week leading up to Christmas Eve and in the week following New Years Day will be operated as normal including Monday 3 January 2011.

To encourage recycling, both black box, and plastic bottle and cardboard collections are being continued throughout the Christmas period. In addition for those services, collection days are unchanged.

Full details of collection dates can be found on the calendars being distributed and details can be found on the website. Recycling bring sites will remain open as normal over the Christmas and New Year period. The trade waste service will also continue throughout the period for our business customers.

Markets – Councillor Allan Holliday

As part of working with the market traders and taking on their concerns, we are going to be helping regular market traders attending Whitehaven Market by allowing them a two week payment holiday every year. This will be offered to traders that have stood on a regular pitch on Whitehaven Market for a minimum period of 12 months. At the same time new traders are being encouraged to try out Whitehaven Market at lower than normal rates for an introductory period. In addition to the discounted rates, a partnership with Enterprise Whitehaven means that a limited number of stalls are available for new traders for the introductory period. Early discussions have also been held into whether the markets can support start-up businesses. It is hoped that this initiative will lead to an increase in traders standing on Copeland's markets and a wider range of goods being available for shoppers.

Promoting Prosperity

Business Continuity Planning – Councillor Cath Giel

All district councils have a duty to promote business continuity planning as part of their emergency planning responsibilities. Copeland Borough Council is working with Business Link North West to ensure businesses can access resources they need to prepare business continuity plans. These plans are to ensure they are prepared for any event that might impact on their ability to trade effectively. This could be due to natural events such as flooding through to changes in legislation or power supply problems.

There is an extensive range of information on the Business Link web site and to ensure businesses are aware of this, all Copeland businesses on the Business Link I database will receive a jointly branded e- mail shot urging them to take up the offer of assistance. In addition there will be a piece in Copeland Matters giving the relevant web link. Other promotional jointly branded activities will be carried out over the next few months.

Copeland Backing Business Project – Councillor Cath Giel

£125,000 was made available over 2 years, 2009-2011 from LABGI money to fund a joint initiative with West Cumbria Development Agency to meet the needs of existing businesses within Whitehaven and other town centres. The programme offers enhanced help to businesses with fewer than 250 employees which are not covered by the Nuclear Supply Chain project, focussing on the retail, service and tourism sectors reflecting specific needs as identified in the Service Plan and also the priorities of the Energy Coast.

The project commenced in July 2009 and has exceeded all targets so far. Outputs are as follows:

	Total 2009/10 July – March	Total to date 2010/11 April – October
Businesses Advised	56	52
Business Reviews	52	50
Consultancy	15	18
Increased Turnover	43000	71320
Safeguarded Turnover	0	39000
Increased Jobs	1.5	5
Safeguarded Jobs	6.5	3
Grants awarded	35	34

The programme also funds a Copeland Advisor role which is reviewing what Whitehaven town centre and the surrounding areas of Copeland really needs, pulling together communication between various groups, networks and organisations. The Advisor has worked closely with all the business networks in the borough and a

series of development seminars, courses and events have been held in each of the towns to help businesses maximise their potential, increase sales and profitability and identify areas for growth.

As part of the initiative a Copeland business directory has also been produced and it is hoped that this will become a useful tool for people wanting to locate suppliers of materials and services in Copeland.

Ways into Successful Enterprise – Councillor Cath Giel

Ways into Successful Enterprise (WISE) is a joint project which provides a service of enterprise coaches in the communities of Copeland and Allerdale. A first very successful awards ceremony was held in September to celebrate businesses who through WISE have managed to start up and progress since the project commenced in April 2009. The event was sponsored by UCLan and NMP with prizes sponsored by Fred Story, UCLan and Babcock.

The following is an up to date overview of how the project is progressing in the Copeland areas as at end October 2010:

299 people have been assisted to date, 165 of these were JSA claimants, 17 IB people and 117 others and were split amongst the wards in Copeland as follows:

Ward	Nos. Assisted
Arlecdon	6
Beckermet	11
Bootle	3
Bransty	12
Cleator Moor North	28
Cleator Moor South	17
Distington	5
Egremont North	16
Egremont South	11
Ennerdale	2
Frizington	5
Harbour	14
Haverigg	3
Hensingham	8
Hillcrest	4
Holborn Hill(Millom)	58
Kells	6
Lamplugh	1
Lowca	1
Mirehouse	24

Moresby	5
Newtown (Millom)	37
Parton	2
Sandwith	6
Seascale	10
St Bees	4

The team is continuing to raise the profile of the project and engage with new clients and has recently made links with Haverigg Prison and collaborated with the Library Service to organise drop-in centres.

Dilapidated Buildings – Councillor Cath Giel

The Anchor at Frizington was finally demolished in October 2010. This is the final result of consistent inaction by the owner to carry out works to improve the appearance of the building despite being given every opportunity to do so.

The council undertook to tackle dilapidated properties in 2008 and prioritised six buildings to be addressed in 2009 and 2010. We have been successful on all six properties:

The Anchor – now demolished at the expense of the owner;

Methodist Church, Cleator Moor – action resulted in the sale to a new owner who is now being encouraged to undertake necessary works;

8 Market Place, Whitehaven - action resulted in the sale to a new owner, renovation works have commenced;

84 Main Street – owner successfully prosecuted for non-compliance and further legal action is pending;

Old Toilet Block, Haverigg – building has been renovated;

Taylor's Tavern – building has been renovated.

Action against additional buildings is ongoing and will be reported as appropriate.

South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management / South Whitehaven Communities Together – Councillor Cath Giel

The South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management Programme has now reached the end of its extension period and has closed down. During the final 12 months of the Programme, the Board of Directors undertook a forward planning exercise looking at a community led arrangement to continue to enable the community to work together on its locality plans and links and influence with local service

providers. The new organisation being established will be a Community Development Trust (Company Limited by Guarantee) called South Whitehaven Communities Together. This new trust is currently going through the process of recruiting and selecting trustees and has recently held a conference to scope out its vision and priorities. The new trustees identified the following themes where they would like to make a difference: Crime; Employment; Education; Health and; Environment.

Copeland Work and Skills Plan – Councillor Cath Giel

As a response to the Government of how English local authorities and their partners can do more to tackle Worklessness, the Copeland Work & Skills Group is going through the process of developing a Work and Skills Plan for the borough. Early priorities formulated through the plan include a) job creation interventions and b) interventions which reduce numbers of young people who are not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Although the Action Plan is still being developed, work is underway to begin to address some of the priorities. For example, the council is leading an initiative development to increase the number of young people participating in apprenticeships.

Copeland Future Jobs Fund Initiative – Councillor Cath Giel

Of the 48 jobs created by the initiative for young people, 4 (ie 10%) have found full time employment and 1 has gone on to full time education. Those still on the initiative will each receive intensive support around job search, job interview techniques, confidence building, etc, for the final 6 weeks of their 12 month employment. Many of the young people have undertaken training courses relevant to their role and to assist their future employment prospects. Examples of training courses being undertaken include: Food Hygiene; Beginners Course to Bird Identification; GCSE Maths preparation course; ITQ NVQ (level 3) and; Advice and Guidance NVQ (level 3).

Business Engagement Framework – Councillor Cath Giel

Over recent years the Borough Council has worked hard at engaging with local business community, particularly through the work of the Business Development Officer and the locality team. This has seen the setting up of local business networks in Millom, Cleator Moor, Egremont and Whitehaven.

However a number of key national drivers mean that local authorities will need to work even more closely with their local business community. These drivers are:

- The development of Local Enterprise Partnerships
- The launch of the Regional Growth Fund

- The Council's power around economic well being and the duty to promote business continuity planning.
- A rapidly changing business support landscape where Business Link will have a greatly changed role and business based organisations such as Chamber of Commerce will have an increased role.

Work is currently under way to produce a business engagement framework which aims to identify the businesses in the borough that have the potential to support the Councils objectives around creating employment and diversifying the local economy and the most effective way of engaging with these businesses either directly or through our partners. The Council will then work with its partners to ensure the following:

- That there is a clear route a route to support and facilitate private sector investment.
- Support the delivery of the Copeland Work and Skills Plan by providing a framework for engagement with key local employers and training providers.
- To assemble information to inform and influence the Local Enterprise Partnership
- To support locality working by providing a vehicle for two way
- Communication, consultation and informed decision making.
- To inform the Council on local factors affecting business investment and economic growth.
- To help the Council better understand how local / national / global factors impact on the local economy.

Kite Fest 2010 at Silecroft Beach – Councillor Hugh Branney

We held the areas first ever Kite Surfing Festival, Kite Fest, recently at Silecroft Beach.

An extremely high turnout of around 500 people attended the event which included free taster sessions for 66 people, a sandcastle/ Kite building competition for families and finally an Open Kitesurfing 'Jam' which attracted 30 competitors from across the North West. The event also had a demonstration from UK Women's Freestyle Champion Hannah Whiteley and her father, 3 times UK Senior Champion Pete Whiteley.

Our Youth Engagement Officer, Emma Dickinson, had spent the week building up to the festival working with over 150 children from local schools designing, building and flying Sled Kites. St James' School, Millom were the lucky winners of a Flexifoil Buzz Kite, for having the largest turnout on the day.

It is anticipated we will be repeating the event next year as part of the Coastal Partnership development plan for 2011-2012. We would hope again to work in partnership with Cumbria Kite Club, Euphoria extreme and North West Kitesurfing. Also with major backing from the leading UK kite company Flexifoil.

Sports Development Holiday Activities Summer 2010 – Councillor Hugh Branney

The summer holiday programme was again considered to be very successful this year. Throughout the summer our sports development team provided 36 multi sports sessions per week. Each session lasted 90 minutes and were aimed at two age groups: 'Street Sports' were used to attract teenage participant and the daily sessions targeted primary school children with the emphasis on fun and enjoyment.

Throughout the summer the team also provided taster sessions in tri-golf and Dodgeball. The golf sessions were run in partnership with Seascale GC, to help attract them new members to boost their declining junior ranks. The Dodgeball sessions acted as a taster to advertise the Copeland Dodgeball League which will be commencing this Autumn.

The sports development team also ran Girls only sessions in partnership with the female young carers group.

Copeland Sports Awards 2010 – Councillor Hugh Branney

The cream of Copeland's sporting crop were celebrated at a dazzling awards ceremony on 22 October at Whitehaven Civic Hall – with Olympic archer Alan Wills taking the top accolade.

The awards were a chance for local sports volunteers and clubs to receive the recognition they deserve. On the night 160 people came to Whitehaven Civic hall and were able to witness the strength and depth of talent that Copeland has to offer.

A full list of the winners in all categories is below:

- **Junior Sports Personality of the Year:** Emily Cummings, the national indoor high jump champion.
- **Young Leader of the Year:** Yula McCourt, a volunteer with Whitehaven Amateur Football Club who has created opportunities for girls to participate.
- **Junior Team of the Year:** West Lakes Academy Mixed Squash U-15, North West squash champions
- **Disability Sport Personality Award:** Tom Wren, Mayfield School's ambassador for sport and PE.
- **Coach of the Year:** Graeme Bickerstaffe, Haverigg Cricket Club. Graeme has revitalized the club's junior section.
- **Volunteer of the Year:** Daniel Cronin, the chairman of Whitehaven Junior Squash Club, he manages the club's website and coaches.

- **Club of the Year:** Egremont Rugby Union Football Club, which rebuilt itself after the loss of its clubhouse in floods.
- **Special Recognition:** Whitehaven Rugby League Reserve Grade, national league one champions.
- **Sporting Initiative:** Back to Netball. This has greatly increased participation in netball, resulting in four new teams in the Copeland league.
- **Sports Personality of the Year:** Alan Wills, world field archery champion who has competed in the Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Lifetime Service Awards

- **Mel Morton**, who has spent 46 years helping Whitehaven Miners Social Football Club.
- **Bill Robson Snr**, for a lifetime devoted to football and a continued dedication to sport through Whitehaven Amateur Football Club.
- **David Bell**, for more than 30 years of voluntary coaching in junior cricket across the borough and county.

I had the pleasure of attending this event which did a great deal to enhance the Council's reputation as well as highlight the performance of so many people in our community. I hope we can make this a regular feature in our annual programme of events.

Flood Relief for Sports Clubs in Copeland – Councillor Hugh Branney

I am particularly pleased to be able to report to Council that our sports development team have successfully applied for funding which will help to rebuild local sports clubs and organisations which have been affected by flooding.

The funding is to be used to:

- Work with 5 flood affected sports organisations to develop their knowledge and skills in order to make them more resilient to unexpected external influences (past and future) and/or to increase their capacity to deliver services to people living in flood affected areas.
- Work with 2 flood affected sports organisations in flood affected areas to ensure they have access to improved services through rebuilt/refurbished community buildings/ facilities, leading to reduced isolation and increased community cohesion.
- Work with 5 flood affected sports organisations over the life of the contract to increase their skills and knowledge around accessing funding opportunities enabling them to have improved income generation capability by the end of the project, making them better able to support local communities.

Arts Engagement Partnership – ‘Creativity in Challenging Times; Celebrating the Arts in West Cumbria’ – Councillor Hugh Branney

This was an event hosted by Rosehill Theatre on 15 October and organised by the West Cumbria Arts Engagement Partnership to share best practice around projects that use the arts to deliver against non arts agendas. The day also brought together arts and non-arts organisations to discuss current agendas and how the arts can help deliver these.

The day was attended by over 50 artists and organisations.

The attendees on the day will carry on developing their partnerships at networking events held over the subsequent 5 weeks to 25 November. The events follow the 4 themes below and will allow arts and non arts organisations to explore how they might work together in the future to benefit these largely cross-cutting themes.

Youth Engagement

Health and Wellbeing

Developing Communities

Arts General

Copeland’s Pop - Up - Shop hosts Swedish Dance Company ‘Art of Spectra’: - Councillor Hugh Branney

Between 2007-2009 Copeland benefited from a Community Dance Development post who delivered dance workshops on a regular basis in schools and community settings. This brought dance to a wide range of young people who may not have accessed dance activity previously.

Through the use of the Pop-up-Shop Arts Development are keen to develop the dance offer and opportunities to engage with professional companies for all members of the local community.

Working with a range of professional dancers and dance companies our arts development team will offer a more creative mode of delivery, professional development and collaborative working to develop the practice of local dance artists, and raise the profile of dance in the area.

The first instalment of this dance work was the hosting of Art of Spectra. The Swedish Dance company were invited to work with local dancers, actors and young people and to perform an extract from their current piece of work AVGRÄNSAT.