

## **Executive Report to Full Council – 24 June 2010**

### **Transformational Leadership**

#### **Nuclear Issues**

##### **Secretary of State visit to Sellafield- Councillor E Woodburn**

It was heartening to both Sellafield and Copeland that a visit from Chris Huhne the new Energy and Climate Change Secretary of State and Charles Hendry the Energy Minister took place within a couple of weeks of them both being appointed. It would be fair to say that the appointment of the Secretary of State raised some eyebrows but his and the energy ministers commitment to the Sellafield clean up programme was welcomed.

There was also enthusiasm for the continuation of the West Cumbria Strategic Forum which gives us a unique link to both senior civil servants and ministers and more importantly gives us the continuing link to influence all government departments, ensuring continuing investment into Copeland and West Cumbria.

There is still much to discuss around many nuclear issues, and so we must make full use of the forum at every opportunity. A request will be made to hold an initial forum meeting as soon as practicable.

##### **Nuclear New Build – Councillor E Woodburn**

1. The new coalition government has set out its agreement regarding the Nuclear New Build Programme which will allow it to continue. It has been reiterated that there will be no public sector subsidy for the programme. It has also announced that it will be introducing new Planning Legislation next year that will abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). A new Major Infrastructure Unit will be established instead in the Department of Communities and Local Government. The special nature of the IPC will be retained within this organisation. This will provide a streamlined means of providing development consents for major infrastructure schemes. Decisions will be taken by the Secretary of State. The IPC will continue until then.
2. Planning arrangements to manage the development process and infrastructure implications are being put in place and background work is being done. A Spatial Planning Group including representatives from all Cumbrian and some Lancashire Local Authorities alongside other key agencies, such as the Highway Authority, has been formed. This is chaired by the Copeland Borough Council.

The work programme for the Group currently includes;

- Ensuring an adequate evidence base is in place to support the LDF process and its consideration of the potential nuclear new build opportunities and to enable an accurate understanding of the impacts of potential major infrastructure projects such as nuclear new build and grid upgrading.
- Establishing the Cumbria Multi Modal Model to enable the testing of transport infrastructure requirements of major nuclear/energy related projects
- Co-ordinating the statutory spatial planning responses to proposals coming forward from utility providers and power generators
- Commencing work on the evidence base required to support the development of Local Impact Reports, a local planning authority responsibility in the newly established Development Consent Process managed by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

3. £200,000 has been secured from the Energy Coast Board to fund advanced studies that will inform the planning requirements that will accompany the New Build Project. It is likely to be a three year process to arrive at an agreed set of development proposals that can be submitted as a formal application to the new Major Infrastructure Unit.

### **External Partnerships**

The Council is linking with Somerset partners who are further ahead in discussions with a potential nuclear power plant provider at Hinkley Point to share experiences and learning and to work together to establish a national organisation to represent the interests of nuclear new build local authorities and collectively lobby national government.

### **General Election- Copeland Constituency - Councillor N Williams**

The Copeland Constituency Election on May 6<sup>th</sup> was administered for the first time with the revised boundaries including the Keswick area. This increased the electorate by 8,000 to 63,149 and increased the number of Polling Stations by 20. Additional planning had to take place to make sure staff coped with such changes. Joint working with Allerdale was successful and was helped by our change, this year, to the same software system used by Allerdale.

11,451 postal votes were issued and altogether 9,500 postal votes were received. We found that the automated signature matching system we used did not work as

efficiently as we would have liked. Our officers resorted to some manual checking of signatures and dates of birth and we are taking this up with our suppliers. Nevertheless we did still comply with election law. The total percentage of votes received was 67%, an increase of 5% from the 2005 General Election.

As previously reported a decision was taken to count the votes received on the morning of May 7<sup>th</sup> and the result was declared shortly after 1pm.

### **Learning at Work – Councillor J Bowman**

On 20<sup>th</sup> May Copeland Council held its second Learning at Work Day, as part of the National Adult Learning Week. It followed on from the success of last year's inaugural event, and was attended by more exhibitors, demonstrations and staff wanting to find out what was available.

Events on offer during the day, with the emphasis on interactive participation included:

- presentations from local training providers, encouraging employees to develop their work-related skills
- mini-workshops where participants learnt ways of improving their well-being – including healthy eating and keeping fit,
- information sessions on subjects such as environmental awareness and financial management.

In addition to the events at the Copeland Centre, we ran a special IT course for employees based at Moresby from 3pm to 6pm. This built on the vision for all Council employees, wherever they work, to gain new skills so that when new opportunities arise they are able to make good use of them.

The Borough Council event was also opened up to local businesses, who wanted to promote and encourage workplace learning, fitting in with the national theme of the 2010 event, which is 'Creating Connections'.

This year's event was kindly sponsored by Union Learn, who funded the IT course along with other parts of the day.

### **Locality Working Update**

Closer working with three area partnerships has been progressed as a pilot programme of Locality Working in Copeland, a process which has the backing of the County Council and CALC. Of these, Howgate/ Distington and NE Copeland are now at a stage where reports to the Council's Executive Committee and the County Council's Copeland Area Committee can be brought forward asking for recognition of these bodies, committing their Councils to be represented on the Partnerships, recognising their existing Councillors that are standing on these groups. The next

stage will see other associate members representing public service deliverers and third sector organisations invited to join partnerships when appropriate to take forward particular issues. In all three areas, the principle of a partnership holding a jointly owned plan of all local needs and influencing service delivery is central, and in all cases the planning process building on existing community led plans is progressing.

These partnerships are already in a position where they can start to influence strategic planning, emphasising local issues and concerns, and reflecting the differences that exist across our diverse borough. For example, the Single Sustainable Community Strategy for Cumbria, which is at an early stage of consultation by Cumbria Strategic Partnership, is currently being presented to the existing and emerging area partnerships to ensure that locality level issues and needs are reflected in the over-arching strategy. The Council's Corporate Plan will also reflect the localities, using plans as its building blocks and with information passing both ways.

The three pilot areas each differ in the detail of the groups that have come forward, reflecting local needs and preferences. The approaches adopted are now informing the second phase as this way of working is spread to South Copeland, West Copeland and Whitehaven during June, with the emerging groups having the same opportunities to influence strategic planning. It is planned that all areas can be brought together at the end of the month, where feedback on the Sustainable Community Strategy can be coordinated, as well as having a discussion about the new Local Transport Plan. In Whitehaven, a referendum of District and County Councillors has been organised following a workshop, to determine how best the town can be represented as one or more areas.

## **Improving Quality of Life**

### **Housing Issues – Councillor G Clements**

#### **Strategic Housing Market & Needs Assessment, 2010**

In May we implemented our plan to complete a combined Strategic Housing Market & Needs Assessment and we appointed consultants Arc4 to begin this month. The report of the assessment is expected around end September 2010. The primary data will come from a sample household survey of Whitehaven, Egremont, Cleator Moor and Millom plus 100% in all rural parishes within the Borough. Secondary data will come from a very wide range of sources in the public, private and voluntary sectors. The assessment is timed to inform our emerging Local Development Framework and its critical dates in 2011/12. The outcome we seek is a set of local housing and planning policies that will be sustainable for a generation of our residents.

#### **Allocation for Disabled Facilities Grants**

Following extensive lobbying by officers and elected members from Cumbria (including a visit to the Minister in Westminster) we were pleased to obtain an additional cash allocation from DCLG for Disabled Facilities Grants. Copeland's share of an equal split between the 6 District Councils is £118,000 for 2010/11. The additional money will help us deliver life changing and mandatory adaptations to disabled people's homes. Last year we committed around £900,000 to this programme and we can expect to find the same or even more need this year.

#### **New Affordable Homes**

I am also pleased to announce that we are firmly on course and on site with the construction of 41 new affordable homes by the Home Housing Group in Whitehaven. They are expected to be completed by the end of 2010. We are also making plans for further developments in other urban areas as well as rural settlements in the Borough, subject to funding.

## **Impact of HM Treasury Announcements**

Following the announcement by the Treasury on 24 May of expenditure savings, the Homes & Communities Agency will implement capital programme reduction as follows.

The National Affordable Housing Programme will lose £100M but this will not be taken from committed funding to any schemes. Copeland's currently funded schemes are secure. The Treasury has indicated that it will recycle £170M of government savings back into the Homes & Communities Agency for reinvestment in social rented housing.

Kickstart Round 2 will lose £50M but there are no schemes in Copeland to be affected.

The Gypsy & Traveller Site programme will lose £30M. The 2010/11 bidding round on which bids have been made but not decided will not now proceed. This will affect the joint bid made by Cumbria District Councils. There is a possibility that the Cumbria Bid might be rescued by earlier funding allocated to bids elsewhere that cannot proceed. However, it is too soon to predict.

## **Housing Market Renewal**

There will be a national reduction of £50M from the Housing Market Renewal Programme. We don't yet know how this will affect our programme in South Whitehaven, which has so far progressed on time and within budget. HMR funding allocations for 2010/11 will not be confirmed before the Chancellor of the Exchequer announces the budget he intends producing in June.

## **Local Authority Carbon Management Programme – Councillor A Holliday**

The Council has been accepted onto the 2010/11 Local Authority Carbon Management Programme run by the Carbon Trust. The aim of the programme is to help the Council reduce its carbon footprint which is largely made up of energy use in our buildings, fleet fuel consumption and business travel.

The free programme involves:

- An analysis of our carbon footprint
- Calculations of the value at stake in terms of rising carbon emissions and costs
- An assessment of opportunities to help manage our carbon emissions
- Development of a Carbon Management Plan.

The eleven programme will be delivered through workshops, sharing best practice, technical and management advice.

### **Cumbria in Bloom – Councillor A Holliday**

The Cumbria in Bloom committee have recently confirmed that judging for this year's entry from Whitehaven will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. The route for judging is conducted on foot and by vehicle and will start in the town centre, passing local businesses, public open spaces, parks and gardens. The judges will be looking at a wide scoring remit on the day which will focus on issues such as community involvement, sustainability and environmental awareness to mention but a few. The Cumbria in Bloom judging date comes just before Whitehaven in Bloom's entry into Britain in Bloom which will be judged early in August.

At this stage, the Open Spaces section cannot confirm whether any other towns and villages have entered into this year's Cumbria in Bloom competition as no formal notification has been received. The Cumbria In Bloom Committee are set to meet after judging in order to discuss the viability of continuing due to the disappointing drop in entries over the last few years.

Anyone with any questions relating to the Whitehaven entry, should contact Ruth Walsh who is temporarily acting as the council's Parks Development Officer

### **Millom Ironworks Footpath Improvements – Councillor A Holliday**

The Council are providing in kind support and agreed to be the Accountable Body at no additional cost for the Millom Ironworks Improvement project. The project arose from the 2006 Management Plan for the site developed with local stakeholders. A full consultation on priorities from this plan led by The Friends Group in 2008/9 scoped the following priorities for the project:

- 1 Access Improvements – creating a circular footpath route with vehicle access controls.
- 2 Habitat Improvements – general improvements and specific work to ensure easy access for the toads between breeding and feeding areas.
- 3 Interpretation – a seasonal interpretation board linked to the local Folk Museum and industrial heritage.

Natural England has been involved in the development of the project plans. They have issued SSSI consent for the works.

The improvements focus on the Ironworks local nature reserve, a District and County Council owned community asset, as an important site for both wildlife and people. The project will deliver £43,026 capital works and £7,250 revenue activity. The project is due to start on site in October 2010, complete at the end of the November 2010 with a launch planned for 10 December 2010.

### **Youth Engagement Officer Appointed- Councillor H Branney**

Cultural Services are pleased to report that a Youth Engagement Officer has been appointed on a two year fixed term contract. Emma Dickinson will be based at Moresby Parks with the Cultural Services team and will be in post at the end of June 2010.

Emma will work closely with a wide variety of key agencies including existing youth activity providers, schools, Community Safety Team, Primary Care Trust, leisure providers and the Police to identify a range of projects and personal development activities for 8 to 25 year olds. These activities will encompass the Children's and Young People's Plan for Cumbria and the Cumbria Local Area Agreement.

Part of the role will be to develop a Youth Inclusion Officer Group within the Borough Council, including representatives from all community focused services, to engage young people in the Council's decision making processes. In addition a Youth Council will be developed to represent and report the views of young people to the Council. The Youth Council will reflect the emerging Locality Working plans.

The post will also be responsible for engaging young people in volunteering and community involvement through consultation with young people. It is planned that new media will be used to maintain an open and on-going dialogue with key stakeholders and young people.

If you require further information about this post and its work plan please contact Chris Davidson Acting Cultural Services Manager.

### **The Cumbria School & Sport Partnership Games 2010 – 'SCHOOlympics' (Formerly the Youth Games) – Councillor H Branney**

The Cumbria School & Sport Partnership Games 'SCHOOlympics' are taking place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July at Penrith.

This is the first year the 'SCHOOlympics' will be held and will see teams from Copeland in Netball, Tri Golf, Mini Tennis, Kwik Cricket, Quick Sticks Hockey, Orienteering, Swimming and Multi Skills. There are also Inclusive Events in Table Tennis, Boccia, Football, Swimming, Athletics and Wheelchair Basketball.

Over 700 competitors will be coming from the primary age range, and over 100 young people for the inclusive events expected to take part on the day. Of course the event could not run without a team of dedicated volunteers and there will be a small army of over 150 volunteers present on the day from Leadership Academies and programmes from various secondary schools in the County.

The 'SCHOOlympics' presents a wonderful opportunity to come together with colleagues from all over the County to celebrate sport and physical activity for young people. There will be representatives from local authority elected members and

officers, sponsors, representatives from the business community, health and education.

### **Volunteer Week 1<sup>st</sup> of June – 7<sup>th</sup> of June – Councillor H Branney**

Cultural Services appointed a Sports Volunteer Development Officer in March 2010. The Sports Volunteer Development Officer for Copeland will grow and sustain sports volunteers in schools and the community. The focus for this activity will be residents between 14-24 years, but it will also include residents who fall outside of this age range with a focus on SOA's.

The officer will recruit new volunteers and introduce them to sports volunteering through a number of events and initiatives. New volunteers will be mentored through their volunteering through a number of events, workshops and one to one contact. The post will also develop and implement volunteer leadership pathways with opportunities that will lead to employment or accredited qualifications

The Sports Volunteer Development Officer is funded by Copeland Working Neighbourhood Fund and Cultural Services.

The next event for volunteering in Copeland is Volunteers Week. This is a week long celebration of volunteering, which will also provide support and information for new volunteers. The week will provide 60 qualifications and will work with 125 participants. There are two launch days one in Whitehaven and one Millom. These are open days to celebrate volunteering. They will also offer: recruitment of volunteer, advice for volunteers and those wanting to get involved, presentations and stalls of key partners linked to volunteering e.g. CVS, funding groups, National Governing Bodies, School Sports Partnership and other voluntary organisations in Copeland.

### **Four Quality Coast Awards Success for Copeland Beaches – Councillor H Branney**

All four Copeland beaches applying to the Quality Coast Award for 2010 with LABGI funding have been successful. The council have supported the development of beach advisory groups for each successful beach (St Bees, Seascale, Silecroft and Haverigg). These local groups are working with council officers to deliver beach action plans including improved signage and local events and identifying other improvements needed to enable greater use of the beaches by local residents and visitors to Copeland. The four beaches are the only Cumbrian beaches to achieve the Award, and are part of a group of only ten in the whole of the North West region. Quality Coast Awards are awarded to beaches across the country that have

achieved a good standard in water quality and cleanliness and which have appropriate facilities and information points.

## **Health is Everyone's Business – Councillor N Williams**

### **Elected Member and Officer Workshops (July 2010)**

The IDeA Healthy Communities Peer Review back in June 2009 identified as a key strength that the members of Copeland were effectively engaged with the communities. The recommendation was for us to build upon this strength and support member training to further enhance an understanding of health, health determinants, and health prevention.

Two ½ day workshops for elected members will take place in the Bainbridge Room on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July** – members are invited to attend either the morning or afternoon workshop with a networking lunch being arranged between 12.00 and 13.00.

The member's workshop will be facilitated by Trevor Hopkins of the IDeA Healthy Communities team. In 2006, Trevor developed and now helps to deliver the Health, Care & Wellbeing National Leadership Academy for Lead Councillors and also runs local leadership programmes for councils.

The workshops will be informal and interactive and cover:

- Identifying local health issues for Copeland using NHS Cumbria health statistics
- Understanding the importance of good health and well being
- Identify the challenges ahead
- The value of effective partnership working and how to make partnerships work
- Identify the skills and approaches to deal with the challenges ahead
- Local leadership for improving health and reducing health inequalities
- Local community support and involvement

Invites and full details of the workshops have been sent to Members.

Discussion details and workshop outcomes will be used to support the Choosing to Change programme and will inform the Healthy Communities Plan to be presented to members in September 2010.

With the support of the IDeA two further ½ day workshops for officers covering the same areas will also be run around the same time. (dates to be confirmed)

## **Anti Social Behaviour Minimum Standards of Response – Councillor N Williams**

The West Cumbria CDRP at its meeting in May 2010 adopted a set of ten minimum standards of response to anti social behaviour in West Cumbria. This will

complement the Policing Pledge and sets out how the CDRP members will deliver in partnership the best service for local communities and residents in responding to anti social behaviour and encourages communities to actively engage with partners around anti social behaviour. These standards will now be placed on the partnership and partners websites and in key public places. The Partnership (CDRP) will soon be changing its name to West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership in line with national policy.

### **Equality & Diversity Update May 2010 – Councillor N Williams**

CBC have appointed an Equalities Officer who is currently reviewing all completed EIA's with managers and updating the Covalent system

CBC along with the other District councils have now received the timetable for assessment from the IDeA which for Copeland is 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November. All documentation and supporting matter need to be with the Peer Challenge Team by 18<sup>th</sup> October. This means we have to be confident we have everything in place by September in order to produce the Narrative Report and the Detailed Documentation Report

Working with the Policy department we have set Priorities for attaining "Achieving" in the Local Government Equality Framework.

We have identified areas of weakness (EIA's) that need to be completed, and we are now moving into the "Action & Evidence" stage of the "Achieving" Status process. It is imperative that everyone is aware of the importance of Equality as part of the Council's core business and it is embedded in everything the council does.

The Corporate Team need to establish the Corporate Equality Objectives and Targets by the end of June

Having met with our Peer Challenge Manager, Community engagement will form a large part of the assessment along with outcomes after consultation with our communities. (Evidence needed)

Training is being arranged for both staff and members Equality & Human rights.

The "Same Difference" software package is being relaunched as an awareness tool. 2 days have been set aside for staff and members to come along and complete the modules assigned to them (14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> June). Details will follow.

## **Promoting Prosperity**

### **Cumbria Tourism Awards – Councillor H Branney**

The Beacon won two awards at the Cumbria Tourism awards at Rheged on 11 May.

Alan Gillon, Learning Officer, won the Sheila Hensman Award for Outstanding Customer Service. The judges said “Alan has an instinctive grasp of customer service which has made a big difference to The Beacon, helping them to increase their visitor numbers and attract a more diverse customer base. Whether working with children or professors, Alan draws people in, identifies their needs and then ensures he exceeds their every expectation. He is a natural ambassador for customer service”.

Following a mystery shop visit, phone calls and emails, The Beacon won the Tourism for All award. Judges commented on particular strengths, including “a superb standard of practical, accessible exhibition space particularly for guests with physical, sensory or learning disability; an outstanding standard of customer service; far reaching benefits of positive integration between disabled and non-disabled participants a superb approach to education irrespective of age or disability; an outreach programme to local community of a high standard and actively offered”

The Beacon will now represent Cumbria, applying for these award categories at a North West regional level. If shortlisted, the regional awards take place at the end of September.

### **Advice to Local Businesses - Councillor J Bowman**

The Council is to hold a series of events during June to help local businesses understand how to be considered for work with the authority. Three workshops are being held in June where businesses in the borough can find out about the process to tender for work with the authority, and better understand what Copeland is looking for in bids that are submitted.

Copeland Council uses local suppliers whenever possible, and is keen to ensure that as many local businesses as possible are being considered for work. The Council spends around £13m each year, and wants as much of this as possible to be spent locally, which will help strengthen the Copeland economy.

The workshops will focus on:

- How to find out about tender opportunities for contracts over £10,000
- How the tender process works and
- What the authority looks for in good tender responses

Representatives from Business Link, Learn Direct and Cumbrian Business Environment Network are attending to highlight the free help and support they can offer to businesses in Copeland. The sessions have been organised in conjunction with Business Link North West.

Sproat Garage in order to enable the Transport Interchange to proceed.

### **Future Jobs Fund already delivering long term success – Councillor C Giel**

This initiative has had its first and early sustainable success. One of the 48 participants in the year long job placement initiative has been taken on as a permanent staff member. The successful job seeker has been taken on by the Council as a permanent Waste Support Operative from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 after joining the Council as a Future Jobs Fund participant in March. Progress is extremely positive. Many of the young people are undertaking 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).

### **Work and Skills Plan – Councillor C Giel**

As a response to the Government of how English local authorities and their partners can do more to tackle Worklessness, Copeland is tasked with developing a Work and Skills Plan for the borough. We will be undertaking this through our existing worklessness partnership and using the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DEA) Guidance to develop the plan. Our existing partnership agreed Worklessness Framework is our current baseline and has been effectively used to guide worklessness activity over the last 12 months. The Cumbria Economic Assessment activity of which we are an active partner will also link in and inform our work and skills plan.

### **Worklessness Fund (part of the Copeland Working Neighbourhood Fund) – Councillor C Giel**

Copeland Borough Council has recently commissioned another project to address worklessness in Copeland. Wheels 2 Work (W2W) is delivered by Connexions and provides a managed scooter loan scheme for people who because of where they live or work, lack essential transport to access employment, training or further education.

There are no age restrictions on membership of W2W beyond government Driving Licence minimum age requirements (16+), however the project has focussed

traditionally upon young people (16-20 years) as they can face significantly greater challenges in this area than many adults. The initiative has been allocated £20k of funding and will run through until March 2011.

### **Copeland Backing Business Project – Councillor C Giel**

£125,000 was made available over 2 years, 2009-11 from Copeland LABGI (local Authority Business Growth Incentive) 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, 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:

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Business Advised</b>	17	3	3	3	3	11	7	4	5	<b>56</b>
<b>Business Reviews</b>	15	2	2	3	3	11	7	4	5	<b>52</b>
<b>Consultancy</b>	1	0	3	0	3	0	6	0	2	<b>15</b>
<b>Increased Turnover</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43000	<b>43000</b>
<b>Safeguarded Turnover</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Increased Jobs</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Safeguarded Jobs</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.5	<b>6.5</b>
<b>**Grants</b>	2	8	2	2	2	3	8	1	7	<b>35</b>

### **Business Development Network Initiatives – Councillor C Giel**

To continue the work of previous Copeland LABGI allocations in supporting the business networks in Copeland, funding has been allocated for 2010/11 as follows:

**Cleator Moor and Egremont** – Two business forums have been running in parallel in NE Copeland for a number of years and have recently worked in partnership with Cumbria Chamber of Commerce on their business forum programme. This programme came to a close at the end of March 2010 and although the NE Copeland business forum has been financially affected it continues to operate effectively. Egremont has been more impacted as the Chamber was supporting the organisation of events and meetings. As a result it has been agreed by the NE Copeland and Egremont areas to merge the two business forums in order to sustain and build on the work already achieved in the towns. This will include developing joint events, evolving the website to support local businesses from across the areas and working with the Farmers Market to encourage speciality markets in Cleator Moor. £10k has been allocated to each town through the NE Copeland /Business Forum to support this work.

**Millom** - £10k has been allocated to Millom through the Millom Network Centre to be spent on projects that support business needs for SMEs and larger businesses across South Copeland and includes supporting the MAD Business Breakfast initiative which will look at the development of a local enterprise culture, training needs for businesses and provide a forum for networking

**Whitehaven** - £15k of LABGI funding has been awarded to Enterprise Whitehaven to develop marketing initiatives to promote the town to potential investors and developers

### **Evoluteive – Councillor C Giel**

Invest in Cumbria, one of our annual grant recipients, is now the lead partner for the internet based property and contact management system called Evoluteive and now holds the contract on behalf of the 5 partners (Invest in Cumbria, Copeland, Eden, South Lakeland and Carlisle City).

All partners now have the internet facility which can be accessed via their websites and there is also access to each property search via the revamped IIC website which will help generate more enquires, strengthen partnership working between IIC and Copeland and help the promotion of future developments in the borough. Invest in Cumbria are in the process of buying the “locate in Cumbria” domain name which means that we will be easier to find in the internet search engines. The User Group meets regularly to discuss ways of improving the site and has recently carried out work to enhance the quality of enquiries by improving the registration form on all websites to include more mandatory fields giving us more information to follow up enquiries. 59 enquiries were processed in 2009/10 in Copeland and 12 inward investment enquiries

### **Local Authority Building Excellence Awards – Councillor G Blackwell**

The LABC Northern Building Excellence Awards are dedicated to showcasing the best the construction industry has to offer in the north of England (Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, Tyne & Wear and Teesside). Submissions by Copeland Borough Council's Building Control Section for the 2010 awards resulted in 5 finalists in the 12 categories, 2 of whom gained well earned recognition. Falcon Court in Whitehaven by W.R. Richardson Ltd was one of 2 projects commended in the Large Housing Development category and CEMAC Construction Ltd scooped the award for Best Small Builder for their work at Mill Hill Farm at Keekle. These successes highlight the extremely high quality of building work that is constantly being carried out in Copeland, with guidance from the Council's Building Control Team.

### **New West Cumberland Hospital - Councillor E Woodburn**

Council approved the Planning Application for the hospital development on 28 April. Positive progress is being made with Decanting and Enabling schemes on site with significant demolition taking place this month. The overall development programme remains on target.

The Outline Business Case has yet to be approved by the Department of Health and it is likely that this will also require Treasury Approval. The Full Business Case has been approved by the North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust Board and requires the approval of the Strategic Health Authority which cannot be given until the Outline Business Case is fully approved.

To ensure momentum continues with the project the Full Business Case will require approval by September 2010.

### **Kells White School – Councillor E Woodburn**

Kells Development Group have secured outline planning permission for the development of 74 dwellings, comprising 31 self build plots, 21 dwellings for sale and, 22 dwellings for rent or shared ownership (affordable housing) on the site of the former White School. A Section 106 agreement will ensure the long term provision of the affordable housing.

The land is currently in the ownership of the Council, but it is anticipated that the land will be sold to Kells Development Group in the coming months, following an earlier Council resolution to dispose of the site and the agreement on price. There has been latent demand for self build plots within the borough, and the need for this organisation to be more proactive in facilitating the development of affordable housing has been highlighted by the Audit Commission. The delivery of a range of housing options on one site is a really positive step forward both for the Kells Community and, for the Council