

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2006**

**Present:** Cllrs P Connolly (Chair); K Hitchen; D Banks; Mrs M Docherty; A Johnston; J Prince

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Moore; A Wonnacott; H Wormstrup

Also present: Councillor J Hewitson; Miss E Woodburn

Officers: F McMorrow, Corporate Director of Economic Prosperity and Sustainability; M Tichford, Head of Regeneration; J Murray, Scrutiny Support Officer

**Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2005 were received and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments:

That Cllrs Mrs M Docherty & D Banks were present and Cllr A Johnston had apologised.

**OSC-EW100** **Matters arising from the Minutes**

On questioning from the Chair, the Head of Regeneration confirmed that now that posts were gradually being filled in the regeneration team, they could input into the Cleator Moor and Area Regeneration Delivery Group.

**OSC-EW101** **Performance Monitoring**

Members questioned the Leader, Portfolio Holders and officers on performance monitoring information as follows:

E6\_01: External image not as good as it could be. Local population are knowledgeable about the area, but persistent negative press for 40-50 years requires addressing. This issue has been raised as part of the Memorandum of Agreement with Government. There is agreement that there is a need to work together. It is hoped that work will begin in March/April as part of the West Cumbria Strategic Masterplan.

N5\_04: Nothing more that the Council can do on this. It has been written and worked with the nuclear opportunities group to provide a framework. Rosie Mathisen is driving this forward.

**RESOLVED:** Rosie Mathisen to be asked to update the committee at the next meeting.

N5\_06: This is happening through the meetings of the Forum, however there is a recognised need for an agreed monitoring procedure to evaluate progress. This hasn't proved as easy to achieve as envisaged as some members of the core officers group were less keen on a formal monitoring mechanism. The Head of Nuclear and Sustainability has been asked to consider the best way forward.

N6\_01: This remains an issue. It is clear that, elsewhere in the world, it is recognised that funding is required to support effective independent consultation, both at Council level and for site stakeholder groups. There has been movement on this issue but more needs to happen.

E3\_08: There is recognition that there is a need to kick start at least one of the industrial estates in Copeland, but genuine interest needed by the private sector. The newly-recruited Economic Development Manager would be working with Westlakes Renaissance on this issue, which would equally looking at marketing issues to publicise availability.

E3\_11: While accepting that this was one of the projects which had suffered as result of vacancies in the regeneration section, Members felt that this project was of a size and importance that the Council should be concentrating on. In discussion of this item and the priorities for Cumbria, Members noted that Cumbria Vision had been set up to promote priorities for Cumbria.

**RESOLVED:** That Chris Collier, Chief Executive of Cumbria Vision be invited to the next meeting.

E2\_06: Members felt that this goal was important for the 'cottage industry proposed for the rural areas of Copeland.

E4\_11: Renewed interest from Asda had been shown. Tesco had already had plans approved for expansion.

E3\_12: The new target for this was now September 2006. Working very hard with funders to meet their requirements.

E4\_07: Western Lake District Tourism Partnership had dipped, but now working very hard to put together the 2006 promotional package.

**RESOLVED:** That the Deputy Leader supply a written report on the promotional package.

E4\_10: This is at embryonic stage and will be allied to Allerdale's tourism strategy.

**RESOLVED:** That a tourism sub group, of the Members present, be established to input and challenge the strategy during its development.

That an invitation be sought for Members to attend the WLDTP February extravaganza.

**OSC-EW102     Forward Plan**

The Committee received and noted the forward plan of key decisions to be taken by the Executive.

**OSC-EW103     Work Plan**

The Committee received and noted the work plan of the Scrutiny Committees. .

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm

CHAIR:.....

DATE:.....