

**COPELAND KOZLODUY PARTNERSHIP**

**CHAIRMAN** Cllr Geoff Blackwell  
**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** Cllr Elaine Woodburn  
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**Summary:** This document provides an update on the emerging Copeland Kozloduy Partnership. In particular it updates members on the recent visit to Copeland by representatives of the Kozloduy Municipality.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	That this report is noted.
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**Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan:** This will contribute towards the Council's objective to "create and sustain a healthy local economy" by working with others. Kozloduy has one of the world's largest nuclear power stations and will provide a good link with eastern European markets for our partners

**Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):** Kozloduy will face many similar issues both in relation to the impact of potential economic decline on law and disorder and environmental impacts of decommissioning, although these will be set in different economic and cultural circumstances.

**Financial and human resource implications:** Financial resources to develop this Partnership further will be sought via EU/non-EU funding streams. If additional resources are required over and above those already mentioned they will be subject to the normal processes of budget allocation. Main resource input will be the time and expertise of individuals from West Cumbria and Kozloduy. For the Council this will involve staff time from individuals in Sustainability & Nuclear Policy and Regeneration.

**Project & Risk Management:** Varied depending on specific activities.

**Key Decision Status**

- Financial: None  
- Ward: None

**Other Ward Implications:** All

## **Introduction**

Kozloduy is a Municipality located in the North of Bulgaria on the River Danube with a population of approx 25,000. It is an area like Copeland in that it is experiencing a period of significant nuclear decommissioning. Following on from a previous visit to Kozloduy by Cumbrian representatives (including our Mayor at the time, Cllr Norman Clarkson) and with facilitation and support by the DTI and Copeland Local Area Committee (CCC), the Mayor of Kozloduy and 4 other Councillors recently attended a 5 day visit to Copeland.

## **Programme and Co-operation Agreement**

During this time, they met with several key local Councillors and Officers and visited a variety of places related to their primary interest – regeneration. These included local tourist attractions, Copeland Homes, Cleator Moor Business Centre and South Whitehaven Employment Support Project. The visit was rounded off with a formal dinner hosted by the Council, held at the Rum Story.

As agreed at Executive in March 2006, a Co-operation Agreement was signed between Copeland Borough and the Municipality of Kozloduy (see copy at end of this report) at a ceremony held at The Beacon. The Agreement will look at developing stronger links and partnership working between the two communities, especially relating to economic, social and cultural benefits.

## **Press Release and Coverage**

A press release was issued by the Council and it was picked up by the Whitehaven News, Evening News & Star and BBC Radio Cumbria.

## **End and Next Steps**

The visit culminated in a meeting to look at how to take things forward and some of the key conclusions from this were as follows:

- Looking at developing funding opportunities for putting in place formal twinning arrangements between the two communities and also to fund things like video conferencing facilities (in Kozloduy) and a joint Copeland/Kozloduy website
- Involving the private sector (developing a strong base of SMEs) in any future business opportunities (BNG is already a partner in the decommissioning taking place at Kozloduy)
- Tourism development activities
- Supporting Kozloduy as they apply for future EU funding (they are hoping to formally join the EU in 2007) and jointly applying for specific project funds.

Officer Representatives from the Council, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Tourist Board and BNG will visit Kozloduy in July to develop these links further and take the Partnership forward. This trip is being financed via the EU Leonardo Training & Development Programme and will only cost the Council staff time. Council Officers will further develop the work programme and follow on agreement. A future visit to Kozloduy will take place at a later date involving Members to formally sign up to this follow on agreement.