

## **COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

#### **Effective Leadership – Councillor Elaine Woodburn – Leader**

#### **Councillor Allan Holliday – Deputy Leader**

#### **Finance**

The new Head of Finance and Management Information Systems will be taking up her post towards the end of October. In the meantime the Accountancy Services Manager post has been re-advertised in a wider range of publications. At the same time the post of Financial Accountant will be advertised and interviews for both these positions will be arranged for the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The new Head of Finance and Management Information Systems will be on the interview panel, in the role of technical expert. The various roles of the current Accountancy team are also being reviewed, as the basis for determining the need for future staff resources.

#### **Statement of Accounts**

As Members know Deloitte were employed to carry out a diagnostic assessment of the accounts and this resulted in an action plan which proposed a seven week programme designed to enable the 2006/07 Statement of Accounts to be signed off and the 2007/08 Statement of Accounts to be submitted for external audit. The programme was presented to the Audit Committee and then to Executive who agreed that the cost of this could be funded from the 07/08 underspends. Accountancy officers immediately began preparatory work and Deloitte have been on site from the 11<sup>th</sup> August to direct the work, review the accountancy entries, and advise on the accounting treatment and to provide weekly progress reports. Deloitte have established a structured approach to the production of the accounts and their accountant is supervising the accountancy staff to enable them to adopt this methodology now and in the future. This will ensure that the skills will be retained for the production of the 2007/08 accounts. This comprehensive review of the Council's financial records will provide assurance to Members that the Council's Financial statements provide a true and fair view of the Council's financial position.

#### **Energy Coast Masterplan**

Beacon projects were identified as the projects that needed immediate action, this report gives an update on these.

#### **National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL)**

The NNL will provide the ground to safeguard and enhance the key skills already in the area and support the UK's strategic nuclear research and development requirements. It will provide a long term organisation which will work closely with academia, research councils and collaborators at home and abroad to lever investment and knowledge. Nexia Solutions will lead the new NNL in the short term

and will take the responsibility for maintaining and raising technical and commercial standards.

A competitive process to appoint a managing contractor for the NNL has commenced and it is envisaged that this process will end towards the end of the current financial year.

### **Building Schools for the Future (BSF)**

We have already witnessed the start of this project with the £30 million investment into the West Lakes Academy School in Egremont and further funding has been secured for a second Academy school on which consultation will start shortly. As we know CCC is carrying out a school review and has identified West Cumbria as their priority area. A recent BSF consultation requested that Local Authorities respond to the proposal to “Collapse” future waves of the initiative and to enable LA’s to enter the programme when deemed “Ready to Deliver”. CCC submitted a response to support this proposal. The findings of the consultation are due in September and new guidelines and timescale for future funding will be published.

### **New Acute Hospital**

A group led by the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals is now set up to carry out some consultation on the siting of the hospital and a meeting with CBC, ABC and WLR will be set up to discuss this further. It is envisaged that an announcement is expected on the preferred site in December. The Masterplan clearly identifies Whitehaven as the site for the hospital.

### **Housing Market Renewal (HMR)**

West Cumbria and Furness has already benefitted from over £8million of investment and West Lakes Renaissance has agreed the allocation of the new £6million HMR fund of which over £1million has gone to South Whitehaven. There are some discussions in Government on the long term future of HMR programmes, though WLR along with English Partnerships, Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) are commissioning a study to re-assess housing needs here and will submit a programme to the new HCA early in 2009.

### **Brownfield Sites**

English Partnerships have agreed to fund a comprehensive survey of all available brownfield land in West Cumbria and Furness. The aim will be to submit an early programme to the HCA in 2009. The study will include the Sellafield site itself.

### **Strategic Transport Improvements**

Work has commenced on ensuring Local Development Frameworks are aligned with the Energy Coast Masterplan. Transport includes a programme of schemes on ports, roads, rail and air. Meetings have taken place with a range of stakeholders and business people have shown an understanding of the linkages between enterprise

and infrastructure. There is an opportunity of securing some funds through the sub-regional priorities and these needs to be identified by CCC by September.

### **Commercialisation and Technical Support**

Consultants Grant Thornton were commissioned earlier this year to work with stakeholders to produce a report which could draw upon commercialisation and diversification experience gained both inside the region, nationally and internationally. Potential initiatives would reflect the potential assets within the region and would be mindful of local developments – the NNL , the new PBO. The report is entering its final stage and the outcomes will be taken forward within the Business investment programme.

### **Industries for the Future**

Westcroft Consultancy have been commissioned by WLR to examine alternative methods of zero carbon energy generation and methods of reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions from the West Cumbrian economy and identify environmental technologies and activities which offer the potential for further business and economic development. The project includes work in the areas of hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, offshore wind, tidal and waste.

### **Nuclear New Build**

Following the Government's decision to give the green light to the private sector to invest in new nuclear power stations, the Council gave formal endorsement to put forward a case for Sellafield being in the first wave. A project team has been set up with CBC having representation and work has begun to ensure the work needed is carried out before Government ask for formal invitations for nominated sites early in the new year.

### **Energus**

Energus located at Lillyhall, formally known as the Nuclear Skills Academy is progressing to the agreed timescale.

### **University of Cumbria**

A University of Cumbria director for West Cumbria (Rob Rimmer) has been appointed and a vision and mission for an "Energy Coast Campus" has been agreed. Specifications for additional building works to the Energus building have been drawn up which will ensure the University has a permanent presence in West Cumbria have been agreed.

## **Delivery Organisation**

West Lakes Renaissance (WLR) made a resolution on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008, which results in WLR forming two sub divisions, Barrow and West Cumbria. This will allow West Cumbria to have a dedicated team, led by a dedicated project manager and with secondments from CCC and potentially ourselves. The new West Cumbria division will be led by a new divisional board with a new Chair (Private Sector) and membership from CBC, ABC, CCC, North West Development Agency, English Partnerships, Govt Office of the North West as observers and six others from the private sector.

As said these are the strategic projects but there is a lot more work ongoing on Enterprise Support, Procurement Support, High Quality Hotel Provision in Whitehaven and other projects.

What should not be forgotten is that West Cumbria has already had in excess of £60 million invested into the area all secured through the Energy Coast Masterplan.

## **Locality Working**

The term Locality Working is used to describe a range of structures and activities which enable public sector agencies to work in localities with community residents to improve the local quality of life. The localities in Copeland for which arrangements are being considered are the five identified in the Sustainable Communities Strategy, namely Whitehaven, North East Copeland, Egremont, Mid- Copeland and South Copeland. Executive has also agreed to utilise the Working Neighbourhood fund to employ 5 locality officers who will work with the Locality Boards within the overall support structure of the Council's Community Renewal service. There will be some commonality with the localities but it is envisaged that they will not be replicas of each other as differing localities have differing needs. To further consider each areas needs, meetings are being arranged with all councillors for all localities, and I would urge CBC members to make every effort to attend these meetings.

## **Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF)**

At a recent meeting of the CCF a new board was set up to specifically allocate their grant funding to the West Cumbrian communities. The intention will be to amalgamate the present contributions from the Sellafield Sites Fund, Washington Group, Coalfields and others and local members will agree the allocations, within the agreed criteria. It is also the intention of CCF to approach Nuclear Management Partners for a contribution. Members need to remember that the Fund is there to deal with part funding the social needs of the community and is therefore able to support projects which fall outside the harder economic outputs required by such organisations such as the NDA, WLR etc...

As previously mentioned CCF is leading on the formation of a social strategy which is needed to support the existing Energy Coast Masterplan, the economic plan for the area. The social strategy is in draft format and will be sent out to members for comment shortly.

Also CCF will be holding their Annual General Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November in the Sellafield Business Centre and the hope is the guest speaker will be Stephen Henwood the Chair of the NDA. All members are invited and will receive an official invitation nearer the time.

### **Sellafield Site Transition**

As Members know Nuclear Management Partners were recently announced as the Preferred Parent Body Organisation (PBO) and they, if everything goes to plan, will take over the running of the Sellafield site on the 6<sup>th</sup> October. A transition period will then take place where the present incumbent will pass over the relevant information with the final stage, the transfer of shares, taking place on the 24<sup>th</sup> November. As previously reported it will be only after the 6<sup>th</sup> October that formal talks with the PBO can take place.

### **Low Level Waste Treatment**

Members will know that apart from nuclear waste on the Sellafield sites there is a vast amount of other types, including oil, metals, mercury, lead, asbestos, concrete etc.... If this was to go straight to the Low Level Waste Repository then it would well exceed the existing and future known capacity, therefore Sellafield has been investigating other options to deal with these arisings. They have already carried out a Best Practicable Environmental options study, which included stakeholder engagement, and this identified different options for different wastes. The re-use re-cycle option was favoured but recognition was made that not all the wastes could be dealt with through this method. Other options were being considered all with the ultimate desired outcome of free release.

### **Managing Radioactive Waste Safely**

After our initial Expression of Interest we have been attending all the Neighbourhood Forums as a way of sharing information and answering questions. The response from these meetings has been extremely positive and even though there have been some areas of concern the response, as said has been very positive. Questions have been raised specifically around the areas of community benefits, possible sites and community involvement. The forums are an excellent way of getting information out to the wider community and I am sure we will be utilising the forums many times in the future.

At a CCC meeting the following resolution was agreed

*That given Sellafields role in hosting much of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste and also the potential impacts of moving it, the County Council engages with District Councils and other stakeholders in discussing the implications of a deep geological facility siting process.*

*That Cabinet take all necessary steps, as set out in the White Paper, to enable Council to decide, at a future Council meeting, whether to register a without commitment Expression of Interest in holding discussions with Government about the repository siting process.*

Therefore CCC has written to all districts and other stakeholders to elicit their views on CCC making an Expression of Interest. We will be asking the MRWS committee to agree Copeland's response but views from all Members are welcomed.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

### **Protocol between the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny**

12 August 2008  
EXE/07/0038

Decision

**That subject to the following amendments**

- a) " There should be a general presumption that the Executive can attend scheduled meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings for items within their portfolio if they so wish" be included in the Attendances at each others meetings and Civic Diary; and**
- b) "The Executive's response to the report should be in writing with each recommendation making it clear if it is accepted which is currently done through the Statement of Executive Decisions but will be reviewed once the relevant regulations from the Local Government and Public Health Act 2007 have been released."**

**Council be recommended to approve the Protocol as part of the Councils constitution.**

### **Review of Contract Standing Orders**

12 August 2008  
EXE/07/0050

Decision

**That Council be recommended to approve the revised Contract Standing Orders.**

## **Achieving Transformation - Councillor Cath Giel - Deputy Leader**

### **Councillor Tim Knowles - Portfolio Holder**

### **Councillor Norman Williams - Portfolio Holder**

#### **Regeneration**

Consideration has been given to Development and Regeneration delivery, both within the Authority and in terms of Local Sub Regional arrangements.

As a consequence of this activity the Executive has agreed to support a series of major initiatives, including actions to:

1. Develop and refine key objectives and targets
2. Agree evaluation criteria for prioritising current and future schemes
3. Progress as a matter of urgency:
  - a) The creation of a Whitehaven Regeneration Delivery Body
  - b) The creation of integrated locality working/regeneration mechanisms in South Copeland, Egremont area, Cleator Moor area and to consider appropriate arrangements for all other areas of the Borough
  - c) The focussing of uncommitted Working Neighbourhood resources as follows:
    - i) A minimum of £1 million to an Economic Development Fund to tackle worklessness by match funding public initiatives and projects.
    - ii) Fixed term revenue funding for up to 5 Community Development Officers
    - iii) A minimum of £280,000 to fund community initiatives and projects
    - iv) Investment in Strategy and Policy Development capacity related to Regeneration and Community Engagement.

The outcomes of the consultation process already undertaken will be augmented by further appropriate dialogue with elected Members, communities throughout the Borough and relevant partners.

Progress on specific projects:

## **Tesco**

Discussions are continuing with Tesco representatives regarding a further planning application for a replacement store on the site of the existing store/car park. The latest proposal is for a building of 7572 sq. metres with a sales area of 4503 sq. metres, compared with the existing store which currently comprises areas of 4273 sq. metres and 2273 sq. metres respectively. Good progress is being made with regard to the Transport Interchange, Town Gateway and Harbour impact aspects of the project. A further meeting with Tesco is planned for later in the month.

## **Whitehaven Civic Quarter**

This project, focussed particularly on the Civic Hall and Library area will deliver a much improved visual identity for these key areas of the Town. The required funding of £650,000 is secured and the scheme is designed to a concept stage.

Key Dates:

Appoint Project & Design Management end Sept 08

Detailed Design completed/Agreed Oct 08

Maintenance Agreement (CCC/ CBC/North Country Leisure signed Oct 08

Tender issue Nov 08

Contract award Feb 09

Work commences Mar 09

Work completion Aug 09

## **Whitehaven Mount Pleasant**

A high quality public realm scheme connecting the Coastal Fringe enhancements and recent Harbour area improvements. The required funding of £438,000 is secured and the scheme is designed to a concept stage.

Key Dates:

Appoint Consultants Sept 08

Complete Design Dec 08

Contract award Feb 09

Work commences April 09

Work completion Oct 09

## **Coalfields**

The North West Coalfields Communities Regeneration Programme (NWCCRP) was and is a unique and innovative partnership led strategy for the regeneration of former coalfield communities. The programme supports 8 Local Authorities: Allerdale, Bolton, Copeland, Knowsley, Salford, St Helens, Warrington and Wigan. The programme has been developed through the North West Coalfields Communities Campaign (NWCCC), which aims to address deprivation through promoting economic, social and environmental regeneration of former coalfield areas. It aims to narrow the gap in prosperity and improve the well-being of those who formerly worked in those coalfield areas.

The NWCCRP Phase 2 will focus on promoting enterprise, tackling worklessness and improving liveability in the coalfield areas of the 8 targeted Local Authorities in the North West. The areas of focus have been informed by the evidence base from Local Authority areas, and reflect the change in emphasis that has been noted over the last 12 months of the current programme, with many more projects coming forward linked to the national enterprise and worklessness agendas. The priority areas also reflect the changing focus of NWDA priorities as detailed in the Regional Economic Strategy. The detail of the project has also been informed by the recent DCLG review of Coalfields programmes. The application to the NWDA is for £5 million and will be allocated amongst the 8 Local Authorities involved. The funding made available to this Authority will form part of the public matching resource to complement our new Economic Development Fund mentioned in Regeneration 3 c i).

## **Tourism**

The Executive has supported recommendations that recognise the need for a considerably enhanced Tourism Development Structure, as a means of creating the step change necessary in the Visitor Economy which Copeland rightly aspires to. A new organisation will develop a strategy and action plan, linking the Energy Coast to the Adventure Capital brand for Cumbria. This initiative would build on the significant potential for Tourism provided by Whitehaven, our other key towns and the natural environment of the Borough.

The new body is most likely to be based on an enhancement of the existing "Western Lake District Tourism Partnership" with the partnership working alongside the proposed area based Regeneration Team for West Cumbria. Its remit would include:

1. An accommodation improvement scheme.
2. Festivals and events.
3. Sense of place work.
4. Coastal activities.
5. Walking and Cycling development.
6. Area based marketing.
7. Public Relations activity linked into priority Cumbria Tourism themes.

Intensive discussion with Partners has already begun, including a productive

dialogue with the Chief Executive of Cumbria Tourism.

## **Planning**

### Planning Policy

In August, the LDF (Local Development Framework) Working Party discussed the issues to be taken into account in updating this Authority's Local Development Scheme (LDS). This is the formal work programme for developing the LDF over the next 3 years. A draft LDS has now been submitted for comment to Regional Government Office and the Planning Inspectorate and the LDF Working Party will be making further recommendations to Council on any changes at its December meeting as part of the formal adoption process.

A work programme has also been finalised for the Authority's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). This is being carried out on a West Cumbria basis in partnership with Allerdale BC over the next 4 months. It involves an assessment of all potential housing sites in the main towns and villages and is a major item of evidence required for the Core Strategy and Housing Allocations documents in the LDF.

The results of the SHLAA work will be reported to the LDF Working Party in due course along with those of the previously reported Retail/Town Centres and Employment Sites and Premises Studies currently underway. The Working Group will be meeting on a regular basis over the next 12-18 months to assess further items of the "evidence base" and to discuss drafts of the new style planning policy documents. The first of these in the early New Year will be an Issues and Options paper on the Core Strategy, the key document in the LDF and a scoping report on a new approach to Sustainability Appraisal. This will be integrated into the production of all the new documents.

## **Pay and Grading**

### Pay & Grading Review

Members will have benefited from a pre full council briefing and will know that the Authority's review project is moving into the negotiating phase. Following the completion of the job evaluation exercise, an employers preferred pay structure has been developed which meets the key success criteria for the overall project, which are that the proposed pay structure:

1. Reflects the ranking of jobs which has resulted from the job evaluation
2. Is "equalities proofed", including the removal of residual bonus
3. Is based on the national pay spinal column
4. Will not damage the Authority's ability to attract and retain the employees it needs
5. Is affordable within the budget provision already made.

The forthcoming negotiations will include not only the proposed pay and grading structure itself, but also harmonisation of any remaining Single Status anomalies in terms and conditions of employment, such as working hours and sick pay arrangements. The Trades Unions will also be asked to contribute to proposals for cost savings or productivity improvements required to offset the cost of implementing the review.

### **Cumbria e-Recruitment Web Site**

Cumbria's local authority HR teams have collaborated to develop a shared e-recruitment web site which will be officially launched in September to help raise the profile of public service as a career choice, and to drive recruitment traffic towards the participating Councils [www.yourcumbriajobs.co.uk](http://www.yourcumbriajobs.co.uk) will carry all current Council vacancies, and enables candidates to apply on-line. The site also features a 'talent pool', where individuals can place their CV's as an expression of interest in moving to the area, and from which councils including Copeland can draw candidates.

### **Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (CIEP)**

The CIEP is a new partnership involving all the Councils in Cumbria. It replaces ACE (Achieving Cumbrian Excellence) and CCP (Connected Cumbria Partnership). It comprises all local authorities plus the Lake District National Park and has been set up to deliver Governments Improvement and Efficiency Strategy.

The first part of the CIEP's work, has been to agree the priority issues and to seek resources from the Regional Body (RIEP)

The 4 agreed priorities are;

Community Empowerment & Neighbourhood Working  
Economic Development & Regeneration  
Efficiency through Procurement  
Transformational Government & the Citizen

Preparatory work is continuing and the 4 project groups will shortly be inviting Copeland Members and Officers to contribute to developing proposals.

## **Promoting Prosperity – Councillor George Clements Deputy Leader**

### **Councillor Geoff Blackwell - Portfolio Holder**

### **Councillor Hugh Branney - Portfolio Holder**

#### **Smokefree – Future Action / Activity**

Following the introduction of smokefree legislation Environmental Health, using funding from Department of Health, has ensured that enclosed work and public spaces in Copeland are smokefree. It is good to report there continues to be very high levels of compliance throughout the borough. Therefore, while compliance monitoring will continue, the level of enforcement activity has been reduced as the expected move to self-enforcement has taken place.

Time not spent on compliance checks has been redirected especially in response to the 2007 Health Profile for Copeland\*. These profiles show levels of smoking are above the national average and that the known ill health effects of smoking (chronic heart disease, lung cancer and strokes) are worse than the national average.

*\*Source Department of Health*

Building on the previous two successful stop smoking group support sessions that Environmental Health have provided, the aim in 2008/09 is to:

- Provide more informal support in a short group session (run at times to fit in with the demands of the working day) where those wanting to give up smoking support each other under the guidance of trained advisor. The service aim of providing 2 sessions has been achieved but in response to the success and value of these groups particularly the group at Whitehaven School further work with senior/secondary schools and Youth Groups has been arranged.
- Encourage and support smokefree choices to reduce the levels of smoking in Copeland and consequently reduce associated ill health and health inequalities. This work will be undertaken in partnership with Cumbria Primary Care Trust, Department of Health, South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Partnership and other relevant agencies
- Contribute to Department of Health and Smokefree Northwest aims of protecting children from second hand smoke, tackling smuggling and counterfeiting and reducing health inequalities.

Possible future funding:

The effective and valuable work of local authorities in ensuring that smokefree legislation is effective has been recognised by the Department of Health and additional funding to support regional smokefree activity is now available. Unlike the previous grant this funding must be applied for and will only be granted if the

Department of Health are convinced of the benefit of the work – funding will not be granted for routine compliance monitoring work.

Copeland are working with the other authorities in Cumbria to submit a regional bid and it is hoped this will be successful.

### **More Funding for Childrens Play**

We and the other 5 districts have been approached recently by Cumbria County Council to participate in a further opportunity to gain Lottery funding for equipped Childrens play areas through the “Playbuilder and Pathfinder” initiatives.

This is a county wide opportunity with the possibility of £1 million in funding for new build or refurbishment of play areas and a further possible £1.5million for adventure play.

Although details are yet to be confirmed, in summary:

The Playbuilder initiative (up to £1.5 million) can be outlined as:

- Each of the 6 districts are likely to have an equal "guide" allocation of £170k for new or significantly refurbished play spaces
- On average each individual project should be £50k plus, there is no match funding obligation although such is desirable.
- Given required timescales each district is to commence work immediately on identifying potential projects.
- Each district will be required to ensure attendance at a meeting with the County Council on September 11<sup>th</sup> to finalise a portfolio of potential projects.

The Pathfinder initiative (up to £1 million) can be outlined as

- Likely to be a "long shot" in Cumbria but may be worth going for.
- For any submission to be successful it would have to stand out, but for the West Coast deprivation figures may assist.
- Play must be proven to be "embedded" within the County Council and recognised as a key service

Should anyone wish to know any more information on this matter they should contact Ruth Walsh the Parks Development Officer on 01946 593033.

### **Free Swimming for the over 60's.**

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) are offering grants to all District Councils and Unitary Authorities to enable access to free swimming for people aged 60 years and over. This is part of a national free swimming programme that includes, at future stages, the possibility of also providing free swimming for those aged under 16 years along with capital contributions to modernise swimming pools.

- Cultural Services Officers have been working with Leisure Copeland and other pools to ascertain if the grant award for Copeland (£22,953 per annum for 2 years for age 60+ only) will cover the cost of scheme operation. At present the picture appears positive and Officers will be reporting to the Executive fully on the opportunity as well as expressing our wish to accept the offer to the DCMS by mid September 2008.

### **Copeland Sports and Physical Activity Alliance Funding.**

Members will recall the development of the Copeland Sports and Physical Activity Alliance during 2007 and early 2008, with bids submitted to Sport England to support a variety of community based sports and physical activity projects.

We are delighted to inform Members that four of the projects have now been awarded funding and will commence in October 2008. These are:

#### **a) Copeland Sports Programme.**

This project includes the employment of a full time sport specific coach to encourage participation in sport by the 16+ age group, a part time multi-sport coach, a 'Rambling for Life' co-ordinator, resource for employing specialist coaches and the use of a mobile climbing wall.

A real benefit of the programme is the ability to deliver in local areas, throughout Copeland, ensuring that people across the Borough get access to high quality opportunities. The lead organisation for this will be Copeland Borough Council, with the Sports Development team planning and managing the work programme.

#### **b) Development Coordinator based at Egremont Rugby Union Football Club.**

The Development Coordinator will deliver multi sports coaching to young people and school pupils using the facilities, develop sports events for young people during the school holidays, and provide activities and coaching to attract adults back into regular participation in sport. The lead organisation for this project will be Egremont RUFC and the area covered will be Egremont North, Egremont South, Cleator Moor North, Cleator Moor South, and other areas on request.

#### **c) Copeland School Sports Healthy Lifestyles Project:**

This project aims to encourage more young people aged 4-11 years to make active and healthy lifestyle choices by rewarding them with incentives to continue those active and healthy habits. Children are provided with a Lifestyle passport with which they collect points by attending physically active extra curricular clubs, be active in their own time, or eat a portion of fruit or vegetables in school time. Once they have received 100 points they are rewarded with sports equipment or activities. The lead organisation for this will be the Copeland School Sports Partnership and every primary school in Copeland will benefit.

d) Cleator Moor Area Sport and Physical Activity Development:

This project aims to employ a physical activity motivator to work at and from existing community venues such as Wath Brow Hornets ARLC, Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre and Cleator Moor Civic Hall. The motivator will deliver low-cost physical activity sessions to the community. The lead organisation for this will be Leisure Copeland and the areas covered include Cleator Moor North, Cleator Moor South, Egremont North, Egremont South, Moresby, Arlecdon, Frizington and other areas on request.

**Housing**

The Strategic Housing Panel has now met three times to monitor the Housing Action Plan and discuss emerging policies.

The Homelessness strategy has been developed with the support of our partners and a delivery plan produced which will be monitored by the Housing Panel. The Homelessness Strategy was approved by Executive in August after extensive consultation.

A draft of the Private Sector Renewal Policy is now out for consultation, all Members have been sent a copy and there is a copy in the Members Room. Once the consultation period is over this too will go to the Housing Panel prior to Executive. If Councillors would like copies of the strategy or to make comment please contact Debbie Cochrane.

I am pleased to be in a position to tell you that all the vacancies in the housing section have been filled. Laurie Priebe the new Housing Services Manager started last month, both new technical inspectors will have started by the middle of October and the Housing Strategy Manager started in early September. The team will now concentrate on delivering the actions from the housing services plan.

Finally, I am pleased to be able to tell you that work to the Trusteel properties should start in October. All Notices have been served, and Atkins are working with the owners and contractors to arrange a start date.

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**Copeland Strategy on Homelessness**

12 August 2008  
EXE/07/0051

**Decision**

**That a) Council be recommended that the Strategy and Action plan be approved; and**

**b) Strategic Housing Panel be asked to monitor progress.**