

EXECUTIVE REPORT

FULL 12 04 05

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICE PORTFOLIO**COUNCILLOR HENRY WORMSTRUP - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****MIKE TICHFORD - LEAD OFFICER****1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 Parton-Lillyhall Improvements**

The Draft Orders were published on 1 March and placed on deposit locally. An exhibition was held at Distington Community Centre on 17/18 March. The consultation period extends until the 24 May and I anticipate a report being presented to the Executive to consider the response of the Council.

A meeting between the Parish Councils and the Highways Agency has been arranged to discuss their concern about traffic using rat runs during the construction phase of the improvements.

1.2 Howgate-Parton Resurfacing

The Highways Agency is to resurface the A595 between Howgate and Parton during the summer. Following representations from the Council it has been agreed that the works will be removed during the weekend of the Maritime Festival in June. The highway works will also include the erection of a pedestrian island on the Long Mile to improve pedestrian safety.

1.3 Detrunking the A595 south of Calderbridge

The Council has now submitted its case for the Inquiry on 19 April including proofs of evidence. The Council case will be presented by a Barrister with a background in dealing with highway matters. Representing the Council will be:

- Bob Metcalfe. A consultant retained by the Council to prepare the case and to be principal witness on planning and economic development matters.
- Councillor Elaine Woodburn. Leader of the Council who will deal with the work of the West Cumbria Strategic Forum.

- Councillor David Moore. Chair of the Sellafield Liaison Committee who will deal with emergency planning in relation to the adequacy of the road network.
- Peter Frost-Pennington, Muncaster Castle and Vice Chair of the Western Lake District Tourism Partnership on tourism matters
- Michael Middleton. Director of Infrastructure for BNG dealing with the impact upon the business interest of the Company.

A meeting has been held between Council and other objectors at which the Council summarised its outline case. The event identified opportunities to the parties to improve their presentation and to ensure that they were complementary. It should also be noted that Councillor Keith Hitchen has taken the lead in developing the case to be presented by the South Copeland Neighbourhood Forums whose case will be presented by the Chair of the West Cumbria Local Strategic Partnership, Councillor Tim Knowles.

1.3 Coalfield Matters

Council Members have received my report and I would remind them that the National Coalfield Communities Campaign meeting will be held in the Copeland Centre on 22 April 2005.

The North West Coalfields Programme is now well underway with the following projects:

- The Mining Communities Environmental Project has commenced with works on the Whitehaven Gateway project, including a willow sculpture on the Toll Bar junction, and a major upgrade of the Hensingham Community Park
- The Employment Support Project based in Mirehouse has commenced an enhanced advice and guidance service
- The Copeland Clean and Green Team has recently taken on two unemployed people as new operatives. These posts have been jointly funded by the Council and the Coalfields Programme. They will be operating throughout the Borough with the aid of tackling environmental problems including the removal of chewing gum. Their work will follow on from the "deep clean and chewing gum removal" from King Street in Whitehaven which was successfully carried out on 31 March. This was funded through the Council's Environmental Cleansing budgets.

3 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

4 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Economic Regeneration Best Value Review Phase One Report
Date of Decision: 22 February 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0159
Context: To consider the report of the Best Value Review Phase One
Decision
That

- a) the findings and recommendations of the Phase 1 Report be agreed; and
- a) the issues identified for the final stage of the review as set out in Section 2 be agreed in principle; and
- b) the issues identified for the final stage of the review be updated and completed prior to resubmission to the Executive for approval.

Subject: Haig Pit Mining Museum – Asset Transfer
Date of Decision: 22 February 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0173
Context: This Report Seeks Consent To A Transfer Of Assets From The Trustees Of The Haig Pit Restoration Group ('The Group') To A New Company
Decision
That this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive

Subject: Economic Regeneration – Best Value Review Phase 1 Report
Date of Decision: 10 March 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0179
Context: To consider the initial findings of the Economic Regeneration Best Value Review and agree the priorities and timescale for further work
Decision
That

1. the findings and recommendations of the Phase1 Report be agreed; and
2. the issues identified for the final stage of the review as set out in Section 2 of the report be agreed

Subject: Economic Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan
Date of Decision: 10 March 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0180
Context: To consider the draft final Economic Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan for Copeland "Gearing Up for Change"
Decision
That

- a) subject to the views of the Executive the draft strategy and action plan be approved; and
- b) an easy to read summary leaflet setting out the strategy be produced.

Subject: Haig Pit Mining Museum – Asset Transfer

Date of Decision: 10 March 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/04/018

Context: This report seeks consent to a transfer of assets from the Trustees of the Haig Pit Restoration Group ('the Group') to a new company

Decision

That consent be granted.