

**EXECUTIVE REPORT****FULL 12 04 05****TOURISM AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR GEORGE CLEMENTS - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****MIKE TICHFORD - LEAD OFFICER****1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 A595 Detrunking**

In response to representations made to the Cumbria Tourist Board they have written to the Leader agreeing that the A595 south of Calder Bridge is vital to tourism. However, they qualify this statement by going on: "CTB will continue to lobby whichever agency is responsible for improving and maintaining a high standard for future visitor needs".

The County Council representation at the CTB meeting at which this was discussed presented an opposing view – suggesting that the maintenance and improvement of the road would be best served through it being detrunked and the CC having responsibility for it and funding works.

There is a report on the A595 under the Economic Infrastructure Service Portfolio.

[See Appendix 1](#)

**1.2 Supporting People**

At the meeting of the Supporting People Commissioning Body on 7 February 2005 the financial report noted an overspend of £844,236 against the grant allocation of £9,646,122 for the current financial year (2004/05). The meeting agree to commission the preparation of a financial recovery plan for the next meeting. The recovery plan was duly tabled on at the meeting on the 14 March and amendments were detailed that made good the situation.

The grant allocation from ODPM for 2005/06, however, is £441,748 (4.58%) less than that for 2004/05. ODPM expects authorities to be able to reduce payments to providers by providers identifying and implementing efficiency savings linked to the service reviews being undertaken by Supporting People Teams.

In order to meet these cost pressures the County Council have included funding totalling £1,310,000 for 2005/06. A positive aspect to having received a cut this year is that in the longer term SP may see grant funding increased.

### **1.3 Low Demand Housing**

Results from the stakeholders event on 9 February previously reported to Council have not been released separately but will be included within the research element of the overall project. This has not yet been released.

Since the last Council meeting clarification has been secured from GONW that reference to West Cumbria as one of three areas outside the nine pathfinders refers to Barrow, Copeland and Allerdale. West Lakes Renaissance will be lead on preparing the programme document.

There has also been indications, though not confirmed, that £9m of funding could be available. Securing the funding will be a competitive process so is not assured.

[See Appendix 2](#)

### **1.4 Tourist Information Summit**

Early in March officer's attend a strategy meeting at Rheged which was called by Cumbria Tourist Board. All of the Cumbrian local Authorities were represented at the meeting including the LDNP. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the provision of county- wide tourist information services.

The consensus view which emerged from the meeting was that all operators of Tourist Information Centres (TIC's) in Cumbria would all benefit from a strengthening of network arrangements. All operators are highly committed to improving visitor information services. However the suggestion of a single management approach - i.e. one organisation responsible for all TIC operations (there are 33 networked TIC's in all) across the whole of the County was not felt to be feasible. There was agreement that further meetings be held to discuss how the network can be developed and work even more effectively.

## **2 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

## **3 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

None