

Leader's Report**Full Council Report****Councillor Miss E Woodburn – Portfolio Holder****1 Key Issues – Progress Report****Nuclear Issues****Thorp**

BNG have been working to recover from the fractured pipe in Thorp, which as we all know resulted in a release of liquor. Recovery of all the liquor was completed back in June and this is currently being stored in storage tanks prior to being processed.

A Board of Inquiry was convened and the report published at the end of June, which highlighted the root causes and made recommendations. Half of these recommendations have already been completed with all the others on target. They have also closed out one of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) improvement notices and they have agreed an extension to the second to give BNG time to purchase and install some new equipment. All the other NII actions will be completed on target.

BNG have identified their preferred repair option in order to safely start operating the plant again, this will involve isolating the affected tank and pipe work and to use the other unaffected tank, subject to a revised operating regime to protect against such a leak in the future. Safety is the top priority and the option will be subject to rigorous safety assessment and NII consultation before the modifications can be made.

The provisional internal planning assumption is that all areas of the plant will be operational by March 2006, though due to the complexity of the plant it will progressively start up over a period of weeks. BNG remain confident that they have the capability to return Thorp to service but as we know ultimately the final decision on the way forward will be made by Government.

It is worth reminding ourselves that in our response to the NDA strategy where we supported the efforts that have been made to reopen the plant as soon as possible. We also emphasised that we recognise and support the strategic importance given to Thorp as a means of managing AGR fuel. The Thorp ponds have planning permission only for spent fuel to be reprocessed in the facility and not for storage of spent fuel per se.

New Nuclear Build

As we all know new nuclear power generation has become high on the political agenda and one which I know we would all welcome here in Copeland as part of the overall economic vision for the area. It seems to be now accepted by Government that to safeguard the security of Britain's long-term energy supplies and to meet the Government targets for climate change new nuclear is needed. A Government review has been set up and will be asked to reach its conclusion by early summer 2006. If the review committee go into these discussions with transparency, recognition of the need for full consultation and communication and open minds the case for new nuclear will succeed.

Shetland Islands Precedent

Summary Report of Visit to Shetlands Islands Council (SIC) /Sulom Voe Oil Terminal November 17th / 18th '05

The visit was arranged to investigate the arrangements that have been put in place to ensure the local community in Shetland gained benefit from the presence of development carried out by the oil industry in the late seventies. Shetland has been identified as a UK precedent as an offset package agreed between industry and community and may help inform our thinking on secure community benefit from the Nuclear Industry.

A private members Bill provided special powers to the local authority to compulsory purchase large areas of land on the northern part of the Island and allowed the LA to become landowner and Harbour Authority allowing them to control movements of vessels and goods in and out of that part of the island. We were informed that Orkney, which also has similar arrangements in place with the oil industry, successfully promoted a similar Bill. As a result a number of income streams to the local community were agreed with the industry. This has produces capital funds of many hundreds of millions of pounds that are managed to produce a revenue return that is available to the community to spend. The capital is retained to be managed in perpetuity. The annual income generated by these funds is tens of millions of pounds for a total population of 22-000. The arrangements were based on the industry completing its operation in 2000 and cleaning up the site after its use. In fact the period agreement has now been extended to 2030.

Some of the funding flows directly into the local authority and some into a charitable trust. The latter has a majority of elected councillors and distributes funding to four other trusts that are subject specific and involve a wider range of stakeholders. Significant quality of life benefits have been provided as a result (Shetland as 3 airports for e.g.). Major capital projects of course generate revenue consequences. Provision for ongoing revenues consequences is made at the point of the investment decision. A fuller summary of the research visit is available to all members on request.

Nda Draft Strategy

We submitted our response to the NDA Draft Strategy document, which was presented in draft form to the previous full council meeting. What was significant was that our response was supported and agreed by numerous other organisations including Allerdale, Cumbria County Council, West Cumbria Local Strategic Partnership, Cumbria Strategic Partnership, Copeland Association of Local Councils and West Cumbria Development Agency. This demonstrated that with Copeland's lead the response was submitted with the added support of all the major organisations throughout Cumbria.

NuLeaf Study

As previously reported Nuleaf has commissioned, at Copeland's request, a study which will investigate how other European countries have off set packages that are connected with the areas having some form of nuclear establishments within their boundaries. A consultant has been appointed and a draft report will be available shortly, of which I will make available to all members.

CARL conference

At the time of writing I will be on my way to Antwerp to attend an international conference organised and funded by CARL

C - Citizens/Stakeholders

A - Agencies responsible for waste management

R – Research organisations

L – Licensing and regulatory agencies

The aim of the project is to develop insights into stakeholder involvement in radioactive waste management and the outcome of such exercises across all the participating countries. This particular conference is providing reports from Sweden, Canada, UK, Finland, Slovenia and Belgium explaining their nuclear history how they have managed stakeholder engagement and what off set packages certain countries have negotiated. I will provide more details on my return.

NDA Priority Workshop

We recently attended the Nda priority workshop whose role is to create a clear and robust system to prioritise the Nda clean up workload and associated projects. It will be an ongoing process but the first draft issue of the system will be available at the end of this year. I will keep members updated on this as it progresses; as it is essential we keep involved in this to ensure we feed into the prioritisation work plan.

Future of the Sellafield Site

All members recently received some information from myself asking for your input in to the future of the Sellafield site. Recognising that changes might occur over the period of decommissioning an early indication from members and the community would be most welcome. A workshop will be held early in the New Year and if members are interested in taking part in this you can register on the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group – www.wcssg.co.uk

DEFRA National Low Level Waste Policy Review

Copeland has been represented on the stakeholder group helping to develop a government consultation document, which is expected this month. We contributed our views on many issues and this included putting forward proposed wording for a paragraph on measures to offset detriments to local communities. We wait with eagerness to see if this appears in the consultation document.

Budget

A workshop was held for all members to ensure all members could have an early sight of the likely recommendations coming forward from the Budget Working Party (BWP). The BWP have also had sight of the comments received from our present attendance at all of the Copeland Neighbourhood forums and the questionnaire that was completed. This was a useful way of gaining input from the community and it will be built on and improved for next year.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Replacement of Financial Management System

Date of Decision: 18 October 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0084

Context: This report outlines the proposals for replacing the Council's current Financial Management Systems

Decision

That the release of £250,000 from the Major Projects Fund to allow for the replacement of the Council's Financial Management System be approved.

Subject: Whitehaven Civic Hall – Audit Report Follow Up

Date of Decision: 18 October 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0090

Context: This report informs members of the results of the follow up of the action plan on cash and banking procedures at the Whitehaven Civic Hall.

Decision**That progress on the action plan be noted****Subject: Recruitment of Chief Executive – Consultancy**

Date of Decision: 18 October 2005

Decision made by:

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0091

Full Executive

Context: To seek approval to allocation of resources for engagement of consultants to assist in recruitment of a new Chief Executive.

During consideration of this item it was noted that the recommended amount of funding would not be sufficient and it was therefore agreed that this figure would be increased from £25,000 to £50,000.

Decision

That the Head of Policy and Performance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Head of Finance & Business Development be authorised to agree funding of up to £50,000 from the major projects fund, for a consultant to assist in the recruitment of a new Chief Executive.

Subject: Appeals Panel

Date of Decision: 18 October 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0092

Context: To receive a report of the Appeals Panel of 26 September 2005

Decision**That a) the report be noted; and**

b) the financial settlement as recommended in the report be approved, funded from the Development Control Budget.

Subject: Concessionary Fares

Date of Decision: 8 November 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0100

Context: To advise members of the change in the statutory concessionary travel scheme and to recommend the scheme to be in place from 1 April 2006.

During consideration of this item it was noted requested that this be reviewed as to the benefits of having a county wide scheme to Copeland.

Decision

That

- a) the current scheme in relation to bus passes be extended to free travel 24/7 and the local scheme be continued subject to confirmation of additional Government funding; and
- b) the possibility of issuing railcards as a further option for eligible persons be pursued.

Subject: Monitoring of Revenue Expenditure

Date of Decision: 8 November 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0101

Context: This report informs Members of the variations in actual and expected revenue based expenditure and income over £10,000, or more than 10% of budget, for the 6 month period 1 April to 30 September 2005

Decision

That the report be noted.

Subject: Capital Programme Monitoring 2005/06

Date of Decision: 8 November 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0102

Context: This is a progress report that advises Members of expenditure to the end of September 2005, and any amendments needed to the Capital Programme for 2005/06

Decision

That

- a) the spend to date and project managers comments as detailed in the report be noted;
- b) the amendments to the Capital Programme be noted and approved:
and
- c) the approved programme as detailed in the report be approved.

Subject: Annual Report On The Treasury Management Service And Actual Prudential Indicators 2004/05

Date of Decision: 8 November 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0103

Context: The annual treasury report is a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures and covers the treasury activity for 2004/05. The report also covers the actual Prudential Indicators for 2004/05 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code

Decision

That

- a) the actual 2004/05 prudential indicators within the report be approved; and
- b) the treasury management stewardship report for 2004/05 be noted.

Subject: Urgent Items

Date of Decision: 8 November 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0105

Context: To note actions taken on Grounds of Urgency

Decision

That action taken by the

- a) Head of Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council in approving a contribution to the Whitehaven Town Centre to fund the 2005 Xmas Lights Switch on and various other events running from December to summer 2006;
- b) Head of Customer Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council in employing Capita Local Government Services to process the backlog of benefit cases; and
- c) Head of Regeneration in consultation with the Leader of the Council in awarding a grant of £5,000 to assist Whitehaven Football Club Limited in the purchase of the County Ground be noted.

**Subject: Council Restructuring – Further Consideration of Posts
Referred to in March Report**

Date of Decision: 18 October 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0094

Context: This report reviews the situation regarding

1. the 5 posts which were previously considered by Phase2 Report in March 2005
2. IT Services; and
3. Regeneration - Prior to consideration of this report Members noted action taken on grounds of urgency by the the Corporate Director Economic Prosperity and Sustainability in consultation with the Portfolio Holder – Resources and Local Democracy in Adjusting the grading of the post of Economic Development and Tourism Manager to secure an appointment.

Decision

That

Relating to the 5 posts which were previously considered by Phase2 Report in March 2005

1. the Council's Structure be amended to show a full time Team Leader (Environmental Protection) as a permanent posts;
2. Personnel Panel be asked to consider the job profile and grading of the Team Leader (Environmental Protection);
3. the post of Customer Relationships Officer be made full time for a period of 12 months and reviewed after 6 months;
4. the interim arrangements regarding the Freedom of Information post continue for up to a further six months; and then subject of a further report detailing how the duties could be rolled up into another post;
5. discussions take place with a view to combining the roles of Web Master and Graphics Technician, and a further report is presented to the Executive as soon as possible;
6. provision be made in the non recurring budget to pay for the services of a relief Mayor's attendant/messenger on a casual basis, and that this arrangement be reviewed annually; funded in 05/06 from contingencies and subject to a non-recurring bid for 06/07;

IT Services

- 7. the proposals set out in the IT report relating to Helpdesk; Partnership/Collaborative Working/Training involving the use and application of the £100,000 already included in the base budget be approved; and**

Regeneration

- 8. action taken on grounds of urgency by the Corporate Director Economic Prosperity and Sustainability in consultation with the Portfolio Holder – Resources and Local Democracy in adjusting the grading of the post of Economic Development and Tourism Manager to secure an appointment;**
- 9. in the medium term the feasibility of a joint Building Control service be explored with the partners;**
- 10. option 3 as detailed in the report be agreed; and**
- 11. further reports be brought back on;**
 - a. bursaries for final year planning students; and**
 - b. workloads and future arrangements in the residual housing functions.**