

EXECUTIVE REPORT**FULL 13 12 05****RESOURCES AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR NORMAN WILLIAMS - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****SUE BORWICK - LEAD OFFICER****1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****Quality Parish Accreditation**

I reported to the last meeting of the Council that Lamplugh Parish Council had moved closer to acquiring Quality Parish status. The Parish Council has subsequently taken the final step towards accreditation with a formal submission. Members will be pleased to hear that Lamplugh were successful in their application and were awarded Quality Parish Status at the meeting of the Cumbria Accreditation Panel on 22nd November 2005. At the same accreditation panel Arnside and Ravenstonedale Parish Councils were also accredited. This makes Lamplugh PC Copeland's first Quality accredited Parish and one of only four in Cumbria. We have been working with Lamplugh during their accreditation preparation and will now be meeting with members of the Parish to discuss areas we both wish to explore to improve ways of working and see if there are ways to improve service provision locally in line with our Corporate Plan objectives.

Property maintenance/management

A contract notice has been placed in the European Journal for the renewal of the Valuation Services contract which expires in June 2006. The notice has been placed as a restricted notice, the equivalent of a select list and a future report will be taken to Executive for approval of consultants.

Disposal of land and property. – Following approval from Full Council last month sales are proceeding on a number of parcels of land. Details of sale prices will be circulated once contracts have been exchanged. Further disposals will continue, the results of the Local Plan enquiry are awaited so that the potential to sell some larger portions can be reviewed.

Information Computer technology

Security and Acceptable Use Policies and Member laptop loan agreements have been circulated for signature and return by 22 November to enable staff and Members to continue to have access to the Council Information Computer Technology network. There has been a low response from members, who are encouraged to return the applicable forms as soon as they are able (Security Policy and Laptop Loan Agreement).

As part of the process to improve the resource level and resilience of the IT section, and following Executive approval, a report is to be taken to the Personnel panel on 29 November to seek approval for the Job profiles for two additional IT staff.

Procurement

The procurement officer post has been advertised internally, and now externally, in order to secure the resource necessary to develop the procurement strategy and respond to the government initiatives in this area.

Councillor Training and Development

As previously reported to Council, the North West Employers' Organisation is currently conducting Personal Development Plan interviews with Councillors as part of our preparations for a comprehensive Member training programme for next year. The final round of interviews by NWEO will be on 19 and 20 December.

I am pleased to report that the response from Members to the invitation to take part in the PDP interviews has been very good, and all the interview slots with NWEO were booked some weeks ago. The feedback from Members who have participated so far has also been positive and encouraging.

I would again urge all Members who have not yet signed up for a PDP interview to consider doing so, as we have alternative arrangements in place which will enable us to provide a PDP interview to other Members outside the dates booked with NWEO.

The next stages of the process will be an analysis of training and development needs identified in the PDP's and how identified needs can be delivered. The Member Training and Development Panel will be making a start on this early in 2006, with assistance from NWEO.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Progress Report - Public Building Revenue and Capital Schemes 2005/06

Date of Decision: 18 October 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0080

Context: This report updates Executive of progress with responsive and programmed maintenance to Public Buildings during 2005/06 and seeks approval an increase the Contractor helpdesk authority value, from £50 to £80.

Decision

That a) the current position be noted;

b) the increase in Contractor helpdesk order authority value from £50 to £80 be approved; and

c) Contract Standing Orders be suspended in respect of competition for the second phase of replacement window works at the Whitehaven Civic Hall for the reasons as detailed in the report.

Subject: IEG Project Up-Date

Date of Decision: 18 October 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0081

Context: Reports on the current position of the IEG programme, including financial information, and seeks approval to release the remainder of the IEG money in the capital programme

Decision

That

1. the current position on the IEG project be noted;

2. the remaining funds of £62,608 in the capital programme be approved for completion of the project and their exact use be delegated to the Head of Policy and Performance, in consultation with both the combined officer project board and the (Member) IEG Board; and

3. the first call on remaining funds be to ensure that mandatory IEG Outcomes are delivered and the second priority be to deliver enhancements that meet local priorities.

Subject: Connected Cumbria Partnership

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0085

Context: To consider Copeland Borough Council's membership of the Connected Cumbria Partnership and their representation on the Strategic Board

Decision

That a) the report be approved;

b) option 1 - remain a member of the Connected Cumbria Partnership be approved and a budget bid be submitted for 2006/07; and

c) the Chief Executive and Portfolio holder (or their nominees) represent Copeland Borough Council on the Strategic Board

Subject: Call-In Information Systems Security Policy & Communication
Systems Acceptable Use Policy

Date of Decision: 18 October 2005

Decision made by:

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0086

Full Executive

Context: This report follows a call-in of the decision taken by the Executive on the Information Systems Security Policy and Communication Systems Acceptable Use Policy at their meeting of 27 September 2005

Decision

That the revised policy be approved