

EXECUTIVE REPORT**FULL 13.09.05****ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR ALLAN HOLLIDAY - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****KEITH PARKER - LEAD OFFICER****1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****CULTURE****Sport**

The Senior Leisure Facilities Manager has received notification that an application to the North West Coalfield Fund, for £100,000 Capital improvements to Copeland Stadium and £50,000 of revenue funding for a one year Community Development Manager post to market the project, have been recommend for full approval, by the appraiser. An offer letter confirming that the Trustees of Copeland Stadium can commence work on the project which includes a mini football pitch, a multi use games area, an upgrade to the Athletics track, some drainage work, two new changing rooms, disabled access and an extension to the social room and gym area should arrive shortly. This funding will complete a package, which so far comprises £300,000 from the Rugby League Community Club Development Fund, £60,000 from the UK Athletics/Sport England Community Athletics Refurbishment Programme, £5,000 from Cumbria County Council and £600 reinvested by the Trust.

Arts Development

The Lego-opolis project has proven very popular with young and old alike and has generated a great deal of interest and creative thinking regarding the urban environment of Whitehaven. The approachable and familiar medium of Lego has enabled the artists to broach generation divisions and get members of the community to engage with such issues as the 'liveability' of Whitehaven. To draw on memories of the past to define what the essence of the place is and how that has shaped the way that people live in the area and what they see its future to be. The introduction of information on the development sites proposed by West Lakes Renaissance and the potential structures which would change the shape of the urban environment has generated a good deal of interest, creative thinking and feedback, which will be reported to West Lakes Renaissance. The product of all this work will be open to view from the 10th of September until the 8th of October.

ENVIRONMENT

Waste Management

The Council has received the draft Best Value Inspection report of the Audit Commission from their recent visit. It has been agreed by the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership that a single response will be sent in representing the views of the County Council and six Districts. This will focus on correcting the factual inaccuracies in the report while at the same time acknowledging it can be used as a tool to improve the County's performance. The report largely concentrates on the effectiveness of the inter-authority partnership and the consequences of failing to engage with the public in the 'new' waste management agenda for example the County Council faces fines of £3.5 million next year for failing to divert sufficient 'green' waste from landfill. The report identifies few weaknesses specific to Copeland although our "very low" staffing levels are noted as are the adverse reaction of some residents to alternate week collections together with the shared weakness of our failure to effectively disseminate hard messages about waste. The final report will be presented to the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership at the end of this month and while not a published document it will be one we will need to pay considerable attention to.

The Council's Waste Services Manager has been invited to address a national conference being organised by the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on alternate week collections on 7th of September. This recognises the work the Council has done in introducing this system to majority of Copeland households and our value in being able to offer the 'Learning experience' to other Council's wishing to follow the same route. Roughly 25% of Council's in the country operate an alternate week collection in at least part of their area. Such systems are becoming the norm as we all strive to address the need for more sustainable waste management practices. That Copeland has been invited to the event as a speaker is evidence that its work has identified as a national example worth sharing with others.

3 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

4 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Hensingham Conservation Volunteers

Date of Decision: 26 July 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0049

Context: This report is seeking executive approval, for the council to act as the accountable body for Hensingham Conservation Volunteers in respect of a £25k one-off grant from Living Spaces.

During consideration of this item members asked how many instances were there where the Council was the accountably body both for funding and staffing issues and asked for a report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive.

Decision

That a) the Executive agrees to the council acting as the accountable body for Hensingham Conservation Volunteers in respect of a £25K one-off grant they have been offered in principle by Living Spaces;

b) a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive on where the Council are deemed accountable.

Subject: Leisure Surplus Scheme

Date of Decision: 16 August 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0057

Context: To request approval from the executive for the payment of the 2004-05 leisure surplus share scheme and to seek agreement in principal to the payment in 2005-06

Decision

That a) the report be noted;

b) the payment of the surplus share for the financial year 2004-2005 be approved; and

c) and the payment of the surplus share scheme for 2005/06 be approved in principal.