

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 15 April 2008

Effective Leadership – Councillor Elaine Woodburn – Leader

Councillor Allan Holliday – Deputy Leader

The Executive Reports are intended to be more forward looking to allow members to input their views and influence Executive Decisions.

Strategic Nuclear Issues

NDA Financial Model

The NDA recently appeared in front of the Business and Enterprise Committee in March 2008. The report has called into question the sustainability of the NDA's financial model. It states that public money for the NDA will have to increase significantly over the coming years over and above current plans if nuclear decommissioning is going to be carried out as intended.

The volatility and uncertainty of the NDA's commercial income means that the constraints of three year spending review settlements cause difficulties and the committee has called for work on a new system of funding to begin urgently. This is something the Council needs to monitor closely to ensure any funding changes continue to prioritise the decommissioning needs of Sellafield.

Managing Radioactive Waste Management

During early Summer the Government will be inviting communities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to express an interest in commencing dialogue over hosting the nation's higher level radioactive waste.

In response to this invitation and in line with the Council's policy which is "in view of the presence of approximately 70% of the nation's higher activity waste in the Borough already, it would be prepared to talk to Government about the potential for a partnership between the Borough and Government. " We will be seeking the views of the local community by undertaking a series of independent 'public engagement focus groups'.

It is important to recognise that at this early stage the Council is seeking to establish whether the local community is willing to enter into a non-committal form of dialogue with the Government in order to understand further the proposed implementation framework. The period of time of this work is expected to be around 18 months and in that time further public/partner consultation would be needed.

As we go through this process Members will be kept updated but I would like to hold a workshop for Members to discuss this further and would welcome Members' views on this.

Information Updates

Copeland Community Fund

As Members know the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority entered into a Section 106 Agreement to create the Copeland Community Fund for the benefit of the communities in the Borough of Copeland. The Section 106 Agreement was drafted on the basis that the fund would be held in a non-charitable Community Interest Company. However, there is scope to look at different organisations, some of which offer more benefits, especially tax exemption.

There are two forms of governance which the NDA and Local Authorities are considering which are a Regeneration Charity with a trading arm or a formal partnership. This would mean the resources would be held by a Local Authority but an independent partnership would be set up to agree spend.

There are pros and cons for both options but both would be free from tax issues, which would ensure all the money/interest gained is spent here in Copeland.

Work is still ongoing but a date for July has been agreed for the formalisation of the organisation. This being the predicted date the Vault 9 construction will commence.

Nobody envisaged the technical, financial and legal issues that would stem from the securing of this fund, but Members can be assured that agreement will be made that secures the best deal for Copeland.

West Cumbria Strategic Partnership

A Whitehall coordinating group has been established to bring together civil servants from different government departments that can support the delivery of the Energy Coast Masterplan. Terms of reference were agreed at its first meeting in January. In addition to key civil servants, the group includes local and regional representation. The meetings will also support and help manage future meetings of the West Cumbria Strategic Forum. A meeting was held in March when discussions took place on moving forward on key projects.

Achieving Transformation- Councillor Cath Giel - Deputy Leader

Councillor Norman Williams - Portfolio Holder

Councillor Tim Knowles - Portfolio Holder

Business Summit

Following considerable comment and activity relating to this Authority's Partnership Regeneration Strategy for Whitehaven and in particular, its Town Centre, it has been decided to host a conference on the subject. Described as a "Summit", the event will enable this Authority and its partners to exhibit the key plans for the development of the Town Centre, to engage in dialogue with businesses from the area and to consider complementary ideas from key stakeholders. Whilst we have ambitious regeneration plans for the area it is evident that we have failed to communicate those plans to the wider community.

Copeland's MP, Jamie Reed has agreed to launch the event, to participate fully and to discuss some of the interesting ideas which he has put forward to assist the regeneration programme. The Editor of the Whitehaven News has offered his collaboration in the marketing and consultation opportunities associated with this initiative, which links positively to that publication's "Shop Front" campaign. The date set for the event is **Thursday 22nd May 2008 and the venue will be Whitehaven Civic Hall.**

Regeneration Activity

This Authority is committed to delivering substantial progress in the Regeneration of its communities throughout the Borough over the coming twelve months. It has been able to provide resource to ensure the continuation of Economic Development Partnerships in the Millom, Egremont and Cleator Moor areas and through new staff in its Regeneration Department is working to provide professional development planning and resources to achieve much more.

Work is progressing to ensure the engagement of a "Development Partner" for the Pow Beck Gardens project. It is expected that this collaboration, principally led by this Authority and Westlakes Renaissance, will produce an exciting and high quality mixed development of homes and employment facilities during the latter part of 2009.

The area known as "Albion Square", an assembly of land at the western end of Irish Street, is currently in the final stages of assessment in a similar development exercise, but at this stage it is not possible to confirm the details of the type of structures to be built.

The public areas of the Town Centre will be significantly enhanced over the next twelve months, with improvements to the areas in front of the Civic Centre and Library, together with street signage and furniture upgrades.

A full re appraisal of the Ginns Development Site is in progress. Outcomes from the appraisal study will be shared with this council in due course.

Progress is still being made on the "Bransty Square" development, which will incorporate a new, relocated Tesco store, a major new public space, bus and rail interchange and a new "Gateway" to the Town Centre. It is anticipated that some of the complex commercial negotiations will be finalised soon.

National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP)

In pursuit of the Corporate Plan commitment to develop new Trainee Schemes, the Council has agreed to participate in the 2-year sponsorship(s) of a graduate trainee through the Local Government National Graduate Development Programme. The sponsorship is in partnership with the County Council, Carlisle City Council, and South Lakeland District Council. Costs will be shared and funded from the Corporate Training & Development budget and the first placements are expected in the Autumn of 2008.

The NGDP is designed to recruit future senior managers for local government, as part of the government's initiatives to improve capacity and modernise the sector. The Programme aims to provide National Management Trainees with a base of skills, experience and the opportunity for personal growth through a series of structured placements and national events.

Copeland and the other participating Cumbrian authorities will provide work placements for graduates who have successfully completed the national selection process. These high calibre graduates will be able to contribute significantly to the Council's work programme, whilst at the same time gaining valuable practical experience.

Investors in People

The Authority currently holds the Investor In People (IIP) accreditation and is due to be reassessed in June 2008. The standard changed shortly after the last assessment and work has now started to prepare for our assessment against the new IIP standard.

There are ten main factors which make up the IIP standards. The arrangements that organisations have in place are assessed through a series of interviews with a range of people at all levels within the organisation – senior managers, team leaders, new starters, trainees, qualified professionals and people working with external customers.

The evidence collected through interviews is compared with the main themes of the IIP standard – having clear strategies for improvement, learning and development planned to achieve the business objectives, equality of opportunity in development, management capability, employees' contributions being recognised, engagement of employees in taking responsibility, evaluation of training and development and continuous improvement.

There is a great deal to do before then, and a small project team has been put in place to prepare services and employees for this challenge.

Promoting Prosperity – Councillor George Clements - Deputy Leader

Councillor Geoff Blackwell - Portfolio Holder

Councillor Hugh Branney - Portfolio Holder

Summer 2008 Activity Programme Proposals.

In 2007 the Sports Development Team held a 6 week summer holiday sports programme in all areas of Copeland. The programme had 1350 young people attending the sessions. Having completed an extensive evaluation process, with participants, staff and key partners, we are currently planning this year's programme.

From the evaluations undertaken it has been noted that the first and last weeks of the programme were poorly attended. Therefore the Sports Development Team are proposing to concentrate on the middle four weeks of the summer holiday period.

The structure of the sessions will be maintained but more emphasis will be put on working with community groups and youth providers to ensure that the activity on offer is tailored to the local needs.

All the wards of Copeland that we have previously offered sporting activity in will still be offered activity but we hope to introduce new areas that are currently not offered any activity. These areas include Bootle, Ennerdale & Lamplugh.

Incorporated in the new summer programme will be a 'Copeland Sports & Physical Activity Alliance' project. The project will use a mobile climbing wall that will be offered to community groups and rural villages.

The Sports Development Team is working very closely with Leisure Copeland and other key partners to ensure that our activities do not clash and to offer the widest choice for the community. The Sports Development Team is also working together with key partners to ensure that a joined up publicity programme is offered widely in Copeland and access is simple and straightforward.

The summer holiday programme will deliver against the Council's objectives by increasing participation amongst young people and making Copeland a safer place to be.

Copeland Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) Update.

The Copeland Sports & Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) is progressing well and is currently at stage 2 of the Sport England Community Investment Fund funding process.

At present four projects have received stage 1 approval and the lead organisations have completed and submitted their stage 2 applications to Sport England on-line.

The projects that have gained stage 1 approval are:

1. Copeland Sports Programme:

This project has four key elements: a full time sport-specific coach, a part time multi-sport coach, resource for employing specialist coaches and the use of a mobile climbing wall. The lead organisation for this will be Copeland Borough Council and activity will be delivered throughout the borough.

2. Development Coordinator based at Egremont RUFC:

The Development Coordinator will deliver sports coaching to young people using the facilities, sports coaching to local school pupils using the facilities, sports events for young people during the school holidays e.g. "summer rugby schools" and coaching to attract adults back into regular participation in sport. The lead organisation for this project will be Egremont RUFC.

3. Copeland School Sports Healthy Lifestyles Project:

This project aims to encourage more young people aged 4-11 to make active and healthy lifestyle choices and reward them with incentives to continue those active and healthy habits. Children are provided with a Lifestyle passport with which they collect points by attending physically active extra curricular clubs, be active in their own time e.g. walking / cycling / running etc or eating a portion of fruit or vegetables in school time. Once they have received 100 points they are rewarded with a sports equipment prize, for example a skipping rope / football or the free use of a facility session such as a swim. It is intended to introduce incentives to encourage repeat usage of facilities such as half price charges for subsequent visits. The children will have pre chosen their target prize before commencing the scheme. The lead organisation for this will be the Copeland School Sports Partnership.

4. Cleator Moor Area Sport and Physical Activity Development:

This project aims to employ a physical activity motivator / deliverer and a sports coach trainee to work at and from existing community venues such as Wath Brow Hornets ARLC, Copeland Bowls and Sports Centre, Cleator Moor Civic Hall. The aim is to deliver low-cost physical activity sessions (fitness, dance, multi sports, and walks, outdoor activities) to target groups – mainly currently inactive adults. There would be an emphasis on direct delivery. The lead organisation for this will be Leisure Copeland.

Once stage 2 funding has been agreed by Sport England's Investment Team they will release the funds for the projects. The total funding for the SPAA projects is £543,000, with one project still in development stage. This project has been developed with Connexions and was delayed at stage 1 - additional time has been allocated to complete the process and draw down funding.

Shoreline Management Plan

We are now in the process of completing a new Shoreline Management Plan.

Shoreline Management Plans (SMP's) are policy documents for long-term coastal defence management taking account of local characteristics and need, local development and other legislative requirements to inform wider strategic planning.

The SMP provides an assessment of the natural processes and risks associated with coastal erosion and flooding. The aim is to develop a policy and flexible plan that allows people, places, industry and wildlife affected to adapt at a reasonable pace and does not commit future generations to expensive coastal defence options.

SMP's are currently being completed throughout the country. To create a national picture the country has been divided into regions and the regions are then broken down into smaller units referred to as cell/policy units. Copeland is in the North West Region, which covers over 1000km of coastline from the Dee Estuary on the border with Wales to the Solway Firth at the border with Scotland.

The North West Region is broken down further into North West Coastal Group, Liverpool Bay Coastal Group and Tidal Dee User Group – these three groups are then broken down into smaller cell units.

Copeland's length of coastline is covered by the North West Coastal Group and 2 cell/policy units – Walney Island to St Bees Head and St Bees Head to the Scottish Border.

The North West Coastal Group which covers 11 councils and the Environment Agency have commissioned Halcrow (a coastal engineering company) to undertake a technical assessment of the North West coastline using locally gathered information.

Coordination and management of the North West Coastal Group has been assigned to Blackpool Council. This role involves Blackpool on behalf of the North West Coastal Group liaising with Halcrow, organising public consultation and setting up stakeholder workshops.

The SMP for the Copeland coastline is now underway and will take up to 2 ½ years to complete involving:

1. Technical assessment – mapping of the natural process along the coastline, assessment of the current condition of the coastline and list the sea defences and condition of defences in place along the Copeland coastline
2. Democratic input - communication and consultation with elected members, interested local organisations, businesses and the public
3. Development of a sustainable plan to reduce the risks from flooding and coastal erosion to people and the developed, historic and natural environment

Communication and Consultation

The SMP must look at the overall picture and view the coast and any problems in the widest context. Coastal management decisions must also take account of the relationships between cultural, economic, social and environmental factors.

To be successful an SMP needs the involvement of a wide range of people and the right organisations to work together so that local character and need is considered and reflected in the plan. A stakeholder group will be set up for the Copeland

coastline covering Walney Island to St Bees Head and St Bees Head to the Scottish Border to ensure that local interests and issues are fed into the SMP.

Blackpool as the coordinating authority for the North West will in consultation with Copeland set up a stakeholder group.

Full public consultation across the North West region is expected in August 2009

Copeland Shoreline Management Plan

The SMP for Copeland will take into account technical assessments and stakeholder consultation and information to allocate one of the following action states to areas along the coastline:

1. **Hold the line** – maintain the existing defence line
2. **Advance the line** – build new defences seaward of the existing defence line
3. **Managed realignment** – allow the shoreline to change with management to control or limit movement
4. **No active intervention** – no investment in providing or maintaining defences

Plans will cover 3 timelines and assess the best policy for the area in each time period:

- 0 – 20 years
- 20 – 50 years
- 50 – 100 years

National Indicators

The importance of flooding and coastal defence is recognised by the new national indicator – NI189 – Flood and coastal erosion risk management.

This requires Copeland to record the progress in delivering agreed actions to implement long term flood and coastal risk management – Shoreline Management Plans and Catchment Flood Management Plans

Detailed guidance on how NI 189 will be assessed is being developed at present - the guidance acknowledges that SMP2's are not due to be completed until 2010 so in the interim the Environment Agency will work with coastal groups to develop actions.

Recycling Development

Colleagues will be aware that over the last few years Copeland's residents have shown interest in more recycling facilities throughout the Borough and for a wider range of materials. With Members' support the Council responded to this demand by funding the introduction of a number of plastic bottle recycling banks across Copeland in 2006. Cardboard banks were introduced soon afterwards and both continue to be extremely popular. Facilities for both materials have been extended in the number of sites since then.

Despite the obvious success of the bring sites, Copeland's residents have continued to lobby for kerbside collections of plastic and cardboard. In a survey of 5000 households carried out in February 2007, as part of the Cleaner Safer Greener Funded, South Whitehaven Waste Awareness Project, the most popular materials which respondents said they would recycle at the kerbside if they could, were plastic and cardboard. (72.8% said they would use a kerbside plastic recycling service, and 59.7% a cardboard recycling service).

As a result of this survey and the same comments being made in a Waste Awareness Doorstepping Campaign carried out during the summer of 2007, a pilot kerbside collection service for plastic bottles and cardboard was implemented in November 2007. The pilot service, which has had a mixed response from residents, initially collected from around 1200 homes in South Whitehaven and has since been extended by a further 600 homes. This small scale trial has however provided the Waste team with baseline data with which to successfully bid for revenue funding from the Cumbria Waste Partnership in 2008/9 to add to the existing Cleaner Safer Greener capital funding to provide an extended and ongoing plastic bottle and cardboard kerbside collection service. The capital element of this enhanced recycling service, a suitable split bodied collection vehicle and the necessary reusable collection sacks, has been funded through the Cleaner Safer Greener project.

Therefore within the next 3 months a wholly externally funded kerbside recycling service collecting plastic bottles and cardboard will be put into service for around 10,000 more homes in Copeland. As this new service is supported by Cleaner Safer Greener funding, residents in the South Whitehaven area will be the first to benefit from this service. However with an anticipated 10,000 property capacity, the service will be delivered beyond the South Whitehaven boundary. It is hoped that the interest in recycling this new service can generate will take Copeland's recycling rate from the 35% recycling rate expected at the end of 2007/8 to the 40% mark.

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

None