

EXECUTIVE REPORT**FULL 18.4.06****ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR ALLAN HOLLIDAY - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****KEITH PARKER - LEAD OFFICER****KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****1. LEISURE FACILITIES**

I am able to report the transfer of our Leisure Facilities to North Country Leisure Limited went ahead smoothly on 1 April. A great deal of work went on behind the scenes but as far as our customers are concerned everything was business as usual. I look forward to this new partnership and anticipate improvements will shortly become apparent to our customers and partner organizations as the new management make their mark.

Copeland Pool

North Country Leisure sent 12 Jet scooters for use in pool parties prior to taking over and in common with all the facilities have changed over computer systems and issued all staff with new uniforms.

In addition to this the pool participated in two major swimming galas on the 18th and 19 of March and 5 staff passed an internal first aid course taught by Wayne Rudd, a qualified member of the team .

Whitehaven Civic Hall

February saw the long awaited facelift to the Civic Hall. New front doors and windows were fitted to the foyer of the building, whilst work also commenced on new windows and doors to the Dunboyne Hall.

As ever the Hall has hosted a variety of events since my last report including on 16th of Feb return of TV Medium Joe Power at a well attended show. On the 28th to 4th of March Whitehaven and District Operatic society presented the musical Fiddler on the roof. Audience turnout was high and the show was received by ecstatic audiences on all of its performances. Up and coming pop sensations The Crimea, stopped by at the Civic on their UK tour on 6 March. The spectacular Mercury paid a visit to the civic on the 11th. The awesome tribute to Queen and Freddie Mercury wowed the near capacity crowd with uncanny renditions of Queen's Classic back catalogue. We expect them to return to the Civic sometime in 2007. From Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th Whitehaven Youth Theatre presented sell out audiences with their version of Roald Dahls Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Local talent was again on display on the 18th of March with a pop concert featuring 4 local bands. The Marratimes, Mazzonie, The Ressolve and Delivo. Over 350 people attended the event.

Friday 24th of March saw a Regular Rock night featuring Fandangel and Sadie Hawkins Dance. Again there was over 350 customers in to see the show, the majority of who were young people. The final event of March was a Christian Worship Event. There were over 300 non denominational Christians filling the Civic with songs and music.

2. OPEN SPACES

Distington – the venue for training top Cumbria in Bloom Judges

Following the boroughs success in last years Cumbria in Bloom competition, I can now report that Distington has been selected by the Cumbria In Bloom Executive as the location to undertake the training of the 30 Cumbria In Bloom Judges for 2006. The judges will be undertaking a mock judging exercise around the village as part of the days training. It was selected by the Cumbria in Bloom executive because of its great effort in last year's competition and it also meets all the requirements that are required to train the judges. Training will take place on the 19 May

Park Services Win External Contracts

I am pleased to report that Park Services have been successful against strong external competition to win the Home Housing, Copeland Area Grounds Maintenance Contract which will run for 12 months from April 2006

Also, Park Services have secured a three year contract for the future development and maintenance of the landscape areas around our own Copeland Centre. This is particularly pleasing for the parks team as the gardens were originally designed and implemented by parks services against external competition in 2005

Green Flag & Green Heritage Applications

Members will be aware that during 2005 Copeland Borough Council achieved a green flag award and a green heritage award for the grounds around Egremont Castle, this achievement meets the "Reputations" target for all Council's to have at least one green flag award.

Applications to achieve green flag awards are made on an annual basis and have now been submitted for 2006 for, Egremont castle grounds, Distington Crematorium, Trinity Gardens and St Nicholas Gardens, judging will take place in May

Street Scene

Footpaths

New footpaths have been laid across Hensingham Open Space to provide safe accessibility for children going to Hensingham School and to improve links generally for the disabled and parents with prams. New seats have also

been installed. The majority of the funding has been provided via a £25K grant from Living Spaces, which the Hensingham Conservation Volunteers group secured.

Street Scene Team

A small Street Scene team has been formed to allow more works to be accomplished with the funding available and to enable a more timely response to problems as they are identified. Who will be installing new street nameplates, cleaning graffiti from bus shelters, repairing potholes on Council car parks and footpaths and the creating a paved area around the new war memorial at Cleator Moor Square.

Enforcement Unit

More changes have been made to our environmental enforcement powers under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 from the 6th April including:

Littering Fixed Penalty fines rising to £75

Graffiti & Fly posting new fixed penalty notices of £75

Failing to use relevant waste receptacles (household and trade) a new fixed penalty of £100

Ability to introduce new dog control orders.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Bulky Waste Recycling

I would like to inform Council of a new recycling initiative that is proving to be extremely successful. A trial operation to recycle the bulky waste collected by Waste Management started in February this year. Since the trial started around half of all the waste collected through Copeland's bulky waste service has been recovered for recycling or re-use since. Outwardly there have been no changes to the bulky collection service and the vehicle continues to collect a mixed load of bulky household items. The difference is at the disposal end of the operation where rather than the vehicle tipping at landfill, it is taken to a sorting depot at Lillyhall. There recyclable materials such as wood, cardboard and scrap metal are removed and taken for recycling. This new operation will have a positive impact on Copeland's future recycling rate, expected to reach 29% for 05/06 as well as contributing to the County-wide landfill allowance reduction.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Stephen Mullen

Following a professional interview by the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management and the Science Council Stephen Mullen, Scientific Officer, was admitted as a Chartered Scientist. Stephen's work is

mainly to do with Contaminated Land and Air Quality and this achievement reflects very well on him and the Council.

Contaminated Land Strategy

The Council's current and first Contaminated Land Strategy was prepared and published in July 2001. Such strategies have to be reviewed from time to time and this Council committed itself to reviewing its own strategy after 4 years. At the time of the preparation of this report the review of the strategy is nearly complete and a report on the matter will be presented to the Executive at the earliest available opportunity.

Defective Sewers

I am pleased to be able to report that the sewer which serves over 50 properties on Coronation Drive, Grant Drive and Craig Drive in Whitehaven, has been repaired. The total cost of the work was £3,250 meaning each owner has been billed £47.80.

5. ARTS DEVELOPMENT

South Whitehaven Youth Video

This project is a partnership between Copeland Borough Council, Young Cumbria, Cumbria County Council, The National Trust and SRB South Whitehaven. Lead Artist Russell Cherrington is working with young people from the South Whitehaven area to explore the history and possible futures of the coastline and post-industrial landscape. The video produced maps and records the feelings and ideas the young people have about the site as it exists and their hopes and fears for the recent future.

The video was launched at the Rosehill Theatre 18th April to an audience of fifty gaining some positive press coverage. We would like to thank Councillor Jim Hewitson for his support.

Currently Rob Frazer is photographing the dynamic South Whitehaven coastline. Rob has agreed to let us use his images to advocate the possibilities of the area.

National Trust Cleator Moor

We have another excellent partnership with the National Trust in Cleator Moor. Here we are working with St. Patricks, Montreal and Ennerdale School on a project led by artist Jane Dudman. This year long project will take young people to work in the Ennerdale Valley and along with our other partnership work go along to generate posts working between borough and trust.

English Heritage Millom

This partnership has developed into a longer, more sustainable project after it's initial success. We are working with twelve local amateur writers to explore the work of Norman Nicholson through words and images. The end product

will be an artefact that promotes and advocates the areas cultural tourism offer. We have employed professional writers and photographers to work alongside this group to produce an artefact that also promotes cultural tourism in the area.

Parton Music Programme

The sessions in Parton Village Hall continue to be an unquestionable success. Monday night at the 11 to 19 year old sessions Artist mark Newport and local trainee David Roberts deliver a range of support to local rock and pop bands as part of the Westricity Programme. The sessions continue to attract a large number of young people but the discovery and support of local mentoring talent has given the programme a hard output with David Roberts now being paid and trained through the Sage, Gateshead.

North Copeland Youth Partnership

The newly created post of lead youth worker has now been filled. The post comes on line in April and will enable the department to deliver a broader spread of work to Parton, Distington, Lowca and Moresby

6. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Cumbria Youth Games 2006

The date for the Cumbria Youth Games has changed from the 17th June to Saturday 8th July. As hosts of this years event, sites and further details of the games will be confirmed in the next month.

Coach Education

The 2005/06-coach education programme is coming to an end, with the new 2006/07 courses commencing on 6th April. The 2006/07 programme is being funded through the West Cumbria PCT, Cumbria Sport, Allerdale BC and ourselves. Many of these courses have help clubs gain their Sport England Accreditation of Clubmark, which many National Governing Bodies of Sport now require of their clubs.

The 2006/07 programme kicks off on 6th April at Cleator Moor Civic Hall with a FUNdamentals of movement course. A Coaching Disabled Performers course is being held after that on 20th April. The tutor for this course is triple gold medal winning Paralympian Martin Mansell who visited Copeland last year and assisted in the Copeland Access to Sports Festival.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

Subject: Report from Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Environmental Well Being

Date of Decision: 14 March 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/05/172

Context:

This report presents both a joint interim report from the Cumbria-wide joint scrutiny panel, recently established to consider waste management issues at a Cumbria level, and the views and recommendations of this Council's Overview and Scrutiny for Environmental Well-being arising from this report.

Decision

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Environmental Well-being Committee's support of the joint scrutiny panel's interim report (appended) is noted.**
- 2) That the Executive reaffirms its commitment to achieving and surpassing its own targets for waste management, thereby fully contributing to the targets set for Cumbria as a whole.**
- 3) That Council be recommended that a Member of the Executive is appointed as a substitute for the Portfolio Holder in order that Member representation at meetings of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership is assured.**
- 4) That Council be recommended that major strategy or policy decisions with respect to waste management remain subject to the agreement of the Executive, but that decision-making on all other matters with respect to joint waste work, including the implementation of policies, be devolved to the Portfolio Holder or Substitute and the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services.**

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Cleaner Safer Stronger Fund

Date of Decision: 21 February 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/05/147

Context: This report presents the Cleaner Safer Stronger (CSGF) 'application' to be sent to Government Office North West in relation to South Whitehaven.

Decision

That the application for funding be approved

Subject: Car Parking – Seascale and St Bees Station

Date of Decision: 21 February 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/05/148

Context: This report presents the outcome of recent negotiations with representatives of Seascale and St Bees Parish Councils in relation to the car parks at Seascale foreshore and St Bees Station

Decision**That:**

- a) **St Bees Parish Council's offer of £2,000 for a twelve month period be accepted and the St Bees Station car park charges be removed for the same period, and**
- b) **Seascale Parish Council's Offer of £3,000 for a twelve month period be accepted and the Seascale Foreshore car park charges be removed for the same period,**
- c) **Millom Town Council's request to make Lancashire Road Car Park free is declined and,**
- d) **future agreement on an annual basis is delegated to the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and subject to the parish contributions being adjusted for inflation.**

Subject: Pow Beck Sports Facility Relocation Feasibility

Date of Decision: 21 February 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/05/163

Context:

This report seeks Member approval to proceed with a detailed feasibility study into the potential to relocate the Council's Sports Centre and Swimming Pool to a new site at Pow Beck.

Decision That the feasibility study be approved (subject to addition of Whitehaven Civic Hall and options for a 50 metre pool), to be managed by the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services and the Council's £10,250 contribution towards overall costs of £25,250 be financed by virement from core Regeneration and Leisure and Environment Budgets; and the Head of Leisure & Environmental Services in consultation with the Portfolio-Holder be authorised to agree the final brief and any increase in costs, subject to budgetary provision being available.

Subject: Waste Progress Report

Date of Decision: 14 March 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/05/171

Context: This report is to inform members of progress made on the Copeland Interim Waste Strategy and of the current position in respect of Waste Management in Cumbria.

Decision: That

- 1. Members note the progress made to date on Copeland's approved Interim Waste Strategy.**
- 2. . Agree to the pooling of Cumbria's Waste Performance and Efficiency Grants for appropriate distribution by the Cumbria Waste Partnership.**

Subject: Emergency Flood Prevention Work

Date of Decision: 14 March 2006

Decision made by:

Decision Reference: EXE/05/175

Full Executive

Context:

This report advises of emergency flood prevention work carried out in October 2005 and the resultant budgetary overspend and seeks approval of the action taken and proposed in respect of the budgetary shortfall and the cost of responding to any future events this financial year.

Decision

That : a) the Executive approves the action taken and proposed in respect of the budgetary shortfall; b) that in respect of 2006/2007 the budget be reviewed in October 2006, and c) that in future years any underspend be set aside in to a flooding response fund.