

Executive Report

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR HENRY WORMSTRUP – PORTFOLIO HOLDER

FERGUS McMORROW – LEAD OFFICER

1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT

1.1 Northwest Coalfield Communities Programme

A number of projects have been supported through this programme since November 2004 the most recent obtaining approval being the Copeland Stadium and Moresby Back Lanes.

The Copeland Stadium which started in March 2006 will provide enhanced sports and recreation facilities which will support health and fitness programmes for local communities as part of an expanding programme in Copeland.

The project to enhance Moresby Back Lanes to a standard which addresses the environmental and physical access is scheduled to commence by the end of April 2006 and will benefit of 80 homes in Moresby.

Local Public Service Agreement 6 - Disabled people into employment

As part of an initiative with Cumbria County Council and Allerdale Borough Council a programme of support has been running over the past 2 years to support disabled people back into employment.

Within Copeland currently 29 individuals have gained employment and 21 into permitted work which is well on target for achieving the overall project objectives.

Upon successful delivery of the project a reward grant will be made available to partners to help assist future projects in delivering support to the unemployed and disadvantaged, details will be presented once the final scheme is completed.

1.2 Transport

Regional Transport Strategy

The Regional Transport Strategy forms part of the Regional Spatial Strategy. The North West Regional Assembly has now delivered a draft RSS which is out to public consultation until 12th June. I will be arranging a meeting of the Transport Working Party in the near future to look at the transport section of the document and the working party's

recommendations will be reported to the Executive as part of the overall report on the draft RSS.

1.3 Cyclepath Partnership

Following the decision of the Executive in February the Council is now a member of the new West Cumbria Cyclepath Partnership which is responsible for future management of the network. I am happy to point out that this meets the requirements of the target PI E4 09 in the Corporate Plan which was to have a solution to the revenue funding issue agreed before March.

1.4 Detrunking Issues

In February I reported my concerns to Members that the County Council was using funding allowances for detrunked sections of road for other purposes. This situation is especially relevant to us in Copeland where the hand-over of the detrunked portion of the A595 south of Calderbridge is scheduled to take place in October this year (public notices are due to be published in early May). I have written to the Government Office Director on the matter but have not as yet received an entirely satisfactory response. I am following this up and will report verbally.

1.5 A595 Parton Lillyhall Improvement

The Inquiry was recently reconvened and completed. The latest indication is that there will be a decision from the Secretaries of State within the next month or so. Subject to approval the Highways Agency have programmed work to commence in February 2007 which keeps us reasonably on track with the PI E3 02 target in the Corporate Plan

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: North West Coalfield Regeneration Programme

Date of Decision: 14 March 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/05/181

Context: This report informs Members of the progress in allocation of the balance of funding to the Coalfield Regeneration Trust to support Capital Schemes within Copeland's Coalfield Wards

Decision:

That

- 1) The Coalfield Regeneration Trust project proposals be noted; and**
- 2) Schemes identified by Local Communities are agreed in principle by the Executive**