

CUMBRIA INFORMATION HUB CONTRIBUTION

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr N Williams

LEAD OFFICER: Mrs S Borwick Head of Finance and Business Development

REPORT AUTHOR: Mr C A Lloyd, Business Development Manager

Summary: The report seeks Members approval to a financial contribution to the Cumbria information Hub.

Recommendation:	Executive is asked to retrospectively approve the payment of £24,000 contribution to the Cumbria Information Hub.
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: None

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): None

Financial and human resource implications: The funding of the £24,000 is required as set out in heading 2.4 of this report

Project & Risk Management: None

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** None
- **Ward:** None

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 2003 the Council joined the Cumbria information Hub alongside the five other Cumbria District councils and the County Council.

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 As part of this process the then Council representative on the Strategic Board agreed alongside these other authorities to make a commitment to provide financial support of £24,000 in order that the information Hub could move forward and to assist in securing matched funding to establish it on a viable footing.
- 2.2 This payment was made up of two elements: £18,000 contribution to the hub and £6,000 for authentication – and these were committed as reserves no matter what happened, i.e. guaranteed by each authority to get the hub going.

- 2.3 The commitments were recorded on the CCIH meeting minutes. Unfortunately no budget bid or request for provision of funding was ever made within the Council and funding was not sought at the time. The time has now come for Copeland to pay the £24,000 and this cannot be done without budgetary approval and funding.
- 2.4 The cost can be funded as follows: at the end of 2005/6 two amounts were set aside in the accounts for expected expenditure. One was £6,250 for Authentication of the hub, and £9,000 was kept back for further work on the I E G element of Copeland Direct. This work has been kept within the current project budgets, and these amounts can therefore be utilised. The balance of £8,750 can be funded from the earmarked reserve set aside for Copeland Direct licence and software costs, as a lot of this expenditure has been absorbed within current budgets.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 Executive is asked to retrospectively approve the Council contribution of £24,000 to the Cumbria information Hub to be funded from the sources indicated in heading 2.4.

List of Appendices	None
Relevant Documents	CCIH Minutes, letters, e-mails, Invoice.
List of Consultees:	Corporate Team Cllr N Williams Cllr S Meteer Cllr E Woodburn