

EXECUTIVE REPORT

RESOURCES AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY

COUNCILLOR NORMAN WILLIAMS – PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1 Key Issues – Progress Report

1.1 **Quality Parish's.**

The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme continues to progress well at the national level with 188 accredited Quality Councils. There are now 795 Clerks who are registered for the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) which gives some idea of the number of councils who will be seeking Quality status in the near future.

In Cumbria there is one Quality Town Council – Keswick Town Council- and seven councils close to submitting their applications. Several dozen others are in the early stages of preparing their applications. In Cumbria there are 27 Clerks who have achieved CiLCA or are on track to submit their portfolios shortly.

In Copeland, Lamplugh Parish Council has moved a stage closer to acquiring Quality Parish status. It has now regularised its electoral mandate with the four candidates being returned unopposed. The Parish Council is now in a position to take the next step towards accreditation with a formal submission. CBC and the Cumbrian Association of Local Councils (CALC) were represented at the last full Parish Council meeting on 21 September when the next steps and clerks portfolio was discussed. At the moment Lamplugh are indicating that if they are successful in becoming a Quality Parish they would like to discuss with us what that might mean and in terms of increased consultation and improved working.

1.2 **Property maintenance/management**

Disposal of land and property. - The sale of 19/20 Irish Street was completed at the end of September 2005. A number of parcels of land were advertised in the press recently, some of which are covered in a separate report to this Full Council. It is currently expected that the target of £300,000 capital receipts will be well exceeded this year.

A mid year progress report on Public Building maintenance expenditure has been provided to the Executive 18 October. In general terms spend and commitments are in line with requirements, with budgets expected to be fully expended by the year end.

1.3 Accommodation

The Copeland Centre – members of staff are currently relocating within the building so that they are now working together within the revised Service Units as set out in the restructure. These changes are due to be completed by the end of October 2005.

The alterations to offices at Moresby are also underway to bring together all the Council staff within the subdivided area as agreed with Copeland Homes. These changes are due to be completed by early November. The installation of a stair lift, and remaining Disability Discrimination Act works will follow after this.

1.4 Information Computer technology

Security and Acceptable Use Policies were approved by Executive, and further considered by Policy and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There is some further work required to assist managers support and implement the policies, and to produce an abridged version to apply to Members.

Five members have elected to take Broadband services through the Council supplier. The work on establishing the Virtual Private Network, although delayed, is expected to be completed very shortly. It is currently being tested by officers before being offered to members to ensure it is fully operational.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Information Systems Security Policy And Communication Systems Acceptable Use Policy

Date of Decision: 27 September 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0071

Context: This report presents Executive with the Information Systems Security Policy And Communication Systems Acceptable Use Policy for consideration

Decision

**That a) the Information Systems Security Policy and Communication Systems Acceptable Use Policy be approved in principle; and
b) the Portfolio Holder work with the Lead Officer to provide a shortened guide on issues relevant to Members.**

Subject: High Court Litigation

Date of Decision: 27 September 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0077

Context: To update Members on an outstanding claim for wrongful dismissal and proposals for settlement of the claim

Decision

That authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to settle the claim within the existing budget provision