

EXECUTIVE REPORT

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR MIKE ASHBROOK – PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1 Key Issues – Progress Report

1.1 Western Lake District Tourism Partnership

I attended a meeting of the steering group of the partnership on 7 June. This is a partnership of private sector tourism accommodation and attractions operators and the public sector set up to market the Western Lake District. The group has recently appointed a new Chair, Marie Whitehead, from the Rum Story. Funding of £40,000 has been secured for this year from both Copeland and Allerdale Borough Councils (£10,000 each) and West Cumbria Development Fund (£20,000). A Marketing Programme for 2005/6 has been set out. This will include producing a Holiday Guide and Top Visitor Attractions leaflet for the area. Sub Groups of the partnership have been set up to look at these various projects in more detail and progress them.

1.2 The Corporate Plan

The Council is today being asked to agree the Council's Corporate Plan, which doubles as the annual Best Value Performance Plan. Every local authority produces this plan to explain to residents and other stakeholders what the Council is setting out to achieve and how well it has met its targets from previous years.

The Corporate Plan contains the Council's priorities for action, and by reading it, it is possible to understand what the Council regards as the most important things it must achieve over the coming months. To make sure that the residents of the Borough benefit from the plans and objectives, the Executive will be monitoring the Corporate Plan regularly to assess progress.

1.3 Best Value Reviews

Besides its obligation to produce an annual Best Value Performance Plan, the Council is required to review services and recommend and implement plans for improvement. At present the Best Value review of Economic Regeneration is on-going and the final parts of the process to complete an improvement plan are under way. Once this review is complete it is intended to start a review of community engagement. A review of this complex area is likely to take more than a year and involve working with a number of partners.

1.4 **Improving the Council**

The Executive and the Corporate Team have recently met to start a dialogue about the way that the Council's organisation carries out its work and how well-equipped it is to meet future challenges. Implementing the restructure on 1 June was the first step, and now we need to work on a number of areas to provide our staff with the skills they need to carry out their new roles, to improve communication internally and externally, to look critically at the way we work to ensure that we are as efficient as we can be and to plan our work so we know that we can reach our targets.

This is the beginning of a process and there will be more to report over the coming months as changes are introduced.

1.5 **Cleator Moor Co-op**

The final approval for the North West Development Agency funding was received on 1st June 2005 which enabled contracts to be entered into with Thomas Armstrong for works to commence on the co-op from 6th June 2005.

Thomas Armstrong took over the site on 6th June as planned and works are now in progress. The programme of works is anticipated to take 40 weeks to completion.

1.6 **Westlakes Renaissance**

By the time this report is received I will have attended an event in London hosted by Yvette Cooper, Minister for Housing and Planning, discussing the work of Urban Regeneration Companies. It is my intention to use the opportunity to express our concerns about the future of Westlakes Renaissance and the potential impact on Copeland.

2 **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

Subject: 2005/06 Corporate Plan / Best Value Performance Plan

Date of Decision: 1 June 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/015

Context: The Corporate Plan / Best Value Performance Plan for 2005/06 is presented to Executive

Decision

That

- a) the improvements made to the Corporate Plan be noted; and
- b) subject to the additions/omission recommended by Members the Corporate Plan be submitted to Council for approval.

3 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Statement of Decision made on 10 March 2005

Date of Decision: 5 April 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04 0191

Context: Decisions made at the previous meetings requiring formal approval
Decision

That the Statements of decisions made at the 2 meetings (programmed and special) on the 10 March 2005 be agreed as a correct record.

Subject: Forward Plan

Date of Decision: 5 April 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0193

Context: Approval of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for 4 Month Period
Decision

That the forward plan of Key Decisions for April - July 2005 be noted

Subject: Beacon Refurbishment – Update

Date of Decision: 5 April 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0195

Context: To update the Executive on progress made on the Beacon Refurbishment project and recent issues which have arisen
Decision

That the Executive notes the report, endorses the approach being adopted, and asks the Steering Group to review the options available

Subject: Statements of Decisions made on 5 April 2005

Date of Decision: 28 April 2005 **Decision Reference:** EXE/04/0199

Context: Decisions made at the previous meetings requiring formal approval
Decision

That the Statements of decisions made at the meeting held on the 5 April be agreed as a correct record.

Subject : Forward Plan

Date of Decision: 28 April 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/04/0200

Context: To consider the forward plan of Key decisions April – August 2005
Decision

That subject to it being noted that Key action 3 under key objective ON3 has not been achieved, the Forward Plan of Key Decisions be noted.

Subject: Corporate Theme: Creating and Sustaining a Healthy Local Economy

Date of Decision: 28 April 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/04/0201

Context: Summarises progress against Corporate Plan objectives
Decision

That the report be noted.

Subject NPDB Procurement

Date of Decision: 28 April 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/04/0205

Context:

This report builds on the November 2004 Executive report and seeks authority to place advertisements seeking submissions from third parties interested in operating the Council's Leisure facilities, to procure partnership support for that process and to procure consultancy to assist with the development of a submission by an in house, stand alone, trust.

Decision

That a) the report be noted; and

b) the one off expenditures to:

- i) employ management support to develop the documentation for, and implement, a procurement process; and**
- ii) employ a consultant to develop a submission for a stand alone Trust based on existing management and staff supporting Trustees who will be recruited from the local community be approved.**

Subject : Copeland Stadium Refurbishment

Date of Decision: 28 April 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/04/0205 A

Context:

To provide details of the proposed refurbishment and improvements to Copeland Stadium and deals with a request for assistance from the Trustees

Decision

That

- a) the report and the proposed letter informing the Trustees of the Council's support for the proposed refurbishment and redevelopment at Copeland Stadium be approved; and**
- b) the request for expenditure of £20,000 of the £150,000 set aside for this project subject to the conditions detailed in the report and appended letter be approved.**

Subject: Leisure Facilities Development

Date of Decision: 28 April 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/04/0206

Context: To seek endorsement of actions taken by the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services in relation to a potential opportunity to relocate the Council's Whitehaven Leisure Facilities onto a new single location

Decision

That

- 1. the actions taken by the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services in supporting the feasibility study being undertaken by West Lakes Renaissance be endorsed; and**
- 2. a further reports be brought to Executive as the project develops**

Subject: Statements of Decisions made on 28 April 2005

Date of Decision: 24 May 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/001

Context: Decisions made at the previous meetings requiring formal approval
Decision

That the Statements of decisions made at the meeting held on the 28 April be agreed as a correct record.

Subject: Forward Plan

Date of Decision: 24 May 2005

Decision Reference EXE/05/002

Context: To consider the forward plan of Key decisions May - August 2005
Decision

That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions be noted.

Subject: Improving Resident Satisfaction With Copeland Borough Council

Date of Decision: 24 May 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/006

Context: This report updates Members on progress with the project to improve resident satisfaction with the performance of Copeland Borough Council
Decision

That

(a) The report be noted;

(b) the proposed action plans be agreed

Subject: Corporate Theme: A Quality Council Delivering Quality Services

Date of Decision: 24 May 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/008

Context: Summarises progress against Corporate Plan objectives
Decision

Decision

That the report be noted.

Subject: The future of West Lakes Renaissance

Date of Decision: 24 May 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/011

Decision made by:

Full Executive

Context:

This report advises Executive of proposals by the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) to merge their Cumbria team with West Lakes Renaissance (WLR), Rural Regeneration Cumbria (RRC), and Cumbria Vision

Note: This item was considered on ground of urgency due to the need to meet the consultation deadline.

Decision

That

a) the proposals by NWDA and actions already taken by Council Leaders be noted;

b) if possible a joint response be made by the three Districts in line with the comments detailed in the report; and

c) finalisation of the response be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council