

PARTNERSHIP REGENERATION PROJECTS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Cath Giel
LEAD OFFICER: Mike Tichford
REPORT AUTHOR: Brian Kirkbride

Summary: To present to members a proposal for utilisation of the British Nuclear Group funding for the Partnerships representing Cleator Moor area and Millom.

Recommendation:	<p>That members agree:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To endorse the allocation of £100,000 from British Nuclear Group currently held by the West Cumbria Development Fund on behalf of the Council to support:<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. The infrastructure developments at Cleator Moor, Leconfield Industrial Estate £50,000B. Two projects in Millom (£33,000 for improvements to Millom Gateways and £17,000 to support Millom Network Centre.2. The Council acts as Accountable body for a funding application to West Lakes Renaissance for the Millom Gateways scheme.3. Delegation to the Corporate Director of Economic Prosperity and sustainability in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to deliver the project as identified within recommendations 1 and 2 above.
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: The project will support the delivery of the Market Town Regeneration Programme in Millom and support the Regeneration aspirations of the Cleator Moor area. These are key aspects within the Corporate plan in supporting town centre enhancement and diversification.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): The projects identified will help address employment and economic growth within the towns which is expected to impact upon crime and deprivation indicators through creating more prosperous communities.

Financial and human resource implications: The allocation of £100,000 is held by the West Cumbria Development Fund.

Project & Risk Management:

The project at Cleator Moor is facilitated by West Lakes Renaissance and has no risks to the Council. The Millom gateway scheme which the Council are asked to act as Accountable body for is to be appraised and risk assessed as part of the appraisal process to be undertaken by the Regeneration Support Team.

Key Decision Status

- Financial: N/A
- Ward: N/A

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A report was presented to the executive on the 15th August 2006 that outlined the allocation of £200,000 from BNG Community support funding to support the towns within Copeland. Reports have subsequently been presented to the Executive on the allocation of £50,000 towards discreet projects within Whitehaven (The Beacon) and Egremont (Egremont Gateways) this report outline the proposals for allocation of the remaining £100,000 for the towns of Cleator Moor and Millom.

2. REGEN NORTH EAST COPELAND (CLEATOR MOOR)

- 2.1 The proposal is to support the redevelopment of the Leconfield Industrial Estate, which has been identified as a priority in the economic development strategy for the Cleator Moor area. The work is also supported as part of the ERDF NW Objective priority 3 programme and is included in the West Lakes Renaissance Business Plan.
- 2.2 A plan has been drawn up for the regeneration of Leconfield Industrial Estate concentrating on capital and infrastructure improvements to support the positioning of the site as a primary location for business investors. The intention is to upgrade the site and improve the quality of the estate to attract new businesses into the area and create job opportunities for local people.
- 2.3 The lead organisation for the project will be West Lakes Renaissance. They are delivering the Action Plan for the West Cumbria Employment Sites Project. The total funding package sought from ERDF and NWDA is just under £2M to upgrade the site; the proportion from ERDF has already been approved. The proposed funding from BNG would add value to this proposal and enable improvements to be made to Leconfield site entrance to help enhance the image of the site and attract businesses onto the estate. Currently the site has low local visibility and improvements to the Leconfield "gateway" would compliment the corridor and gateway improvements planned for Cleator Moor as a whole.
- 2.4 The BNG funding will enable additional site entrance upgrades, including: -

- Rebuilding the wall at the site entrance to include a feature sign that introduces visitors and passers-by to Leconfield Industrial Estate.
- The intention is to re-use and match existing stone to stay in keeping with the wall running along the Leconfield Street boundary of the site.
- Adding block paving at the base of that entrance wall, to complement the road junction improvements.

2.5 The funding that has been made available for site entrance improvements includes: -

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|---|-------|
| • European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) | £45k |
| • North West Development Agency (NWDA) | £45K |
| • British Nuclear Group (BNG) | £50k |
| • Total site entrance improvements | £140k |

3. MILLOM AND AREA MTI REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

3.1 The Regeneration Partnership have identified a number of key projects that they would like the BNG allocation to support this financial year which are:

- Enhancement of Millom Gateways into the town
- Support development of the Business Network Centre

3.2 Both of these schemes have been identified through the Millom and Haverigg Market Town Master Plan and are seen as key infrastructure projects to help develop the local economy and support economic diversification.

3.3 A study has recently been completed which identifies potential gateway enhancements for Millom that will improve both visitors and businesses experience of the town. It is expected to cost in the region of £200,000 of which the BNG allocation is expected to contribute £33,000 and applications are to be made to West Lakes Renaissance for the balance of £167,000 although investigations are being made to see if alternative funding sources can be identified. A detailed report will be presented to a future Executive showing the match funding and detailed scheme for Council support.

3.4 The Millom Network Centre has been approved as a strategic project within the Market Town Programme the capital scheme is due for completion shortly and a manager has been appointed to establish the centre and develop business activity. The project will provide training facilities for local people, provide business incubator units for budding entrepreneurs and provide business support for micro businesses.

3.5 With the building works now nearly completed, the Network Centre Company is looking for revenue to undertake expenditure necessary to kick-start the project. Such expenditure includes

- Startup related costs like the purchase of equipment and furnishings
- staff salaries to manage the Network Centre.
- Promote the Network Centre to end users
- Set up business support facilities

- Install broadband, phone services etc

3.6 The BNG funding will support staff costs and overheads to kick-start the management and marketing of the project now that the project is completed. The anticipated costs required for the remainder of 2006/07 are identified as £40,646 which is to be funded from the following resources:

Funding Revenue Expenditure

BNG	£17,000
NWDA – already awarded	£7,500
CGP – applied for	£1,500
Cumbria Surestart - promised	£14,646
Contingency	£2,000
Total	£40,646

3.7 Outputs anticipated from this project by 2008 are as follow:

	2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		Total	
	Total	NWDA*	Total	NWDA*	Total	NWDA*	Total	NWDA*
1a) Jobs created			2		13		15	
1b) Jobs safeguarded			0		0		0	0
2a) Number of people assisted to get a job			2		13		15	
3b) Social Enterprises started up			1		2		3	
3d) Other businesses created			2				2	
4i) Businesses assisted with management/leadership skills							10	
4l) Businesses assisted with utilisation of ICT			1		2		3	
5a) reclamation or redevelopment of brownfield land Public	£36,820		875,785		45,913		948,515	
5fiii) other hard end use			680m ²					
5g) Number of broadband connections			2		13		15	
6a) Number of adults achieving at least NVQ2 qualification			10		90		100	
6b) Number of adults gaining basic skills as part of Skills for Life Strategy			9		21		30	
6c) Number of adults undertaking work based training			5		35		40	
6d) Number of adults gaining qualification at NVQ3			10		30		40	
6f) Number of economically inactive adults completing a vocational course			5		20		25	

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Supporting the development of these projects and applications will lever in significant funding to help support the economic growth of the towns and give greater focus for regeneration. The Millom projects will allow the MTI activity to achieve its objectives and targets and help safeguard the Councils position as Accountable body for the MTI programme and support allocation of resources from West Lakes Renaissance.

List of Appendices

None

List of Background Documents:

Executive report BNG funding 15th August 2006
Millom and Haverigg Operational Plan 2005
Millom and Haverigg Market Town Action Plan
Cleator Moor Community Strategy 2005
West Lakes Renaissance Business Plan

List of Consultees:

Corporate Team, Steve Tickner,