

ECONOMIC REGENERATION BEST VALUE REVIEW

STEERING GROUP Cllr P Connolly

CHAIRMAN

LEAD OFFICER: Fergus McMorrow, Corporate Director (Economic Prosperity and Sustainability)

REPORT AUTHOR: Fergus McMorrow

Summary: To consider a draft final and Action Plan arising from the Review.

Recommendation:	The Executive is asked to consider its content and agree to the incorporation of the Action Plan objectives within the Service Plans as appropriate
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Impact on delivering Copeland 2020 objectives: The operation and activities of the Councils Economic Regeneration activities are critical to the delivery of key corporate objectives. Economic Regeneration is a stated high priority for the Council. Creating a healthy economy is one of the key themes in the corporate plan agreed with partners.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): The impact of potential economic change on law and disorder and the environment is very significant

Financial and human resource implications: Actions that have already been implemented arising from the first phase of the review have had an impact on resources and these have already been funded. The final action plan contains a mixture of initiatives, some require direct actions, others further detailed reviews. The latter may create future resource requirements not yet identified. A major element in the plan will be the West Cumbria master plan, which is fully externally funded.

Project & Risk Management: Any major elements of the Action plan will be subject to normal project management processes

Key Decision Status

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

Other Ward Implications: None

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has been carrying out a Best Value Review of Economic Regeneration under the auspices of a Steering Group chaired by Councillor Connolly. The final report and action plan have been agreed by both the steering Group and the Economic Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 1.2 The final report has been made available in the member's room for consideration. The Introduction and Summary and Section Four, the Action Plan are appended to this report. These are backed up by documentation of the process and background files available in the Best Value F Drive on the Council's intranet.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The review began in 2004 with the Steering Group holding its first meeting in September. It has taken place over an extended period of time due to the effects of Council restructuring on the capacity of the service to carry out the review. As a consequence, significant progress in implementation of actions on the ground has already been undertaken and these are described in Section Three of the report.
- 2.2 During the period of the review West Cumbria partners have jointly agreed to carry out a major review and master planning exercise of the area. This work will challenge current thinking and strategy, produce a new strategy and action plan, short and long term programmes, funding plans and identify what will need to change organisationally and procedurally to ensure effective delivery. As it is inappropriate for the action plan from this review to instigate anything that will duplicate this process, a number of pieces of work arising have been written into the brief for the master plan.
- 2.3 Members are asked to consider if there is anything they feel that should be changed in the action plan (Section 4) that can be supported by the evidence included in the work that has preceded it

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Best Value Summary Report – Section 4 Action Plan

List of Background Documents:

Copeland Strategy and Action Plan 2005.
Regeneris
Draft Economic regeneration Best Value Review Report
Best Value F drive Council Intranet

List of Consultees:

M Tichford, Head of Regeneration, Catherine Ponting, Policy Officer; Keith Parker, Head of Leisure and Environmental Services; Graham McWilliam, Economic and Tourism Manager; David Davies, Head of Sustainability and Nuclear Policy; John Hughes, Regeneration Strategy Manager; Len Gleed, Human Resources Manager; Brian Kirkbride, Community Renewal Manager

Economic Development Best Value Steering
Group
Economic Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny
Committee