

RESOURCES AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR NORMAN WILLIAMS - PORTFOLIO HOLDER

SUE BORWICK - LEAD OFFICER

1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT

Property Maintenance and Management

The present Valuation service is provided by Capita and expires in June 2006. It went to Capita as part of the agreement to outsource Valuation Services. Expressions of interest have been received in response to the European Journal Contract Notice. The outcome of the tender (Procurement) process will be in the subject of a report to the Executive.

Following the consultations with our planners and our Valuation Services provider, Capita, a strategy is being prepared for the disposal of assets retained when the housing stock transferred. We will maximise the benefit to Copeland and use the sale of these assets as an opportunity for community benefits.

ICT

The IT Section is being strengthened by the filling of the additional 2 approved posts.

A new IT strategy is to be submitted to the IT subgroup. Partnership working options are also to be considered.

Now that we have a Security and Acceptable Use Policy in place I would ask that members adhere to the policy to avoid causing a security risk.

Remote working facilities have improved with the issue of VPN keys and broadband connections. It is now possible to securely connect to Copeland Services from any broadband link anywhere in the world. It is no longer necessary to take your laptop with you.

I promised Members a report at the last Council meeting; this is to show how individual members can gain access to Copeland's network. This will be done in conjunction with the Member Training plans being prepared at this time. Because each member will require individual consideration some time will be required to complete all of the installations.

Remote Working Pilot Scheme

A report is to be taken to the Executive to run a pilot scheme to look into remote working, should the scheme be accepted I will be asking for 2 councillors to join in the pilot scheme, any volunteers?

Member Training and Development

By the time of the Council meeting I am expecting around 35 Councillors to have completed a Personal Development Plan interview. This is an excellent take-up and I am very grateful to those Members who participated.

Completion of PDP's is of course only the first part of the process. The Member Training and Development Panel will be analysing the results over the next few weeks and starting to draw up a training and development programme which accurately reflects identified needs.

If there are any Members who have not completed PDP interviews and still wish to do so, this can be arranged by contacting either myself or one of the Democratic Services team.

I am also pleased to confirm that the Achieving Cumbrian Excellence (ACE) programme has received a further tranche of funding from the North West Improvement Network to extend ACE through to March 2007. Part of this extended programme will be 2 subsidised places for each Cumbria authority on the IdeA Leadership Academy at Warwick University.

2 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Lease Sub Station Site, Lowca

Date of Decision: 6 December 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0119

Context: This report requests the acceptance to terms for a 25 year lease of an existing sub-station site in Low Lowca for which no agreement currently exists

Decision

That

- a) the terms of a lease as detailed in the report be accepted; and
- b) authority to accept future sub-station leases on the standard terms as detailed in paragraph 2.1 be delegated to The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of Executive

Subject: Greenbank Community Centre

Date of Decision: 6 December 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0120

Context: To present proposals for the addition of an extension to the current Greenbank Community Centre lease.

**Decision
That**

- a) the extension of the lease be approved;**
- b) the current lease be surrendered; and**
- c) the lease be granted to the Association on terms as detailed in the report.**

Subject: Cleator Moor Civic Hall

Date of Decision: 6 December 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0121

Context: To consider options for the future management of Cleator Moor Civic Hall. During consideration of this item it was noted that any capital receipt would be dealt with in line with Council Policy.

Decision

- That a) negotiations be entered into with the preferred option and authority be delegated to the Head of Finance & Business Development & Head of Legal Democratic Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to finalise any details;**
- b) any capital receipts be dealt in line with Council Policy.**