

Executive Report

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR HENRY WORMSTRUP – PORTFOLIO HOLDER

FERGUS McMORROW – LEAD OFFICER

1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT

1.1 Coalfields

A revised application has been submitted for the Copeland Stadium to enable the scheme to maximise expenditure this financial year, a revised approval is still pending but it is anticipated shortly. A report will be presented to the Executive on 31st January giving an update on the programme.

In the summer of 2005 the Coalfield Regeneration Trust invited applications to become trustees. The National Coalfield Community Campaign nominated me to be its representative but I was not accepted so there is no Coalfield representative on the Trust. Possible additional funding may be available in the future from the Trust's core budget. The major problem at present is the process. I am continuing to explore the potential of this source.

Coalfield Board:

A report will be presented on Moresby Back Lanes to the Executive on 31st January 2006.

1.2 Cumbria Community Foundation

I am pleased to announce the Arlecdon Community Response, Copeland Athletics, the Howgate Group; Open Gate, Egremont; St James', Whitehaven; Spirit of Frizington; Whitehaven Credit Union and, Whitehaven Miners have received coalfields grants totalling £21,582.

1.3 Clean and Green Team

DEFRA has announced monies for chewing Gum removal and the Copeland team will be applying for funding to extend there activities.

1.4 Cleator Moor THI

The Community Renewal Manager has taken on the administration of the THI programme and has been in liaison with the Heritage Lottery Fund and local agent to update officers on progress of the scheme. A report has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund informing of the progress of schemes and outlining expected delivery within the

remainder of the programme. All actions will be taken to maximise expenditure against the scheme although it is subject to occupiers taking up the offer of grants that are available.

1.3 Transport Issues

Detrunking

The County Council received details of its capital settlement for 2006/07 from Government Office last month. This includes a special allocation of £1.25m for structural maintenance on the detrunked sections of the A596 in Allerdale. There is no indication of any sums yet earmarked for similar improvements on the sections of A595 and A5092 which it is proposed to detrunk. I am writing to both the County Council and Government Office on this matter and will report back.

Strategic Improvements

A further draft of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West has been published which was considered by the Regional Assembly's Key Priority Group this month. The Group is likely to approve this form of the Strategy to go out to formal consultation for 12 weeks in the Spring. There are quite a number of issues for the Council to consider responses (not least the lack of any transport infrastructure investment beyond the committed scheme at Parton-Lillyhall) and a full report on the Strategy will be made to Council by the Executive in due course. This will include recommendations for objections.

A lack of transport improvement schemes to assist access to West Cumbria is also evident in a parallel review of transport needs for the government. The review, undertaken by consultants for GONW during the last three months, also notes the single committed scheme for Parton-Lillyhall but provides little hope of justifying further schemes under current policy.

We will be following both the RSS and government review documents in the meantime to ask their authors whether they feel that they have taken into account the requirements of the West Cumbria Strategic Forum and in particular whether they are allowing for the product of the Forum's sub-regional master-planning exercise.

Whitehaven Traffic Management

The implications of the Whitehaven Regeneration Programme to traffic management measures in the town were debated by the Copeland Area Transport Advisory Group (ATAG) on 9th January. There was some concern that perhaps not all the effects of the various development areas were being catered for in the County Council's plans and that there was still further consultation to be carried out to ensure public acceptance. The various issues were discussed by this Council's Transport Working Group on 11th January and it was agreed to invite County Council officials to a further meeting of the Group before the next ATAG meeting which is 8th February.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None