

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 26 FEBRUARY 2008

Effective Leadership – Councillor Elaine Woodburn – Leader

Councillor Allan Holliday – Deputy Leader

CoRWM

A meeting was held in the Council Offices with, Professor Robert Pickard, the New Chairman of the new Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. He was accompanied by Mark Dutton a member of both the new and the old CoRWM. The meeting was attended by both Borough and County representatives. CoRWM will have a scrutiny role in relation to repository the siting process advising government on whether the process is being managed and delivered appropriately.

Professor Pickard offered his personal views on many issues as it was very early in the life of the new body and much has yet to be discussed and agreed. He was interested to here our views now and in the future so CoRWM could work between government and local communities to resolve any issues arising that could block progress. It is expected that a Government White Paper in April will invite communities to express an interest in engaging in a dialogue with government on the possible siting of a repository in their areas. A credible expression of interest will need to demonstrate a reasonable degree of community support for engaging in the process.

This Councils policy is that as Copeland has two thirds of the nations radioactive waste located in its area already we should engage in discussion with Government without prejudice. Any future decisions arising would be subject to the views of the local community.

Cowam in Practice

I attended the second meeting of Cowam in Practice held in Manchester earlier this month. This is a European funded programme to share and develop experience on dealing with radioactive waste management issues. It is a third phase of the previous Cowam work that this Council contributed to. I also chaired the January meeting of the NuLEAF Steering Group which included amongst other things a presentation from British Energy on the implications of a new build programme on waste management.

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Achieving Transformation- Councillor Cath Giel - Deputy Leader

Councillor Norman Williams - Portfolio Holder

Councillor Tim Knowles - Portfolio Holder

Regeneration:

It is no secret that the Economic Prosperity and Sustainability Directorate has suffered several untimely resignations over the past months which have impacted on the Authority's ability to progress key regeneration activities in the borough. To address this issue and strengthen the operation of the Councils' regeneration activities to meet the new challenges we face, a review of the Directorate has been completed and revisions to the structure have been agreed by Personnel Panel.

It was agreed that two Heads of Service will be appointed. The first covering Development Operations which will include development control, building control, the Beacon and museum services and a contracts and property team. The second will cover Development Strategy including economic development, housing, strategic planning, and nuclear issues and sustainability. In addition, it is also intended to have a graduate development programme which will help us develop people for the future. We hope to secure funding support from the NDA.

Recruitment for these two posts will proceed shortly. In the short term, temporary interim management appointments have been made to the posts of Head of Regeneration and the Economic Development Manager. An additional temporary appointment has been made to a temporary position of Regeneration Delivery Plan Manager. This post will work with us to put together detailed delivery proposals and prioritisation for future regeneration activities. These actions should have a major impact in accelerating our regeneration work following the staffing and recruitment difficulties we have been experiencing.

Following discussions with developers and major land owners of the Ginns site, a new brief for mixed development on the site will be prepared to clarify the future development options for the area. This will be developed jointly with the private sector and will involve West Lakes Renaissance. Consideration will be given to the relationship of the site within other parts of the town centre and particularly the proposals at Pow Beck. Improvements to the environments for existing residential properties will be a key consideration.

Initial work is beginning into the potential of creating a centre interpreting the history of the nuclear industry linking in to the cold war story. There is no similar facility in the UK at present and such a project would link in to the 'Energy Coast' branding agreed for our area. Both the NDA and Sellafield Ltd are involved in this process.

I am aware that particular circumstances prevail in some of the Councils and that others are going through a longer decision-making process so there will still be some more to be added. Any further help members could give to getting sign up from those outstanding would be most helpful.

Promoting Prosperity – Councillor George Clements Deputy Leader

Councillor Geoff Blackwell - Portfolio Holder

Councillor Hugh Branney - Portfolio Holder

Health and Safety

A great deal of hard work by the entire team in Waste Management has resulted in the HSE Inspector declaring himself very pleased with progress and performance. As a result, the requirements of the Improvement Notices served last September have been satisfied. The work has particularly focused on prevention of accidents in relation to Waste Collection Vehicles involved in reversing manoeuvres, which Members will be aware have been the cause of fatalities in various parts of the country, including one in Allerdale. The preventative measures have included improved risk assessment, elimination of the requirement for reversing where possible, and further training of crews in the proper use of Reversing Assistants (or "Banksmen").

CCTV Update

I have been providing regular updates on the progress of the Councils new CCTV provision. Now I can confirm that the new CCTV systems in Cleator Moor, Egremont and Millom are now fully functional.

The installation team are progressing well in Whitehaven and expect the CCTV system to be fully functional by end of February. In Frizington the CCTV post and camera are in place, however there is a slight delay due to BT who are installing the required broadband link. When the link is complete the camera images will be fed back to Cleator Moor Police Station. It is believed that the Frizington CCTV system will be fully live by the end of February.

I can also confirm that the monitoring link to Allerdale Borough Council's CCTV monitoring station has been made. Once Whitehaven is completed, the remote link between Copeland and Allerdale Council's will become live

Business Waste

Members maybe aware the Councils enforcement team undertake inspection of businesses that produce trade waste. Businesses have a duty of care under section 43A of the Environmental Protection Act to ensure that their waste is being disposed off legally and separated from the domestic waste stream. In doing so each trader is required to keep a written record of their waste and disposal transfers.

Recently a total of seven businesses have been issued a £300 Fixed Penalty Fine (£2,100) for the failure to produce the documentary evidence of how they are disposing of their waste. As a result of this action, each of these businesses have subsequently put in place a system for the safe disposal of their waste.

To deliver the "single delivery system" Sport England has set aside a sum of money for each district within the country to establish a Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA). These SPAAs have an allotted sum of money to be spent over a period of three years, in the case of Copeland this is £211,000. To access this money the SPAA has to produce a vision document and a portfolio of projects with match funding. This match funding has to be achieved at a 2:1 ratio. This means that Copeland's SPAA has to identify £422,000 of match funding, half of which can be in the form of support in kind. To achieve this Copeland Borough Council's Cultural Services team has drawn together a steering group for the SPAA and taken the lead on soliciting bids and supporting partners to meet the rigorous standards of Sport England.

The Cultural Services team has submitted the SPAA vision document and project portfolio to Sport England. The good news is these documents have recently passed phase one of Sport England's scrutiny process. While there is a great more to do it is anticipated the first projects will commence in April 2008.

Arts Council Funding

Arts Council England have informed us they intend to reorganise the distribution of their grant giving for 2008/09. Copeland have been a regularly funded organisation (RFO), with a three year investment agreement. From 2008 to 2011 this will change with the phasing out of the RFO investment to be replaced by a "management funds" agreement. The Council will see its RFO money remain static at £23,100 in 2008/09 drop to £11,500 in 2009/10 and to zero in 2010/11. The managed funds agreement will commence in 2009/10 with an investment plan equal to or greater than the current RFO support. Copeland will be able to supplement this management investment with one-off grant applications to the Arts Council. The West Coast of Cumbria is a priority area for the Arts Council, which means that bids to increase support for existing infrastructure and the creation of new arts organisations will be looked on favourably.

There are two examples of this prioritisation; which stands out all the more starkly given the backdrop of recent and massive disinvestment from the Arts Council, the problem surrounding investment from the Northern Rock and the general reduction in the amount of funding available within the cultural sector.

- **The Rosehill Theatre has been awarded for its strong work over the last 12 months with an uplift of funding from £41,100 in 2007/08 to £68,062 in 2010/11**
- **Arts Out West (a Copeland Borough Council managed project) has been awarded RFO status with £90,000 of investment over two years (2009/10 and 2010/11)**

Our Cultural Services team will work with the Arts Council over the next 18 months to agree the priorities for investment within the arts in the district. These discussions will focus upon securing support for the Council's partners and for direct investment in the Council's corporate objectives.

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2008

Present: Councillors: Mrs D A Faichney; (Mayor); D Banks; G Blackwell; J W Bowman; H Branney; E Brenan; A Carroll; Mrs Y R T Clarkson; P C Connolly; B A Dixon; Mrs M Docherty; Mrs E Eastwood; G Garrity; Mrs C A Giel; F Gleaves; R Heathcote; K Hitchen; A Holliday; Mrs J I Hully; A E Jacob; J Jackson; J Kane; T J Knowles; M A McVeigh; S J Meteer; A D Mossop; J Park; R F Pitt; J Prince; R Salkeld; G Scurrah; J G Sunderland; P D Tyson; Mrs C Watson; P Watson; P Whalley; C J Whiteside; Mrs J Williams; N Williams; D A Wilson; Mrs M Woodburn; H Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: N Clarkson; G Clements; R Cole; W Metherell; D W Moore; A Norwood; W Southward; A Wonnacott; E M Woodburn.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2007 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C 176 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to the various engagements she had fulfilled since the last meeting of the Council.

The Mayor asked all Members to direct their contributions to the meeting through the Chair and to speak only when called.

C 177 Executive Report

The Deputy Leaders, Councillors A Holliday (Effective Leadership) and C Giel (Achieving Transformation), and Councillors G Blackwell and H Branney (Promoting Prosperity), gave progress reports on matters considered by the Executive since the last Council meeting.

(Councillors G Blackwell, C Giel and H Wormstrup declared personal interests in the item on the Nuclear Industry due to their employment in the industry.

Councillor A Holliday declared a personal interest in the item on the Nuclear Industry due to a relative's employment in the industry.

Councillors Mrs Y R T Clarkson and C Whiteside declared personal interests in in the item on the Nuclear Industry due to their close association with people in employment in the industry.

Councillor K H Hitchen declared a personal interest in the item on the Nuclear Industry due to his ownership of property in the ward concerned.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs D A Faichney, declared a personal interest in the discussion on the discussion on Northern Rock as Chairman of the Mirehouse Community Association)

C 178 Executive Decision EXE 07/0150 – Social Inclusion Policy

RESOLVED – that the proposed Social Inclusion Policy be approved.

C 179 Retail Need Feasibility Study

Arising from the Achieving Transformation report, the Deputy Leader agreed to provide Councillor Whiteside with a written reply on details of any retail need feasibility studies undertaken in the area of the Pow Beck Development site.

C 180 Housing Budget Underspend

Arising from the Promoting Prosperity report, Councillor Branney agreed to provide Councillor Pitt with a written reply on the breakdown of the current underspend on the housing budget.

C 181 Fly-Tipping

Arising from the Promoting Prosperity report, Councillor Blackwell agreed to provide Councillor Dixon with a written reply on any surveys carried out in 2006/7 and 2007/8 on savings arising from reductions in fly-tipping.

C 182 Arts Funding

Arising from the Promoting Prosperity report, Councillor Branney agreed to provide Councillor Sunderland with a written reply on any budget reductions in arts schemes.

C 183 Overview and Scrutiny Report

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee gave an update on overview and scrutiny activities since the last meeting of the Council.

C 184 Concessionary Travel

In considering the overview and scrutiny report on concessionary travel, it was noted that the Executive had not yet made any decisions on this matter. In view of the need to expedite progress and in particular the need to issue vouchers by the end of the current financial year, it was after a discussion

RESOLVED – that the value of travel vouchers under the concessionary fares scheme be increased from £15 to £18 for 2008/2009.

(Councillor P C Connolly declared a personal interest in this item as a recipient of travel concessions.)

C 185 Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee – “Closer to Home” Consultation

The Council considered the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Children, Young People and Healthy Communities on a proposed response to the Cumbria Primary Care Trust consultation paper “Closer to Home”.

RESOLVED – that the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny report be endorsed subject to addition of the words “beyond the first 72 hours post stroke” to recommendation A4; and to addition of the words “including an adequately trained workforce to recommendation L.

C 186 Standards Committee – Independent and Parish Members

RESOLVED – that

(a) the composition of the Standards Committee be as follows from 1 April 2008:

7 Councillors (politically balanced)
3 independent members, to include the chair
2 parish members

(b) the vacancy for a third independent member be advertised and the Cumbria Association of Local Councils be asked to nominate a person to fill the second parish vacancy; and

(c) the new Standards Committee is formally appointed at Council in February to act with effect from 1 April 2008.

C 187 Statement of Community Involvement

RESOLVED – that the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in the report be re-adopted.

C 188 Pow Beck Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document

RESOLVED – that the Pow Beck Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document as set out in the report be re-adopted.

C 189 Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document

RESOLVED – that the Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document as set out in the report be re-adopted.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm

Mayor