

NORTHWEST COALFIELD PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor H Wormstrup
LEAD OFFICER: Mike Tichford
REPORT AUTHOR: Diane Ward

Summary: Coalfields current round of funding is coming to an end and there is an opportunity to reallocate the regional under spend. Funding for Copeland projects on the whole will end in March 2007, with two exceptions. Strategic programme considerations are required.

Recommendations:

That members agree:

1. To approve Copeland's projects to put forward to potentially benefit from the regional under spend (circa £130,000) during 07/08
2. To extend bankrolling support for the Copeland Stadium to the value of £24,297 up to 30th August 2007.
3. To note the possible merger of the Coalfield Communities Campaign and Alliance partners with a change of name to Alliance for Traditional Industrial Areas

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Current North West Coalfields Communities (NWCC) programme (2004-2007) ends in March, although a small number of projects will continue to spend into 2007/08. In Copeland just the Cumbria Sports Academy (carry over from 06/07) and the Clean & Green team (extension funding) have funding into 2007/08, all other projects will complete spend at the end of the current financial year. However, as a region the North West is likely to under spend on its current allocation. Rather than lose this money to the region, the under spend is likely to be re-allocated to other projects. With Copeland having successfully delivered within the programme, there is potential for additional projects to benefit over the next financial year.

2. PROGRAMME REVIEW

- 2.1 The Coalfields programme has provided £448,375 funds to Copeland's projects through North West Coalfield Communities which has attracted a further £1,202,161 of match funding. In addition Coalfield Regeneration Trust funding of £1,237,881 has also attracted a substantial amount of match funding (£2,179,706). This equates to a direct contribution from Coalfields of £1,686,256 and enabled Copeland's projects worth £5,068,123 to go ahead. Through English Partnerships' National Coalfields Programme a further £1,100,000 has been spent on feasibility works regarding the former Haig Colliery site, with a possible further £4,000,000 contribution to costs for capital landscaping works along the coastal fringe and development of the Haig Mining Museum.
- 2.2 The outputs from these projects so far include; the refurbished sports stadium, environmental improvements including the upgrading of Moresby Back Lanes and the creation of several new jobs and businesses. This level of regeneration funding into Copeland will be publicised shortly.

3. PROJECT DETAIL

- 3.1 Whilst there is no guarantee that funding will be allocated to any or all of the projects, we are asking for approval to put forward the following schemes for consideration:
- 3.2 **West Coast Gym**
This project successfully applied for £20,000 of unallocated NWCC funds last year to support phase 1 of the renovation of St Benedict's Social Club, Mirehouse into a community fitness centre. The re-profiled application is for a further £50,000 for phase 2 of the refurbishment to address the external appearance of the building.
- 3.3 The project as a whole aims to create a viable social enterprise that will provide a new community and fitness facility which will provide a range of activities and achieve a number of outputs for the Coalfield Programme including; three new jobs, creation of a social enterprise with work based training for its employees.
- 3.4 The additional £50,000 requested from NWCC will enhance the environment surrounding the fitness centre and bring unused land back into regular use by local people. The scheme will have a beneficial impact on both the external appearance of the building and the surrounding land, which will add value to work currently being undertaken in the wider area using Safer, Cleaner Greener funding to enhance the environment and

build pride in the local community. The project will be delivered by the Gym Trustees.

3.5 St. Gregory's & St. Patrick's Community Centre

This application comes through the Valley Tenants and Residents Association in partnership with St Gregorys & St Patrick's Community School to provide a community facility serving the Corkickle area. The project will provide community facilities for all ages for a variety of activities including some geared towards training and developing employment opportunities. Planning permission has been granted, and funding is being sought for the capital build.

3.6 Total cost of the build is £403,830 and £48,830 is being sought from NWCC, with £295,000 of match funding already secured.

3.7 The project will deliver high quality facilities for community use and develop a community kitchen to support healthy eating through for example pensioner lunch clubs and healthy eating courses. The facility will also host local forum meetings and advisory sessions (CAB, Age Concern etc). The project will be delivered by the Tenants Association in partnership with the school.

3.8 Egremont Rugby Club

This application is for the build of new changing pavilion and a floodlit multi-use games area. The club hopes to increase participation in the sport, and to do so requires upgraded facilities. Currently there is just one set of changing rooms and showers and consequently neither male and females nor adults and juniors can use the facility simultaneously. By addressing the drainage issue on the current pitch, and providing a new floodlit all weather surface, the use of the facilities can be extended to accommodate a greater number of people year round.

3.9 The total cost of the build is £505,742 with just £34,000 being requested from NWCC. Sport England money has been secured to cover the majority of the costs and further support is being sought through the MTI and West Lakes Renaissance. The project will be delivered by Egremont Rugby Football Club Ltd

3.10 Out of Doors Ltd

This social enterprise based in Cleator Moor, grew out of the success of Home to Work. The enterprise is managed by a community board and employs local unemployed residents of several eligible Coalfields wards (Cleator Moor, Bransty, Mirehouse and Sandwith). They currently employ 10 people who provide a range of services including plastering, decorating, joinery and landscape construction.

- 3.11 To encourage further growth of the enterprise and safeguard seven jobs, Out of Doors are looking for a contribution from NWCC of £18,000 towards the purchase of two new vehicles, tool kits and other related equipment. The funding will not only ensure the enterprise can continue to offer quality services, but with the improved image it would ensure those employed have greater pride in the company they work for, and therefore of their own achievements in helping to take the project a success. The project will be delivered by Out of Doors Ltd
- 3.12 **Copeland Academy of Sport**
The Academy has already benefited from the NWCC programme with 80,000 capital contribution to the refurbishment of the stadium, which to date has attracted over £600,000 of additional funding, and £50,000 NWCC funding to support the stadium in its first year of operation.
- 3.13 Much of the major refurbishment work is now completed with Astroturf pitches and a new athletics track now in use. Whilst the stadium facilities an accommodate people with disabilities, the access route presents a real problem. Funding through the South Whitehaven Neighbourhood management programme has been granted to allow resurfacing of the access road and pavement improvements to ensure disabled entry without a car. The request for a further £17,000 from NWCC is to provide lights along this route to make it safe and secure for all users. The project will be delivered by the Stadium Trustees and the Sports Development Manager
- 3.14 All projects will be delivered by the applicants for the funding. Copeland Borough Council's role will be continued monitoring of the programme as a whole.

4. BANKROLLING COPELAND ACADEMY OF SPORT

- 4.1 The capital works associated with the Coalfield grant are now complete. However revenue spending has remained behind schedule, mainly due to the late appointment of both the Sports Development Officer and other staff. NWCC have agreed that the revenue funding which was originally approved to help the stadium through its first year of operation can continue to be claimed over a 12 month period and is thus now available to the end of August 2007.
- 4.2 Copeland Borough Council agreed at the November Executive meeting to bank roll the stadium whilst Coalfields funding was available. As this was originally due to end in March 2007, the agreement to bank roll was for this period only. As funds have now been carried over into 2007/08 we would ask members to approve the continued bank rolling of the stadium

in relation to the Coalfields grant. This grant can be claimed by the council directly over the first two quarters of 2007/08.

- 4.3 To note, should the above application for a further £17,000 be approved, a further application to bank roll the capital spends is likely to follow.

5. ALLIANCE FOR TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIAL AREAS

- 5.1 Members are asked to note that the Coalfields Communities Campaign (CCC) and its Alliance partners are considering merging to form a single association. The role of the new Alliance, possibly to be known as the Alliance for Traditional Industrial Areas, will be to promote the economic, social and environmental renewal of traditional industrial Britain.

Reasons for the merger include:

- The coal industry is fading, but former coalfield areas share many of the same post-industrial problems as other traditional industrial areas
- On many issues (eg. Economic regeneration, education and health) the CCCs own agenda is often best advanced by arguing the general case for support for disadvantaged areas rather than by 'special pleading' for the coalfields
- Membership of the CCC and participation in it's business meetings is falling, which suggests without a merger CCC could become weaker and lose its influence

- 5.2 Within the new Alliance framework there would still be provision for coalfield local authorities to meet separately under the CCC banner, to discuss issues specific to coalfields, but as a broader group the lobbying power of the Alliance would be stronger. The main role of the Alliance would be as a lobbying organisation to advance the interests of the local authorities and communities of traditional industrial Britain.

- 5.3 Members are asked to note the possible merger and register any comments or concerns with the portfolio holder Cllr Wormstrup.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Members support submission of the projects outlined above for consideration by NWCC for additional Coalfield's funding during 2007/08.
- 6.2 The Copeland Stadium Committee are seeking the council to extend the bankrolling facility to cover expenditure for the first five months of 2007/08 for a fully funded grant of £24,297 to 31st August 2007.

- 6.3 Note the possible merger of CCC with the Alliance partners to form the 'Alliance for Traditional Industrial Areas'.

7. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 7.1 The bank rolling facility to the stadium does have financial implications, but the funding is fully secured and will all be claimed in the first two quarters of 2007/08. Additional projects will require Officer time, but no match funding is required. The Clean and Green Team extension into 07/08 has been agreed, CBC funding for this was approved following the 26 November 2006 Executive.

8. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Each project has been subject to an appraisal as part of the programme approval process. Current risks associated with the programme are identified within this report,

9. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 9.1 This is a regional programme focusing on the economic regeneration of coalfield wards. The five strands of the programme: health, enterprise, competitiveness, community engagement and environmental improvements all complement the Council's regeneration strategies.

List of Appendices

Appendix A - <Appendix Title>

Appendix B - <Appendix Title>

List of Background Documents: Executive Reports 17.01.05, 25.07.05, 21.11.06

List of Consultees: Cllr Wormstrup, Sue Bamforth, Graham McWilliam, Corporate Team

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	
Impact on Sustainability	
Impact on Rural Proofing	
Health and Safety Implications	
Project and Risk Management	
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Coalfields funding is designed to addresses social exclusion in coalfields wards
Children and Young Persons Implications	
Human Rights Act Implications	

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision YES/NO