

Executive Report**HEALTH & DIVERSITY PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR GEOFF BLACKWELL – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****MARTIN JEPSON – LEAD OFFICER****1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 Copeland Local Plan 2001 - 2016**

As members will be aware on the 6th June 2006 the Council formally adopted proposals for the Replacement Local Plan. The adopted plan forms part of the development plan for the area of Copeland Borough outside the Lake District National Park. The development plan forms the basis of decisions on land use planning affecting that area.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has introduced a series of significant changes to the development planning system but as the Council was at an advanced stage with its replacement plan, the process continued to adoption under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 and the Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) (England) Regulations 1999.

Now adopted, the policies and proposals which it contains will be 'saved' for an initial period of 3 years unless they are replaced beforehand.

The plan has been through a number of stages during preparation with various sections having been amended or replaced to accommodate objections.

All these changes have yet to be consolidated into a single volume of text and a Proposals Map. This work will be completed during the next few weeks but until then, the Adopted Plan exists as a series of documents, which can be viewed on the Local Plan pages of the Council website, at the Copeland Centre, Whitehaven and Millom Council Offices.

It was agreed at the Full Council meeting that copies of the Local Plan would only be sent to Members on request, therefore if you would like a copy please contact the Planning Policy Section direct to request your copy.

Local Development Framework

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced many changes to the planning regime operating in England and Wales. Most of these in the first instance

will affect the Development Plan-making process – the work which, in Copeland, has previously been delivered under the “Local Plans” banner, will be replaced by the “Local Development Framework” (LDF). The Act’s reforms are intended to make the preparation of development plans and other non-statutory documents quicker and more flexible, with increased community involvement.

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the documents that will be produced to form the Local Development Framework for Copeland (excluding the area within the National Park) over the next three years. It provides the starting point for the local community to find out what the current planning policies are for the area and sets out the programme for the preparation of Local Development Documents (LDDs) to replace existing planning policies over the next three years. The Copeland LDS is available to download from the Planning Policy pages of the Copeland Borough Council website.

A key document to be produced as part of the new system, is the Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This document will set out how and when the local community and stakeholders will become involved in the planning system both in the preparation of LDD’s and the consideration of planning applications.

An initial consultation document is currently being drafted and will be sent out as the first stage in the process of producing the Statement of Community Involvement, inviting people to put their ideas forward on how they would like to be consulted in the future on planning documents.

The Open Space and Recreation Development Plan Document is also in the initial stages of production, this document’s role is to allocate land for open space and recreation use and provide development control policies.

The Local Development Scheme sets out the Programme for the production of the Local Development Documents, this is available to download from the Council’s website.

1.2 Haig Mining Museum, Whitehaven

Since the recent successful prosecution of the operators of the Haig Mining Museum for offences under Health & Safety legislation there have been management changes at the museum. I am pleased to report that officers of the Council’s Environmental Health Section have found that there is now a much more positive attitude towards Health & Safety by the museum operators and a willingness by them to accept advice from the inspectors.

1.3 Brockwood Hall Leisure Complex near Millom

Following investigations by officers of the Council’s Environmental Health Section of a complaint about swimming pool water quality and management systems at the Brockwood Hall Leisure Complex near Millom a notice was served under the Health & Safety at Work Act prohibiting the use of the pool until such time as the officers were satisfied the appropriate remedial steps had been taken. I am pleased to say

that the management acted quickly and positively and the pool was allowed to be reopened after just a few days.

1.4 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health – National Working Group

A national working group has been set up by the Health & Safety Executive to improve information provided to small businesses about COSHH legislation and I am pleased to report that Michael Hale, a Health and Safety Inspector in the Council's Environmental Health Section, was invited to join the group. Michael accepted the invitation and is, in fact, the only local authority representative on the group – a fact which reflects very well on both Michael and the Council.

1.5 Smokefree Eating Guide

The 3rd edition of the Smokefree Eating Guide for North Cumbria is being prepared. The preparation and publication of the Guide is an initiative by the North Cumbria Smokefree Alliance which comprises this Council, Allerdale BC, Carlisle CC, Eden DC, the NHS and Cumbria CC Trading Standards.

1.6 Safer Food Better Business

Following on previous recent reports on this subject I can report that training events in Copeland for proprietors of food businesses are still being held and are, in fact, being oversubscribed. At present courses are planned to continue until at least August.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Enforcement Policy

Date of Decision: 23 May 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/005

Context:

The report deals with an Enforcement Policy relating to various enforcement functions of the Council and seeks the adoption of it by the Council.

During consideration of this item Members asked for the possibility of planning enforcement being included.

Decision

That a) subject to the replacement of the word “endeavour” with “will” and that there be no objections by the OSC – Economic Well Being and OSC – Social Well Being the Enforcement Policy be recommended to Council for approval; and

b) the possibility of including planning enforcement in the policy be investigated.

Subject: Consultation on Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West

Date of Decision: 23 May 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/009

Context:

This report seeks to agree a formal response to the North West Regional Assembly on its draft Regional Spatial Strategy (2003 – 2021)

Decision

That a) the comments as detailed in the Section 2 and Annex 1 of the report be submitted as response to the consultation;

b) the Council's response be shared with partners on the Cumbria Strategic Partnership and West Cumbria Strategic Partnership;

c) efforts continue to ensure a West Cumbria voice be heard at the Examination in public on the RSS; and

d) the Corporate Director (Economic Prosperity & Sustainability), Regional Strategy Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder – Health and Diversity be delegated authority to add comments based on liaison with the CSP and LSP.