

## **Executive Report**

### **HEALTH & DIVERSITY PORTFOLIO**

#### **COUNCILLOR GEOFF BLACKWELL – PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

#### **MARTIN JEPSON – LEAD OFFICER**

## **1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT**

### **1.1 New Health Care Services**

Colleagues may be aware from media releases the Strategic Health Authority has approved plans for a CAT (Capture, Assess & Treat) Centre in Workington. This centre, which would be privately operated, would carry out relatively routine, planned operations such as hip replacements, knee joints and cataracts. Likely to be serviced by doctors from overseas CAT Centres are not seen to be poaching doctors from within the NHS system. At face value this is good news for the people of West Cumbria with treatment times being significantly reduced for these operations. However I need to urge some caution. GP's will have the ability to refer patients to this new centre bypassing existing services but with the costs coming from existing budgets. In effect there is a danger that the good work in addressing routine operations will come at the price of poorer services in our hospitals as they are starved of cash leading to a reduction in services available to address chronic and non-routine procedures. I know our Quality of Life Overview and Scrutiny Committee are taking a particular interest in this and I shall look forward to the outcome of their deliberations. We have to ensure the people of Copeland do not get a raw deal as a result of this private takeover of essential services.

### **1.2 Managers Quick Guide to Health and Safety**

The joint consultative and Safety Panel met in June to discuss the above draft Guide. A copy has been made available in the Members Room and any comments should be directed to the Council's Health and Safety Officer, Mike Sharrock.

### **1.3 Health and Safety Progress**

There has been an intensive period of training for Managers to bring them up to IOSH standards, refreshing and reminding managers of their responsibilities. Manual handling training has also been undertaken.

There is now a group of up to 15 safety Reps, competently trained to IOSH standards, who meet every fortnight with the Health and Safety Officer. So far, the group have looked at risk assessments, internal safety inspections and every day issues arising.

#### **1.4 Cumbria Health and Safety Liaison Group Plan of Work**

On 22 June, together with the Council's Head of Leisure & Environmental Services (Keith Parker) and Environmental Health Manager (Vic Emmerson), I attended an event at Penrith at which the Plan of Work of the Cumbria Health and Safety Liaison Group for the next 12 months was formally launched. The group includes all of the Cumbrian District Councils and the Health and Safety Executive. The Plan of Work is closely linked to the National Health and Safety Agenda. The event included presentations on the current key topics of: Falls from Height; the new legislation on Asbestos; Slips, Trips and Falls; Manual Handling.

#### **1.5 "Adrenalin" Tatoo and Skin Piercing Establishment, Duke Street, Whitehaven**

It recently came to the Council's attention that rumours were rife locally that the Council had closed down this establishment and that some persons visiting there had contracted Hepatitis. Enquiries revealed that the proprietor had closed the business temporarily for personal reasons; this Council had not closed the premises and had no reason to do so. The proprietor of the business was and still is registered by the Council to carry on the business. The Council's Environmental Health Section liaised with the Health Protection Agency who checked with local Medical Practitioners and subsequently confirmed that there had been no cases of hepatitis diagnosed locally.

In the interests of both the Council and the business a Press Release was issued by the Council clarifying the situation

#### **1.6 Unlawful Sale, Supply and Advertisement of Unapproved Pesticides**

During a planned Health and Safety inspection of the premises of a horticultural retailer in Whitehaven by an officer of the Council's Environmental Health Section various contraventions of legislation covering the sale, supply and advertising of pesticides came to light. As the legislation is enforced by the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) the contraventions noted were reported by the officer to that body which subsequently served Enforcement Notices on the retailer. The Council has since been informed by the PSD that the retailer has complied with the Enforcement Notices and was thanked for its diligence in the matter. DEFRA also issued a national Press Release about the incident in which the role of the Council is mentioned.

#### **1.7 Planning Policy Issues**

- Following the Local Plan's adoption last month officers are working on a consolidation of the text and maps and hope to have the fully revised version ready soon.

- The first of the new generation of planning documents – the Statement of Community Involvement – has been out to initial consultation. This is a key policy item setting out how local communities and stakeholders will be involved in the production of all future planning policy documents and in the process of development control. There was a mid-July deadline for responses and these are currently being assessed. A draft Statement will be published at the end of August.
- Work has also begun on a Recreation and Open Space Development Plan Document which will help plug a current planning policy gap. Planning policy and Parks Development officers have been discussing joint working arrangements to produce an audit of facilities and it is hoped to undertake this shortly.
- The Council submitted a total of 17 representations against the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy. These were rehearsed in a report to the Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> May this year. The Regional Strategy is to be scrutinised at an Examination in Public when the Council and other objectors may have the chance to discuss issues with a panel of Planning Inspectors. A date for the examination has now been confirmed – 31<sup>st</sup> October – and officers will be attending a Preliminary Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July when a draft list of Issues and Participants for the Examination will be available.
- Some good news: this month the Council received a total of £106.5K Planning Delivery Grant based on various performance criteria over 2005/06. This included £52.5K for planning policy work, principally the Annual Monitoring Report (Dec 2005).

## 2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

Subject: The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998  
Copeland Borough Council Scheme Of Charges 2006/07

Date of Decision: 4 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0032

Context:

To consider amending Copeland Borough Council Scheme of Charges under the Building Regulations 1998 in accordance with the Local Government Association Model Scheme of Charges

### **Decision**

**That Council be recommended that the Scheme of Charges under the Building Regulations 1998 be approved.**

## 3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Health Strategy

Date of Decision: 4 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0037

Context:

This report asks for the Council's draft Health Strategy to be adopted

**Decision**

**That subject to any comments of the OSC Social Well-being with any amendments being delegated to the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder the draft health strategy be adopted by the Council.**

Subject:

Date of Decision: 4 July 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/0048

Context:

This report sets out proposals for ensuring the Council has adequate resources to deliver its Town Planning and Building Control functions and responds to a proposal to develop a jointly managed building control service with Allerdale Borough Council. During consideration of this item Members felt that there was still some work and investigation needed to be done before a decision could be made and with an apology being received from the Head of Regeneration it was agreed that this item be deferred to either the next meeting or, if necessary a special meeting of the Executive.

**Decision**

**That this item be deferred to either the next meeting or, if necessary, a special meeting of the Executive.**