

FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BUDGET PRIORITIES 2008/9

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor E Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER: Chief Executive
REPORT AUTHOR: Hilary Mitchell

Summary and Recommendation: The report presents feedback from the public and from parish councils on the Council's draft Corporate Plan priorities for 2008/9 and the recommendation of Resource Planning Working Group.

It is recommended by the Resources Planning Steering Group that the Executive regards the 6 priorities as listed below as top priorities but retains all the 14 Corporate Plan priorities as a framework for investment in 2008/9

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 4 September 2007 the Executive selected 14 priorities from all of those included in the 5 Year Corporate Plan as the main focus for investment in 2008/9. It was agreed that before taking the priorities as fixed, the public in Copeland should be consulted on the whether these were the right priorities for 2008/9. The results of consultation are presented below

2. ARGUMENT

Consultation Methods

- 1) Plain English versions of objectives from the 14 draft priorities were prepared and were taken to 6 pre-arranged drop-in sessions around the Borough. Members and officers were present to explain the background to the objectives and plans for the future to the public, and to encourage them to indicate their support for some or all of the objectives.
- 2) A Plain English summary of the 14 draft priorities was sent to all the parish councils in Copeland, and they were invited to send responses indicating their views

Results

- 1) The detail of the feedback from each of the 6 drop-in events is appended to this report. Although the numbers of people participating were low on some occasions, it is clear that there was a spread of support for all the priorities. The most supported were:
 - Providing high quality, clean streets and open spaces
 - Ensuring the area has good roads and good public transport
 - Creating enough, different jobs to suit all

- **Making Copeland a safer place to be**
- **Improving skills and education and keeping people with skills in Copeland**
- **Giving everyone good customer service**

The least supported priority was :

- **Working with the right partners to help each other achieve shared goals**

Additional feedback on how the Council should approach the whole process or comments on individual priorities have been recorded for information.

2) The following Parish councils responded:

St Bees	Priorities were appropriate and covered the important areas. More details needed of objectives and funding to be allocated to allow constructive comment.
St Johns Beckermest	Reduce management "buzzwords"; Not enough detail; Priority list could be prioritised, and concentrate on basic services: customer services, roads and transport, clean streets and open spaces, safety, education and local health provision
Parton	Move problems relating to flooding up the agenda, including forming a multi-agency group to tackle problems proactively.
Moresby	How will the objectives be measured? Some of the priorities are beyond the scope of the district council (how can the council "ensure" the area has good roads?) the role is lobbying for targeted improvements.
Waberthwaite and Corney	Prioritised the list of priorities according to the parish plan: Housing; transport; quality living environment; Safer Copeland; leisure and culture; regenerating Copeland; stronger strategic partnerships; opportunities for community involvement; health; skills and education; influencing national and regional change; equality of opportunity; job opportunities.

Proposal

The views of those consulted at this stage of the budget-making process did not indicate opposition to the direction that Council is taking. Therefore unless there is a strong view within the Council that any of the priorities should be rejected, it was proposed that all should be retained throughout the remaining stages of budget-making. The only priority that was suggested as additional by a respondent to the consultation was a proposal for a multi-agency flooding group and work programme.

2.2 At its meeting on 7 November 2007 Resource Planning Working Group considered the results of the consultation and decided to recommend to Executive that the best supported priorities listed above should be the Council's top six priorities, and the remaining 8 are kept as the Council's additional priorities.

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

3.1 Not to accept the Resource Planning Working Group's recommendation, but to retain all 14 priorities as equally important.

3.2 To accept the Resource Planning Working Group's recommendation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 It is recommended that the Council adopt the Resource Planning Working Group's recommendation that Council take the first 6 priorities as top priorities, with the other 8 as additional priorities.

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

5.1 The financial implications of this recommendation are still to be worked out in detail as the budget for 2008/9 will be decided using these priorities to apportion resources.

5.2 There are no human resource implications as a result of this report.

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The budget-making process is being managed according following the principles of project management. Financial and other risks are being identified as the process develops.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

7.1 This work supports objective 2.7 Strong Financial and Asset Management. In addition the delivery of the whole Corporate Plan depends on having a balanced budget to support the Council's declared priorities

List of Appendices

Appendix A -

List of Background Documents: Copeland BC's 5 Year Corporate Plan

List of Consultees: **Resource Planning Working Group, 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	The financial resource to deliver the Corporate Plan includes this key issue.
Impact on Sustainability	The financial resource to deliver the Corporate Plan includes this key issue
Impact on Rural Proofing	The financial resource to deliver the Corporate Plan includes this key issue
Health and Safety Implications	The financial resource to deliver the Corporate Plan includes this key issue
Project and Risk Management	The financial resource to deliver the Corporate Plan includes this key issue
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	The financial resource to deliver the Corporate Plan includes this key issue
Children and Young Persons Implications	The financial resource to deliver the Corporate Plan includes this key issue
Human Rights Act Implications	Not applicable
Section 151 Officer comments	
Monitoring Officer comments	No further comments on the draft report

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision YES

FEEDBACK ON CORPORATE PRIORITIES OCTOBER 2007

Priority	Whitehaven	Seascale	Egremont	Distington	Cleator Moor	Millom
General Comments		Need to get the basics right before taking on a major programme of aspirations		All the plans are laudable and important. Is there enough in the budget to support some without contracting others?		Support for all priorities x 3
Making sure that Copeland has a say on regional and national issues	Support for priority x 2. No nuclear will result in devastation for Copland. 8500 jobs to go in 3½ years time. The clock is ticking.	Support for priority	Support for priority x 8. Support for plans		Support	Support for priority x 6
Working with the right partners to help each other achieve shared goals	Support for priority x 2	Support for priority	Support current actions, but not plans for next year	Besides South Whitehaven and MTI areas, what about extra help for Distington?		Support for priority x 3
Regenerate Copeland	Support for priority	Support for priority	Support for current actions. Support for plans for Whitehaven, and for improvements in Cleator Moor and Egremont x 7	Besides South Whitehaven what about the rest of Copeland?	Support x3	Support for priority x 4

<p>Improving skills and education and keeping people with skills in Copeland</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Need an affordable supermarket where KwikSave was</p> <p>Support for priority. Support for all plans x 9</p>	<p>Support for all "plans for next year"</p>	<p>Support x4</p>	<p>Support for priority x 4</p>
<p>Creating enough, different jobs to suit all</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for all plans x 13</p>	<p>Support for all plans for next year £72bn on nuclear disposal we do not want. But if it is done, we should get some billions. What does tourism income provide, certainly not a reduction in the rates</p>	<p>Support x4</p>	<p>Support for priority x 3</p> <p>Why only jobs in Whitehaven in 2007/8?</p>
<p>Making Copeland a safer place to be</p>	<p>Support for priority. Town Centre and Castle Park are a priority</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority. Support for current actions x 6. Support for all plans x 6</p>	<p>Support for all plans. Why are good news stories about Distington not printed? What about linking Distington's CCTV with Allerdale and Copeland?</p>	<p>Support x6</p>	<p>Support for the priority x 12</p> <p>More active police on the streets of Millom (highly visible) actually solving crime and apprehending culprits</p>

<p>Providing high quality, clean streets and open spaces</p>	<p>Support for priority x 2. There is more to Copeland than the Royal Route, St Nicholas, Trinity Park etc. More enforcement or abuse of open spaces. Provide fari trade waste facility to small businesses the same as established ones.</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority x 4. Support for all plans x 8</p>	<p>Support for enforcement action on environmental crime and improvement of access to green spaces for people with disabilities. Why not work with all schools in Copeland in the development of Borough green spaces?</p>	<p>Support x3. Want black bag and weekly collection back. Rats being encouraged</p>	<p>Support for priority x 15. Planting of flowers War Memorial. Attention: bowling, golf course. Plastic not cleared from beaches: noone seems to take responsibility. Horn Hill: a mess: fly tipping not properly enforced at the approach into Millom from north where tress planted. Needs landscaping and pavements!</p>	<p>Support for priority x 5</p>
<p>Providing quality housing for</p>	<p>Support for priority. Concerns that Copeland Homes are</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority x 6 Support for all plans x 4</p>	<p>Support for working with Housing Associations so</p>			

<p>everyone</p>	<p>exploiting the elderly.</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority x 7. Support for all plans x7</p>	<p>that all social housing reaches DHS by 2010 and most of privately-owned housing as well.</p>	<p>Support x6 Need cycle bays at shops in Copeland and especially Cleator Moor</p>	<p>Support for priority x 7. Lack of pavements at Horn Hill. Why only traffic flow around Whitehaven? What about the roads in the south of Copeland?</p>
<p>Ensuring the area has good roads and good public transport</p>	<p>Support for priority. Traffic flows need resolution. Timescales?</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Weeds need taking away on Egremont Main Street</p>	<p>Improvements in local transport so people can get to work, and more jobs in areas where transport is difficult.</p>	<p>Support for Council hearing what communities have to say and help them to make a difference. Support for looking at Whitehaven Town Council. Suggestions from Parish Council should be taken seriously. Copeland Magazine "Forum"</p>	<p>Support x 5</p>
<p>Giving people the chance to get involved in their community</p>	<p>Support for priority.</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority x 7. Support for looking at Whitehaven Town Council but not for working with other councils in Cumbria..</p>	<p>Bus company needs to introduce buses on 30 route that allow easier getting on and off for people with disabilities or prams</p>	<p>Support x 2</p>	<p>Support x 5</p>

<p>Giving everyone the chance to access opportunities and services</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority x 5. Support for all plans</p>	<p>is an important communicator. Support for check on blockages to people getting access to services or information... Support for helping more people in Copeland to access benefits they need.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support for priority x 3</p>
<p>Encouraging a wider range of leisure and cultural activities</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority x 2. Support for plan to increase the numbers of people taking part in arts and sports in Copeland x 7 and increase the sports coach programme x3</p>	<p>Support for increasing the number of people taking part in sports and arts in Copeland. Beacon –how much is it costing now? Don't try to be entrepreneurs, just provide the essential services.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Support for priority x 4 Open spaces: bowling club needs a building and raise funds. Park war memorial to be maintained/ flower beds Golf course and tennis courts going down hill.</p>
<p>Encouraging people to be healthy</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority x 4. Support to promote active life styles Support for lobbying to keep full range of hospital facilities in Copeland x 8</p>	<p>Support for all plans</p>	<p>Support x 5</p>	<p>Support for priority x 3</p>
<p>Giving everyone</p>	<p>Support for priority x 2</p>	<p>Support for priority</p>	<p>Support for priority x 4</p>	<p>Support for ensuring that customers do not</p>	<p>Support x 9</p>	

<p>good customer service</p>	<p>Support for plans x2</p>	<p>need to give Copeland information more than once, and that Council services are better joined up. Cross Council working? How? Call centres? Single local point of contact? County and Borough Council partnership? Copeland are doing a good job generally, but the majority still wants Council Tax within limits of inflation.</p>	
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