

Executive Report**ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR HENRY WORMSTRUP – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****FERGUS McMORROW – LEAD OFFICER****1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 Coalfields:**

I can confirm that the Copeland Stadium project has now been approved within the North West Coalfield Regeneration Programme; the balance of funding is identified to support a Coalfield Regeneration Trust bid to Executive on the 14th March detailing the application.

1.2 Northwest Development Agency Funding:

Due to the pressures being placed on North West Development Agency funding to be spent all projects have been informed that if they do not spend the allocation they have by the end of this financial year there is no commitment from NWDA that the funding will be rolled over into subsequent years, it is therefore imperative that projects deliver as they have indicated within their applications.

1.3 Transport

Detrunking: Since the last Council meeting the Transport Working Group has met County Council officers to discuss the detrunking arrangements for the A595 and A5092 south of Calderbridge. The likely date for the formal handover of responsibility will be in July and there will be a period just short of three years during which maintenance funding for the route will be provided by a special grant from government. For the section in Copeland this is about £300k each year, which is supposed to be ring fenced for the purpose by the County Council. I understand, however, that one of the County Council's Area Committees has already diverted similar funding for other purposes contrary to the notion of ring fencing.

I have written to the County and GONW on the matter and will report back along with confirmation on the likely capital funding which would be made available – at this stage the indication is that only two short sections of carriageway renewal at Thornflatt and Silecroft may be funded by the Department of Transport during the next two years and that any other improvement scheme now and in the future would have to take its chance against the assessment formula in the Local Transport

Plan and regional prioritisation processes. This includes a Duddon Bridge (local) Improvement, which has thus far failed to achieve a high enough score.

The County Council has resolved (7 Feb) to inform the Department for Transport that it no longer wishes to pursue its objection to the Detrunking Orders but that it will continue to negotiate for the best possible terms for transfer funding.

Whitehaven Traffic Management: The Transport Group also discussed traffic management issues thrown up by the studies undertaken as part of the Whitehaven Regeneration Programme. I have already written to colleague on these matters and the plans referred to in my letter are available in the Members' Room. Overall, traffic management in and around the town centre will be dealt with by the Implementation Plan and there will be full public consultation as part of the process.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: North West Coalfield Communities Regeneration Programme

Date of Decision: 2 February 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/05/137

Context:

To seek Members approval to bankroll key projects within the Coalfield Programme and to agree financial support for Environment Cumbria to ensure delivery of projects within the programme.

Due to an apology being received from the Deputy Chairman and the Chairman declaring an interest in this item it was proposed by Councillor N Williams duly seconded that Councillor J Hewitson be appointed chair for this item.

Decision**That**

1. all Quarter 4 payments for 2005/06 for all Coalfield Programme projects to ensure compliance with North West Development Agency audit requirements be bankrolled;
2. the Moresby Parks Back-lanes project to a maximum value of £46,000 in 2006/07 subject to agreement with Wigan Borough Council that it will be repaid to Copeland in quarter 1 of 2007/08 be bankrolled;
3. financial support at the levels indicated below for Environment Cumbria for use in the development and implementation of the following projects in 2005/06 be agreed. These being funded through the current balance of £20,833 from previously approved Groundwork contribution as follows: -

Lowca Off-road Footpath £2,000
 Parton Car Park £500
 Birks Road Pay Area £500; and subject to

satisfactory performance of these projects commitment be given in principle to further financial support for Environment Cumbria in 2006/07.