

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

A report is being presented to the Executive Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> July which details current progress on Coalfield related projects up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

Within the report there is also a recommendation that the current unallocated funding of £50,000 is matched with £50,000 from the Major Projects Fund to support a bid for capital facilities funding for the Coalfield wards in Copeland. If successful this would create a £200,000 fund to support capital schemes.

**1.2 Transport**

I recently chaired a meeting of the A595 Parton-Lillyhall Liaison Group when the Highways Agency reported that a Public Inquiry was likely to be held into a limited number of objections to the scheme. They expect it will open in late November and last for no longer than 2 weeks. This accords with a timetable which was adjusted after the Government Spending Review last year with completion by 2008.

I will shortly be attending a meeting of the Copeland Area Transport Advisory Group and have submitted a paper outlining my thoughts on strategic transport improvements over the medium and long term. With work in progress on a new Regional Transport Strategy and with the West Cumbria Strategic Forum about to meet again this is an opportune time to raise the issue from Copeland's perspective and to remind all parties that the efforts to achieve economic and social regeneration in our area have to be backed by appropriate levels of investment in infrastructure.

**2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

**3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

None



