

Executive Report**HEALTH & DIVERSITY PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR GEOFF BLACKWELL – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****MARTIN JEPSON – LEAD OFFICER****1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

A report has been presented to the Executive on 26th July 2005 recommending the acquisition of training packages for both staff and members in order to improve awareness of Equality and Diversity issues. This is seen as a necessary first step to achieve the Equality Standard in Local Government.

1.2 CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ACT – EMERGENCY PLANNING**The Government has told us that by November:-**

- a) There should be Local Resilience Forum structures in place to address multi-agency planning;
- b) District and County Councils should have business continuity plans in place;
- c) A Community Risk Register should be produced;
- d) Emergency plans should be in place and published as appropriate;
- e) That there should be agreed arrangements in place for public awareness and warning and informing.

There is a Local Resilience Forum together with a set of Emergency Plans. We are currently working on an integrated Copeland based business continuity plan for which we shall be able to draw on the experiences of other local authorities.

As part of a county-wide arrangement we expect officers from Cumbria County Council to be involved in preparing a Community Risk Register and to assist in agreeing arrangements for public awareness and for warning and informing.

I am also aware that a number of Members have asked for further information on and training in, Emergency Planning and I have asked our Emergency Planning Manager to arrange this.

1.3 PLANNING POLICY ISSUES

The Local Plan Working Party will be meeting on 2nd August to consider reports on all objections to the 2nd Deposit version of the Plan. In the meantime all objectors have been required to indicate how they wish to proceed with their objections at the Inquiry (which begins on 27th September) – and earlier this month the Inquiry Inspector held a special meeting at Cleator Moor to explain how he intends to deal with matters before him. He indicated that as much of the Inquiry business as possible will be covered as written representations and informal hearings although participants will still have the right to request a formal hearing. During August Officers will be preparing the Council's submissions and responses to additional evidence.

Work on the Local Plan and other issues has delayed a start on the Statement of Community Involvement but it is hoped to have the Urban Capacity Study completed during the next month. The Planning Delivery Grant is enabling the Council to recruit an additional Policy Officer and hopefully this will assist progress on the work programme

1.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Following the recent organisational restructure, the Council's policy and arrangements for in-house health and safety are being redrafted to take account of structure changes. At the same time, some changes are being made to improve performance. Terry Chilcott, Corporate Director (Quality of Life), is taking on the role of senior management "champion" for health and safety, to provide "top-down" push for improvement, and a fresh effort is being made to recruit employee Safety Representatives to generate "bottom-up" push. The Corporate Team will act as a Corporate Health and Safety Group, and report progress through the Joint Consultative and Safety Panel.

1.5 HAIG COLLIERY MINING MUSEUM – HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK MATTERS – PROSECUTIONS BY COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

A pre-trial review was held in June and a further one has been set for 16 September.

1.6 SMOKE FREE NORTH CUMBRIA ALLIANCE

A new edition of the popular guide to Smoke Free Eating places in North Cumbria is being prepared for 2006.

Work to promote smoke free workplaces, particularly in the hospitality sector, continues and the council will be conducting a telephone survey of pubs, restaurants, cafes, etc in Copeland to gather information from businesses and the public.

1.7 **SAFE FOOD BETTER BUSINESS**

In January 2006 it is expected that Food Safety legislation will be amended so as to require that all food businesses have documented food safety management systems. Currently only high-risk food businesses are required to have such systems. To assist businesses the Food Standards Agency (FSA) have developed a daily diary book and training information called *Safe Food Better Business*. Unfortunately very few (if any) councils have or can spare the resources to help with training etc of small businesses so, with the backing of all local authorities in the north west of England, the North West Food Alliance is making a bid to the FSA for funding to be allocated to local training colleges to support them in delivering training and mentoring for small businesses. *(The North West Food Alliance is the North West Regional Development Agency's agri-food and drink cluster organisation. It is driven by the industry and has been operational since 1992.)*

1.8 **WHITEHAVEN MARITIME FESTIVAL**

Officers of the Environmental Health Section liaised with the festival organisers during the extensive planning involved with this popular event. Officers were on site during the setting up of the festival and throughout the event. All mobile food vehicles sited in the main festival area were inspected prior to the start of the event and, in all cases, were found to be satisfactory.

2 **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

3 **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Subject: Adoption of Health and Safety Service Plan

Date of Decision: 14 June 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/019

Context: This report advises members of the Health and Safety Service Plan 2005-2006

Decision

That the Executive approves the Health and Safety Service Plan 2005 -2006 for adoption

Subject:

Planning Services – Use Of Planning Delivery Grant And Fee Income

Date of Decision: 14 June 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/020

Context: To consider expenditure of the Government awarded Planning Delivery Grant.

During consideration of this item Members stressed the importance of flexibility of the use of future fee income ahead of budget allocated for staff costs.

Decision**That**

1. the proposals identified in the report, funded by Planning Delivery Grant for 2005/06 and development control fee income be approved subject to the decision on funding for the Town Centre Management being deferred pending the meeting being held on the 16 June 2005;
2. the Head of Regeneration be delegated authority to make any adjustments necessary within the overall parameters of the proposals made in the report;
3. future fee income ahead of budget targets be carried forward to reinvest in the Regeneration Service subject to the flexibility of the use of the income over and above that allocated for staff costs.

Subject: Accommodation Issues

Date of Decision: 5 July 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0030

Context: This report identifies implications for the accommodation of staff within the New Council Centre as a result of the Council Restructuring

Decision

That the proposal to relocate and contain staff within the present accommodation at the Copeland Centre, and the provision of the required funding of £33,000 as detailed in the report be approved.

Subject: Equality and Diversity

Date of Decision: 5 July 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0034

Context: This report requests approval for the acquisition of Equality and Diversity training for staff and members.

Prior to consideration of this item it was noted that it had not been possible to fully consult with the Portfolio Holder and it was recommended that the items and the addendum in part two of the Agenda be deferred.

Decision

That this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive.

Subject: Addendum to Agenda Item 9 – Equality and Diversity

Date of Decision: 5 July 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0036

Context: This addendum to Agenda item 9 requesting approval for the acquisition of Equality and Diversity training for staff and members.

Prior to consideration of item 9 it was noted that it had not been possible to fully consult with the Portfolio Holder and it was recommended that item 9 and this addendum be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive.

Decision

That this Addendum be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive

