

**OUTSIDE BODIES ANNUAL REPORT**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor John Bowman  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Tim Capper  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Denise James

WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

**WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?**  
(eg Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council,etc.)

As part of the Councils reporting procedures

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Annual Report from outside bodies be noted

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 At Council in June 2011 it was agreed that reports of the outside bodies attached at Appendix A would be reported annually to the Executive.

**2. PROPOSALS**

2.1 To note the annual report

**3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED**

3.1 None

**4. CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 That the annual reports be noted.

## 5. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: No Comment
- 5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: No Comment
- 5.3 EIA Comments: N/A part of the Councils reporting procedure
- 5.4 Other consultee comments, if any: None

### List of Appendices

#### Outside Bodies Reports

- Appendix A – Britain's Energy Coast
- Appendix B – Cumbria Members Equality Champion Group
- Appendix C – Cumbrian Leadership Forum
- Appendix D – Cumbria Waste Partnership
- Appendix E – Joint District Leaders Board
- Appendix F – Lake District National Park Authority
- Appendix G – North Country Leisure
- Appendix H – North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership & Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership
- Appendix I – North West Employers Organisation
- Appendix J – Community Safety Partnership 2011/12 overview
- Appendix K – West Cumbria Strategic Forum

### List of Background Documents: None

Outside Body Report

**Britain's Energy Coast – Councillor Elaine Woodburn**

The Energy Coast Board has concentrated its efforts on the Economic blueprint which identifies activities which will enable West Cumbria to become more economically diverse and resilient for the benefit of the local community.

The objectives are:-

The Blueprint sets out a strategy that is designed to take account of new opportunities, investment that is on the horizon and the challenges which need to be overcome if the full economic potential of West Cumbria is to be realised.

The strategy has two key components;

1. Creating an environment in which businesses and individuals are encouraged to innovate, especially through the establishment of the Energy Coast iZone, which will offer businesses unparalleled access to research and development, business support, finance, joint venture and partnership opportunities, a competitive business infrastructure and a range of high quality business premises that are easy to access.
2. Putting in place measures in the short term to ensure that as much of the substantial investment in nuclear new build and decommissioning is captured by local businesses as possible.

The strategy has four objectives;

- Optimising Worldwide Nuclear Investment and Building on our Expertise
- Business Expansion and Diversification
- Providing a Supportive Physical Infrastructure
- Growing the Asset Base

Alongside the blueprint will be an implementation plan, though this is yet to be agreed.

BEC has also financially supported projects in Copeland including the Maritime Festival, Destination Whitehaven, Ways into Successful Enterprise, Albion Square land purchase.

There has also been an internal amalgamation of the West Cumbria Development Fund, West Cumbria Development Agency and Westlakes Properties, now newly named Energy Coast Properties, Energy Coast Business Support all under the umbrella of Energy Coast Board

Outside Body Report

**Cumbria Members Equality Champion Group – Councillor John Bowman**

The Cumbria Member Equality Champions Group is made up of elected members with responsibility for equality from the 6 District Councils supported by the County Council. It meets every 2 months to discuss issues that affect their own area as well as cross county working to promote Equality across Cumbria.

Agenda Items covered this year have been;

- Migration, (with a conference held in Kendal in Dec 2011)
- District Profiles (Copeland profile published as part of Equality Scheme)
- Disability Hate Crime Project
- Access and Inclusion Roadshows (WCEP Event 27/04/2012)
- Support to Councils working towards Excellence

Attendance at this Group gives cohesion to equality across the County and ensures consistency of processes as well as supporting each other towards the Excellence journey of the Local Government Equality Framework.

The "Achieving Equality across Cumbria" project received an award from NWEQ in autumn 2011 and the work of this group was recognised as being integral to its success.

Outside Body Report

**Cumbrian Leadership Forum – Councillor Elaine Woodburn**

The Cumbria Leadership Forum is made up of: - Leader - Cumbria County Council

Leader - Allerdale Borough Council

Leader - Barrow Borough Council

Leader - Carlisle City Council

Leader - Copeland Borough Council

Leader - Eden District Council

Leader - South Lakeland District Council

Chair - NHS Cumbria

Chair - Lake District National Park

Chair - Police Authority

Chair - Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)

Their role is to

INFLUENCE

- Provide leadership to promote the interests of Cumbria regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Operate effectively within the regional context of NW England, and secure Cumbria's effective engagement in regional arrangements where appropriate.
- Provide a means for the formulation and expression of joint views on issues of strategic significance, to the LGA, central government, and other bodies in respect of legislation, proposed legislation, policy and resource allocation.

#### VISION FOR CUMBRIA

- Provide leadership in the development of shared outcomes for Cumbria; review priorities in light of performance information.
- Provide strategic input into and endorse key strategies and plans which support the joint delivery of priority outcomes which are critical to Cumbria's future success.

#### INNOVATION AND JOINT DELIVERY

- Drive innovation in addressing key issues for the county.
- Provide a means of co-ordination in respect of joint action and joint working, and ensure that opportunities for collaboration on service delivery and efficiency are given sufficient focus and drive.
- Commission activity from the Chief Executive's Group in support of the CLB's agenda and priorities.

#### PARTNERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

- Consult and liaise with other organisations across the public, private and third sectors on issues of common interest.
- Provide leadership to achieve change across Cumbria, facilitating improved partnership working across all sectors to improve outcomes, and maximise efficiencies.

#### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Identify opportunities and increase collective capacity for shared learning and development across all partner organisations.

There is a lot of discussion and networking and it gives CBC an opportunity to raise any concerns pertaining to Copeland or to secure support from other Leaders where necessary. The agenda covers the major strategic issues that affect Cumbria as a whole - key areas of work for the Board have included opportunities through European Funding, Connecting Cumbria – Broadband, Local Enterprise Zones, NHS Transition and sub-regional matters / developments.

The Leaders Board is currently reviewing the way it works and working towards the first annual Cumbria Partnership Summit later this year as a replacement for the Cumbria Strategic Partnership.

Outside Body Report

Cumbria Waste Partnership – Councillor Allan Holliday

Prior to 2011-12 the work of the CSWP was to set the strategy to ensure that Cumbria worked within its landfill allowance targets, thereby avoiding costly financial LAT's fines, whilst at the same time meeting national and local performance aspirations around recycling and waste minimisation. With the abolition of national indicators firstly and more recently the Landfill Allowance Scheme, the waste landscape and its drivers for change has changed significantly.

Consequently the work of the CSWP in 2011-12 has largely focussed on developing a business case for change and exploring options that will achieve efficiencies through enhanced partnership working. In 2010-11 the cost of waste management in Cumbria amounted to £44million. The CSWP board set up an Enhanced Partnership Working Project and appointed consultants to work with them to test a range of projects that have the potential to deliver financial benefits through closer working. The partly developed business case suggests that potential savings of up to £8m can be achieved across the seven authorities over the long term.

A number of smaller projects under the Enhanced Partnership Working Project umbrella are in progress and the CSWP are currently overseeing these. Included in this group is the development of a Green Waste Composting Framework and a contract for the joint sale of recyclable materials. Both of which when concluded should realise savings and increased income for Copeland.

Due to the scale of the developing project, and the work that is already in progress, the CSWP is currently reviewing the partnership and will be looking at options for the future of the CSWP at its September meeting.

The Partnership held 7 meetings in 2011-12 and we were represented at all 7.

Outside Body Report

**Joint District Leaders Board – Councillor Elaine Woodburn**

The Cumbria Joint Districts Board includes the Leaders and Chief Executives from all six district councils across Cumbria and meets every two months. The Board considers key strategic issues that affect the district councils – areas of work which have progressed through the board include Cumbria Housing Strategy, parking enforcement options, health and well being board and enhanced partnership working.

Updates on the Local Enterprise Partnership, New Nuclear development and shared services are standing items for the District Leaders Board and engage all in what are key development areas. More recently the Board has focussed on the proposals for Local Support for Council tax and what this could mean for district councils and issues the districts may wish to consider.



Outside Body Report

Lake District National Park Authority– Councillor Hugh Branney

Attendance 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Full Authority	80%	8 out of a possible 10
Park Strategy and Vision	50%	3 out of a possible 6 due to clashes with CBC business
Development control	100%	12 Meetings. Not included are monthly site visit inspections

Events in Copeland have included – allocations of land for development potential identified by Parish Councils

12 July 2011 – Western Distinctive Area Parish Tour – Programme attached

27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – Western Distinctive Area Parish Tour – Programme attached

**Supporting Communities**

There are 40,000 people resident within the National Park which encompasses 80 parishes and parts of Copeland, Allerdale, Eden and South Lakeland Districts.

There are now established five distinctive areas reflecting the different landscapes, culture, needs and aspirations.

A settlement hierarchy reflects the size and role of settlements. They are:

- **Rural Service Centres** Providing a range of services, employment, housing and transport links

- **Villages** Providing some services, links with Rural Service Centres and some housing and transport links
- **Cluster Communities** Smaller Settlements

Within Copeland, Gosforth and Bootle are designated as Rural Service Centres and Silecroft, Waberthwaite, Ravenglass, Eskdale Green and Ennerdale Bridge as villages.

#### **Housing**

Based on housing needs surveys, there is a target of 900 houses to be built within the National Park between 2011 and 2025, an average of 60 per annum. The number of units granted permission in 2010 – 2011 was:

Affordable – 32;  
Local Need - 43;  
Unfettered – 1

Local developments of interest are the youth hostels in Ennerdale. Both Black Sail Hostel and Gillerthwaite Hostel have, against national trend of disposal of premises, been developed as low carbon accommodation. Now both have permission for a mixture of micro-hydro electricity generation and some solar panel generation.

#### **Additional Issues**

- LDNPA continue to support new build reactor at Sellafield
- Likely to oppose MRWS development within the park
- There remain potential difficulties with grid connections

West Distinctive Area Parish Tour

12 July 2011

'What makes our coastal communities special....'

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Objectives:

- To enable Parish Councillors and Members to meet informally to discuss issues and topics relevant to local communities
  - To learn about the Distinctive Areas of the National Park and the activities and projects we are involved in
- 

0945 Meet at the Byre Café, Bootle, for tea, coffee and introduction to the day. To include:

- ❖ Welcome by Bill Jefferson, Chairman (LDNPA) & Steve Ratcliffe, Director of Planning and Partnerships (LDNPA) – Overview of tours and reminder about new ways of working
- ❖ Steve Gaskell, Park Management Leader (LDNPA) – Welcome to the West Distinctive Area; the programme and locality working
- ❖ Julie Betteridge, Head of Regeneration and Community (Copeland Borough Council) – Copeland Coastal Partnership
- ❖ Trudy Harrison, Locality Officer (Copeland Borough Council) – Living and Working in My Community, *challenges and opportunities*

1040 Out and About in Bootle – a tour of the area. We will be joined by others from the local community, including Tony James, Vice Chair Bootle PC and Joe Mansergh, local schoolboy:

- ❖ Wellbank - *creating a sustainable community in the National Park*
- ❖ Local Housing issues
- ❖ The Beach
- ❖ Captain Shaw School
- ❖ The new BMX project

1215 Lunch at the Byre

- ❖ Millstones – *a flagship development*

1345 Silecroft – coastal issues

- ❖ Peter Rand, (Whicham Parish Council, Silecroft Beach Advisory Group and Lake District National Park Volunteer Service), Mark Holroyd, Tourism Development Officer (South Copeland Tourism Community Interest Company). There may be others joining us!

1445 Cumbrian Heavy Horses, Chappels Farm, Whicham – Cumbria Tourism Award Winner 2010

- ❖ Join Annie Rose and her team, including landowner Robert Morris-Eyton, who will share their passion for heavy horses with you!

1545 Tea/coffee. Closing comments and farewells. (Travel back to the Byre)

**West Distinctive Area Parish Tour**

27 March 2012

**'Looking ahead, building on good practice – Supporting communities to meet their needs as residents, farmers, businesses and visitors'**

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**Objectives:**

- To enable Parish Councillors and Members to meet informally to discuss issues and topics relevant to local communities
  - To learn about the Distinctive Areas of the National Park and the activities and projects we are involved in
- 

**0945 Meet at Muncaster Castle**, Ravenglass, for tea, coffee and an introduction to the day. To include:

- ❖ Welcome by Bill Jefferson, Chairman LDNPA and a West Distinctive Area member.
- ❖ Steve Gaskell, Park Management Leader (LDNPA) – Welcome to the West Distinctive Area team and introduction to the programme for the day
- ❖ A representative from Muncaster Castle – The opportunities for tourism, enjoyment and recreation in the West, from a commercial perspective

**1130 Seascale Golf Club, Seascale**

- ❖ *Unique landscape, Unique Opportunities* – A view from the second tee!
- ❖ Welcome by a club representative. Living in Seascale and the West
- ❖ Representative from Britain's Energy Coast. Living and working with Nuclear power

**1245 Buffet Lunch (provided by the Golf Club)**

**1345 Travel to Wasdale Head** (by minibus) following the route of the new public minibus service for 2012; developed by the Wasdale local community. Commentary by locality officers

**1430 Wasdale Head**

- ❖ Adam Naylor, manager of the Wasdale Head Inn. Living and working in the valley
- ❖ Gillian Race, chair Wasdale Head Community Interest Company. Developing a Whole Valley Plan for Wasdale and managing the impacts of visitor pressure *and break in electricity connection.*
- ❖ Tea/coffee. Closing comments and Farewell

**1530 Return to Muncaster Castle**

Outside Body Report**North Country Leisure – Councillor Hugh Branney**

Copeland Borough Council is beginning year seven of a ten year contract with North Country Leisure to deliver three sports facilities and the Whitehaven Civic Hall. At the end of the first five years an independent benchmarking review was undertaken. This has been the basis of negotiations over the past year to get an agreed variation over the remainder of this contract which would see an overall reduction in the annual contract fee £160,000 by 2012/14. The council has confirmed its commitment to keep with NCL as our leisure contract provider during the current contract including extending into fifteen years as allowed for in the current contract. There are still ongoing discussions regarding the final agreement of the contract variation and the council's position of not being able to set aside finance at this time to formally resource and agree the final five year extension to 2021.

A condition survey was repeated five years into the ten year contract and the council has been negotiating a change to the planned maintenance programme using this updated information, taking non-essential items and moving a small number of others into a risk pot to be used over the remaining lifetime of the contract.

The contract is overseen by the North Country Leisure Copeland Board which has a Council executive member, the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism, Councillor Hugh Branney, on its membership. The Board meets bi-monthly.

NCL are working closely with our staff on a range of projects and have been particularly engaged in:

- Winning an NHS exercise on prescription contract;
- Obtaining funding to further develop netball and set up a gymnastic centre at Whitehaven Leisure Centre;
- Developing and seeking funding for a fitness extension to the Whitehaven Pool;
- Offered development support to the Egremont Pool Group;
- Developed a range of new products for the centre;
- Undertaken a refurbishment of the top floor of the Civic Centre;
- Brought Moor Active Health Outreach Programme to hard to reach groups

Outside Body Report

**North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership & Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership – Councillor John Bowman**

The funding for NWIEP finished at the end of March 2012, there is a small amount of money being administered by NW Employers to finalise work rather than just stop the projects, CWIEP have been given some of this and their role will finish within the next few months, I'm not sure of an exact date.

The benefits to Copeland as a Council have been:-

1. Funding towards the Choosing to Change work.
2. Video conferencing equipment to all our District Councils and County.
3. Development of the "Chest" used by Districts and County
4. The Networking and support of other Regional Council to share best practice

Although the external funding in (1) above was relatively small it has helped Copeland Borough Council improve its performance, and this has been noticed both Regionally and Nationally, to put this into some kind of context Copeland Borough Council has recently won a prestigious national Local Government Chronicles award winning the category for Corporate Governance. This was against very strong competition.

The Chest is a tool developed to procure the best materials and companies (locally where possible), through the tendering process, we have at Copeland Borough Council carried out local information sessions to encourage businesses to sign up for this process and make them eligible for work throughout the County.

The Networking is a very important part of any partnership working and through the excellent work that Copeland Borough Council is doing we are being recognised as a very credible council.

Outside Body Report

**North West Employers Organisation – Councillor John Bowman**

We work closely with North West Employers, and have gained their support for training events throughout the region on a very large variety of important and current issues. North West Employers have also helped us develop training tailored to our needs. Currently we are working towards the Members Charter Accreditation.

North West Employers also give support on regional and national issues e.g. .pay negotiations and legal issues.

A regional interactive site has been developed for all member bodies this can be accessed and used to share information via NW Connex website, this contains information from seminars, training session and much more information, and it can also be used to research information and allow other to give information and help.

Copeland Borough Council was recognised and presented with an award in September 2011 for the work and its achievements with regard to Equality and Diversity, this again shows the Region the high quality of work Copeland Borough Council is doing.

**Outside Body Report**

**Community Safety Partnership 2011/12 overview**

- 1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) began the year with a change of name from its previous title Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The Partnership took the opportunity to revise the structure following the review of working arrangements within the partnership. The revised structure has ensured focus on issues via less task and finish groups and the use of two key groups: the CSP Strategy Group, meeting bi-monthly, and the CSP Tactical Delivery Group meeting monthly. A review of membership of the Strategy Group resulted in an agreement to open up the Chair role to all partners whereas previously it had been allocated to Local Authorities only. The Strategy Group agreed to the social housing registered provider representative becoming the Chairperson.
- 2 Development and delivery of LMAPs, local multi agency problem solving, is providing two monthly meeting, one covering the Whitehaven area and the other focusing on the rural and smaller towns of Copeland.
- 3 The annual strategic assessment was undertaken in Summer 2011 and set out some key areas for attention which did not differ from previous years. This was reported in the portfolio report to full council.
- 4 The CSP took the opportunity to relaunch itself in October 2011. At the event alongside celebrating successful projects and impact the partners took time to look at the performance and assessment data and overview and agree future priorities. These priorities were domestic violence, youth crime, anti-social behaviour, alcohol related crime, violent crime, drugs and burglary.
- 5 Area based grant through Cumbria County Council to Community Safety Partnerships has severely diminished during 2011/12 and the Partnership has undertaken work to agree a sustainability strategy including enabling contributions from all the partnership to keep a core partnership resource including a Partnership Community Safety Officer.
- 6 Police and Crime Commissioner proposals and issues have been discussed by the partnership throughout the year to understand the issues and implications and how the Partnership will inform and potentially assist the Commissioner.



- 7 Section 17 Community Safety Officer joint post between Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council has been offering a level of officer support to the partnership during 2011 which has now stopped.

**West Cumbria Strategic Forum – Councillor Elaine Woodburn**

The formal West Cumbria Strategic Forum has been in a period of limbo due to the changes in the Secretary of states, who chairs this forum. We had held one meeting with Chris Huhne where we took the opportunity to present him with both the challenges and opportunities for West Cumbria and this will now be repeated with the now Secretary of State Ed Davey.

In the interim though meetings with the officials have being taken place where we have pushed to secure agreement to an updated Memorandum of Agreement that is aligned with the updated blueprint. We have also used the officials group to ensure government support for the Energy Coast Regional growth bid and its implementation.

The next meeting of the Forum is the 26<sup>th</sup> June