

## **Executive Report to Full Council Report – 8 September 2009**

### **Transformational Leadership**

#### **CP Work Effectively with others to meet the needs of Copeland – Councillor Elaine Woodburn**

The MRWS West Cumbrian partnership is moving at quite a pace with its first informative leaflet to be distributed to all households in West Cumbria due to go out late September followed by an extensive round of public and stakeholder engagement. This will take the form of organised events in localities and will be independently facilitated. . It is good to report that CCC has agreed to join the partnership which will ensure all three local authorities have input to all discussions and move forward together.

#### **CP More Effective, Efficient Revenue and Benefits Service - Councillor George Clements**

At its meeting on 25 August the Executive approved in principle the preferred option for a joint revenues and benefits service delivery with Carlisle City Council and Allerdale Borough Council. There is still some work to do to finalise the anticipated savings and staffing structures and this will take place over the coming months. The intention is to establish the base camp for the partnership with effect from 1 April 2010 but to phase in all of the required activity to align the systems.

Some of the benefits of moving to a shared service include:

- (i) future-proofing in the additional shared capacity and capability at a strategic and operational level
- (ii) resilience in resourcing sudden problems and systems, resilience against loss of systems and facilities thereby enabling business continuity
- (iii) shared service procurement more effective than procuring resources individually.
- (iv) Improve service performance for the councils' customers.
- (v) Taking advantage of the fact that Carlisle and Copeland councils use Capita (Academy) / Northgate's Information@Work operating systems to administer Revenues and Benefits and Carlisle and Allerdale's joint ICT service.

(vi) Provide a model for future shared 'transactional' service initiatives.

This list is not exhaustive but gives a flavour of what we can expect from entering into a shared revenues and benefits service.

### **Improving Quality of Life**

#### **CP Improve Local Environmental Sustainability – Councillor Elaine Woodburn**

At the Nuclear Working Group at its meeting on 30 July 2009 the issues around the disposal of low and very low level radioactive waste were discussed. It was noted that there are very large volumes of low and very low level radioactive wastes that will be arising from the decommissioning of the Sellafield site and there will be a strong desire from the industry that these materials should not be transported far from Sellafield for disposal. This creates the potential for a piecemeal and opportunistic approach to siting repositories for lower level wastes which will undermine the proper planning of the area and may lead to increasingly negative perceptions of environmental quality throughout Copeland and West Cumbria.

The Nuclear Working Group believe that any proposals to dispose of low and very low level radioactive waste in West Cumbria, outside of the current Low Level Waste Repository and existing facilities on the Sellafield site should be withdrawn until a strategic plan for siting such facilities is agreed with Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council. The development of such a plan should be subject to full public and stakeholder engagement. The Executive at its meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> August agreed to this plan and agreement to this approach is being sought from the NDA and Dept. Energy and Climate Change.

#### **CP Improve Life Chances of Children and Young People - Councillor Hugh Branney**

Members of the Children, Young People and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Planning Panel, at the request of the Youth Engagement Task and Finish group, visited the Eden Rural Foyer in Penrith on 14 August 2009.

The Eden Foyer has been assessed as the best foyer out of 140 foyers across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Foyers are a facility that can provide the home, support and springboard into independent living, learning and work that they need.

Foyers are aspiration based and work towards showing 16 to 25 year olds who have been homeless or in difficult home circumstances the way to achieve more with their lives. For example, you can only be resident at the Foyer if you are involved in Education, Employment or Training. The result of this is 46% of those who entered the Foyer went onto higher education last year which is approximately twice the expected rate for similar groups in the community.

The members also went onto visit the YMCA building in Whitehaven which Impact Housing, working with Copeland Borough Council is seeking to turn into a similar Foyer for Whitehaven. This is an exciting opportunity as this type of facility is missing in Whitehaven and is an essential part of a range of facilities that should be available to young people.

Impact Housing will be looking to this council to help support any bids for funding towards what may be as much as a £4 or £5 million project. To succeed it will need to have the backing and support of a number of partners and I will be seeking this as a very high priority in the Council's Corporate Plan 2010/11, subject to a suitable planning scheme being brought forward.

I am sure that all the members who attended the visit will agree with these sentiments particularly the obvious joy and enthusiasm that the scheme had generated in the young people who we met at the Foyer. I would like the rest of the council to understand this and an offer has been made for a presentation to be given to a future meeting of the council about the Foyer to include some of these young people.

### **CP Increase Opportunities for Physical Activities – Councillor Hugh Branney**

#### **Free Swimming Funding Update.**

Government announced on 6 June 2008 that it intends to fund Councils to provide free swimming for certain age groups, as a first step towards an aspiration to provide free swimming for everyone by 2012. Swimming is recognised as an accessible activity that has measurable positive effects on an individual's health and well being.

On 29 July 2008 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) wrote to all District Councils, Unitary Authorities and London Boroughs setting out the offer, with an indication of the level of support and the approach to be adopted.

On talking to the two eligible pools in Copeland (Copeland and Egremont Pools) it was evident from the current usage figures that the allocation would not be sufficient to cover the estimated cost, therefore other funding had to be sourced.

Therefore it is pleasing to report that this is exactly what has happened and thanks should go to Leisure Copeland, Copeland Homes and the Cumbria

Community foundation for their support. The breakdown of contributions is as follows:

DCMS over 60's:	£22, 953.00
DCMS under 16's:	£40, 047.00
Leisure Copeland:	£1, 696.00
Copeland Homes:	£12, 000.00
Cumbria Community Foundation:	£5, 000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£81, 696.00</b>

As part of the acceptance of the DCMS grant for both age groups, £21,308.00 is additionally to be made available for minor capital works within the pools in Copeland borough. The pools benefiting from a share of this funding are Millom Pool, Copeland Pool and Egremont Pool.

In addition to the above there is also the opportunity to apply to the 'Capital Modernisation Fund' as part of Free Swimming. At this point Millom Pool will be the priority applicant and will be applying for match funding to deliver a new pool for the town.

#### Summer Sports Programme

In July and August Copeland Borough Council's sports development unit have been delivering the Summer Sports Programme which has involved 1,401 young people from across the borough to take part in sport and physical activity sessions. The majority of participants have attended the 90 minute Multi-Sports sessions (cricket, rugby, rounders, basketball, football, fun games and physical activities), but this year we have had some more targeted work such as the Girls Fun and Fitness Classes.

Overall there have been 24,047 individual attendances on sports and arts activities within the first five months of this financial year. This includes over 5,000 more young people in the first five months of this financial year than in the whole of the previous financial year, a tremendous achievement.

### Promoting Prosperity

#### CP Supporting Development of Health Facilities – Councillor E Woodburn

Issue one of a new newsletter for staff and stakeholders has just been distributed, it is designed to keep staff and stakeholders up to date with the £100 million re-development of the WCH. It includes a progress report highlighting

- £100 million development is underway
- Laing O'Rourke has been appointed as the main contractor

- Fast track programme in place so work can start this year
- Estimated spend this year will be over £6 million
- Detailed plans are now being developed for essential enabling works, which are due to commence on site in November
- Main work is due to scheduled to start in April 2010 following approval of the business case
- Active programme of consultation and engagement

Local Involvement Networks (LINks) were set up in April 2008 to give local people a stronger voice in how their health and social care services are delivered. Cumbria LINK is now established and is engaging with many organisations and is actively involved in the plans for the hospitals redevelopment. They provide a lot of useful information and I would encourage members to visit their website [www.cumbrialink.org](http://www.cumbrialink.org)

### **CP Improve Customer Access to Council Services - Economic Sustainability – Councillor Cath Giel**

Cleator Moor Task Group was set up in 2008 to provide recommendations for the future of the Council Centre on the Town Square, in response to the difficulties in maintaining the opening hours at the Centre as a result of the closure of the cash office in 2008. This work identified very early on that an integrated regeneration approach including wider issues was needed.

Executive has previously agreed in principle:

- a new approach to offering services in Cleator Moor through partnership working with the County Council and Cleator Moor Town Council and other public service organisations.
- the possibility of a joint ownership arrangement being put in place to manage the three publicly owned listed buildings on the square.
- further development of a scheme to deliver a key regeneration project within Cleator Moor

Work has occurred which has resulted in the writing of an implementation strategy – the key elements within that strategy are:

- The review and consolidation of the public services provided from The Square, including identification and provision for accommodation of additional organisations and facilities to be offered
- Construction of a physical link between the current library building and the Council Centre to enable all three buildings to operate as a

single complex with a shared reception point. The link to introduce a significant design element to The Square.

- Internal re-arrangement of the buildings to ensure maximum utilisation offering the most needed services for the people of Cleator Moor
- Establishment of a partnership management structure to enable operation as a single complex which will streamline the operation and make all three buildings operate to maximum efficiency.
- Works to the areas of The Square open to the public to improve its image, making it safer and more user-friendly for pedestrians. Works will also ensure The Square can be identified as the town centre, and operate as such making the centre more attractive to incoming businesses, visitors and the community.
- Building on the arts and culture of the town by celebrating local heritage and creating a backdrop for community events in The Square.
- The town car parking and traffic flow be reviewed in light of pedestrian access issues to The Square and surrounding workspace.

The Task Group believes that changes to the Public Buildings within The Square alone are unlikely to make the centre viable or secure the services for the future unless such changes are accompanied by changes to the publicly accessible parts of The Square as well. The changes recommended could secure both the Council Centre, Library and Town Council offices and broader investment within the town which would see increased employment and training opportunities for the local residents.

The first phase of the strategy involves undertaking a comprehensive feasibility study to give greater detail to the recommended scheme and permit further public consultation. Funding for the study is presently being sought.

As part of the County wide initiative to improve access to services there was agreement at a joint meeting in February 2008 to develop and deliver a programme for the opening of face-to-face one stop shops to be branded as Local Links. In support of this at its meeting in December 08 Executive agreed to commit to partnership working with joint service provision from our buildings. The recent refurbishment of the Library in Cleator Moor provided an opportunity for Copeland to work with the County Council to join up the face of the Council for our customers and to become a Local Link. In doing this it will create an opportunity to extend the opening hours to allow greater access to library

services and improved access to information on county council and district council services in one location. This move is expected to be completed by December 2009 and we will take this opportunity between now and then to ensure all stakeholders and customers are aware of these improvements.

### **CP Economic Sustainability (Procurement) – Councillor John Bowman**

The Procurement team has been striving to help local businesses by increasing awareness of the procurement opportunities available to them. The Procurement Officer has recently given presentations to the Cumbria Chambers' of Commerce. A 'Selling to your Local Authority' event was held in May of this year for the Whitehaven Forum, and a forthcoming event is also planned for the Millom Forum.

The events have focussed on how the tender process at the Council works, hints and tips for improving tender responses and showing businesses where to find out about tender opportunities. Businesses attending the events were alerted to The Chest, an online tendering portal for North West local authorities. All the Cumbrian councils are committed to using The Chest, and it is hoped that it can become a key tool in making businesses aware of tender opportunities and widening the number of opportunities they can access.

The aim is for this supplier engagement with local businesses to be built upon in the new year, with events organised in partnership with other local councils.