

Executive Report to Full Council – 13 October 2011

Strategic Leadership and Nuclear Portfolio – Councillor Elaine Woodburn

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership

The Partnership is in the process of finalising the consultation document that will form the focus of the third round of the public and stakeholder engagement process which is due to commence in the autumn and continue into the new year. The consultation document will outline the Partnership's preliminary assessment of the information and evidence it has received over the last 18 months. As part of this process a consultation workshop with Members will be arranged to ensure all CBC members have an opportunity to feed into the formal public and stakeholder consultation, prior to the Council receiving the final report from the Partnership which will incorporate comments received from the consultation process. This will form the subject of a report to Full Council asking Council to agree / or not to make a formal decision to participate.

Nuclear New Build

NuGeneration Ltd have recently submitted a planning application for a number of boreholes across the site adjacent to Sellafield as part of the process to progress their assessment of the site for a new nuclear power station. Planning consultants, appointed by NuGeneration Ltd, have met with officers from Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Councils as part of the early pre-application discussions and they also attended the recent event hosted by the Council when officials from the Infrastructure Planning Commission gave a presentation on their work and the operation of the Development Consent Process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. This event enabled local stakeholders to gain a good understanding of the process and the opportunities for engagement. Further discussions will take place regarding the potential to sign-up to a Planning Performance Agreement with NuGeneration Ltd and to understand more fully, the spatial implications of their proposals which are being fed into the Local Development Framework for Copeland. Senior officials from the company have written to the Council to confirm that the withdrawal of Scottish and Southern Energy from the consortium which makes up the NuGeneration company will not have an effect on their plans or timetable for taking forward proposals in Copeland, which remain as previously reported.

The nuclear new build project is dependent on upgrades to the National grid network and regular meetings are being held between National Grid and NuGeneration, and between National Grid and local authorities to ensure the planning processes for both projects are compatible. Again the resource implications for the Council from the engagement with National Grid will be the subject of a Planning Performance Agreement which is currently being finalised. National Grid are currently completing their analysis of potential strategic route options across Cumbria and Lancashire prior to consultation with strategic stakeholders.

Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) Ltd

All Members of the Council were invited to a presentation from LLWR Ltd on 8th September to hear the background and context to the current planning application received by Cumbria County Council for the extension of facilities in the site. Following a recent meeting between officers from the Borough and County Councils with LLWR regarding the application, a site visit is to be arranged for all Members of the Council to discuss the proposals and associated issues such as coastal erosion.

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership

Copeland recently played host to the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and as well as hosting the meeting itself we took the opportunity to tell and show them some of the Copeland opportunities as well as identifying some of the Copeland challenges. The tour included a visit to the Woodhouse Housing Market Renewal Story Housing apprenticeship project, React Engineering who presented some of their innovative work and related their work with school children and concluded with a talk from Peter Frost Pennington about the Copeland offer from a tourism perspective. We made a conscious effort to get the message over that Copeland is not just nuclear, and the feedback we got from all in attendance was extremely positive and successfully delivered against our objectives.

Copeland Community Fund – one year since fund launch

The fund, officially launched on 14 October 2010, and receiving applications on line from 15 November 2010 has enabled £6,015,593 investment into Copeland from April 2010 to date. £2,135,379 has been allocated to community projects, community development support and an annual commitment to the parish of Drigg and Carleton. £3,880,214 match funding has been levered in against the grants provided.

The fund provides both large and small grants. Small grants being most successful in obtaining 73.5% of the total project cost from match funding. The large grants being 70% match fund to 30% Copeland Community Fund contribution.

A copy of the Annual Report and details of projects funded to date is available at www.copelandcommunityfund.co.uk

Finance and Resources Portfolio – Councillor Gillian Troughton

Finance Update

Copeland Borough Council's audited Statement of Accounts for 2010/11 were approved by the Audit Committee on 27th September in line with statutory deadlines. The Audit Commission Annual Governance Report which accompanied the Accounts gave an unqualified opinion on both the Accounts and also on the Council's arrangements for securing Value for Money. This is a major achievement for the Council and represents significant progress, as recognised by the Audit Commission. Work will continue within the Council to further improve the standard of the Statement of Accounts in future years.

Work is continuing on the Budget process to produce a balanced budget to recommend to Council in February 2012. Reports on savings options will be considered by various Committees as part of that process.

West Cumberland Hospital

Refurbishment works have commenced to Block J at West Cumberland Hospital, which involve changes to internal layouts, the replacement of windows/doors, drainage works, upgrade of internal mechanical services and roofing alterations.

Dilapidated Buildings – Former Methodist Church Cleator Moor

In the August Executive report we reported that the Council is continuing to encourage owners of derelict and dilapidated buildings to address the condition of their properties either through renovation or demolition, whichever is most appropriate. Following on from the previous report we would like to report progress in this area in that the Council has recently commenced works to demolish the Former Methodist Church at Cleator Moor.

The current owner purchased the property in November 2009, with the full knowledge that the Council had already served a Building Act Section 79 notice earlier in 2009. Discussions with the new owner on possible renovation schemes took place, and a planning application for conversion into a care home was granted in July 2010. Unfortunately no further progress was made and the Council then notified the owner of the intention to serve another Section 79 notice in November 2010.

By January 2011 the owner had owned the property for over 12 months and had taken no action to resolve its dilapidation. The decision was taken to serve the owner with a Section 79 notice giving him the opportunity to undertake works of either renovation or demolition within the following three months.

The compliance period ended for the section 79 Notice with no action having been taken, no complete demolition notice or alternative planning application being submitted. The owner was therefore notified that as he had made no progress with his intended demolition, the Council would now undertake the works in default and recharge the costs to the owner.

The Council has now commenced the demolition work, having taken out the asbestos and removed the roof, and taken down the front and rear elevations by hand for safety reasons. It is anticipated that all the works will be completed by 10th October 2011.

Performance and Transformation Portfolio – Councillor John Bowman

Member Development

This year as part of the member development process, members have been asked to complete a Personal Development Plan (PDP). The process was completed in July 2011 and was facilitated by two member peers. This year has been an incredible success and has seen our best ever take up with 98% of members taking part. The results from the PDP process have enabled a member development programme to be produced. The programme covers priority, essential and other training. It includes items such as new policy initiatives, finance and ICT training as well as service specific and softer skills training. The programme will be delivered from September 2011 to March 2012.

The Annual Electoral Canvass

The Council has to undertake a canvass of all households every year between August and November, so that it can prepare and publish a new electoral register. The canvass is going well, we have, as of 3rd October had a response rate of 64.7%. The reminders have been sent out this week. A total of 4.47% of households have successfully registered by Telephone, Internet and SMS which is an improvement on this time last year.

Over 4000 postal vote applications have also been requested as a result of the initial canvass forms, with this figure likely to increase over the next week. The personal canvass stage is due to commence on 20th October and this will cover all non responding properties.

Local Government Ombudsman Report

Once again, the Council has received a good report from the Local Government Ombudsman regarding how we deal with complaints. The Ombudsman's office received 14 enquiries/complaints about the Council and carried out 6 investigations in 2010/11 and the number of days we took to respond to their enquiries reduced again to 13 days, well within their target of 28 days. These complaints had already been investigated through the Council's internal Comments, compliments and complaints procedure but the complainant wasn't satisfied with the outcome so referred them to the Ombudsman, who carried out their own investigations and asked us further questions before concluding that there were no cases of maladministration or local settlements required

North West Skills Award

Last week Copeland officers attended the North West Awards Celebration Event in Salford where they collected our North West Skills Award which we were successful in gaining earlier this year in recognition of our commitment to skills development and organisational

improvement. At the same event, we shared in the joint Equality and Diversity Award which is being made to the authorities in the Cumbria-wide equality and diversity partnership, in recognition of our success in reaching the 'Achieving' level of the Equality Framework for Local Government. The partnership has been recognised as an example of best practice that the whole of the North West region is encouraged to follow. Thanks and congratulations should go to all involved.

Boundary Commission for England – Initial Proposals for Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

The Boundary Commission for England has published its initial proposals in its review of Parliamentary constituencies.

The Commission is required by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 to propose constituencies that contain the same number of registered electors – 76,641 – subject to a 5% tolerance. This means all constituencies must contain between 72,810 and 80,473 registered electors.

The Commission's initial proposals for Cumbria are for five constituencies to replace the existing six, as follows:

- Carlisle (the Carlisle City area, minus Dalston ward)
- Workington and Keswick (Allerdale minus Harrington ward; plus four Eden District wards west of Penrith; plus Dalston)
- Copeland and Windermere (Copeland Borough plus Harrington and 10 wards from western South Lakeland)
- Barrow in Furness (Barrow Borough plus eleven South Lakeland wards around Grange over Sands and Ulverston)
- Kendal and Penrith (Eden district minus the four most western wards plus Kendal and the eastern part of South Lakeland)

The initial proposals are at present subject to a consultation which will end on 5 December 2011. They will be the subject of detailed deliberation by the Electoral Review Working Party who will make a recommendation to Council on a response to the consultation at the Council meeting on 1 December.

Locality Working Update

The development of Locality Working across Copeland has been put forward for a Local Government Chronicle award in the Community Involvement category. The submission highlights that the process recognises that "communities are best place to understand how particular issues affect their areas and to prioritise the response to these"; that it "makes a virtue of three tier working by utilising elected community leaders as a focus for community planning and prioritisation" and based on consensus has "brought about a radical new way of working geographically across agencies, led by communities." The full bid is available for members that are interested.

Building on the work in Whitehaven to take a broad view of issues for young people in the town, other localities are now also meeting with service providers, commissioners and

young people (through the emerging youth forums) to consider how young people's voices can be better heard and the insight that can be gained used to understand the range of issues from the communication of activities that are available to the reasons for a perception of low aspirations in our communities.

Locality Partnership plans are being used to draw out the key community needs and priorities that will inform higher level and agency planning. Issues and prospects for young people are a clear priority for all, but other issues are a higher priority in some areas, such as access to health services, public transport provision and access to services, whilst poor educational attainment at key stage 4 and child poverty affects others more profoundly. Locality Partnerships will play a lead role in informing stakeholder groups that will form part of new GP/Clinical Commissioning processes as these develop across Copeland in the next twelve months.

Housing, Planning and Community Safety Portfolio – Councillor George Clements

Planning Policy

Work is progressing on the Core Strategy and Development Management planning documents. However, the consultants undertaking the "Blueprint" commission have been delayed in bringing forward economic projections. This will mean that the next version of the Core Strategy is unlikely to be reported to Council before the turn of the year and not this month as we had originally intended. I apologise to Members for this delay but it is important to get the right figures included in our plans so that we can coordinate things properly.

The LDF Working Group has now approved an "Issues and Options" report on the Whitehaven Town Centre and Harbourside SPD following a period of consultation through the summer. This will be made available to the public over the next few days and Members will be receiving notification of this and the consultation programme in due course. The Working Group feels that it is a very good piece of work and looks forward to the response.

Warm Homes

In my last report I referred to the Copeland element of Cumbria Warm Homes Project. This aims to increase energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty in the private housing sector. It is being funded by EON which, as an energy provider, is obliged to meet its carbon emissions reduction target. It will be delivered Borough wide but known centres of fuel poverty are especially targeted. We are very close to agreement on the final package of subsidised or free energy efficiency installations and I expect the scheme to begin by end October or very soon after. Councillors will be kept informed.

Social housing residents are not overlooked because their landlords operate energy efficiency schemes funded from other sources. Home Housing is the largest landlord in the Borough and they have a programme benefitting from European Regional Development funding. They are also in discussion with Centrica (on behalf of British Gas) to deliver energy efficiencies through insulation measures in Sandwith ward. It is too soon to announce

details but Ward Councillors and Council officers are involved and an announcement will be made in due course.

Private Landlords Forum

The next meeting of the forum will be held on 1 November at 5.00 in the Bainbridge Room. This has been well supported and all elected members are welcome to attend.

Disrepair in the Private Rented Sector

Since 1 April this year our Housing Renewal Team have received 18 requests from private sector tenants seeking help and we have responded to each with an inspection. It is pleasing to note that to date landlords have co-operated with our intervention and it has been unnecessary to begin enforcement by legal action.

Housing Information in Egremont

In my last report I referred to forthcoming housing surgeries in Egremont and I promised further information.

The first of these took place at the De Lucy Centre in the town on 29 September from 10.00 to 12.00. This is a town centre building provided by Age UK. Surgeries are staffed by Council officers and others from Home Housing Group, the largest social landlord in the town. Advice is available on any housing issue but particularly:

- housing options
- help with Cumbria Choice (the lettings scheme)
- advice on community safety
- landlord services (anything from reporting repairs to rent queries)
- rubbish collection, recycling and disposing of bulky household goods.

Surgeries will be held weekly and for three months in the first instance while we assess demand for the long term.

I would remind members that the Council has generic service points in Millom and Cleator Moor plus officers from the Council are willing and able to visit people in their own homes on request if they are unable to travel.

Environment and Sustainability Portfolio – Councillor Allan Holliday

Britain in Bloom/Cumbria in Bloom

It's been a great year of horticultural achievement this year for Copeland. Our communities, schools and our own Council team have had their skills and expertise acknowledged locally and nationally. At the beginning of this meeting we will have an opportunity to recognise the groups and individuals who have won success in the Green Flag, Schools in Bloom, Cumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions. Their efforts help to make Copeland a better place to be at the same time as ensuring the area gets into the headlines, encouraging others to come and see what we have to offer. Here's the, rather comprehensive, list of the awards:-

Copeland Schools in Bloom:

Winner – Moresby School

Runners up – Hensingham, Seascale and St Gregory's & St Patrick's Schools

Cumbria in Bloom

Whitehaven (RHS Silver Gilt) – Best Large Town

Nether Wasdale (RHS Silver Gilt) - Runner up Best Hamlet

Pica (RHS Silver Gilt) - Runner up Best Small Village

St Nicholas Garden – Best Churchyard

Drigg (RHS Silver Gilt) - Copeland Shield – Best in Borough

Best School Garden Overall – Moresby

Best Schools Edible Garden – Winner: St Gregory & St Patrick's School

Best Schools Wildlife Habitats – Winner: Hensingham School

Best Schools Sensory Garden – Winner: Moresby

Best Schools Container Garden – Winner: Moresby

School Garden Certificate: Seascale

Moresby - Best Schools Media Presentation

RHS "It's Your Neighbourhood Awards"

Anchor Court Sheltered Housing (Thriving)

Hensingham School (Thriving)

Moresby School (Thriving)

St Gregory & St Patrick's School (Outstanding)

Michael Little – Winner Outstanding Community Champion

Britain in Bloom

Whitehaven – Silver Gilt Award

Green Flags

St Nicholas Gardens, Trinity Gardens, Egremont Castle & Grounds and Distington Hall Crematorium Grounds

In addition to these, the three Green Heritage Awards were retained for St Nicholas Gardens, Trinity Gardens and Egremont Castle.

And finally,

Jacktrees Community Group, Cleator Moor won our first ever Green Flag Community Award

Environmental Health - Sellafield off Site Emergency Plan Training

A one day training course for staff from agencies with a strategic role in the Sellafield off Site Emergency Plan took place at Summergrove on 15th September. As well as exploring the plan for responding to an emergency at Sellafield, participants were also able to use the National Resilience Extranet (NRE) tool in the emergency exercise which was undertaken in the afternoon.

The NRE is a new information management system that enables efficient and secure exchange of information between agencies who are involved in responding to emergencies and incidents. Access to the NRE is restricted with users needing to progress through a licensing scheme to gain access.

The tool provides ready access to centrally stored information about an emergency and provides real time communication, including situation reports between the relevant agencies. The event at Summergrove gave the Copeland Team its first opportunity to test the system in a semi-live environment, and the test went exceptionally well.

It was felt that the day was very useful and a success and helped identify areas of development in the Council's Emergency Plan and how we use the NRE going forward. The next Sellafield Emergency Planning Exercise OSCAR 10 is planned for 7th & 8th March 2012.

Waste Management - Refuse Collection Changes

Progress has continued to be made throughout the summer on the project to roll-out wheeled bin refuse collections wherever possible, and blue bags to properties where bins are unsuitable. Since the changes in Millom and Haverigg, reported to Members in June, a further 600 homes in Distington, Parton and Whitehaven have also seen their refuse collection changed. With the co-operation of Home Group, a 3 month trial is taking place in three of the blocks of flats in Whitehaven Town Centre. The trial is to determine whether

wheeled bin collections are suitable for those properties. Due to the nature of the access and other complicating factors specific to flats, residents' feedback will be sought prior to any decisions being made on how best to collect waste from these properties in the future. However, early indications suggest that wheeled bins have been welcomed and that the trial will prove successful.

The project will continue with a further 2000 bins being rolled-out across the Borough during October and November. Of these, around 1000 properties with gardens will receive green waste collections. At the same time it is envisaged a further 2000 properties will move onto the blue bag service.

As this project has been delivered in measured stages, the waste team involved have been able to engage more closely with residents to discuss and resolve particular concerns. This approach has been welcomed and to date has resulted in more bins being issued than was originally planned for.

This part of the project will conclude in November and will make way for the next stage of the project to improve efficiency in our waste collection services. This next stage is the major re-routing and rationalisation of the collection rounds. It is anticipated that the new rounds, designed to reduce travelling time and reduce fuel use, will be implemented in April 2012.

Carbon Management Plan

The Council has a carbon reduction target of 25% by 2015. The first year of our Carbon Management Plan has over-achieved with a 7.6% reduction in carbon emissions in 2010/11 against a 2009/10 baseline. The Council's carbon footprint is made up of energy and fuel consumption associated with the Council's operations. Reductions have been achieved through projects including the installation of an air source heat pump at Moresby, adopting energy efficiency practices at the Beacon and introducing initiatives to reduce fuel consumption across our Waste Services. Moresby has improved its energy rating from F to C and the Beacon from E to C. Free support has been provided by the Carbon Trust and the Renaissance North West's Greener Museums Programme. Further carbon reduction measures undertaken in 2010/11 include the installation of natural roof lighting, low energy lighting and an automated fast track door closer at Moresby; the replacement of heating, air conditioning and lighting systems at the Beacon; and replacement of the cremators at Distinguon along with ceiling insulation in the hall. These measures will deliver further carbon savings. Measures have been funded through a combination of maintenance and the council's energy efficiency budget.

Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio – Councillor Phil Greatorex

Copeland Apprenticeship Initiative

To date, 27 apprentices have been recruited to the scheme against a target of 45. The next recruitment event (Round 3) is scheduled for 26 October. To date 20 employers have expressed an interest in taking on an apprentice 72 learners have also submitted

applications. To date, 12 individuals have been referred to PHX Training for basic skills support so that they meet the criteria to access this apprenticeship initiative or others being developed across the borough. The target for Round 3 is 20. The scheme is attracting a range of employers and these include the retail; care; engineering; leisure; animal welfare; construction; and hair & beauty sectors.

The scheme contributes to measures and targets in the Copeland Borough Council Corporate Improvement Plan, e.g. Prosperity Theme (2.1).

Whitehaven Townscape Heritage Initiative

The Council is working with a range of partners including the Whitehaven Locality Partnership to develop a Townscape Heritage Initiative stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery in November 2011. An expression of interest has been submitted, highlighting a scheme focused around James Street and surrounds, including the YMCA building being developed by Impact Housing and the Howgill Family Centre as a Foyer. Current expectations are for an initiative with a spend of at least £1.7million.

Ways into Successful Enterprise (WISE)

In September the Ways into Successful Enterprise project gave small businesses the opportunity to showcase, trade and market their businesses at a 'Meet the Services' event in Whitehaven. This was an ideal opportunity for businesses who wanted to trial new products, mobile businesses who are considering moving into premises and for businesses to evaluate interest/sales in their business in Whitehaven town centre. Ten businesses took part in the event in The Expo facility which was made available by Whitehaven Festival Company and Britain's Energy Coast. A Volunteering and Training event was also held in Whitehaven Civic Hall.

Cumbria Intensive Start-up Support Programme (ISUS)

Since April this year 16 new businesses have started up in Copeland under this programme and 2 of these are social enterprises. Post start support has also been given to 22 existing businesses, including 3 social enterprises.

The latest progress report received from the Chamber of Commerce indicates that 69 clients are currently taking part in the programme in Copeland who have not yet started their business, plus 6 potential social enterprises.

Retail Sector Support

Programmes in the borough for grants towards shop front improvements and building improvements to help bring commercial properties back into use are still up and running and are progressing well.

Business Networks

Over the last couple of years, the Council has established successful business networks in Millom and Cleator Moor/Egremont. Earlier this year we held a business networking evening for Whitehaven businesses in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. This was highly successful with around 40 businesses attending, covering a wide range of business sectors. The feedback we received was that Whitehaven businesses would like to have more opportunities to meet and to hear about business support measures but in a semi social environment.

To this end a series of 12 business network events will be run in Whitehaven by the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Council with the launch event on the afternoon of 20 October.

Leisure Culture and Youth Portfolio – Councillor Hugh Branney

Florence Mine Arts Centre

A new community arts facility in Egremont was recently opened by Lord Egremont. Parts of Florence Mine have been transformed into a new cultural resource for West Cumbria and the North West, allowing people to get involved in various areas of the arts. The centre houses a studio cinema and theatre, digital editing suite, an art gallery, meeting spaces and a communal kitchen, all within the historic site of the iron ore mine.

Much of the funding for this project was drawn down by our locality worker, Simon Walker, as he worked alongside the Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership, their partners, and staff and volunteers at the mine to develop the project.

England Netball Award for Copeland Borough Council

Copeland Borough Council is celebrating after scooping a National England Netball Golden Globe Award at the weekend. England Netball presented the Rose Award after recognising that our Copeland activity has made a notable contribution to netball in the last twelve months.

Our success is in delivering a Community Coaching programme including initiatives such as Back to Netball, 6th Form & College coaching and Junior Netball coaching across the Borough. The programme has made netball accessible and affordable to players in Copeland and increased their confidence with the sport through high quality coaching. The key health impact has been to increase female resident's uptake of physical activity on a weekly basis.

The project along with Copeland Borough Council and North Country Leisure have organised many netball events such as the first ever Cumbrian Back to Netball Festival. It is due to these events and programmes that 332 players have begun playing netball in the last 12 months – who would have not done so before.

Back to Netball has been the real success in the borough with support from Copeland

Borough Council, funding was secured to start a 6 week programme for ladies at the local Bumps to Babies Group at Whitehaven Sports Centre. By working in partnership with the School Sports Partnership the programme was moved to a school on the fringe of the town and the sessions were able to be offered free of charge. Back to Netball has now embedded itself in the North & South of the Borough. From the 177 players that have attended the sessions 3 new teams have been formed and joined the Copeland Summer & Winter Netball League. From the Millom session one new team has formed and have just joined the South Lakes Netball League. So 4 new teams in total but we have also had Back to Netball players that have been invited by existing teams to join them and play in the Leagues – so 30% of Back to Netball players in Copeland have now had the doors open to them to play competitive netball on a regular basis where they wouldn't have considered doing so before participating in the initiative.

Beacon's latest successful exhibition - BBC Walking with Dinosaurs

BBC Walking with Dinosaurs exhibition took over The Beacon from 11 June until 4 September 2011, and was a colossal success for Copeland.

During that period, it was visited by 40692 people.

The value of ticket sales during the 86 days of the exhibition was £54136 (including VAT).

The value of shop sales during the 86 days was £36288 (including VAT).

(If you want to compare it against the same 86 days last year – 20744 people; £13159 tickets, £8454 shop sales)

818 children attended the daily craft workshops which included dinosaur puppets, printing, masks and making clay models.

360 Annual Beacon VIP passes were sold during that time, with some people coming back seven times to see the exhibition. The VIP passes cost just £8 which made it great value for repeat visits during dinosaurs but also across the whole year. 594 people used their VIP passes to see the exhibition for free.

We know that people travelled from across the North West to see the exhibition including Newcastle, Bolton, Manchester and Preston where the visitors saw the Beacon/Northern Rail posters on the station platforms. General visitors to Copeland during the exhibition period came from Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Warwickshire, Northumberland, Worcestershire, Glasgow, Australia, Estonia, France, Spain, Italy, United States and even Peru!

Marketing for the exhibition included the formal exhibition opening by adventurer and TV vet Steve Leonard, CFM Radio adverts, posters along the sides of buses throughout Cumbria, high impact graphics hanging outside The Beacon and, thanks to Northern Rail, a T Rex walking and scaring school children along platform 4 at Carlisle Station. The exhibition was even mentioned on BBC Radio 2 Chris Evan's show.

The Beacon team would like to pass on a gigantic thank you to the exhibition sponsors Yarl

Hydracentre, Sealey Power Products and Northern Rail.

Copeland Youth Council Meets for the first time

September saw young people from across Copeland come together for the first time to work on creating the new Copeland Youth Council. The first meeting took place Monday 5th September at Phoenix Youth and Community centre. The aim of this meeting was to gather representatives from the entire locality youth forum areas together for the first time and celebrate their work so far, the meeting was a huge success and a total of 18 young people came together from across Copeland.

The Youth Council then met for a second time on Tuesday 27th September at Parton village hall, as an overarching council that sits above the youth forums the youth council will be a democratic organisation created, run and developed by young people for young people so this session focused on the group discussing the aims and objectives of their council, the structure, roles, ways to communicate, voting systems etc. This was again a very successful meeting and saw a total of 21 young people come together. The group decided that the council would meet again on Tuesday 7th November at Shackles off, Seascale and that the locality youth forums would continue to meet monthly.

Youth Forums join up with locality working

The main aim of youth forums/council in Copeland is for decision makers to listen to young people, the youth forums are now working closely with localities to inform their plans and make a big difference to the lives of young people in our borough.

Health Improvement

GP Referral Programme –Fit4Me:

Partnership Programme between Copeland Borough Council, NHS Cumbria, Connexions and North Country Leisure aimed at using Physical activity to help raise self-esteem and confidence.

The idea behind the development is that GP's who are working with clinically obese young people now have somewhere that they can refer the young people too where they will receive support and exercise in a safe and friendly environment. A full report detailing how the young people felt about themselves before and after the first 10 week programme is currently being collated and will be released shortly. Plans are in place to deliver another 3 twelve week programmes throughout the new school year.

Gen II Healthy and Active Lifestyles Workshops- The Health and Sports team delivered 8 workshops with connexions to over 160 young apprentices on the benefits of physical activity and leading a healthy lifestyle. The sessions included discussions around alcohol and smoking, physical activity and general health advice.

Community and Locality Health and Wellbeing Sessions- We have delivered general health MOT's to over 180 people throughout Copeland, who gained information around their

muscle mass, body fat % and metabolic ages. We also offered and gave advice on key health issues and current health campaigns i.e. 'Cough cough' lung cancer awareness.

Breastfeeding Campaign

A breastfeeding campaign is due to be launched in the Millom area looking at increasing awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and also the number of breastfeeding friendly venues available to mums in and around the town. We are currently working with the NHS and the Millom Network Centre to provide a base for people to access all the Breastfeeding information such as friendly venues, support groups and contact details. If the campaign is successful we will roll this out to the rest of Copeland.

Copeland Healthy Weight Event

We are currently working with the NHS to contribute and feed into the Cumbria Healthy Weight strategy refresh. A Healthy Weight in Copeland event is currently being planned with details being released shortly. The aim of the event is to discuss the prevalence of Obesity in Copeland, celebrate good work that is already going on, and explore with partners what mechanisms are already in place and what more we could do in tackling this key issue.