

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2009

Present: Councillors J Kane (Chairman); D Banks; N Clarkson; R Salkeld; Mrs C Watson and H Wormstrup.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Whiteside; E Brenan; B Dixon; D Moore; W Southward and A Wonnacott.

Also Present: Councillors Mrs C Giel; F Gleaves; A Jacob and Mrs J Williams.

Officers: J Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy; N White, Scrutiny Support Officer and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

EDE 31/08 **Minutes of the Meetings**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2009 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

EDE 32/08 **Regional Strategy Principles and Issues (RS2010)**

The Head of Development Strategy presented to Members a report setting out an overview of the principles and issues paper of the Regional Strategy for England's North West and invited comments and questions.

During the discussion that followed Members suggested that the report authors (the North West Development Agency) were too remote and did not understand the needs of the area. It was suggested that the North West Development Agency be invited to Copeland in order to see the problems of West Cumbria first hand.

Members also emphasized the lack of infrastructure in West Cumbria and that this needed to be a priority, in particular a bridge across the Duddon estuary and a barrage across Morecambe Bay.

Road and Rail improvements were essential before any Nuclear New Build take place.

It was suggested that all Members work together with the County Council to progress the needs of the area.

It was emphasised that the area was heavily reliant on the Nuclear industry.

Councillor Giel, the Portfolio Holder, highlighted the positive things going on, such as Cumbria Vision, the Nuclear Management Partners £20m fund, The Energy Coast Masterplan and the Copeland Community Fund. Councillor Giel also stressed the need to maintain the lobbying for a share of both Regional and National funds.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the Regional Strategy for England's North West report be updated by the Head of Development Strategy and referred back to Members for comment, and
- b) a decision to invite the North West Development Agency to visit Copeland be deferred until the 2009/2010 Work Plan is formulated.

EDE 33/08 Copeland Regeneration Delivery Plan

The Head of Development Strategy and Councillor Giel presented to Members on the framework and first year priorities of the Copeland Regeneration Delivery Plan.

Members were advised that this was a working document with the aim of providing a co-ordinated framework with locally agreed priorities to deliver sustainable social, economic and environmental prosperity for Copeland residents and in support of a healthy and diverse local economy.

During the discussion that followed, Members again stressed that the need for a better transport infrastructure was key. Members also would like to see targets set and these monitored.

The Head of Development Strategy and Councillor Giel were thanked for their presentation.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the presentation on the framework and first year priorities of the Copeland Regeneration Delivery Plan be received and
- b) this Committee monitor progress of the Plan against the set targets.

EDE 34/08 Wind Generated Energy

Councillor R Salkeld declared a Personal interest in this item due to his Brother-in-Law owning approximately 12 Wind Turbines and left the room at this point of the meeting.

Councillors A Jacob and Mrs J Williams stated that as Members of the

Planning Panel they would be unable to express a view on this item.

Members suggested that it was not necessary for the Wind Generated Energy item to be referred back to this Committee and that it be deferred until the first meeting of the new municipal year by which time Committee members would be known and a Task and Finish Group could be formed.

RESOLVED – That the Wind Generated Energy item to be deferred until the first meeting of the new municipal year.

EDE 34/08 **At this point in the meeting it was noted that there were insufficient Members remaining to form a quorum (Standing Order 4 refers). It was therefore agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda be deferred to the next meeting without debate.**

The Meeting Closed at 4:10pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....