

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH LAKELAND</b>
<b>Meeting date: 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010</b>
<b>From: Corporate Director – Environment</b>

## **EDEN & SOUTH LAKELAND FORWARD UPDATE**

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *This report provides a brief up-date on the priority projects contained within the Eden & South Lakeland Forward Delivery Plan. The up-date focuses on projects within South Lakeland but does also give information on projects in Eden.*

### **2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.1 *Eden & South Lakeland Forward (ESLF) is a private sector led partnership that brings together public sector organisations and expertise from the private sector to help steer economic development. ESLF provides a clear strategic direction to a programme of prioritised investments to support the growth of the economy with a focus on enabling and driving forward project delivery. The future of ESLF is currently under review.*

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 *The Local Committee notes the progress on the priority projects as set out in this report.*

### **4.0 BACKGROUND AND UP-DATE**

- 4.1 The Eden and South Lakeland Delivery Board came into formal operation on 1 April 2009. The primary purpose of the Board was to provide a clear strategic direction to a programme of prioritised investments to grow the economy of Eden and South Lakeland. The Board includes representatives of the County Council, the National Parks, Cumbria Tourism, Eden and South Lakeland District Councils and private sector partners.
- 4.2 A presentation on the Eden and South Lakeland Forward delivery plan was made to the Local Committee for South Lakeland on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and

the Local Committee agreed that the Programme Director should present three monthly reports on progress in delivering the plan's programme. An up-date report was noted by Local Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and a briefing note with an up-date on the funding position following the decision of the Coalition Government to abolish Regional Development Agencies was considered on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010. A further report was considered on 1<sup>st</sup> November and a report focusing purely on Kendal Canal Head was considered on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Although a final report was considered on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011, the Local Committee requested a further up-date be presented on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

4.3 Members of the Local Committee will be aware that the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership has been established and is to meet for the first time on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The Board comprises 6 public sector partners and 6 private sector representatives. The members are:

- George Beveridge (Interim Chair) - representing energy and nuclear and based in West Cumbria
- Michael Cowen - representing agriculture and based in West Cumbria
- Stephen Broughton - representing tourism and hospitality and based in South Lakeland
- Fred Story – representing construction and based in North Cumbria
- Jackie Arnold – representing specialist manufacturing and based in Furness
- Maria Whitehead - representing food and drink and based in South Lakeland
- Eddie Martin – representing Cumbria County Council
- Bill Jefferson – representing Lake District National Park Authority
- Mike Mitchelson – representing Eden District Council and Carlisle City Council
- Elaine Woodburn - representing Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils
- Brendan Jameson - representing Barrow Borough Council and South Lakeland District Council
- Moira Tattersall - Principal of Carlisle College and representing Education

4.4 ESLF will make the LEP aware of the priorities for Eden and South Lakeland, which includes the projects identified below.

- 4.5 The comprehensive regeneration of **Canal Head** has the potential to bring about substantial economic, social and environmental improvement to Kendal. A mixed development scheme is envisaged on the 8 hectare site which could cost in excess of £100 million and consist of a large superstore, office development, retention of Gilbert Gilkes and Gordon Ltd, as well as residential development with significant public realm improvements and strong pedestrian links with Kendal town centre. South Lakeland District Council is currently finalising its “Revised Preferred Options” of the Kendal Canal Head Area Action Plan which is expected to be available for consultation in May 2011.
- 4.6 Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council have both agreed to act as enablers to support this development and will make their land available (subject to contract) to facilitate this development. Discussions are on-going with Gilkes and a potential development partner in developing the Masterplan for the site to ensure a deliverable scheme can come forward. The project team is intending to submit a bid for Regional Growth Funding (RGF) to help support delivery of this important regeneration project. RGF would fund a new bridge, unlocking this development opportunity and delivering wider economic benefits for Kendal.
- 4.7 The second phase of **Kendal College’s** redevelopment includes a new Creative and Performing Arts campus, which will incorporate a refurbishment of the current facilities in the Allan Building, the upgrading of facilities at Kendal Museum, and the incorporation of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Castle Dairy as a gallery space and café. A new multi purpose space for students called “The Box” is the focus of the project which will provide education space for the performing arts, including dance and music, as well as provide facilities for sound, lighting and recording with workshops, changing facilities, toilets and reception. Construction work commenced in March 2010 on building this new £2.2 million multi purpose centre which is due to open June 2011.
- 4.8 **The Glebe at Bowness on Windermere** is an extremely popular visitor destination and, for some, offers the only experience of the Lake District. Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), as planning authority, and South Lakeland District Council (SLDC), as a major landowner, are both committed to finding a way forward to enable this area to be improved so that it can become a world class visitor destination. LDNPA has been out to consultation on the area to be defined as the Strategic Regeneration Location as part of their Local Development Framework process. In addition, discussions are being progressed with landowners and SLDC is reviewing options for its land holding interests and how it might help improve the car parking and point of arrival facilities at the Glebe.
- 4.9 The Lake District National Park Authority is developing **the Lake District National Park Visitor Centre at Brockhole** as a destination for visitors. To date the LDNPA have renewed the indoor exhibitions, appointed a water sports operator and secured a company to build a high ropes adventure course. The main activity is currently the construction of a new 66 metre jetty which will open up Brockhole to visitors coming by boat and is due to complete March 2011.

- 4.10 **At the University of Cumbria's Ambleside Campus**, the University is working in partnership with various stakeholders to implement its business plan (March 2010), which involves rationalising its estate and academic provision. The University of Cumbria is retaining a 'gateway' facility at Ambleside and will be running outdoor education courses from the site. However, the University intends to dispose of its surplus estate in the near future. LDNPA has been working with the University of Cumbria to prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to guide future use of the site from a planning policy perspective. LDNPA has commenced a six week period of consultation on the SPD. Kendal College remains interested in pursuing the opportunity to deliver a hotel school on the site.
- 4.11 **New Squares and the Revitalisation of Penrith Town Centre.** Following Sainsbury's decision to "step in" to develop the scheme, a planning permission has been secured and mobilisation of the development site has commenced. It is anticipated that the Sainsbury's store and multi storey car park will be opened in April 2012 with the rest of the development being phased over the following three years. With the reopening of the Morrison's store in October 2010 and the opening of the new Booth's store in late 2011, the challenge is to ensure that Penrith town centre benefits from all this investment and that the increase in footfall that will be generated by these developments leads to an increase in footfall within the existing town centre. Eden District Council together with the Vitality of Penrith group has identified a programme of small scale improvements to be delivered over the next couple of years.
- 4.12 **The University of Cumbria - Newton Rigg Campus.** Following the University of Cumbria's decision to withdraw from the provision of Further Education at Newton Rigg, the Skills Funding Agency stepped in to procure a new FE provider. The advert was placed in October and bids were submitted in November 2010. Askham Bryan, a specialist agriculture college near York, is understood to have been selected as the preferred bidder. The intention is to transfer the FE activity to the new provider by August 2011 for the start of the new academic year. Local partners will work with the successful bidder to ensure Newton Rigg can be re-established as a leading college serving the rural communities of Cumbria.
- 4.13 Cumbria has been successful in being chosen as **Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) pilot** and to become one of four areas in the UK to roll out superfast broadband. The County Council has been invited to design, secure funding, seek state aid approval, procure and manage the pilot. Discussions are still underway with BDUK over the level of funding available but the County Council is looking to secure additional levels of match from Europe and the private sector. Good progress is being made in scoping out the project and an in-house team has been set up to deliver the pilot.
- 4.14 A decision on the location of the broadband provision will be made by Cabinet on the basis of an objective assessment of need against a set of criteria. However Ministers have made it clear that the pilot will have to cover the Big Society Vanguard project in the Eden Valley. The Council's ambition is to seek further funding to enable the whole of Cumbria to benefit from the provision of superfast broadband following the delivery of the pilot.

- 4.15 The intention is to exploit the existing public sector network and extend it to create a series of points of presence in the community. Discussions are taking place with community groups across the County to assess their needs and their potential role in contributing to the provision of the “last mile” in the network. A Council web site has been set up and hub co-ordinators from the community are being invited to come forward to liaise with the project team on the community’s needs.
- 4.16 ESLF recognises the significance of **tourism** to the local economy and has therefore been working with Cumbria Tourism and LDNPA to develop a proposal for Regional Growth Funding. The intention is to seek funding for a range of activities that will enable the growth of adventure tourism, and by the Lake District becoming the UK’s adventure capital, it will drive up visitor spend and in turn deliver private sector jobs and private sector investment.

## **5 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 The Local Committee will note the progress above.

## **6 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation.

## **7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications at this stage. However, in order to enable project delivery, legal advice may need to be sought in a timely manner and legal agreements will most likely need to be entered into in due course.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The Local Committee should note the progress of the projects within Eden & South Lakeland.

**Marie Fallon**  
**Corporate Director - Environment**

*23 March 2011*

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## **NO APPENDICES**

Electoral Division(s): \*

\* *Please remove whichever option is not applicable*

Executive Decision

	No*
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Key Decision

	No*
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

N/A*
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

Yes*	
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

	No*	
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?  
If so, give details below.

	No*
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

	No*	
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No*	
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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**  
*[including Local Committees]*

*No previous relevant decisions.*

**CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

*Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.*

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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