

## **BRITAIN'S ENERGY COAST™**

### **Projects Update Report**

**1 September 2008**

#### **EC3 New Acute Services Hospital – SRO: to be determined**

The Delivery Team has been advised by NHS North West that the new acute hospital project should be considered within the wider context of improved healthcare in West Cumbria. This will align the outcomes of the 'Closer to Home' consultation with the development of a 'new build' hospital for West Cumbria and will provide consistency with the PCT's approach and will recognise the healthcare that should be provided in the wider community.

Political commitment has been given by the Secretary of State for Health, Alan Johnson, for a new acute hospital in West Cumbria due to the linkages to the Energy Coast programme. A group led by the North Cumbria Acute Hospitals, NHS Trust is now set up to consult the community on the siting of the hospital. Discussions with this group are to take place and will include opportunities for the possible development of a 'health village' for West Cumbria. It would be envisaged that this would include health and social care related research and development. West Cumbria Partners need to identify the optimum site with some urgency. WLR was tasked by the Leaders' Group on 22 August with the co-ordination a meeting between the Acting Chief Executive of North Cumbria Acute Hospitals, Copeland and Allerdale Borough Councils to consider the West Cumbria sites put forward.

#### **EC4 Housing Market Renewal – SRO: Bob Pointing, WLR**

WLR Board has agreed allocation of the new £6m HMR programme. The long-term future of HMR programme is uncertain due to the evidence in an unfavourable report from the House of Commons Select Committee. Since then we have had the 'credit crunch' which has affected the housing market which has serious implications for future programmes and will lead to a reassessment of social housing. Professor Michael Parkinson is carrying out a national review on the effect of the credit crunch and on HMR. WLR with local partners and EP/Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) are commissioning a study to reassess housing needs here and will submit a programme to the new HCA early in 2009. Focus on the new programme will be on meeting the "housing deficit" rather than Housing Market Renewal. The tender list and brief have been prepared.

#### **EC5 Brownfield Sites – SRO: Bob Pointing, WLR**

The consultants' brief has been agreed and a comprehensive survey will include all Brownfield sites in Furness and West Cumbria from the very large, eg Sellafield, Derwent Howe and Derwent Forest to the relatively small. The aim is to submit an early programme to the HCA in 2009 and to identify other sites which can be brought forward for early development within other programmes including housing and Industries for the Future (EC8).

#### **EC6 Strategic Transport Improvements – SRO: Rob Terwey, CCC**

Work has commenced on ensuring that Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) are in tune with the Energy Coast plans and that this work includes communicating with all the local authorities, where raising awareness was the main thrust. Transport includes a programme of schemes on ports, roads, rail, etc. Meetings have been taking place with a range of stakeholders and business people have shown an understanding of the linkages between enterprise and infrastructure. There has been a clear willingness from companies to work with agencies on the priorities in this area of work. There may be some way of securing funding through the sub-regional priorities and this needs to be identified by CCC by September.

## **EC8 Industries for the Future – SRO: Rosie Mathisen, WLR**

Westcroft Consultancy has been commissioned by WLR through this project to examine alternative methods of zero carbon energy generation and methods of reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions from the West Cumbrian economy and identify environmental technologies and activities which offer the potential for further business and economic development.

This project includes work in the areas of hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, offshore wind, tidal and waste. Westcroft Consulting is working with Cumbria Vision to develop the Energy and Environmental Strategy Action Plan and proposals for the Cumbria Renewables Panel and John Knox of Westcroft Consultancy will give a presentation at the Leaders' Group meeting on 22 August.

Further meetings to review longer term technology-based opportunities are being arranged with Higher Education installations, Technology Strategy Board, Energy Technologies Institute and Battelle.

*Britain's Energy Coast Team  
West Lakes Renaissance*