

Cumbria Choice Based Lettings

Cumbria Choice is a sub regional scheme for letting most of the social rented housing which is being introduced across the county and will go live April 2011. In Cumbria it is a partnership between the 6 local districts and 8 social housing providers.

- The scheme operates through a web based computer system and a paper based system.
- To be part of the scheme customers need to apply to the common Housing Register. There is only one application form and customers will be placed on the register if they meet the eligibility criteria.
- Priority for housing is awarded through a "Banding" system that places people in one of four bands according to their housing needs.
- The majority of properties are advertised and customers are able to exercise choice by registering an interest in the property, known as "bidding".
- At the end of the "bidding" process a shortlist is compiled, taking into account; the band of the customer, the "effective" date of the application, and any local connection. Usual practice is that customers at the top of the shortlist are offered the property.

Advantages of the scheme are:

- Applicant has more choice in where they live and is more involved in the process;
- Leads to more stable communities and more tenant satisfaction;
- A fairer more transparent system;
- One application form;
- One allocation policy;
- Can improve void re-let times and refusal rates;
- Efficiency savings;
- Housing need is more clearly identified in Cumbria.

Latest

- The Cumbria Choice website went live on 12 April 2011 to register applications, the first property adverts will appear on 12 May 2011;
- This site also has details of properties within Cumbria where tenants are looking to exchange their property with another;
- In the future this website will also have information about private rented properties,

shared ownership schemes and garages available to rent.

For more information:

Copeland BC 0845 054 8600

Home Group 0845 606 3033

0845 155 0980

www.cumbriachoice.org.uk

Housing Market Assessment – In 2010

Copeland BC undertook a strategic housing market assessment; the response rate from this forum area was 25.2% with Muncaster at 35.3% giving the highest response; the Council would like to thank everyone who took part. Throughout the whole of Copeland there is a shortage every year of 168 lettings of affordable housing. The ongoing issue is to determine whether capital finance is available for affordable housing development and, if so where is the money coming from and how the land can be brought to the market. It was suggested the best place to examine specific parish issues is at individual parish council meetings to which Laurie Priebe, Strategic Housing Services Manager would be willing to attend if invited by the parishes concerned.

Paul Walker, Chief Executive of Copeland Borough Council

attended the last neighbourhood forum. Having been in the job six months Paul was keen to meet the people who make up the "Copeland family" through forums and parishes in order to understand the issues and work with Copeland B C. Results of the government's Comprehensive Spending Review and its implications for Copeland is a loss of £2 million by 1 April and then by £1.2 million continuing until April 2015. Copeland is looking at how to make efficiencies; details are in the Council Plan which is split into four key themes:

People – to support the development of strong, healthy and engaged communities;

Prosperity – to build a sustainable, modern, low carbon economy that delivers economic security to the whole community;

Place – to support Copeland becoming an attractive, safer and greener place to be;

Performance – to deliver excellent and value for money services.

Your local
neighbourhood
forum

Over the next 12/18 months Copeland will be looking at each service to see where savings can be made, the cost and what it contributes.

Customer Relations

If you have any comments, compliments or complaints about Copeland Borough Council services, please contact **Marissa Joyce on 01946 598 525 or email**

customer.relations@copeland.gov.uk

Community News and Updates

Proposed Changes for the Lake District National Park Authority in light of a reduced National Park Grant - Summary

- A full scale restructuring of Countryside Services to reflect more closely the new strategy.
 - A re-modelling of our learning service in line with the strategy.
 - A re-structuring of our ICT and GIS services.
 - A reduction in our sponsorship of high profile park events such as the Kendal Mountain Film Festival.
 - Reductions to some specific roles within Corporate Services.
 - Opening up a consultation on stopping Weather line with the intention of finding a sponsor.
 - Changes to the levels of staffing of some specialist services of the Environment and Heritage Team.
 - Changes to the way we monitor performance against key documents; the Business Plan, Local Development Framework and the Partnership's Plan.
 - Changes to our mechanism for delivery of goods to Information Centres.
- These proposals and the changes within them will be effective from 1 April 2011.

www.lakedistrict.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Policing - As part of the changes to Cumbria Police, from early February 2011, Bootle and Seascale which is now currently part of the Egremont and Millom Neighbourhood Police Teams (NPT), will become merged as part of the larger Copeland NPT. There will be no change in how the Police are contacted with use of the **0845 33 00 247 number for non-emergency calls and 999 for emergency calls.**

Get in touch

Suzanne Cooper Community Involvement Worker
Cleator Moor Council Centre, The Square, CA25 5AP
suzanne.cooper@cumbriacc.gov.uk 01946 505019

For further details about Cumbria Police and local information refer to their website

www.cumbria.police.uk

South Copeland and Five Rivers Partnership

Wellbank, a former MoD base, featured as the highest priority for improvement in the Bootle Community Plan. The 12.5 acre site is currently virtually derelict, aside of the popular community swimming pool. The current owner has offered to sell the entire site to the community via a Community Land Trust.

Wellbank Community Enterprise Group is responsible for developing the proposed scheme which includes:

- Homes - 34 of mixed tenure in a choice of sizes and styles, including single storey houses;
- Hotel - high quality serviced accommodation, potentially 40 rooms;
- Community leisure facilities - including a new pool and gym;
- Enterprise and retail units;
- Anaerobic Digester and Photovoltaic bank.

Solicitors are beginning the process of forming a Community Interest Company; WCE Group has not yet purchased the site but has been granted £2.5k from the Tudor Trust to create a business plan and is in talks with developers but nothing has been agreed at this stage.

Cumbria Highways Improving your roads

Hotline 0845 609 6609 www.cumbria.gov.uk
contact@cumbriahighways.co.uk

Grants Awarded

Cumbria Rungwe Community Link was awarded £400.00; Seascale Golf Club Junior Section was awarded £250.00; Seascale Parish Council was awarded £500.00; Whitehaven Egremont & District Credit Union was awarded £400.00 and Seascale Community Day Committee was awarded £668.00. Wellbank Pre-School was deferred.

A full set of notes is available upon request. Please contact the office on the number below; alternatively visit the Bootle & Seascale Neighbourhood Forum online at www.cumbria.gov.uk/sayit

Your local
neighbourhood
forum