

PORTFOLIO:

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

COUNCILLOR MRS M BOWMAN

Since my last report to Council, meetings that I have attended have included the Executive, Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny, Community Overview and Scrutiny, Tourism, Cumbria Inward Investment, Parish Councils, and briefings with Business Unit Heads.

From these meetings I can now update you in my Portfolio area for the period 17 February 2004 to 05 April 2004 as follows:

Penguin Confectionery

The Business Development Officer has received an e mail from a senior manager at Penguin Confectionery thanking the Council for the support provided to the employee's losing their jobs as a result of the closure.

Members will recall that specialist advisers were made available under the Employment Alternatives Programme of which the Councils a partner with Eden and South Lakeland and is managed by the Business Development Officer.

In the e mail the Manager explains that whilst the work force were initially reluctant to use the service, the word got around and eventually he believes that all the employees affected used the service.

1. Hadrian's Wall Business Opportunities 31st March 2004

This event was organised jointly between the Council, Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency and the Hadrians Wall Tourism Partnership and was held at the Racecourse.

The objective of the event was to respond to the business development priorities in the Tourism Action Plan, concerning the need to develop the tourism product within the Carlisle stretch of the Hadrians Wall corridor.

The day consisted of a series of workshops covering

- Delivering a Welcoming Service
- Food matters
- Marketing Support
- Planning
- Funding
- National Trail and cycle route
- Cumbria Farm tourism Initiative
- Setting up a camp and caravan site

Officers from Environmental Services, Tourism and Planning Services were involved in delivering workshops.

In addition a number of development organisations sent officers and stands including:

Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency
 DEFRA
 Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership
 Cumbria Farm Tourism Initiative
 Rural Planning Facilitation Service
 Women's Rural Network
 Carlisle College
 Cumbria Tourist Board
 YHA
 Camping and Caravan Club
 Brampton Business Centre and Tele Centre
 Business Link
 ECCP
 Horse Holidays in Cumbria
 NFU

Over 60 representatives of new and existing businesses attended, including a number of farmers looking at diversification opportunities. Each person attending was asked to complete a detail feed back form which included questions about future development needs. At the time of writing these have not been fully analysed, however the general feed back was very positive.

3. Vital Villages Closure

The Countryside Agency has announced the closure of the Vital Villages programme to new applicants from the 1st April 2004, a year earlier than anticipated. This affects the Parish Plan grants, Community Service grants, Parish Transport grants and the Rural Transport Partnership grants.

All existing commitments will be honoured which includes the Brampton and Area Joint Parish Plan allocated £15,000 and the Dalston Parish Plan allocated £5,000.

Orton Parish Council, Wetheral Parish Council and Stanwix Rural Parish Council have submitted bids for Parish Plan grants in time for the 1st April deadline.

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Monthly Unemployment Briefing – February 2004

The February 2004 jobless and claimant count figures were released by the Office for National Statistics today.

National Measures of Joblessness

These figures may be quoted by the national press but are not available for local areas and are provided for information only. They should not be compared with those shown elsewhere in this report.

The *jobless* total for the UK (claimants and non claimants looking for work) fell by 33,000 in the 3 months to January 2004, giving a total of 1.436. The jobless rate is 4.8%.

The *seasonally adjusted* claimant count for the UK is 885,200, a fall of 6,600 from last month. The rate is down 0.1 to 2.4%, the lowest since records began in 1984.

The Claimant Count (not seasonally adjusted)

The number of people out of work and claiming benefit across the UK rose by 4,575 to 957,004. The number of people out of work and claiming unemployment benefit in Cumbria rose by 5 to 6,396. The male claimant count in Cumbria fell by 25 and the female claimant count rose by 30. The number of claimants fell in Barrow and Carlisle but rose in Allerdale, Carlisle, Eden and South Lakeland LADs. The number fell in Barrow, Whitehaven and Windermere Travel to Work Areas but rose in Carlisle, Kendal, Penrith and Workington.

Residence-Based Claimant Rate

The residence-based claimant count expresses the number of claimants in an area as a percentage of the working age population resident in that area.

UK residence rate – was unchanged at 2.6%.

Cumbria residence rate – was unchanged at 2.2%, 0.4 below the UK rate.

Cumbria male residence rate – was unchanged at 3.2%, 0.6 below the UK male rate.

Cumbria female residence rate – was unchanged at 1.1%, 0.3 below the UK female rate.

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RESIDENCE-BASED CLAIMANT COUNT RATES

Table 1: County/Region/Country

| AREA | Male | | Female | | All Persons | | All Persons Monthly Change | |
|----------------|--------|------|--------|------|-------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Cumbria | 4870 | 3.2 | 1526 | 1.1 | 6396 | 2.2 | 5 | 0.0 |
| North West | 86574 | 4.1 | 26204 | 1.3 | 112778 | 2.7 | 775 | 0.0 |
| United Kingdom | 716545 | 3.8 | 240459 | 1.4 | 957004 | 2.6 | 4575 | 0.0 |
| Great Britain | 690765 | 3.8 | 232893 | 1.4 | 923658 | 2.6 | 5217 | 0.0 |

Table 2: Local Authority Districts

| DISTRICT | Male | | Female | | All Persons | | All Persons Monthly Change | |
|-------------------|--------|------|--------|------|-------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Allerdale | 1059 | 3.6 | 346 | 1.3 | 1405 | 2.5 | 4 | 0.0 |
| Barrow in Furness | 1036 | 4.6 | 243 | 1.2 | 1279 | 3.0 | -62 | -0.1 |
| Carlisle | 1038 | 3.3 | 353 | 1.2 | 1391 | 2.3 | 78 | 0.1 |
| Copeland | 1078 | 4.8 | 326 | 1.7 | 1404 | 3.3 | -36 | -0.1 |
| Eden | 172 | 1.1 | 73 | 0.5 | 245 | 0.8 | 15 | 0.0 |
| South Lakeland | 487 | 1.6 | 185 | 0.6 | 672 | 1.1 | 6 | 0.0 |

Table 3: Travel to Work Areas

| TRAVEL TO WORK AREA | Male | | Female | | All Persons | | All Persons Monthly Change | |
|------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|-------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Appleby | 39 | 0.9 | 18 | 0.5 | 57 | 0.7 | 6 | 0.1 |
| Barrow-in-Furness | 1252 | 4.3 | 314 | 1.2 | 1566 | 2.8 | -59 | -0.1 |
| Carlisle | 1136 | 3.2 | 386 | 1.2 | 1522 | 2.2 | 80 | 0.1 |
| Kendal | 216 | 1.2 | 90 | 0.6 | 306 | 0.9 | 7 | 0.0 |
| Keswick | 21 | 0.7 | 10 | 0.4 | 31 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Penrith | 113 | 1.1 | 47 | 0.5 | 160 | 0.8 | 7 | 0.0 |
| Whitehaven | 1049 | 4.8 | 315 | 1.6 | 1364 | 3.3 | -35 | -0.1 |
| Windermere | 50 | 0.8 | 21 | 0.4 | 71 | 0.6 | -5 | -0.1 |
| Workington | 972 | 4.2 | 316 | 1.5 | 1288 | 2.9 | 4 | 0.0 |

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Table 4: Parliamentary Constituencies

| CONSTITUENCY | Male | | Female | | All Persons | | All Persons Monthly Change | |
|------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|-------------|------|----------------------------------|------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Barrow & Furness | 1223 | 4.5 | 299 | 1.2 | 1522 | 2.9 | -62 | -0.1 |
| Carlisle | 904 | 3.8 | 300 | 1.3 | 1204 | 2.6 | 64 | 0.1 |
| Copeland | 1078 | 4.8 | 326 | 1.7 | 1404 | 3.3 | -36 | -0.1 |
| Penrith & The Border | 393 | 1.4 | 156 | 0.6 | 549 | 1.1 | 29 | 0.1 |
| Westmorland & Lonsdale | 300 | 1.1 | 129 | 0.5 | 429 | 0.8 | 6 | 0.0 |
| Workington | 972 | 3.8 | 316 | 1.3 | 1288 | 2.6 | 4 | 0.0 |

For further information, please contact:

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| Unemployment by Ward – Feb 2004 | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|--------------------|--------|-------|----------|----------------|
| | Unemployment Totals | | | Unemployment Rates | | | Jan 2004 | Monthly Change |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Total | |
| CARLISLE | | | | | | | | |
| Belah | 27 | 16 | 43 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 1.2 | | |
| Belle Vue | 68 | 24 | 92 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 2.6 | | |
| Botcherby | 95 | 38 | 133 | 5.4 | 2.0 | 3.7 | | |
| Brampton | 43 | 16 | 59 | 3.3 | 1.3 | 2.4 | | |
| Burgh | 8 | 3 | 11 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.9 | | |
| Castle | 160 | 38 | 198 | 7.7 | 2.2 | 5.2 | | |
| Currock | 91 | 39 | 130 | 4.8 | 2.2 | 3.5 | | |
| Dalston | 17 | 12 | 29 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.9 | | |
| Denton Holme | 62 | 25 | 87 | 3.2 | 1.3 | 2.3 | | |
| Great Corby and Geltsdale | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | | |
| Harraby | 54 | 14 | 68 | 3.0 | 0.8 | 2.0 | | |
| Hayton | 12 | 5 | 17 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 1.4 | | |
| Irthing | 10 | 5 | 15 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 1.2 | | |
| Longtown & Rockcliffe | 32 | 12 | 44 | 2.4 | 1.0 | 1.8 | | |
| Lyne | 9 | 4 | 13 | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1.1 | | |
| Morton | 75 | 18 | 93 | 4.6 | 1.2 | 3.0 | | |
| St Aidans | 92 | 17 | 109 | 4.7 | 0.9 | 2.8 | | |
| Stanwix Rural | 15 | 5 | 20 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.8 | | |
| Stanwix Urban | 20 | 11 | 31 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.9 | | |
| Upperby | 98 | 33 | 131 | 6.1 | 2.1 | 4.1 | | |
| Wetheral | 9 | 4 | 13 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.6 | | |
| Yewdale | 36 | 13 | 49 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 1.3 | | |

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