

PORTFOLIO:

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
FIRTH**

1. During the period 21 December 2002 to 20 February 2003, as Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity, I have attended the following:-

07.01.03	Interview with Border T.V regarding the Market Hall
09.01.03	Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Meeting
10.01.03	North West Regional Assembly Meeting at County Hall Preston
13.01.03	Meeting with Rob Johnston of the Visual Link
14.01.03	Officers' Briefing – Economic Development Council Meeting
15.01.03	Budget Meeting at Pirellis Risk Management Strategy CPA Meeting
16.01.03	Officers' Briefing – Executive CPA Meeting
17.01.03	Development Advisory Group Budget meeting with the Unions
23.01.03	Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny
24.01.03	Meeting with United Utilities City Centre Marketing Group
27.01.03	Executive Meeting CIIA Board Meeting

28.01.03	Cumbria Tourist Board Meeting Joint Management Team Overview and Scrutiny Management Workshop
30.01.03	Post 16 Group
31.01.03	Employment Panel
05.02.03	Irthington Parish Council
06.02.03	Executive Council
07.02.03	Cumbria Economic Intelligence Partnership
12.02.03	CPA meeting Stanwix Rural Parish Council
13.02.03	Development Advisory Group
17.02.03	Council
18.02.03	City Centre Marketing Group Learning and Skills Council Event at Rheged
20.02.03	Joint Management Team / Officers' Briefing – Executive

24/01/2003

Monthly Unemployment Briefing - December 2002

The December 2002 unemployment and claimant count figures were released by the Office for National Statistics today.

UK Claimant Count

The number of people out of work and claiming unemployment benefit across the UK rose by 13,520 to 919,089. The claimant count rate has remained the same at 3.0% of the workforce.

(The unemployment rate quoted nationally includes non claimants but is not available for local areas. Therefore this figure should not be used to compare local and national rates. Similarly, the seasonally adjusted claimant count figure sometimes quoted is not available for local areas.)

County Claimant Count

As from January 2003 the Office for National Statistics has introduced a new method of calculating claimant count rates. Previously, the denominator used to calculate the rate was workforce-based (number of claimants as a percentage of jobs + claimants in an area). From January 2003 the denominator is working age residents in an area.

However, the new rates are currently not available for Travel to Work Areas, nor are historical data available. When these data become available we will change over to using the resident-based rates. Until then, Tables 1-3 continue to use the workforce-based denominator. For information only Table 4 shows the new figures down to district level without any change analysis. These figures should not be compared with the workforce-based rates.

Workforce-Based Claimant Count

The number of people out of work and claiming unemployment benefit in Cumbria rose by 291 to 6355. The claimant count rate is 2.7% of the workforce, 0.3% below the national rate.

In the same month last year, the Cumbria rate stood at 3.2%, giving a year on year fall of 0.3 percentage points. Over the year the claimant count rate in the county has fallen more quickly than the national figure.

Male Claimant Count: rose by 206 to 4805 which is 3.9%, 0.4% below the UK figure.

Female Claimant Count: rose by 85 to 1550 which is 1.4%, 0.2% below the UK figure.

Cumbria Economic Intelligence Partnership is a Countywide Partnership established to improve the understanding of the local economy through research, analysis, and data dissemination.

Cumbria County Council Cumbria Inward Investment Agency Cumbria Learning & Skills Council
Allerdale BC Barrow BC Carlisle CC Copeland BC Eden DC South Lakeland DC
Cumbria Tourist Board Lake District NP Business Link Cumbria FE Colleges Cumbria Learning Partnership

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WORKFORCE-BASED CLAIMANT COUNT

Table 1: County/Region/Country

AREA	Male		Female		All Persons		All Persons Monthly Change	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cumbria	4805	3.9	1550	1.4	6355	2.7	291	0.1
North West	88363	5.0	24593	1.6	112956	3.4	2,498	0.1
United Kingdom	697341	4.3	221748	1.6	919089	3.0	13,520	0.0
Great Britain	671126	4.2	214227	1.6	885353	3.0	13,277	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	1112	5.5	415	2.3	1527	4.0	105	0.3
Barrow in Furness	922	8.5	222	1.8	1144	5.0	8	0.0
Carlisle	990	3.3	339	1.3	1329	2.4	123	0.2
Copeland	1176	5.5	313	2.1	1489	4.1	23	0.1
Eden	188	1.3	73	0.7	261	1.0	-4	0.0
South Lakeland	417	1.5	188	0.7	605	1.1	36	0.1

Table 3: Travel to Work Areas

TTWA	Male		Female		All Persons		All Persons Monthly Change	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Appleby	39	1.2	22	1.0	61	1.2	7	0.1
Barrow in Furness	1091	6.6	290	1.7	1381	4.1	-1	0.0
Carlisle	1085	3.4	378	1.3	1463	2.4	138	0.2
Kendal	170	1.1	78	0.5	248	0.8	16	0.1
Keswick	37	1.7	17	0.6	54	1.1	7	0.1
Penrith	124	1.2	49	0.6	173	0.9	-8	0.0
Whitehaven	1127	5.3	304	2.1	1431	4.0	20	0.1
Windermere	72	1.3	39	0.6	111	0.9	26	0.2
Workington	1030	6.4	368	2.7	1398	4.7	86	0.3

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RESIDENT-BASED CLAIMANT COUNT

Table 4: Districts/County/Region/Country

Area	Male		Female		All Persons	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Allerdale	1,112	3.8	415	1.6	1,527	2.7
Barrow in Furness	922	4.1	222	1.1	1,144	2.7
Carlisle	990	3.1	339	1.2	1,329	2.2
Copeland	1,176	5.2	313	1.6	1,489	3.5
Eden	188	1.2	73	0.5	261	0.9
South Lakeland	417	1.3	188	0.7	605	1.0
Cumbria	4,805	3.1	1,550	1.1	6,355	2.2
North West	88,363	4.2	24,593	1.2	112,956	2.8
United Kingdom	697,341	3.7	221,748	1.3	919,089	2.5
Great Britain	671,126	3.7	214,227	1.3	885,353	2.5

Contacts

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	Unemployment by Ward – Dec 2002						Nov 2002	
	Unemployment Totals			Unemployment Rates			Total	Monthly Change
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
CARLISLE								
Arthuret	23	11	34	2.7	1.8	2.3	28	6
Belah	33	21	54	1.7	1.3	1.5	59	-5
Belle Vue	62	19	81	3.9	1.6	2.9	68	13
Botcherby	104	43	147	7.1	3.6	5.6	131	16
Brampton	45	18	63	4.3	2.4	3.5	60	3
Burgh	8	6	14	1.2	1.2	1.2	14	0
Currock	73	32	105	4.5	2.4	3.5	104	1
Dalston	7	10	17	1.1	2.2	1.6	12	5
Denton Holme	67	27	94	4.2	2.0	3.2	72	22
Great Corby & Geltsdale	9	0	9	1.7	0.0	1.0	10	-1
Harraby	54	11	65	3.2	0.8	2.2	55	10
Hayton	6	5	11	0.9	1.1	1.0	10	1
Irthing	10	2	12	1.6	0.5	1.2	13	-1
Lyne	8	2	10	1.1	0.5	0.9	13	-3
Morton	57	16	73	5.2	1.8	3.6	68	5
St Aidans	82	22	104	4.8	1.6	3.4	103	1
St Cuthbert Without	7	3	10	1.3	0.7	1.1	8	2
Stanwix Rural	22	8	30	1.6	0.8	1.2	27	3
Stanwix Urban	74	23	97	4.9	1.9	3.6	93	4
Trinity	82	15	97	5.4	1.2	3.6	76	21
Upperby	89	22	111	6.3	2.0	4.4	101	10
Wetheral	12	5	17	1.1	0.6	0.9	20	-3
Yewdale	56	18	74	2.6	1.0	1.9	61	13

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Brampton Business and Telecentre

UK Online recently commissioned a national user satisfaction survey of people undertaking IT training at 190 centres including the Brampton Business and Telecentre.

The results for Brampton have been made available and show very high levels of satisfaction with 100% of respondents 'agreeing or strongly agreeing' that they would recommend the Centre to others. The same result emerged from the question on the helpfulness of the staff.

75% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they 'were learning new skills that they would not have learned anywhere else'.

30% of respondents confirmed that the centre had contributed 'a lot or a fair amount' in helping them to get a job, 17% said it had helped get a better job and 41% said the centre had helped improve their skills for work.

Over 90% confirmed that coming to the Centre had boosted their confidence.

The survey was conducted by Hall Aitken Associates on behalf of UK Online and covered the period April to June 2002. The results for Brampton were based on 24 returns.