

Over £6m for Rural Cumbria

RURAL Cumbria is poised to benefit from a massive investment programme with the approval today of a bid for £6.2m of European funding.

The money from the North West Objective 2 Programme will support 27 projects worth £24m to be developed over the next 5 years.

The projects form part of an Economic Development Zone proposal which was prepared last Autumn by the Cumbria Rural Development Group (RDG).

The Approval of the Rural Cumbria Economic Development Zone means that European funding will be available for rural enterprise developments at Wigton, Cockermouth and Longtown, for regeneration and development schemes at Ulverston, Millom, Kirkby Stephen and Brampton, and for heritage and tourism developments in Keswick,

Nenthead, Ravenglass, Egremont and Sedbergh.

Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Braithwaite, Chairman of the Cumbria Rural Development Group, commented: "This announcement is excellent news for rural Cumbria as the funding will help bring forward key projects for rural development in Cumbria."

The Cumbria RDG bid was won against competition from 15 other proposals vying for a share of £175m of Strategic Regional Investment. It was awarded the full amount sought, along with a companion proposal from Furness and West Cumbria.

Bids are approved by the North West Objective 2 Committee, which oversees a programme channelling more than £500m of European funding to the North West.

The Cumbria RDG will oversee the implementation of the Economic Development Zone with the County Council providing technical support.

Rural Recovery Plan

GOVERNMENT spending on the rural economy in the North West will increase from £23m to £100m over the next five years and it is estimated that Cumbria will receive a significant share of these funds over this period.

From Spring 2003, funding will be provided through the new Rural Recovery Plan, drawn up by the North West Development Agency in response to the impact of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.

The Rural Recovery Plan also includes the Cumbria Rural Action Zone proposal, which has been endorsed by Lord Haskins and the Government. It is designed to ensure that communities are better able to respond to and take part in regeneration opportunities

The Cumbria Rural Development Programme (RDP) is to be wound up on 31st March 2003, a year early. However, it is hoped that the programme will have substantially increased resources to aid the transition and to fund final year projects which will support business innovation, tourism, agriculture, the environment and the community.

The programme changes are outlined in a report to the Cumbria Rural Development Group (RDG), at its meeting on Wednesday 6th March, at the Town Hall, Penrith.

The RDG was formed in 1994 and over 8 years the Rural Development Programme has awarded nearly £7m in grant-aid and helped lever in more than £25m in match funding to support a wide range of economic, social and community projects in the Cumbria Rural Priority Area. These include provision of workspace and training activities through to help specifically aimed at the needs of elderly or young people.

More than £860K has been spent during 2001-2 on projects county-wide and all current funding commitments will be honoured.

Coun. Elizabeth Braithwaite from South Lakeland, chair of the Rural Development Group, which has overseen the Rural Development Programme, said: "The NWDA has indicated that it is very happy with the way the County Council is operating the Rural Development Programme.

"The Rural Priority Area is being discontinued which means the Rural Development Programme will finish in 2003 instead of 2004. However, there will still be plenty of activity in the final year with, hopefully, substantially increased resources and all current funding commitments will be honoured."

Mrs F. Buchanan

DENTAL SURGEON

NHS &
Private Dentistry

3 Alma Terrace
Silloth
Tel: 016973 31270

SILLOTH NURSING & RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

The only nursing home
in the area

Reg. Charity No. 223946
Volunteers Welcome

For details please ring the
Secretary: **016973 31493**

Horizon Image Technology

For all your stationery and printing requirements:

• Business Cards • Letterheads
Lea ets • Brochures • Flyers • Newsletters

Call now for a quotation

We also have a high quality digital photocopier and can reproduce your treasured family photographs – any size up to A3

Full photocopying service

The Wigton Business Centre • 12b West Street • Wigton • Cumbria
Tel: 016973 45500 • Fax: 016973 44815

STANWIX PARK HOLIDAY CENTRE
016973 32666 www.stanwix.com

Introducing the NEW
SunVision 180 XXL

*The Very Latest in
Tanning Technology is Here*

Cool Breeze System

Exceptional Tanning Results

Phone now for details or to book your session

Leisure Centre Staff Required
contact: Alan Quayle

