



Proud of our past. Energised for our future.

A summary of our achievements

A message from Copeland Council Leader Elaine Woodburn and Chief Executive Paul Walker:

WHAT a fantastic year for Copeland, with a great year to come.

What makes us think this? Well, look at the facts. As you read this over £110m of development is taking place in Whitehaven with the building of Albion Square and the new West Cumberland Hospital.



We have just celebrated £8m of grants made by the Copeland Community Fund, attracting a further £10m in match funding. £10m is invested at Westlakes Science Park, The Foyer project in Whitehaven, Rosehill Theatre, the Townscape Heritage Initiative, Distington's and Ennerdale's Big Lottery Funds, and nuclear new build, which finally now seems to be moving forward.

Sometimes change is uncomfortable, yet it is a necessary part of progress. This year will be no different as we again face financial challenges. But Copeland has always been resourceful, hardworking and innovative and when things are difficult, by working together we can share the load and help protect the services the community needs.

It's important to recognise the significant role our employees play in this. They face constant change but do not let this show in the professional service they provide - for that we sincerely thank them.



Copeland has a rich history and the Council has been integral to that for 40 years. The future is in some ways unknown, as financial constraints continue and the unitary authority debate is resurrected, but whatever happens, Copeland Borough Council will always have the people of Copeland as its highest priority.

Paul Walker and Elaine Woodburn

Some highlights from the past year include:

- We partnered with Sellafield to make fantastic changes at the Beacon and reopen it as a flagship tourist attraction.
- We maintained our high standard of service in planning, despite more complex applications.
- We began the £1.3m Townscape Heritage Initiative project in Whitehaven, restoring historic features in the Market Place and James St and providing heritage construction training.
- We delivered more than 3,000 sandbags to prevent flooding during December, often in extreme conditions and out of hours.
- We've won funding, through Britain's Energy Coast, for an innovative research project into how we could get cheaper heat from our old mines and other projects.
- We've continued our partnership with NCL, to deliver value for money, accessible sports facilities to all our residents.
- We adopted the Core Strategy/Local Plan, which helps us plan the development of Copeland in the future, and also contributed to similar documents in neighbouring authorities.
- We've helped bring about Pillar House – a £2.9m office development at Westlakes Science and Technology Park.
- We have tested around 1,500 memorial stones for safety, and laid down those not safe or arranged for owners to make them safe.
- Almost 30,000 people visited our amazing Shark/Ice Age exhibition at the Beacon





- The £18m Albion Square office building has almost been brought to completion. Its 1,000 staff will give a massive boost to Whitehaven businesses.

- The historic YMCA building in Whitehaven is to become a Foyer - a beacon of community support offering accommodation, training and more to young people.

- Our building control section had more than 80 per cent of its customers say they were “highly satisfied,” with none dissatisfied.
- We engaged effectively in new nuclear projects – particularly new build – and are using planning performance agreements innovatively to deliver statutory services.
- Our swimming pool building is to have a £700,000 gym complex added to it, with 35 stations, activity areas, and 61 new parking spaces.
- Our cemetery in Millom has begun to undergo large-scale expansion plans to enable it to serve the people of the south of our borough for years to come.
- We’ve begun a project which will see interpretation boards dotted along our stunning coast to help locals and visitors enjoy it.
- We’ve begun supporting Whitehaven businesses in making the most of the opportunities afforded by the Albion Square complex.
- We’ve been working hard with partners to bring to fruition projects like the National Nuclear Laboratory and a new hospital for Copeland.
- We’ve produced a brand new action plan for how we deliver our housing service.
- We were proud to host both the military Freedom Parade in Whitehaven to commemorate the centenary of WW1, and the Homecoming Parade earlier last year.



- We've worked with landlords to bring 38 unfit rental properties up to a decent standard so tenants are not living in poor conditions.
- We've introduced a new shared manager for our HR service and introduced several new systems to deliver that service better.
- Our organisation has reached the highest standards of IT security.
- We have made all our IT servers and storage virtual – saving space, money and energy.
- Every one of our building control applications were dealt with in the statutory time limit.
- We've provided funding and support so that 113 disabled residents can adapt their homes and stay living there.
- We instigated the demolition of eyesore sites like the Whitehaven Bus Station buildings.
- 5,400 children saw history come alive through education sessions led by the Beacon.
- We successfully bid for a grant to pay for three community regeneration officers, a valuable community resource.
- We have been working with Sellafield Ltd to encourage development of a responsible procurement strategy.
- We held the Copeland Growth Conference to allow all partners to look at how the borough's economy can be boosted.
- The Copeland Apprenticeship Scheme concluded. Fifty people completed apprenticeships, and for 69 per cent of those it led to a job.
- We now have Youth Forums across all areas of the borough.



- The Beacon Museum's Gone Fishing project continued, telling locals about the fishing industry on their doorstep. Nearly 7,000 people took part in activity days, resource materials were lent to schools and John Crouch delivered cookery sessions using local fish.
- Our revenues and benefits service improved its performance on the previous year and implemented the new council tax reduction scheme.
- Our Community Regeneration Partnerships have helped deliver delivered a building improvement grant scheme, Rural Growth Hubs in Cleator Moor and Millom, coastal improvements at St Bees and Silecroft, Action Plans for our Town Teams and the establishment the Whitehaven Development Group.
- Councillors marched with the Millom community in support of the retention of Millom Community Hospital.

Message from the Mayor...



Outgoing **Mayor Geoff Garrity** has enjoyed an amazing year in office with his Mayoress wife Sandra. The pair have, with the community, raised £11,000 for Hospice at Home and the Alzheimer's Society. Cllr Garrity said: "It has been a tremendous year and I would not have missed a minute. We both have seen communities at their very best and we are proud to say we had the honour of being first citizens of this outstanding borough."

Cllr Eileen Eastwood now takes over the chain of office, with John Kane as her deputy. We wish Cllr Eastwood all the best as she begins her mayoral year.

