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TRUDY HARRISON MP
Member of Parliament for Copeland



News

Progress for SMR plans



As part of my ongoing work to identify an opportunity for Small Modular Reactors (SMR) in Copeland, I have joined senior representatives from Rolls-Royce SMR to tour land to the [south of the Sellafield site](#).

For many reasons, Rolls-Royce believe building their SMRs here makes sense – including the ability to power the grid with affordable low-carbon electricity and to feed energy-intensive industrial processes.

I couldn't agree more. I am committed to the roll-out of SMRs and nowhere stands a better chance of success in hosting the first SMRs than Copeland.

Further to the site visit, I am currently putting the finishing touches to my proposal document that I will present to Government to make the case for deployment of SMRs right here.

Reception for STEP bid

It was my pleasure to host a reception in the House of Commons to highlight our region's compelling bid to host the [Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production \(STEP\) facility](#).



Moorside is on a shortlist of five sites to locate the first-of-a-kind nuclear commercial fusion power plant, and I was joined by community leaders from Copeland – including representatives from bid leaders Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and Copeland Borough Council – to show our mutual support for the project.

The UKAEA is making a recommendation on a preferred site to Government, with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) scheduled to make the final decision in later 2022.

Further Town Deal projects revealed

It is very welcome news to see further announcements from the Town Boards from Millom and Cleator Moor on the transformational proposals for each area.

Thanks to the significant Government funding earmarked for the towns – £20.6m for Millom and £22.5 for Cleator Moor – below is an example of what is proposed:



- *Connecting Millom and Haverigg* will see the walking and cycling infrastructure developed, including improvements to three junctions and the railway station.
- Under *Reactivating Heritage Buildings* scheme for Millom, an Arts and Enterprise Centre is proposed (including a cafe and exhibition space), as well as

improvements to the Market Square (including new cycle stands and EV charging points) and at least four heritage buildings to be refurbished.

- In the *Revitalised Town* project, in Cleator Moor, the money will be used to transform and connect the existing town hall and library into a multi-use community hub, including a café, improved library facilities, youth zone and space for training and community activities. Improvements are also planned to the Phoenix Enterprise Centre building.
- Under *Connected Town*, in Cleator Moor, plans are afoot to reduce congestion, enhance the gateways, provide more opportunities for walking and cycling, and to provide links to the West Cumbria Cycle Network and the C2C cycle route. Seven locations across the town have been earmarked for investment in new or improved paths for cyclists and pedestrians, while three junction improvements are also included in the plans.

For more information on all the projects, visit the respective Town Deal websites for [Millom](#) and [Cleator Moor](#).

Covid-19 support available for businesses

Businesses that have not yet received business rates support following the Covid-19 pandemic may be entitled to financial support from the Covid Additional Relief Fund (CARF).

Types of businesses that may qualify include offices, transport, training, warehouses, factories, car parks and medical facilities.

Businesses can check if they are eligible and apply by June 30 at [Copeland Borough Council's website](#).

Work starts on new phase of hospital

It is fantastic news that work has started on the second phase of the [West Cumberland Hospital redevelopment](#).

The £40m new-build will replace up to 40 per cent of the original hospital to include a paediatrics unit, a care of the elderly ward, a specialist palliative care/step down ward and a stroke/rehabilitation ward.



The project represents further substantial Government commitment to healthcare in Copeland and builds upon the £90m investment from phase one of the project which was completed in 2015.

This will make a significant difference to the hospitals' patients and their families, staff and the wider community, and I congratulate the team at the hospital for achieving this milestone day.

Broadband funding available

Up to £2million of additional funding from Cumbria County Council is now available to help homes and businesses in rural areas of Cumbria get access to much faster and more reliable internet connections.

Vouchers from the Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) are currently available in Cumbria to subsidise the costs of bringing gigabit broadband to areas suffering with slow speeds.

For more information and to apply, visit [Cumbria County Council's website](#).

Schools funding announced

I am delighted that four schools in the Copeland constituency are to receive funding for

building improvements from the Department for Education (DfE).

The DfE has announced the list of successful applicants to its annual round of the Condition Improvement Fund, including:

- West Lakes Academy, to receive funding for partial replacement of its heating system, and replacement of its biomass
- Arlecdon Primary School, to receive funding for a partial electrical refurbishment and partial replacement of its pitched roof coverings
- Thornhill Primary School, to receive funding for a partial electrical refurbishment and fire safety improvements
- Dean School, to receive funding for roof and building structure remedial work

In 2022/23, the Condition Improvement Fund is providing £498m for 1,405 projects in 1,129 academies, sixth form colleges and voluntary-aided schools to address significant issues they cannot meet through their own revenue, including building improvements and compliance, energy efficiency and health and safety.

Pension Credit available

I am supporting a campaign to encourage those eligible to apply for Pension Credit to help with the cost of living.

Pension Credit is a top-up for vulnerable pensioners, worth an average of £3,300, and while there are 1,698 claimants in Copeland, there remains 25 per cent of people entitled to this support who do not claim it.,

I am encouraging those who are eligible to access this support by visiting the [website](#). Alternatively, telephone the Freephone Pension Credit claim line on: 0800 99 1234

In the community





It's been a pleasure to be out and about in the community over the past month, attending visits and events, and meeting with constituents. This has included speaking with the Communications Team at Bransty School (*pictured top*); attending the 150th Anniversary Flower Festival at St Mary's Church, Cleator (*pictured middle left*); touring the new Whitehaven Academy (*pictured middle right*); meeting staff at Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Whitehaven, to support the launch of their Car Club scheme (*pictured bottom left*); and planting a tree in the Queen's Green Canopy project at Bassenthwaite Lake Station (*pictured middle right*).

Consultations and events

- Copeland Borough Council has announced changes to its kerbside recycling collection service from October; with two bins replacing the current boxes/bag system. Further information is [available online](#).
- The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is hosting an open evening at its Westlakes campus on June 23 to showcase the courses on offer. This includes medical and nursing courses, and health and social care. For more information, visit the [event's website](#).
- Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership has launched a survey to gauge feedback on its Clean Energy Strategy. View the [strategy](#) and complete the [online survey](#) before the June 22 deadline.
- The Department for Education is holding a public consultation into proposals to improve support for children and young people with SEND. Read further details and complete an [online survey](#) before the July 1 deadline.

Grants and support

My website has a page dedicated to the various streams of [grants and support](#) that are available within the Copeland constituency.

Newsletters

I also offer two other newsletters - covering the nuclear and tourism sectors - that contain a wealth of news and information from myself and the industry.

Please view the [nuclear](#) and [tourism](#) newsletters and I hope you find them interesting. To receive them directly, please email me on trudy.harrison.mp@parliament.uk

Additionally, I write a column in *The Mail* every week and in *The Whitehaven News* every four weeks, both of which are also available at [my website](#).



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