

PORTFOLIO:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

COUNCILLOR
MRS MARILYN BOWMAN

Carlisle Cathedral Precinct – Stage 1 Development Study

The City Council have been working with the Cathedral Trust to look at better use of the Fraternity building adjacent to the Cathedral. The building is one of the most attractive and historically interesting in the city and has the potential to be a unique venue for learning, exhibition, performance and hospitality. An initial grant of £15k has been obtained from the NWDA for completion of an option appraisal for the building.

The Carlisle Cathedral Development Trust Executive has now had additional discussions with English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund with a view to the development of an HLF Stage 1 bid including incorporation of complimentary 'teaching and learning' activities in the Fraternity building.

Roman Gateway Public Realm Works

The contractor is progressing with the public realm improvements and work in Castle Street is now largely complete with ongoing activities focused on the Tullie House Main Entrance / Annetwell Street and Bitts Park orientation points. The main paving work is forecast for completion by the 22nd April 2011 in time for the Easter holidays, followed by installation of Information Panels by 20th May 2011. Delays have occurred beyond the original 31st March 2011 completion date, due to the relocation of a BT cabinet, and the 8-10 week period for manufacture of the Information Panels.

Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas

A scheme to improve a number of City Centre buildings and features in Carlisle has been agreed between the City Council and English Heritage.

The Council has signed up to a partnership scheme, which will see English Heritage provide £300,000 of grant to assist the preservation of buildings and structures including the Market Cross, Citadel Station, Old Town Hall, Methodist Central Hall and the Central Plaza Hotel.

The scheme runs until 2014 and dependent on how individual projects develop, could lever in an additional £1m from other partners and funders.

Some of the early work is focussed on, for example, a structural survey of the Central Plaza, works to the Market Cross, and conservation plans for the Station and Methodist Hall.

Parish Council and Village Hall Grants 2011/12

The annual Parish Council and Village Hall grants from the City Council were approved at a meeting of the Carlisle Parish Councils Association (CPCA) on 15th March. In total approximately £30,000 has been allocated to projects in rural Carlisle. This year, 33 projects are being supported from a total of 17 parishes. Examples of projects supported include improvement and refurbishment projects at village halls in order to comply with current legislation and to implement energy efficiency measures; and Parish Council projects to restore historic features, improve play areas, and extend recycling facilities and other village amenities. A full list of grants awarded and further information is available from Zoe Sutton, Rural Development Officer.

Local Development Framework

The consultation on the Key Issues Paper for the first stage of the Core Strategy work as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) ended on the 31st March. We have received 420 responses raising approximately 1500 individual issues which will now need to be considered as the options for the future are developed. A Member Working Group to progress work on the LDF has been set up and the first meeting is scheduled for the 18th April.

**Councillor Mrs M Bowman
Economic Development Portfolio Holder**