

Meeting Date: 9th September 2014

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Heather Bradley**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Local Plan

The Preferred Options Stage Two consultation and analysis of the representations is now complete and arrangements will shortly be made to make these publically available. Efforts are continuing to refine the Plan in light of these representations and to take account of changed circumstances through updated evidence and further changes to national guidance and legislation.

Following elections in May, the Local Plan Working Group membership has now been reviewed and confirmed and the group will be working with officers to steer the emerging policies and proposals within the Plan. This Group met on the 28th July and a further full day session is arranged for 10th September.

In terms of key aspects of the evidence base which supports the emerging Local Plan, consultation has now commenced on a draft of the City Centre Development Framework and updated version of the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Consultation on these documents is running concurrently with interested parties having until 1st September in which to submit comments.

The accompanying Infrastructure Delivery Plan, the purpose of which is to demonstrate that the necessary infrastructure can be delivered to support the realisation of the plans objectives, is also continuing to evolve with a number of meetings having been held and information exchanged with key infrastructure service providers. The key issues where agreed solutions need to be identified relate to highways infrastructure and education

provision, with positive joint working continuing with officers from the County Council on these matters.

The timescales for progressing the local plan remain unchanged from those last reported, with the next milestone being consultation on a 'publication' draft of the Local Plan in January of next year (2015). Adoption of the Plan is still anticipated to be in early 2016.

HOUSING

Affordable Homes Programme 2015-18

All 4 bids in Carlisle District have been approved by the Homes and Communities Agency through the initial bidding round of the Affordable Homes Programme 2015-18. This will generate £1.87m of external investment to develop 79 affordable homes for rent across 3 schemes in Carlisle and a site in Longtown. The successful Housing Associations are Riverside (with 3 schemes) and Home Group (1 scheme).

Homelife Carlisle

The Community Neighbours project has successfully attracted a further £20k of funding from the Clinical Commissioning Group to secure its future to April 2015. It is hoped that from then it will form part of the core CCG funding year on year.

We have just recruited 7 Casual staff as Handy-people, Gardeners and Cleaners, who will carry out those odd jobs around the home that people can't manage any more; clients will be charged an hourly or job rate for this work.

Homelessness Services:

From 1st April to 31st July 2014 the homeless services made 47 homelessness decisions; accepting a full homelessness duty to 5 households; 132 households were successfully assisted to prevent homelessness.

Homelessness Strategy

As part of the review of the Homelessness Strategy, consultation with key stakeholders on the four key priority areas identified locally has begun with two sessions having taken place so far including an interactive workshop to identify local challenges and solutions.

The key priority areas are:

- Appropriate accommodation and Support Pathways
- Multiple Excluded Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
- Increase and improve positive outcomes for young people experiencing homelessness
- Prevention of Homelessness

The information gained from these sessions along with local research findings will be utilised to form the basis of a draft local strategy which will be out for consultation in October / November and implementation in December.

Supporting People audit

The County Council have completed their audit of the commissioned housing related support service at Water Street and have assessed the service overall as a grade B (good). Within the overall service assessment, there were 8 grade A's awarded and 16 grade Bs. The service at Water Street scored an A grade for needs assessment and support planning and was also awarded an A rating for encouraging clients to do things for themselves rather than relying on staff. The County Council were unable to identify any specific improvements to the service overall.

STRATEGIC PROPERTY

Durranhill Industrial Estate

Carlisle City Council was recently successful in attracting £2m funding from Cumbria LEP to enable infrastructure Improvements to be undertaken to Durranhill Industrial Estate. The works will include a new access road from Eastern Way linking into the existing estate road network and improvements to the existing Brunel Way entrance.