20 January 2011
Tel:
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Ms M Mooney
Chief Executive
Carlisle City Council
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Dear Maggie

The Executive's Budget Consultation

I apologise for this late response. We met as a Partnership on 13th and delegated the task of responding to a "task and finish" group but unfortunately, due to other commitments, that group could only meet this morning.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the consultation and we appreciate the challenges the Council faces.

It was hard for us to respond fully on the implications for the economy of a locality such as ours when we don't fully know/understand what is currently spent on our area.

We, therefore, would like to make a general point related to the specific proposals for savings from discretionary grants and relief for rates. The Partnership's Action Plan fully recognises the contribution that the third sector makes to the economy of the area. And we can see how this contribution could increase in a time of recession (this echoes my point at ED&E about any proposals for support/mentoring including social enterprise as well as private enterprise). We are therefore concerned that reducing support for that sector at this time could be counter-productive.

The other general point we would like to make is to say that we welcome the progress made in discussions with yourself and Darren Crossley about working with you on piloting aspects of Localism for the District. Darren and I talked yesterday and are progressing a meeting between the Partnership and the Council. We can see a clear connection between these discussions and future thinking on locality budgeting. Working together with you and building on the mechanisms we have in place (Partnership, Development Trust, Parish Councils etc) we can see an opportunity to demonstrate what empowered communities can deliver even in difficult and challenging times.

Once again my apologies for our late response.

Yours sincerely

Hazel R Broatch
Chair