



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: PROMOTING CARLISLE

Date of Meeting: **4 JULY 2005**

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: CARLISLE RENAISSANCE

Report of: Head of Economic and Community Development

Report reference: ECD.06/05

Summary:

This report gives an update on progress with the Carlisle Renaissance programme, highlights some of the key ideas that are emerging and the implications for the City Council, identifies some issues regarding implementation and sets out terms of reference for City and County Council working on Carlisle Renaissance.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to:

- a) Comment on the work of the Task Group
- b) Comment on the principles of the potential for mixed use development in and around the City and in particular, opportunities for Rickergate and the Viaduct Estate.
- c) Comment on the proposals for implementation
- d) Endorse the terms of reference for the City Council working arrangements and the arrangements for joint working with Cumbria County Council.
- e) Approve, in principle, the establishment of a Carlisle Renaissance Team, led and managed by the Council, with the detailed costings, for approval, to be submitted to the Executive in due course.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

CARLISLE RENAISSANCE

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The aim of the City Council, working with local partners in dealing with effects of the storms and flooding of early January, has been to return to normal as soon as possible and to restore confidence. As well as addressing short-term needs, there is a real opportunity for Carlisle to think strategically and to think beyond the flood and the damaged areas. The City can stand back and take stock of where it is and where it wants to be in 10-15 years. This work needs to be undertaken as a parallel exercise to the immediate recovery programme.
- 1.2 Central Government has been supportive and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and Government Office NW lead its response. On 18 April 2005 the Executive was advised that a 'Task Group' of public sector agencies, at a local, regional and national level would start to set out a case for public sector intervention to bring about the regeneration of Carlisle. The Task Group involves officials from the City and County Councils, Cumbria Vision, Environment Agency, GONW, NWDA, NWRA and English Partnerships. Building on the momentum for positive change in the City that has arisen from the response to the floods, it includes the opportunity to derive positive benefits for urban and rural areas across the whole of the district.
- 1.3 The City Council Cross-Party Flood Recovery Group has been meeting and the first meeting of the Group Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the City and County Councils took place on 16 June. City Vision Stakeholders have also met following each Task Group and have fed back comments to the Task Group on the ideas as they have emerged.
- 1.4 This report gives an update on progress, highlights some of the key ideas that are emerging and the implications for the City Council and identifies some issues regarding implementation. Terms of reference for the Member groups described above are attached in Appendix 1.

Short Term Actions

- 1.5 The City Council continues to chair a group of partners who are involved in short term flood recovery. Council officers are involved in all the flood recovery groups; leading on the housing and communities group and represented at the business

group and flood defence board. The Council is also hosting the Communities Re-united advice and drop in centre at the Old Town Hall.

Medium to Longer Term: Outcomes From the Task Group Workshops

- 1.6 The Task Group has now concluded its three scheduled workshops. The Leader of the Council attended the second and third workshops. A document, making the case for Carlisle Renaissance, will be published in July 2005. It will draw together the findings and conclusions from the three workshops, and the consultation that has taken place over the previous two months, into a single concise statement of where we are now, where we want to be and how we intend to get there.
- 1.7 This piece of work will signal the start of the renaissance process and a period of extensive consultation. There is already a significant degree of consensus amongst key stakeholders. At this early stage it is intended to send a clear and concise message about the direction stakeholders intend to go in, to stimulate further debate and to start to agree a specific course of action intended to deliver an urban renaissance. The document will relate closely to the regeneration agenda that exists at a national, regional, sub-regional and local level in terms of public policy and action and is intended to add value to this agenda rather than duplicate or displace existing activity.
- 1.8 It is anticipated that the Deputy Prime Minister will visit Carlisle in early August 2005 to review progress both in terms of flood recovery and the work of stakeholders in agreeing a common approach to the regeneration of City. He will want to see that tangible progress is being made. The document setting out the scope of the Renaissance work will be supplemented by illustrative Masterplans of some of the key development projects that have been discussed to date and which have the potential to make a significant impact upon the renaissance of the City. They are by no means “set in stone” but will serve to show what stakeholders working in partnership around a shared agenda can achieve.

The three workshops have been structured as follows:

- Workshop One: Issues, constraints and opportunities
- Workshop Two: Vision, objectives and possible interventions
- Workshop Three: Action planning, delivery and next steps

- 1.9 Workshop One recognised the vulnerability of the Carlisle and Cumbria economy but also the significant opportunities to address this, building particularly on the

growth in higher education, exploiting Carlisle's rich historical and environmental heritage and identifying key sites where mixed use development could be encouraged.

1.10 A holistic approach for intervention is emerging to bring about economic, physical and social benefits:

- strengthening the City's economic base
- making Carlisle a more attractive place and using public sector assets to stimulate growth
- connecting deprived communities with opportunities

1.11 Through Workshop Two, the vision for Carlisle, expressed in City Vision in 2002, has been expanded to a more detailed level to bring about economic, physical and social benefits. Strategic objectives and priorities are also starting to emerge, to clarify the key tasks that need to be undertaken. These build on and strengthen the City Council's two emerging key priorities, subject to approval:

- Learning City
- A Cleaner, Greener, Safer Carlisle

1.12 The draft vision and the strategic objectives and priorities are attached in Appendix 2. The key to achieving many of the objectives lies in supporting appropriate new mixed use development within the City Centre and its fringes (including new employment space). This can stimulate new investment and business creation, capitalise on HE development and accommodate growth in this sector, create opportunities for cultural and leisure development, improve the visitor infrastructure and enhance the high quality historic assets. It can help to overcome some of the barriers, physical and perceived, between the centre and its southern fringes and housing areas.

1.13 The two sites that could start the development process and unlock this potential are the Rickergate and the Viaduct areas. The detail of any redevelopment will depend on the outcome of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, being undertaken jointly with the Environment Agency. This will determine the design, layout and use of any replacement buildings.

1.14 An emerging development framework could therefore include the following components:

- City Centre Core
- Cultural/Heritage Quarter
- Student Village
- New Civic Quarter
- Urban Waterfront
- Parkland/Recreational Waterfront
- City Centre Gateway

Implementation

1.15 The Task Group meeting on 22 June is due to focus on delivery and will involve: -

- ☐ Identifying and assessing potential delivery mechanisms and the rationale that underpins their implementation
- ☐ Considering how the private sector and the wider community are engaged
- ☐ Assessing resource implications (including public sector funding) including the establishment of a Carlisle Renaissance Team, led and managed by the Council and with support from partner agencies.
- ☐ Assessing the range and scale of outputs and benefits that can be achieved
- ☐ Defining “interim” roles and responsibilities in the period following the final workshop
- ☐ Defining key milestones

1.16 An update will be given at the Executive meeting.

1.17 Members will be involved in driving the Carlisle Renaissance work forward and overseeing its development through the City Council Cross-Party Flood Recovery Group and the City and County Councils joint working arrangements. Both Councils will have to take decisions on specific elements of the work within their respective remits as the work develops. Other partner organisations will do similar where they have a direct contribution to achieving the shared priorities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees are already responsible for looking in detail at a range of City Council work that will contribute directly to the success of Carlisle’s renaissance, including the Asset Review, Three Rivers and the Evening and Night Time Economy. Therefore the component parts of the Carlisle Renaissance Programme, when it has been agreed, need to be recognised as part of the ongoing Member process of scrutiny rather than requiring a further overlay of reporting. The Cross

Party Group can help to ensure that there is a continuous review of the bigger picture.

- 1.18 By August 2005, Members, the Task Group and City Vision stakeholders should have a clearer idea of the overall shape of the Carlisle Renaissance Programme and the options for delivery. These matters will be updated through the next reporting cycle to set a context for the future work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and for the City Vision Partnership.

2.0 CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date

Cross Party Working Group
City and County Council Leaders and Deputy Leaders
City Vision Stakeholder Group
Flood recovery groups
City Council corporate colleagues

2.2 Consultation proposed.

Community, Corporate Resources and Infrastructure Overview & Scrutiny Committees and as above but wider consultation following the DPM visit.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

- a) Comment on the work of the Task Group
- b) Comment on the principles of the proposals for mixed use development in and around the City and in particular, proposals for Rickergate and the Viaduct Estate.
- c) Comment on the proposals for implementation
- d) Endorse the terms of reference for the City Council working arrangements and the arrangements for joint working with Cumbria County Council.

- e) Approve, in principle, the establishment of a Carlisle Renaissance Team, led and managed by the Council, with the detailed costings, for approval, to be submitted to the Executive in due course.

4.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To enable the City Council, in partnership, to drive the direction of the Carlisle Renaissance work.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Details to be brought back to a future Executive
- Financial – Details to be brought back to a future Executive
- Legal – Details of the partnership proposals to be brought back to a future Executive
- Corporate – A Carlisle Renaissance corporate group has been set up to ensure integrated working across the City Council.
- Risk Management – A risk analysis will be undertaken for the Carlisle Renaissance programme at the outset.
- Equality Issues – The Carlisle Renaissance programme gives an opportunity for increased resources and capacity to tackle social exclusion.
- Environmental – The Carlisle Renaissance programme gives an opportunity for environmental programmes, such as Three Rivers, to be given a higher profile.
- Crime and Disorder – The Carlisle Renaissance programme gives an opportunity for increased resources and capacity to tackle the causes of crime and disorder.
- Impact on Customers – Increased economic growth and a more attractive City will bring significant benefits for those living and working in Carlisle.

APPENDIX 1

**CARLISLE RENAISSANCE –
CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' STEERING GROUP
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Carlisle Renaissance, led by Carlisle City Council on behalf of partners and stakeholders, is the response made to address the devastation following the floods and storms in January 2005. The Carlisle Renaissance Action Plan, as it develops, will encapsulate all of the flood recovery work, which is ongoing, together with other major initiatives, which will shape the future of Carlisle for the next 10-15 years.

This significant work needs to be driven and co-ordinated in partnership by leading City and County Councillors. In the short term this group has a specific objective to produce the Carlisle Renaissance Action Plan in time for the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister in August.

In the longer term the objective of the group is to provide a forum to enable elected representatives of both the City and the County to give joint political oversight and direction to Carlisle Renaissance, so as to ensure positive partnership working and to drive forward and co-ordinate the work of the two authorities.

The Group is not a formal decision making body but a partnership forum for discussion. Formal decision-making rests with each Authority.

Functions of the Group

- To drive forward in partnership a vision for the Renaissance of Carlisle and to receive reports from the various Officers, the Task Groups and other partners working on Carlisle Renaissance initiatives.
- To ensure that the work of the City and the County on Carlisle Renaissance is properly co-ordinated and that, where possible, the views of other Members and relevant stakeholders are taken into consideration (e.g. City Vision Partnership)

- To feed back to each authority the views expressed by the group to assist the authorities in decision making in connection with Carlisle Renaissance matters.

Membership

- Six Members of each Authority

Frequency

- To meet as necessary to ensure that both short term and long term objectives are met.

**CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL
FLOOD RECOVERY PROGRAMME
CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP**

Terms of Reference

1. The role of the Cross-Party Working Group will be to support the City Councils' work during the Recovery Programme.
2. This group will comprise the following Members: M. Mitchelson, E. Firth, R. Bloxham, H. Bradley, C. Weber, G. Hodgson
3. The Group will meet with the Acting TC&CE and other key officers to:
 - Receive reports of the work of the City Council during the recovery period with a key focus on the following areas:
 - Clean up operations
 - Housing / Homelessness
 - Finance
 - Relocation of staff and City Council Services
 - Receive reports on the progress of the work of the Emergency Control Centre.
 - Receive reports of the work of the Carlisle Recovery Management Team, in terms of the progress of the Action Plans of the Recovery Groups:
 - Welfare
 - Housing / Homelessness
 - Infrastructures
 - Public Assets
 - Schools (Action Plan to be subsumed with Infrastructure & Public Assets)
 - Finance
 - Business Recovery
4. The Group will be in existence for the duration of the recovery stage and will stand down when the significant areas of work are being undertaken by the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

5. The long term work of the City Council recovery programme will be monitored through the Overview & Scrutiny Committees for example:

Scrutiny of Emergency Plan & Finance – Corporate Resources O&S Cttee

Infrastructure, including Clean Up Operations – Infrastructure O&S Cttee

Welfare / Housing / Homelessness – Community O&S Cttee

Appendix 2

Carlisle Renaissance Task Group: Vision, Strategic Objectives and Priorities

A Vision

Carlisle will be a vital and attractive place that is the driver of the sub region's economic, physical and social renaissance. The centre of Carlisle will be a catalyst for economic growth with clusters of higher value added employment stimulated by an expanded and enhanced education infrastructure and the development of vibrant high quality mixed use areas.

It will be recognised as one of the most significant tourist destinations within the north of England, based on its rich heritage and a diverse and rejuvenated cultural offer and the proximity of high quality landscapes. It will be a beautiful City with quality public spaces and a townscape that sensitively blends contemporary architecture with the historic environment.

Gateways into and movement around the Centre will be improved and Carlisle will be renowned for its stunning green spaces alongside the River Eden and Petteril combined with a bustling and attractive river frontage along the Caldew to the west of the City Centre. Investment within target communities will ensure that they have the capacity to benefit from the transformation of Carlisle and connect with the new opportunities that an urban renaissance will deliver.

Strategic Objectives and Priorities

Strengthening the City's Economy

To strengthen the City's economic base by stimulating investment in higher value, new business creating and establishing sustainable growth clusters.

- Support for and measures to encourage new business development
- Sector and cluster development
- Supporting appropriate mixed use development within the city Centre and adjacent areas to include new employment space
- Incubation and follow on space linked to FE and HE

Becoming the Learning City

To establish Carlisle as a 'Learning City' which is geared towards meeting all future needs of the economy, where attainment at all levels is consistently improved, with a significantly expanded higher education sector and an environment that fosters entrepreneurialism.

- Ensuring the establishment of a University of Cumbria
- Encouraging the development of a student quarter but ensuring that the growth in demand for student accommodation achieves a balanced mix of tenure and that quality in design and construction is not compromised
- Creating a new bespoke facility within the north side of the City Centre that brings students together and helps to create a cohesive identity
- Delivering the Learning Village investment.

Making Carlisle a Major Tourism and Visitor Destination

To maximise potential of Carlisle as a major destination for leisure and business tourism, with a high quality tourism infrastructure and a range of cultural and leisure activities that build on the City's unique heritage and environmental qualities.

- Focussing investment and new cultural/visitor facilities on the northern quarter with the comprehensive redevelopment of the civic precinct for a rich mix of appropriate uses
- Improving the quality of hotels and conference facilities and increasing overnight visits
- Exploiting the heritage and environment by developing a strategy associated with the Historic Towns and Cities Initiative
- Re-invigorating Tullie House as part of a concerted effort to exploit the City's Roman heritage and links with Hadrian's Wall

Creating Thriving and Sustainable Communities

To re-establish sustainable communities in deprived parts of the district, especially the urban wards to the south of the City Centre, where people are fully 'connected' to Carlisle's renaissance and are able to access new opportunities in education, training and employment and secure tangible improvements in local housing, health and services.

- Crime reduction and community safety, including safe and attractive physical routes into the City Centre and areas of opportunity
- Skills and training initiatives that link temporary and permanent opportunities to people within target areas
- Housing
- Community services, facilities and health

Expanding and Revitalising Carlisle's Urban Core

To expand the City Centre to the south and west, introducing new high quality mixed use development and creating a vibrant waterfront environment, improving public realm and establishing high quality physical linkages between the city Centre and Carlisle South.

- Prepare an Area Action Plan (AAP) to oversee and control growth
- Relocate the Council offices to an alternative City Centre site
- Support mixed use development within the city core
- Ensure a high quality mixed use scheme that fronts onto and animates the River Caldew at Viaduct Estate Road
- Support other high quality mixed use development around James Street and off Botchergate
- Enhance the City's public realm framework and the physical linkages to the west and south of the City.

Delivering a Sustainable and Integrated Movement Strategy

- To improve movement into and around the city for all modes of transport and promote sustainable development that reduces dependence upon vehicular transport.
- Prepare an integrated strategy framework as the basis for future investment and prioritisation
- A focus on public transport improvements, including park and ride initiatives
- Encouraging cycling and walking, especially alongside the City's attractive green corridors
- Delivering the CNDR