



# REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

## PORTFOLIO AREA: CROSS CUTTING

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Date of Meeting: 23 January 2006

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Public

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Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

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Inside Policy Framework

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**Title:** CARLISLE RENAISSANCE  
**Report of:** Director of Carlisle Renaissance  
**Report reference:** CE 01/06

### Summary:

This report considers how Carlisle Renaissance is addressed within the context of the City Council's corporate policy framework and priorities, outlines proposals for its governance and management within the City Council, and sets out plans for consultation on the Development Framework & Movement Strategy.

### Recommendations:

Members are requested to: -

- a) Endorse the Vision and Strategic Objectives of Carlisle Renaissance as set out in the Prospectus.
- b) Agree the membership of sub groups of the Carlisle Renaissance Joint Members Steering Group
- c) Note progress to integrate Carlisle Renaissance into the work of Overview & Scrutiny Committees
- d) Agree that the approved budget for Carlisle Renaissance can be re-profiled as necessary subject to the overall budget not being exceeded.

**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**

- e) Agree to a review of options for the relocation of City Council from the Rickergate area as part of the ongoing Review of Corporate Assets.
- f) Note progress on the consultation programme for the Development Framework & Movement Strategy.

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On 30 August 2005 the Executive approved a sum of £1.02m to fund a delivery team for Carlisle Renaissance (ECD 12/05). On 4 July 2005 the Executive endorsed the Terms of Reference for a joint steering group of elected members with Cumbria County Council to provide political oversight and guidance to Carlisle Renaissance (ECD 06/05). On 24 October 2005 the Executive endorsed the appointment of a Director of Carlisle Renaissance through a secondment agreement with English Partnerships (EP) and David Taylor Partnerships (DTP) (CE 26/05). On 19 December 2005 in the Executive budget proposition it is being proposed that capital of £1m be allocated fund strategic property acquisition in support of Carlisle Renaissance (FS 33/05).
- 1.2 The City Council, with support from its partners, is playing the leading role in taking forward the renaissance agenda for Carlisle. In the five months since the launch of the Prospectus by the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), significant progress has been made in establishing a foundation from which the renaissance agenda can be tackled. A core delivery team has been appointed and work on a new City Centre Development Framework and City-wide Movement Strategy is now underway.
- 1.3 A comprehensive briefing paper setting out progress on Carlisle Renaissance since its launch was issued to the DPM in December 2005, prior to a meeting at his office with the Town Clerk & Chief Executive (TCCE). Members of the Executive (and the joint steering group) received copies of the briefing paper and a verbal report on feedback from the TCCE .The feedback was generally positive and follow-up on specific issues raised will be reported back to the Executive as appropriate.

## **2. SCOPE**

- 2.1 Progressing the Carlisle Renaissance agenda has been a key feature of the City Council's strategy to restore confidence in the resident and business community following the devastation of the floods in January 2005. It is clear that the renaissance agenda presents both challenges and opportunities for the City Council, some of which may have a fundamental impact on the way in which the Council undertakes aspects of its business in the future. The potential impact on other public sector organisations active within the City may be no less significant.
- 2.2 Given the significance of Carlisle Renaissance to the future of City, it is vital that the activities of the City Council in support of this ambitious agenda are set firmly within the context of the democratic process and corporate policy to ensure that: -

- Elected members are fully aware of the decision making process and engaged in the development of policy linked to the renaissance agenda;
- Officers at all levels within the City Council are clear as to how to account for the renaissance agenda in relation to the fulfilment of their roles and responsibilities.

2.3 This report considers how Carlisle Renaissance is addressed within the context of the City Council's corporate policy framework and priorities, outlines proposals for its governance and management within the City Council and sets out plans for consultation on the Development Framework & Movement Strategy.

### **3. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

3.1 The City Council has agreed two corporate priorities for the period to 2006/7: -

- Learning City
- Cleaner, Greener, Safer.

3.2 At its meeting held on 13 September 2005 the full Council resolved that the corporate priorities for the City Council should be "Learning City" and "Cleaner, Greener and Safer", and that the Council also recognises the importance of Carlisle Renaissance.

3.4 However the Carlisle Renaissance Vision and Strategic Objectives as set out in the Prospectus have not yet been formally endorsed by the Executive. This formal endorsement is required to set the policy 'benchmark' from which elected members and officers can begin to address some of the potential implications of the renaissance agenda for the City Council, and to which future decisions taken by the City Council can be routed back.

3.5 The City Council has a statutory role as a 'community leader.' The ability of the City Council to fulfil this role has come to the fore in the last 12 months, particularly in terms of guiding, co-ordinating and influencing flood recovery, defence and resilience in the City. It is a role that has extended to the development of the renaissance agenda and one that must now evolve to include the leadership of the process of realising the Vision and Strategic Objectives of Carlisle Renaissance.

3.6 In leading Carlisle Renaissance, elected members will need to make some significant decisions in the future concerning the City Council's policies and priorities in a number of areas. Whilst these decisions should not detract from the

City Council's existing corporate priorities, elected members and officers need to have regard to the broader renaissance agenda in framing these decisions.

#### **4. GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 Carlisle Renaissance sits within the 'Promoting Carlisle' portfolio of the Leader of the City Council, although it cuts across all current portfolio areas. A cross-party working group, originally established to support the City Council's work during flood recovery, has fulfilled a similar role in respect of Carlisle Renaissance. This group has been extremely beneficial in this role and the Executive is recommended to support a revision to its existing Terms of Reference to enable it to operate on a more formal basis.
- 4.2 Members of the cross party working group represent the City Council on the joint member steering group alongside County Council members. The joint member steering group has no formal decision making powers, which remain with the respective Authorities and their existing decision making structures. This approach is representative of the partnership approach that is required to take forward the renaissance agenda.
- 4.3 At an early stage in reviewing options for the delivery of Carlisle Renaissance, guidance from the ODPM and Government Office for the North West (GONW) suggested that an unincorporated partnership structure, based on the joint member steering group model, was likely to be the most appropriate governance mechanism. However this guidance further indicated that steps needed to be taken to integrate the private, voluntary and community sectors into the decision making process for Carlisle Renaissance. The establishment of the Carlisle LSP will provide an opportunity to determine how this can be achieved without diminishing democratic accountability.
- 4.4 As the renaissance agenda gathers pace the joint members steering group has agreed to establish sub-groups to take forward particular aspects of the agenda. Initially these relate to the preparation of the Development Framework & Movement Strategy and proposals for the redevelopment of the Rickergate area. No formal agreement has yet been reached as to the membership of these or any future groups.
- 4.5 The membership structure of the joint member steering group (i.e. equal cross party City Council / County Council representation) provides a possible template. The Executive are requested to recommend that this structure is adopted for sub groups

of the joint member steering group and nominate representatives and substitutes on behalf of the City Council for the two sub groups of: -

- Development Framework & Movement Strategy
- Rickergate

- 4.6 The Terms of Reference for these and other sub groups will be reported to the Executive as they are determined, together with requests for further nominations of City Council sub group representation as appropriate. Sub Group minutes will be referred to the Steering Group and circulated to JMT.
- 4.7. A meeting of public sector landowners in the Rickergate area took place on 7 December 2005 to review the implications of Carlisle Renaissance and other factors (flooding, organisational changes etc.) on the future this area, which will be considered within the context of the Development Framework & Movement Strategy. The meeting was chaired by Cllr E Firth and minutes were circulated to the joint members steering group.
- 4.8 The City Council has not yet adopted any formal position in respect of either its ownership or operational activities in the Rickergate area. Clearly this is an issue with long term fundamental implications for the City Council. In order to progress matters the Executive is requested to agree to a review of options for the relocation of City Council from the Rickergate area as part of the ongoing Review of Corporate Assets.
- 4.9 In terms of the City Council's own decision making structures it is necessary to integrate Carlisle Renaissance into the work of the Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) Committees. Since the renaissance agenda covers the remit of all the O&S committees there are a number of options as to how this is achieved and the O&S Management Committee will be asked to make a recommendation in this respect.
- 4.10 The City Council continues to convene and chair a Task Group of public sector partners which provides technical support, advice and guidance on Carlisle Renaissance and maintains an important link to regional and central government. Copies of the minutes of these meetings are circulated to the joint members steering group and JMT. Organisations represented on this Task Group have already made financial contributions to the preparation of the Development Framework & Movement Strategy, the secondment of the Director of Carlisle Renaissance and an update of the Carlisle Retail Study.

- 4.11 The Executive will be aware that the Director of Carlisle Renaissance is part of the City Council's Senior Management Team (SMT). The remainder of the delivery team, appointed directly by the City Council on 3 year fixed term contracts, will be 'embedded' into the new Directorates in order to ensure that the renaissance agenda is integrated fully into the City Council's mainstream activities.
- 4.12 The funding approved to fund the delivery team was profiled as £340,000 over the 2006/7 to 2008/9 financial years. Progress in making these appointments and progressing delivery activities has been better than originally forecast and hence some of the expenditure will fall into the current financial year. The Executive are requested to agree that budgets can be re-profiled as necessary over the 3 year period subject to the overall budget of £1.02m not being exceeded.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The City Council has a formal Consultation Policy and consultation is a key feature of the Code of Corporate Governance. The ODPM also provides guidance to all Local Authorities on consultation. Furthermore, there is an expectation from stakeholders, elected members and the resident and business community that they must be fully engaged in shaping policies and plans for the future of the City.
- 5.2 Since the launch of the Prospectus in August 2005 the Director of Carlisle Renaissance and other members of SMT and CMT have engaged a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations both in communicating the renaissance agenda and drawing out initial feedback on the issues covered in the Prospectus. Details of this initial consultation and communications exercise were reported to Full Council by the Leader on 8 November 2005. An analysis of initial feedback received directly by the City Council to the Prospectus is included as an Appendix to this report.
- 5.3 In November 2005 the City Council and its partners commissioned a new City Centre Development Framework and City-wide Movement Strategy. This work is fundamental to taking forward the renaissance agenda for the City and represents the first major piece of formal policy development work that the City Council and the County Council have engaged in since the launch of the Prospectus.
- 5.4 In December 2005 a new Communications & Consultation Officer was appointed by the City Council. A Consultation Advisory Group (CAG) has subsequently been established to work with the consultant team to prepare and implement a consultation plan for the Development Framework & Movement Strategy.

Membership of the CAG includes officers from both Authorities and representatives from Carlisle Housing Association. Membership will be reviewed as consultation on this and other aspects of the renaissance agenda is taken forward.

- 5.5 From the 23 January to 10 February 2006 the City Council, with support from the CAG, will deliver a programme of consultation activities across the City which is intended to secure a cross representative sample of views and ideas from across the resident and business community, elected members and stakeholder organisations from the public, voluntary, community and statutory sectors.
- 5.6 An outline of this programme is included as an Appendix to this report. This is the first of a two stage consultation on the Development Framework & Movement Strategy. A further detailed period of consultation is provisionally planned for spring 2006, although 'community development' based consultation work, targeting harder to reach groups, will be ongoing from the end of January 2006.
- 5.7 A report is being prepared by the Director of Development Services concerning the integration of the Development Framework & Movement Strategy, and the associated consultation activities, into the Local Plan Review process. This report was requested by the Infrastructure Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 15 December 2005.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Members are requested to: -
- a) Endorse the Vision and Strategic Objectives of Carlisle Renaissance as set out in the Prospectus.
  - b) Agree the membership of sub groups of the Carlisle Renaissance Joint Members Steering Group
  - c) Note progress to integrate Carlisle Renaissance into the work of Overview & Scrutiny Committees
  - d) Agree that the approved budget for Carlisle Renaissance can be re-profiled as necessary subject to the overall budget not being exceeded.
  - e) Agree to a review of options for the relocation of City Council from the Rickergate area as part of the ongoing Review of Corporate Assets.
  - f) Note progress on the consultation programme for the Development Framework & Movement Strategy.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To enable the City Council to agree the policy context, governance and management arrangements for Carlisle Renaissance and progress aspects of the renaissance agenda.

## **8. IMPLICATIONS**

- Staffing/Resources – None
- Financial – This report recommends the re-profiling of budgets over the 2006/07 to 2008/09 financial years. Existing approved budgets will not be exceeded.
- Legal - None
- Corporate - This report outlines proposals for the integration of Carlisle Renaissance into the City Council's decision making and overview and scrutiny structures.
- Risk Management - The preparation of a risk management (and performance) framework for Carlisle Renaissance will be developed in accordance with corporate guidelines.
- Equality Issues - This report outlines the consultation programme for the Development Framework & Movement Strategy. This programme is designed to ensure that 'hard to reach' and minority groups within the community are encouraged to engage in consultation.
- Environmental - None
- Crime and Disorder - None
- Impact on Customers – This report recommends a review of options for the relocation of the City Council from the Rickergate area. This review will include the potential impact on customers in terms of the location and accessibility of Council services.

**APPENDIX 1**

**CARLISLE RENAISSANCE**

**A SNAPSHOT OF PUBLIC OPINION**

**APPENDIX 2**

**DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK & MOVEMENT STRATEGY**

**PROVISIONAL CONSULTATION PROGRAMME: JAN/FEB 2006**

# CARLISE RENAISSANCE

## A SNAPSHOT OF PUBLIC OPINION

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2005

CIRC. 1,750 COPIES OF PROSPECTUS ISSUED

250 RESPONSES TO ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

# What do you like about our Vision and Strategic Objectives for the renaissance of Carlisle and why?

Areas of opportunity : 14%

Movement strategy : 16%

Ambitious : 8%

Highlights city's best assets : 6%

New theatre : 6%

Employment prospects : 6%

# What do you dislike about our Vision and Strategic Objectives for the renaissance of Carlisle?

More investment  
in roads  
needed : 17%

Rickergate / Civic Centre : 8%  
to be preserved

No dislikes but many challenges : 29%

# What three things do you want for Carlisle in the future?

Better job prospects and opportunities : 7%

University : 6%

Theatre : 6%

Improved transport : 18%

Improved quality of life: 6%

# Do you support our ideas for the Areas of Opportunity? Do you see others?

Positive Support : 96%

Negative : 4%

- Space for voluntary sector uses
- More arts uses around the City Centre
- More large department stores
- Develop lower Botchergate
- More social housing
- Better health facilities
- Improved City Parks
- Redevelopment along the River Caldew

# How do you think we can improve movement into and around the City?

Traffic Light management : 15%

Road Investment linking areas: 6%

Planned / fewer roadworks : 6%

Park & Ride  
Public Transport : 26%

Ring Road / Bypass: 28%

# In what way do you feel Carlisle and/or the wider region will benefit from the proposals put forward?

Improved Higher Education: 12%

Tourism :10%

Quality of life : 10%

Employment / new industry : 20%

Increased wealth and growth : 24%

## Vox Pops about Carlisle NOW

- Stuck in the Dark Ages
- Far behind other Cities
- Slowly dying
- Too much building on flood plains
- Traffic management a shambles
- Obscure little city
- Out of the way town

**DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK & MOVEMENT STRATEGY: PROVISIONAL CONSULTATION PROGRAMME**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<p>23</p> <p><b>Joint Members Steering Group Consultation Workshop</b> 3:00pm – 5:00pm Civic Centre</p> <p><b>City Council Citizens Panel Structured Survey</b></p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>County Council Citizens Panel Structured Survey</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Public, Voluntary &amp; Community Sector Stakeholders Consultation Workshop</b> 12.00pm – 5.00pm Civic Centre</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>Carlisle HA Tenants Panel Structured Survey</b></p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Community Drop In Event</b> 10.00am – 5.00pm Library Seminar Room The Lanes</p> <p><b>Elected Representatives Reception</b> Seminar Room Library The Lanes 5:00pm – 7.00pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>Community Drop In Event</b> 10.00am – 3.00pm Library Meeting Room The Lanes</p>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<p>30</p> <p><b>Community Drop In Event</b> 10.00am – 5.00pm Retail Unit BW The Lanes</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>Industrial Estates Occupiers (South) Drop In Event</b> 12:00pm – 2:00pm Cavaghan &amp; Grey</p> <p><b>Community Drop In Event</b> 10.00am – 5.00pm Retail Unit BW The Lanes</p>	<p>1</p> <p><b>Large Employers Consultation Workshop</b> Carlisle United 7:30 am – 9:30am</p> <p><b>Commercial Employers Drop In Event</b> 10:00am – 12:00pm Retail Unit BW The Lanes</p> <p><b>Property Industry Reception</b> 5.00 – 7.00pm Retail Unit BW The Lanes</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Community Drop In Event</b> 10:00am – 5:00pm Sure Start Petteril Bank</p> <p><b>Industrial Estates Occupiers (North) Drop In Event</b> 12:00pm – 2:00pm Solway Business Centre</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>Young Peoples Residential Workshop</b> All Day Venue tbc</p> <p><b>Mayors Charity Race Night</b> Morton Community Centre (Display / Handouts)</p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>Carlisle Jobs Fair</b> Sands Centre (Display / Handouts)</p>

**DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK & MOVEMENT STRATEGY: PROVISIONAL CONSULTATION PROGRAMME**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
6	7 <b>New Business Group  Drop In Event  5:50pm – 7:30pm  Venue tbc</b>	8 <b>Carlisle Parish Council's  Association  (Display / Handouts)  tbc</b>  <b>Bingo  Morton Community  Centre  (Display / Handouts)  tbc</b>	9 <b>Youth Club  (Display / Handouts)</b>	10	11