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<b>REPORT TO EXECUTIVE</b>			
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA: CROSS CUTTING</b>			
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>		29/09/03	
<b>Public</b>			
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Recorded in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Inside/Outside Policy Framework</b>			

**Title:** POST 14 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND HIGHER EDUCATION: PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

**Report of:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Report reference:** CE 17/03

### Summary:

This report updates members of the current developments underway in relation to the Post 14 Education and Training and Higher Education, and proposes a strategy for the Council, which supports its community leadership role in this significant area of work.

### Recommendations:

This report requests Members to:

1. Note the current developments taking place within Post 14 Education, Training and Higher Education, all of which have socio/economic implications for Carlisle.
2. Approve the strategy proposed to enable the Council to advance this area of work.
3. Consider a request for funding this strategy to a total of £200,000 over 2 years as a

non recurring bid, as part of the budget process.

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## 1.0 Current Developments

1.1 Members will be aware of the developments in Post 14 and Higher Education, which are both the subject of reviews, the recommendations of which will have significant implications for Carlisle.

### 1.2 Post 14 Education and Training

(i) The Government's 14-19 Agenda, which is currently going through a consultation process, sets out a commitment of meeting, learning and training needs for this age group. This will impact upon the academic and vocational curriculum choices which are offered in secondary schools in the future and will address the needs of young people who are not achieving or engaging with education and training and whose work and life aspirations are consequently much lower than their peers.

(ii) Cumbria Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is currently carrying out a survey of *Post 16 Learning Provision in Carlisle* (published July 2003) which deals with the future organisation of Post 16 Learning and Training, with a particular focus on sixth form education. At the time of writing this report, consultation on future options for sixth forms is just beginning.

(iii) In addition the four Cumbrian Further Education Colleges are being reviewed by the LSC, and Carlisle College has recently published its own *Strategic Development Plan*. This includes a commitment to refocusing its current activities for young people and adults.

### 1.3 Higher Education

(i) The review of Higher Education in Cumbria is detailed in the Fender Report (Published May 2003). This report identifies the need to raise the profile of education across the County and makes a strong case for the development of higher education as a major factor in the social and economic regeneration of the region together with the development of a network of Universities and Colleges to become a "University of Cumbria". Members will be aware that there are two HE Institutions based in Carlisle, St Martins College and the Cumbria Institute for the Arts, as well as two HE campuses, the University of Central Lancashire and Northumbria University.

The priorities of the Fender Report are now being progressed by the HE Institutions in Carlisle.

## 2.0 Proposed Strategy For Carlisle City Council

2.1 The Council has always had an interest in education and training and this is evidenced by the work of elected members and officers. Despite the fact that it is the County Council that has statutory responsibility for Education (up to 16 years), the City Council has been very active in promoting Carlisle, especially in its commitment to be a Learning City. (*Identified in City Vision*).

2.2 These activities include, at an operational level, individual Business Units' involvement in supporting children and young people, particularly within leisure, sports and community based activities.

2.3 At a strategic level the Council's commitment has been evidenced by the establishment of the "Post 16 Group", chaired by the Deputy Leader and comprising representatives from Carlisle secondary schools, FE and HE Institutions and the LSC. This group provides a forum for colleagues in the education community in Carlisle to share issues and concerns and for the City Council to provide a brokerage and support role as part of its overall remit for community leadership. During the past few months the potential impact of the two reviews (outlined above) has engaged the group in focusing upon how the needs of young people, the educational institutions and the national educational agenda can be drawn together in a much more strategic way than has previously been possible. These strands matched with the outcomes of the reviews and the forthcoming unitary authority agenda, provide a unique opportunity for innovative and creative thinking about the future of education and training in Carlisle.

2.4 In addition, ongoing strategic work is taking place between senior officers of the City Council, the LSC and educational representatives, which are helping significantly to progress this important agenda. This involves making links with key officers based at the County Council, particularly within education and Social Services.

2.5 The proposed strategy is for the City Council to have:

- A central role in the current and future developments in Post 16 education and higher education.
- The continued leadership of the "Post 16 Group" to take account of the 14-19 Agenda for education, and therefore renamed the 'Post 14 Group'.
- To develop and reposition itself as the unitary authority agenda progress over the next 2/3 years, to ensure that the Council is able to have a coherent voice on behalf of the education community in Carlisle, with the needs of children and young people becoming central to that agenda.
- To develop much stronger partnerships with key partners and stakeholders in ways which add value, rather than duplicate the work already taking place.
- To offer a source of support in terms of future infrastructure needs, including estates and transport.

- To provide the voice of local communities, particularly children and young people, which will include extensive and continued consultation of their current and future needs.

### **3.0 The two posts:- Post 14 Liaison Officer and Higher Education Officer.**

1. To undertake the proposed strategy, there clearly needs to be strategic and operational support of staff who can focus solely on the Post 14 and higher education on behalf of the Council and its partners. The work already taking place is valuable, but needs to be drawn together and to accelerate the pace, if real progress is going to be made.
2. It is therefore proposed that 2 posts are created, with two year contracts attached to both and with salaries at PO 10-12 £30,594 - £32,127 totalling £38,143 with on- costs (at top of scale). Both jobs are currently undergoing job evaluations. Both posts will need set-up costs, totalling approx. £10,000 per post. The remaining costs approx. £50,000 in total will be used for marketing and developing and supporting projects and bid submissions.
3. Copies of the draft Job Descriptions are attached (Appendices 1 & 2) and the focus of both will be to ensure that the Council's proposed strategy is progressed and that educational partners are supported.
4. Administrative support for both posts will be undertaken by the Executive Business Unit's Secretariat.

### **4.0 CONSULTATION**

4.1 Consultation has been ongoing through the Post 16 Group and discussions with the key Stakeholders. The details of both job descriptions have been reformed and influenced by these discussions.

### **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report requests Members to:

1. Note the current developments taking place within Post 14 Education, Training and Higher Education, all of which have socio/economic implications for Carlisle.
2. Approve the Strategy proposed to enable the Council to advance this area of work.
3. Consider a request for funding this strategy to a total of £200,000 over 2 years as a non recurring bid, as part of the budget process.

## 6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council is already supporting the educational agenda, at both operational and strategic levels. However to progress its community leadership role and reposition itself for its unitary future, it needs to be much more visible and strategic.

6.2 Both the proposed strategy and the two posts which will underpin it, will ensure the Council does advance its role in this most important and crucial area of work.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- **Staffing/Resources**

Detailed in 3.2

- **Financial**

Detailed in 3.2

- **Legal**

No legal implications identified

- **Corporate**

Both the strategy and the 2 posts have a corporate role

- **Risk Management**

No risk implications identified

- **Equality Issues**

The postholders of the new roles will ensure that the young and hard to reach groups, particularly the most vulnerable and disengaged people are able to articulate their needs

- **Environmental**

No environmental implications identified

- **Crime and Disorder**

There will clearly be Crime and Disorder implications, as both reviews are developed and supported by the Council

**CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Executive Business Unit**

**JOB DESCRIPTION – DRAFT (as at 04/09/03)**

**JOB TITLE:** POST 14 LIAISON OFFICER

**GRADE:** PO 10-12 £30,594 - £32,127  
(subject to Job Evaluation)  
Temporary post until September 2005 and  
subject to review

**Post Reference:**

**Responsible to:** Executive Director

**1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE**

The overall purpose of the Post 14 Liaison Officer is to support:

- the City Council's role as Community Leader, Carlisle as a Learning City and its strategy to progress the Education & Training Strategy
- the Carlisle Post 14 group and the representatives of that group, including Carlisle Secondary & Special Schools, Carlisle College; HE Institutes; Cumbria LSC; Training Providers, to ensure that the achievements of young people are developed, improved and celebrated
- national and local initiatives which progress the Post 14 Agenda for local communities and stakeholders in Carlisle
- the needs of children and young people, either through direct consultation with them or supporting consultative activities developed by other partners

## 2.0 KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 The postholder will form close working relationships with partners and stakeholders involved in Post 14 Education & Training, including the following:
- Carlisle Secondary and Special Schools
  - Carlisle College
  - Cumbria Learning and Skills Council/The Young People's Learning Committee
  - DfES
  - Higher Education Institutions
  - Higher Education Funding Council
  - Economic & Community Development Services (Carlisle City Council)
  - Cumbria County Council
  - Workbased Training Providers
  - Relevant Committees and Strategic Groups eg. Higher Education Strategy Group; Post 16 Group; Think@Carlisle and Carlisle City Council Executive
  - Government Office for the North West
  - Local Employers
  - Connexions
  - Carlisle Education Business Partnership
  - Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
- 2.2 The links made with the above partners (and others) will add value to the work already taking place in the Post 14 agenda, and will help to support individual organisations and partnerships. This would include developing projects; pursuing external funding streams etc on their behalf.
- 2.3 The postholder will ensure that all the relevant services offered by the City Council are linked to supporting young people, and that awareness is raised of their needs, particularly those young people who are vulnerable and disengaged.
- 2.4 To work within the City Vision Partnership and the Carlisle & Eden Local Strategic Partnership, to ensure that awareness of the national and local agenda for Post 14 is understood and progressed.
- 2.5 To work closely with the Carlisle Business Community, through existing partnerships to support and make links with workbased training providers.
- 2.6 To work closely with Elected Members and Senior Officers of the Council, including dissemination of information relating to Post 16 education and training.

- 2.7 To support the promotion of this area of work on behalf of the City Council, through the management of a marketing budget.
- 2.8 To work closely with the HE Liaison Officer to ensure that both areas of work have cohesion and purpose.



**CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Executive Business Unit**

**JOB DESCRIPTION – DRAFT (as at 04/09/03)**

**JOB TITLE:** HIGHER EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICER

**GRADE:** PO 10-12 £30,594 - £32,127  
(subject to Job Evaluation)  
Temporary post until September 2005 and  
subject to review

**Post Reference:**

**Responsible to:** Executive Director

**1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The overall purpose of this post is to support the City Council's community leadership role in promoting Carlisle as a Learning City, by raising the profile of Higher Education, in ways which support the socio/economic needs of young people, employers, HE Institutions and other key stakeholders.
- 1.2 The postholder will have both a strategic and operational role. Both will be required to address the main remit of the post – to carry out a review of the long-term needs of Higher Education in Carlisle. The review will take account of the Government's agenda for HE and its focus upon increasing participation rates, as well as the priorities outlined in the Fender Report (May 2003).
- 1.3 The Review will be action-based and regular feedback on its various elements of it will be required by Elected Members, Senior Officers and Partners during the contract period.
- 1.4 The postholder will also have responsibility in bringing a cohesion to the current development work being carried out by the Council, which progresses the HE agenda for Carlisle and which complies with the Council's Strategy for education.
- 1.5 The postholder, through consultation, will bring the voice of young people to the centre of the agenda.

- 1.6 The work will be carried out in close partnership with HE Institutions in Carlisle, in ways which will support them and add value and may require secondment to those institutions from time to time.

## **2.0 KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

- 2.1 To undertake a review of HE on behalf of the City Council within the context of:
- The Government's agenda for HE with its focus on increasing participation rates
  - The priorities/recommendations of the Fender Report
  - The current and future aspirations of young people in Carlisle (and beyond)
  - The current and future requirements of local employers
  - The progression routes between secondary and special schools, further education, workbased training providers and higher education
  - The role of Carlisle College and its current and future provision of further and higher education programmes
  - The Post-16 Review of Learning provision in Carlisle
  - The impact of the Regional Government/Unitary Status agenda on the future of HE provision in Carlisle City Council
- 2.2 The postholder, in carrying out the Review, will also examine the infrastructure requirements of the future provision of higher education, which will include: estates facilities; transport needs; facilities for students; the integration of higher education into the future socio/economic needs of the city. This, in particular, will support the work of HE institutions in their progression of the Fender Report recommendations.
- 2.3 To work closely with HE Institutions, in ways which add value to their own work and may involve secondment to individual HE Institutions during the contract period.
- 2.4 To work closely with Carlisle College to support their current and future HE provision.
- 2.5 To work in collaboration with Carlisle Secondary and Special Schools to promote higher education and progression routes between schools and HE.

- 2.6 To work closely with the Post 14 Liaison Officer to ensure that both areas of work have cohesion and purpose.