

Report to:

Council

Agenda
Item

11(b)(i)

Meeting Date: 03 March 2015

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Leaders Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Colin Glover**

Borderlands Initiative

The Borderlands Summit in November identified 4 priorities which it wished to develop further:

- Economic Corridors: Infrastructure links both within the Borderlands area and beyond.
- Economic Sectors: Tourism, Forestry and Energy.
- Education, Skills and Innovation.
- Digital Connectivity.

Work has begun on developing these 4 priorities understanding what the economic outputs are and developing a narrative in order to communicate the message of the Borderlands to a wider audience. As part of this work a Tourism workshop was held in January with stakeholders to consider a potential Borderlands tourism initiative and collaborative working. In addition the Director of Economic Development attended the Scottish Affairs Committee on Borderlands along with colleagues from Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and Northumberland which was looking into the issues and opportunities across the Border.

Infrastructure is key to economic development and I was pleased to hear that the first phase of the Borderlands Railway on the Waverley line is on schedule and due to be completed in September 2015, and that work is beginning on a feasibility study into the opening of the line to Carlisle.

Carlisle Ambassadors

The 2015 Carlisle Ambassadors programme was launched on the 29th January at the Halston Apart Hotel. The aim is to provide a powerful business network where people can interact with others, forge connections and learn first hand about big decisions that affect Carlisle. Over 160 people attended the event and heard presentations from key business people. In addition to the networking event a website has been developed with an Ambassadors forum page to share project ideas and gather support to deliver them. The key message is 'Positive things happen to positive places'. At the time of writing, 24 businesses have applied to become an official Carlisle Ambassador. The next Ambassadors meeting is on March 26th at Carlisle Race Course.

Local Economic Partnership (LEP) Update

The main focus of the LEP Board in recent months has been working with partners to develop projects to be submitted for Local Growth Fund 2 funding, with a strong emphasis on skills and infrastructure, to drive growth. In January it was announced that an extra £20.9 million would be available for 7 projects in Cumbria between 2016 and 2021. Funding would be subject to approval of robust business cases.

The projects which will affect Carlisle are:

- Connecting Cumbria: phase 2 of Connecting Cumbria which will extend availability of Superfast Broadband.
- Cumbria Skills and Capital Investment Programme: delivering state of the art specialist STEM R & D training facilities.
- Growing our potential: delivering capital projects helping Cumbrian businesses grow and create sustainable private sector jobs.
- Carlisle College, Advanced Manufacturing Centre : The AMC will deliver an employer-led curriculum at all levels to the engineering manufacturing and processing sectors

Carlisle Partnership

The Carlisle Partnership continues to gain support from a wide range of partners, businesses, organisations and groups and continues to work across the key issue (and subgroup areas) within the district. More recently the Partnership Executive has welcomed

the addition of the Carlisle Food City Chair to the Executive and is also exploring links with a Children and Young Persons subgroup.

I also met recently with the new Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Carlisle & Eden and members of Carlisle Youth Council to talk about their priorities for Carlisle and how young people can have a stronger voice in the way we work. They also told us that one of their key priorities is to raise awareness of mental health issues amongst young people. We look forward to continue working with youth representatives in the future.

Food Carlisle

The Carlisle Food City steering group works with a range of different organisations. Examples including: The Soil Association, Public Health, University of Cumbria, The Chamber of Commerce, NFU, food producers, distributions and caterers. The Food Carlisle Steering Group continues to promote the Charter and advance a range of projects within the Action Plan and considers crosscutting issues including: Economy, Health and Wellbeing, Learning, education and skills, Communities, sustainability.

Key updates include:

1. The group is developing a questionnaire in partnership with the University of Cumbria to understand more about the local food economy and food supply chain.
2. Carlisle attended the Everything Edible event to raise the profile of the work Food Carlisle has done, but also to promote local Carlisle Food Businesses.

Event management

All officers involved in events have participated in a risk management workshop, facilitated by our insurers, Gallagher Bassett. The workshop focused on the need for risk assessment as part of the event planning, a new Event Management Plan template to assist officers in this planning. A new events policy is being prepared to clarify the roles and procedures involved in running safe and successful events.

Community Events Panel

The Community Events Panel was held on Friday 13 February, and applications for events support were put forward by The Cumberland Show, Carlisle Slide Event, Pirelli Carlisle Rally, Cumbria Pride and Carlisle Music City. The next panel meetings have been scheduled for, 22 April, 20 May, and 17 June.

Events 2015

Carlisle is set to host a packed programme of events in 2015.

Some dates already set include:

- **Saturday 25 April:** Pirelli Carlisle Rally, Carlisle city centre 9am – 12pm
- **Wednesday 1 - Monday 6 April:** Easter International Market, Carlisle city centre
- **Saturday 23 - Sunday 31 May:** Carlisle Music City, Carlisle city Centre 11am – 7pm. Visit www.carlislemusiccity.co.uk
- **Monday 25 May:** Upperby Gala, Hammond's Pond – 1pm – 4pm
- **Saturday 6 June:** Cumberland Show, Carlisle Racecourse – 9am - 6pm
- **Friday 12 - Sunday 14 June:** Crime Writing Weekend, Old Fire Station. Visit <http://crimeweekend.carlisle.city>
- **Wednesday 17 June:** Pride and Prejudice open-air theatre, Talkin Tarn Country Park
- **Saturday 20 June:** Cumbria Pride, Carlisle city centre
- **Saturday 27 June:** Armed Forces Day, Carlisle city centre
- **Saturday 4 July:** Talkin Tarn Regatta
- **Friday 17 July:** The Sorcerer's Apprentice open-air theatre, Bitts Park
- **Thursday 13 August:** Treasure Island open-air theatre, Talkin Tarn Country Park
- **Saturday 22 - Monday 31 August:** Carlisle Pageant, Carlisle city centre
- **Saturday 31 October:** Fireshow Funday, Carlisle city centre – 2pm -6pm
- **Saturday 31 October:** Fireshow, Bitts Park – 6.30pm – 8.00pm
- **Sunday 8 November:** Remembrance Sunday, Carlisle city centre
- **Date TBC:** Christmas Lights Switch On
- **Wednesday 2 - Sunday 6 December:** Christmas Market, Carlisle city centre