



CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 11 JANUARY 2007

Title: CARLISLE RENAISSANCE: PROGRESS REPORT

Report of: DIRECTOR OF CARLISLE RENAISSANCE

Report reference: CE 06/07

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to give the Members of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to consider the Carlisle Renaissance Update Report submitted to the Executive on 18 December 2006.

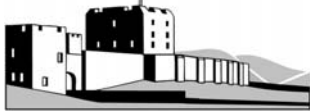
Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the report and progress on taking forward Carlisle Renaissance.

Contact Officer: Tom Millar

Ext: None

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



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: PROMOTING CARLISLE

Date of Meeting: 18 DECEMBER 2006

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

Yes

Inside Policy Framework

Title: CARLISLE RENAISSANCE - PROGRESS REPORT

Report of: DIRECTOR OF CARLISLE RENAISSANCE

Report reference: CE 30/06

Summary: This report provides further information on the Carlisle Renaissance governance and management arrangements and progress on delivery planning, funding, public consultation and specific project proposals. It also sets out the profile of an alternative project, negotiated by the NWDA, for inclusion to the Year 1 Activity programme. This project replaces the previously agreed Castle Street Public Realm capital project.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to:-

- a) Note the report and progress on taking forward Carlisle Renaissance
- b) Agree the Urban Design Framework project as part of the Carlisle Renaissance Year 1 Activity programme.

Contact Officer: Tom Millar

Ext: 7018

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

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Northwest Development Agency's (NWDA) Cumbria Sub regional action Plan (SRAP) has approved the allocation of £1m to support Carlisle Renaissance in 2006/07.
- 1.2 On the 25 September 2006 (CE 23/06) the Executive agreed to endorse the programme of activities for 2006/07. It also agreed the City Council's contribution of £389,000 to support the delivery of this programme.
- 1.3 The original application to the NWDA was based on a series of projects intended to support people into employment, develop the visitor economy, encourage business creation and support and to deliver a Public Realm Improvements project on Castle Street.

2. GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Delivery Team

Recruitment is underway for two posts, a Consultation & Communications Officer and a Learning City Manager, in accordance with the delivery team structure and budget approved by the Executive and reported to the Council. Both posts are within the Policy & Performance team.

The recruitment of the Learning City Manager recognises the importance of Learning City both as a priority for the City Council and as one of the core objectives of Carlisle Renaissance. The post is offered on a 3-year fixed term contract.

Following the departure of the Consultation & Communications Officer in the summer and the appointment of a new Head of Communications by the City Council, the Communications team is being restructured with the addition of two new posts to strengthen its marketing and consultation capacity. One of these posts is funded through Carlisle Renaissance.

Carlisle Partnership (LSP)

The delivery team is working increasingly closely with the LSP Manager and the LSP Executive on the basis that the renaissance agenda will underpin the new Community Plan, which is currently in development. The Community Plan will take

forward the vision and strategic objectives of Carlisle Renaissance in a comprehensive strategy to engage with a wide range of partners.

University of Cumbria

The Carlisle Renaissance delivery team are closely involved in discussions with the University of Cumbria concerning proposals for the establishment of a new headquarters in the City Centre. This is in furtherance of the City Council's Learning City objective as published in the Carlisle Renaissance prospectus.

3. ADJUSTMENT TO THE RENAISSANCE YEAR 1 PROGRAMME

3.1 The Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) has approved funding for an Interim Action Plan to support Carlisle Renaissance, pending the completion of the Economic strategy and the Development Framework & Movement Strategy.

3.2 Together with funding approved by the City Council and partner organisations the Interim Action Plan will inject over £1.5 million into the following activities: -

- Economic Strategy; [underway with pre-approved funding]
- A new Urban Design Framework for the City
- Support for new business start-ups and tourism sector SME's
- Employment and skills projects for residents in deprived areas
- Support for tourism event development
- A plan for maximising the cultural/tourism potential of the Historic Quarter

3.3 The Castle Street project, identified in the Concept Bid, was intended to act as a 'exemplar project' informing future capital works across the Historic Core area of the City and beyond.

Options were considered but it was agreed with the NWDA that the Castle Street project be deferred until a comprehensive Urban Design Framework is developed. This public realm strategy will form an important part of a suite of documents, including the Economic Strategy and Development Framework and Movement Strategy. Together, these documents will assist and inform and define a future for the City. The project will encourage confidence in the City, deliver significant improvements in terms of delivering a number of selected sites 'worked up' to

tendering level. The framework will focus on 'quality place making' and enhance the contribution made to the local economy by Historic Quarter and town centre vitality.

- 3.4 An indicative allocation of a further £10m is now included in the Cumbria Economic Renewal Action Plan for Carlisle Renaissance in the period to 2008/09. The allocation of this funding will depend upon the outcomes of the Economic Strategy, the DF&MS and proposals for tackling deprivation.

4. ECONOMIC STRATEGY

- 4.1 Work, by consultants SQW, commenced recently on an Economic Strategy for Carlisle in its City Region. Funded by the NWDA, the City Council commissioned the consultants to prepare the strategy. A programme of stakeholder workshops has already commenced with Overview & Scrutiny sessions and joint member briefings scheduled over the next six months.

- 4.2 The work programme is in three stages:

SWOT Analysis (completed November 2006)

Strategic Framework (scheduled for completion January 2007)

Strategy & Action Plan (scheduled for completion March 2007)

- 4.3 The City Council has retained the Centre for Regional Economic Development (CRED), based in Carlisle, to quality assure the work of SQW.
- Under the auspices of the Carlisle LSP, an Economic Development & Enterprise group led by local employers has been formed to steer the progression of the Strategy. This represents an important step in directly engaging stakeholders, particularly private sector, to work alongside the public sector.

5. DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK & MOVEMENT STRATEGY – PROGRESS

- 5.1 Following the completion of the recent public consultation exercise the consultant team is preparing a first full draft of the DF&MS for the Leadership Group to consider at its next meeting in December. Subject to any amendments this will go through the

Overview & Scrutiny process in early 2007 before going to the Executive. A parallel process will be undertaken by the County Council.

5.2 The DF&MS will form part of the evidence at two planning inquiries in 2007. The first is the foodstore proposal for the Viaduct Estate Road, one of the proposed transformational sites in the DF&MS and part of the West Walls core character area. This inquiry is scheduled for late February 2007. The second is the Local Plan Inquiry, which is scheduled for May/June 2007. Both these inquiries will determine the planning basis for the implementation of the DF&MS.

5.3 The DF&MS will be used to review/revise the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out the programme of work for forward planning activity over the next 2-3 years in the transition from the Local Plan to the Local Development Framework. This covers such activity as the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) and Development Briefs etc.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are requested to:

- a) Note the report and progress on taking forward Carlisle Renaissance
- b) Agree the Urban Design Framework project as part of the Carlisle Renaissance Year 1 Activity programme

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To ensure that the Executive is fully briefed in respect of Carlisle Renaissance governance and management arrangements and progress on delivery planning, funding, consultation and specific project proposals.

8. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – None
- Financial – This report refers to funding applications, which support Carlisle Renaissance Year 1 Activity. Any additional future funding which may be required from the Council's own resources will be considered in the light of the Council's overall asset base and financial resources and will be subject to specific approval by the Council.

- Legal – It should be noted that any strategy or policy document, for example the Development Framework & Movement Strategy, being discussed and worked up by relevant groups will be required to be processed through the Council's formal decision making procedures for consideration and if approved, adoption by the authority in the usual way.
- Corporate – This report refers to governance and management arrangements for Carlisle Renaissance.
- Risk Management – This report refers to a Year 1 programme of projects, which will incorporate risk registers.
- Equality Issues – This report refers to the preparation of a Community Plan designed to ensure that 'hard to reach' and minority groups within the community are engaged.
- Environmental – This report refers to the preparation of an Urban Design Framework, which will provide guidance and direction on public realm improvement.
- Crime and Disorder – The programme includes reference to projects that will incorporate positive diversionary activity and social cohesion.
- Impact on Customers – The Carlisle Renaissance Year 1 Activity programme includes projects that will target support at local residents and the business community.