



CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 26 JULY 2007

Title: CARLISLE RENAISSANCE: PROGRESS REPORT

Report of: DIRECTOR OF CARLISLE RENAISSANCE

Report reference: CE 33/07

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 Progress Report submitted to the Executive on 2 July 2007.

Recommendations:

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

Contact Officer: Ian McNichol

Ext: 7399

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: 2 July 2007

Public Yes

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

Inside Policy Framework

Title: **CARLISLE RENAISSANCE: QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Report of: **Director of Carlisle Renaissance**

Report reference: **CE 29/07**

Summary:

This report provides information on progress on issues associated with the governance, management and funding of Carlisle Renaissance and the delivery of strategic objectives for physical and economic regeneration.

Recommendations:

The Executive Committee is recommended to: -

- a) Note the report.

Contact Officer: Ian McNichol

Ext: 7399

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. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Executive Committee receives a regular quarterly progress report on Carlisle Renaissance (the previous report, CE 15/07, was on 19 March 2007). These reports are forwarded for consideration by Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its next available meeting.
- 1.2 This report provides information on progress on issues associated with the governance, management and funding of Carlisle Renaissance and the delivery of strategic objectives for physical and economic regeneration.

2. GOVERNANCE & MANGEMENT

- 2.1 In March 2007 the City Council responded to a consultation paper issued by the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) titled “The Role of City Development Companies in English Cities & City Regions.” The concept of a city Development Company (CDC) involves the establishment of a special purpose vehicle to deliver economic interventions and act as a catalyst for regeneration.
- 2.2 A summary of responses to this consultation has recently been published on the DCLG website (www.communities.gov.uk). Further guidance on CDC’s is expected to be published in late 2007. A workshop to consider leadership and delivery models for Carlisle Renaissance (including CDCs), organised in conjunction with RENEW¹ took place at Carlisle Racecourse on 30th May 2007. Copies of the presentations are available from debbiek@carlisle.gov.uk
- 2.3 A sub group of the Carlisle Renaissance Task Group² has been established to undertake the further detailed assessment of delivery models and its initial work will focus on issues such as; geographic area, powers, remit, governance, corporate structure etc. This technical work is expected to be supported with funding from the Northwest Development Agency as part of a programme of measures to progress the renaissance agenda (see section 6 below).
- 2.4 Subject to formal agreement, the City Council’s in-house delivery team will shortly be supplemented by an additional Development Manager on secondment from the Northwest Development Agency. This additional capacity will focus on the Development Framework & Movement Strategy and progressing the Rickergate and Caldew Riverside regeneration schemes.

¹ The Academy of Sustainable Communities for the Northwest (www.renew.co.uk)

² Details of membership can be found at www.carlisle.gov.uk

- 2.5 Subject to confirmation of the brief for work to assess the implications of a Local Asset Vehicle, short-term project officer support is being negotiated with the Urban Finance Unit of English Partnerships.

3. DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK & MOVEMENT STRATEGY

- 3.1 Following the adoption of the Development Framework & Movement Strategy Policy Statement by Council on 1st May 2007 a comprehensive programme of work is now being prepared. The following projects are about to be commissioned: -

- Historic Quarter Development Strategy
- Supplementary Planning Guidance for St Nicholas / Botchergate South
- City Centre Urban Design Guide & Public Realm Framework
- Design & Specification of City Centre Public Realm Improvement Schemes

- 3.2 These projects are funded as part of an Interim Programme agreed with the Northwest Development Agency in 2006. Following funding approval by the County Council, a Car Parking Strategy for Carlisle will also be commissioned shortly. Further infrastructure planning arising from the Development Framework & Movement Strategy will take place with support from the Northwest Development Agency (see section 6 below).

- 3.3 Two further projects relevant to the Development Framework & Movement Strategy were commissioned earlier this year as part of the Interim Programme. A study of options to reduce the severance impact of Castle Way has recently been completed and a number of presentations/workshops have taken place with Elected Members of the City Council and County Council, the Northwest Development Agency and English Heritage.

- 3.4 A Learning Village Scoping Study (part of the proposals for the Eastern Approaches Core Character Area) will be completed shortly and assesses the potential co-location of a new headquarters for the University of Cumbria with the City Academy, Carlisle College, the 14-19 Centre, Trinity and Newman Secondary Schools. This work will also consider the provision of sports facilities in the area to meet both educational and community needs in Carlisle.

- 3.5 Work on the preparation of Development Briefs for the Rickergate and Caldew Riverside regeneration schemes, the acquisition of third party property within these areas and subsequent procurement of development partners is included as part of a programme for which funding is being sought from the Northwest Development Agency (see section 6 below).
- 3.6 This programme also includes marketing the Development Framework & Movement Strategy to potential investors and stakeholders and the delivery of an 'exemplar' public realm improvement scheme in 2007 on Castle Street. The design and specification of this scheme is being prepared by officers and was presented in outline to a workshop for Elected Members of the City Council and County Council on 22nd June. Consultation on this scheme is taking place with key occupiers in the area.
- 3.7 The Development Framework & Movement Strategy Policy Statement forms part of the information and evidence submitted by the City Council for the Local Plan Inquiry which commences on 3rd July 2007. It was also used to support the City Council's position at the recent Public Inquiry into the Tesco Foodstores Ltd planning application on the Viaduct Estate Road.
- 3.8 Officers continue to work with the Save Our Streets Campaign Association concerning proposals for the regeneration of the Rickergate area and a workshop on 15th June considered the options and implications of extending the City Centre Conservation Area into Rickergate. Officers are also assessing the implications of the recently published theatre/arts centre feasibility study, which identified Rickergate as the consultants preferred location for such a facility.

4. ECONOMIC STRATEGY

- 4.1 Progress on the Economic Strategy was reported to the Executive Committee at its meeting on 23rd April. This work is being overseen by the Economic Development & Enterprise Priority Group of the Carlisle Partnership with the support of project group led by the City Council and consultants SQW Ltd. Progress is also reported directly to the Carlisle Partnership Executive by the Chair of the Priority Group.

- 4.2 Following the publication of the first draft Strategy & Action Plan the Priority Group has met on a number of occasions to take-stock on work to date. The group has undertaken a review of proposed priorities and subsequent actions and is currently preparing a position statement, initially for consideration at the next meeting of the Carlisle Partnership Executive on 18th July 2007.
- 4.3 In parallel a revised work programme for completion of the Economic Strategy, including further consultation with stakeholders and other interested parties as appropriate, will be prepared. Completion is expected in the autumn, when a final report will come forward for adoption by the Carlisle Partnership Executive and its constituent members.
- 4.4 The Interim Programme, funded by the City Council and the Northwest Development Agency, includes a number of projects that support the priorities of the emerging Economic Strategy. Progress on these projects is reported quarterly directly to the City Council's Corporate Resources and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committees. Most recently tenders have been let for the delivery of start-up and tourism business support projects and work is shortly due to be commissioned on a tourism brand development study.

5. LEARNING CITY

- 5.1 A review of the City Council's Learning City Strategy is being undertaken as part of the process of preparing the City Council's Corporate Improvement Plan and responding to issues raised in the recent Peer Review. It focuses on the range of actions that the City Council could take in support of this corporate priority within the context of current and planned developments in the City's learning infrastructure. A report will be presented for consideration initially by the Executive Committee in the coming months.
- 5.2 As part of Learning City a best practice programme is being drawn up for Elected Members, officers and stakeholders based on issues associated with the wider renaissance agenda. The objective of this programme is to broaden understanding of regeneration locally (within both the public and private sector) and support effective decision making. It is also intended to raise the profile of Carlisle Renaissance within the regeneration sector.

- 5.3 Visits to Lisburn (Northern Ireland) and Birmingham by members of the Carlisle Renaissance Cross Party Working Group, accompanied by partners and relevant officers, have already taken place as part of a best practice research programme organised by the Centre for Regional Economic Development³. On 22nd May a seminar titled 'Energising Enterprise in Education' focused on the role of higher education in economic development and on 12th June a workshop at Tullie House considered best practice in urban design.
- 5.4 RENEW and the North West Improvement Network (NWIN) are working up proposals for a Learning Laboratory for Cumbria to assist local authorities and their partners to build the skills and capacity to deliver regeneration. The City Council's own programme will be integrated into the activities of the Learning Laboratory as appropriate.

6. FUNDING

- 6.1 The City Council has recently submitted a Concept Proposal (outline funding application) for support from the Northwest Development Agency for a programme of activities over the period 2007/08 to 2009/10. The proposal focuses on supporting the delivery of the Development Framework & Movement Strategy and establishing an appropriate mechanism to manage the delivery of this and subsequently the Economic Strategy.
- 6.2 The Concept Proposal was endorsed by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 11th June 2007 and considered by the Infrastructure Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21st June 2007 and then by the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28th June. Their comments are reported elsewhere on this Executive Committee Agenda.
- 6.3 The Project Review Group of the Northwest Development Agency will consider the Concept Proposal at its meeting on 25th June 2007 and its response will be reported verbally to the Executive Committee and its meeting on 2nd July. It already has the support of Cumbria Vision and this was reported to the Executive Committee at its meeting on 11th June. The City Council will consider the allocation of additional funding to support the actions in the Concept Proposal at its meeting on 17th July 2007.

³ Part of the University of Central Lancashire based in Carlisle

- 6.4 Subject to the approval by the Project Review Group and City Council a Full Application will be prepared by officers for submission to the Northwest Development Agency in August 2007. Formal final approval (based on a Funding Agreement between the funding partners) is forecast for October 2007.
- 6.5 The City Council's Medium Term Financial Plan identifies that further capital and revenue funding may be required over the period 2007/08 to 2009/10 in addition to that already approved and that this will need to be considered in due course as part of the City Council's corporate financial planning activities and on-going work to re-direct resources to support its priorities.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Executive Committee is recommended to: -

- a) Note the report.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To ensure the Executive is fully briefed on progress and issues arising respect of Carlisle Renaissance.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – This report refers to the secondment of a Development Manager from the Northwest Development Agency and short-term project officer support from English Partnerships.
- Financial – This report refers to the submission of a Concept Proposal (outline funding application) to the Northwest Development Agency. The detailed financial implications of this were reported to the Executive Committee at its meeting on 11th June 2007.
- Legal – This report refers to the establishment of a special purpose vehicle to manage the delivery of Carlisle Renaissance. The detailed legal implications of this were reported to the Executive Committee at its meeting on 11th June 2007.

- Corporate – This report refers to the Development Framework & Movement Strategy Policy Statement, which was adopted by the City Council at its meeting on 1st May 2007. It also refers to a review of the Learning City Strategy, which supports one of the City Council's corporate priorities.
- Risk Management – Carlisle Renaissance is included in the City Council's Corporate Risk Register. Any Full Application to the Northwest Development Agency will require a detailed Risk Assessment. Risk Registers are/will be included in all projects delivered through the Interim Programme.
- Equality Issues – The Development Framework & Movement Strategy Policy Statement stipulates that City Centre facilities and services should be inclusive and easily used by all people without undue effort, special treatment or separation.
- Environmental – This report refers to the preparation of new Planning Policy Documents, which are subject to environmental sustainability assessments. The Development Framework & Movement Strategy Policy Statement is incorporated into the City Council's Air Quality Management Plan reported elsewhere on the Executive Committee Agenda.
- Crime and Disorder – The Development Framework & Movement Strategy Policy Statement stipulates that the design of the public realm and the built environment should promote community safety.
- Impact on Customers – The Interim Programme and Concept Proposal include a range of activities designed to deliver regeneration benefits for the resident and business community.