

PORTFOLIO:

**LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Report of  
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR  
BARRY EARP**

## **LEARNING CITY AUGUST 2008.**

### **Carlisle Joint School Council**

A meeting of the Carlisle Joint School Council took place in the Council Chamber of the Civic Centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Pupils and staff from local Secondary Schools came together for the final meeting of the year and 3 of the 4 meetings have taken place at the Civic Centre.

The morning session focused on teaching and learning in schools and the Council also heard from Martin Murphy, Headteacher at St Aidan's County High School, about the proposed Youth Zone for Carlisle.

In the afternoon the Council heard from Jim Douglas, Managing Director of Carlisle Leisure Ltd. and Bob Cook, Operations Manager of Stagecoach. Jim and Bob attended the December meeting when the group had raised the issues of a lack of leisure opportunities for young people and problems with availability and cost of public transport. Both Carlisle Leisure Ltd. and Stagecoach have taken on board the issues the young people had raised and were keen to continue working with the group.

### **Construction Experience**

A group of school leavers who were interested in working in the construction industry took part in a week long "construction experience" at the end of July. It was organised by Carlisle City Council, Construction Skills, Connexions and Carlisle College. 11 young people took part in taster sessions in painting and decorating, carpentry and joinery and brickwork, visiting Carillion and Story construction sites. They got help from Connexions with applying for jobs and courses.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Work proceeds apace on the shared ICT service with Allerdale Borough Council. Approvals have been received and welcomed by both Councils and the next step is to put in place the process of bringing the two services together. Communication and consultation with both staff and users of the service means that there is full transparency in the process.

Despite the heavy work load that developing the shared service entails the normal work of the IT Unit continues. Computer systems which have gone live during the current reporting system include an environmental services system and a leave booking system which forms part of the new payroll and personnel system. Both systems make use of the robust ICT infrastructure and investment that the Council has made over the years.

### **NORTHWEST EMPLOYERS ORGANISATION (NWEO)**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> July I represented Carlisle City Council at the AGM of the NWEO in Wigan, followed by their conference. I was elected to be the Cumbria member on the Regional Development Committee.

Committee members undertake assessment visits to Local Authorities that apply to the Northwest Charter for Member Development. A key activity for the committee will be promoting improved literacy and numeracy standards amongst local authority employees.

### **PAY & WORKFORCE STRATEGY**

The Job Evaluation Project and the Appeals have now been completed and the scores will be published by the end of August. Then Stage 2 of the Job Evaluation will commence. Pay modelling will take place, followed by negotiations with the Trade Unions in order to arrive at a new Pay Policy.

### **TULLIE HOUSE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY**

#### **Development Plan**

Jura Consultants have now completed the work on the Conservation Management Plan, Access Plan and Training Plan for the Heritage Lottery Project Planning Grant. This is all part of the work required for the Stage 1 submission to Heritage Lottery for the Tullie House Development Plan.

#### **Brampton Live**

Despite less than ideal weather conditions this year's event went well with positive comments from visitors.

#### **Acquisitions and Loans**

Tullie House has just acquired a very rare William III pint dry measure, marked with an early example of the City's crest. This was purchased at auction and funded by the Friends of Tullie House together with a donation from its previous owner.

Displays in the Museum foyer for the summer, feature a very fine large scale model of a Carlisle made Crane (ex Cowan Sheldons) and an equally fine 7 ft working model of the "City of Carlisle" steam locomotive No 6238 – on loan from its owner/maker.

### **National Archaeology Week**

The National Archaeology Week ran from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008. During the week there were various drop-in activities that were well attended. The event allowed the museum the opportunity to get out and show collections that would otherwise be kept in storage, plus allowing visitors rare opportunities to view and handle objects from the museum collections. The event involved the Archaeology Curator and Finds Liaison Officer and provided a good opportunity to involve members of staff who wouldn't usually get involved directly with the public. The Museum received a lot of positive feedback.

### **Future for Tullie House**

A tele-conference was held on 20<sup>th</sup> August between Carlisle City Officers and Adrian Babbidge (an authority on Museum Trusts).

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September a conference will be held in Birmingham with Adrian Babbidge speaking – several of our officers will be attending.

It is to be hoped that in the afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> October a workshop can be held to give all members the opportunity to be updated on the current situation. Further details of this meeting will be sent to all members.

**Councillor Barry Ogilvie Earp**  
**Learning and Development Portfolio Holder**  
**25<sup>th</sup> August 2008**