

Report to:

Council

Agenda
Item

11(b)(iv)

Meeting Date: 7 January 2014

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economy & Enterprise Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Heather Bradley**

PLANNING

Local Plan

The Council received 1138 comments following the Local Plan consultation in the summer. Each response has been recorded, acknowledged and is now being considered in the Plan review stage as the document is modified in light of comments received.

Following the consultation it was decided that the Local Plan would benefit from a second stage of consultation on the preferred options to reflect some of the issues raised. This is due to commence in March 2014.

One of the issues was the housing target for the District. The summer consultation revealed that the housing target should be raised to 665 dwellings per annum, matching the growth projections from the Housing Needs and Demands Study. Suitable housing sites submitted through the consultation process have been assessed and included in the Local Plan for the second stage of consultation on the Preferred Options.

Work on updating the evidence base has progressed to reflect comments from the consultation. Further work to test the viability of the Local Plan has been commissioned. This work is crucial to determine whether the policies in the Local Plan will support sustainable development rather than constraining it. Drawing on the findings of the County wide Gypsy and Traveller Study a further allocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites have

been proposed in the Local Plan. There have also been many other updates including continuous dialogue with the County Council regarding infrastructure provision and incorporation of the forthcoming Local Enterprise Partnerships Strategic Economic Priorities.

City Centre Master Plan

A consultation was held on the City Centre Masterplan to feed into the Local Plan and on the basis of which to do more detailed work. A well attended Member workshop was undertaken as well as an exhibition to seek views on future development in the centre. More than 100 comments were received which will feed into the next stage of the Local Plan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Saturday - 7th December

The inaugural Small Business Saturday was held on 7th December, one of the busiest shopping days of the year. The purpose of the event was to celebrate all UK small businesses and encourage communities to support them at a key time in the shopping calendar. A grass-roots national campaign, it encourages people to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities, both on the Saturday and beyond.

Within Carlisle, the City Council took the lead working with partners including the University of Cumbria, the Federation of Small Businesses and Cumbria County Council's Trading Standards team, offering support to local businesses.

On the day, 15 empty stalls in the Market Hall were taken up by small businesses (many without a retail presence) and Cumbrian schools. They used the opportunity to sell their products and/or services direct to members of the public alongside the permanent stall holders.



The feedback from the event in the Market Hall was very positive. The event as a whole, was well supported and received excellent publicity both locally and nationally. A similar event was held in Brampton run by Brampton Economic Partnership.

Member Workshop – Wednesday 20th November

The day covered three projects which would benefit from consultation with Members. These were: Old Town Hall Phase 2, Public Realm and City Centre Master planning. For those of you who were able to attend, it was the perfect opportunity to receive an update on each project and help inform officers as they begin the next phase of work. The discussions and debate during the sessions were helpful in directing future activity. Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute.

Councillor Heather Bradley
Portfolio Holder for Economy & Enterprise

