



PORTFOLIO AREA: POLICY, PERFORMANCE & FINANCE

Date of Meeting: 18th APRIL 2005

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE
Report of: HEAD OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Report reference: CE 07/05

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to apprise Members of progress with regard to flood recovery. In particular progress is reported towards the development of a master plan for the regeneration of Carlisle.

Recommendations:

1. That Members of the Executive note progress with flood recovery
2. That Members of the Executive note that £150,000 of the £1,000,000 previously approved to support flood recovery will be ring fenced for development of the master plan and resourcing of the task force.
3. That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk & Chief Executive to spend from the £150,000 as appropriate.

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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 AND OPTIONS

The City Council and local Carlisle partners have been lobbying GONW representatives and other government agencies for their continued support in recovering from January's floods and storms. There is an acknowledgement of the wider opportunity to be seized and willingness on the part of regional and national bodies to play an active role in the future development of Carlisle. As well as addressing short-term needs, there is a real opportunity for Carlisle to think strategically and to think beyond the flood and the damaged areas. The City can stand back and take stock of where it is and where it wants to be in 10-15 years. This work needs to be undertaken as a parallel exercise to the immediate recovery programme.

Central Government's response will be led by ODPM and GONW through a Task Force, and will involve Government Departments across Whitehall, Government Agencies, private companies and others with an interest. They will work with the Council to develop a master plan both to regenerate the affected areas and make the most of new opportunities for economic growth and will help to pull together a funding package. They will bring in advice from consultants to support this work. ODPM has signalled an intention for John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, to visit Carlisle in the summer to host a 'Sustainable Communities' summit focussed around the Carlisle masterplan. Early progress is therefore vital.

There is also an urgency to progress the work now whilst government interest is raised. As time passes, new crises emerge, such as the collapse of MG Rover in the Midlands and Carlisle moves out of the regional and national consciousness as a priority. The City Council's role over the next 6 months therefore involves an intensive period of work and includes:

- Leading the Flood recovery management group and giving direction to the various flood recovery sub groups
- Shaping the work of the Government Task Force, preparing the brief for masterplanning, influencing the outcome of the work to ensure that it addresses local needs and priorities
- Integrating relevant existing work areas eg Industrial estate asset management, Economic Renewal Action Plan, Three Rivers Strategy, Housing Strategy

This work will involve officers from several Business Units, many of whom are already involved. In order to give the work a more corporate focus and to meet the stringent timescale, a small Project Team is being pulled together to provide temporary

additional resources, working with the Head of Economic and Community Development. The team will need to evolve as the Task Force develops the Master Plan, through the consultation period and into implementation. The team will drive the project on behalf of the City Council, ensure that momentum is maintained and that the work programme remains on target.

2. CONSULTATION

The development of the master plan will require consultation of and engagement with the communities of Carlisle.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Members of the Executive note progress with flood recovery
2. That Members of the Executive note that £150,000 of the £1,000,000 previously approved to support flood recovery will be ring fenced for development of the master plan and resourcing of the task force.
3. That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk & Chief Executive to spend from the £150,000 as appropriate.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To inform Members of progress and ensure that they are aware of use of the resources allocated for flood recovery being used to support developments of master plan.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Officers within the Council will be seconded to this work. Where practicable, posts will be back filled for the duration of this work.
- Financial – this work is directly related to flood recovery. The Council has already allocated £1,000,000 of reserves to flood recovery. Within this £1,000,000 officers will allocate and ring fence £150,000 to support development of the master plan.
- Legal – not directly applicable
- Corporate – not directly applicable
- Risk Management – not directly applicable

- Equality Issues – not directly applicable
- Environmental – not directly applicable
- Crime and Disorder – not directly applicable
- Impact on Customers – not directly applicable