

Meeting Date: 7 January 2014

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Culture, Health, Leisure & Young People Portfolio Holder's Report**
– Councillor Anne Quilter

Members' Workshop

The workshop held on 20 November brought together elected Members from both City and County Councils to discuss the Old Town Hall Phase 2 project. The main outputs flagged up:

- Improved access and signing to the building
- Having a shop window on street level to promote the services in the TIC
- Being an information "Hub" showcasing Carlisle and district.
- Interaction screens showing up-to-date information on events and attractions.
- Assembly Room being used as a flexible space/multi uses.

These will be considered as part of the review of the phase 1 works. The Design and Build team have been appointed with leading consultant Johnston & Wright. Stage 1 will consist of review of phase 1 works and development of detailed phase 2 proposals. The target date for this is Spring 2014.

Tourist Information Centre

The Winter Wonderland Grotto proved to be very successful again this year with record numbers of children visiting Santa. There have been many wonderful comments from families visiting the grotto.

As part of the refurbishment we are reviewing what we sell in the TIC. Our current new stock of local chutneys and jams from a company in Longtown sold very well for Christmas.

Visitor numbers are up 10% on November last year which is encouraging.

Old Fire Station

The tender period for the capital development of the Old Fire Station Arts Centre has closed and the Council is in the final stages of appointing a design and build contractor with an announcement on the successful bidder due imminently. The outline designs suggest an exciting and versatile space in keeping with the council's vision for the centre.

The pilot programme (which will run through to May 2014) continues to develop and currently includes:

- Soundwave - opera singing workshops open to the general public;
- Creative Wellbeing - Arts and crafts and creative writing workshops, working particularly with adults needing confidence building and signposting as well as the broader public
- Cumbria Dance - Dance, music and movement sessions for pre-school children
- Impecunious - Puppet making working with participants from the Pageant
- Darth Audio - Digital audio recording studio and workshops open to all.
- Lawrence Leith – gamelan workshops open to the general public
- The Luck of Edenhall – a fine art exhibition scheduled for March 2014.

Further applications to use the space for youth theatre, film making, comedy, and to house an artist in residence to work with community groups to produce a piece of public art as a lasting legacy of the pilot programme are all also under consideration.

Sports Development

Engagement with partners to develop the City Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and related Facilities Strategies concluded in October and the draft strategy appeared before the City Council's Executive in November. The strategy outlines clear and ambitious aspirations for sport and facilities development across Carlisle and a vision for increasing participation in sport and physical activity across the city. It is due to be considered by the Council's Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel in January before returning to Executive for final consideration.

The Harraby Campus project remains on schedule with the Stage C report for the development published in December 2013. The outline designs provide an exciting concept bringing the needs of all users together into a single story campus design. The Community Centre element provides like for like space in a modern, and efficient building. The additional sports facilities have also been incorporated in line with the funding agreement and will provide a significant revenue generating asset as well as a valuable community sports facility.
