

Meeting Date: 5 November 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Leader Portfolio Holder's Report –

Title:

Carlisle Partnership

The Carlisle Partnership continues to receive support from a wide variety of partners. The Partnership Executive has taken a key role in ensuring that the Local Plan consultation was far and wide reaching through the subgroups and associated partners.

A current key focus of the partnership group is application to Phase VI of the World Health Organisation Healthy City designation. A number of projects continue to support the Healthy City designation, including: Fair Food Carlisle, Stoptober, Cumbria Gateway, Cumbria Sport Physical Activity Alliance and a young people's finance project. Carlisle Healthy City work has been submitted as best practice to a BBC case study.

The Rural Support Group continues to rural proof and advance rural partnership activity. Recent RSG and partnership activity supported a very successful rural information day held in Scaleby Village Hall which was well attended by Parish, City and County Councillors, residents and exhibitors.

The Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership continues to tackle the key issues within the Carlisle District. Operation Roman Candle (a multi-agency initiative to deal with anti-social behaviour concerns is being led by Carlisle City Council) will deal with anti-social behaviour and nuisance fires during the half term, Halloween and Bonfire Night period in partnership. Design out Crime Projects, are being developed and a support scheme for Victims of Anti-social behaviour is in place.

The Carlisle Housing Partnership continues to work on the Housing Strategy and acts as a valuable vehicle to share best practice and raise wider awareness of housing matters amongst partners. Strong links with the LEP continue to be maintained and ensure that both urban and rural housing issues are taken into consideration.

Subgroups are working to deliver on the 4 priority areas of the Economic Potential Review of Carlisle (Business, Skills and Employment, Infrastructure and Image). Examples of work to date which have been delivered or are being explored include:

- Establishment of the Growth Hub delivered by Cumbria Chamber of Commerce to support and grow businesses
- Completion of the Business Interaction Centre at Paternoster Row
- The Digital Carlisle Group is developing a commercial model to provide free Wifi in the City Centre.
- The Sense of Place work continues to successfully advance with strong support from the business community and other partners. The branding links into a variety of concepts and projects and will help to raise the profile of Carlisle nationally and internationally.

Carlisle has been shortlisted to be one of 13 cities in a bid to receive direct support and assistance from the Soil Association to develop the city as a sustainable food city. This will bring benefits to partnership working across the themes of economy, health and wellbeing, learning and skills, sustainability and communities. The next step will see us compete to become one of 6 cities to receive funding to develop this work further.

Tour of Britain & Carlisle Events City

The Tour of Britain was a great success, described by the ITV4 commentator as the best stage ever. The viewing figures for our stage were amongst the highest for the whole tour; showcasing Carlisle to a UK and international audience.

It is estimated that 435,000 people watched the Cumbria, The Lake District stage live on ITV and a total of more than 1.5 million viewers watched the live coverage of stage 2 on Eurosport across Europe. Additionally peak figures of 696,000 watched the highlights programme on ITV4 and 135,000 for the repeat.

Carlisle continues to build its reputation as a great place to hold events. An exhibition highlighting the success of the Carlisle Pageant was organised by Impecunious Arts. This took place at the Old Fire Station in October and was well attended.

By the time I present this report, we will have enjoyed another successful Carlisle Fireshow. This year plans included a Fireshow Funday in the city centre during the afternoon and we are grateful to Carlisle College for their support in delivering this event. Our objective is to provide another event for residents and visitors to enjoy and to increase footfall in the city centre, aiming to boost sales for local shops and businesses too. The run up to Christmas and other exciting events in the city are highlighted in the Culture, Health, Leisure & Young People portfolio holders report.

Business Interaction Centre Launch

The University of Cumbria, Carlisle City Council and other partners have worked hard to make the Business Interaction Centre a facility that we can be proud of. Environment & Economy O & S members are due to visit the BIC on 6th November. The Centre has been well received by businesses and it will be officially opened on 21st November by the

Chancellor of the University of Cumbria, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.

Local Enterprise Partnership

The Cumbria LEP was established in 2011 as a Private/Public partnership with a remit to enable and drive economic growth across Cumbria. The board membership was 'refreshed' earlier this year with a significant number of new public and private sector members joining the board. A Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) is currently being developed and is in draft form, with a final version due to be delivered to government by 31st March 2014. The current draft highlights prioritisation of 4 key sectors; Specialist Manufacturing, Nuclear & Energy, Visitor & Economy and Food & Drink.

The M6 corridor is clearly a vital feature of the Carlisle economy with 3 motorway junctions in our area and it will be important to ensure that any economic plans support business growth and job creation in those areas. Digital & Creative industries are also being highlighted to the LEP as a key area for economic growth in the city in partnership with local authorities, businesses, the University of Cumbria and Carlisle College.

At its last meeting, Environment & Economy O & S had a robust discussion over the LEP and it is hoped that the Chair of Cumbria LEP will be able to attend a future meeting.

CN Group Business Awards

The CN Group Business Awards took place at Rheged on 17th October and were sponsored by Barclays and Cumbria Business Growth Hub. It was an opportunity to recognise and celebrate business excellence across the county with large and small businesses demonstrating their energy and innovation, showing that Cumbria is a good place to do business. The standard of finalists was exceptionally high and I would like to highlight and congratulate Carlisle based award winners:

- Two Castles Housing Association (Training and Development)
- Trivertias, Brampton (Exporter of the Year)
- Story Homes (Customer Service Excellence)
- Carlisle & District Credit Union (Social Enterprise Award)

Susan Aglionby of Hadrian Organics received a special commendation for Community Involvement and Graham Lamont of Lamont Pridmore received a Lifetime Contribution to Cumbria Award. Penrith based food retailer Cranstons was presented with the Retailer of the Year Award. Cranstons have a store in Carlisle and are due to open a new store at Orton Grange on 19th November.