

Meeting Date: 30 April 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Leader Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Prof Joe Hendry**

CARLISLE PARTNERSHIP

A number of positive partnership meetings have taken place and were fed back into the Partnership Executive on the 11th March. We are grateful for the time and efforts of all individuals and partners involved. A focus on strategic housing was the agenda headline and resulted in positive discussion. All agreed the need to attract more businesses, developers, housing associations and residents to the area in order to grow the local economy. This will be fed back to the Carlisle Housing Partnership, which continues to advance the work of the Housing Strategy through its subgroups.

The Parish Charter was officially signed off on Monday 8th April and the launch was joined by Carlisle Parish Council Association's Executive, Carlisle City Council Executive, senior officers and the chief officer from Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC). It signifies a positive step forward in building partnership relationships and advancing joint working with our rural communities. The document will be a live document and therefore be reviewed annually to ensure it is relevant and up to date reflecting changes in legislation and revisions to the formal working agreements.

The Rural support group is also developing a paper around Locality working, which featured at special joint RSG and Carlisle Parish Council Association meeting. This paper is due to go out to consultation with Parishes.

The Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership have recently developed their draft Partnership Plan for 2013/14, which outlines the priorities and action plans being delivered over the coming year. The Carlisle East and City West PSG's (Problem Solving Group) continues to work well and provide early interventions to ensure a quick response to community issues. Noise nuisance still remains one of the key priorities across the west of the City. The City Councils Environmental Health Team is working closely with partners (Police and Housing Providers) to ensure issues are tackled quickly and efficiently. Further details are contained in Cllr Riddle's report.

A final draft of the Economic Review of Carlisle has now been produced and was provisionally approved on the 14th March. Key actions have been agreed and subgroups are being set up to advance and refine the 4 priority areas. An executive summary is also being prepared in order to finalise the whole document in order for sign off. Sense of Place workshops have also taken place which will provide Carlisle with a marketing tool which can be used by all businesses to help promote Carlisle. Broadband additionally continues to be an agenda item being led and challenged by this group and a Digital Carlisle subgroup is being explored to advance this work. A further meeting with BT to advance this agenda is scheduled for April.

CEP has additionally developed partnership links with the financial / banking sector.

Discussions are taking place around links with the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthy City Steering Group and the Healthy Communities Group. Additionally, Carlisle were held as a beacon authority in regard to advancing and supporting Healthy City work following a meeting attended by representatives of the City Council and various others from across the district, the UK Healthy City Network and Health representatives.

A highly successful Food City Event was held on the 8th March exploring key partnership themes. Feedback from the event has been very positive and it attracted a diverse range of partners, with approximately 80 delegates in attendance. A variety of stakeholders played a key role in contributing to the event. Tom Andrews from the Soil Association is keen to advance work in partnership with Carlisle and explore future opportunities to become a Food City.

POLICY AND COMMUNICATION

The first series of Listening Council events were held in March. The events provided the opportunity to meet the Leader and discuss local issues, as well as share the Carlisle Plan directly with local residents. Feedback from all these events is being compiled and the issues raised are being explored.

A second series of Listening Council events will be planned for autumn. This series will visit centres not visited in the first round. The events will look at progress of the Carlisle Plan and feed into the budget consultation.

As part of the work on marketing e-billing we have used two new aspects, over-printing of the Council Tax Bill envelope for residents and logon screen reminder for staff. Design work has been completed on the new expenditure charts, sports strategy and draft versions for the Carlisle Plan. The summer/autumn edition of Carlisle Focus is being prepared and will be distributed in mid May; this is timed to promote Carlisle Music City and the event programme for 2013.

Work has starting on promoting stage 2 of The Tour of Britain: Cumbria, The Lake District Stage Carlisle to Kendal. Resource Marketing has been appointed as an agent to undertake fund-raising activities to secure sponsorship funding for the stage.

Professor J D Hendry
Leader of the Council