

Meeting Date: 4 March 2014

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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### **Local Plan**

The Preferred Options draft Local Plan (stage 2) has now progressed through the committee cycle and takes into account the suggested changes from Overview and Scrutiny Panel as agreed by Executive. The Local Plan is before Council for approval with a view to commence consultation on 10<sup>th</sup> March for 4 weeks (10<sup>th</sup> March-14<sup>th</sup> April) at the following drop in sessions:

- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 10am – 1pm, Carlisle Tourist Information Centre
- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 10am – 1pm, Brampton Library
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 10am – 2pm, Carlisle Tourist Information Centre

The preferred options stage 2 document will also be available at Libraries throughout the district. There will also be a display at the Civic Centre. Alongside this work a template is being designed to set the style of the final version.

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 first consultation. Further work to test the viability of the Local Plan has been commissioned and a draft report has been received, with a final report expected before the next round consultation on the Local Plan in March. This work is crucial to determine whether the policies in the Local Plan will support sustainable development rather than constraining it.

### **Carlisle Skills Fair**

The City Council took part in the Carlisle Skills Fair on 30 January. Over 120 people visited the City Council stand to talk to officers from the Chief Executive's Team and Economic Development Directorate about careers with the City Council and business opportunities in Carlisle.

### **National Apprenticeship Week 3 - 7<sup>th</sup> March**

Carlisle City Council will be hosting a breakfast meeting for employers on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March (8 – 9.30am) at the Civic Centre as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

The aim of the event, in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service, is to raise awareness of the benefits which employing an apprentice can bring to a business of any size. Guest speakers and delegates will include local businesses who already have apprentices and those who are considering becoming part of the scheme.

Information will be given on:

- Different types of apprenticeships and levels
- Funding and how to access the employer grant
- Direct experiences of employers and apprentices
- Support available to take the next steps in finding out more and engaging

The event is being supported by Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Chamber of Commerce.

### **Development Control Committee – Members' Training Day**

Members training sessions are held throughout the year particularly when changes are made to the planning system. The next training session for Development Control Committee members and substitutes is the 5<sup>th</sup> March when we will be looking in more detail at the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework and housing development throughout the countryside.

### **Cumbria Planning Group/ Planning and Housing LEP Sub-Group**

I recently attended two Cumbrian wide meetings concerning planning and housing. At both meetings the discussion focused on the need to deliver more housing and the infrastructure required to support it. Key issues are attracting more developers to the area in order to accelerate the growth and the need for people with the right skills to support the industry. These are issues which need to be addressed at a strategic level and we will be working with partners to facilitate this including targeting key developers.