

Meeting Date: 10 September 2013

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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## **PLANNING**

### **Local Plan**

The Local Plan is currently out for public consultation which ends on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The Local Plans team have been at a variety of meetings, events and drop in sessions, such as at the local libraries and Carlisle Pageant. Consultation events have predominantly been well attended with lots of discussion and interest. There has been a lot of press interest including television interviews, articles in the local newspapers (full page spread in the Cumberland News) and on social media. This has all helped raise the profile of the Local Plan and encourage people to respond.

So far responses have concentrated on housing policies and preferred housing sites. The team are also working on providing details to the evidence and justification of policies as we receive responses and actively engage within key stakeholders.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Business Interaction Centre (BIC)**

The development of a Business Interaction Centre at Paternoster Row has now been completed and is open for business. It will include the Centre for Regional Economic Development (CRED), academics from the Business School based in Carlisle and business / student placement support and student enterprise.

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The BIC enables access to research and development services for local companies with some provision for rapid prototyping equipment and design services.

The development of a BIC is fundamental to a city with growth aspirations. It will send a clear message to businesses both in the area and those looking to invest, that Carlisle supports businesses.

The BIC will be formally opened later in the year.

### **Sense of Place**

The Sense of Place project reached a key milestone with the launch of the new Carlisle Story on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013. The breakfast meeting event was attended by around 120 people representing organisations from across the private, public and third sectors. Work has commenced on an implementation programme through the Place Delivery Group.

### **Start up Britain Tour**

The Start-Up Britain Tour Bus came to Carlisle on the 31<sup>th</sup> July thanks to a joint partnership bid with Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Carlisle College and the University of Cumbria.

A first for Carlisle and Cumbria, partners worked extremely hard to provide a packed programme of activities drawing on expertise from the relevant partners, plus Inspira, Dodd & Co, Burnetts and Enterprise Answers and supported by the bus and its facilities.

The programme included sessions on social media, tax, NI, PAYE, VAT, so you want to start your own business?, protecting new business, making the most of the internet, and writing a press release. Business advisors and 'Meet the Entrepreneurs' were also on hand to chat and share experiences as well as representatives from the Chamber, University of Cumbria, Carlisle College, Enterprise Answers, Dodd & Co and Burnetts, all adding to the advice and support on offer.

The day was a great success and shows the real value of partnership working, to be part of the national tour was a real coup for the city and one we hope to repeat next year.

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We have since been awarded 'Top Town' of the tour – a great accolade considering the larger cities that the bus visited! It has been great to have been able to put Carlisle on the map.

Many thanks to all who contributed.

**Councillor Heather Bradley**  
**Portfolio Holder for Economy & Enterprise**

