

Meeting Date: 8 January 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Leader Portfolio Holder's Report –

Title:

Councillor Prof Joe Hendry

CARLISLE PARTNERSHIP

The Carlisle Partnership held its second Executive meeting under the leadership of the New Chair, Paul Im Thurm. This was well attended by partners and thematic group chairs, who continue to report back on the work taking place within the District.

The Rural Support Group continues to advance the Parish Charter. The draft Parish Charter was launched for consultation, at the bi-annual Joint meeting between the Executive and Representatives from the Parish Councils, which additionally explored and resolved a number of issues raised by the Parishes, including Locality working

The CDRP continues to be a successful catalyst for multi agency work and effectively contributes to a significant and sustained fall in crime and disorder. The exception to this is Burglary which continues to be an issue for both rural and urban areas. Operation Roman Candle successfully targeted antisocial behaviour over a 2 week period and additionally held a Community Safety Conference in October.

The Carlisle Economic Potential Report has been produced in draft format and continues to feature as a key area of work for the Carlisle Economic Partnership. Partners are providing feedback to the Chamber of Commerce on proposals for actions and suggested outputs in order to help inform the Action Plan.

An updated Housing Strategy has been produced with support from Carlisle Housing Partnership and feedback from Carlisle Partnership. The Carlisle Housing Partnership addresses a range of broad issues and the sub groups have been set up to reflect this. A recent meeting took place at Heysham Garden's extra care housing unit to showcase the work and further stimulate discussion.

The District Delivery Group is currently assessing indicators relating to poverty and anti-social behaviour. A future meeting plans to consider the work of vulnerable families as highlighted at the Executive.

Healthy Communities continues to drive forward the work of the Health Improvement Plan, update on projects and pull in partners from a wide range of organisations. Projects continue to grow in strength (for example: Carlisle Cooks and Walking for Health) and the group challenges the wider determinants of health.

Following an initial scoping meeting and discussion at the Carlisle Partnership Executive, work will explore developing Carlisle as a Sustainable Food City as a partnership approach. An event is scheduled to take place at the beginning of March to advance this.

The Carlisle Partnership continues to enjoy support from all sectors (public, private, voluntary and community) and we are grateful for the time and efforts of all individuals and partners involved.

POLICY AND COMMUNICATION

The Christmas Lights Switch-on included a Christmas parade for the first time this year, putting engagement and celebration at the heart of our event. A real strength throughout this year of events has been the involvement of local schools and community groups. As we prepare a programme of events for 2013/14 we will continue to build on this success.

The launch of Love Where You Live took place just before the last Full Council meeting and the marketing and communication work around this initiative can be seen around the district. The next steps are to broaden the marketing and develop new packages for wards that are deemed high priority.

Work has been completed on marketing material for a new service, 'Homelife: Carlisle Home Improvement Agency' this is an innovative approach offering a range of supportive services in partnership with the third sector.

The annual Waste & Recycling calendars are being finalised and will carry the Love Where You Live logo, integrating our initiatives and increasing our reach with no extra cost.

PROMOTING THE CITY - EVENTS

Carlisle Music City

Planning is already underway for the second year of Carlisle Music City. The event will take place between 25 May – 2 June 2013.

The organisers once again will be linking with local venues and promoting local bands and performers as well as using more public space for entertainment. They are also looking to work alongside city centre retailers and engage with more community groups.

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Jan 27th Carlisle will take part in Holocaust Memorial Day for the fifth year.

The event in Carlisle is now recognised by the national organisation as a good model and this year the Council will be engaging with all local schools through encouraging debate and awareness raising. This will be delivered through an electronic information and lesson pack.

A display created in partnership with the Police will be exhibited in the Civic Centre foyer throughout the week. This display has been constantly touring schools and community organisations since it was created in 2009. Holocaust Memorial Day and the International Day of Peace (Sept 21st) both carry an anti bullying message and one of promoting community cohesion and respect

Carlisle Pageant

Linked with Chester Midsummer Watch work is underway to produce a community pageant linked to the proclamation of the City in August 2013. Cheshire West and Chester Council, who deliver the Chester Midsummer Watch, will work with Carlisle City Council to deliver the project. A community representation from Carlisle will also make links with them at their pageant.

The aim is to develop a creative programme that will eventually include other cities such as York to create a cultural and artistic partnership throughout the country and potentially Europe (Chester now have cultural links with Spain & France)

CUMBRIA M6 CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

Carlisle, Eden, and South Lakes Councils are now working together on a proposed infrastructure initiative based on the M6 motorway Hubs, and to work with other partners such as the County Council, Chamber of Commerce and Carlisle Local Enterprise Partnership.

The intention is to work collaboratively to support economic growth along the corridor. One proposal being actively considered is to bid for Infrastructure Funding from Central Government to establish Enterprise Zones on several of these Hubs.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

There have been meetings between City Council representatives and those of the Energy Coast, including a visit by councillors and officers to Sellafield. Meetings have also taken

place with York, Preston and Liverpool local authorities to learn from their experiences in Economic Regeneration. Further meetings are planned with Lancaster and Hull. It is important that we learn from the positive experiences of other local authorities, for the future benefit of Carlisle. Both the Local Government Association and North West Employers Organisation have advised and helped facilitate these meetings.

The Leader and Executive Member for Environment & Transport had a constructive meeting with the new Police and Crime Commissioner. Discussion focussed on anti social behaviour, domestic violence and alcohol abuse. It is intended to hold quarterly meetings with the new Commissioner to facilitate close working between the City Council and Cumbria Police.

POSITIVE NEWS

The Border Regiment Museum has secured a major development grant (in excess of £1m) to develop and enhance their museum at the Castle. I have met with Colonel Diss, who is in charge of the project, and I am convinced this will be a significant heritage facility, both for Carlisle people and their links over generations, with the Border Regiment as a major tourist attraction.

Moirra Tattersall, Principal of Carlisle College, has advised me that the college has been awarded a capital development grant of £3m which will help facilitate the college's capacity to teach and develop arts and media studies. The City Council gave a strong and positive letter of support, to accompany this bid.

Bendalls Engineering of Carlisle has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with French nuclear engineering firm Areva. As a result Bendalls will build pressure vessels for two reactors for Areva and their partner, EDF Energy. The Managing Director of Bendalls and his team are to be warmly congratulated. This has the potential to obtain further orders 'worth tens of millions of pounds'.

Professor J D Hendry
Leader of the Council