

# **ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

## ***Panel Report***

### **Public**

**Date of Meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**Title:** Overview Report and Work Programme

**Report of:** Acting Scrutiny Manager

**Report reference:** OS06/10

### **Summary:**

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Environment & Economy O&S Panel's work. It also includes the latest version of the work programme.

### **Recommendations:**

- Members are asked to note the Committee's work programme (Appendix 1).
- Agree items on Forward Plan which should be considered by Panel (Appendix 2).
- To agree the Terms of Reference for the Car Parking Task and Finish Group. (Appendix 3)
- To note the minutes of the special meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to undertake scrutiny of Carlisle Renaissance and note the change in frequency of these special meetings. (Appendix 4)
- To note the date of the next meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs Group and refer any agenda items to the Chair of the Panel
- To contribute ideas to the Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10

**Contact Officer:** Nicola Edwards

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

### 1. Forward Plan Items

The Forward Plan of the Executive covering the period 1 March – 30 June 2010 was published on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

**KD.001/10 Corporate Plan 2010 – 2013** – *this item is on the agenda of this meeting of the Panel*

**KD.009/10 Solway Coast AONB Management Plan**

**KD.010/10 North Pennines AONB Supplementary Planning Documents on Planning Policy and Building Design**

**KD.011/10 Energy Efficiency Supplementary Planning Document**

**KD.012/10 Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document**

**KD.013/10 Garlands Hospital Supplementary Planning Document**

**KD.014/10 Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

*Full details are attached at Appendix 2 and Members are asked to decide which items should be included within their work programme*

### 1. Task and Finish Group – Parking

At the meeting of the Panel on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009, a Task Group comprising of Cllrs Bainbridge, Hendry, Rutherford, Watson and Vasey were appointed to undertake a Scrutiny Review Car Parking in Carlisle. The Task Group had an initial meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 and the draft Terms of Reference agreed by the group are attached at Appendix 3 for the Panel to amend and/or agree.

### 2. Task and Finish Group – Tourism

Members of the Task and Finish Group (Cllrs Robson, Styth & Vasey) are to meet with the Director of Carlisle Tourism Partnership on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### 3. Scrutiny of Carlisle Renaissance

A special meeting of Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to undertake the bi-annual scrutiny of Carlisle Renaissance. The minutes of this meeting are attached for information at Appendix 4.

At this meeting it was suggested that these meetings be more frequent and following the meeting a proposal was made to Resources O&S Panel on 18<sup>th</sup> February that in the future these special meetings are held at 5:00pm on the same date as the meetings of Carlisle Renaissance Board. Members will receive a verbal update on the outcome of this meeting.

Members also requested that they were provided with project specific workshops and a programme of workshops is currently being put together by the Director of Carlisle Renaissance.

**4. Scrutiny Chairs Group Meeting**

The Scrutiny Chairs Group has set the date for its next meeting for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March. If Members have any issues they would like discussed at this meeting, please talk to the Chair of the Panel.

**5. Scrutiny Annual Report**

All Scrutiny Members were sent an e-mail asking if there were particular issues they wished to see discussed in the annual report. If Members have not given their views yet, they are invited to do so at today's meeting. A draft of the annual report will come to the Panel's final meeting of this civic year, on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

**6. Work Programme**

The current work programme is reproduced in Appendix 1.

**7. Workshop – Town Hall Refurbishment**

A workshop will be held on the rise of the Panel on the refurbishment of the Town Hall as requested by Panel Members.

## **CAR PARKING Task and Finish Group**

### **Membership**

The members of the group are Members from the Environment & Economy

Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

- Cllr James Bainbridge
- Cllr Joe Hendry
- Cllr Carole Rutherford
- Cllr Reg Watson
- Cllr Trish Vasey

They will be supported and guided by officers from the Scrutiny Team.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference for the group are agreed as:

- To determine what the council would have a car parking policy for
- To examine the income and expenditure for car parking in Carlisle.
- To research areas of good practice in other Local Authorities and Historical Cities.
- To examine how future car parking relates to the ability to attract visitors and tourists to the city.
- To briefing look at the issue of Park and Ride and the Blue Badge Scheme.
- To look at whether “pay on foot” should be introduced to the cities car parks.
- To investigate any other related issues that come to light during the course of the review.

### **REPORTING**

A report on the scrutiny review of the task and finish group will then form the basis for recommendations to the Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel to take back to the Executive and agree, prior to the next round of reporting to Panels.

### **TIMESCALE**

Report to Panel by September 2010

# ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

Date last revised: 15 February 2010



Issue	Type of Scrutiny					Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Forward Plan Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Monitoring		11 Jun 09	23 Jul 09	10 Sep 09	22 Oct 09	3 Dec 09	21 Jan 10	25 Feb 10	8 Apr 10
THIS MEETING – 25 FEBRUARY 2010														
Rickergate		✓	✓			Update Report							✓	
Carlisle Renaissance		✓	✓	✓		The minutes of special Resources Scrutiny Panel meetings will be reported to this Panel.			✓				✓	
Children and Young People – Carlisle Partnership Priority Group and Cumbria Local Area Agreement (LAA)				✓	✓	6 monthly monitoring report on progress of the Group and the LAA relating to children and young people.			✓	Workshop – to be arranged following appointment of Carlisle Partnership Manager		For information only. Further info to be provided within Performance & Corporate Plan reports		
Economic Development & Enterprise – Carlisle Partnership Priority Group and Cumbria LAA				✓	✓	6 monthly monitoring report on the progress of the Group and the LAA relating to economic development			✓					

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Performance Monitoring Reports (PIs)	✓				✓	2008/9 End of Year figures 23.7.09. Quarterly Monitoring of PI's		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Making Space for Water			✓	✓	✓	6-monthly monitoring.	✓					x	✓	
Corporate Plan		✓				Report on the new Corporate Plan 2010-2013							✓	
Transformation Programme of Carlisle City Council		✓				Update on Transformation Project	✓	Special meeting 6/7/09					✓	
Tourist Information Centre Refurbishment Project						Workshop on detail of preferred option for project						✓	Workshop 25 Feb 2010	

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TASK AND FINISH GROUPS														
Tourism & LABGI Funds				✓		Task Group – Cllrs Robson/Vasey/Styth Status: On hold until appointment of Partnership Board				✓				
Car Parking			✓			Scoping Review							✓	
UPCOMING MEETINGS														
Core Strategy report (to include St Nicholas/ Warwick Road)		✓	✓			To consider the planning issues.								✓
Morton Masterplan		✓				To consider the Terms of Development Agreement for the Implementation of the Morton Masterplan								✓

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Movement Strategy, including Car Parking Strategy		✓	✓	✓		Chair of Panel has written to Cumbria County Council regarding delays in strategy				✓	✓			
Fly Tipping	✓					To consider an exception report on the performance indicators relating to Fly Tipping				✓	Workshop held 21 Jan 2010			
Waste Services			✓	✓	✓	To consider progress of the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy, evaluation of the introduction of charges for bulky waste items, flytipping, development of commercial waste recycling and investigation of further working with the voluntary sector.				✓				✓
Learning City			✓		✓	Six monthly report on Learning City activities and projects				✓				✓



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Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓	Draft report for comment before Chairs Group								✓
COMPLETED ITEMS														
Air Quality		✓			✓	Updating and Screening Assessment Report					✓		Update June 2010	
Budget		✓	✓			To consider budget proposals for 2009/10					✓			
Area Team Working			✓			To receive the revised member’s handbook								
City Centre Conservation Area		✓	✓			Awaiting feedback from public consultation on proposals – will be considered on 10/09/09			✓					

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Transformation Programme		✓	✓			To consider the scope of the Transformation Programme and the timetable for its implementation. Special meeting on structure on 6 <sup>th</sup> July.	✓							
Scrutiny Arrangements: Chairs Group and agreeing the Scrutiny Annual Report						A report providing options for amending the Scrutiny Chairs Group and the process to agree the annual report		✓						

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Environmental Performance of the Council			✓		✓	Regular monitoring of performance, including progress updates on Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Trust and Green Travel Plan.		✓						
Councillor Call for Action						To agree the process for Scrutiny to consider Councillor Call for Actions.	✓							
Waste Service Efficiency Review		✓	✓			To consider the recommendations of the Efficiency Review of the Council's Waste Services	✓							
INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS														
Details							Date Circulated							

**FORWARD PLAN**  
**Index of Active Executive Key Decisions relevant to:**  
**Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

<b>Key Decision Ref Nos:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Date of Executive Meeting</b>
KD.001/10	Corporate Plan 2010 - 2013 (EX.008/10 under GE on 18 January 2010)	18 January 2010 and 12 April 2010
KD.009/10	Solway Coast AONB Management Plan	15 March 2010 and 12 April 2010
KD.010/10	North Pennines AONB Supplementary Planning Documents on Planning Policy and Building Design	15 March 2010 and 12 April 2010
KD.011/10	Energy Efficiency Supplementary Planning Document	15 March 2010 and 12 April 2010
KD.012/10	Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document	12 April 2010 and 28 June 2010
KD.013/10	Garlands Hospital Supplementary Planning Document	12 April 2010 and 28 June 2010
KD.014/10	Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	12 April 2010 and 28 June 2010

## **FORWARD PLAN**

### **Active Executive Key Decisions relevant to: Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

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**Ref:** KD.001/10                      **Portfolio Area** Performance and Development

**Subject** Corporate Plan 2010 - 2013 (EX.008/10 under GE on 18 January 2010)

#### **Key Decisions:**

The Executive Committee is requested to:

1. Consider and comment upon the presentation and content of the draft Plan with a view to seeking continuous improvement in the way the council delivers services to its local communities.
2. Consider how the Plan, in defining the priorities of the Council, assists the programme of transformation and financial challenges anticipated over the period 2010-2013.
3. ☐ Refer the first draft of the Plan to Community, Resources and Environment and Economy Overview & Scrutiny Panels for consultation.

**Decision to be taken at Executive on:** 18 January 2010 and 12 April 2010

#### **Responsible or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

All Overview and Scrutiny Panels to be consulted

#### **Date when the matter will be available for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Policy and Budget Framework matter which will be available to be considered by:  
Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 11 February 2010  
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 18 February 2010  
Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 25 February 2010

**Consultees:** Various; to be programmed into the timetable for producing the Corporate Plan

**Date for Consultees' comments:** Deadline for comments is 1 March 2010

#### **Relevant reports/background papers which are available:**

Report PPP.01/10 - New Corporate Plan 2010-2013 (at Executive 18 January 2010)  
The Policy and Performance Manager's report will be available five working days before the meeting.

#### **Further Information From:**

Policy and Performance Manager, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle CA3 8QG

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**Ref:** KD.009/10

**Portfolio Area** Environment and Infrastructure

**Subject** Solway Coast AONB Management Plan

**Key Decisions:**

To adopt the AONB Management Plan

**Decision to be taken at Executive on:** 15 March 2010 and 12 April 2010

**Responsible or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

Environment Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date when the matter will be available for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Policy and Budget Framework matter which will be available to be considered on 8 April 2010 by Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Consultees:** Public consultation has taken place on a draft management plan

**Date for Consultees' comments:** 31 March 2009

**Relevant reports/background papers which are available:**

Draft Management Plan

The Assistant Director (Local Environment) report will be available five working days before the meeting

**Further Information From:**

Assistant Director (Local Environment), Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8

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**Ref:** KD.010/10

**Portfolio Area** Environment and Infrastructure

**Subject** North Pennines AONB Supplementary Planning Documents on Planning Policy and Building Design

**Key Decisions:**

To consider the consultation draft documents prepared by the North Pennines AONB Partnership

**Decision to be taken at Executive on:** 15 March 2010 and 12 April 2010

**Responsible or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date when the matter will be available for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Policy and Budget Framework matter which will be available to be considered on 8 April 2010 by Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Consultees:** Public consultation will be undertaken at a similar time as the City Council consideration

**Date for Consultees' comments:** To be determined by the AONB Partnership

**Relevant reports/background papers which are available:**

The Assistant Director (Local Environment) report will be available five working days before the meeting

**Further Information From:**

Assistant Director (Local Environment), Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8

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**Ref:** KD.011/10

**Portfolio Area** Environment and Infrastructure

**Subject** Energy Efficiency Supplementary Planning Document

**Key Decisions:**

To consider a draft Supplementary Planning Documents on Energy Efficiency prior to consultation

**Decision to be taken at Executive on:** 15 March 2010 and 12 April 2010

**Responsible or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date when the matter will be available for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Policy and Budget Framework matter which will be available to be considered on 8 April 2010 by Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Consultees:** Public consultation will follow once the draft has been approved for consultation

**Date for Consultees' comments:** To be determined for a 6 week period following approval by City Council to consult

**Relevant reports/background papers which are available:**

The Assistant Director (Local Environment) report will be available five working days before the meeting

**Further Information From:**

Assistant Director (Local Environment), Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8

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**Ref:** KD.012/10

**Portfolio Area** Environment and Infrastructure

**Subject** Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

**Key Decisions:**

To consider responses to the draft Supplementary Planning Document and proposed amendments prior to adoption of the document.

**Decision to be taken at Executive on:** 12 April 2010 and 28 June 2010

**Responsible or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date when the matter will be available for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Policy and Budget Framework matter which will be available to be considered on 24 June 2010 by Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Consultees:** Public consultation will take place

**Date for Consultees' comments:** 1 May 2009

**Relevant reports/background papers which are available:**

The Assistant Director (Local Environment) report will be available five working days before the meeting

**Further Information From:**

Assistant Director (Local Environment), Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8

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**Ref:** KD.013/10

**Portfolio Area** Environment and Infrastructure

**Subject** Garlands Hospital Supplementary Planning Document

**Key Decisions:**

To consider the responses to consultation on the draft document and proposed changes prior to adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document

**Decision to be taken at Executive on:** 12 April 2010 and 28 June 2010

**Responsible or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date when the matter will be available for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Policy and Budget Framework matter which will be available to be considered on 24 June 2010 by Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Consultees:** Public consultation has been undertaken on a draft document

**Date for Consultees' comments:** 30 September 2009

**Relevant reports/background papers which are available:**

The Assistant Director (Local Environment) report will be available five clear days before the meeting

**Further Information From:**

Assistant Director (Local Environment), Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8

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**Ref:** KD.014/10

**Portfolio Area** Environment and Infrastructure

**Subject** Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

**Key Decisions:**

To consider responses to draft Statement of Community Involvement and consider any amendments prior to submission to the Secretary of State

**Decision to be taken at Executive on:** 12 April 2010 and 28 June 2010

**Responsible or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:**

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date when the matter will be available for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Policy and Budget Framework matter which will be available to be considered on 24 June 2010 by Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Consultees:** Public consultation has taken place

**Date for Consultees' comments:** 22 January 2010

**Relevant reports/background papers which are available:**

The Assistant Director (Local Environment) report will be available five working days before the meeting

**Further Information From:**

Assistant Director (Local Environment), Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8

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## **RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL – SPECIAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2010 AT 5.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Allison (Chairman), Councillors Cape, Mrs Geddes, Hendry, Layden and Mrs Styth.

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mitchelson (Leader and Promoting Carlisle Portfolio Holder);  
Councillor Mrs Bowman (Economy Portfolio Holder);  
Councillor J Mallinson (Finance Portfolio Holder);  
Councillor B Earp (Performance and Development Portfolio Holder)  
Councillor Mrs Luckley (Health and Community Development Portfolio Holder)  
Councillors Mrs Clarke and Mrs Riddle (representing the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel); and  
Councillor Mrs Vasey (representing the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

### **ROSP.13/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Boaden, Mrs Bradley, Knapton, Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Rutherford.

### **ROSP.14/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted.

### **ROSP.15/10 SCRUTINY OF CARLISLE RENAISSANCE BOARD ACTION PLAN**

The Chairman of the Carlisle Renaissance Board (Mr Gray) presented the Carlisle Renaissance Annual Review 2009. Mr Gray explained that the Review was a summary of Carlisle Renaissance's current position.

Mr Gray reminded Members that Carlisle Renaissance, as it was now, was less than two years old and the Action Plan had been agreed a year ago and the Review showed the progress made on the Plan.

The Review had two clear cross cutting themes; Culture & Sport and Infrastructure and it also set out the four transitional actions:

- The development of Caldew Riverside
- The development of the Historic Quarter
- The development of the M6 corridor to support growth in the City

- The development of the City Centre

Mr Gray gave brief details of the Carlisle Renaissance Board's role and vision for each of the priorities.

During their scrutiny of the report Members raised the following questions and observations:

**(a) City of Culture**

- *One of the priorities for Carlisle Renaissance was culture, had the City of Culture bid gone through the City Council's procedures formally? Members felt that they had no ownership of the bid and needed more information.*

The Leader of the Council advised that the City of Culture bid had been considered by the Executive and they had agreed to move the bid forward. The Executive agreed to be a partner in the Bid but the matter was not considered by full Council as it had no financial implications out-with the budget framework. He felt that the bid would provide aspirations and opportunities for the City.

- *The City of Culture bid showed a definite commitment from Carlisle City Council and this had not been debated.*

Mr Gray explained that culture had been identified as an important part of what Carlisle Renaissance was doing to bring the City alive, the City of Culture bid was one way of doing this. The short listing had not been carried out yet, and if Carlisle did not make the shortlist, culture still had to be a priority. There had been a lot of work and processes followed to submit the bid and there was still time to hold a debate if Carlisle was shortlisted. He added that there was no financial commitment but Carlisle could only win City of Culture if everyone supported the bid.

He informed Members that the announcement on the shortlist would take place at the end of February with the final announcement taking place on 28 May 2010.

The Leader added that the bid had already raised the profile of culture in Carlisle and provided an opportunity to attract investment and development into the City.

- *What would happen if the bid was successful?*

Mr Gray responded that the bid document was about celebrating what already Carlisle had. A successful bid would create a positive environment for investment. He added that the work Renaissance was doing in supporting businesses was important and so was tourism in the City. The City had a lot to offer but it needed to be better presented.

- *There were concerns that culture in the City was only thought of through the City of Culture bid or a theatre in the City. It was important to remember that there were lots of activities and strengths in Carlisle, how could this be expanded?*

Mr Gray said that a theatre was important but the bid document gave tremendous exposure of culture in Carlisle. Carlisle should have an aspiration to provide more performance space and it was hoped that the development of Caldew Riverside with the University would address some of the needs but Carlisle did not need a new theatre to celebrate culture in Carlisle. Carlisle needed to celebrate what was already there.

**(b) Caldew Riverside:**

- *Members and the public had real concerns that the financial status of the University of Cumbria. Members had difficulty in reconciling the term ‘world class university’ that Mr Gray had previously used in letters to Councillors with the recent statements made by the new Vice Chancellor on the credibility of their business plan.*

Mr Gray responded that there had been meetings with the Regional Development Agency (RDA) to discuss the University to ensure that the investment comes to fruition. Carlisle Renaissance would continue to support the University but remind them that the current issues should not detract from their need to play a central role in the long term economic development of the area.

- *Who was delivering the Caldew Riverside site for the University, Carlisle City Council or Carlisle Renaissance?*

Mr Gray explained that Carlisle Renaissance was there to support Carlisle City Council; Carlisle Renaissance would not exist without the Council. Carlisle had historically underachieved and the partnership of Carlisle Renaissance would allow for Carlisle to celebrate what it had and achieve more.

The Leader added that all partners had been involved and met regularly to discuss the Caldew Riverside site.

Mr Gray added that the Carlisle Renaissance team had a lot of knowledge and expertise and were open to all Members to discuss the work and vision of Carlisle Renaissance.

- *A Member commented that Carlisle Renaissance was good as long as Councillors owned it. Members supported the work being carried out but they needed to be involved more and to fully understand all of the plans and visions, how could this be done?*

The Leader responded that it was important for Members to take ownership of Carlisle Renaissance and added that there had been Informal Council Briefings and reports to full Council to ensure Members knew what was happening.

The Economy Portfolio Holder was sorry to hear that Members did not feel involved with the work and stated that she would do whatever was necessary to involve Members. There had been a very good Overview and Scrutiny session on the work at the Town Hall and she encouraged the Panel to repeat the work for other projects within the Carlisle Renaissance remit. She added that she would be happy to attend any workshops or other sessions for Members.

- *Members were concerned that work was progressing on the Caldew Riverside site without waiting for the University's new business plan or without taking time to consider their financial situation.*

Mr Gray agreed that the University did have financial problems but it was Carlisle Renaissance's task, working in partnership, to deliver the campus. The Council had to look long term and concentrate on the end result.

The Leader added that the current economic climate and the Government cap on student numbers would also affect the University but they would consolidate themselves to ensure they had a future. Carlisle Renaissance would help to provide a platform for them to expand.

### **(c) Historic Quarter**

- *A Member had visited other cities where tourism was thriving and hotels were full, how would this be achieved in Carlisle?*

Mr Gray explained that for this to be achieved the Council had to want it and be willing to make some difficult decisions. Every piece of the work carried out by Carlisle Renaissance was a step forward. Carlisle had the raw materials and offered more than other cities but had not always been developed in the way they should have been.

- *There was concern that the City did not have many small independent retailers, was there anyway of utilising NWDA funding to attract retailers to the City?*

Mr Gray responded that people would invest in shops if they had a confident environment to succeed, this could be done by improving the historic assets and encouraging more people to visit.

The Economy Portfolio Holder added that Carlisle had been invited to join a group of historic cities so Carlisle's potential was already improving. She

agreed that small businesses were important to the City and work was continually being carried out to encourage small businesses into the area.

The Programme Director for Carlisle Renaissance (Mr McNichol) explained that Carlisle Renaissance worked very closely with the Tourism Partnership. In the next 12 months, as well as capital investment there would also be major investment in events to encourage people to visit Carlisle and to encourage local people to visit the City Centre. He added that the group of historic cities pooled resources to market themselves to overseas tourists so it was very encouraging to be invited to join them.

- *Members were happy to see that the Citadel had been included in design proposals but asked how it could be used to its full potential.*

Mr Gray explained that the Citadel and Railway Station both had interesting recent history and was key in the arrival experience for tourists. Work had just begun on exploring how the Citadel could be included and how the project would encourage investment down into Botchergate and beyond. It was a priority to join the railway to Hadrian's Wall. There was a lot of potential with the Railway, not just improvements to the front but improvements to the traffic infrastructure and the possibility of moving traffic behind the station, the potential of the whole project was very exciting.

A Member asked why this movement strategy would work when others hadn't and Mr Gray explained that there was a need to connect the historic quarter and improve the pedestrians' experience. Carlisle Renaissance's job was to try and stimulate and encourage growth and development.

- *Members were pleased to hear that the more recent history in the City was being considered and asked that history around the State Management Scheme, the Ukrainian community, the Jewish community and Carlisle's musical history were all included and developed upon.*
- *Members felt that Overview and Scrutiny would have more constructive debates on the work of Carlisle Renaissance if they had more details on individual projects and how they fit into the overall vision.*

#### **(d) M6 Corridor**

- *Members asked for an update on the progress with the three entrances to the City. There was concern that the Industrial Estate in the north of the City had grown and developed well but the people who lived in the South of the City had difficulties accessing work in the North, were there any plans to improve Industrial Estates in the South?*

The Leader responded that work had been carried out at Durranshill Industrial Estate to maximise use and the NWDA had played a major part in supporting the work. Some money had been used to purchase properties to provide

overall regeneration in Durranshill. The work in that area was important to Carlisle as it was close to some of the most deprived communities. He added that the Council wanted to maximise the return on the land and there were discussions for further development and opportunities for food and drink providers. He added that the City Council, supported by Cumbria County Council and Carlisle Renaissance could draw funding into Carlisle that had not been available before.

Mr McNichol added that the work would involve improvements to the infrastructure and would provide an opportunity to attract more businesses to the area.

A Member reminded the Panel that the A595 was also major route into the City. There was a need to ensure that the entrance to the City from the West was made more attractive.

The Leader agreed and said that the Northern Development Route would facilitate an opportunity to investigate possibilities for the A595.

#### **(e) City Centre:**

- *There was concern that the route into the City from the South was extremely poor and run down but the plans for the City did not cover the area.*

Mr Gray explained that projects such as improvements to Botchergate were on a 'to do list'. Carlisle Renaissance had to set priorities but it still left work to do. Work needed to be carried out to encourage action to be taken in other places..

- *A Member commented that the public frequently complained about the Botchergate area. She understood that not all of the work could be carried out at once but felt that there should be some kind of statement of intent from Carlisle Renaissance for the future of the area.*
- *A Member commented that to achieve the 'cafe culture' that the City wanted then there had to be some enforcement of the Urban Design Guide.*
- *When Carlisle Renaissance began it was a partnership made up of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, the NWDA and private investors. Private investors did not seem to be included anymore and some of the areas owned privately were the areas of issue.*

Mr Gray explained that Carlisle Renaissance could not force the development of the areas but could create an environment where people would make the decision to improve areas themselves.

The Leader added that Carlisle Renaissance would create a framework for Carlisle to grow. This would result in more people to sustain a vibrant City.

The Economy Portfolio Holder added that there was a City Centre Steering Group which looked at how to attract investment into the City. As a result of the Group some funding had been allocated to Botchergate to help tidy up some shop fronts for the short term.

RESOLVED – 1) That Mr Gray, Mr McNichol, the Leader and the Economy Portfolio Holder be thanked for their comments and input into the meeting;

2) That, in agreement with the Chairman and the Carlisle Renaissance Board, the Scrutiny of the Carlisle Renaissance Action Plan take place on a more frequent basis;

3) That the Panel were pleased that Carlisle had been invited to join the group of historic cities;

4) That workshops on Carlisle Renaissance, their projects and their vision take place in the next municipal year to encourage all Members to take ownership of Carlisle Renaissance;

5) That Carlisle Renaissance produced a statement of intent for the future of Botchergate.

[The meeting ended at 6.45pm]