

PORTFOLIO:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
MRS MARILYN BOWMAN**

City Centre Business Improvement District

The creation of a Business Improvement District (BID) for Carlisle City Centre has moved a step nearer with the creation of an interim City Centre Management Company that will oversee the formal process leading up to the potential creation of the BID. Mark Stokes, General Manager of Hoopers, is the Chairman of the new company.

A second Newsletter has been distributed to around 400 City Centre businesses updating them of progress and giving them feedback of the results of the Business Survey distributed in February. Some of the main issues that city centre businesses were concerned with include better communication, city centre management, and marketing and promotion.

These points will be taken account in drawing up the draft Business Plan for the BID to be published in early May which will set out the benefits of a BID. It is this plan that qualifying city centre based businesses will formally be balloted upon in July as to whether or not they want to form a BID in Carlisle city centre.

The newsletter also included a map showing the proposed boundary of the BID and invites comments on this overall area.

Additionally a new website for the proposed City Centre BID has now been launched and this sets out in more detail what a Business Improvement District is, how it would be beneficial for Carlisle, and sets out case studies from other parts of the country such as Plymouth and Lincoln.

Old Town Hall

Plans to carry out repairs to the Old Town Hall are progressing well with local architectural practice Johnson & Wright now having been appointed to oversee the project. The programme of works is partly funded by English Heritage and is on course to commence on site in September thus avoiding the exciting events taking in place in the City Centre around the Jubilee and Olympic Torch.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework was published on 27th March. A training session on the framework was provided for Members through the Development Control Committee training programme. The implications for the work on the Local Development Framework are being considered and will be brought to Members over the next few months as work continues towards a new Local Plan for the district.

Central Plaza

The urgent works by the City Council have now been completed and the property has been made secure. Following the completion of works measures are now being put in place to recover the costs.

Councillor Mrs M Bowman
Economic Development Portfolio Holder