

PORTFOLIO:

ECONOMY & ENTERPRISE

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
COLIN GLOVER**

Ministerial Visit – Longtown MOD Site

A Ministerial visit by the MOD arranged by Rory Stewart MP was attended by MP's, County Council, City Council and Ward Councillors to discuss the issues relating to the site. We hope that this will lead to a positive outcome.

Public Inquiries – Windfarms –

Following the City Council's decision to refuse planning permission for a wind farm at Hallburn on the 19th August 2011 and a windfarm at Beckburn (Solway Moss) on 16 December 2011 both applicants have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against their refusal. Both applications were refused for a number of reasons including the impact on Spadeadam and the Eskdalemuir Monitoring Station.

The Secretary of State has recovered both these appeals due to their significance and the Planning Inspector will therefore report directly to the Secretary of State. The MOD will be providing information to support the reasons for refusal. The Hallburn Inquiry will start on the 2nd October and a date is still to be set for the Beckburn Inquiry however dates are being negotiated to consider jointly the issues relating to Eskdalemuir.

West Coast Mainline – Carlisle Station International Gateway

Members will be aware of the recent announcement awarding the franchise contract for the West Coast Mainline to First. We will be looking to develop relations with First and ensure investment in the station which reflects its status as a transport hub and international gateway.

Business Improvement District

A revised ballot period has been set and will now run from 29th August through to 27th September 2012 with the result being known on 28th September 2012.

If there is a 'Yes' vote, the Business Improvement District will run for a 5 year period from 1st January 2013. If successful, the BID's primary concerns will be marketing and promotion in order to increase footfall into the City Centre as part of the overall strategy to maximise the economic potential of the City as a retail and visitor destination.

Enterprise Centre

Following the review, the building is now operating under the new management arrangements from the Civic Centre. The operational arrangements support existing tenants and deal with new enquires (of which there have been 4 in the past week). The new electronic reporting procedure is working well and to date there have been no significant issues or incidents.

Pirelli Investment

The recent announcement by Pirelli that they will be investing £9 million in the Pirelli plant in Carlisle is fantastic news. This investment will help secure jobs in the future, it is a reflection on the skilled workforce at Pirelli and demonstrates that Carlisle is a place to invest and develop new businesses.

**Councillor Colin Glover
Economy & Enterprise Portfolio Holder**