

Meeting Date: 8 January 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economy & Enterprise Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Colin Glover**

City Centre Support

Pilot Project – Lonsdale

We continue to work in partnership with the owners of the former Old Post Building on Warwick Road to help design and install an attractive hoarding to lessen the detrimental effect of the deteriorating condition of the former Lonsdale cinema. A planning application will be submitted from the developer for the hoarding and we expect installation sometime in the New Year.

Town Team

As previously reported Carlisle has been allocated £10,000 funding to support the economic vitality of the City Centre as part of the Town Team initiative.. The principle use of this funding will be to work with landlords and letting agents to improve the appearance of vacant shops through installation of attractive decals on windows, and removal of "To Let" Boards. The key vacant retail units have been identified and contact been made with the appropriate agents with a view to agreeing designs for decals (based on the "Lonsdale" model as above) and timetable for installation.

Funding Fair

As in previous years the City Council will be working with Cumbria County Council and Cumbria CVS in supporting the forthcoming Funding Fair to be held at Carlisle racecourse in March 2013. This annual event is held to enable the Community and Voluntary sectors to come together to learn more about funding opportunities from a range of grant giving organisations. In previous years the event has included representation from such bodies as the Big Lottery_Hadfield Trust; Awards 4 All; Big Lottery Fund; Northern Rock

Foundation; Neighbourhood Forums; Cumbria Community Foundation; Francis C Scott Trust; Carlisle City Council and Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust

Business Interaction Centre

The City Council are working very closely with the University of Cumbria, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and Freerange Artists on a proposal that a Business Interaction Centre (BIC) be established in the City which will form the base of the University of Cumbria Business School in Carlisle. The BIC is seen as a high profile entry point for businesses and employees seeking to access University expertise, particularly Business School and Arts, Business and Science expertise.

It is envisaged that the BIC will provide accommodation for academics and enterprise staff, students studying on business part time and short courses, and incubation space for community enterprises and students enabling them to develop business ideas. The BIC also envisages access to research and development services for existing local companies with provision of rapid prototyping equipment and design services.

RAC Rally

This year, the RAC Rally held its ceremonial finish at Brampton outside the Moot Hall on the late afternoon of Sunday 25th November 2012. This proved to be a substantial success and feedback from both spectators, businesses in Brampton, and the event organisers has been positive. The event concluded with a presentation event at the Auction Mart at Rosehill. Whilst we do not carry out an evaluation of this increasingly popular annual event it brings an influx of organisers, rally crews and spectators into the Carlisle and surrounding areas many of whom stay in local hotels and other accommodation thus giving the tourism industry a boost in what is otherwise a relatively quiet period of the year.

Planning

Rural Masterplanning

Work with the rural parishes continue as we work with parish councils to identify their future needs and how these can be accommodated in existing villages. This work continues the rural masterplanning project for which we received CLG grant as a pilot project. Eight profiles have been completed with input direct from local residents and support from parish councils. We will continue to work with other parishes. For those parishes that do not pursue a Neighbourhood Development Plan this joint work will help to inform revisions to the Council's Local Plan for our rural area.