



Report to

Council

Meeting Date: 9 November 2021

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel Chair's Report – Councillor Lisa Brown**

Since my last report the Panel has met on the 9th of September and again on the 21st of October, but unfortunately due to an emergency I was unable to chair the October meeting.

Our Panel always covers a good overview on some of the biggest projects and funds that effect Carlisle and September was no different. First up we had City Centre Recovery Action Plan, to which the Regeneration Manager submitted the Economic Action Plan, which contributed to Carlisle's recovery from the challenges presented as Carlisle moved towards economic recovery and renewal post the Covid-19 pandemic.

There were some concerns over the suggestion that Carlisle could benefit from a community ran cinema as members noted it had not been long since Carlisle's Independent cinema had been closed despite a public campaign to save it.

One of the Panels resolutions asked that the recommendations for such a proposal were considered very carefully and that an Informal Council be arranged to receive a presentation from the Regeneration Manager on the Economic Action Plan - responding to Covid-19 in Carlisle city centre and the supporting evidence. This was agreed and hopefully will be actioned soon.

Full details of the meeting and questions by members can be found in the minutes of the meeting.

Back in August the Panel was asked by the Director of Economic Development to consider a joint scrutiny item looking at the feasibility study of the Turkish Baths to be added to our October Agenda. This was agreed and a site visit was arranged for members.

Unfortunately, the Regeneration Manager at the beginning of October asked if it would be possible to defer the item that EGSP were due to take, moving it to 2nd December.

The reason for the deferral given was that further costing and commercial viability work was being undertaken, which would be incorporated into the feasibility study. This feasibility study has been promised for a good few months now so I really hope we can receive this as promised, imminently.

Finally, a workshop has been scheduled for the 2nd of November to look at getting the most out of upcoming items of our work programme in the second half of the year.

Cllr Lisa Brown
Chair – Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel