

Meeting Date: 5 March 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Leader Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Prof Joe Hendry**

Carlisle Partnership

The Carlisle Partnership continues to enjoy support from all sectors (public, private, voluntary and community) and we are grateful for the time and efforts of all individuals and partners involved.

The Rural Support Group continues to advance the Parish Charter. The consultation runs until 20th February 2013. It has featured on the agenda at the bi-annual Joint meeting between the Executive and Representatives from the Parish Councils and has also been on the agenda at Carlisle Parish Council Association's Executive Committee meeting.

Overall Crime and anti social behaviour across North Cumbria continues to reduce, with the exception of burglary which has seen a steady increase in the number of incidents over the past year. Partner agencies have worked together to raise awareness of the problem and the Police have increased their patrols and operations in order to catch offenders and educate residents. The Police and Crime Commissioner (Richard Rhodes) is now in post and is due to release what his priorities will be for the forthcoming year. The CDRP has supported the Home Life Scheme in order to help vulnerable people stay safe in their own homes. Further details are contained in Cllr Riddle's report.

The Carlisle Economic Potential Report has been produced in draft format and continues to feature as a key area of work for the Carlisle Economic Partnership. Partners are providing feedback to the Chamber of Commerce on proposals for actions and suggested outputs in order to help inform the Action Plan. It is hoped that this will be signed off at the next meeting in March. Broadband additionally continues to be an agenda item being led and challenged by this group. A meeting with BT was recently held to further this agenda.

The Healthy Communities and Healthy City Steering Group continue to work together to address health inequalities. They have assisted the food bank in establishing collection points and are currently developing other projects. Links are being explored with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

An event will take place on Friday 8th March to explore and scope advancing Carlisle as a Sustainable Food City around key partnership themes.

Policy and Communication

Work has begun on a new corporate style to complement the new Carlisle Plan; this style will be a departure from the corporate plans of the past.

A series of Listening Council events are planned for March. The dates and venues are:

- Longtown Community Centre – Tuesday 12th March 1.30pm to 3pm
- Harraby Community Centre – Wednesday 13th March 10am to 11.30am
- Newtown Primary School – Thursday 14th March 1.30pm to 3pm
- Yewdale Community Centre – Friday 15th March 10am to 11.30am
- Carlisle Library – Saturday 16th March 10am to 11.30am

These events will provide an opportunity to meet the Leader and discuss the issues that are most important.

The Love Where You Live bus campaign was completed in December but we have benefited from the artwork still being on many of the buses through until February. The Pest Control leaflet has been produced and targeted marketing is being prepared. The first wave of marketing for the new e-billing service has been completed. The promotion of this new way of self service will continue throughout the year.

Business Continuity

It has been a good year in raising the awareness of Business Continuity. A presentation was given to managers at Management Briefing and a full desk-top exercise, run by Chris Briggs from the Resilience Unit, was conducted in autumn 2012 involving all the senior managers who would be involved in a real event. A full review of the Business Continuity Plan followed. The next step is to work with service areas to review their recovery plans. This will be aided again by Learning Pool sessions held in the training room.

Further Activities and Developments

I continue my visits to local firms and industries to learn and to listen. I continue to be impressed by the quality and range of industries particularly in the manufacturing sector in Cumbria.

Recently I spent a morning at Pirelli and by the time I left I had an appreciation of what a world class hi-tech firm we have in Pirelli Carlisle. Quite simply, they produce the finest Formula 1 car tyres in the world. This is a huge tribute to their management and work force.

Recently I met with North Cumbria Young Farmers to seek their views and listen to their concerns. They are a fine group of young people and a great credit to Carlisle, and they are keenly aware of the problems and challenges of the rural economy. As Leader of the

City Council, representing the whole City District, both urban and rural, I found it very helpful to meet, share and discuss with them, and give them whatever support and encouragement I can.

The new Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria, Mrs Claire Hensman and her husband visited Carlisle recently at my invitation, They spent most of the day in Carlisle, meeting the Mayor, receiving a first class briefing on the Council's Economic Development Strategy (by Councillor Colin Glover and Jane Meek), visiting Pirelli and Richard Rose and Morton Academy.

In the Lord Lieutenant's letter of appreciation, she commented very favourably on the Economic Development briefing. She also states that she and her husband were '...thrilled at the investment going on at Pirelli and equally at Morton Academy.'

It is a very real privilege for me to be able to show so many distinguished and interested people, the specialness of Carlisle and its people.

To the same end I have agreed with the National Apprenticeship Service in Cumbria to act as an Advocate for the development of apprentices in Carlisle and shall be liaising with local schools, the College, the University and industry, to further this very important issue for the future benefit of Carlisle and its young people.

Finally, members of JMT had an excellent presentation on the proposed creative arts centre and media facility and education centre being planned by Carlisle College. Moira Tattersall and her senior team have very clear sighted and ambitious plans for this facility which will complement our proposals for an arts centre / theatre in the city.

Professor J D Hendry
Leader of the Council