

Report to: Council

Agenda
Item

Meeting Date: 13 November 2012

Public/Private*: Public

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

City Centre

Carlisle Business Improvement District

Following the 'no' vote from the retailers to the establishment of a BID in Carlisle, we will be in discussion with the Chair of the BID as to the way forward. It is proposed that we establish a City Centre Liaison Group chaired by Steve Matthews and that a regular (6 monthly) news letter is produced to help improve communications between the Council and the retailers.

Town Teams Bid

We were invited to submit a bid to DCLG under the Town Teams concept for £10,000 funding to support the economic vitality of the City Centre. Successful bids were announced on Tuesday 23rd October and Carlisle has been awarded the funding to support a project which will include:

- Promotion of the City through Discover Carlisle
- Developing interpretive signage in the City Centre
- Working with landlords and letting agents to improve the appearance of vacant shops

LEP

Under the Regional Growth Fund round 3, the Cumbria LEP has been successful in attracting the £5,000,000 fund to support businesses throughout the County. Discussions are taking place with the Chamber of Commerce on how local businesses will be able to access this funding stream in due course.

CN Business Awards 2012

Five Carlisle businesses were honoured at the CN Business Awards held at Rheged on Thursday 18 October. I am delighted to be able to congratulate each of the businesses on achieving these well deserved awards.

The award winners were:

- Large Business of the Year – Stobart Group
- Small Business of the Year – EcoLogicLiving Ltd
- Social Enterprise – Cumbria Gateway
- Tourism and Hospitality – Tullie House
- Customer Services Excellence – Walby Farm Park

National Grid – North West Coast Connections Project

The first stage of the project to connect new nuclear power to the national grid and improve the transmission network across Cumbria has concluded. The National Grid has identified two options for a new transmission route which both involve establishing a “Cumbria Ring” of transmission and will impact on Carlisle district linking to the existing north-south route which comes through Harker Sub Station. The second stage will consider the route corridors and will be subject to further consultation next summer. We will be inviting them to come and do a presentation to all Members regarding the options.

Housing Land Supply

Council introduced an Interim Planning Statement in May to deal with a shortage in the delivery supply of new housing which was required by the National Planning Policy Framework. This has encouraged a number of applications which have still to progress through the planning stages totalling over 600 new dwellings. Whilst these applications will be considered against that statement no further applications will be accepted on the basis of the Interim Planning Statement. Current indications are that we can now demonstrate a five year supply and these applications will help reinforce housing delivery over the next few years whilst the Local Plan brings forward the longer term growth strategy for Carlisle.

Retail Study

The Carlisle Retail study has now been published. The study examines the future capacity for new retail development. On the basis of current foodstore commitments the capacity indicates no requirement to proactively plan for new convenience provision in our emerging Local Plan through to 2030. There is capacity to generate additional (18,200m² net) comparison floorspace which needs to be of a quality to attract new retailers. In order to ensure the City Centre role is protected and improved additional work on potential sites, concentrating on the city centre first, needs to be undertaken which will feed in to the Local Plan.