

Meeting Date: 30th April 2013

Public/Private*: Public

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

National Grid – North West Coast Connections Project

The National Grid was due to undertake consultation on its project to reinforce transmission lines across Cumbria starting mid May this year. Additional assessment work is being undertaken at the moment and therefore the consultation on the next stage of the project has now been delayed until the autumn. A presentation on the project will therefore be arranged for Members nearer to the proposed consultation.

City Centre Business Group

The City Centre Business Group has now settled into a pattern of meeting every 3rd Tuesday in the month. The two meetings held to date (February & March) have each had around 40 attendees. They are in the process of formalising their association and considering their strategic aims and objectives. Steve Matthews (Bookcase) has been appointed Chair, Jon Stewart (Bon Appetite) Vice Chair and Viv Dodd (Cumbriabusinessforbusiness) is Secretary. City Council officers are in regular contact/dialogue with the group providing advice and support as required.

Town Team Money

Discussions have taken place with all agents and representatives of the empty shops in the City Centre. There is a consensus that 3D images work well and could incorporate artwork illustrating some of the '25 Amazing Carlisle Facts' as a running theme in both empty and occupied shops. This could create a 'Fact Trail' which would be of interest for shoppers and visitors with potential merchandising opportunities. Carigiet Cowan, the agent with the majority of empty properties in the city centre, has installed a set of 3D decals (with supporting marketing material) for the empty units in the Crown & Mitre block. These have been widely praised by the business community and in the local press. On this occasion whilst discussions took place between council officers and Carigiet Cowan the final design reflected the wishes of the client, however there are still opportunities with their other empty properties. Discussions are currently ongoing to explore the window dressing options for the Hoopers site, and the other empty shop premises, not currently under offer in the City Centre.

Pirelli Rally

The ceremonial start of the Pirelli Rally will take place on Saturday 4th May in the City centre 10.30am onwards, prior to the racing in Kielder Forest. To coincide with the Rally, a competition will be hosted on Discover Carlisle for the opportunity for two passengers to ride in the pre-event warm up courtesy of the organisers. The City Council will be sponsoring the event.

Local Plan

A cross party working group has continued to meet on the development of the Local Plan. The preferred options Local Plan will commence its progress through the Committee Cycle on 31st May. The involvement of the Working Group will continue throughout the Local Plan Preferred Options public consultation scheduled to take place at the end of July for a six week period, and in the latter stages of the Local Plan's development and production.