

CABINET	Paper No. 11
Date: 6 January 2009	
From: Interim Corporate Director – Environment	

CARLISLE RENAISSANCE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides details of a revised collaboration agreement between the founding members in Carlisle Renaissance and the first Carlisle Renaissance Action Plan which has been agreed by the Carlisle Renaissance Board.**

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 Carlisle Renaissance has been established to secure the regeneration and economic growth of Carlisle. The County Council supports an emerging structure within Cumbria for the delivery of Economic and Regeneration Programmes that will see the establishment of four Boards to oversee the prioritisation of regeneration activity in Carlisle, West Cumbria, Barrow in Furness and Eden and South Lakeland. The Boards will direct and oversee an action plan of projects managed by a delivery team operating in each area. Carlisle Renaissance is the Board that will operate in Carlisle.**
- 2.2 These arrangements support the Cumbria Community Strategy objectives for a Sustainable and Prosperous Economy, the Cumbria Economic Plan and the Making Cumbria More Prosperous theme of the County Council Plan. The Carlisle Renaissance Action Plan outlines a broad programme of work over four financial years from 2008/09 to 2011/2012. The County Council has approved funding support of £100k in 2008/09 and a similar amount is sought in each of the next three financial years. This requirement has been included as a growth item for the Economic Development Budget in the current budget round. Carlisle Renaissance will have an influence on the County Council's investment decisions in the coming years.**
- 2.3 Carlisle Renaissance is a major plank in the future arrangements for the delivery of major regeneration and economic development activity in Cumbria.**

- 2.4 ***An equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken for Carlisle Renaissance specifically. However, equality and diversity issues will be taken into consideration for specific projects that support the Carlisle Renaissance Action Plan as they are developed.***

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- 3.1 ***Agreement is reached with the Founding Members to a collaboration agreement.***
- 3.2 ***The draft Action Plan 2009-12 be endorsed on condition that where projects require the statutory approval of the County Council they are submitted for consideration on an individual basis.***
- 3.3 ***In line with the Action Plan the County Council contributes £100,000 to support Carlisle Renaissance in each of the next three financial years 2009-12, subject to the Founding Members agreement to the collaboration agreement.***
- 3.4 ***The final approval of the collaboration agreement and action plan be delegated to the Corporate Director Environment in conjunction with the Leader of the County Council and the Cabinet Members for Economy and Environment.***

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2008 the County Council's Cabinet resolved to support the delivery arrangements for Carlisle Renaissance that would include:
- The establishment of a private sector led board to be known as the Carlisle Renaissance Board to give leadership to the overall programme of activity;
 - The nomination of two County Council Member representatives to the Carlisle Renaissance Board. The current County Council nominations are the leader of the Council and the Chair of the Carlisle Local Committee;
 - The establishment of a collaboration agreement between the founding members, Cumbria County Council, Northwest Regional Development Agency and Carlisle City Council;
 - The establishment of a dedicated delivery team to be supported with funding from the founding members: and
 - The preparation of an agreement to an Action Plan.
- 4.2 The County Council was asked to make an annual contribution to support the agreed delivery arrangements. The Cabinet agreed to an initial

contribution of £100k in the financial year 2008/09 with future contributions being the subject of future budget considerations.

- 4.3 The City Council has approved a financial contribution of £880k towards salaries and Northwest Regional Development Agency has approved a salary contribution of £ 520k for the same period between 2008/9 – 2011/12.
- 4.4 The proposed collaboration agreement between the founding members has still to be agreed. The intention is that the document should provide the basis for the way in which the three founding members with key statutory responsibilities and capacity to invest in key elements of the Carlisle Renaissance programme should cooperate to ensure that the necessary statutory approvals are in place, together with the required funding allocations to ensure that projects can proceed in an efficient and timely manner. It is not intended that the document should be legally binding but that it should ensure the way in which the founding organisations should work together efficiently and to avoid duplication and confusion over responsibilities.
- 4.5 First versions of the document emerged as legalistic and confusing. It has therefore been agreed that a more simplistic and user friendly version of the document should be prepared. The revised draft collaboration agreement is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. One of the main principles of the document is that work should be undertaken by the organisation that has the statutory responsibility for doing so, particularly in respect of highways, transport and planning.
- 4.6 The Carlisle Renaissance Board has now agreed the first action plan which is attached to this report as Appendix 2. The County Council has now been asked to consider the plan for approval.
- 4.7 The Vision outlined in the Action Plan is to establish Carlisle as a leading heritage city with a growing University, a successful regional commercial centre, the infrastructure to support business investment and good access. The Action Plan identifies four priority transformational actions that the Board believes are vital to achieving that Vision. These include:
- Developing a new City Centre campus for the University of Cumbria;
 - Maximising the economic and cultural potential of the historic quarter and its key assets;
 - Strengthening the City Centre with a mix of new retail, leisure and business uses;
 - Developing strategic employment sites on the M6 corridor.
- 4.8 The delivery of these actions will have implications for future County Council investment programmes, particularly those relating to highways and transport. It is therefore vitally important that the County Council is properly engaged as the statutory authority in the development and delivery of projects that will achieve the objectives of Carlisle Renaissance. The collaboration Agreement has been prepared to reflect this requirement.

5.0 OPTIONS

- 5.1 With regard to the draft collaboration agreement, Cabinet could decide to endorse the content, seek revisions to the Agreement or reject the proposed Board structure and delivery arrangements. Given that the County Council has been a founding member in developing the arrangements and amongst those arguing for improvements in the implementation of the Carlisle Renaissance programme, the latter options are not recommended.
- 5.2 In terms of the Action Plan, again Cabinet could agree to the contents, seek amendments, or reject the Plan. Given it was approved by the Carlisle Renaissance Board on 17th November it is recommended the Action Plan be endorsed by Cabinet.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Cabinet agreed a £100,000 contribution for this financial year but future contributions will be built into the of the current budget discussions for 2009/10 and beyond.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The current draft of the collaboration agreement has been considered by the Chief Legal Officer. Following discussions with the founding members, further drafts of the collaborative agreement will also be considered by the Chief Legal Officer

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The collaboration agreement between the 3 founder members sets out certain non legally binding mutual commitments and regulates their activities. It will define the operating platform for the Board and Delivery Team and the responsibilities of the Founding members. The Action Plan sets out the Board's vision and priorities for the transformational activities which will make a significant contribution to the future growth of Carlisle.

Charles Green
Interim Corporate Director Environment
8/12/08

APPENDICES

Carlisle Renaissance Collaboration Agreement – Appendix 1
Carlisle Renaissance Action Plan 2009/12 – Appendix 2

Electoral Division(s): All Carlisle

Executive Decision

Yes*	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Key Decision

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	Yes		
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?		No	
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?			N/A*
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.		No	
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?		No	
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?		No	

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Decision by Cabinet on 11 March 2008 – Minute 29.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers.

RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER

Tim Knowles – Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment.

REPORT AUTHOR

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