

Report to:

# Council

Agenda  
Item

10(b)(iv)

Meeting Date: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Heather Bradley**

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## **ST CUTHBERT'S GARDEN VILLAGE**

Public engagement took place on St Cuthbert's Garden Village between 26<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> March. Comments were invited on the proposed scope of a St. Cuthbert's Local Plan and ideas welcomed on what should be prioritised within any development in the area, as well as what form development should take.

The engagement ran in parallel to a consultation by the County Council on preferred route options for a new Carlisle Southern Link Road. Over 1,000 people attended two joint public drop-in events. Approximately 600 online questionnaires were completed and approximately 40 letter representations received. Relevant Parish Councils were engaged as well as technical stakeholders including through a series of innovation workshops focussed on healthy environments; low carbon and economic visioning. Engagement with primary schools in the area is planned in early May.

A consultation report is in the process of being prepared which will be made publicly available to communicate the key messages highlighted through the engagement. Beyond this work will continue to develop a vision for St. Cuthbert's and draft concept options as to how the area could be developed to accommodate up to 10,000 new homes, new employment space and community infrastructure. Further engagement on a draft vision and concept options is planned across the Summer.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & HOUSING**

Changes to the Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation commenced in April 2018. In brief this removes the number of storeys from the definition of a licensable Houses in Multiple Occupation, so that all premises let to 5 or more tenants will require licensing. These measures are being phased in and will become enforceable from November 2018, it is anticipated that around 50 properties within Carlisle will now be required to be inspected and licensed by the Housing and Pollution Team and meet the standards of a House in Multiple Occupation.

The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 came into force on 1st April 2018. Amongst this legislation's requirements are that newly let privately rented properties must now have an Energy Performance Certificate of energy efficiency with a rating of E or above. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, all domestic private rented property must reach an Energy Performance Certificate rating of E or above. The Housing and Pollution Team will be enforcing this part of the Regulations.

The national Annual Fuel Poverty report for 2017 confirms the level of fuel poverty is highest in the private rented sector, with 21.3 per cent of households nationally in fuel poverty, and lowest in owner occupied properties, with 7.4 per cent in fuel poverty.

The latest available figures for Carlisle are on the Cumbria Observatory website and show an increase of 1.8% in fuel poor households between 2013 and 2014. The Wards of St Aidan's, Lyne and Castle have proportions of households in fuel poverty in the bottom 10% nationally. In March the Council signed a statement of intent which will allow eligible households, including those living in privately rented properties, to access energy efficiency improvements through the Government's Energy Company Obligations (ECO).

The City Council is involved in a Rogue Landlord Project, officers from Regulatory Services supported an operation led by the Immigration Compliance and Enforcement Team (ICE) of the Home Office in the Botchergate area of the city on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018. A number of food businesses with associated residential accommodation were visited in the evening, an arrest was made and a number of civil penalties were issued by the Immigration Compliance and Enforcement Team. Potential Housing Act offences to be followed up were identified by the Housing and Pollution Team in at least one of the properties.

## **AFFORDABLE AND SPECIALIST HOUSING**

The Affordable and Specialist Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted by Executive on 12 February; providing additional context on existing Local Plan policies.

## **SELF AND CUSTOM-BUILD HOUSING EVENT**

Planning and Housing officers facilitated a free self and custom-build housing information evening event at Carlisle College, on 15 March 2018. The event proved extremely popular, with 40 people in attendance. The varied programme included presentations from self-builders, architects, housing associations and lenders.

## **HOMELESS, PREVENTION AND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES**

- Made 138 statutory homelessness decisions; and accepted a full homeless duty to 23 households
- Provided housing and homelessness advice to 847 households
- Prevented or relieved 501 households from experiencing homelessness
- Accommodated 189 households in temporary accommodation; 168 households departed, of which 105 were supported to move on positively within an average of 6 weeks
- 23 households were accommodated who were fleeing violence and 20 were supported to move on to safe and secure longer-term accommodation within an average of 6 weeks
- Processed 12 applications to the Carlisle Deposit Guarantee Scheme, of which 10 were approved
- Assisted 4 households with arrears, and 22 households with rent in advance payments
- Achieved benefit gains of £1,309,244.14

The Homeless Reduction Act has been implemented on 3 April 2018 which significantly changes the statutory responsibilities of the council, and its customers; as such future data reporting will change to reflect the duties i.e. Prevention, Relief and Full Homeless Duty.

## **CARLISLE STATION MASTERPLAN**

The Carlisle Station Gateway project is identified as a key project within the Borderlands Growth Deal. It is recognised that improvements to Carlisle Station itself are necessary to deliver improved access within the Borderlands area. Crucially, these improvements will

unlock the regeneration opportunities on the surrounding 'gateway' sites such as the Citadels.

Consultants have been appointed to produce a masterplan for Carlisle Station. This work is being funded jointly by Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council and Cumbria LEP. A key element of this work will be engagement with stakeholders and key businesses in the city.

This masterplan incorporates the land and buildings at Court Square, the Pools and the Station itself. It will explore options for:

- Improvements to the city's highway network where there are congestion and capacity problems
- Public realm improvements to create an attractive destination and point of arrival
- Increased and improved parking facilities for station users
- Increased and improved commercial facilities within the station

The masterplan work will be completed by the end of June and will support the submission of a Business Case that will be prepared and submitted to consideration by Ministers during July/August.

### **CARLISLE BUSINESS INTERACTION CENTRE (BIC)**

The outline application for ERDF funding to create a 'hub' for freelancers and small businesses working in the creative/digital sector has been successful and the City Council has been invited to submit a full business case for consideration.

The preparation of the full business case is underway. In addition to capital expenditure to refresh the building at Paternoster Row and purchase the necessary IT equipment, the project will also have a revenue element and will provide business incubation services and business support. Cumbria Growth Hub has expressed its support for the project and will be involved in the delivery of the business support services.

### **CITY ORIENTATION PUBLIC REALM PROJECT**

The installation of the 31 fingerpost directional signs and 11 information hubs across the city is now complete. The feedback from residents, visitors and local businesses has been positive with the investment by the City Council both recognised and welcomed.