



Report to

Council

Meeting Date: 28th March 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Leader's Portfolio Holder Report –
Councillor John Mallinson**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION TRANSITION

Engagement with staff has continued into the month of March, from Leader and CEO Q&As to ICT specific Q&A sessions. These have been well attended and received. Meet and greet sessions at the Cumberland Council anchor buildings have taken place with the CEO and Council Leader along with some members of the Senior Leadership Team taking the time to meet members of staff within their work setting.

All TUPE letters have now been issued to all staff letting individuals know which organisation they have been allocated to from 1st April 2023.

The Shadow Authority for Cumberland Council agreed its first budget at a meeting held in Carlisle on 1st March. The financial plans for 2023/24 ensure that the new Cumberland Council can continue to provide services to its residents from Vesting Day – such as waste collections, planning, and adult and children's care services.

The recruitment for Assistant Directors has been announced for some of the posts. At the time of writing this Report there remains further appointments to be made, further communication will follow.

CARLISLE STATION PROJECT

- Demolition of The Pools is likely to commence in Summer 2023, subject to work by Electricity North West to relocate a high voltage running cable under The Pools
- Planning Applications for the schemes to the front (improvements to Court Square) and rear (the creation of a new plaza called George Square) of the Station both George Square and Court Square will also be submitted for approval in the summer 2023

LONGTOWN PLACE PLAN

- The City Council are continuing to support the Longtown Community in the development of a Place Plan to draw down funding from the Borderlands Growth Deal
- The Place Plan was approved by the Borderlands Place Programme Board on 17th February 2023 and Borderlands Partnership Board on 15th March 2023
- The next stage is to identify the projects included in the Place Plan that are eligible for funding from the Borderlands Growth Deal and progress their development / design to draw down the Borderlands investment

CENTRAL PLAZA

- The detailed site investigation has been completed and an Options Report produced, which sets out a schedule of works required to support the redevelopment of the site. A tender will be issued shortly for the works to be carried out
- The first stage of the Expression of Interest process has concluded, with a number of potential developers / operators indicating they are interested in the site
- The second stage of the process has now commenced, which asks the parties to provide detail on their proposals in terms of uses, timescales for delivery, financing etc
- At the end of the second stage it is anticipated that a preferred developer / operator will be identified, who will then work with Cumberland Council to progress the redevelopment of the site