

Meeting Date: 7th January 2020

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economy, Enterprise & Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Paul Nedved**

TOWNS FUND

- The City Council has been selected by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for inclusion in the Towns Fund.
- The Council is one of 100 areas invited to develop proposals for a 'Town Deal' with up to £25million available
- The government has now published the Prospectus that sets out the priorities for funding, which can be used for issues such as
 - **Urban regeneration, planning and land use:** including site acquisition, remediation and regeneration
 - **Skills and enterprise infrastructure:** driving private sector investment and ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development.
 - **Connectivity:** developing local transport schemes that complement regional and national networks and supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity
- The next stage in the process is to develop a Town Deal Board by the end of January 2020
- The Town Deal board will include representatives from across the public, private and voluntary sectors and will guide the development of Town Investment Plan for Carlisle by summer 2020

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Carlisle Ambassadors Marketeer event took place at Smiths Hotel Gretna on 9 October 2019. These annual conferences for marketing professionals attracts approximately 180 delegates. The theme this year was Place and Place Promotion with a concentration on

marketing to raise the profile of businesses, many of whom were in the visitor economy, heritage and leisure sector. Carlisle Ambassador members were joined by delegates from across Cumbria and the Borders at this open meeting. the agenda included speakers Alasdair Houston of Gretna Green Ltd, an interesting presentation on place making and promotion; Josh Holmes of LocaliQ who spoke about digital marketing; Claire McLean of Molly's Lemonade with tips to market your business on a budget and Nicola Said, Project Manager for the England Originals project who showcased the new website and toolkit which is helping to market our Historic Cities to the international travel trade. Feedback from the day was extremely positive with delegates enjoying the opportunity to network with like minded professionals all keen to promote our local businesses and especially the heritage and leisure offer in our region.

ST CUTHBERT'S GARDEN VILLAGE

A period of consultation on draft masterplan options for St Cuthbert's Garden Village concluded on 14th October. Over 600 members of the public visited one of several drop in events which combined with wider stakeholders has resulted in over 1,000 people engaging. Feedback is being analysed with a summary report to be published early in 2020. Beyond this the feedback will be used to help inform development of a preferred masterplan option for the site, consultation on which will be forthcoming in Spring 2020.

NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES – NEW ACRES (RAFFLES)

Riverside have acquired 24 new build properties on Lovell's New Acres development at Raffles – some of the properties are already tenanted, with the remainder due to be handed over early in the New Year. These new houses – 12 no. 2-bedroom houses and 12 no. 3-bedroom houses – will all be for Affordable Rent, supported by grant funding from Homes England.

These affordable homes (at Dalton Avenue; Dalton Close; and Dalton Crescent) will make a valuable contribution towards meeting the City's affordable housing requirements – the Council's recently updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment identified that 60% of Carlisle District's annual affordable housing requirement was for Social or Affordable Rent.

HOMELESS, PREVENTION AND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

From 1st April 2019 to 31 October 2019:

- 414 households were provided with housing and homelessness advice and assistance
- 179 households were assessed and assisted under the prevention duties
- 183 households were assessed and assisted under the relief duties
- 52 households were assessed under the main homeless duty with 3 households being owed the full homeless duty
- Accommodated 181 households in temporary accommodation; 75% were supported to move on positively within an average of 9 weeks
- Assisted 35 households within the community following successful move on

- 15 households were accommodated who were fleeing domestic abuse; 86% were supported to move on to safe and secure longer-term accommodation within an average of 3 weeks; 26 households at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic abuse were supported within the community with a range of interventions
- 8 households provided with of a range of personal and household security items, such as alarms, door jammers, window locks, blinds, security lighting
- Processed 62 low cost housing applications, of which 32 were approved
- Assisted 8 households with arrears; 20 households with rent in advance payments; and 4 deposits
- Welfare Benefits Advice Team successfully supported clients to recover £901,865 in benefit gains

Carlisle City Council is leading on new countywide initiatives and local projects to enhance our current services to target rough sleeping; understand the needs of those at risk of rough sleeping; and establish rehousing pathways for those with limited housing options through supported lettings.

The new countywide initiatives and projects focused on rough sleeping are currently operational; all districts undertook the annual official rough sleeping estimate in November and officially reported to Government 30 rough sleepers countywide, 5 of which were in the Carlisle district. All of the Carlisle cases were offered immediate assistance and emergency accommodation despite having no local connection or duty owed.

Carlisle City Council has established 5 emergency winter shelter beds for males and females that are at risk of rough sleeping within our existing emergency accommodation provision; this enhanced service will offer immediate overnight shelter and access to support services for those single people regardless of any duty owed.

REGULATORY SERVICES

Unfortunately, we were not successful in our bid to the **Warm Homes Fund** for new first-time central heating for rural off-mains gas homes. However, we are continuing with our Warm Homes Fund project to offer funding for mains gas connections through the 'Fuel Poor Network Extension Scheme' (FPNES) and funding for first-time gas central heating for owner-occupiers and private tenants in urban areas. Approximately 100 letters have been sent to homes across the district offering gas connections from Northern Gas Networks and inviting people to apply for grant funding for a new gas central heating system. Some of the projects are dependent on a certain number of homes agreeing to a gas connection to make the various schemes viable.

Homelife are continuing to target vulnerable and fuel poor households. The fuel poverty strategy from our Statement Of Intent (SOI) permits the installation of energy efficiency measures through our discretionary energy efficiency grants and through the Energy Company Obligation (**ECO**) **Help to Heat flexible eligibility scheme**. From our approved contractors alone so far, this financial year bought in at least £333,000 in ECO3

funding and generated at least £2,398,278 million pounds of Lifetime Bill Savings (LTBS) for our residents.

The **Rogue landlord project** has now come to a conclusion. The project has provided the Council with lots of information about previously unknown rental properties in the area and the condition of these residential properties. A report is being prepared to feed back to the Home Office on the outcomes of the work undertaken under the Rogue Landlord funding bid.