



Carlisle City Council

Report to Place Panel

Report details

Meeting Date:	21 st July 2022
Portfolio:	Economy, Enterprise and Housing
Key Decision:	No
Policy and Budget Framework	Yes/No
Public / Private	Public
Title:	Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) Update
Report of:	Corporate Director of Economic Development
Report Number:	ED 15/22

Purpose / Summary:

To update the Scrutiny Panel of the outcomes following the Council's attendance at the Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) held between 16 and 18 May 2022.

Recommendations:

The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the Report.

Tracking

Executive:	
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. Background

- 1.1. The first Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) was held at Leeds Royal Armouries between 16 and 18 May 2022. The objective of the 3-day event was to bring together both the public and private sector – alongside Government, national and international investors, funders, developers, housebuilders and end-users to showcase the scale of investment propositions and highlight future opportunities from across the country.
- 1.2. The Forum included a series of events with over 50 themed presentations and workshops on a range of subjects such as the UK's net zero carbon target, social value, inclusive growth, the future of real estate, building better communities and inclusive inward investment.
- 1.3. The Forum included event space for some 80 exhibitors to showcase their products, services and investment opportunities. In total, some 5,000 delegates attended representing some 200 local councils, 500 investors, 300 end users and 500 developers. In addition, the respective Ministers of State for Science, Research and Innovation and Business and Energy spoke at the event and toured the exhibition stands.

2. Carlisle City Council's Attendance and Involvement

- 2.1 Securing and sustaining new investment into the City will be critical to its long-term economic prosperity in terms of supporting existing and developing new jobs, building new homes and creating new opportunities for economic growth. It will further support the health and wellbeing of the City's existing and future residents.
- 2.2 Through the Council's Economic Development Major Projects Board, significant work has gone into advancing a number of major transformational projects such as the new University campus, Carlisle Station and St Cuthbert's Garden Village. It was therefore considered opportune to now showcase these investment opportunities and the wider City offer at the UKREiiF event.
- 2.3 The Council was represented by the Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Housing, the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director for Economic Development, officers from the Economic Development Directorate and the Chair of the Cumbria LEP.
- 2.4 The Council had an exhibition stand which was staffed throughout the event to showcase Carlisle as a place to live, work and play. The stand displayed a range of development projects and investment opportunities. These were supplemented by a range of branded information packs for attendees to take away. The stand

and material generated significant interest from a range of parties ranging from potential investors, infrastructure providers and support services.

2.5 The Council had further opportunities also proactively engage with investors:

- On Day 1, The Corporate Director sat on an expert panel to respond to questions as to how the Council was delivering green and blue infrastructure across St Cuthbert's Garden Village;
- On Day 2, there was a dedicated Carlisle event before some 30 interested parties. We were able to present the full range of opportunities across the City and respond to questions as to why they should invest in Carlisle;
- On Day 3, concluded with a more informal opportunity for officers to meet on a one-to-one basis with to some 20 investors to respond to specific questions.

2.6 Attendance has attracted a number of leads in a number of areas which are now being actively followed up by officers. This includes potential investors in St Cuthbert's Garden Village; digital infrastructure providers; and software providers to facilitate service delivery. It also enabled wider networking with other authorities working on similar projects to share and explore best practice. Similarly, these too are now being followed up to explore the ways forward in more detail.

3. Risks

3.1 A dedicated Risk Register is kept and regularly reviewed as part of the overall project management approach to the Council's major economic projects which is reported to SMT. A key risk is that making such development opportunities available, there is no market appetite to deliver which would significantly undermine the City's strategic economic ambitions.

4. Consultation

4.1 Progress to date on the Council's major economic projects has been underpinned by robust, extensive and innovative engagement. For example, for St Cuthbert's Garden Village, this has included public engagement, dialogue with key stakeholders including infrastructure providers, dialogue and facilitated sessions with the local Parish Councils and with Members including the dedicated Member Advisory Group which now also includes parish council and County Council representatives. This engagement will continue as the project advances.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 Good progress continues to be made to bring forward a number of transformational projects across the City. Though the Council can invariably only act as an enabler. It will be reliant upon private sector investment to fully deliver and occupy those projects. Attendance at the UKREiiF in May 2022, provided one

such opportunity for the Council to showcase these opportunities to an audience who might not otherwise have realised the existence of the City's significant investment potential.

6. Contribution to the Carlisle Plan Priorities

6.1 Delivering on those major economic sits at the heart of the Carlisle Plan 2021-23 which has the vision *"To enable Carlisle to grow and prosper as the regional capital, benefiting the health and wellbeing of the people of Carlisle. We will work in partnership so that all can enjoy the benefits of new opportunities and choices, whilst rising to the challenges of a changing climate"*

6.2

Contact details:

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Appendices attached to report:

- Appendix 1 – Example Photographs of Carlisle's Presence at UKREiiF.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

Corporate Implications:

Legal – As this is a report to update on the UKREiiF Conference, it raises no legal implications of itself. Legal advice and support will continue to be provided around the St Cuthbert's Garden Village and other major projects.

Property Services – No comments.

Finance – No comments.

Equality – No comments.

Information Governance- No comments.

Appendix 1 – Example Photographs of Carlisle’s Presence at UKREiF.

