



Report to

Council

Meeting Date: 8th November 2022

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Culture, Heritage & Leisure Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Stephen Higgs**

EVENTS

City of Lights 2022

Carlisle City Council hosted another successful City of Lights event at Carlisle Cathedral and Carlisle Castle. This year's theme was the Roman occupation. The event was once again supported by Cumbria County Council, Carlisle Castle, Carlisle Cathedral and Tullie House Museum.

Christmas light switch on and enhanced Christmas lighting

The Christmas Lights switch-on will take place on Sunday, 20th November and will feature Simon Webbe from Blue and Twist & Pull from Britain's Got Talent plus local dance and school performers. This year there will be an extra sparkle with extra Christmas lighting within the City Centre funded by the Towns Deal Fund.

Fireshow returns

The Carlisle Fireshow has returned for 2022 as another fantastic community event with a theme celebrating Hadrian's Wall 1900th anniversary.

New Christmas Market

An exciting new Christmas Market is planned for December. It will be based within the City Centre from 2nd - 11th December (inclusive) and will have food, drinks, Christmas gifts and crafts on offer along with family entertainment.

LEISURE

Sands Centre Redevelopment

The full Leisure, events and NHS facilities are due to fully open shortly. A big thanks to all the partners and project team in successfully delivering this project. Carlisle now has a modern leisure and health facility for both residents and visitors to the City.

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

The Tuesday Talk Programme is up and running and proving popular. The next talk is on 8th November about the Windermere Children.

As part of our 90th birthday activities, we held a Veterans Afternoon tea on Sunday, 16th October supported by local businesses. We are also running a 'Sponsor An Object' scheme www.CumbriasMuseumofMilitaryLife.org to help with some improvements to the main galleries. This month has seen school visits, a visit by University of Cumbria students and support for an open evening with 4th Battalion, the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

We are hosting a touring exhibition 'Tactics and Teamwork: Football in the British Army' a joint project with two North West Military Museums and the National Football Museum – the exhibition closes on Sunday, 20th November

TULLIE HOUSE

October saw the opening of our major new Autumn/Winter exhibition – **Hair: Untold Stories** is a touring exhibition from the Horniman Museum (2022 Museum of the Year). The exhibition was developed in partnership with MAGNET, a network of museums and galleries working together to reduce the environmental impacts of touring exhibitions by sharing resources, of which Tullie House is a founder member.

As well as delivering fantastic events and engagement opportunities with our visitors and communities, the Museum's curatorial team are constantly working hard to care for Tullie's vast and varied collection. Over the summer, curatorial staff have undertaken an **internal store move** which relocated archaeological material from the basement to a first-floor store. The move has allowed significant and vulnerable archaeological material from Carlisle, Hadrian's Wall and wider Cumbria to move from inadequate conditions to a store which has a workspace, accessible racking and climate control. We have a brilliant team of volunteers working on this project and the end result will significantly improve access to and awareness of this amazing collection.

The museum's **learning programmes** continue to deliver a huge range of inspiring activities. School numbers continue to improve on last year's numbers, with over 1,000 pupils booked in this half term. Our communities programme has also exceeded expectations, with our annual target of 1,300 engagements achieved in just six months! This month we've also been proud to deliver **Borderlines Book Festival**, Carlisle's annual celebration of the written and spoken word. This event is delivered in partnership with Bookends Bookshop and is generously supported by Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council – over 1,500 tickets were sold this year. **Project Tullie** continues to progress at pace, with the current period focussed on the shortlisting and recruitment of architects for Phases 2 and 3 and the recruitment of project staff.