

Meeting Date: 2nd March 2021

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Report –
Councillor James Bainbridge**

Business & Transformation Panel meeting on the 7th January 2021

Members will recall that during the previous discussions in the Council Chamber regarding the redevelopment of the ground floor, an undertaking was made to schedule updates to the Business & Transformation Panel. This meeting represented the first occasion that we received an update, delayed a few cycles as a result of the Covid -19 impact in the building trade. Members had a full, varied and in-depth questioning approach on the revised working practices, progress and issues this project has so far experienced. The project is presently within budget. Members may be interested to note Rachel Plant represents the Governance and Members on the Officer Working Group in this area.

As a Panel we had our second consideration of the Budget reports, but as these will have been decided, in full, by the wider Council by the time you read this, I don't intend to give a blow by blow account of the deliberations here, particularly as a copy of the Minutes were supplied with the background Budget reports prior to the Budget meeting.

We received an update on the financial impacts of Covid-19. In Carlisle. We are probably more used to budgets having to react to external impacts and genuine emergencies such as floods, Foot and Mouth and now a global pandemic. At present Carlisle has received several tranches of Government support which has enabled the Council to keep on track, but the practical, experienced knowledge of Officers in being able to navigate the financial climate at this time is particularly impressive. We have since received an update from Alison Taylor to say that the amounts owing to Carlisle from other local authorities, which totalled in excess of £200k, have been settled in full. We have however requested a further update report in this area, given that we are presently in further lockdown conditions, and this will also enable us to examine the impact over a longer term.

Full details of the discussions are to be found within the Minute Book

Cllr James Bainbridge
Chairman