

**Written response to question / issue
raised at Council**

Meeting Date: 5th January 2021
Public / Private*: Public
Minute Reference: C.10/21 – Portfolio Holder Reports
Written response to: Cllr Dr H Davison
Written response from: Cllr S Higgs

Resolution / Question:

Provide a written response to Councillor Dr Davison setting out the commissioning details of the options appraisal and feasibility study into potential interventions and investments that may help to develop Carlisle's Roman Heritage tourism offer, along with the cost of the appraisal and the expectation in terms of cost benefits.

Response:

There is an opportunity being presented by the Borderlands Growth Deal which is specifically looking to invest £18m into visitor attraction projects along the Hadrian's Wall world heritage site.

Therefore, the City Council has commissioned an options appraisal and feasibility study into the potential interventions and investments that could draw down some of this funding - to help to develop Carlisle's Roman heritage tourism offer.

The study will identify ways in which the tourism potential of Carlisle can be unlocked by developing its Roman heritage offer. The brief sets out a three stage process:

1. An appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses of the current heritage tourism offer on the western side of Hadrian's Wall
2. Identification of a long list of potential interventions and investments for Carlisle that will be shortlisted through consultation with strategic partners and stakeholders; and
3. A more detailed options appraisal of the shortlisted options

The process of shortlisting will involve the options being assessed against a series of options and critical success factors such as:

- Raising the profile of Carlisle and the west of the world heritage site as a visitor destination;
- Positioning Carlisle as a gateway to Hadrian's Wall world heritage site;
- Contributing to Hadrian's Wall world heritage site becoming a world class destination;
- Bringing alive the largely invisible heritage of Roman Carlisle;

- Attracting new audiences that do not currently engage with the world heritage site or the heritage of Carlisle;
- Promoting a cohesive picture of Hadrian's Wall world heritage site;
- Complementing existing heritage attractions and encourage visits to these existing attractions;
- Contributing to the regeneration / transformation of Carlisle city centre;
- Contributing to economic growth through job creations and skills development and;
- Alignment with wider local and regional strategies such as the Borderlands Growth Deal and the emerging Hadrian's Wall investment programme.

Members will be kept up to date with the progress of this Study and the results of each stage will be shared for comment and decision-making.

Date: 20th January 2021

**Written response to question / issue
raised at Council**

Meeting Date: 5th January 2021
Public / Private*: Public
Minute Reference: C.10/21 – Portfolio Holder Reports
Written response to: Cllr Ms J Ellis-Williams
Written response from: Cllr S Higgs

Resolution / Question:

Provide Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams with an update on the future of the Victorian Health Suite.

Response:

The scheme for the Carlisle Station Gateway project which is currently being progressed and has secured £20million of funding through the Borderlands Growth Deal acknowledges the need to ensure that the Listed Turkish Baths / Victoria Health Suite building that stands adjacent to James Street is repurposed and kept in use.

In this regard the project includes:

- A sum of £600,000 for the demolition of the 1970's pools building and the making good of the exterior of the Listed Turkish Baths building once the demolition of the modern section has been completed
- A provisional sum of £200,000 to undertake necessary internal upgrading works to Listed Turkish Baths building in order to bring it up to the standard needed to make a repurposing scheme feasible. This sum could increase if the survey work indicates an increased budget is needed
- A budget for a feasibility study in order to identify deliverable and sustainable repurposing options for Listed Turkish Baths building. This Study is to commence imminently. The continuing use of the building as a health / wellbeing suite will form one of the options, alongside other potential leisure and commercial uses. The Study will be shared with Members for consideration and decision-making once it has been completed

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