



Meeting Date: 26th April 2022

Public/Private*: Public

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

Councillor Stephen Higgs

DISCOVER CARLISLE

The 2022 Carlisle – Places to Visit is out now. The leaflet has been supported by Tullie House, English Heritage, Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, Carlisle Cathedral, The Lanes, Solway Aviation Museum and Talkin Tarn. 100,000 copies will make their way into circulation and will be distributed nationwide to Tourist Information Centres. The leaflets will also be distributed widely within a 2½ hour drive time to Hotels and B&Bs, Visitor Attractions, Supermarkets, Service Stations and Garden Centres.

The Discover Carlisle Team attended the Lakes Hospitality Show in partnership with the Carlisle Ambassadors on 9th and 10th March. This is the largest industry event of its kind in the North West of England and attracts a wide range of businesses in the tourism and hospitality sector as well as the supply chain.

GREENING THE GREENMARKET

Works to install a temporary pop-up park in the Greenmarket area of Carlisle have recently been completed. The Council received funds from the UK Government's Welcome Back Fund, backed by the ERDF, to complete the project. This aims to provide an inviting and relaxing outdoor space for people to eat, drink and socialise. The surfacing, street furniture and planting will all be repurposed elsewhere when the feature is removed in late Autumn.

SANDS CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

The work on the redevelopment project is progressing at pace with the project in week 75 of 98 (w/c 25th April 2022). The Events Centre reopened at the beginning of March with a packed programme through to the end of July.

OLD FIRE STATION (OFS)

In September 2021 Greystone Leisure Limited took on the running of the Old Fire Station on behalf of Carlisle City Council. From September to January there has been 29 music performances, 11 comedy nights, 7 theatres shows, 5 community events and 3 local artist exhibitions with 9,053 visitors in this period.

ROCKET THEATRE GROUP

Rocket Theatre Group is a Youth Theatre Group for students aged 5 - 18 years. We provide high quality tuition in singing, dance and acting and produce two productions a year as well as other ad hoc performances for video and special performances. It has been a busy six months since we opened our doors to our newly refurbished studios based at Carlisle Castle. We now run classes over three evenings and a Saturday morning and have recently recruited our 100th member. This has seen us return to the numbers we were at prior to Covid.

Over the Easter Holidays we are delighted to be running a HAF Easter Camp for 24 students who will enjoy workshops based on the hit Disney Musical "Encanto". We are also thrilled to be able to put on live productions this Summer for all of our students, working with University of Cumbria, we will be hiring Stanwix Arts Theatre for our productions in May and July this year.

TULLIE HOUSE

Uncovering Roman Carlisle – the exhibition of the Carlisle Cricket Club Roman Bathhouse excavation is displaying a selection of the finds, alongside photos, video and the words of the community of archaeologists and local volunteers who discovered them. This partnership between Carlisle City Council, Carlisle Cricket Club, Wardell Armstrong and Tullie House has really captured people's attention, reinvigorating interest and discussion about Carlisle's relationship with Hadrian Wall. The exhibition, which has so far welcomed 1,700 visitors, is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

To the Edges of Empire – the complementary exhibition celebrating the 1900th anniversary of the commencement of the building of Hadrian's Wall, brings together 11 spectacular objects, many on loan from major national museums. The exhibition explores different aspects of empire, provoking discussion and thought about the nature of the Roman Empire. Already 1,000 school pupils have taken part in a Roman School Focus Day in celebration of Hadrian's Wall 1900th and focusing on the Uncovering Roman Carlisle excavation.

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

We will be open seven days a week for the summer season from Friday, 1st April 10.00 a.m. -5.00 p.m. and we will be holding our first Military History Festival on Friday/Saturday 3rd & 4th June, with a talks programme on the Saturday (visit <https://www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/product/04-06-2022-cumbrias-military-festival-talks-tickets/> for programme & tickets