

Written response to question / issue raised at Council

Meeting Date: 3rd November 2020

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: C.119/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports

Written response to: Cllr Ms J Ellis-Williams

Written response from: Cllr S Higgs

Resolution / Question:

Written response to Cllr Ms Ellis-Williams concerning the Bitts Park Cultural and Creative Village; the response to provide further information on the scheme, specifically the anticipated footfall and key demographic.

Response:

FOOTFALL

This is difficult to anticipate. We know the park has a good level of footfall during the spring and summer months, and moderate footfall during autumn and winter. So whilst the project will be a convenience for existing visitors, our feeling is that we will increase footfall by between 300% - 800% turning this area into a destination in its own right. We are considering installation of a visitor monitoring function at the site (basically an invisible laser across the entrance that records a visit each time it is broken, so we can monitor footfall).

DEMOGRAPHIC

The site will truly cater for most, if not all, Carlisle residents, as will be set out in detail in our business case (due for submission December 2020).

Throughout the day, we expect the cafe to be popular with dog walkers, stay at home parents, and exercisers. The demographic of these groups is varied, across all of the age ranges. The site will primarily be a convenience for these groups (a place to stop for a coffee and socialise), but through regular activities we aim to engage these groups to turn a coincidental convenience into a destination (people visit specifically to visit the venue, rather than just grabbing a coffee as they're passing by). Our fundamental social values and related activities will also make us a destination for marginalised groups that use the site during the day (local charities, disability groups, carers, etc).

- On evenings and weekends, we expect low key early evening economy, most likely attracting working age professionals and their families. The concept is a safe, family orientated space

where people can eat, drink and shop on an informal basis. To encourage and enforce this we will have a range of activities in the early evening to cater for children and families (most based around the arts, music and theatre), and will focus our primary marketing towards ABC1 demographic working or living within 5 miles of the site. Thankfully we will be too far off the beaten track for alcohol tourists and visitors, and our price point and ambience will certainly repel that demographic were it to stumble upon us. We expect families with children, couples and small groups of friends/colleagues of all ages.

- Our target demographics are therefore diverse depending on the time of day and season. This project is designed specifically to be multi-functional, modular in its nature, and flexible in how it caters to the city's residents.

Date: 24th November 2020

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

Meeting Date: 3rd November 2020

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: C.119/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports

Written response to: Cllr Miss L Sherriff

Written response from: Cllr Elizabeth Mallinson, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health & Wellbeing

Resolution / Question:

Raise the issue of securing further grant funding to enable the Carlisle and Eden Forces Link project to continue beyond March 2021 and the potential to extend the project to the rest of Cumbria, and provide a written response to Councillor Miss Sherriff.

Response:

The Carlisle and Eden Forces Link project has been running since June 2019 and is now fully funded until March 2021.

The pandemic brought the work to halt, with the officer being furloughed for 3? months. The project has now resumed and there has been renewed focus on extending the work across Cumbria and securing further funding. A positive outcome on the question of funding is expected imminently.

Date: 25th November 2020

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

Meeting Date: 3rd November 2020

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: C.119/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports

Written response to: Cllr R Betton

Written response from: Cllr N Christian

Resolution / Question:

Provide a written response clarifying whether there is a priority list governing the undertaking of drainage works in parks; where the funding had come from and the manner by which that was divided between the said projects.

Response:

We do not keep a priority list as such, but deal with flooding issues on footpaths on a case-by-case basis. The cost of these works is covered either from exiting revenue budgets or, in the case of larger projects, through the capital programme.

Date: 25th November 2020

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

Meeting Date: 3rd November 2020

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: C.119/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports

Written response to: Cllr L Patrick

Written response from: Cllr N Christian

Resolution / Question:

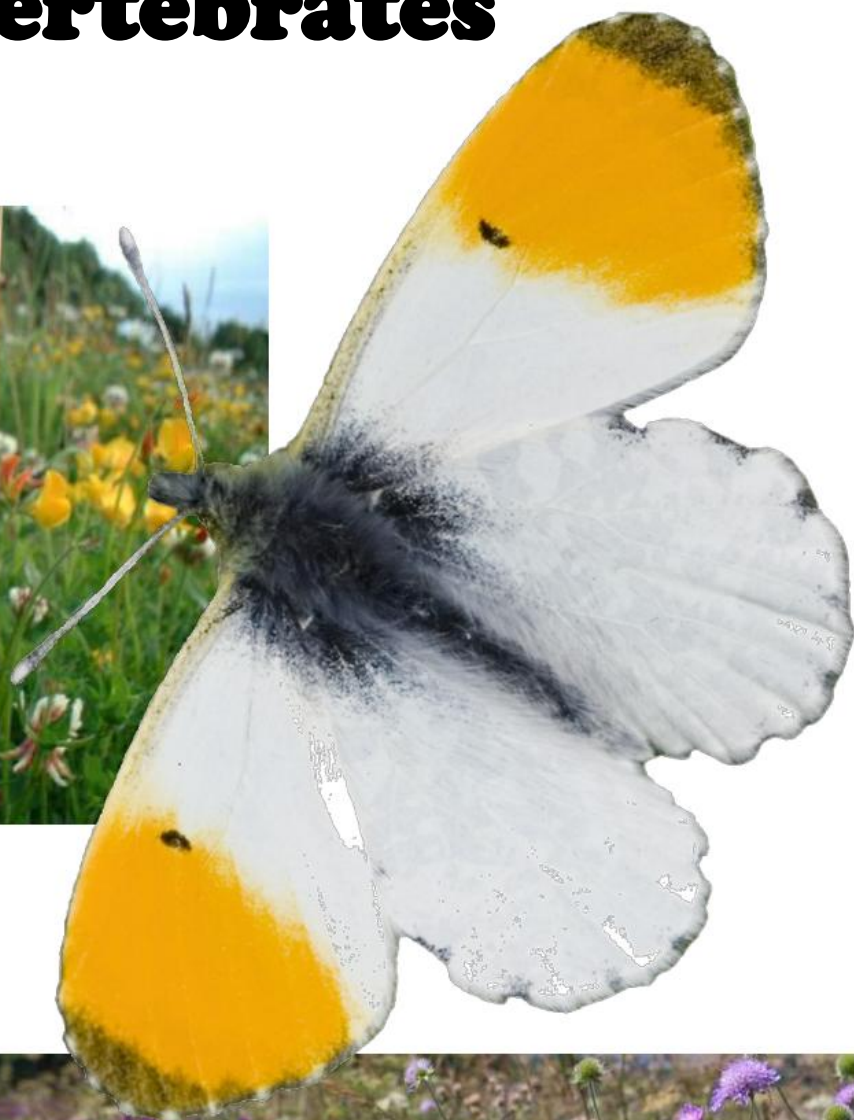
Investigate the potential to increase unmown areas and biodiversity in other parks and green spaces managed by the City Council, similar to The Swifts “Get Cumbria Buzzing” project, and respond in writing to Councillor Patrick.

Response:

The Green Spaces Team already has significant unmown areas throughout its parks and green spaces. We will continue to look for opportunities to expand these areas where appropriate. The attached document shows some of the areas that we implemented back in 2014.

Date: 25th November 2020

Park Grassland Conservation for Enhanced Ecology, Wildflowers and Invertebrates



**CARLISLE
CITY-COUNCIL**



www.carlisle.gov.uk

Park Grassland Conservation for Enhanced Ecology, Wildflowers and Invertebrates

It has been recognised that even rank species-poor grasslands may be of significant conservation value for invertebrates, small mammals and wildflowers.

Although rank grassland may be floristically poor, it can be an important habitat for invertebrates, particularly species dependant on areal structures of plants and leaf litter. It may contain populations of small mammals.

Sutherland (1995). Managing Habitats for Conservation. London: Syndicate of the University of Cambridge. 222.

The loss of over 97% of our wildflower-rich grasslands has had a huge impact on bumblebees, which have seen simultaneous dramatic declines. Even with good management, many grasslands have lost their wildflower seed bank, and seed introduction is one method of bringing the flowers back. Restoring or creating a meadow will, over time, help to increase the range and number of flowers that it supports, increasing the quantity and quality of foraging habitat for bumblebees.

Butterfly Conservation Trust (2014). <http://butterfly-conservation.org>.

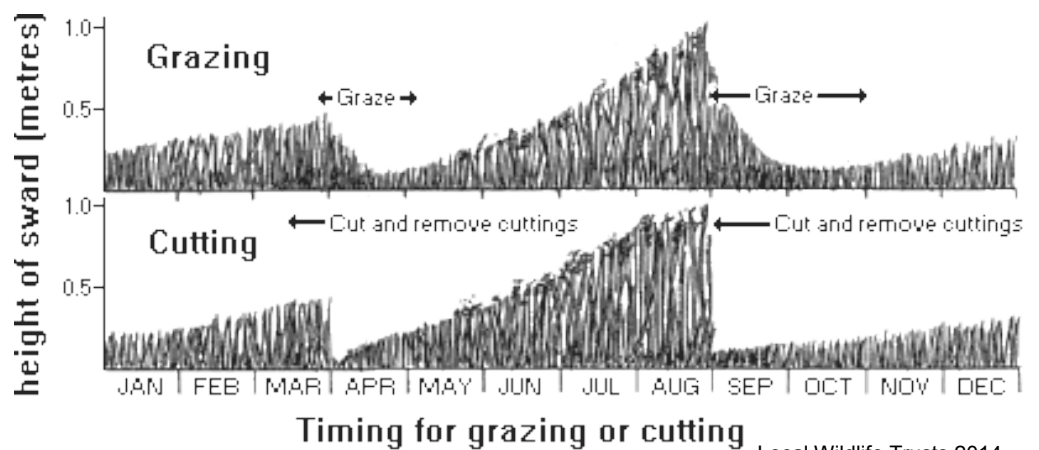
With a view of improving the ecological vale, enhancing the visual appeal and working in a smarter cost effective manner several areas of formally mown grassland are to be left to develop over the season and then cut back with arisings removed to reduce nutrient build-up. Certain selected areas within our parks will have their floristic diversity enhanced with the addition of plugs and seeding of typical meadow species.

This planting will be focused on wet areas and areas that are most suitable for enhancement, with species and seed being added by volunteer groups and the Friends of the Parks Groups. Areas are already established at Talkin Tarn and Chances Park, and the proven success of these areas will be rolled out to other parks.

The aim is to create a varied grassland sward with long grass and short turf that suits a variety of species.

Site Maps

1. Hammonds Pond
2. St. James Park
3. Winscale Way
4. Chances Park
5. Richmond Green
6. Heysham Park
7. Jubilee Road

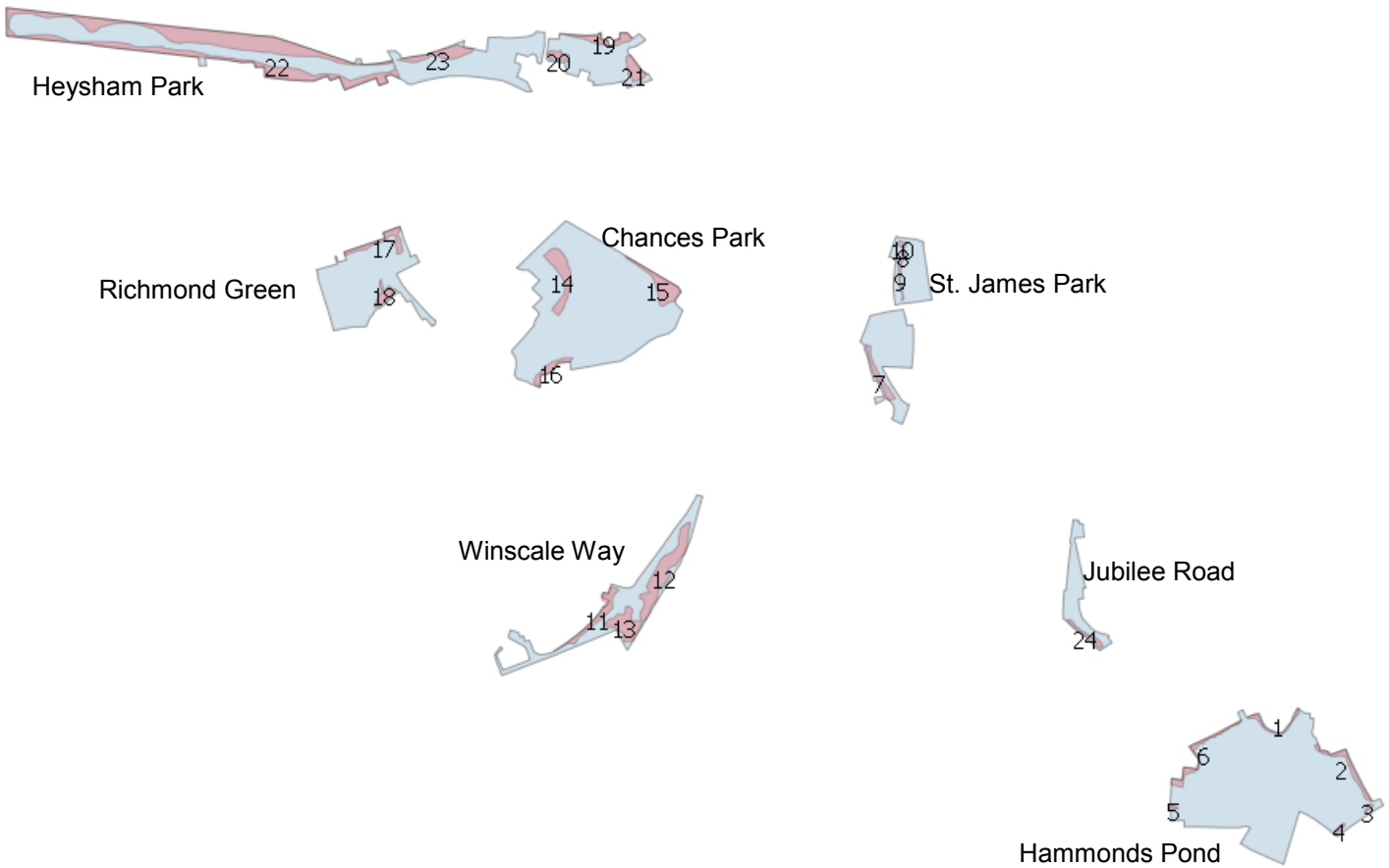


Local Wildlife Trusts 2014

Key



Site Maps



Key



Hammonds Pond

(Not to scale)



St. James Park

(Not to scale)



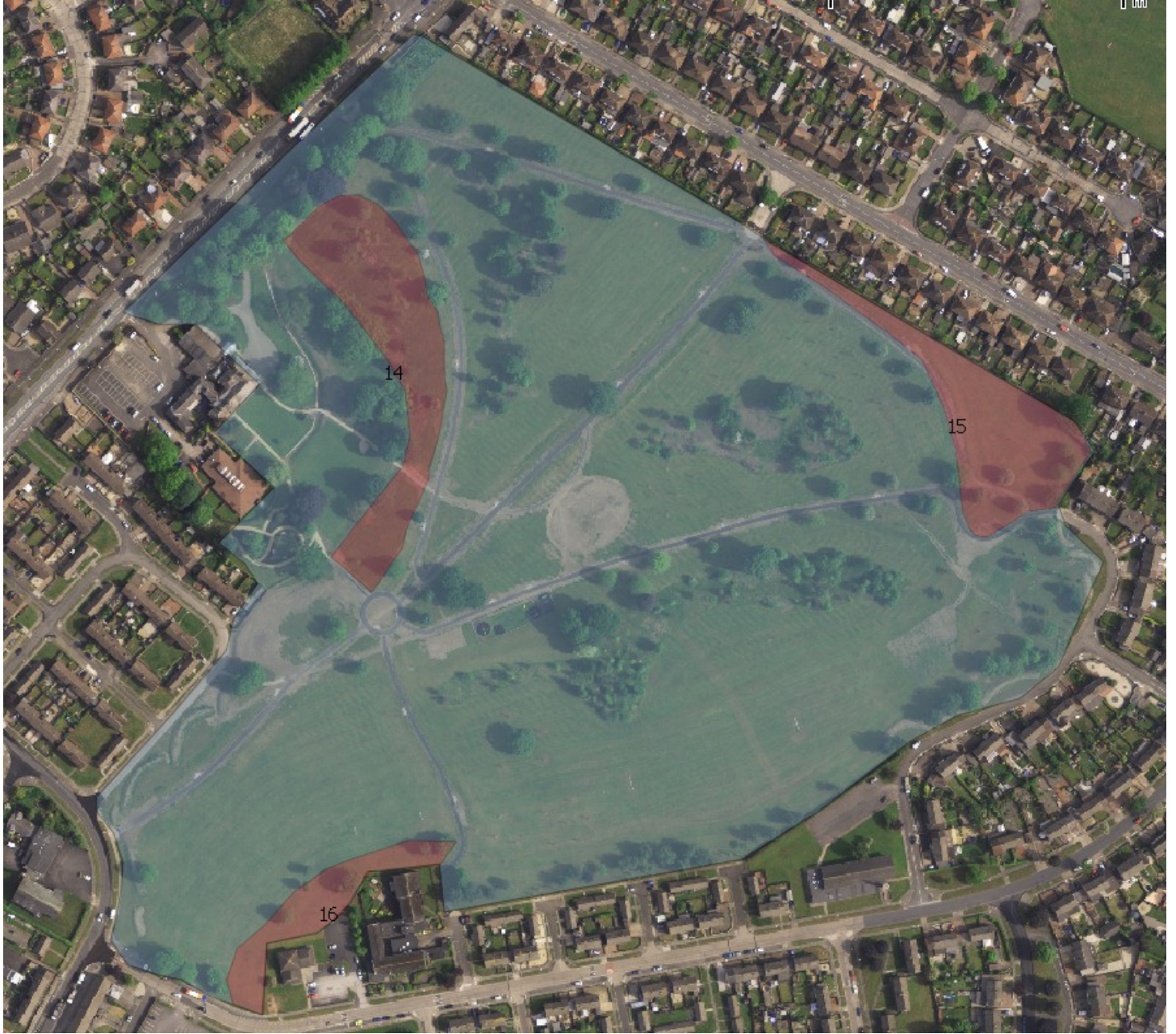
Winscale Way

(Not to scale)



Chance Park

(Not to scale)



Richmond Green

(Not to scale)



Heysham Park

(Not to scale)



Jubilee Road

(Not to scale)



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

Meeting Date: 3rd November 2020

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: C.119/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports

Written response to: Cllr P Birks

Written response from: Cllr P Nedved

Resolution / Question:

Reply in writing to the questions posed by Councillor Birks concerning the Homeless, Prevention and Accommodation Services section of his Report (page 29 of the document pack) – specifically:

- i. 84 households had been assisted under a prevention duty with 89% positive outcome (75) – therefore what type of assistance could not be provided and what would happen to those people?
- ii. Would the award of £46,000 from the MHCLG Next Steps Accommodation Programme be available to assist the City Council in undertaking its statutory duties?

Response:

- i. Those positively assisted under the prevention duty were prevented from becoming homeless within 56 days; those cases where homelessness could not be prevented during this period would have been further assisted under the relief duty for 56 days and offered interim emergency accommodation
- ii. The NSAP funding is to be used within this financial year to immediately assist those rough sleepers (or at risk of rough sleeping) placed in emergency accommodation during the Covid-19 period to access longer term accommodation options locally, the funding will be used to develop 9 additional self-contained longer term accommodation units with support, and to increase access in to the private rented sector for this cohort. This is, in the main, to assist those non-statutory clients who have been accommodated temporarily under the “get everyone in” mandate from Government in March 2020, to ensure that no-one has to return to rough sleeping and to relieve pressures on frontline temporary accommodation units

Date: 19th November 2020

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

Meeting Date: 3rd November 2020

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: C.119/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports

Written response to: Cllr Dr L Tickner

Written response from: Cllr P Nedved

Resolution / Question:

Warm Homes Fund for First Time Central Heating – whether it was possible to use DFG funding or any additional grant funding available to progress those applications which had not yet been completed

Response:

All grants have their own qualifying criteria. A discretionary Safe and Warm grant via the DFG allocation and other options will have been considered by the Homelife Service but they could only be used if the Householder was eligible (see list of available grants via the web link).

Generally the works required for a WHF grant – external pipe connections for gas – would be greater than those able to be done from the other grant options, which was why we applied to have the WHF as an offer.

<https://www.carlisle.gov.uk/Residents/Housing-and-Homeless/HomeLife>

Date: 1st December 2020

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

Meeting Date: 3rd November 2020

Public / Private*: Public

Minute Reference: C.119/20 – Portfolio Holder Reports

Written response to: Cllr R Betton

Written response from: Cllr P Nedved

Resolution / Question:

Respond in writing to Councillor Betton providing further information on:

- i. St Cuthbert's Garden Village delivery models and their feasibility / financial implications
- ii. The submissions in respect of the Future High Street Fund and Town Deal, together with the associated costs and implications for the Council

Response:

- i. It has long been considered there is a need for a bespoke delivery vehicle to support implementation of the Garden Village.

Following close working with MHCLG, a formal Expression of Interest (EoI) was submitted to the Government's New Development Corporation Competition in November 2020. The proposal would secure a share a £10m fund described as "seed funding for councils to develop initial proposals for up to 10 new communities to unlock jobs and growth across the country". Subject to positive receipt of MHCLG funding, we would undertake the necessary work to assess, understand and arrive at a decision as to whether a public sector led delivery mechanism is required for St Cuthbert's and if so, what form this should take (e.g. a Development Corporation or equivalent). The funding would NOT set up any delivery vehicle (this would be the next stage of discussions with Government, once the detail and costs etc. are fully understood, as a result of the work proposed). Our proposal seeks £1.2m from MHCLG to explore 7 workstreams summarised as:

- Investigation and business case for a new Parks Trust as the start point of the delivery vehicle, to implement the strategic green infrastructure, including a healthy capital assessment and potential landscape competition.

- Extensive legal and financial support to develop an appropriate governance and finance structure for the delivery vehicle, based on public/private partnership.
- Further landowner engagement, to create formal partnerships where required and identify areas for intervention as necessary.
- Detailed financial viability and infrastructure work to assess the costs of delivery and understand where intervention is necessary and the benefits that can result.
- Promotion of St Cuthbert's as a location for investment – by housebuilders, developers, funding institutions etc.
- Investigation of the potential for an energy company for St Cuthbert's.
- Project management and design support.

Now the EoI is submitted, MHCLG will convene the Development Corporation Competition Board, to review the proposal and provide a recommendation to Ministers accordingly. Any formal announcement will therefore be subject to ministerial timetables.

A parallel delivery mechanism also being considered is that of entering a potential joint venture with one or more delivery partners (or Master Developer). The Master Developer could amongst other things secure a legal position on large parcels of land and de-risk them through securing planning permission and creating the primary infrastructure in order to deliver the market with serviced parcels of development land. Their investment in land acquisition and the construction of key pieces of infrastructure would typically be paid back through the sale of development land to housebuilders, commercial developers and other relevant parties. The Master Developer role may also involve building out houses or taking ownership of the affordable housing. We are exploring what interest there is from 3rd parties to undertake the role of the Master Developer and what the high-level commercial terms might look like if that role involves a joint venture with the Council.

ii. Town Deal:

The total ask from government is £25 million. Co-funding has been identified from the Council's own budget and assets, includes funding from the City Council's events budget between 2021/2-2025/6.

The implications for the Council would be that it would be the accountable body for the programme. Therefore, it will be responsible for carrying out the finance functions and oversight financial governance, transparency and accountability arrangements.

FHSF:

The total funding ask from government is £13.20 million. Co-funding has been identified from the private sector and from the City Council, this includes Council expenditure already invested in the former Central Plaza hotel.

The implications for the Council would be that it would be the accountable body for the programme.

Date: 30th November 2020