



Report to

Council

Meeting Date: 9th November 2021

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Leader's Portfolio Holder Report –
Councillor John Mallinson**

CARLISLE PROJECTS

Good progress continues to be made on Carlisle projects - Carlisle Station and Citadels:

Carlisle Station

- A further public consultation has been held 22nd September – 3rd November
- Initial designs of the proposed improvements have been prepared for the consultation. The views gathered on the design options will be used to inform plans as they are developed for approvals and consents
- The County Council will publish a feedback report, summarising the public views on the scheme design, and how this has been used to inform the project development

Citadels

- The Full Business Case (FBC) for a new campus for the University of Cumbria on the Citadels site has been submitted and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), formerly the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) are in the final stages of appraisal, with a decision expected in the coming weeks
- The business case for the £4m A decision by the MHCLG is anticipated towards the end of this year
- A scheme has been developed also includes 888 sq. m of business interaction space to be included within the scheme, to be funded through the Town Deal, is nearing finalisation and will be submitted to Government for consideration and a funding decision imminently

Caldew Riverside

- The second stage of detailed site investigations works, monitoring and sampling has now concluded

- An Interpretative Report is now being produced, which will set of the nature and location of the contamination. The report will then inform the development of the Remediation Strategy which will be produced towards the end of this year
- The first phase of remediation is scheduled for early 2022 and will involve the removal of underground storage tanks from the site

Central Plaza

- Plans for the redevelopment of the former Central Plaza site continue to be progressed as part of the Future High Street Fund
- The Council has undertaken the first stage of works – which involved a detailed site investigation, archaeological survey and a topographical survey
- These investigations and surveys have allowed us to better understand the ground conditions and any potential constraints to redevelopment
- Consultants have been appointed to undertake further due diligence, design and feasibility work to identify development options for the site that can be delivered by the City Council within the timeframe of the Future High Street Fund programme, so that the funding can be spent by March 2024
- In tandem, the site is also being marketed to see whether there is any interest from the private sector

FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

Castle Street Properties

- Tender out for survey work and essential repairs
- Commission and works to be concluded early 2022

Central Plaza

- As previously mentioned, consultants have been appointed to identify options for the site and agents instructed to market the site
- Both workstreams to be concluded early 2022

Devonshire Street / Market Square

- Current finalising the agreement between the city council and the county council regarding roles, responsibilities and delivery of these two projects
- Design work for Devonshire Street to begin before the end of this year

CARLISLE AMBASSADORS

Meetings: The latest meeting of Carlisle Ambassadors took place on 14th September 2021 at Carlisle Racecourse. This was the first face to face meeting to be held since March 2020. The event was very well attended 210 booked on and 180 attending on the actual day. The theme was 'Health and Wellbeing' with 22 showcases and speakers from Active Cumbria, Cumbria Constabulary, Caroline Pett Anxiety Coach, with updates from Carlisle City Council and Discover Carlisle

Membership: The membership has grown considerably over the last year with membership now at 323.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: The regular 'e' newsletter is growing more popular with nearly 1,600 subscribers. The content is put together in collaboration with Economic Development and Communications colleagues in the City Council who provide updates and information on a daily basis. A new newsletter is now being worked on in partnership with the University of Cumbria and Lancaster, Digital Cumbria, LEP, Cumbria Tourism, Cumbria Chamber etc to send out a monthly newsletter covering events and programmes for the following month.

Website: The website is mainly up to date, except for the videos from the last meeting, which will be uploading soon.

FLOOD DEFENCES

On Wednesday, 13th October the Environment Agency celebrated the completion of a key phase of the flood defences for Carlisle. The completed key works will better protect over 80 properties and vital infrastructure from the River Eden.

Sections of the Carlisle scheme were also completed during 2020 providing over 1,300 residential properties, commercial properties as well as key transport routes with increased flood protection.