

Meeting Date: 5th March 2019

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Anne Glendinning**

ST CUTHBERT'S GARDEN VILLAGE & CARLISLE SOUTHERN LINK ROAD

The government announced on 13 February, the award of £300,000 funding for St Cuthbert's Garden Village. There was also a further announcement on 14 February, that the government has allocated £102 million from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to deliver the Carlisle Southern Link Road (CSLR) - a strategic link road connecting junction 42 of the M6 with the A595 CNDR.

Cumbria County Council worked with Carlisle City Council and Homes England to develop the bid, part of a competitive process, which was submitted last September. The CSLR will be critical in supporting the full scale of development at St Cuthbert's Garden Village.

Now that funding has been secured, detailed design plans and scheme development for the road will continue with final route proposal consultation being undertaken in Summer 2019 and construction planned to start in Spring 2021.

This investment continues the government's support for Cumbria, the Northern Powerhouse and rural economies across the Borderlands region.

The 2018 UK budget reaffirmed the government's commitment to an Inclusive Growth Deal for the Borderlands – a unique cross border collaboration between Carlisle City, Cumbria County, Dumfries and Galloway, Northumberland County and Scottish Borders councils – to drive local growth and productivity across the Northern Powerhouse.

To find out more about the CSLR visit www.cumbria.gov.uk/cslr

To find out more about St Cuthbert's Garden Village, visit www.stcuthbertsgv.co.uk

HOMELESS, PREVENTION AND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

From 1st April 2018 to 31st December 2018, the Homeless, Prevention and Accommodation Services:

- Assisted 795 households with housing and homelessness advice
- Accommodated 229 households in temporary accommodation; 167 households departed, of which 85% were supported to move on positively within an average of 10 weeks
- 15 households were accommodated who were fleeing domestic abuse and all were supported to move on to safe and secure longer-term accommodation within an average of 9 weeks; 62 households at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic abuse were supported within the community with a range of interventions
- Processed 68 low cost housing applications, of which 22 were approved
- Assisted 4 households with arrears; 32 households with rent in advance payments; and guaranteed 7 rent deposits
- Welfare Benefits Advice team successfully supported clients to recover £1,548,706 in benefit gains

HMO LICENSING

In October 2018 the law relating to the licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) was amended to remove the number of storeys from the definition. This meant that any HMO occupied by 5 or more persons in two or more households, regardless of the number of floors, now requires a licence. Following local and national publicity a number of landlords have brought forward licence applications, but it is estimated that many have yet to come forward. Using a variety of data sources officers are identifying potentially licensable properties and writing to owners to ensure they are aware of their legal responsibilities and providing a licence application form. Those that do not respond to those letters will be investigated further and where there is sufficient evidence legal action will be taken. The Housing and Pollution Team are serving Civil Penalty notices on unlicensed HMO operating in the district.

CUMBRIA AND LANCASTER COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING HUB

The Council received four very strong tenders for the Community-Led Housing Hub, and the successful applicant is ACT (ACTion with communities in Cumbria). ACT, who are based at Skirsgill near Penrith, are an extremely experienced and respected consultancy, who have been working with communities across Cumbria for over 70 years.

ACT will be managing the Hub on behalf of five of the six Cumbrian Districts (with the exception of Barrow) as well as Lancaster. The Hub has been funded using grant awarded to the other five Districts through the Community Housing Fund – as Carlisle did not receive any of this funding, we have provided Officer time in lieu of financial payment, through leading on procurement and developing the legal partnering agreement. The contract will begin with effect from 1 March, for an initial 12-month period, with a view to seeking funding to extend the Hub (probably through a bid under phase 2 of the Community Housing Fund).

The Hub will provide community-led housing groups with professional advice and assistance (including “signposting” to more specialist services where required) in respect of:

- Planning
- Design and architecture
- Funding and finance
- Legal/ governance expertise
- Feasibility and technical studies
- Housing Association & SME builder contacts
- Community development and training.

ACT will be working alongside all of the Districts on the Hub Project Board, including establishing a Technical Panel, as well as setting up a Website and providing training events.