

Meeting Date: 5th January 2021

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economy, Enterprise & Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Paul Nedved**

FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

- The final business case for investment from the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) was submitted to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 31st July
- The MHCLG wrote to all the Councils involved in the FHSF programme in September 2020, seeking further clarification on the economic outputs of their proposed FHSF schemes. In Carlisle's case the outputs had been presented correctly and only very minor clarifications were needed
- An announcement on the FHSF funding is anticipated imminently

TOWN DEAL

- The Town Investment Plan and Town Deal proposal for Carlisle was submitted to MHCLG for consideration on 30th October
- Seven projects have been proposed for Town Deal Funding with a funding ask of £25 million
- An announcement on the FHSF funding is anticipated imminently

ECONOMIC STRATEGY

- Progress on the development of the Council's Economic Strategy continues to be made
- A workshop session was held with Scrutiny members on 30th November to refine the areas of focus for the strategy

ST CUTHBERT'S GARDEN VILLAGE

The now finalised Masterplanning Framework for St Cuthbert's Garden Village (October 2020) has been used to evidence the preferred option for the Garden Village Local Plan and a Draft Strategic Design Supplementary Planning Document.

These will be the main documents against which future planning applications will be assessed.

A six-week consultation on these two documents commenced on 10th November and will conclude on 22nd December. Given Covid restrictions, we have had to focus our engagement activities digitally rather than hold face to face meetings as we have done previously. All comments received will be reviewed and amendments to these documents will be made where it's necessary to do so.

In November, we submitted our expression of interest to the MHCLG Development Corporation Fund. This bid seeks assistance with exploring different delivery models and their feasibility. This is in addition to a separate bid to MHCLG for further capacity funding for the Garden Village project. We are still awaiting those announcements.

In November Cumbria County Council approved planning permission for the Carlisle Southern Link Road. This will unlock the delivery of the St Cuthbert's Garden Village. Together, these will play a vital role in supporting the economic recovery of Carlisle following the impacts of Covid 19, as well as the continued long-term growth of the city.

GREEN HOMES GRANT

Carlisle City Council has bid for £1,150,000 from the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery phase 1 b, to address fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency in at least 100 private sector properties. Carlisle has over 2,250 owner-occupied properties and over 700 privately rented properties which have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) in the low rating of E, F or G, but capable of achieving a minimum C Rating. We would hope to know the outcome of our bid in early to mid-January. If successful, the delivery would start at the end of January and be completed towards the end of September 2021.

BEVERLEY RISE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FILM

Riverside have commissioned a production company to produce a short promotional film celebrating the Beverley Rise scheme at Harraby (now called Settle Close) which included onsite training for students from Carlisle College. Filming has been taking place in early December, with interviewees including myself on behalf of the Council, John Stevenson MP, a construction student from Carlisle College who has benefitted from the development, and new residents who have just moved in.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE DECOMMISSIONING UPDATE

The County Council 'Supporting People' funding ends on 31st March 2021, and current supported accommodation providers are being decommissioned. There are two elements to this:

1. The County Council give the City Council a grant to support homelessness which we have used to directly fund 3 FTE Fixed Term Homeless Accommodation Advice Officers; we are currently actively seeking other funding streams
2. There are 2 providers in Carlisle currently commissioned by the County Council which will end:
 - Turning Point (20 units) – Turning Point have confirmed that they will be handing back the leased properties and no longer be providing this service after 31st March 2021; we are currently working with Turning Point to assist them where possible to rehouse their current occupants to prevent homelessness
 - Cumbria Gateway (17 units) – Cumbria Gateway have advised they wish to continue to provide services and will not be making any residents homeless. We already work with Cumbria Gateway under the Next Steps Accommodation Project to fund an additional 9 units for rough sleepers; this is funded until 31st March 2021, however we are awaiting further imminent funding announcements following the MHCLG budgetary setting

HOMELESS PREVENTION AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY

The draft priorities and associated actions have been out to public consultation (ended 20th November 2020); feedback received is being utilised to shape the final draft strategy priorities which will be considered by Council for approval at Full Council on 2nd March 2021, prior to publication.

COLD WEATHER / WINTER PLANS

Local authority plans have been submitted, verified and published by the MHCLG to ensure that there is sufficient homeless emergency provision in place in Carlisle for those who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping over the winter period. The provision is Covid secure and meets projected and profiled additional needs including Covid-19 requirements to support self-isolation and for those that have tested positive.