

Meeting Date: 20th July 2021

Public/Private*: Public

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

TOURISM / DISCOVER CARLISLE

On 5th May Carlisle City Council's Destination Management Team along with colleagues from Chester and Lancaster delivered an online travel trade presentation to Abbey Ireland, a collection of travel companies based in Dublin, London and Edinburgh as part of the England Originals project. Carlisle also featured in The Guardian (22nd May) as one of eight great City breaks for culture and outdoor fun. The Destination Management Team supported a crew from BBC2 who are producing a documentary 'The Lakes with Simon Reeve'.

BITTS PARK CULTURAL AND CREATIVE COURTYARD

Preparations for the opening of the Courtyard are well underway following the arrival of the specially converted shipping containers in May and the appointment of a site operator in mid-June. There has already been a lot of interest with regards to the take-up of occupancy of units, with 40 people taking advantage of an open day on 1st July. As part of the operating model, all tenants will be required to reinvest back into local disadvantaged communities. This could be donating a share of profits, sharing time and expertise, or creating job opportunities. There are also no shareholders, so all profits are reinvested into the site and Bitts Park area, with an independent advisory group formed to support decision making and distribution.

OLD FIRE STATION

We recently hosted the work of University media students at the Old Fire Station with 130 people visiting. We also hosted two days of filming with Carlisle College who used the OFS to make a Zombie film! Work continues on appointing a new operator to start in September.

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, working in partnership with Carlisle Castle, have had a steady flow of visitors after reopening in May. CMoML are re-introducing their Veterans Lunches in July and their Wednesday workshops for families during the school holidays, working within the current guidance.

TULLIE HOUSE

Tullie House re-opened its doors on 18th May 2021, operating on a five day week until the start of the Summer Holidays in July. Between opening and the end of June, we have seen around 64% of our 2019/20 footfall, 53% of our 2019/20 paid admissions rates and 63% of 2019/20 retail income. This is broadly in line with the sector average, but we are hoping to increase admissions significantly with the opening of the Costume Collection at Tullie House – two major new galleries that should have opened in Spring 2020 but were delayed due to Covid-19. We are also working on a refresh to our popular Wildlife Dome gallery, which (subject to no further delays) will be open at the start of the school summer holidays.

Our family-friendly summer exhibition 'Driggsby, A Whale's Tale' has been a huge hit with family audiences and school pupils. Almost 500 pupils have visited the exhibition, and over 300 people took part in craft activities inspired by the exhibition over May Half Term. We have re-started a limited programme of Covid-safe in-person activities, including the Bubble & ME project, in which we are working with a group of young Syrian and Sudanese refugees to develop their creative skills and boost their confidence, wellbeing and integration. Work has started on our City's Thriving Communities project, with a pilot programme 'Inside Out' being planned for August 2021 which will see arts, culture and nature inspired activities being delivered in outdoor settings around the City and District.

VICTORIAN HEALTH SUITE

The VHS is due to re-open on 19th July, after significant internal improvements carried out by Better Leisure. A feasibility study will soon be completed to assess how the site can be managed as a standalone facility once The Pools have been demolished. Through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, £400,000 has been identified for refurbishment of the Turkish Baths. New boilers would also be required to replace those currently supplying both The Pools and the Turkish Baths and there is a budget identified to fund this work too.

CARLISLE EVENTS (July 2021 – September 2021)

Date	Event	Location
Monday 14/06/2021 – Thursday 05/08/2021 (Daily)	Archaeological Excavation Tours	Birdoswald Roman Fort, Hadrian's Wall
First Saturday of every month	Carlisle Farmers Market	In the grounds of Carlisle Cathedral
Tuesday 18/05/2021 – Sunday 05/09/2021	Driggsby, A Whale's Tale	Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery

Sunday 04/07/2021	Cumbria Autoshow	Borderway Exhibition Hall and Mart, Carlisle
Every Monday 05/07/2021 – 13/09/2021	The Secret City Walking Tour	Carlisle City Centre
Every Thursday 01/07/2021 – 30/09/2021	Historic Carlisle Walking Tour	Carlisle City Centre
Thursday 08/07/2021	The Pantaloons Theatre Company: The Tempest	Talkin Tarn Country Park
Thursday 08/07/2021	The Great Community Race Day	Carlisle Racecourse
Thursday 08/07/2021	Carlisle Music Society: The Exquisite Heart and Mind	The Fraternity Hall at Carlisle Cathedral
Friday 09/07/2021 – Sunday 11/07/2021	The Feel Good Festival	Kirklington Hall, Carlisle
Wednesday 21/07/2021	The Pantaloons Theatre Company: Pride and Prejudice	Talkin Tarn Country Park
Saturday 24/07/2021	The Brickyard: Anything Goes Silent Disco	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Monday 02/08/2021	VL Aesthetics Ladies Night	Carlisle Racecourse
Friday 06/08/2021 - Saturday 07/08/2021	Wild On The Wall Festival	Dan Russell's Field, Walton Brampton
Saturday 07/08/2021	The Unravelling Wilburys	Harraby Community Centre
Tuesday 10/08/2021 – Tuesday 14/09/2021	Discover Hadrian's Wall by Guided Coach Tour	Meeting Point: Tullie House Museum
Thursday 12/08/2021	The Pantaloons Theatre Company: The Wind in the Willows	Talkin Tarn Country Park
Saturday 14/08/2021	Fake Festival	Bitts Park
Tuesday 17/08/2021	Steak Night Race Evening	Carlisle Racecourse
Wednesday 18/08/2021	Summer Family Fun Day	Carlisle Racecourse
Friday 20/08/2021 – Saturday 21/08/2021	Rockmantic Weekender	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Thursday 26/08/2021	Come Racing	Carlisle Racecourse
Thursday 26/08/2021 – Monday 30/08/2021	Carlisle Summer International Market	Carlisle City Centre
Saturday 28/08/2021	Definitely Oasis	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Sunday 05/09/2021	Race For Life	Bitts Park
Sunday 05/09/2021	Cross Border Sportive	Lanercost Priory
Tuesday 07/09/2021	Cumbria Opera Festival presents An Evening of Opera	Tithe Barn
Wednesday 08/09/2021	Afternoon Racing	Carlisle Racecourse
Friday 10/09/2021	The Jam'd	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Friday 10/09/2021	Cumbria Opera Festival presents Joan Rodgers in Conversation and Young Artists' Masterclass	St. Cuthbert's Church
Saturday 11/09/2021	Blackwater Conspiracy	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Saturday 11/09/2021	The Lovely Eggs	Old Fire Station, Carlisle
Sunday 12/09/2021	Bird On The Wire: The Songs Of Leonard Cohen	Old Fire Station, Carlisle
Thursday 16/09/2021	George Egg: Moveable Feast	Old Fire Station, Carlisle
Thursday 16/09/2021 – Friday 17/09/2021	StagedRight: Westside Story	The Sands Centre
Friday 17/09/2021	Blaze Bayley	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Saturday 18/09/2021	Dirty/DC	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Saturday 18/09/2021	Lady Bird	Old Fire Station, Carlisle
Saturday 18/09/2021	A Celebration of Simon and Garfunkel	Harraby Community Theatre
Saturday 18/09/2021 – Saturday 06/11/2021	New Light Prize Exhibition	Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery

Saturday 18/09/2021 – Sunday 19/09/2021	Gelt Gladiator 2021: Junior 3K, 10 Mile, 10K, 6K.	Walton, Brampton
Wednesday 22/09/2021	The Drag Ball	The Sands Centre
Thursday 23/09/2021	Thundermother	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Thursday 23/09/2021	Imagine: The John Lennon Songbook	The Sands Centre
Saturday 25/09/2021	Don't go into the Cellar: Strictly Sherlock	Old Fire Station, Carlisle
Saturday 25/09/2021	Gary Delaney: 'Gary in Punderland'	Harraby Community Theatre
Saturday 25/09/2021	Cumbria Pride	Carlisle Castle
Sunday 26/09/2021	The Futureheads	The Brickyard, Fisher Street, Carlisle
Sunday 26/09/2021	Carlisle Dance Academy	The Sands Centre
Wednesday 29/09/2021 – Saturday 02/10/2021	Horrible Histories: Gorgeous Georgians and Vile Victorians	The Sands Centre