



Meeting Date: 14th September 2021

Public/Private*: Public

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

BORDERLANDS INCLUSIVE GROWTH DEAL

Programme

- The Borderlands Partnership has submitted an Expression of Interest to be UK City of Culture in 2025
- The area covered by the bid includes the geographical local authority boundaries of Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Borders, Northumberland, Cumbria and Carlisle City
- The Expression of Interest is being coordinated by South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), the Economic and Community Development Agency covering Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders
- The winner will be selected in Spring 2022

CARLISLE PROJECTS

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

Carlisle Station

- The Carlisle Station Gateway scheme is now in the final design phase for Stage 1 with contractors appointed for the design and build contract
- Story Contracting have been appointed for work to the front of the station (Court Square) and Eric Wright Civil Engineering are the successful contractor for the work to the rear of the station
- Pre-planning discussions have now commenced with the City Council as the Local Planning Authority

Citadels

- The Full Business Case (FBC) for a new campus for the University of Cumbria on the Citadels site has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to access the £50 million that has been approved in principle for the project

- 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 that will be funded through the Town Deal

Caldew Riverside

- The second stage of detailed site investigations works has just concluded. There is now a period of ongoing monitoring and sampling
- These investigations and sampling will inform the production of the Interpretative Report, which will set of the cause, 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

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 continue to undertake the first stage of works – which involves a detailed site investigation, archaeological survey and a topographical survey
- These investigations and surveys will allow us to better understand the ground conditions and any potential constraints to redevelopment. This is important due to the proximity of the site to the historic West Walls and highway at Victoria Viaduct
- Further due diligence and feasibility work is currently being undertaken on the redevelopment options, with the site investigation works feeding into this process
- These investigations, surveys and feasibility will be concluded towards the end of this year

CARLISLE AMBASSADORS

Since March 2020, Carlisle Ambassadors have continued to network via virtual meetings online, including the successful Webinar held on 30th March 2021. In response to the restrictions, Carlisle responded to support its members and disseminate information out to all Carlisle businesses. This resulted in a growth in membership during the pandemic with numbers now at 320 members. The offer of free mentoring, weekly Zoom meetings, newsletters with signposting/guidance re grants etc has meant Ambassadors felt supported and informed throughout the restrictions.

Now that the restrictions have continued to ease, the first face to face Carlisle Ambassador meeting since March 2020, is finally able to take place. So after 18 months of working together virtually, the Carlisle Ambassador's main networking events are back live again. The event will take place at Carlisle Racecourse on 14th September between 11am and 2.30pm. The topic is a really important one, which will help businesses after the difficulties of the last 18 months, it is 'Health and Wellbeing' and there will be 23 businesses taking the opportunity to showcase, all from the Health & Wellbeing Sector.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Cumbria Covid-19 Recovery Strategy will be at Executive in August, it is also part of the update on recovery to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel in September. The Recovery Strategy sets out the overarching recovery principles and priorities for Cumbria's recovery from the pandemic.

CARLISLE PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

Carlisle Partnership Executive continues to work with partners to highlight key covid data and issues which may affect local partners and organisations. A partnership plan is being developed which factors in the WHO 6Ps (Place, Planet, People, Participation, Prosperity) which also links with the Cumbria Recovery Strategy. A regular weekly email bulletin and funding newsletter continues to be circulated across networks. Feedback has been good and there is evidence that this is shared and used amongst senior teams within partner organisations.