



Report to
Council

Agenda
Item:
11.(i)

Meeting Date: 2nd March 2021

Public/Private*: Public

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

TOURISM / DISCOVER CARLISLE

The Council's Event Management Safety Group has suspended all events and activities on Council land and property until 1st May. The Discover Carlisle team is contributing to the work of the Cumbria-wide Tactical Visitor Management Group and Cumbria Tourism on a post-COVID recovery campaign. The Destination Manager will be producing a Visitor Economy and City Centre COVID Recovery Action Plan, specific to Carlisle and district. The team has continued to build the photo and video library over the winter, and a new promotional video is in production for the 2021 season. A refreshed Historic Walking Tour and Discover Carlisle's Solway Coast leaflets have been produced. Work has commenced with partners across Hadrian's Wall to celebrate its 1900th anniversary by producing and curating a series of events across the World Heritage Site.

The Discover Carlisle team has supported various TV production companies over the winter and TV programmes 'World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys', 'Robson Green Walking Coast to Coast' and 'The Cabins' have all been broadcast.

BITTS PARK CULTURAL & CREATIVE VILLAGE

Work is ongoing to create a development of small business units, with a focus on locally based retail and catering, in Bitts Park, utilising a disused area to the rear of the Lodge building. The proposed development, for which an application for temporary five-year planning consent has been submitted (app ref 21/0079), would make use of upcycled shipping container infrastructure and aims to provide opportunities for new starter businesses and individuals to secure short term, affordable leases to test their business models without major commitment or risk. This scheme received funding of £150,000 from MHCLG as part of the Towns Fund accelerator.

SPORTS AND LEISURE SERVICES

Carlisle Sports Hardship Fund

Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council have jointly contributed to a £20,000 fund to support clubs that are struggling during the pandemic. The project is being administered by Active Cumbria who have contacted all clubs to see what help they require. The hardship fund is aimed at not-for-profit sporting organisations that have not been able to access other support.

Sands Centre Redevelopment

The main contract for the Sands Centre Redevelopment continues to progress well. The main demolition works have been completed with the next phase being the consolidation of the ground and work on the new building foundations and the swimming pool.

TULLIE HOUSE

As of 5th January, Tullie House has been closed as part of the nationwide lockdown. Work continues behind the scenes on gallery developments. Our new costume galleries are ready to open and we have further updates planned to the Border Galleries in 2021 (Covid-19 permitting), including a refresh of the Roman section of the Border Galleries and a new Social History display. Strong progress is also being made on Project Tullie, our capital and organisational development programme with an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund due to be submitted in April 2021.

CUMBRIA MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life has not reopened due to Lockdown3. Staff are currently working from home or are furloughed. We are working closely with English Heritage in preparation for reopening when it is safe to do so.