

Meeting Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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## **BORDERLANDS INCLUSIVE GROWTH DEAL**

### **Programme**

- A Special Council meeting was held when Members considered the Agreement. The signing of the Full Deal Agreement is still on track for March 2021.
- Since signing the Heads of Terms in July 2019, a large volume of work has progressed by the Borderlands Partners as part of the preparations for agreeing the Deal.
- This includes the development of a suite of Deal-wide documentation which set out the projects to be included in the Growth Deal, the funding required and how they will be delivered. These include
  - The Full Deal Agreement – this sets out an investment programme focused on the four strategic themes of:
    - Improving places
    - Enabling infrastructure
    - Encouraging green growth
    - Supporting innovation, business and skills.
  - This Agreement is the statement of commitment by all parties to supporting and delivering the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and it is supported by a suite of documents including
    - An Implementation Plan - includes the details of each project funded through the Deal, their outcomes and anticipated benefits, and the indicative timeline for delivery.

- A Financial Plan – sets out the approach to financial management for the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.
- A Governance Plan - sets out the governance arrangements for the delivery of the Deal in accordance with the requirements of the UK and Scottish Governments

## **Carlisle projects**

Good progress continues to be made on three Carlisle projects - Carlisle Station, Citadels and Caldew Riverside:

### Carlisle Station

- The detailed business case for seeking £20m investment from the Deal to deliver the improvements to the Railway Station project has now been approved by Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- An overview of this project will be brought to the Executive in March 2021 who will be asked to note the Business case for the Carlisle Station project and give their approval to enter into an agreement with the County Council regarding the City Councils landholdings that are necessary to deliver the scheme.

### Citadels

- Following the allocation of £50m funding in principle to transform the Citadels buildings, the project partners continue to develop the detailed business case for a new campus for the University of Cumbria on the site.
- As the Citadels are Grade 1 listed, detailed discussions with Historic England have taken place. They are very supportive of the project and a series of development and design principles have been agreed with them.
- The work to produce a detailed business case for the project is approaching the final stages, which will include a detailed design and cost plan for the scheme.
- Submission of the business case to the MHCLG has been identified for March 2021.

### Caldew Riverside

- Proposals for the redevelopment of the Caldew Riverside site for a residential city centre living scheme continue to be progressed.
- £850,000 has been secured from the Towns Fund Accelerated Capital Grants programme, which will fund the site investigation works and remediation of the site. The first stage of site investigations has been completed and a second stage will commence this month (February 2021).
- The City Council are in discussions with Homes England regarding funding and technical support to produce detailed plans for the site, with a view to securing additional funding to support the delivery of the scheme.

## **Central Plaza**

- The Economic Development Team continue to progress the options for the redevelopment of the site, which forms an important part of the proposals for the Carlisle Station gateway area.
- A potential scheme for the redevelopment of the site submitted as part of the Council's Future High Street Fund (FHSF) bid. This proposal involved the redevelopment of the site for a new hotel. £4.7million investment was requested to support the delivery of the project.
- The MHCLG confirmed in December 2020 that City Council's FHSF bid had been successful with an allocation of £9.1million. The next stage is to confirm to the MHCLG by the end of this month (February 2021) the projects to be funded and delivered through the FHSF.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING: COVID-19**

The Council continues to respond to the Covid-19 emergency through the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum, Health Protection Board and Strategic Recovery Coordination Group. We have started planning towards a possible easing of restrictions.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

The countywide community response to Covid-19 continues including the promotion of business grants and support. In addition to this, work continues on key projects including the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and national promotions such as National Apprenticeship Week.

## **FREEPORT**

- The Council responded to HM Government's Freeports Consultation in July 2020. Parallel to this the City Council has been working with Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership to identify the opportunity for Carlisle.
- HM Government launched the Freeports bidding prospectus on 16 November 2020.
- A proposal for Cumbria has been submitted, supported by Cumbria LEP, Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Barrow Borough Council.
- The proposal focusses on multi-modal Freeport incorporating Carlisle Airport, the Port of Workington and the Port of Barrow.