

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

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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## **PROJECTS**

### **St Cuthbert's Garden Village**

Once adopted, the St Cuthbert's Local Plan will be the primary document by which future planning applications will be assessed. Decision making will also be supported by Strategic Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The finalised St Cuthbert's Village Masterplanning Framework (October 2020) informed both Preferred Option for the Garden Village Local Plan and a Draft Strategic Design Supplementary Planning Document. Both documents were subject to a 6-week public consultation which closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

The draft Local Plan identifies areas expected to come forward under the first phase to deliver homes, jobs, shops and schools and open spaces which central to the Garden Village principles. The Plan also proposes a suite of wider policies to secure infrastructure, high quality design, net gains to biodiversity and affordable homes.

In total, some 69 individuals and organisations responded highlighting a number of points such as: the scale, distribution, phasing and layout of the proposed development areas; the need for homes and infrastructure; and the wording used within those policies. We are now reviewing these comments and where appropriate will be making changes to the Plan that will again be consulted upon in due course.

Following Cumbria County Council's approval of the Carlisle Southern Link Road in November 2020, a CPO inquiry is now scheduled for May 2020. Completion of this road will be key to unlocking the full delivery of the St Cuthbert's Garden Village.

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- 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 for the Council to confirm to the MHCLG, by the end of this month (February 2021), the projects to be funded and delivered through the FHSF.

### **Town Deal**

- The Town Investment Plan and Town Deal proposal for Carlisle was submitted to MHCLG for consideration on 30 October.
- Seven projects have been proposed for Town Deal Funding with a funding ask of £25 million
- An announcement on the Town Deal is anticipated in the coming weeks, possibly around the publishing of the Budget in early next month (March 2021).

### **COVID-19 and Impact on Carlisle's Economy**

- The City Council commissioned specialist support to undertake a detailed study on the short, medium and longer-term impacts of COVID-19 on the local economy and key employment sectors with the District – both urban and rural. This work was supplemented by detailed engagement with Carlisle's major employers, industry representative groups and community stakeholders.
- This work has informed the Council's Future High Street Fund and Towns Fund submissions - to ensure that the investment responds to the local economic challenges presented by COVID-19 and supports our key employment sectors
- A further piece of work has now been commissioned to look at the impacts of COVID-19 on the High Street. This will culminate in the production of a report and updated investment strategy and action plan for the City Centre.

### **Buy Local Carlisle Project**

In response to the feedback from businesses, the Buy Local Carlisle project started just before Christmas 2020. The mentor programme aimed to provide mentoring to local businesses to help in surviving lockdown with an opportunity of 3 hours of support. By the end of January 60 businesses had been supported through the programme which was 101% of the target outputs. The project also captured details

of the businesses on the Facebook group and the web directory is now live and can be found at [www.buylocalcarlisle.co.uk](http://www.buylocalcarlisle.co.uk) This will enable both business to business engagement and business to customer searches to take place and strengthens our ability to buy local and protect our local businesses and supply chain.

### **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 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. Carlisle has been awarded £6,400 which was the maximum that could be applied for.

### **Rough Sleeping Initiative**

Carlisle as the lead authority for Cumbria has been advised from the MHCLG that a further 3 months funding will be allocated to Cumbria to continue to support rough sleepers in April. This is to enable a further application to be submitted due to the timetable being delayed due to Covid 19.

### **Covid 19 vaccinations - homelessness**

Services continue to be delivered safely to vulnerable people, all of whom are being health screened and supported to access a GP for consideration to access a priority vaccination. The numbers of residents are being reported to CCG and MHCLG to inform planning.

Frontline staff working face to face with people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping currently have been prioritised for vaccination.