

Meeting Date: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Public/Private\*: Public

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

---

### **BORDERLANDS**

Good progress continues to be made on the two key projects in Carlisle - Carlisle Station and the Citadels.

- The detailed business case for the Station project is close to being finalised
- Work on the detailed business case for the Citadels has commenced, with a recent issues and options consultation undertaken between 14<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Work is also being undertaken to support the case for additional investment to be allocated to the delivery of the Inclusive Growth Deal to support local recovery response to the economic impacts of COVID-19

- A proposal document is currently being prepared outlining the economic case for this additional investment

### **CARLISLE AMBASSADORS**

Carlisle Ambassadors has continued to provide support and information to businesses throughout the current crisis. Unfortunately, the Ambassador meeting planned for 25<sup>th</sup> June had to be postponed and will now take place on October 1<sup>st</sup> at Carlisle Racecourse and will also be available on-line.

However, in response to the current situation a business support group has been established which meets weekly via Zoom sharing information and best practice as well as making business connections.

In addition, there is a regular 'e' newsletter which provides updates and information on a daily basis and a Facebook Group 'Small Business Support Carlisle' was established at the end of May and has 2,400 small, medium enterprises. Despite the current situation we are still receiving requests from businesses to join Carlisle Ambassadors' - membership is now 210.

## **ENGLAND'S HISTORIC CITIES CONSORTIA**

Meetings have been held regularly since March to share issues and concerns especially for the visitor economy.

The consortia has continued to share best practice and in addition to their Benchmarking Data Report recently completed, an additional section has been produced to include a COVID 19 impact review.

Historic Cities have been supporting each other in sharing of information and guidance to support the sector during lockdown. It was evident that the visitor economy would be hardest hit by the pandemic and therefore evidence gathering and reporting nationally would be required to demonstrate the impact and needs of the sector.

Close working partnerships with Visit England, the Tourism Alliance and Core Cities has helped develop a clear picture of the impact of COVID 19 on tourism in our historic cities in England and specifically their Destination Management Organisations (DMO's) and local economies.

Reports had already been submitted to Visit England and their Board, a further submission to the DCMS Select Committee on the impact of Covid-19 on tourism was sent from England's Historic Cities Consortium on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

The consortia continues to work together to deliver projects and despite the pause on decisions regarding the Discover England Fund which had been due in April, has been proactive in engaging with Visit England to review the content of the bid for DEF 5 funding to ensure it is informed by the international impact on the visitor economy and is focussed on recovery.

## **PROMOTING CARLISLE**

### **Future High Street Fund**

The draft business case that submitted to Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in March for comment gained positive feedback

- Although, as expected, areas were identified that require refinement

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the deadline for the submission of the final business case has been extended until the 31<sup>st</sup> July.

- The Regeneration Team are working on strengthening the business case and ensuring that feedback from MHCLG is addressed
- The Team also working closely with Cumbria County Council to ensure that the project is coordinated across the two authorities

## **Town Deal**

Progress continues to be made despite the challenges of COVID-19 and the inability to convene the Town Deal Board physically since March.

- A series of virtual workshops were held during May 2020 where the vision, strategy and objectives for the Town Investment Plan were agreed and the drafting of the Plan has now commenced
- A virtual Board meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 where details of a forthcoming public consultation were agreed

The detailed guidance for the Towns Fund was published on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. This sets out the timescales for submission of Town Investment Plans

- 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 or 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 or 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021
- Carlisle will be submitting their Town Investment Plan in October

## **Central Plaza**

The Regeneration Team is continuing to progress the redevelopment of the site, with it forming one of the key projects in the Future High Street Fund bid.

Specialist support has been commissioned to support the proposal for a new hotel on the site and ensure that the case for investment is strong as possible.

A detailed appraisal is in the process of being finalised, which will form an important evidence base to the business case. This involves

- Further feasibility work and construction costings to demonstrate a new hotel is deliverable with some 'gap' funding
- A demand / capacity assessment to demonstrate a new hotel is viable and sustainable

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

The response to the Covid-19 Pandemic has remained the priority for the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF). The fall in cases has led to the easing of restrictions and a shift to more of a focus on recovery work. Officers from the Council continue to play an important role in the LRF.

The development of a Cumbria Local Outbreak Control Plan, by the end of June, has been a significant step, moving the emphasis from civil contingencies back to health protection.

The full impact on and the role the Council has played will be the subject of a report to Executive on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

In addition, Officers are keeping a watching brief on impact of the dry weather we had in Spring on water supplies and river levels. This is currently being assessed on a weekly basis through the partnership.

Officers also worked with colleagues in the Police, Fire and Highways to ensure a Covid-19 safe and secure 'Black Lives Matters' event took place in Carlisle City Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The event was peaceful and respectful.

### **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

A number of Carlisle Partnership partners have supported and fed into the emergency response locally, as well as response and recovery structures. We are thankful for their time and contributions across the City in the various roles they are playing. A weekly email circular has been compiled which has woven in information provided by partners, City Council updates and National Government information / guidance.