

Meeting Date: 8th September 2020

Public/Private*: Public

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

ST CUTHBERT'S GARDEN VILLAGE

The preferred option masterplan is due to be received in the first week of September, having been informed by a technical stakeholder consultation undertaken in July and August. This illustrative masterplan will be accompanied by a report, an infrastructure schedule and strategic design guidance.

Moving forward we are planning an Autumn period of public consultation on the masterplan, in tandem with the Garden Village Local Plan policies. Given our good track record on innovation in engagement, we are developing animated digital tools to aid this process. The Members' Advisory Group which includes two Parish Council representatives continues to meet, and the next session is due towards the end of August, where they will be updated as regards to delivery mechanisms, and the masterplan.

Work on the St Cuthbert's Local Plan, which will be used in tandem with the masterplan to guide development in the area, is also continuing. Strategic policies are nearing their first full draft, in readiness for their progress through the Committee cycle, before going out to the Autumn consultation

We are shortly due to submit an expression of interest to the MHCLG Development Corporation Fund to seek assistance with exploring different delivery models and their feasibility. In addition, we have been invited by MHCLG to submit a bid for further capacity funding for the Garden Village project, with, as always, a tight deadline of 4th September.

With regards to the Carlisle Southern Link Road, in July Carlisle City Council together with Cumbria County Council and Homes England entered into a collaboration agreement to formally secure the final allocation of the funding required

to deliver the road. This funding agreement is a major milestone and will deliver in excess of £134 million. The new road will unlock the delivery of the St Cuthbert's Garden Village and together these two projects will play a vital role in supporting the economic recovery of Carlisle following the impacts of Covid 19, as well as the continued long-term growth of the City.

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 31st July.

The business case for Carlisle sets out a strategy to create a resilient city centre by supporting economic activity, improving the visitor offer and experience and widening the opportunities to have more people living and working in the centre.

The business case seeks £14.1 million of FHSF investment to support the delivery of six distinct but inter-related projects:

1. Redevelopment of the former Hooper's building
2. Repurposing of the properties 6-24 Castle Street
3. Preparing Central Plaza site for redevelopment
4. Creation of a multipurpose events space and improved gateway to the Historic Quarter within the area that incorporate the Green Market and Old Town Hall
5. Pedestrian enhancement of Devonshire Street
6. Remediation and redevelopment of the Caldew Riverside site for city centre living

TOWN DEAL

Progress continues to be made on the development of a Town Investment Plan for Carlisle, which will be submitted to MHCLG for consideration in October of this year.

The Town Deal Board have developed a vision for Carlisle and a set of investment objectives that will provide the framework for the Town Investment Plan and also the selection criteria for potential projects.

An initial consultation of the proposed vision and objectives has just concluded, which ran from the 27th July – 14th August. Engagement has been positive, and the feedback received will be used to further refine the vision and objectives and ensure they reflect the aspirations of local communities and businesses.

The next stage of work involves the identification and shortlisting of projects for which Town Deal funding will be sought.

FREEPORT

Freeports are a special kind of port where normal tax and customs rules do not apply. These can be airports as well as maritime ports. At a freeport, imports can enter without paying tariffs. Businesses operating inside a Freeport can manufacture goods using the imports and add value, before exporting again without ever facing the full tariffs or procedures.

A consultation on Freeports by the Government concluded on 13th July and the City Council has submitted its response, which covered issues such as customs, taxation, planning, regeneration and innovation. It is anticipated that the Government will put out a call for expressions of interest from places interested in establishing Freeport areas in the coming months.

HOMELESS, PREVENTION AND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

From 1st April 2020, the Homeless Prevention and Accommodation Services have assisted:

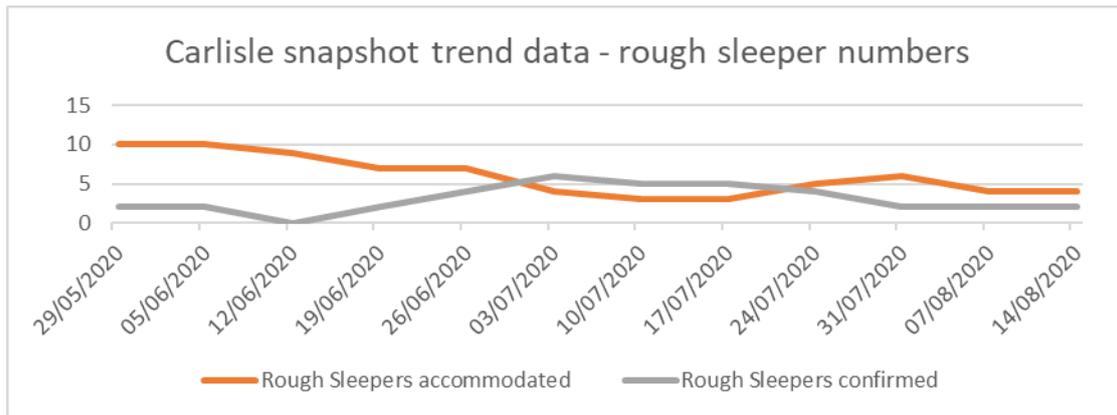
- 275 households with housing and homelessness assistance
- 71 households have been assisted with emergency accommodation and support

Covid-19 Crisis Response:

The coronavirus pandemic has meant that the services have had to operate in differing ways to ensure that we can ensure that clients and staff are safeguarded as much as possible. This means that within the emergency accommodation we continue to follow changing Government guidance in ensuring shared accommodation environments meet stringent safety and distancing measures. It is not deemed appropriate currently to safely reinstate all the units within the accommodation portfolio, therefore the service is working hard to ensure that throughput can be maintained in order to meet demands. Service Managers continue to work closely with MHCLG specialist advisors monitoring and reporting weekly trend data and will ensure that appropriate contingencies are in place in the run up to the winter period should full operational recovery still not be recommended.

The chart below (Figure 3) highlights the weekly snapshot trend data of the rough sleeper numbers that have been accommodated as part of the Government's mandate during lockdown to 'get everyone in', and the number of rough sleepers confirmed by outreach staff as rough sleeping; please note that the two confirmed rough sleepers have both had offers of support and accommodation that have been refused; Officers continue to work with these individuals along with other professionals to support and engage them as safely as possible.

Figure 1



The MHCLG has released a current funding application (deadline 20th August) to provide support to those placed in emergency accommodation as a result of Covid-19 and to increase move on options for rough sleepers longer term.

Cumbria County Council Supported Temporary Accommodation Decommissioning:

Cumbria County Council currently commission two local providers to deliver 45 units of longer term supported accommodation for those at risk of homelessness in Carlisle; these contracts end on 31st March 2021 and the providers will stop taking referrals from 30th September 2020 as part of the decommissioning process. The Homeless Prevention & Accommodation Services Manager is currently in discussion with the providers to determine next steps and wider implications.