

Meeting Date: 5th January 2021

Public/Private*: Public

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

TULLIE HOUSE

The Museum reopened on Thursday, 3rd December and we have a number of festival family activities planned throughout the month, including a sold out socially-distanced Santa's Grotto!

CUMBRIA MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life reopened on Saturday, 5th December.

TOURISM / DISCOVER CARLISLE

The Discover Carlisle Team has once again been working to re-open the high street safely following the second lockdown. A 'shop local' campaign has run alongside the re-opening of the high street work, encouraging residents to support local businesses and use our high streets for their Christmas shopping.

The Discover Carlisle Team supported a production company producing the Channel 5 programme 'World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys'. The programme focuses on the Settle-Carlisle Railway.

CULTURE AND EVENTS

Following the launch of the Carlisle Culture Strategic Framework last month, the Partnership is currently seeking candidates to join a new Interim Development Group to develop delivery of the Framework.

Cumbria Arts & Culture Network

The network for arts and culture individuals and organisations continues to grow, providing support for practitioners across the County. A key area of activity at present is helping members adapt to operating during Covid-19.

LEISURE SERVICES

Following the end of the second lockdown, The Pools and The Sands Gym @ Newman reopened, albeit continuing with limited opening times. More details of service times can be found through our leisure provider's website <https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/carlisle>

Stonyholme Golf Course has also reopened with the front 9 holes currently playable. More details can be found at <https://www.stonyholmegolfcarlisle.co.uk/>

CARLISLE'S ROMAN HERITAGE TOURISM APPRAISAL

- The City Council has commissioned an options appraisal and feasibility study into the potential interventions and investments that might help to develop Carlisle's Roman Heritage tourism offer.
- The study will identify ways in which the tourism potential of Carlisle can be unlocked by developing its Roman Heritage offer with a specific focus on:-
 - Positioning Carlisle as a gateway to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site
 - Bringing alive the largely invisible heritage of Roman Carlisle
 - Attracting new audiences that don't currently engage with the World Heritage Site or the heritage of Carlisle
 - Complementing existing heritage attractions and encouraging visits to these existing attractions
 - Contributing to the vitality and viability of Carlisle city centre
- This commission will be a two-stage process that identifies:
 - (1) The strengths and weaknesses of the current heritage tourism offer on the western side of Hadrian's Wall
 - (2) A list of potential interventions and investments that will enable the Council to capitalise on opportunities being presented by the Borderlands Growth Deal Hadrian's Wall investment programme.

SANDS CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

The main contract for the Sands Centre Redevelopment started on the 23rd November. This is the start of the 98-week development programme for the demolition and building work for the new enhanced leisure facilities.

The services have been diverted to enable the existing site to be split between the new build and existing event hall. The demolition side has been stripped of all fixtures and fittings (which were segregated for recycling) and the roof tiles removed.

The main demolition work will begin in January followed by laying the foundations for the new building and swimming pool.