

Meeting Date: 27th April 2021

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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## **CULTURE AND EVENTS**

A COVID recovery plan has been developed which sets out actions for the next twelve months. This includes supporting the re-opening of high streets, new promotional videos, the introduction of a Cumbria Residents Week in October, and re-starting the events programme. A new promotional video for 2021 is in final production and will go live via the Discover Carlisle social media channels and website shortly. Planning for the 2021 Armed Forces Day has commenced, and the event will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> June if restrictions allow. The Discover Carlisle team has been supporting a local tour guide on the production of virtual city tours during this lockdown.

### **Bitts Park Cultural & Creative Village**

Preparations for the construction of the Bitts Park Cultural and Creative Village are well underway following planning approval for the project in late March. Used shipping containers, which will form the infrastructure of the development, have already been purchased and are awaiting conversion by specialist suppliers. Local contractors will soon occupy the site at Bitts Park to begin groundworks, utilities connections, surfacing and landscaping.

### **Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP)**

This partnership is focused on developing ways of engaging young people in a more socially aware, creative way and is a collaboration with Tullie House, University of Cumbria, 'Curious Minds' and the City Council. The next steps are to engage with the local schools' council to encourage them to become part of this initiative and to help us to engage with as wide an audience as possible.

## **Trinity Underpass**

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions, we will work with Trinity School and Probation Services in the re-painting of the Trinity subway in June this year. The pupils have been given a brief to create a piece of art which has a positive environmental message attached.

## **SPORTS AND LEISURE SERVICES**

Carlisle City Council successfully applied for a £235,000 National Leisure Recovery Fund Grant on behalf of leisure facilities in Carlisle. The funding will be used to support Carlisle City Council owned facilities (The Sands Centre, The Pools and The Sheepmount) and two other facilities operated by GLL.

## **Carlisle Holidays and Activity Partnership (CHAP)**

Through the CHAP group Carlisle City Council is supporting local community groups and third sector organisations to develop a co-ordinated and strategic approach to holiday provision across the City and District, both for Summer 2021 and in the longer term.

## **TULLIE HOUSE**

On Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, subject to Government approval, TH will be re-opening with a new exhibition in the Art Gallery: 'Driggsby, A Whale's Tale' is a family-friendly interactive exhibition that explores the life of Driggsby the Fin Whale, one of the most popular displays. The exhibition will run throughout the summer holidays.

TH was successful in its application to Arts Council England's Thriving Communities fund, one of just 37 selected nationally and the only one in Cumbria. TH is the lead organisation for this multi-sector partnership project which will see TH, Carlisle City Council, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Prism Arts, Susie Tate, NCIC & Carlisle Healthcare develop, pilot and deliver social prescribing programmes in indoor and outdoor spaces across the City. This is a fantastic result for Carlisle and will see our City's reputation for social prescribing and arts, health and wellbeing raised at a national level.

## **CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE**

If there are no further changes to the Government's roadmap the Museum will be re-opening on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, operating a joint ticket system with English Heritage. Outdoor activities are planned within the Castle site to engage visitors to the Castle/Museum in the summer months.