

## **Carlisle Infrastructure Delivery Plan Working Group**

**2 FEBRUARY 2023**

Minutes of a meeting of the Carlisle Infrastructure Delivery Plan Working Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at Cumbria House commencing at 10.00 am.

### **Present**

#### **Members**

Cyril Weber – Chair (Cumbria County Council)  
John Mallinson – Leader (Carlisle City Council)  
Nigel Christian – Carlisle City Council

#### **Officers**

Rhian Davies – Cumbria County Council  
Graeme Innes - Cumbria County Council  
Victoria Kelsall - Cumbria County Council  
Paul Musgrave – Cumbria County Council

Pieter Barnard – Carlisle County Council  
Keith Poole - Carlisle City Council  
Steve Robinson Wood - Carlisle City Council

#### **(1) Local Plans and IDP**

Consultants were currently preparing two Transport Improvement Studies for each of the new unitary authorities.

The commission will seek to review and update existing transport improvement schemes to assist in Local Plan Delivery and funding of required improvements.

For Carlisle, the following documents have been considered as part of the study:

- The Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-2030
- The IDP – which was updated in 2015 to support the submission and subsequent adoption of the Local Plan site allocations

A new excel based TIS table had been produced, this will act as a central database for all of the identified Transport Improvement Schemes (TIS) from across the County. These schemes are now catalogued to include a unique scheme identifier and common terminology and can be filtered by scheme type, completion status etc. All TIS schemes have now been digitised within a GIS spatial map alongside Local Plan allocation. Workshops have been held for each Local Plan area to ensure all relevant information about the schemes and their current status has been captured. Examples of the spatial map were shown to members.

Stage two of the study was aimed to sift the schemes down to a shortlist of approximately 30, the first stage of this sift is working alongside area officers who could remove any schemes that were no longer viable. The second stage of the sift then assesses the remaining schemes against deliverability, alignment with local plan sites yet to come forward. Stages of the sift and criteria etc was shown to the members.

It was explained that schemes were validated against the ambitions set out in the Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (CTIP), this also provided an opportunity to identify complementary or alternative options that would meet more objectives.

With regards to scheme updates and costings an optioneering workshop was due to be held that week with key officers and consultants will begin updating scheme drawings and options in February. These schemes will also be costed by a QS and funding mechanisms identified. The list of schemes were; North Carlisle California Lane to Etterby Street; Wigton Road to River Caldew; Wigton Road/Orton Road. Members were shown the schemes in more detail.

## **(2) St Cuthbert Garden Village**

Members were updated on the current situation with regards to St Cuthbert Garden Village. They were shown a list of important dates ranging from March 2022 to March 2026, the design code for the village and delivery frameworks.

With regards to Cummersdale and Durdar development cluster scenarios were being developed, spatial fixes for early key infrastructure development were being established as was safeguarding for longer term infrastructure locations/corridors. On the Carleton development, the council were working with North Trust as a primary land promoter to produce similar output.

With regards to long term delivery vehicle options appraisal Legal and financial options was still ongoing with a business case submission to government in December 23. Developer and master developer market testing options and interest from January 23, Key dates were: publication of final draft with a minimum six week consultation – October 23, Submission to Secretary of State – March 24; Examination – May 24; Adoption October 24.

## **(3) Carlisle Southern Link Road**

Members were updated on the current situation with regards to the Carlisle Southern Link Road.

During the last few months, the County Council had refined the design, cleared the site, carried out major utility diversions and completed the pre-commencement planning constraints. Tenders were currently being assessed and it was planned to award the contract in March or April 23 with works starting in May/June of the same year with completion towards the end of 2025.

#### **(4) Rail Update**

##### **Cumbria Coast Line**

With regards to the Cumbrian Coast Line, members had been informed that Network Rail had led on production of an Outline Business Case (OBC) for improvements to the Cumbria Coast Line. The improvements would include a new line infrastructure to increase capacity, line speed improvements and re-signalling. Further optioneering work had been undertaken following the call-in of the West Cumbria Mining planning application and the uncertainty regarding rail path demand from this development. This work considered options for a do-minimum' work package that could be built upon should West Cumbria Mining come forward at a later date. The OBC had been submitted in May 2022.

##### **Community Rail Partnership**

Concerns regarding planning engineering works over the Easter 2023 bank holiday period were noted. The partnership continued to work with the rail industry to consider future engineering works and possessions of the West Cumbria Main Line, traditionally works had been completed over bank holiday periods but with leisure markets now predominant there needed to be a rethink.

With regards to the Cumbria Coast Line Community Rail Partnership (CRP), Furness Coast Line CRP and Lakes Line CRP, these were to be hosted by Westmorland & Furness Council with effect from 1 April 2023.

#### **5 Cycling and Walking Programme**

Strategic corridors for the programme were shown, these included Hadrian's Wall and West Coast, Eden and Lune Valleys, North Lakes and Pennines, Heart of the Lakes and Morecambe Bay.

With regards to the Hadrian's Wall/West Coast corridor a preferred route had been identified, which would be split in to 17 sections. A business case was being developed and this would be submitted to Government in May 2023. The Active Travel strategy was still in development.

The Carlisle LCWIP had been approved by Cumbria County Council, endorsed by the City Council and launched in July 22. The scheme identified priority walking and cycle routes across the city. The Group were shown a map of the active travel vision that the cycling and walking team had recently identified for Carlisle City centre, which was part of the wider priority network. A number of city centre projects are ongoing and there is a need to make sure these are interlinked.

It was noted that the LCWIP was an unfunded plan and routes were continuing to be identified to work up deliverable schemes that can be used to secure funding. It was explained that for each of the LCWIP areas a number of corridors had been selected for further scheme development as part of this commission. Development of further concept designs including SCGV active travel routes were shown in more detail.

## 6 **The Citadels and Carlisle Station**

Work was progressing on Court Square, George Square and Water Street and James Street. Delivery of phase 1 of George Square was progressing following a resolution of project issues relating to land and the future management of car parks. Necessary approvals were required over February and March to allow George Square phase 1 works to progress from April 2023. Network Rail were progressing survey work for station interior and improved southern access. Detailed maps of George Square were shown to members.

## 7 **High Street Fund and Towns Deal**

With regards to Devonshire Street the design was being led by Cumbria County Council, an increase in funding from Carlisle City Council had been confirmed. The preferred option was progressing through preliminary design and consultation had been undertaken with local businesses to understand operational acceptability of options.

The group were informed that the County Council led £6.6m Town Deal Project for the Southern Gateway was progressing. A business case had been approved, designers appointed and design work had commenced. Work was ongoing to ensure integration with other projects taking place in the area.

With regards to the City Council part of the Future High Street Fund it was noted that Castle Street was still in the process of being agreed with Tullie House who were to progress a preliminary design cost plan. The Central Plaza site stabilisation survey works had been completed and options on how to progress with site were being progressed. Consultations on Market Square were ongoing.

It was explained that six of the seven projects in the Towns Deal had been signed off by DLUHC, the market hall business case had been submitted to DLUHC in December.

### **Any Other Business**

A workshop to arranged for early March regarding the Transport Infrastructure Plan for members of Carlisle Local Committee

Councillor Weber thanked everyone for their updates.

The Meeting ended at 11.30 am