

Public invited to have their say on ambitious new plans for Carlisle Railway Station and surrounding area

Friday 13 September 2019

Local residents, businesses, commuters and visitors are being given the opportunity to have their say on ambitious new plans for Carlisle Railway Station and its surrounding area. The public consultation takes place between Wednesday 18 September and Wednesday 9 October 2019.

From Wednesday, people can see the suggested plans and have their say online at www.cumbria.gov.uk/CSGC or in-person by visiting the venues below where members of the project team will be available to chat and listen to feedback:

- Carlisle Railway Station – Friday 20th September and Saturday 21st September 8am – 5pm
- The Lanes Shopping Centre, Carlisle – Friday 27th September and Saturday 28th September 9am – 5pm

A display will also be in place throughout the consultation in Carlisle Railway Station.

Councillor Stewart Young, Leader of Cumbria County Council said:

“Our plans to improve Carlisle Railway Station are in the early stages of development and we want to gather people’s views and ideas to help us shape plans as they progress. We want to make sure we design a scheme that meets the needs of the station’s users, as well as enhance the attractiveness of the station as the gateway to Carlisle city centre and the wider Borderlands area.

“The Government has allocated £15 million of funding through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal as the first phase of the Carlisle Station Gateway and Citadels project, subject to a business case being approved to secure this investment.”

The project is being developed jointly by Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council working with Network Rail and Cumbria LEP as key partners. By improving the Railway Station and its facilities, partners want to encourage visitors to come again, help young people to stay, make the station work better for the public, and stimulate investment in Carlisle.

Councillor John Mallinson, Leader of Carlisle City Council, said:

“The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal will provide transformational change for the city. The Carlisle Station Gateway and Citadels project is one of the first schemes to progress to this stage and could provide opportunities to improve the parking and access points, as well as creating investment opportunities.

“We want to make the most of the station and its surrounding areas and want to hear how residents, businesses and users of the Railway Station think the area could be improved. This is an exciting time for the city, and we encourage everyone with an interest in the station to take part in the consultation.”

John Stevenson, MP for Carlisle, added:

“The Borderlands Initiative has proved to be very successful for our region; in terms of investment from Government and demonstrating how neighbouring councils can work in partnership to achieve the support necessary for key projects. Improvements to Carlisle Railway Station and the Citadels area is just one of these projects that the Borderlands Initiative has secured. This project will be of real benefit to Carlisle and I look forward to seeing the final proposals.”

Carlisle Railway Station is a key part of the national rail network and accommodates more than two million passengers every year, acting as a major interchange for the entire Borderlands region and providing access to branch-line services from the West Coast Mainline to the Cumbrian Coast, Tyne Valley, Settle to Carlisle and Glasgow and South Western lines.

The consultation will allow the public to have their say on plans to improve connectivity and access for Carlisle and the Borderlands. By improving access, parking, shops and cafes, facilities and onward travel options at Carlisle Railway Station, it will boost the appeal of the city centre and support passenger growth.

Find out more at www.cumbria.gov.uk/CSGC

ENDS

Some additional background:

In July this year, the Leaders of the Borderlands Councils and UK and Scottish Government Ministers signed an agreement setting out the framework, projects and programmes that are included in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. This has secured a £394.5 million investment package for projects in our region.

One of these projects is the ‘Carlisle Station Gateway and Citadels’ proposal. It aims to create a new high-profile gateway development for Carlisle centred around the Railway Station, the Citadel buildings and Caldew Riverside. It aims to boost economic prosperity by attracting people to live, study and work in the area.

The first phase of the project will be the improvements at Carlisle Railway Station.

The second phase will be focused on the historic Citadels area to establish the site as a focal point for higher education, business and cultural uses. Working with the University of Cumbria and other key local stakeholders, Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council are currently exploring development options for the regeneration of the site.

The UK Government has allocated £15 million of funding through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal for the first phase of work at Carlisle Railway Station. The receipt of this funding will depend on value for money being demonstrated through a business case, which is now being progressed.

The Borderlands Partnership is made up of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council, Scottish Borders Council.

For further information on the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, visit <http://www.borderlandsgrowth.com/>