

Meeting Date: 28 April 2015

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Heather Bradley**

---

### **Carlisle District Local Plan (2015-2030)**

Consultation on the proposed submission draft of the Carlisle District Local Plan (2015 - 2030) closed on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. A good number of responses have been received with efforts having been made in the final weeks of the consultation to again promote the opportunity for people to have their say.

Two staffed drop in sessions were held in Carlisle Market Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April with both being well publicised. Both events succeeded in securing a good degree of public interest in the Plan.

Officers will now be considering the responses received and ultimately concluding whether to proceed, as intended, with submitting the Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination. Initial analysis supports that no significant issues have arisen in response to the consultation.

### **Brampton Irthing Centre Extra Care Scheme**

The scheme, which will provide 38 social rented apartments for older people, has now started on site. The 'sod cutting' ceremony on 25<sup>th</sup> March was attended by local Ward Member, Cllr Mitchelson, and representatives from the Housing Team.

## **HOUSING**

### **Cumbria Landlord Accreditation Scheme (CLAS)**

Since its launch in May 2014, Cumbria Landlord Accreditation Scheme has seen 65 landlords join the scheme across Cumbria, with 50 of those landlords owning or managing property in Carlisle. The scheme operates in partnership with five of the district authorities and the National Landlord Association (NLA), gives landlords the opportunity to gain accreditation by joining the NLA and then completing an online course or attending at a one day training course. The training the landlord receives equips them with the skills they need to ensure their properties are compliant with the legislation and assists them with the knowledge to become responsible landlords. The overall aim is improving the private rented stock in Carlisle.

### **Welfare Advice Services**

In 2014-15 the service has successfully assisted 1,010 cases; with total benefit gains in Carlisle of £2,050,904.30.

### **Hostel Services**

In 2014-15 the service had an average occupancy rate of 92%, accommodating 263 homeless households; and assisting 89% of those households to move on positively in to sustainable and suitable housing for their needs over an average 10 week period.

### **Homelessness Services**

In 2014-15 the service gave advice and assistance to 1,124 homeless households; made 139 statutory homelessness decisions, accepting a full duty to 16 households; and successfully preventing / relieving homelessness with 539 households.

### **Statutory Guidance: Right to move**

The Autumn Statement 2013 announced the government's intention to introduce a Right to Move for social tenants who need to move to take up a job or live closer to work.

To give effect to the Right to Move, the Department of Communities and Local Government have introduced regulations preventing local authorities applying a local connection test that could disadvantage tenants who need to move across local authority boundaries for work related reasons.

This new statutory guidance on social housing allocations is intended to assist Local Authorities to implement these regulations, and to ensure that social tenants who need to move for work related reasons are given appropriate priority under the local authority's allocation scheme.

All Cumbria Local Housing Authorities and partner Housing Associations that have signed up to Cumbria Choice, will review the allocation policy in the coming months to ensure compliance with statutory guidance.

### **Homelife Carlisle**

Homelife continues to grow and has expanded its Domestic Help service. We have been successful in partnership with Age UK in securing a post, starting in May, to help people with Fuel Debt with funding from United Utilities. Homelife have also been selected as one of the 3 National Evaluation Areas for Foundations 'Warm at Home' programme, in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University, securing £25,000 of funding for energy efficiency measures such as draught proofing and boiler repairs.