

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2013 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Bowman (Chairman), Councillors Bainbridge, Bowditch, Graham, Nedved, Miss Sherriff (as substitute for Councillor Watson) and Whalen.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Glover – Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder
Councillor Mrs Martlew – Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder
Councillor John Mallinson - Observer

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Economic Development
Director of Local Environment
Investment and Policy Manager
Overview and Scrutiny Manager

EEOSP.30/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors McDevitt and Watson

EEOSP.31/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted.

EEOSP.32/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2013 be noted.

A Member expressed his thanks to Councillor Layden who had chaired the Panel for the previous municipal year. The Member had worked well with Councillor Layden who had carried out some useful work on behalf of the Panel.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder endorsed the Member's sentiments and added that Councillor Layden had been very helpful during her first year on Scrutiny.

A Member queried the Council's present position with regard to obtaining a place on the University of Cumbria's board. The Director of Economic Development advised that a letter had been sent to the University who had explained that places would be on an individual basis and not as a Member of the City Council and that they would notify the Council when a place on the Board became available.

A Member queried when there would be feedback on the purple sacks review consultation. The Director of Local Environment advised that the consultation had ended and Officers were looking at the responses. Once the responses had been collated a full evaluation would be available on the Council's intranet. Of 1850 households that responded only 477 were against the proposed changes.

EEOSP.33/13 CALL IN OF DECISIONS

There were no matters which had been the subject of call in.

EEOSP. 34/13 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that it had been agreed that Item A.4 – Waste Services would be taken as the last item on the agenda to better facilitate Officer time.

EEOSP.35/13 OVERVIEW REPORT INCORPORATING THE WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN ITEMS

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented report OS.15/13 which provided an overview of matters related to the work of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Details of the latest version of the work programme and Key Decision items relevant to the Panel were also included.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported that:

- The Notice of Key Executive Decisions had been published on 31 May 2013. The items that related to the work of this Panel were:
 - KD.14/13 – Carlisle Local Plan 2015-2030 – Preferred Options which was to be considered later in the meeting
- There were no Minute Excerpts from the Executive's meetings held on 7 May 2013.
- Task and Finish Groups
The final report of the Talkin Tarn Task and Finish Group was presented to the Executive at their meeting on 31 May 2013. The Executive had decided that:

“The Executive had considered the final report of the Talkin Tarn Country Park Task and Finish Group attached to Report OS.12/13 and wished to give in depth consideration to the recommendations contained therein. The Executive would therefore respond to the recommendations in due course.”

A Member was concerned that the Executive had not given a timescale for a response as some of the recommendations could be met earlier than others. The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder advised that a tight deadline for a response would not allow a full response to be given and that would not do justice to the work undertaken by the Panel.

A Member agreed that some of the recommendations were simple to carry forward while others would require a more detailed response which was requested to be received as soon as was practical.

- Special Meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel
The Chair of the Panel had agreed that a special meeting of the Panel be held on Tuesday 25 June 2013 to consider the report on the Carlisle District Local Plan – Land Allocations.
- A Special meeting had been arranged for 12:00 on 20 June 2013 to consider a decision made by the Executive at their meeting on 31 May 2013 in respect of the Bring Sites Review which had been called-in for scrutiny.

- Work Programme – The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented the current work programme and advised that Members had agreed that the following issues could be considered at future meetings of the Panel:
 - Update on Botchergate Conservation Area and the Action Plan
 - Enterprise partnership
 - Tourism service and review
 - Update on parking income and strategy.

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder advised that if there were any other issues that the Panel were interested in the Scrutiny Panel would be an effective tool.

A Member believed that being able to scrutinise issues before being considered by the Executive was useful. The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder stated that every report from the Local Environment Directorate had been considered by the Panel before consideration by the Executive.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded Members that there would be a Work Programme Development Session at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED –1) That, subject to the issues raised above, the Overview Report incorporating the Work Programme and Forward Plan items relevant to this Panel be noted.

EEOSP.36/13 WASTE SERVICES

The Director of Local Environment submitted report LE.19/13 that provided Members with an annual update on the Council's Waste Services as set out in the work programme.

The Director of Local Environment outlined the background to the report and drew Members' attention to the Waste Services Performance Indicators and noted that there had been a reduction in paper recycling (green box), glass, paper, cans and plastics recycling (bring sites), garden waste collection and residual waste while cardboard recycling had increased (bring sites). Overall the rate of recycling fell by approximately 1.5%, which was mainly explained by the reduction in garden waste collection. That may have been a seasonal blip caused by the poor weather in 2012. Taking that out of the equation the overall decrease was around 0.3%. That overall reduction in performance meant that the actual tonnage recycled was less than estimated and therefore repayment of the recycling reward grant would be made to the County Council. As the City Council's year end estimate was 807.54 tonnes down and payments were made at £58.64 per tonne the Council would need to repay £47,354.15.

The Director of Local Environment advised that a back office database, FLARE, had been implemented that allowed Officers to efficiently manage customer requests for service whilst giving good quality management information. FLARE was synchronised with the CRM system in Customer Services that enabled calls to be dealt with as soon as they were logged. In April 2013, charges for new or replacement refuse bins were introduced as a measure for reducing the cost of replacing lost bins. The charges were payable should a customer require a replacement bin.

Consultation on the Purple Sacks Review, which had been considered by the Panel at their last meeting, had ended and the consultation report would be available in late June.

Work had been carried out in 2012 to assess performance of the Greenbox multi-material kerbside recycling service. There had also been an internal audit of that area of waste. Areas that need to be improved were being addressed with the contractor.

The Director of Local Environment advised that Cumbria Waste Management won the recycling contract for Eden Council at the end of 2011 which included the green waste collections that the City Council had provided. Eden commenced with the new contract for garden waste on 1 July 2012 and the contract transferred to Cumbria Waste Management on that date. As a result almost 200 properties had been added to the existing Carlisle green waste rounds.

With regard to plastic and card round, the current rounds were looked at to review and improve the efficiency with a view to trying to find capacity in the current system to add more customers who were not already on a plastic and card collection. Following the review the total mileage was reduced with a saving of £6,000. By improving the efficiency of the collection service and since the addition of a larger vehicle a total of 350 properties had been added to the service.

Following discussion at the last meeting of the Panel regarding neighbourhood recycling sites, the Executive had considered the option of bringing the service in-house. Consultation was ongoing regarding the precise number and location of bring sites but Officers were aiming to provide a service that combined convenience for customers with efficient operation.

The Director of Local Environment advised that a significant project reviewing the design of the whole service was about to begin for implementation in 2015/16. It was a long term project which would be the subject of further update to the Panel throughout the year.

In conclusion the Director of Local Environment advised that Officers were looking at how the performance figures could be reported more sensibly taking into account issues such as seasonal changes to recycling.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *It was not fair if the City Council were losing money due to matters outwith their control.*

The Director of Local Environment advised that there were a number of ways that the Council received payment for recycling and last year the Council received recycling credits rather than being paid recycling rewards. The two tier council system in Cumbria where the districts were responsible for the collection of waste and the County Council was responsible for the disposal of waste. It was essential that Officers worked with the County Council to reduce net costs and maximise rewards. The present system did not encourage recycling. The Director added that she would like to see more alignment between the County and District Councils' strategies to reduce the overall net cost of waste.

- *What was the present position with the Cumbria Waste Management Partnership?*

The Director of Local Environment advised that the last meeting of the partnership was in June 2012 as the partnership had been unable to work together and had fragmented. Officers met on an operational basis but there were no strategic meetings. However the

Director hoped that the matter would be better in the coming year between the County Council and some of the District Councils.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder congratulated the Director of Local Environment on the work carried out as she had been the driving force towards more cooperation between the Districts and was working on better links with South Lakes District Council and others. The Portfolio Holder was confident that a better approach to working would result.

The Director advised that there would be a review of the whole waste service and the contract for Bring Sites would end in April 2014. The Director explained that Carlisle had more than one contract and reminded Members that the Executive had decided to bring waste services in-house therefore there was an urgency to complete the work by April 2014. In the longer term there would be an integrated waste service redesigned for Carlisle but there were some significant decisions to be made and those issues would be brought before the Panel and the Executive to achieve a decision on strategy and timing to ensure Carlisle was better aligned with the County Council and an enhanced partnership with South Lakes.

- *It was essential for the public to be better educated about recycling. There had been very few green boxes on one street. The Member believed that there needed to be an appeal to the electorate to be more efficient and that would help the City Council as well as the residents. He advised that he would make the County Council more aware of the issues as part of his role on Scrutiny with the County Council.*

The Portfolio Holder reminded Members that the move from purple sacks to bins would help to enhance recycling but she agreed that there needed to be more publicity with regard to recycling. The Portfolio Holder stated that she would speak to Officers in the Communications department with regard to a campaign to educate the community about better recycling.

- *Less and less waste is put out for recycling. Officers had taken there eye off the ball and residents had got used to putting waste into the bin.*
- *What was the reason for the increase in cardboard recycling?*

The Director believed that was due to an increase in internet shopping.

- *Members were concerned about the increase in identity theft and believed that the matter should be highlighted as part of the publicity campaign.*

The Portfolio Holder agreed to look into the matter which had been raised at the previous meeting when discussing the use of gull sacks.

- *What was the impact of manufacturers reducing the density of packaging?*

The Director explained that the reduction was good for the environment but it reduced tonnage and the Council would have to work to make recycling collections more efficient. There had already been a reduction in tonnage from household recycling. Other districts had started food waste collections which had resulted in a change in residents' buying habits. Waste prevention was top of Officers' priorities.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that with regard to the Strategic Waste Partnership a lot had changed and the Group no longer meet. The forthcoming waste review would not be a simple review and would look at staff and waste collection rounds and would be included in the work programme for a future meeting. The Deputy Chief Executive added that discussions on budgets for waste services would need to be re-opened.

With regard to payments for recycling, the Director advised that each year Officers estimated how much recycling there would be and therefore the amount the Council would receive. That figure was scrutinised at the end of the year but it would always be an estimate initially. The Director believed that the worry was that the amount of recycling going to the MBT plant would increase.

- *Would it be possible to identify areas that were not using recycling boxes and Councillors lead on education?*

The Director advised that Officers knew which areas did and did not recycle waste and that was one of the reasons for the proposal to move from purple sacks. The next step would be stepping up education door to door. There needed to be a change in behaviours on the part of residents and a need for better education and enforcement.

RESOLVED – (1) That Report LE.19/13 – Waste Services be noted.

(2) That Members acknowledged the difficulties around recycling and the Panel were keen to be involved in education.

EEOSP.37/13 2012/2013 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Policy and Performance Officer submitted private report PC.13/13 which outlined the Council's end of year performance against the 2012/13 Service Standards that helped to measure performance and customer satisfaction. Details of each service standard were included in the table appended to the report, which illustrated the cumulative end of year figure, a month-by month breakdown of performance and, where possible, an actual service standard baseline that had been established either locally or nationally.

By way of background the Policy and Performance Officer advised that the Service Standards were based on timeliness, accuracy and appropriateness of the service provided by the Council in key areas. The table indicated that the majority of standards demonstrated consistently good performance throughout the year and, in the case of "Processing New Benefit Claims", significant improvements had been made month on month. That was due to a continuous programme of reviewing processes and resources in order to maximise efficiency.

During the last Overview and Scrutiny cycle Members requested information concerning claims that had not been processed in time. The Policy and Performance Officer advised that the majority were delayed because the benefits Team were awaiting further information from the claimants. The Officer outlined other issues that had caused a delay in the processing of claims.

One standard that had seen a deterioration in performance was that of "Percentage of Waste Sent for Recycling". That was due mainly to the lack of garden waste in the winter months when compared with the 2011 figures.

The Policy and Performance Officer advised that the Service standards would continue to be developed and amended to accommodate the needs of the Council's customers and changes in legislation. The Standards would continue to be monitored by the Senior Management Team and regular progress would be reported to the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny throughout 2013/14.

In considering the update Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *What was the reason for the drop in planning applications processed within 8 weeks?*

The Director of Economic Development advised that she did not have the answer to hand but agreed that she would bring that information to a future meeting.

- *The Development Control Committee take on a lot of work and complex applications and he believed that the Council's Planning Department to be one of the best. He congratulated the staff and their Director for their hard work and support to the Committee.*
- *It would be useful to be able to look at numbers as well as percentages.*

The Director explained that that was the reason why it was difficult to give an immediate answer and the reduction could be due to many issues including the number of major applications to be processed or Officers' leave.

RESOLVED – 1) That Report PC.13/13 – 2012/2013 End of Year Performance Report be noted.

2) That the Panel were encouraged to note that standards were being maintained and looked forward to the next report.

EEOSP.38/13 CARLISLE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2015-2030 – PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder reiterated his comments to Council and thanked Officers involved. The issues in the report rose above politics as the framework took the Council up to 2030. The Portfolio Holder thanked the Planning Policy Team who had worked hard on the report and provided a technical and detailed policy that would assist the Development Control Committee in the future. The Portfolio Holder also commended the work of the cross party working group.

The Chairman stated that during her time as Chair of that working group the work had been interesting and she was sorry that she had not been able to continue. She believed that all Members were looking for the best for Carlisle.

The Director of Economic Development introduced the Policy and Investment Manager and presented report ED.13/13 that detailed the content of the draft Preferred Options stage of the Carlisle District Local Plan, and provided an overview of the topic areas that were covered by the Planning Policies alongside the strategic policy direction for Carlisle District for the period 2015-2030.

The Director of Economic Development outlined the background to the matter commenting that, as was the case with the Core Strategy, the Carlisle District Local Plan provided a new framework for development to 2030. It now, however, included a comprehensive range of policies to determine planning applications as well as identifying development

sites essential to delivery of the Plan. That revised approach would ensure that the Plan would be finalised at the earliest possible opportunity and that deliverable development sites would be available across the District to deliver the Plan as soon as it was adopted. The Local Plan also embraced the concept of Localism, should communities wish to promote additional development through the development of Neighbourhood Plans.

The Preferred Options Local Plan consisted of:

- A clear economic vision and spatial strategy for the District
- Strategic policy direction
- Local policies to guide development and how the Council dealt with planning applications
- Site specific allocations of viable housing and employment land for strategic growth (that part of the Plan would be presented to the Executive in a separate report to be amalgamated with the policies appended to this report for full Council)
- Policies map

The Director emphasised that the Local Plan would seek to provide a planning framework for Carlisle which would instil developer confidence, resulting in the development of high quality homes and businesses; support the delivery of infrastructure; attract inward investment and help to foster a wider cultural offer.

A wide range of topic areas were covered within the Plan, details of which were provided.

The Deputy Leader and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder informed Members that work was ongoing to develop a comprehensive evidence base which had and would continue to inform the preparation of the draft Plan's strategy, the policies and the location for new development. He added that a number of other required assessments had been undertaken alongside the draft Plan to measure the impact thereof, and those would be published for consultation alongside the Preferred Options Local Plan.

In terms of the Plan preparation, the next stages were:

Publication – Winter 2013

Submission (to the Secretary of State) – Spring 2014

Examination (independent examination by Inspector) – Summer 2014

Adoption – Winter 2014

The preferred options consultation was therefore a very significant stage in development of the Local Plan and an important opportunity for the public to engage in preparation of the Local Plan.

The Policy and Investment Manager presented slides that outlined the Local Plan Preferred Options.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *Broadband outside of Carlisle was not good and it may be difficult for those residents to access the report from the website.*

The Director of Economic Development advised that Officers would look at as many ways as possible to get the information out to the public and get responses back. There would be hard copies going out to libraries and community centres.

- *Part of the Council's vision is on tourism yet there was no mention of employment in tourism in the report.*

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder advised that tourism was included in section 2.23 and queried whether Members believed that was not strong enough.

- *There was a lot of work around tourism including bed and breakfast accommodation and workforce in general tourism. Those issues were worthy of a mention.*

The Portfolio Holder advised that tourism played a major role in the economy of Carlisle and agreed that it could be given its own heading and a higher profile.

- *What status in law would the Local Plan have in terms of Government Department? And how could the Council ensure that every department had the will to abide by the policies?*

The Director advised that the Local Plan would carry a lot of weight once it was adopted. The Environment and Tourism Portfolio Holder advised that, with regard to tourism, culture and heritage, the report mentioned the castle but not the cathedral. The Carlisle State Management Public Houses were not mentioned and the Portfolio Holder believed they were a unique part of the Council's heritage and linked with the commemoration of World War 1. The Portfolio Holder stated that not enough was done in respect of heritage.

Policy S1 – Sustainable Development

The Director stated that Policy S1 – Sustainable Development – was a fundamental policy within the National Planning Policy Framework and was included in the Local Plan.

- *It would be useful if the meaning of Blue Infrastructure could be included in the glossary for clarity.*
- *Once the maintenance of trees was passed to the County Council how could the City Council ensure a relationship with the County Council?*

The Director of Economic Development advised that once the Local Plan was adopted that responsibility would transfer to the Local Environment Directorate and the Director would liaise with Officers in the County Council.

The Portfolio Holder advised that the Highways and Transport working Group would have responsibility for trees on the highway.

Policy S5 – Regeneration policy

- *When would Policy S5 – Regeneration Policy – be available?*

The Director of Economic Development explained that the Regeneration Policy would be covered in the Special meeting as part of the site allocations and City Centre Masterplan.

Policy S7 – University Development

- *Carlisle College was not mentioned as part of Policy S7 – University Development. Would it be included as part of higher education provision?*

The Director of Economic Development advised that discussions could be held with the college. The economic growth of the university had a section of its own. She explained that she was in discussion with the Director of Property regarding the business plan to articulate the policy in a spatial manner.

- *If there was a separate policy for the university would that policy be the same for the college?*
- *There was concern about the development of the university and it was important to notify residents of ideas that the university had. Good rapport with the university was important.*

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder believed the policy was essential and was included to avoid the University of Cumbria moving to Lancaster. The Portfolio Holder believed that the headquarters should be in Carlisle and Carlisle should be the main development of the university in Cumbria. If the Council provided the expansion for expansion the university should retain a presence in Carlisle.

The Deputy Chief Executive suggested that it may be useful to invite a representative of the University to attend a meeting of the Panel and outline their intentions.

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder stated that he was disappointed that the Business School was moved to Lancaster and he hoped that at some point it would be moved back to Carlisle. The Portfolio Holder added that it would be useful to weave the University into city life and ensure that the university was anchored in the City. The Portfolio Holder also stated that Officers were working with companies in the City to tie the arts into the growth of the City.

Policy 3 – Mixed Commercial Areas

- *Did the policy protect primary retail areas?*

The Director explained that the policy was not specific to the retail area but related to mixed commercial use and the City Centre would have its own policy.

- *Was there any land allocated for retail use?*

There were specific areas of land allocated and the policies applied with regard to those areas.

Policy 4 – Office Development

- *When the County Council move into their new premises there will be a lot of office space in the City Centre. How would that be utilised?*

The Director advised that the National Planning Policy Framework and Government guidelines allowed change of use and that Planning Authorities should be flexible. Planning Officers would look at what would be the best way to bring those offices back into use with the specific focus on regeneration. The Director confirmed that although the retail area would be protected there would be flexibility to allow change of use to residential if required and that flexibility could be included in the policies.

Policy 7 – Retail Proposals Outside the Primary Retail Area

- *The Local Plan was designed to last for 15 years and take into account the future of out of town development. A Member did not believe the Plan would be robust for the full 15 years and could be out of date in 5-6 years.*

The Director advised that the Plan would provide policies for 5-10 years and that most of the aspirations would come to fruition within 7 years. Officers would continue to review the Local Plan and keep it up to date. In 5 years Officers would look again at the policies to ensure they were still sound and there would be a revised plan after 10 years.

- *The Council's focus was on healthy living. What effect could the Local Plan have on takeaways close to schools to encourage children to eat more healthy food?*

The Director advised that that issue was being investigated and there was an alternative policy that would prohibit takeaways from opening within 400m from schools, etc. However, it had been agreed that it would be difficult to enforce such a policy. Applications for takeaways would be determined on a case by case basis but Officers would ensure that there was no concentration close to schools, etc.

- *Was anything proposed to prevent closure of more community pubs as the focus seemed to be on the City Centre?*

The Director explained that the situation was due to the present economy and there was nothing that the Council could do from a planning perspective. If people stopped using the pubs and they subsequently go out of business the Council would have to deal with the consequences.

- *There were a number of takeaways concentrated in the Botchergate area. Would it be better to dilute that number?*

The Director advised that that could be done through planning matters and the number of hot food establishments in Botchergate could be limited to prevent saturation.

Policy 14 – Caravan, Camping and Chalet Sites

- *Was the policy positive enough and could it link better to tourism?*
- *The policy was related to tourism as Carlisle was close to the Lake District and Hadrian's Wall.*

The Director believed that that was a matter for debate. The creation of sites would cause tension in some areas as it would have an effect on an area but it would also bring in tourism which would have an impact on the economy. Each application would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Policy 21 – Housing Development

- *A lot of consultation is done with the Parish Councils in rural areas but it may be better to include residents as well.*

The Director explained that the Parish Councils were involved in the rural Masterplan as they had knowledge about their own areas and understood the pressures on growth.

- *Did the current policy presume in favour of development?*

The Director confirmed that was the case but added that when applications were submitted they had to comply with current policies and that it was national policy to presume in favour of development.

- *There was concern about housing within villages and Members believed it was difficult keeping families together in villages. Was there enough emphasis in the Local Plan to find to find houses for those families?*

Policy 25 – Rural Exception Sites

The Policy and Investment Manager advised that Officers had tried to include those issues in policy S1.

- *Development had been encouraged over the years in Corby.*
- *Were the statement boundaries open for flexibility?*

The Director advised that the boundaries were an artificial device used to form planning perspectives. Sites would be allocated to specific sites then planning rules would want all development beyond those areas.

- *The policy would need to ensure that there were houses were offered to local people first.*

Policy 32 – Special Needs Housing

- *There was evidence that the population of Carlisle was getting older and the policy needed to be expanded or a separate section included on aging population for the life of the Local Plan.*

The Director explained that that could be looked at as part of further responsibilities.

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder advised that there was a role for the County Council in respect of high level needs and there was a move away from high residential schemes. By next year Officers would identify people currently in hospitals outside of the area to be moved closer to families. Those people would need appropriate accommodation.

Policy 33 – Traveller Site Provision

- *When would the policy be ready?*

The director explained that Officers were working with other districts in Cumbria and Lancashire and were pushing to complete the policy. However the Director could not be certain of an exact date of completion.

Policy 39 – Waste Minimisation and the Recycling of Waste

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder advised that details were included in planning applications. Developers and the planning authority needed to work together to enable waste to be collected efficiently and roads constructed to make it easier for refuse vehicles to access the waste bins.

Policy 49 – Educational Needs

The Director advised that there were currently no significant issues regarding primary schools however there were issues with some schools. She agreed that the wording needed to be amended.

- *The lack of schools was stopping development and people were not keen to develop areas where there were no spaces available in schools.*
- *The policy should link to the issues around the University.*

Policy 58 – Location of a New Cemetery

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder advised that something needed to be done as the Carlisle cemetery was becoming full and it would be difficult to do anything in the future if there was nothing in the Local Plan.

Policy 59 – Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site

- *There was not enough emphasis on heritage in the area. A section of Hadrian's Wall had been covered up at a local hotel which would not have happened in an area such as York.*

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder also believed that the areas history in relation to the debateable lands should be exposed more.

- *A number of people had advised that they often drove past Carlisle on the motorway as there was no indication of the history on the city. A Member suggested erecting a statue that would indicate that history.*
- *There was concern about the timescale for consultation as the summer was fast approaching and people would be on holiday. Also some Parish Councils only met every 2-3 months so their replies could be restricted.*

The Director advised that she was aware of the issues and that Officers would be flexible in receiving comments. The Plan had to be finalised by February 2014.

She advised that there would be regular updates to the Local Strategic Partnership Executive and that she would be happy to take the presentation to them.

RESOLVED: (1) That Report ED.13/13 – Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-2030 – Preferred Options consultation be noted and the recommendations be submitted to the Executive for their consideration before submission to Council in July.

(2) That the Panel acknowledged the hard work undertaken by the Planning Policy Officers.

(The meeting ended at 12.15pm)