

Meeting Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Report – Councillor  
Jack Paton**

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## **MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

Firstly I would like to wish everyone a very "Happy New Year".

### Interagency Homelessness Strategy 2015 – 2020

This was a very interesting debate, it was to say the least eye-opening that over 600 households had been in temporary accommodation, they threw lots of figures at us which sounded very impressive but at the end of the day you can only help someone who wants to be helped. Like the old saying – 'you can take a horse to water but you can't force it to drink'.

Night Stop sounds a great idea on paper, but in reality I wonder how many people will take a complete stranger into their home and put them up overnight? Society has changed so much in recent years that not everyone is as trusting.

The Carlisle Deposit Guarantee Scheme I felt was a really positive step forward, where both Landlord and Tenant were protected. This I felt was long overdue in ousting unscrupulous Landlords from preying on those less fortunate. It also protects genuine Landlords from unruly Tenants.

It would be interesting to know what percentage of the public has reported any rough sleepers.

## Flood Update

I was bemused at the heading Final Flood Update Report as we are over a year on and some people are still not home. I find this totally unacceptable that we are talking about Final Reports when there is still so much to be done.

We haven't even sorted the defences yet, all we seem to get is Reports, the money that has been spent on Reports and Seminars is ludicrous, we probably could have built floodgates with the money that has been spent. Maybe if we put more effort into the solution instead of having Reports from overpaid Consultants we might be in a position to tell the population that we think they are safer now.

## Safety Partnership

The Bridgeway is an excellent service that is there for all sexual crimes and the stats we have received are more than encouraging.

## **JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

I felt it was a great success to have the two Panels meet together which I felt saved a lot of time and money. I am however disappointed that we haven't looked at other venues for the new complex as I feel £19m to spend on a development which is in a flood area might come back to bite us.

Pleased that we will be using local contractors for certain jobs within the complex, also the idea of having the hospital physiotherapy made a lot of sense in a building with the amount of equipment that will be at hand and accessible.

I do still have concerns about the car parking and disabled parking at the Sands. Once the complex is finished the area will be greatly reduced and there will need to be some sort of bus service that will be available to allow patrons to park elsewhere and access the facility. We still do not have a reference on who is doing the development and it would be beneficial to find out who will be completing the project and move forward from there.

It would be helpful in future to have further Joint Panel Meetings during the development of the Sands to ensure clarity throughout the process.

With thanks to Cllr Jessica Riddle for chairing this Joint Meeting.

**Cllr Jack Paton**  
**Chairman**