

PORTFOLIO:

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

Report of  
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR  
G ELLIS**

## Encourage community participation and inclusion in the Carlisle area

### Local Democracy Week

Congratulations to Oliver Jones from Trinity School, Carlisle's first young mayor, an innovative idea for a young person to shadow the Mayor for a week, and to give us an insight into what the youth of Carlisle want.

Corporate Plan: *'Develop a Young People's Council for a voice for them in decision making'*

### Community Centre Consultation

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October representatives of the various community centres were invited to a meeting to discuss the funding arrangements for the Community Centres. Carlisle City Council currently spends in excess of £630,000 pa on Community Centres in the district, with no rational policy to decide and prioritise funding.

It was universally accepted that the present funding arrangement was inequitable, and not desirable, but concerns were expressed about how future funding would be decided, concerns were expressed about the redistribution of resources.

Subsequent correspondence following the meeting, has suggested, that some kind of agreement as to what the Council wants in return for the grant it awards, should be formulated and part of the review.

The observation 'a reduction in grant would effectively result in a slow down in accumulation of revenue reserves for some' the representative continued 'I would suggest that this should not be the purpose of the Council's Community Centre grant budget' highlights the concerns the Executive presently has over Community Centre funding.

Corporate Plan: *'Review grant allocation to community centres to ensure that there is a fair and equitable distribution of resources to all Community Centres'*

## **Reduce crime and the fear of crime within our communities**

### **Radio Link**

The Council is in the process of extending the highly successful 'Radio Link' programme, which operates in the City Centre, to outlying and rural areas. We have been successful in obtaining over £8,500 in external funding, enabling us to boost our range, offering the service to shops and relevant businesses all over the district, including areas such as Longtown and Brampton. This is a major expansion, and we are offering the service free of charge to any qualifying business for three months to evaluate the scheme, to see if it is of value to them.

Corporate plan: *'Contribute to the delivery of the Carlisle and Eden Crime & Disorder Strategy 2002-2005 through the pursuit of funding opportunities as they become available'*

### **AlleyGate**

We are continuing to pursue the principle of 'Alleygating' despite resistance from our County Brethren, with advice from Government Office North West, we are hoping that the County Council Area Committee will reassess its decision and give approval for this worthwhile initiative.

AlleyGates are being promoted as good practice by the Home Office, and the County Council has agreed to be more flexible in Barrow, so with friendly persuasion I am sure a compromise can be reached.

### **Community Punishment and restorative justice**

Following on from our developing relationship with other partners, the Botcherby Garden Scheme if successful, it is hoped will be rolled out to other areas, and leading from this a co-ordinated graffiti removal scheme.

This is what Community Punishment, and restorative justice is all about, young people, serving out their sentences while providing a useful social function.

Corporate plan: *'Tackle anti-social behaviour on Council estates by partnership working with police and other agencies as appropriate'*

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator**

The great work carried out in this Council by those officers responsible for ensuring that we meet our Crime and Disorder obligations, will, it is hoped, be improved, now that new dedicated space on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, for what is slowly developing into a team, PC Andy Bain has proven to be invaluable together with our hosting of the new Anti-Social behaviour Co-ordinator position, when appointed will reinforce, this Councils commitment to partnership working.

Corporate plan: *'Adopt a co-ordinated partnership approach to tackling anti-social behaviour (via Carlisle and Eden Crime and Disorder Partnership)'*