



Agenda item 9(b)(ii)

Cllr Gareth Ellis
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24 April 2002

Report to: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 30 April 2002

Report of: Chairman of Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Title: Work undertaken this cycle

Decisions called in: None

Portfolio Holders interviewed: None

This cycle has resulted in a busy period for the Community O&S, which has included two expert witnesses, one the Chairman of the North East SmartCard Consortium, and the other, a local expert, Dr Martin Courtis OBE, a consultant in the field of radioactive waste management and a member of the Government's independent advisory body, the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (RWMAC), on Radioactive Waste management. We have also looked at in depth, the offer document by Carlisle Housing, for the proposed transfer of the Councils Social Housing.

We have continued to influence the Executive in its decision making, our responses to consultation on issues such as the Scrutiny role in Health, Managing Radioactive Waste Safely, and Strategies for Rural Development post foot and mouth, have all been enthusiastically taken up by the Executive, and included in the formal responses issued by this Authority.

Our first stab at policy development, Smartcards, a policy originating within the scrutiny process, having listened to and read substantial amounts of information in regards to the consequences of their adoption by this authority. We, the Community O&S decided that, at present the financial and technical requirements were beyond the reach of this authority, but that Smartcards had significant potential of having a positive impact on the citizens of Carlisle, and should material circumstances change, then Smartcards should be reconsidered.

In the seven months of my Chairmanship, with little past experience to draw from, and little attachment to the old Service Committee ways of doing things. I have attempted to not be trapped by how things have always been done, but to allow the Scrutiny process to develop its own character, which I believe it has.

Cllr Gareth Ellis
Chairman of Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee