

AGENDA

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 26 February 2015 AT 10:00
In the Flensburg Room, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

****Briefing meeting for Members will be at 9.30 am in the
Flensburg Room****

Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitutions.

Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any interests, relating to any item on the agenda at this stage.

Public and Press

To agree that the items of business within Part A of the agenda should be dealt with in public and that the items of business within Part B of the agenda should be dealt with in private.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2015.
[Copy Minutes in Minute Book 41(5)]

PART A

To be considered when the Public and Press are present

A.1 CALL-IN OF DECISIONS

To consider any matter which has been the subject of call-in.

A.2 OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME

5 - 10

To consider a report providing an overview of matters related to the work of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel, together with the latest version of the Work Programme and details of the Key Decisions items relevant to this Panel as set out in the Notice of Executive Key Decisions.

(Copy Report OS.02/15 herewith)

A.3 UPDATE ON PLAY AREA REVIEW

11 - 16

(Environment and Transport Portfolio)

The Director of Local Environment to submit a report giving an update on the progress of the Play Area Review. The report summarises the work carried out to date and looks ahead at the improvements planned for the coming year.

(Copy Report LE.05/15 herewith)

A.4 THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014-15

17 - 28

(Cross Cutting)

The Performance and Communications Manager to submit a report that updates the Panel on the Council's service standards that help measure performance and customer satisfaction. The report also includes updates on key actions contained within the Carlisle Plan.

(Copy Report PC.03/15 herewith)

PART B

To be considered when the Public and Press are excluded from the meeting

- NIL -

Members of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Conservative – Ellis, Mrs Prest (Vice Chairman), Mrs Vasey, Bainbridge (sub), Mrs McKerrell (sub), Mrs Mallinson (sub)

Labour – Burns (Chairman), Harid, McDevitt, Mrs Stevenson, Caig (sub), Scarborough (sub), Sherriff (sub)

Liberal Democrat – Gee, Allison (sub)

**Enquiries, requests for reports, background papers,
etc to Committee Clerk: Sheila Norton - 817557**

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:

A.2

Meeting Date: 26th February 2015
Portfolio: Cross Cutting
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and
Budget Framework
Public / Private Public

Title: OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME
Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Report Number: OS 02/15

Summary:

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Community O&S Panel's work. It also includes the latest version of the work programme.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- Decide whether the items on the Notice of Key Executive Decisions should be included in the Panel's Work Programme for consideration.
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme

Contact Officer:
Appendices attached
to report:

Nicola Edwards
1. Community O&S Panel Work Programme 2014/15

Ext: 7122

1. Notice of Key Executive Decisions

The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions will be published on 30th January 2015 and was circulated to all Members. The following items fall into the remit of this Panel:

KD003/12 – Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership Annual Plan 2015/16 – Executive consideration of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) Annual Plan for 2015 / 16 has been deferred following the postponement of a meeting of between the CSP Leadership and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office (10th February) to confirm the final draft. The plan will be returned to Executive as soon as possible, after this meeting has been reconvened and the final draft confirmed

2. References from the Executive

The Executive met on 2nd February 2015 and considered the following items within the remit of this panel:

- EX.12/15 – Inter-Agency Homelessness Strategy for Carlisle 2015

3. Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15

All Scrutiny Members were sent an e-mail asking if there were particular issues they wished to see discussed in the annual report. If Members have not given their views yet, they are invited to do so at today's meeting or by e-mail soon afterwards. A draft of the annual report will come to the Panel's final meeting of this civic year, on Thursday 9th April 2015..

4. Work Programme

The Panel's current work programme is attached at **Appendix 1** for comment/amendment.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

Date last revised: 12 February 2015

Issue	Type of Scrutiny						Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key Decisions Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Monitoring	Budget		19 Jun 14	31 Jul 14	11 Sep 14	23 Oct 14	25 Nov 14	15 Jan 15	26 Feb 15	9 Apr 15
CURRENT MEETING - 26 th February 2015															
Play Area Review							Update report on implementation of review							✓	
Performance Monitoring Reports	✓						Reporting of performance relevant to remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	
TASK AND FINISH GROUPS															
Hate Crime			✓				Monitoring of implementation of recommendations	✓							
FUTURE MEETINGS															
Community Safety Partnership	✓		✓				To consider Strategic Assessment 2014 & Partnership Plan 2015/16								✓
Riverside Carlisle				✓			Monitoring progress and developments of joint working		✓						✓

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

Date last revised: 12 February 2015

Issue	Type of Scrutiny						Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key Decisions Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Monitoring	Budget	19 Jun 14		31 Jul 14	11 Sep 14	23 Oct 14	25 Nov 14	15 Jan 15	26 Feb 15	9 Apr 15	
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓		Draft report for comment before Chairs Group								✓
Leisure							11/9/15 – CLL Annual Performance Report 9/4/15 –GLL			✓					✓
COMPLETED ITEMS															
Homelessness			✓				Jan– draft strategy				✓		✓		
Budget 15/16 – 19/20		✓	✓				Consideration of service implications					✓			
Tullie House Trust							Business Plan 2014/15 – 2017/18					✓			
Shaddongate Resource Centre	✓				✓		Invite YMCA to meeting to scrutinise performance of centre				✓				

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

Date last revised: 12 February 2015

Issue	Type of Scrutiny						Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key Decisions Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Monitoring	Budget		19 Jun 14	31 Jul 14	11 Sep 14	23 Oct 14	25 Nov 14	15 Jan 15	26 Feb 15	9 Apr 15
Corporate Equality Scheme							Details of review of scheme and determine scrutiny involvement			✓					
Carlisle's Sports Strategy							To scrutinise Playing Pitch Strategy.		✓						
Arts Centre		✓					Scrutiny of Business Plan		✓						
Mobile Home Act		✓	✓				Pre-decision scrutiny	✓							
INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS															
Details								Date Circulated							
Food Law Enforcement Service Plan								With papers for 31 st July meeting							

Report to Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:

A.3

Meeting Date: 26th February 2015
Portfolio: Environment and Transport
Key Decision: Not Applicable:
Within Policy and
Budget Framework YES
Public / Private Public

Title: UPDATE ON PLAY AREA REVIEW
Report of: The Director of Local Environment
Report Number: LE 05/15

Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of this report is to update O&S Panel on the progress of the Play Area Review. The report summarises the work carried out to date and looks ahead at the improvements planned for the coming year.

Recommendations:

1. Members note the progress achieved to date and the planned work to improve children's play facilities in Carlisle.

Tracking

Executive:	
Overview and Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Play Area Review took place in 2013 and the outcome was presented to the Council in Spring 2014. Since then there has been a major investment in play provision in Carlisle district and a number of play areas have seen new equipment and facilities installed. This report brings Members up to date with progress.

1.2 A 'Healthy City' starts with healthy children
The single largest investment during the year was at Dale End Field (Harraby) where the play area was completely replaced after being declared obsolete in the Review. The supplier of the equipment, the Play Practice, was chosen after extensive consultation with the community including children and parents. The Carlisle South Community Group was our main point of contact with the community, and they organised several valuable consultation sessions to make sure that everybody's ideas were considered during the design stage. Funding came from two main sources; a S106 contribution by Barratt Homes of £60,000 and a Landfill Tax grant from Cumbria Waste Management of £15,000.

The resulting facility is now one of the best in Carlisle and provides a wide range of challenging activities for children from 3 –14 years of age. This is the demographic group that has been identified as having particular health issues due to inactive lifestyles and top-quality play equipment is a vital component in the strategy of presenting children with the opportunity to take part in healthy activity. The Review demonstrated that old and out-dated equipment is rarely used and is therefore not a cost-effective response.

At Yewdale Community Centre (another priority site identified in the Review) a new multiplay unit was installed in summer 2014. Incorporating components to challenge children's abilities in climbing, balance and stamina, the unit was an instant success with the local youngsters.

At Melbourne Park the Review identified a need for investment in new equipment as a priority and consequently we have consulted widely with the community. Their clear instruction was to focus on provision for younger children and this will form the basis on the tender specification. The project will be funded entirely from S106 contributions and these have already been paid over by the developers concerned.

1.3 Fun for one, fun for all!

The Play Area Review gave us the opportunity to stand back and assess, with as much objectivity as possible, the key sites for investment and improvement based on the principle of 'highest standard for the highest number'.

The following play areas identified in the Play Area Review as strategically important but in need of upgrading have seen investment during the year to make sure that all children have ready access to decent play equipment.

Play Area	Improvement	Cost
Broad Street	Safety surfacing replaced	£1,593
Fusehill Street	Safety surfacing replaced	£1,593
Denton Street	Safety surfacing replaced	£1,592
Acredale Road	Ground anchorage equipment	£817
Melbourne Park	Replacement parts for zip-wire	£2,354
Cummersdale	Repairs to climbing net	£245
Heysham Park	Replace bird's nest swing and springer unit seat after vandalism	£1,583
Lund Crescent	Renew spinner unit and safety surface	£2,893
Bitts Park	Replacement of log stockade	£1,460
Bitts Park	Green Gym exercise equipment	£5,363
Yewdale	Replace safety surfacing	£2,020
Yewdale	New multiplay unit	£7,303
Sheffield Street	Groundworks, landscaping	£1,800
Various	Spare parts & components	£4,852
Various	Groundworks	£14,025
Various	Installation of self-closing safety gates	£3,524
Various	Replacement of play-bark	£5,995
TOTAL		£59,012

1.4 Wellbeing – Get fit, Keep Fit, Stay Fit.

As well as healthy play, the Council also provides residents with opportunities to keep fit with specialist 'outdoor gym' equipment. The fitness trail at Bitts Park Riverside was installed in wood many years ago and had become unsafe due to natural wear and tear. In summer 2014 it was replaced by new equipment in stainless steel, with rubberised safety surfacing installed at the same time. The equipment incorporates instructions for safe use and the benefit of that specific exercise.

1.5 Safety First!

The purpose of the Play Area Review was to help us to make sure that the Council's resources are used most efficiently. The play areas that provide the greatest play value for the greatest number of children have benefitted from the additional attention we have been able to give them – not only in terms of repairs but importantly, by improving the inspection regimes.

At the end of the year we commissioned a new independent inspector to look at every play facility in the Council's portfolio, plus a number of those that are managed by parish councils. The resulting reports enable our officers to plan the forthcoming year's maintenance work, prioritising any safety risks highlighted in the reports. The planned programme of work for 2015-16 includes:

LOCATION	IMPROVEMENT
Bitts Park	Installation of wheelchair swing
Yewdale	New springer and safety surface
St James Park	New seesaw
Parkland Village	New springer and safety surface
In all the above instances we are seeking funding via Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust (Landfill Tax).	

The following play area sites are also due for some upgrading, pending external grant applications:

Milbourne Street	(Denton Holme)
Clark's Field	(Stanwix)
Keenan Park	(Botcherby)

1.6 Fit for the Future

The future of children's play in Carlisle has been secured by the Council's approach – identifying and prioritising those sites that offer the most benefits to the greatest number of children. With our programmed approach we are now able to look ahead at the play areas whose equipment has further deteriorated in the 2 years since the survey was conducted and is now in need of replacement. The 2 play areas due for investment next are:

- Eden Parkside (Botcherby)
- Lund Crescent (Currock)

At Hammond's Pond, a significant investment in play is due via the S106 agreement relating to the Story Homes development at Blackwell Road (the Ridings estate) which will be available on the occupation of 50% of the development.

In rural areas, most play areas are provided and maintained by Parish Councils. Our strategy is to support the parishes by offering a reduced rate for the independent annual inspections that are required by insurers. By booking at a bulk rate we are able to offer a much reduced price to Parish Councils (about £45 in 2014-15)

In addition we are working with Dalston, Brampton and Arthuret Parish Councils to maximise the value of existing play areas in their parishes. We are looking at the options for using existing and emerging pots of S106 funding to benefit parish council play areas where the parish can take responsibility for on-going maintenance.

This programmed approach is helping us to maximise the play value of our sites while keeping them safe for children to enjoy. Following the Play Area Review the City Council currently retains responsibility for 49 children's play areas, plus 3 BMX tracks, 4 multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and the Skatepark.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1** Our proposals for the next phases of work are described above.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1** The Play Area Review underwent extensive consultation and was endorsed by the Executive in LE 29/13 and LE 32/13.

Further consultation on individual schemes has included, among others, Friends of Melbourne Park; Botcherby Residents Action Group; local schools; Friends of Dale End Field; individual ward Members.

4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1** The Play Area Review was a major step forward for the City Council. The audit of play areas identified those that provided the best play value for local children and therefore helped to prioritise our work programme. It has enabled us to target resources and invest in those play areas that offer the greatest benefit. Importantly, it has also helped us to keep Carlisle's children safe while playing as older, obsolete equipment has been replaced by modern designs. As a result of the Play Area Review the children of Carlisle have more exciting, modern and safe places to play and test their skills.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

- 5.1** 'Health and Wellbeing of Carlisle's residents' – the Play Area Review represents a major commitment by the City Council to the health and wellbeing of young people, providing first-class opportunities for play and development within safe walking distance from home.

Contact Officer: Angela Culleton

Ext: 7325

**Appendices
attached to report:**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- **None**

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS:

Chief Executive's -

Deputy Chief Executive –

Economic Development –

Governance –

Local Environment –

Resources -

Report to Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.4

Meeting Date: 26 February 2015
Portfolio: Finance, Governance and Resources
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and Budget Framework YES
Public / Private Public

Title: THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014/15
Report of: Policy and Communications Manager
Report Number: PC 03/15

Purpose / Summary:

This Performance Report updates the Panel on the Council's service standards that help measure performance. It also includes updates on key actions contained within the Carlisle Plan.

Details of each service standard are in the table in Section 1. The table illustrates the cumulative year to date figure, a month-by-month breakdown of performance and, where possible, an actual service standard baseline that has been established either locally or nationally. The updates against the actions in the Carlisle Plan follow on from the service standard information in Section 2.

Recommendations:

1. Consider the performance of the City Council presented in the report with a view to seeking continuous improvement in how the Council delivers its priorities.

Tracking

Executive:	7 April 2015
Overview and Scrutiny:	Community – 26 February 2015 Resources – 5 March 2015 Economy and Environment – 12 March 2015
Council:	N/A

1. BACKGROUND

Service standards were introduced at the beginning of 2012/13. They provide a standard in service that our customers can expect from the City Council and a standard by which we can be held to account. The measures of the standard of services are based on timeliness, accuracy and quality of the service we provide in areas that have a high impact on our customers.

Regarding the information on the Carlisle Plan, the intention is to give the Panel a brief overview of the current position without duplicating the more detailed reporting that takes place within the Overview and Scrutiny agendas and Portfolio Holder reports.

2. PROPOSALS

None

3. CONSULTATION

The report was reviewed by the Senior Management Team at their meeting on 3 February 2015 and will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on the following dates:

Community – 26 February 2015

Resources – 5 March 2015

Economy and Environment – 12 March 2015

4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel are asked to comment on the Third Quarter Performance Report prior to it being submitted to Executive.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

Detail in the report

Contact Officer:	Steven O’Keeffe	Ext:	7258
	Martin Daley		7508

Appendices	None
attached to report:	

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- **None**

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS:

Chief Executive's – Responsible for monitoring and reporting on service standards, customer satisfaction and progress in delivering the Carlisle Plan whilst looking at new ways of gathering and reviewing customer information.

Economic Development – Responsible for managing high level projects and team level service standards on a day-to-day basis.

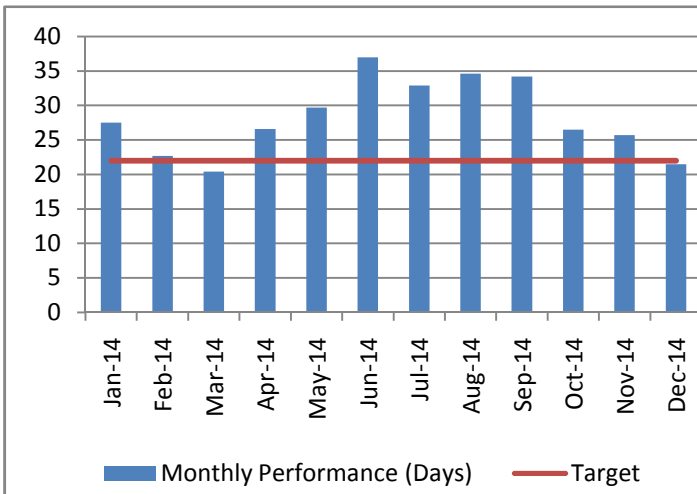
Governance – Responsible for corporate governance and managing team level service standards on a day-to-day basis.

Local Environment – Responsible for managing high level projects and team level service standards on a day-to-day basis.

Resources – Responsible for managing high level projects team level service standards on a day-to-day basis.

SECTION 1: 2014/15 SERVICE STANDARDS

Service Standard: Average number of days to process new benefits claims

Service Standard	Year to Date Figure	Performance by Month																										
Average number of new claims should be processed within 22 days	29.8 days (2013/14 – 21.6 days)	 <table><caption>Monthly Performance Data (Estimated)</caption><thead><tr><th>Month</th><th>Monthly Performance (Days)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jan-14</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>Feb-14</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>Mar-14</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>Apr-14</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>May-14</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>Jun-14</td><td>37</td></tr><tr><td>Jul-14</td><td>33</td></tr><tr><td>Aug-14</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td>Sep-14</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td>Oct-14</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-14</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Dec-14</td><td>21</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Monthly Performance (Days) Target</p>	Month	Monthly Performance (Days)	Jan-14	27	Feb-14	23	Mar-14	20	Apr-14	26	May-14	29	Jun-14	37	Jul-14	33	Aug-14	34	Sep-14	34	Oct-14	26	Nov-14	25	Dec-14	21
Month	Monthly Performance (Days)																											
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Dec-14	21																											

The summer dip in performance has now improved. The unprecedented levels of sickness and vacancies in the shared service have been mostly resolved and the backlog of assessment work has reduced.

Preliminary figures for January 2015 also reflect the improving trend.

Section 2: Carlisle Plan Update

PRIORITY – We will support the growth of more high quality and sustainable business and employment opportunities

The Council's Key Decisions will support business growth, with its services being viewed as 'business friendly' through working more closely with them to meet business' needs.

Carlisle Local Plan 2015 - 2030

The emerging Carlisle Local Plan sets out a planning framework for guiding the location and level of development in the District up to 2030, as well as a number of principles that will shape the way that Carlisle will develop between now and then.

The Plan targets the delivery of approximately 9,000 new homes across the 2015-2030 period, and identifies the land available to accommodate this growth. This target represents the most ambitious level of housing growth pursued within Carlisle to date, in response to evidenced demographic and economic needs. The Plan also requires the delivery of a mix of dwelling types and tenures including affordable homes. From a housing perspective the Local Plan will therefore be amongst the most influential strategies at play across the next fifteen years.

Following consideration by and upon receipt of feedback from the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the Executive resolved at their meeting on the 26th January to refer the proposed submission draft of the Local Plan to Council to seek approval for the steps necessary to progress s the Plan towards adoption. These steps include a further six week minimum period of public consultation which is anticipated to commence in late February and beyond this the submission of the Plan to government in order for it to be independently examined. Formal adoption of the Plan is still anticipated to be early 2016.

Promoting Carlisle including Prospectus for Carlisle

Kate Wilson of Business Toolbox Cumbria (BTC) and Michelle Masters of Michelle Masters Consulting have been appointed to deliver the Carlisle Ambassador Programme.

Employment sites – Durranhill

Access and environmental improvements to Durranhill Industrial estate. Planning consent has been granted for the new access road and we are now undertaking a tender process to appoint a contractor to undertake the work.

PRIORITY - We will develop vibrant sports, arts and cultural facilities, showcasing the City of Carlisle

This priority supports tourism, the arts and creative industries. It is recognised that arts and leisure are important in making Carlisle a great place to work, live and visit. Developing public realm improvements is a key piece of work under this priority. This involves the city and county councils working together.

Old Town Hall Phase 2 / TIC

Cubby Construction started site works on 7th January 2015 with a scheduled completion of July 2015. The TIC has temporarily been moved to 40 Scotch Street for the duration of works.

The works will support the role of the Old Town Hall as a visitor attraction and destination whilst offering the services and facilities associated with a strategic Tourist Information Centre. Upgrades will include the installation of multi media equipment, discovery wall, retail fitments and desk installation with improved access from street level to the first floor and increased use of the adjacent Assembly Room.

Public Realm

A procurement exercise has been undertaken to appoint a contractor to manufacture public realm signage. Further work is being undertaken to turn the concepts into reality.

Arts Centre

Construction work started on 4 October with a scheduled completion of May 2015.

Harraby Campus Development

Construction work is now underway and progressing on schedule. A value engineering exercise was completed ahead of works which brought the scheme back under budget (allowing for additional funding supplied by the County Council).

Discussions have also progressed with British Cycling to extend the scheme to include a 1km closed cycle track (funded via British Cycling).

PRIORITY - We will work more effectively with partners to achieve the City Council's priorities

The City Council wants to establish Carlisle as a nationally recognised sub-regional capital by becoming an effective partner in the key areas of housing and economic growth.

Home Improvement Agency (HIA)

Homelife Carlisle has been awarded £1,000 from ESH Community fund to support interagency work with hoarders and have also received an additional £2,000 from Gas Safe for free boiler servicing and gas safety repairs for vulnerable homeowners. Executive have approved a partnership with NPower to deliver energy efficiency measures in the District to reduce fuel poverty.

Homelessness Strategy

The information gained from consultation with key stakeholders along with local research findings has been utilised to form the basis of the draft local strategy. The draft strategy will be completed and agreed by key partners by the end of November; with the strategy and action plan agreed internally by March 2015 for implementation in April 2015.

PRIORITY - We will work with partners to develop a skilled and prosperous workforce, fit for the future

The City Council continues to work closely with partners through the Carlisle Economic Partnership (CEP). Part of the CEP action plan of key priorities sets out actions to address skills gaps by identifying skills needs for growth and encouraging provision which meets those needs.

The City Council is supporting the Knowledge Transfer Project which will help maximise the potential of 'e'-commerce by supporting local retailers (SMEs) and especially independents to make use of the internet to promote and grow their business. This two year project will support businesses to develop specific products together with experts from the University of Cumbria with the aim of maximising the use of the City Centre WiFi, using apps, for example, to support the local economy.

The on-line web portal for city centre businesses was launched in November.

The City Council also continues to lead by example as one of Carlisle's large employers by investing in the development of its staff. This includes working with the University of Cumbria, Carlisle College and local training providers to deliver a wide range of technical and professional learning and development opportunities to staff.

PRIORITY - Together we will make Carlisle clean and tidy

The City Council recognises the shared responsibility between it and the community and is committed to a pro-active approach to making Carlisle a place that its residents can be proud of.

There is evidence of less dog fouling and less street litter (Nov 2013 177 instances compared to Nov 2014 95 instances of dog fouling counted). The Enforcement and Education Team continue to take a proactive approach by visiting schools and holding responsible dog ownership days.

There has been an improvement to street cleansing with emphasis on leaf clearance during Oct /Nov and therefore there has been no insurance claims relating to leaf clearance. At the start of December 2014, a team of litter pickers have been picking up litter from grass verges between Carlisle and Brampton, and Carlisle and Longtown. The rapid response team has been extended for a further 2 years.

200 new litterbins have been purchased to replace existing broken and plastic bin. These all have ashtrays on the top to improve the amount of cigarette littering. The new bins are being rolled out during February and March 2015. Litterbin Operation Procedures are being compiled for the maintenance and replacement of litterbins.

The design of the plastic and card sacks has been improved to reduce the amount of recycling being blown into the streets. Box hats for green boxes are now available free of charge from the civic centre.

During the bad weather street cleaners gritted the town centre and also helped the County Council by gritting outside local shopping areas to help ensure the safety of the general public.

The Clean up Carlisle budget has been spent on tools and equipment, litter bins, improved bring sites, a new street cleaning vehicle, improved leaf clearance work and extra litter picking on grass verges.

Rethinking Waste Project

Following consultation with Scrutiny, the Waste Policy Framework has been rolled out to operational staff and the contact centre.

A 6 month review of sale of recyclates has taken place and the contract has been extended by 12 months.

The green box tender was won by the current contractor. The new contract will commence in June 2015 and will be for a 12 month period with the option to extend for up to a further year. The only changes from the existing contract are that the contractor will now purchase the green boxes themselves and the monthly fee has reduced.

Work has commenced on additional consultancy work to consider 2 stream collection and recycling credit sensitivity, and review assumptions.

PRIORITY - We will address Carlisle's current and future housing needs

The key to this priority is the delivery of the City Council's housing strategy.

Delivery of the Affordable Housing Programme:

Two schemes, developed by Riverside Cumbria at Dalton Avenue and Tomlinson Avenue are due to complete by the end of the financial year, successfully concluding the 2011-15 affordable housing programme. Nineteen affordable rented two bed bungalows and thirty-nine, two three and four bedroom affordable rented properties will be delivered, helping the District to meet need for older/mobility housing and family housing. It is worth noting that between Jan – Dec 2014 we gave planning permission for schemes under which a total of 48 discounted sale dwellings, and 43 socially rented dwellings will be provided; and developers have agreed to pay financial contributions for off-site provision of affordable housing concerning a further 14 schemes.

Empty Homes:

There is a projected delivery of 54 units by March 2015 which will exceed the DCLG target by 9 units. As well as providing housing for up to 168 people, the project is significantly enhancing the local economy and has created 19 jobs.

Gypsy and Traveller Transit site:

A desktop review of the 2008 and 2013 Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment shows that permanent pitch provision in the District has more than doubled since 2008 and currently stands at 74 pitches (including two with temporary planning permission. Transit provision has also increased from 24 units in the District in 2008 to 30 units currently. The incidence of unauthorised encampments has also reduced from 31 in 2006 to 9 in 2014. We are currently assessing how we can address any need.

YMCA making homes programme

The scheme closed on 31 December 2014. Nine properties have been returned to use.