

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY O&S PANEL

Chairman's Report

Meeting held 2nd August 2012

The Panel looked at the Overview Report incorporating the **Work Programme** and Forward Plan Items. Three reports which the Panel would receive and consider at future meetings would be:

Economic Partnership Report

Use of Green Infrastructure

Implementation of new Local Environment Database

The Tourist Information Task & Finish Group had held its first meeting with its intended focus being upon Tourist Information Centres rather than tourism in general. Task Group members would visit T I Cs to gain better understanding of services provided and look at how the best possible service could be provided within the available budget.

The Panel approved the Terms of Reference for the T & F Group.

The Panel next considered the **Cleaning Up Carlisle** Report. An additional £155k for 2 years had been agreed which would target dog fouling, littering and staining. It would support transition to a more programme approach to street cleansing operations.

A three strand approach was to be adopted: education, enforcement and improved clean up.

Work has already begun on cleaning up Carlisle with 3 new street cleaning machines and with new rounds being designed, to benefit both urban and rural areas. A response team would be set up to deal with specific requests.

A new team was being set up within Environmental Health to provide education and enforcement with regard to environmental crime. The Environmental Health Manager informed the Panel that the draft Enforcement policy sought to ensure a fair, open, proportionate and consistent enforcement for individuals, businesses and the community.

An example of proportionality would be where there would be a strict approach to dogs on leads near play areas, but that dog walkers in general would not be targeted, as it was right that people should enjoy walking their dogs.

There was some concern expressed that, whilst litter bins were seen as an essential part of the process by many communities, the lack of funding to empty them was a seemingly unsurmountable problem, unless a growth bid was looked at in the future in response to local requests.

After a robust but positive discussion, the Panel recognised the balance between Education, Engagement and Enforcement recognised in the report; the Panel also supported the Cleaner Carlisle: Love Where You Live Campaign; the Panel looked forward to receiving an update in their October meeting.

The Panel received an Update on the Management of the **Enterprise Centre**, following the Review of its Operation, covering management, operational and administrative issues as well as the position regarding repairs and maintenance of the building.

The Panel was advised that the Centre would now be managed centrally from the Civic Centre, resulting in a loss of two on-site posts. The Panel was informed that a series of meetings and consultation events had taken place with tenants to ensure they were fully engaged during the transition. Tenants main areas of concern had related to health and safety, building security and revised service provision.

Following discussion on issues connected with the above, members felt that a site visit would be beneficial. It was agreed that the Director of Economic Development would make arrangements for those members who wished to visit the site. The E & E Portfolio Holder suggested that the Panel may wish to hold a future meeting at the Centre.

The Report was received and the new management, administrative and operational arrangements for the Enterprise Centre as a result of the review, were noted; also noted was the progress made with regard to repairs and maintenance, together with the ongoing planned repairs schedule.

The Panel looked forward to monitoring the matter at a future meeting. The Panel requested the Director of Economic Development to make arrangements for a site visit by Panel Members.

Stephen Layden

Chair E & E Scrutiny Panel

August 2012