

# AGENDA

## Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 08 May 2013 AT 10:00  
In the Flensburg Room, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG

**\*\*Briefing meeting for Members will be at 9.15 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

To approve and sign the Minutes of the meetings held on 28 February 2013.  
[Copy Minutes in Minute Book Volume 39(6)]

## **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 OS.10.13 - Overview Report Work Programme**

**5 - 14**

To consider a report providing an overview of matters related to the work of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel together with the latest version of the Work Programme and details of the Key Decisions items related to this Panel as set out in the Notice of Key Decisions  
(Copy Report OS.10/13 herewith)

#### **A.3 OS.11.13 - Talkin Tarn Task Group**

**15 - 32**

(Environment and Economy Portfolio)

The Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer to submit the draft report of the work of the Talkin Tarn Task and Finish Group for approval  
(Copy Report OS.11/13 herewith)

**B.1 LE.13.13 - Migration of Purple Sacks to Wheeled Bin Refuse Collection**

**33 - 62**

(Environment and Transport Portfolio)

*This report is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as the report contains exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*

Pursuant to minute EEOSP. 25/13 this report was moved into the public part of the meeting

The Director of Local Environment to submit a report on the proposal to move 4500 residents currently on weekly collection of purple sacks onto wheeled bins (Copy Report to follow)

**PART B**

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

**B.2 LE.14.13 - Bring Sites Review**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);

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

**Notes to Members:** Briefing meeting will be held at **9.15am** in the Flensburg room



## Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda  
Item:

**A.2**

Meeting Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
Portfolio: Cross Cutting  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and  
Budget Framework No  
Public / Private Public

Title: OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME  
Report of: Scrutiny Officer  
Report Number: OS 10/13

### **Purpose / Summary:**

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Environment and Economy 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 Leader's Notice of Key Decisions should be included in the Panel's Work Programme for consideration. (para 1 & Appendix 1)
- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme (Appendix 2)

## 1. Notice of Key Executive Decisions

The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions was published on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The following issues fall into the remit of this Panel and full details are attached at **Appendix 1**:

- **KD.01/13 Purple Sacks Review** – *The Executive will be asked at their meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 to consider moving 4500 residents who are on weekly collection of purple sacks onto wheeled bins in order to realise further savings for the Council – this is to be considered at this meeting of the Panel.*
- **KD.07/13 Bring Sites Review** – *The Executive will decide at their meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 which option identified in the review to implement. This could mean a reduction in the number of Bring Sites provided by the City Council – this is to be considered at this meeting of the Panel.*

## 2. References from the Executive

There are no references from the Executive from their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

## 3. Carlisle TIC Task Group

The Task Group undertook a visit to the temporary TIC based in at The Lodge, Carlisle Cathedral on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013. An update note from the Chair of the Task Group is attached at **Appendix 2**.

## 4. Work Programme

The Panel's current work programme is attached at **Appendix 3** for comment/amendment. Members may want to take the opportunity to discuss items for the 2013/14 Work Programme.

**Contact Officer:**

**Nicola Edwards**

**Ext: 7122**

**Appendices  
attached to report:**

1. Relevant Extracts from the Notice of Key Executive Decisions
2. Update note from Lead Member, Carlisle TIC Task Group
3. Environment & Economy O&S Work Programme 2012/13

**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**

Items relevant to the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

**Notice of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive**

The following key decision is to be made on behalf of Carlisle City Council:

Key Decision Reference:	KD.037/12
Decision Title:	Carlisle Plan 2013-16
Decision to be taken:	The Executive is requested to: 1. Consider and comment upon the presentation and content of the Plan with a view to seeking continuous improvement in the way the Council delivers services to its local communities. 2. Consider the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on the draft Plan. 3. Refer the Plan to full Council for approval.
Date Decision to be considered:	11 February 2013 consultation period to include Overview and Scrutiny as appropriate (EX.10/13)
Date Decision to be taken:	8 April 2013
Is the Decision Public or Private?:	The decision will be taken in public.
Documents submitted for consideration in relation to the Decision:	Report PC.01/13 - Draft Carlisle Plan 2013-2016 on 11 February 2013
Contact Officer for this Decision:	Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Carlisle City Council, Civic Centre, Carlisle, CA3 8QG
Relevant Portfolio Area:	Finance, Governance and Resources (Councillor Dr Tickner)
Relevant or Lead Overview and Scrutiny Panel:	Cross cutting

All public reports can be viewed in the Customer Contact centre of the Civic Centre, Carlisle, the Public Library and on the Council's website [www.carlisle.gov.uk](http://www.carlisle.gov.uk).

Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker. These, if available, may be obtained by contacting the named contact officer.

## Task Group Visit to Carlisle TIC – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Assembly Rooms – The ongoing future role of the Assembly Rooms was at this stage undecided. The space offered could be utilised as a place for visitors to the TIC to relax and plan ahead. The O&S TIC report had listed various options which the area could be used for. There was potential for a scale model display of Carlisle in the Assembly Rooms similar in nature with the current display in the train station.

Meetings and liaison with the Steering Group – Members felt that there was a potential for duplication and conflict between ourselves and the officer led Steering Group which had been set up in Economic Development. Members felt that there ought to be some level of representation or feedback between the two bodies, which should be explored further. The TIC working group would seek to meet in a further 6 months.

Working arrangements in the Church building – Generally positive feedback on the temporary setting for the TIC. Internet connection was an issue, as currently the IT connection was through a dongle, which had limited use and download capability. New till was in use.

Redevelopment of the TIC – The works were set to overrun by approx a month due to need to replace more timbers in the roof than was first anticipated. In terms of moving back into the TIC this would result in a tighter window for restocking a training on the new systems. The Retail offer was having to be negotiated with individual suppliers, rather than through a 'Made in Cumbria' body. Internet points and a dropped counter would be offered, the exact layout of the interior was still to be confirmed. Perhaps the chance of a short tour of the works would interest Councillors.

External Signage – Cllr Nedved raised the issue that footfall into the TIC would be greatly benefited by improved external signage in the City Centre.

**Cllr James Bainbridge**  
**Lead Member of Task Group**





## ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Date last revised:25 April 2013

Issue	Type of Scrutiny					Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key decision Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring		21 Jun 12	02 Aug 12	13 Sep 12	25 Oct 12	29 Nov 12	17 Jan 13	28 Feb 13	8 May 13
<b>THIS MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013</b>														
Purple Sacks Review		✓	✓			Pre-decision scrutiny to consider proposals moving 4500 residents who are on weekly collection of purple sacks onto wheeled bins.								✓
Bring Sites Review		✓	✓			Pre-decision scrutiny of proposals which could mean a reduction in the number of Bring Sites provided by the City Council.								✓
<b>TASK AND FINISH GROUPS</b>														
Talkin Tarn			✓			Draft report for approval					✓	✓	✓	
How will T.I.C look in the future?			✓			Response from Executive on recommendations of report		✓		✓	✓			



## ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

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	Performance Management	Key decision Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring		21 Jun 12	02 Aug 12	13 Sep 12	25 Oct 12	29 Nov 12	17 Jan 13	28 Feb 13	8 May 13
Portfolio Holder & Lead officer														
Members Small Scale Projects		✓				Recommendation made and accepted by Executive - no further action required				✓				
<b>COMPLETED ITEMS</b>														
Local Plan Cllr Glover/Jane Meek		✓	✓			To consider report detailing the Preferred Options prior to public consultation								
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓	Approved by email due to change in meeting date								
Performance Monitoring Reports Steven O'Keefe	✓				✓	Monitoring of performance relevant to the remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Carlisle Plan		✓				To consider draft Plan							✓	
Executive Savings Proposals		✓				Update of transformation of Economic Development Directorate				✓			✓	

## ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Date last revised:25 April 2013

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	Performance Management	Key decision Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Monitoring		21 Jun 12	02 Aug 12	13 Sep 12	25 Oct 12	29 Nov 12	17 Jan 13	28 Feb 13	8 May 13
Portfolio Holder & Lead officer														
Kingmoor Nature Reserve												✓		
Waste Services Cllr Martlew/Angela Culleton			✓	✓	✓	Current position of Strategic Waste Partnership projects and Governance review Annual update - June 13	✓					✓	Annual Review w June 2014	
Use of Green Infrastructure			✓								✓			
Environmental Performance of the Council Arup Majhi/Cllr Tickner			✓		✓	Annual Monitoring of performance.					✓			
Botchergate Conservation Area Appraisal Jane Meek/Cllr Glover						To receive action plan once Council agree revised Conservation Area	✓				✓			
Economic Potential of Carlisle Jane Meek/Cllr Glover				✓		To consider draft Economic Potential of Carlisle report from Carlisle Economic Partnership					✓		Report June 2013 on CEP	



## ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Date last revised: 25 April 2013

Issue	Type of Scrutiny					Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key decision Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring		21 Jun 12	02 Aug 12	13 Sep 12	25 Oct 12	29 Nov 12	17 Jan 13	28 Feb 13	8 May 13
<b>Budget</b> Peter Mason/Darren Crossley/All Portfolio Holders		✓	✓			To consider budget proposals for 2013/14				✓				
<b>Business Improvement District</b> Darren Crossley/Cllr Glover				✓		Update on ballot outcome and next steps		✓		✓				
<b>Cleaning Up Carlisle</b> Angela Culleton/Cllr Martlew						To receive update report detailing Cleaning up Carlisle project and the Local Environment Enforcement Policy		✓		✓				
<b>Enterprise Centre</b>			✓			To receive update on position of the Enterprise Centre		✓						
<b>Car Parking</b> Angela Culleton/Keith Poole/Cllr Martlew			✓			To receive update of Car Park use and income following implementation of changes				✓				
<b>Higher Level Stewardship Grant Offer</b> Angela Culleton/Cllr Martlew		✓				To give comments to Executive on proposal of grant funding				✓				



## ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Date last revised:25 April 2013

Issue	Type of Scrutiny					Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key decision Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/External Agency	Monitoring		21 Jun 12	02 Aug 12	13 Sep 12	25 Oct 12	29 Nov 12	17 Jan 13	28 Feb 13	8 May 13
Portfolio Holder & Lead officer														
<b>Claimed Rights</b> Angel Culleton/Cllr Martlew		✓				To scrutinise the report which considers whether to keep Highways Claimed Rights			✓					
<b>Events Policy</b>						To consider new Policy	✓							



## Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda  
Item:

**A.3**

Meeting Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
Portfolio: Environment & Transport  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and  
Budget Framework No  
Public / Private Public

Title: Talkin Tarn Task Group  
Report of: Scrutiny Officer  
Report Number: OS 11/13

### **Purpose / Summary:**

The draft report of the Talkin Tarn Task and Finish group is attached. The report makes a number of recommendations for action for the Executive.

### **Recommendations:**

Members are asked to approve the report and recommend it to the Executive, requesting a formal response;

**Contact Officer:** Nicola Edwards **Ext:** 7122

**Appendices** 1.Draft Report from Task Group  
**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**

**Economy &  
Environment  
Overview and  
Scrutiny Panel**

**Talkin Tarn**





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# Recommendations

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The Task Group make the following recommendations:

1. That the Executive support the Officers in pursuing potential franchise initiatives which could be accommodated at Talkin Tarn. This should would attract a wider customer base whilst remaining sensitive to the natural surroundings of the Country Park.
2. Members recommend that details of the scheme are finalised and marketed as soon as possible in order to attract users of the Tarn to the scheme. Consideration should be given to advertising within Brampton Parish Council's BIG newsletter.
3. Members of the Task Group recommend that the vacant Green Spaces Officer post is recruited to as soon as possible.
4. That the whole offer of the Tea Room and Gift Shop should be reviewed in order to attract more custom. This review should include consideration to the option of franchising the Tea Room. This review should include consideration to the option of franchising the Tea Room.
5. That a strategy for the marketing and promotion of Talkin Tarn is undertaken with support from officers within the Communications Section
6. That officers continue to pursue enquiries with local public transport providers to promote Talkin Tarn Country Park in order to attract more visitors and provide adequate transport links.

# Introduction

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1. Talkin Tarn Country Park is a 165 acre site containing a glacial tarn surrounded by mature woodland and gentle meadows close to the market town of Brampton.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Tarn has a 1.3 mile circular path that is ideal for a gentle stroll. This path is hard surfaced and accessible to all. There are also three way marked trails of varying lengths; 1.5km, 2.5km and 3.5km starting from the car park and on into woods and fields.
3. The boathouse has been renovated to incorporate a Tearoom and Gift shop. The whole building has full disabled access including a lift.
4. Carlisle City Council took over the management of Talkin Tarn Country Park in April 2006 from Cumbria County Council and invested £1 million to upgrade the existing facilities to ensure they comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and health & safety regulations.
5. It was identified within the Business Plan for the Country Park dated January 2007 that “the realities of local government finances mean that the Country Park should not be a financial burden on the council taxpayers of Carlisle” and that “we both keep costs strictly under control and also seek to general income from consumers of our services”.<sup>2</sup>
6. Potential income streams including car parking charges were identified and introduced to the Tarn following transfer to the City Council.
7. During the scrutiny of the 2013/14 budget Members of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel raised concerns about the proposed increase of Car Parking Charges for visitors to Talkin Tarn. Members were informed that the Country Park was running at a deficit and it was always the intention that the Park should be cost neutral to the Authority.
8. Members of the Panel resolved that they wished to look at this issue more closely and therefore commissioned a Task Group to investigate and return to the Panel with its findings.
9. Cllrs Allison, Nedved, Prest, Sherriff and Watson were appointed to the Task Group who would undertake the review. It was agreed that the Task Group should present their findings and draft recommendations to the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel by the end of the 2012/13 Civic Year.
10. The Task Group held their initial meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and agreed that their Terms of Reference would be:
  - To gain an understanding of the budgetary position of Talkin Tarn Country Park, by examining income, expenditure and central charges.
  - To look at the existing service provision at the Talkin Tarn Country Park and make any recommendations for change and/or improvement.

<sup>1</sup>[www.carlisle.gov.uk/leisure\\_and\\_culture/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/talkin\\_tarn.aspx](http://www.carlisle.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_and_open_spaces/talkin_tarn.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> Talkin Tarn Business Plan 2006-08 CS07/07 Report to Executive 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007

- To look at other potential income streams which could be pursued in order to enhance the visitor experience and increase visitor number to the Tarn whilst keeping sympathetic to the natural surroundings of the Country Park.
11. The group agreed that their objective was to make recommendations which will assist in ensuring that Talkin Tarn Country Park remains a viable asset to the Authority and serves the needs of the visiting public.

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# Methodology

12. In order to develop the evidence base for the review Task and Finish Group Members considered a wide range of information and data including the following:

- Talkin Tarn Country Park Management Plan 2010-15 (including 5 Year Action Plan)
- CS07/07 Talkin Tarn Business Plan Director of Community Services – report to Executive 22/1/07
- Talkin Tarn Visitor Survey 2008 CN Research on behalf of Carlisle City Council
- FIS Reports for Cost Centre 15170/ Talkin Tarn, Neighbourhood and Green Spaces 2011/12 and 2012/13
- LE34/12 Review of Charges 2013/14, Director of Local Environment, Report to Executive 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012

13. Task Group Members also took oral evidence from the following individuals:

- Steven Tickner, Chief Accountant, Carlisle City Council
- Jonathon May, Team Leader, Neighbourhood and Green Spaces, Carlisle City Council
- Phil Gray, Neighbourhood and Green Spaces Manager, Carlisle City Council
- Vice Chairman of Brampton Parish Council
- Clerk to Brampton Parish Council
- Chairman of the Talkin Tarn Amateur Rowing Club
- Secretary of the Talkin Tarn Amateur Rowing Club
- Cllr Stephen Layden, Brampton Ward Member
- Three representatives from Brampton Tourist Information Centre
- Talkin Tarn Tea Room Manager

Attended  
consultation  
session on 11<sup>th</sup>  
March 2013

14. Meetings of the Task Group were held on:

Date	Purpose	Attendees
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	Consider background material and scope review	Task Group Members Neighbourhood & Green Spaces Manager Team Leader – Green Spaces Scrutiny Officer Lead Committee Clerk
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	Meet with Officer from Finance	Task Group Members Chief Accountant Neighbourhood & Green Spaces Manager Team Leader – Green Spaces Scrutiny Officer Committee Clerk
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	Consultation session with	Task Group Members See paragraph 6

Date	Purpose	Attendees
	stakeholders	Scrutiny Officer Team Leader – Green Spaces Lead Committee Clerk
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	Share findings with Portfolio Holder	Cllr Watson (Lead Member) Cllr Martlew (Portfolio Holder) Director of Local Environment Scrutiny Officer

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# Findings

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## *Transfer of ownership*

16. On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2005 Council agreed to proceed with the transfer of the Talkin Tarn Estate from Cumbria County Council, conditional on addressing issues relating to toxic blue/green algae and strengthening the business case.<sup>3</sup>
17. The business case considered by Members in June/July 2005 detailed that the estimated overall cost of the scheme was £997,625 capital cost phased over two years and a net revenue requirement of £70,000 per annum recurring. The County Council would provide a dowry of £40,000 per year for 5 years.<sup>4</sup>
18. Tarn End House was not included in the transfer and subsequently Cumbria County Council sold the former Hotel to a developer in 2009 for £450,000. The building currently stands empty and is surrounded by metal railings.
19. The business case stated that there was an adequate revenue budget set (ie £70,000) but a modest car park change would need to be introduced and the tea room business improved to pay for the running of the estate. It was also expected that small grants would be available for minor improvements to the infrastructure including ICREW (Improving Coastal and Recreational Waters for All) EU-funded projects and Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust. It was also suggested that through the development of the Friends of Talkin Tarn, there would also be opportunities to improve income from schools, sponsorships, events and other promotions.
20. The overall objectives were summarised as:
  - To retain public ownership and access to Talkin Tarn estate by transferring it from the County Council to the City Council.
  - To provide enhanced facilities for the public through a general refurbishment and upgrade of the buildings.
  - To improve public access and comply with Disability Discrimination legislation by upgrading appropriate footpaths and the car park.
  - To improve the ecological and environmental aspects of the estate.
  - To bring forward proactive management which promotes various Carlisle City Council corporate objectives in relation to leisure, culture, environmental and educational themes.
21. With regard to the blue/green algae the County Council agreed to indemnify the City Council for a period of 2 years. A report was also commissioned which concluded that it was unlikely that the algae would be fully eradicated – but it could be managed.
22. Subsequently the Talkin Tarn estate was transferred to the ownership of the City Council in April 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of meeting of Full Council, Carlisle City Council 18/01/05

<sup>4</sup> Talkin Tarn Estate Business Plan June 2005

## Income Generation & Available Facilities

23. A Business Plan for the operation of Talkin Tarn 2006-08 was developed during 2006 and approved by the Executive on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007. The Business Plan introduced parking charges for the Tarn and identified the various income streams. The Plan stated that the objectives for income generation for 2006-08 were:

- To generate sufficient income so that Talkin Tarn Country Park operates as a cost-neutral element in the City Council's budget;
- To spread the income by generating activities as widely as possible so that the contribution made by each individual visitor, as a proportion of the overall figure, is minimised;
- To provide excellent value for money for all our paying customers.<sup>5</sup>

24. Potential income streams were identified as follows and include an up to date summary/cost/income for each area.

25. **County Council dowry** - £40,000 for five years commencing in 2006/07 (clearly this has now ended).

26. **Car Parking Charges - Parking charges at Talkin Tarn were introduced in 2007.**

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	Up to 2 hours Free Over 2 hours £2	Up to 2 hours – free Over 2 hours - £2.10	10am-6pm £1 Annual permit - £30	10am-6pm - £1 Annual Permit - £30	10am-6pm - £1 Annual Permit - £30	10am-6pm - £1 Annual Permit - £30	10am – 6pm Up to 1 hour - £1 More than 1 hour - £2 Talkin Tarn Membership - £52
Parking Income			£24,000	£29,500	£28,332	Approx £26,000	Estimate £31,000

27. **Fishing** – day permit £2.50 for an adult and £1.50 for under 16s. Annual permit available for £25

28. **Boating Permits** – Self-launch boating permits are available (non-motorised craft only) at £5 per day.

29. **Guided Walks/Cycle Rides, Events** – A limited programme of events was previously offered but do not now take place.

30. **Rowing Boat Franchise** – renewed annually and generating about £1,000 p.a. However there has been a period of inactivity during 2012. However invitations to tender for the 2013 rowing boat franchise have recently been advertised along with an opportunity for a business to offer various non motorised water sports from the Tarn.

31. **Rowing Club** – A new building has also been added which is funded and run by the amateur rowing club. The club pay £1,000 per annum to use the Tarn and there is also a live web

<sup>5</sup> Talkin Tarn Business Plan 2006-08 Report to Executive 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007



cam overlooking the Tarn which they use to monitor the water's condition. The Club also bring in additional events to the Tarn such as the Annual Regatta.

32. **Education/Training Programmes** - As well as the hire of the Cabin (see below) there are a number of educational facilities for the use of schools. Visits are self-led by teachers and school staff. The Green Spaces Team Leader is currently working with the Groundwork Trust who are to undertake market research in schools to determine what they require and expect from a visit to the Tarn. The Trust are also to undertake the environmental educational work which the Council previously undertook but no longer were able to run the service due to cost savings.
33. **Estate Letting** – the grazing fields around the Tarn are let to a local farmer (April-November) generating income of about £2,000 p.a.
34. **Hire of Education Cabin** – The cabin is available to hire for activities such as meetings, training courses and children's parties. Current charges for hire are £25 half day (£30 2013/14), £50 full day (£55 2013/14) or £6.25 per hour (£6.50 per hour with a minimum charge of 2 hours from 2013/14). Income varies but is approximately £4,000 p.a.
35. **Friends of Talkin Tarn County Park** – this proposal of an annual fee of £50 was not accepted by the Executive in 2007 and no joining fee was therefore introduced at that time. Currently Membership of "the friends of" is free and open to all. There is an option to have information emailed or posted. Around 80 'Friends' are on the current mailing list. It is proposed that the Talkin Tarn Membership scheme (see paragraphs 19 and 36) will take the place of the Friends group.
36. **Talkin Tarn Membership Scheme** – the scheme was introduced as part of the 2013/14 budget proposals. Membership is £52 per annum and will include annual parking permit, discount in the tearoom and a newsletter.
37. **Corporate or Private Sponsorship** – As yet no private sponsorship is in place.
38. **Alex Boat House** – currently charges £30 per day or 15% of takings. The Boat House is used for exhibitions and already is substantially booked for the whole of 2013. Income is approximately £2,500
39. **Tea Room** – The Talkin Tarn tea room is open throughout the year, from 10:30am – 4:00pm Easter-August and during the Autumn/Winter (September-Easter) is open 10:30am – 4:00pm Thursday – Sunday with a takeaway service Monday-Wednesday. An initial concern of Overview and Scrutiny back in 2006 was that the tea room closure of 4:30pm during the Summer months was inadequate.
40. **Boat House Tea Room expenditure & income summary, 2011-12 (last full year)**

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Staffing Cost	77,600	Gift sales	9,400
Premises	5,800	Refreshment sales	127,200
Supplies & services	49,000	Events etc	5,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,400</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>142,400</b>

**Notes:** 1. Figures rounded to nearest 100.  
2. Surplus for the year = £10,000

3. These are 'operating' figures only. Central overheads of £29,600 are added to the expenditure column, leaving a net loss of £19,600

41. The approximate income for 2012/13 for the Tea Room is £127,400. The very poor weather throughout 2012 has seen a reduction of about 25% for visitor attractions across Cumbria and Talkin Tarn was in line with that reduction and this is reflected in the reduced income to the Tea Room.
42. The costs of maintenance of the park and running of the Tea Room have been substantially reduced in 2012-13 as part of Local Environment's transformation programme. The Tarn no longer has a dedicated full time manager and management is now provided by a Site Management Team Leader and one Greenspaces Officer in the Neighbourhood and Green Spaces Team who spends 2 days a week at the Tarn. Last year there were 2 full time employees in the tearoom and 5 casual staff. This year there are 1 full time employee in the tearoom and a number of casual staff.
43. It was agreed in the Business Plan when Talkin Tarn was taken over by the City Council that profit or loss on the Tarn or the teahouse was ringfenced for Tarn purposes. In 2012/13 there was a balance brought forward of £95,000; some of which was used to cover the cost of re-surfacing the car park. The net costs for 2012/13 were £84,000 for the Tarn and £11,000 for the tearoom. The underspends had been built up over the years and would continue to do so. The forecast was that the balance to be carried over from 2012/13 would be £14,000. By the end of the financial year there would be an underspend of £7,000 on the tarn and a loss of £17,000 on the tearoom. That would leave a carry forward figure of £3,000.
44. Members were advised that in most years it would be expected that there would be an underspend at the end of the financial year. The figure for 2012/13 was down due to the reduced numbers of visitors due to the very bad weather. However, Easter was the busiest time for the Tarn and the tearoom so it is anticipated that the final end of year figure could be higher than currently indicated.
45. With regard to future pressures on the budget Members were informed that there was some subsidence in the tearoom that would cost £20,000 to repair, (those costs would come out of the Property Maintenance Budget), that there may be a cost to control the blue/green algae and work may be needed to the two small boathouses at some point in the future. If the underspends were built up over time this would fund the work.
46. Opportunities were being investigated regarding the pleasure boats, other water sports, outdoor adventure franchise, an increase in school based activities, increase in functions and an increase in the commemorative offer at the Tarn and those opportunities would be consulted on at the appropriate time. Further opportunities for the Tarn would be investigated such as franchises which would allow rent collection and would not be onerous on Council staff.

### *Central Recharges*

47. The Task Group met with the Chief Accountant to gain an understanding of the central recharges associated with Talkin Tarn.
48. The Group were informed that central recharges are, in effect, the cost on central services such as ICT, Finance, Legal, Payroll, HR, etc which must, under proper accounting practices, be charged to the front line service which enjoys the benefit of such support. That allows the Council to provide the total cost of direct council services. Central service/support services

would recharge to each other; and it was necessary to “fix” those charges in order to calculate the charge to the front line services.

49. Accounting regulations (Code of Practice) are quite specific about how and what is recharged and those recharges must be included in the Council’s Annual Statement of Accounts. When a service is being reviewed, the support service must be included in the total cost of the service; however that is not to say that it was the total cost which was saved if the service ceased.
50. If there is a significant change to a front line service, then there will be a requirement to assess the impact on central departments to see if their workload had reduced significantly too.
51. With regard to Talkin Tarn in 2012/13 the £100,000 net budget includes central recharges of £50,800 for the Tarn and £31,800 for the Tearoom (total £82,600). The recharges are to the garage, Local Environment Performance Improvement Team, Building Services, Highway Services, Stores, Parking Services, Green Spaces Management and Site Management, IT, Finance Team, Legal, Creditors, Debtors, Payroll, Personnel, Health and Safety, Organisational Development Team and Policy and Communications.
52. Some of the re-charges are based on a head count and some are recharged on a percentage of time spent. For example recharges relating to Personnel were based on a head count and several of the staff employed in the tearoom are employed on a casual basis some for only 1-2 hours per week but accrue a recharge each.
53. Officers have looked at the way the recharges are calculated during the time of this review and Members have recently been informed that that the central recharges for Talkin Tarn will be reduced in 2013/14 to £54,800.
54. The HLS grant has not been factored into the budget figures but it could be included as more additional income is found. Officers are working to bring in external funding where possible.
55. In summary Members were informed that there was a net cost of £100,000 for Talkin Tarn and re-charges amounted to £82,600 and with the general underspend that left a balance of approximately £10,000 cost to the Council for the running of Talkin Tarn.
56. If Talkin Tarn was treated as a private business and only the annual ‘operating costs’ are considered, the Country Park is much closer to the cost neutral objective set out in the original business plan and Executive report
57. Even if Talkin Tarn closed the central recharges would still remain but would be re-allocated throughout the Council. Members were advised that so long as costs could be controlled the Tarn would more or less break even.

### *Open Discussion with Stakeholders*

58. The Task Group held a meeting at Talkin Tarn on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and invited a selection of locally based individuals to find out their views of the Tarn.
59. Representatives attended from Brampton Parish Council, Brampton Tourist Information Centre, Talkin Tarn Rowing Club and a City Council Ward Councillor.
60. Participants were told that the City Council welcomed new ideas and opportunities but they must be achievable within the very limited resources available.
61. Key issues discussed and points raised at the meeting:
  - Main strength of the Tarn was its location but questioned whether the marketing was right.
  - Many local people enjoyed the simplicity of the Tarn as a place to relax. There needed to be a balance of retaining that atmosphere and creating income streams.
  - Biggest complaint was regarding the cost of the car parking and the tea rooms and there is an argument that a more reasonable price would attract more local people. Currently most local people had lunch in Brampton or at home instead of at the Tarn.
  - Concerns were raised that the tea room did not offer anything different to other tea rooms and the key to the tea rooms being successful was variety and providing a different offer to customers. The tea room would have to be more of a special place or treat to validate the car parking charges. It was suggested that special Sunday lunches could be a good offer.
  - That the tea room was not open long enough especially in the summer.
  - Many parents of children involved in the Rowing Club did not stay and use the facilities whilst their child attended the club.
  - Brampton TIC staff indicated that they were asked about the Tarn on a regular basis but walkers without transport often felt that the Tarn was too far to walk from Brampton. The transport links to the Tarn were very poor and without a car many could not use the Tarn especially in the evenings.
  - There is acknowledgement that many hundreds of people pass through Brampton Railway Station every week and advertising and/or signposting at the Station would be useful.
  - Local people did not want to pay to use the Tarn and as a result parked outside the Tarn on the road which caused a number of problems.
  - Suggestion that the ticket from the car parking machines be amended to highlight the 'donation' to the maintenance of the Tarn and other members of the Group suggested that a discount voucher for the Tea Room be added to the back of the ticket to discourage people to pass their tickets over and to encourage them to visit the Tea Room.
  - There is a very wide age range of people visited the Tarn especially at the weekend but there was still a low number of young people visiting.
  - Suggestion of free parking at certain times to encourage visitors to come walking at the Tarn and support the Council's healthy lifestyle priorities.

- More use could be made of the BIG Newsletter produced by Brampton Parish Council to promote the Tarn.
  - The Parish Council was in the process of producing a booklet on local walks and would ensure that the Tarn was included in the booklet.
  - The Ward Member suggested that the charges be varied for local people and the TIC representative suggested that local people who have purchased an annual ticket be given other incentives such as coffee mornings so they felt they were getting more for their money.
  - Suggestion that dog trainers or classes for dogs could be put on at the Tarn with refreshments included to encourage people to attend.
62. With regard to the Tea Room, Members were informed that as custom to the Tarn was predominantly weather dependent the Tea Room tried to ensure that there was as little waste as possible from the menu. The weather also could dictate people's menu choices and the tea room tried to ensure all costs were covered.
63. The Tea Room had trialled different trading hours, included later opening hours on Rowing Club nights, but this had not been successful. Theme nights had also been experimented previously but again had been hard to sell. Although there was not any initial objection to Sunday lunches these would require planning and appropriate advertising, tables would need to be pre-booked as food would need to be ordered specially.
64. General advertising that was available for the Tarn including the internet and a general leaflet that was provided to local TIC's. Members were informed that there was a very limited budget for marketing and although discussions had taken place with the Council's Communication Team marketing could not be improved without additional resources.
65. The Group were reminded that the charges for the car park would be increasing in April and a small notice had been added to the car parking machines informing customers that the fee for the car park went directly to the maintenance of the Tarn.

# Conclusions

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67. As noted earlier in the report the Task Group was appointed primarily to gain an understanding of the budget of Talkin Tarn. Members were informed that in 2012/13 there was a net cost of £100,000 for Talkin Tarn and re-charges amounted to £82,600 and with the general underspend that left a balance of approximately £10,000 cost to the Council for the running of Talkin Tarn. Due to the particularly bad weather last year visitors to the Tarn and income for the Tarn was reduced.
68. Members were informed that during the course of this work a separate review on the recharges for Talkin Tarn was undertaken and that as a result of this work the central recharges will reduce to £54,800 in 2013/14.
69. Members of the Task Group are supportive of this reduction as it was the general consensus of the group that the recharges previously for the Tarn were excessive. **The Group will not be making any recommendations with regard to Central Recharges as they agree that appropriate action has now been taken.**
70. However the Group are aware that Talkin Tarn needs to attract more income in order to have a surplus on the budget which can be reinvested in maintenance and future development.
71. The Task Group were informed of several potential income streams for the Tarn, including a watersports franchise. Members agree that the offer at the Tarn needs to be improved in order to attract more visitors who will stay longer. This would have a positive impact on income from both parking and the Tea Room.
72. The Group are particularly eager about the possibilities of franchising activities at the Tarn including Watersports (which is currently advertised for tender) and possibly a tree top outdoor activity. The Task Group agree that these possibilities would give the Tarn an offer which would attract a wider customer base whilst keeping sympathetic to the natural surroundings of the Country Park. **The Task Group encourage the Executive to support the Directorate in pursuing the potential of these initiatives and will be making a recommendation to this effect.**

## **Recommendation 1**

***That the Executive support the Officers within the Directorate in pursuing potential franchise initiatives which could be accommodated at Talkin Tarn. This should attract a wider customer base whilst remaining sensitive to the natural surroundings of the Country Park.***

73. Members are concerned that the reduction in staffing could hinder any development at the Tarn. It has been made clear throughout the review that staff numbers within the Green Spaces Team has reduced including the deletion of the post of Talkin Tarn Manager and therefore there are not the resources available to devote to the development of the Tarn.
74. The Group are concerned that the details of the Talkin Tarn Membership scheme have not developed in line with budget proposals and make a recommendation that this is addressed as soon as possible. i.e. that it could include annual parking, vouchers for the Cafe, a small number of day permits for fishing or water sports, access to members only events, a "Christmas Shopper" one day parking permit for the City and a newsletter to show which

projects at the Tarn are in benefit of the membership revenue.<sup>6</sup> Members welcomed the offer from Parish Council representatives to use their newsletter to promote the Tarn and suggest that this is used to promote the Membership scheme, with perhaps a competition running alongside for an Annual Membership.

### **Recommendation 2**

**Members recommend that details of the scheme are finalised and marketed as soon as possible in order to attract users of the Tarn to the scheme. Consideration should be given to advertising within Brampton Parish Council's BIG newsletter.**

75. Members agree that the Neighbourhood and Green Spaces Team provide an excellent service but are concerned that the Team Manager has a current Green Spaces Officer post vacant and therefore is under extreme pressure to manage over 30 green spaces, including Talkin Tarn with only one other member of staff.
76. Members of the Environment and Economy O&S Panel received a presentation at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 about the Carlisle Green Infrastructure Strategy<sup>7</sup> which puts the gross value of the natural resources to the city of Carlisle at £25 billion over the next 50 years. Members were informed that "this infrastructure needs to be managed and maintained if it is to continue to provide this level of benefit". Given this evidence the Task Group will make a recommendation that the vacant post is filled as soon as possible.

### **Recommendation 3**

**Members of the Task Group recommend that the vacant Green Spaces Officer post is recruited to as soon as possible.**

77. Members do not make this recommendation lightly and understand the budgetary pressures of the Council but a clear steer as to the future expectations for the Tarn needs to be given and acknowledgement that resources need to be allocated in order to reap benefits for the Tarn and other Green Spaces in the District. Continuing raising parking charges will eventually have a negative impact on visitor numbers which in turn will have an effect on other income streams.
78. Members are concerned that some visitors to the Tarn park on the roadside to avoid parking charges. This can be dangerous on a small country road and **consideration needs to be given how this can be minimised.**
79. Throughout this work Members have continuously come back to the Tea Room offer. There are arguments that the opening times are not long enough but later opening hours have been trialled and proved unsuccessful. Members are informed that the weather has a massive impact on visitor numbers and it is not possible to open ad hoc if there is a spell of good weather.
80. There are suggestions for Sunday Lunches and Members agree **that this would be worthy of further investigation**, however should the Tarn expect people to pay for parking to have their lunch? **Consideration needs to be given to providing a parking permit with a lunch booking.**

<sup>6</sup> LE34/12 Review of Charges 2013/14 Local Environment

<sup>7</sup> LE03/13 Use of Green Infrastructure "Green Infrastructure Strategy for Carlisle (Carlisle – Big Green City) 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013

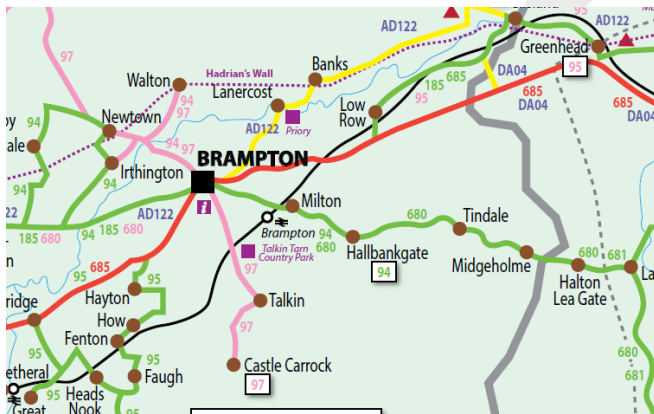
81. Members have been informed that the Tea Room makes a modest profit on a usual year before central recharges. However these charges cannot be ignored and are part of the cost of the service. Although the costs are to be reduced in 2013/14, Members agree that the whole offer of the Tea Room and Gift Shop should be reviewed in order to attract more custom. This review should include consideration to the option of franchising the Tea Room.

**Recommendation 4**

**That the whole offer of the Tea Room and Gift Shop should be reviewed in order to attract more custom. This review should include consideration to the option of franchising the Tea Room.**

82. Members agree that the Tarn is a beautiful natural area which the Council should be proud of. They do agree that the Tarn is not marketed well and links to public transport are not as good as they could be. A clear marketing strategy needs to be developed with support from the Policy and Communications Section who receive a recharge from the Talkin Tarn budget for services.

83. With regard to public transport the Brampton to Castle Carrock (97) route does have a stop at



the Tarn Road End but only runs to the Tarn on a Wednesday and Friday which arrives at 0850 and 1331 and from the Tarn at 1345 on the same days.<sup>8</sup> If the offer at the Tarn was to develop then approaches should be made to determine whether the frequencies of buses could be increased. Members would encourage officers to continue with their enquiries to advertise the Tarn on local buses.

84. An approach should also be made to National Rail to advertise and signpost the walking route to Talkin Tarn from Brampton Railway Station.

**Recommendation 5**

**That a strategy for the marketing and promotion of Talkin Tarn is undertaken with support from officers within the Policy and Communications Section**

**Recommendation 6**

**That officers continue to pursue enquiries with local public transport providers to promote Talkin Tarn Country Park in order to attract more visitors and provide adequate transport links.**

<sup>8</sup> Cumbria Passenger Transport Map – Integrated Transport Team, Cumbria County Council



# Report to Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Item:  
**B.1**

Meeting Date: 8th May 2013  
 Portfolio: Environment and Transport  
 Key Decision: Yes: Recorded in the Notice Ref:KD  
 Within Policy and Budget Framework YES  
 Public / Private Private \* Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Title: MIGRATION OF PURPLE SACKS TO WHEELED BIN REFUSE COLLECTION

Report of: The Director of Local Environment  
 Report Number: LE13/13

**Purpose / Summary:**

This report sets out proposals to change the purple sack service and so minimise the litter currently created by the purple sack collection (often being split open by seagulls other animals, vermin and would be vandals/criminals) so supporting the ‘Clean up Carlisle Campaign’ and significantly improving the quality of the local environment.

**Recommendations:**

That the Panel consider the proposals contained with the Executive Report ‘Migration of Purple Sacks To Wheeled Bin Refuse Collection’ and provide comments for inclusion in the forthcoming Executive report.

**Tracking**

Executive:	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2013
Overview and Scrutiny:	
Council:	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2013

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Report to Executive</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0; color: red;">DRAFT</h2>	<p>Agenda Item:</p>
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Meeting Date: 31st May 2013  
 Portfolio: Environment and Transport  
 Key Decision: Yes: Recorded in the Notice Ref:KD  
 Within Policy and Budget Framework YES  
 Public / Private Public

Title: MIGRATION OF PURPLE SACKS TO WHEELED BIN REFUSE COLLECTION  
 Report of: The Director of Local Environment  
 Report Number: LE 10/13

**Purpose / Summary:**

Improving the quality of the local environment is a corporate priority for the City Council and the Council adopted the “Clean up Carlisle” campaign in 2012. Significant efforts have been taken to improve the quality of street cleansing and keeping the streets clean through investment in new street cleaning machines, new programmes of work and in education and enforcement to prevent littering and dog fouling. Despite these improvements, complaints have continued to be received about litter from torn refuse sacks in areas without a wheeled bin collection.

This report sets out proposals to change the purple sack service and so minimise the litter currently created by the purple sack collection (often being split open by seagulls other animals, vermin and would be vandals/criminals) so supporting the ‘Clean up Carlisle Campaign’ and significantly improving the quality of the local environment.

It is proposed to move, where possible, most of the remaining 5,538 properties on a weekly purple sack refuse collection to wheeled bin fortnightly collection of refuse. Where it is impractical to move residents from a weekly collection, it is proposed to replace disposable purple sacks with reusable polypropylene sacks- ‘Gull sacks’. This is a more labour intensive means of collecting waste so it is preferable to move as many collections as possible to the wheeled bin collections to ensure that the service is as cost effective as possible.

A further benefit expected is that the improved service will increase the levels of recycling in these areas to meet the good performance in other wheeled bin areas, thus reducing the residual waste presented for collection.

**Recommendations:** That Executive consider and recommend to Council to approve the proposals to move the properties currently provided with a weekly purple sack refuse collections to either fortnightly collections of refuse from a wheeled bin or where this method of collection is not possible a weekly collection of refuse contained within a reusable 'Gull Sack'.

That the Executive consider and recommend to Council that the Capital cost of the purchase of additional wheeled bins and gulls sacks are met by the capital receipt from the sale of 2 recycling vehicles released by the early termination of the Eden green waste service as set out in paragraph 2.4 and this item to be added to the Capital programme.

### **Tracking**

Executive:	<b>31<sup>st</sup> May 2013</b>
Overview and Scrutiny:	<b>8<sup>th</sup> May 2013</b>
Council:	<b>16<sup>th</sup> July 2013</b>

## 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Carlisle City Council operate a fortnightly kerbside refuse collection from wheeled bins however there are currently 5,538 properties in the district on weekly purple sack collections.

One of the Councils key priorities is to ensure that Carlisle is clean and tidy. There is a shared responsibility between the Council and the community to achieve this by being proactive rather than reactive. By providing residents with the means to minimise the litter that can be created by their residual waste it will help to increase pride and respect for neighbourhoods and so improve the quality of the local environment.

The initiative to move properties provided with a purple sack collection to wheeled bin collections will support the “Clean-up Carlisle” campaign also having a positive impact to the ‘Love Where you Live’ Campaign.

A report regarding the negative *impact of seagulls* on the local environment has already been considered by the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The proposal to change collections from a purple sack to wheeled bins will prevent damage by seagulls however it is not practical for all properties to have a wheeled bin due to storage or collection issues. Where a wheeled bin collection is impractical it is proposed to instead move to robust reusable ‘Gull Sacks’ which will reduce the opportunity for the gulls to rip the bags open in search of food hence creating the high levels of litter illustrated in the picture at **Appendix 1**.

Some of the negative impacts associated with the existing purple sack collections, are highlighted below;

- Sacks are susceptible to damage causing high level of litter complaints compared to wheeled bin areas creating an avoidable demand on street cleaning services and dissatisfaction with Council services (**Appendix 1**)
- Poorer recycling rates for purple sack properties (**Appendix 2**). Purple sack areas generate extra side-waste and the recycling tonnage, as illustrated, is low as there is less incentive to recycle with a weekly collection;
- High costs and inefficiencies associated with delivering the refuse sacks to properties, and collecting waste on a weekly basis – the cost of the sacks is £34,380 with delivery costs £9864 annually.

- As well as the other issues highlighted, purple sacks are single-use, and therefore not as environmentally sustainable as re-useable receptacles.

## 2.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 Current Costs Associated With The Purple Sack Delivery:

- Purchase of purple sacks (supplying 5538 properties purple sacks) is £34,380 per annum
- Resources to deliver of purple sacks is 7 days, 6 times a year at a cost of £7,200 per annum
- Fuel costs of delivering the purple sacks 7 days, 6 times a year (30 litres x 42 days = 2940 litres) at a cost of £2664 per annum

TOTAL COSTS are £44,244

### 2.2 Annual Savings

Purple sacks	£34,380
Labour (delivery of sacks: 42 days)	£7,200
Fuel (delivery of sacks:42 days)	£2,664
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£44,244</b>

£24,000 of the savings are required to be retained in the budget to off-set budget pressures on equipment replacements, so avoiding the requirement for additional budget bids, and £5,000 will be required for additional resource to empty the gull sacks, however, £15,244 will be available for transformation savings.

### 2.3 Costs of the service changes

Cost of 240l wheeled bin	£17.90
Cost of Gull sack	£5.00

	Option b) 3,900 bins	Option c) 3,600 bins
<b>Capital Costs</b>		
Cost of wheeled bins	£70,848	£64,440
Cost of Gull sacks	£8,190	£9,690
Cost of 14 Euro bins	£2,857	£2,857
<b>Revenue Costs</b>		
Delivery costs	£2,200	£2,200
Postage	£2,857	£2,857
<b>TOTAL Costs</b>	<b>£88,952</b>	<b>£82,044</b>

## 2.4 Capital funding

The early termination of the green waste contract with Eden Council resulted in the sale of two collection vehicles.

Vehicle 1	£58,000
Vehicle 2	£45,500
<b>TOTAL Capital</b>	<b>£103,500</b>

It is proposed to make a bid for up to £82,000 of the released capital to purchase the required bins and gull sacks so making £10,000 savings available in year 1 and £15,244 from year 2 as opposed to an invest to save approach.

## 3. PROPOSALS

That Executive consider and approve the proposal to move the properties currently provided with a weekly purple sack refuse collections to either fortnightly collections of refuse from a wheeled bin or where this method of collection is not possible a weekly collection of refuse contained within a reusable 'Gull Sack'.

That the Capital cost of the purchase of additional wheeled bins and gulls sacks are met by the capital receipt from the sale of two recycling vehicles released by the early termination of the Eden green waste service as set out in paragraph 2.4 and this item to be added to the Capital programme.

### 3.1 Three options have been considered in relation to purple sacks:

- a) Do nothing and leave the service as it is
- b) Move the maximum possible number of properties, 3,900 properties onto a wheeled bin collection including properties with front street storage and collection of wheeled bins. Therefore 3,900 properties to move to wheeled bins and 1,638 properties to be provided with reusable Gull sacks
- c) Move 3,600 purple sack properties onto wheeled bins and supply the remaining properties including those that could have a wheeled bin with a front street storage and collection with re-useable polypropylene "gull sacks." 3,600 properties to move to wheeled bin collection, 1938 properties to be given reusable Gull sacks

**Option a)** would mean that the Authority continues to run a less efficient service that significantly contributes to the untidiness of the area causing a high level of litter complaints due to littering issues caused by the split bags.

**Option b)** will significantly reduce the littering issues currently caused by the split purple sacks and be consistent with “Clean-up Carlisle,” one of the Councils key initiatives. Some terraced properties proposed for the wheeled bin collection have very little garden space to the front and no side or rear access for a refuse collection vehicle. Those properties will store their wheeled refuse bins at the front of the street which may lead to practical issues for the customer and some visual dis-amenity. It would however provide the maximum number of properties with the incentive to recycle more and would minimise the number of properties on gull sacks so reducing the level of operational handling issues associated with the collection from gull sacks.

**Option c)** will significantly reduce the littering issues currently caused by the split purple sacks and be consistent with “Clean-up Carlisle,” one of the Councils key initiatives (**Appendix 3-** illustrates the effect of this option choice). This option does not include the properties with a front street storage and collection of wheeled bins and so is a good compromise in terms of visual amenity, however it does not minimise the number of properties on Gull sack collections so there will be increased levels of handling issues associated with the collection from the gull sacks.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

**4.1** The Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny panel were consulted on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and made the following comment (**INSERT COMMENT**)

**4.2** Consultation proposed:  
Properties affected by the changes proposals will be consulted.

#### **5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.1** Operationally, the most effective option is Option b) as this maximises the number of properties on wheeled bin collections which has least handling issues and will provide maximum incentive for recycling as this will be a fortnightly collection

**5.2** Option c) may be more acceptable to the customers who do not have enough room for the wheeled bin but would still contribute to significantly reducing the mess that

can be caused by the current system of waste collection but will not achieve the full benefits operationally as set out in option b

**It is recommended that the Executive choose Option b - Move most purple sack properties onto wheeled bins and supply the remaining properties with re-useable polypropylene “gull sacks.”**

- Would significantly reduce the littering issues currently caused by the split purple sacks and be consistent with “Clean-up Carlisle,” one of the Councils key initiatives;
- Increased levels of recycling in these areas;
- Better for the environment by supplying re-useable containers for waste (Gull Sacks and wheeled bins);
- It is easier to collect a wheeled bin than a purple sack, therefore the welfare and Health and safety of the crews will improve.
- Provision of wheeled bins should reduce instances of identity theft;
- More cost effective and efficient than the current system;
- Contribute to transformation savings

## **6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES**

**6.1** One of the Councils key priorities is to ensure that Carlisle is clean and tidy. There is a shared responsibility between the Council and the community to achieve this by being proactive rather than reactive. By providing residents with the means to minimise the litter that can be created by their residual waste it will help to increase pride and respect for neighbourhoods and so improve the quality of the local environment.

The initiative to move existing customers from purple sacks to wheeled bins are consistent with “Clean-up Carlisle,” one of the Councils key initiatives also having a major positive impact to the ‘Love Where you Live’ Campaign .



**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 -**

**Community Engagement –**

**Economic Development –**

**Governance –**

**Local Environment –**

**Resources** - The proposals to move more households onto wheeled bins and 'gull' sacks and away from the use of purple sacks will improve service efficiencies and allow £44,422 of savings to be made. However, due to other budgetary pressures of £24,000 and additional costs associated with emptying gull sacks for properties where a wheeled bin will not be feasible, mean that the net savings will be £15,244 from year 2 of operating the scheme. There will be additional capital costs of £82,000 for the purchase of new wheeled bins and gull sacks and it is proposed that rather than using an invest to save approach, that the 'windfall' capital receipts received from the sale of the vehicles previously used on the Eden green waste contract be utilised for these purchases. These vehicles raised £103,500 and these receipts would normally have been added to the usable capital receipts balance. If approved to be used to purchase this new equipment £21,500 will be added to usable capital receipts.

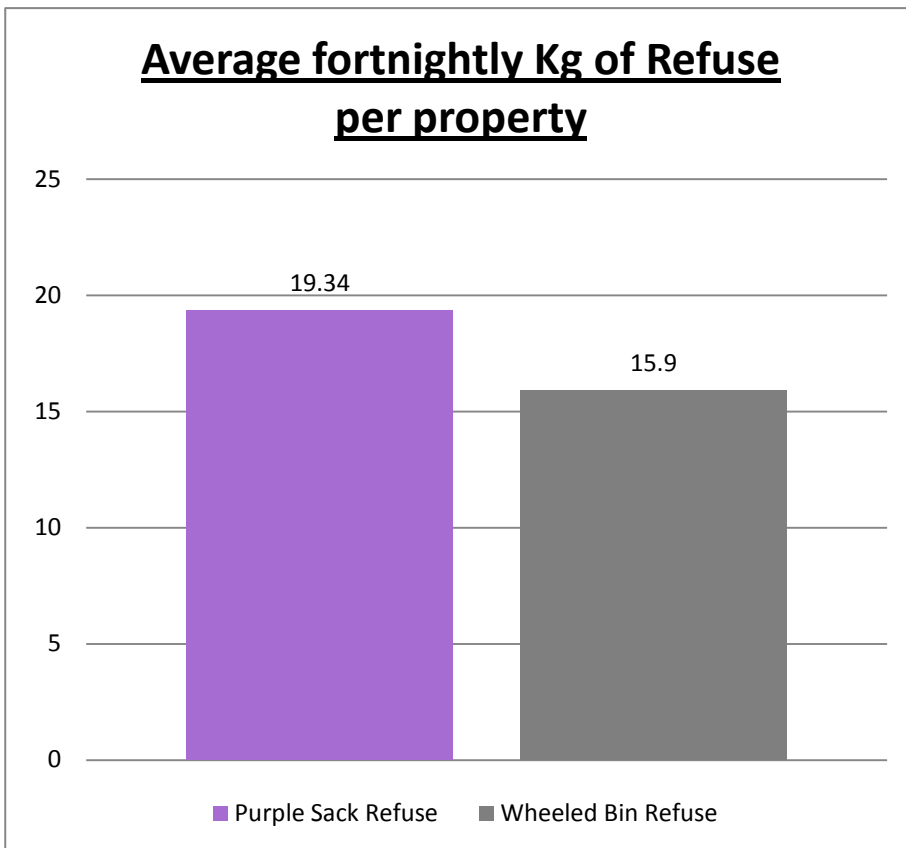
Littering Resulting from Purple Sack Collections



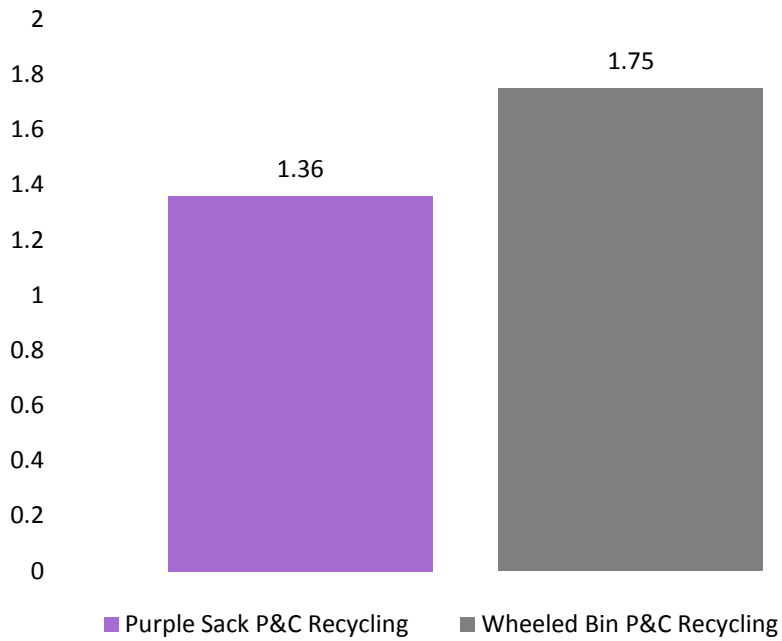


Appendix 2

Recycling Rates for Purple Sack Properties



## Average fortnightly Kg of Plastic and Card per property



### Appendix 3

#### Example of Terraced Properties on Wheeled Bin Collections

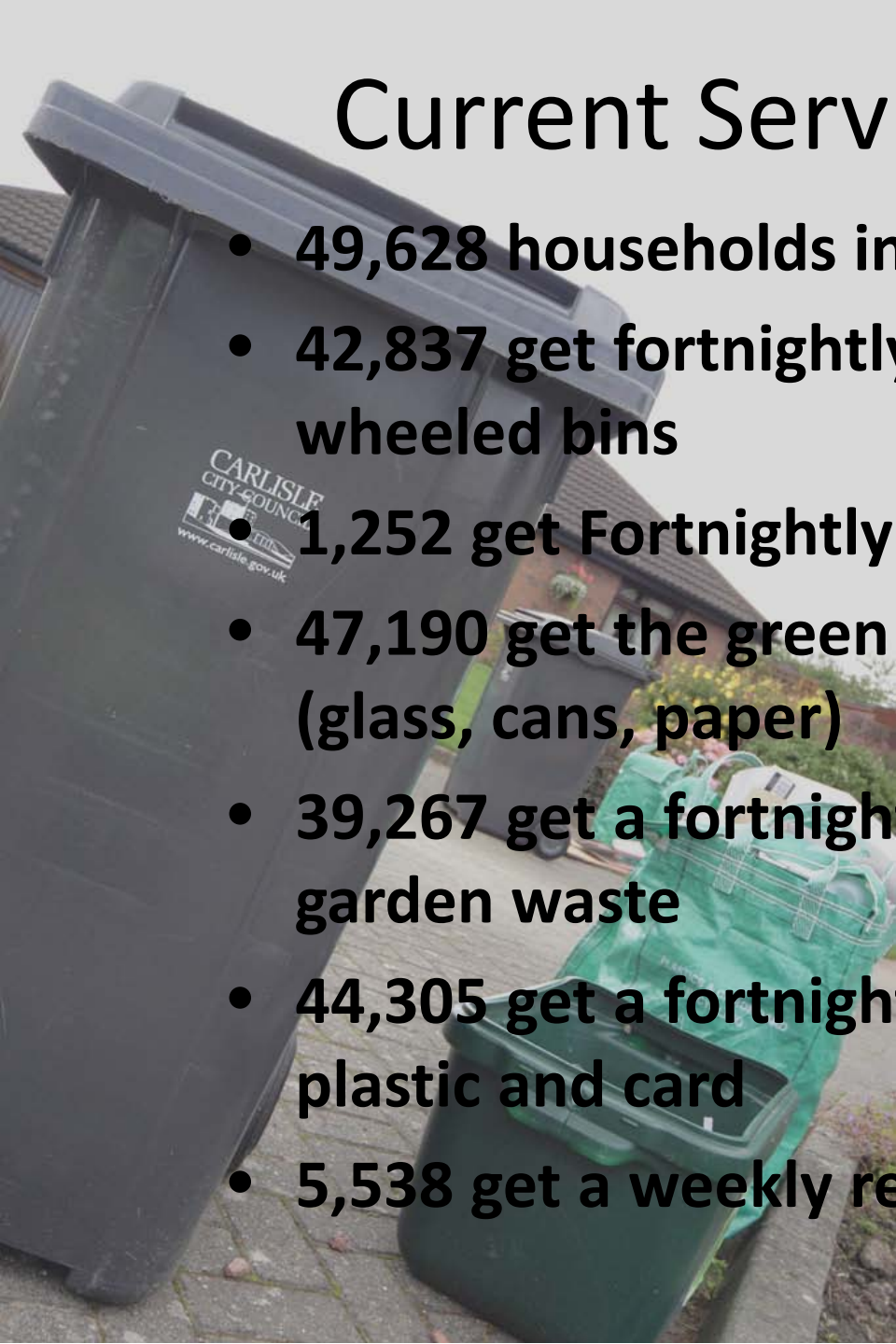


# Purple Sack Collection Review



# Current Service Provision

- 49,628 households in Carlisle District
- 42,837 get fortnightly refuse collections in wheeled bins
- 1,252 get Fortnightly refuse collections in Euro bins
- 47,190 get the green box collection fortnightly (glass, cans, paper)
- 39,267 get a fortnightly green bin collection of garden waste
- 44,305 get a fortnightly green bag collection of plastic and card
- 5,538 get a weekly refuse collection in purple sacks



# Purple Sack Collection

- The alternate week collections were rolled out with a broad brush approach was taken to identify properties that could not have a wheeled bin collection
  - More than 7,000 originally but some have been moved incrementally onto bins
  - All purple sack collections get a recycling box and green sack collection of dry recyclables
  - Recycling tonnage is lower in purple sack areas



# Problems with Purple Sack Collections

- The sacks are not robust and get ripped open by cats, gulls and are open to abuse by “bin ratchers”
- Cause high levels of litter complaints compared to wheeled bin areas
- The purple sacks are disposable, better to have a reusable container
- Lots of extra side waste is put out and recycling tonnage is low (less incentive to recycle)
- The purple sacks are expensive to supply and deliver
  - £35K for the sacks and £20K to deliver

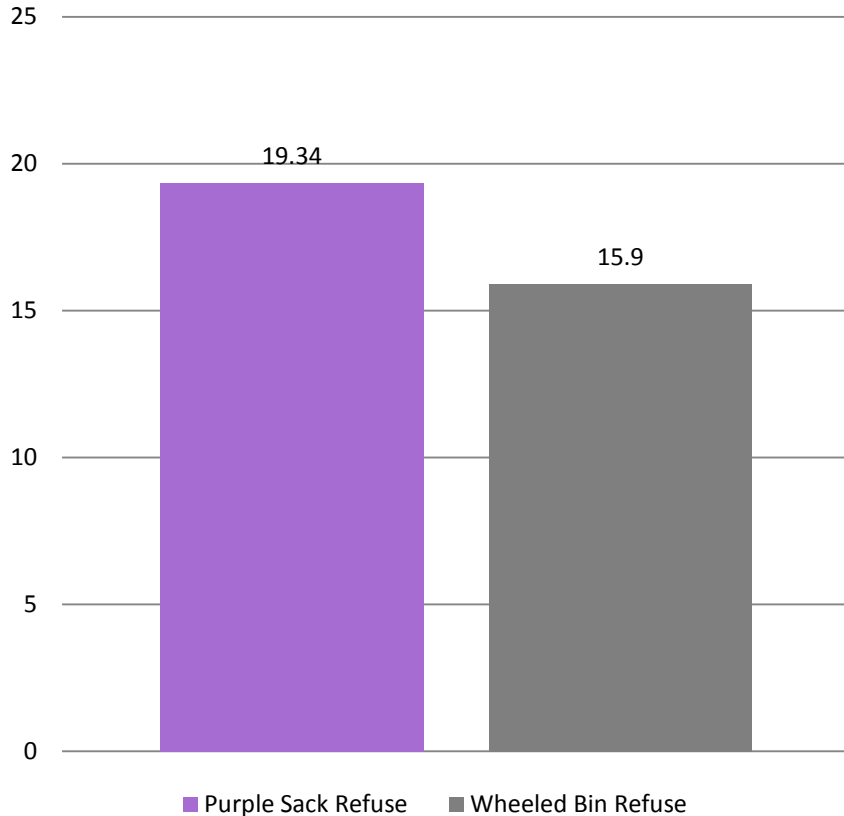


# Problems with Purple Sacks

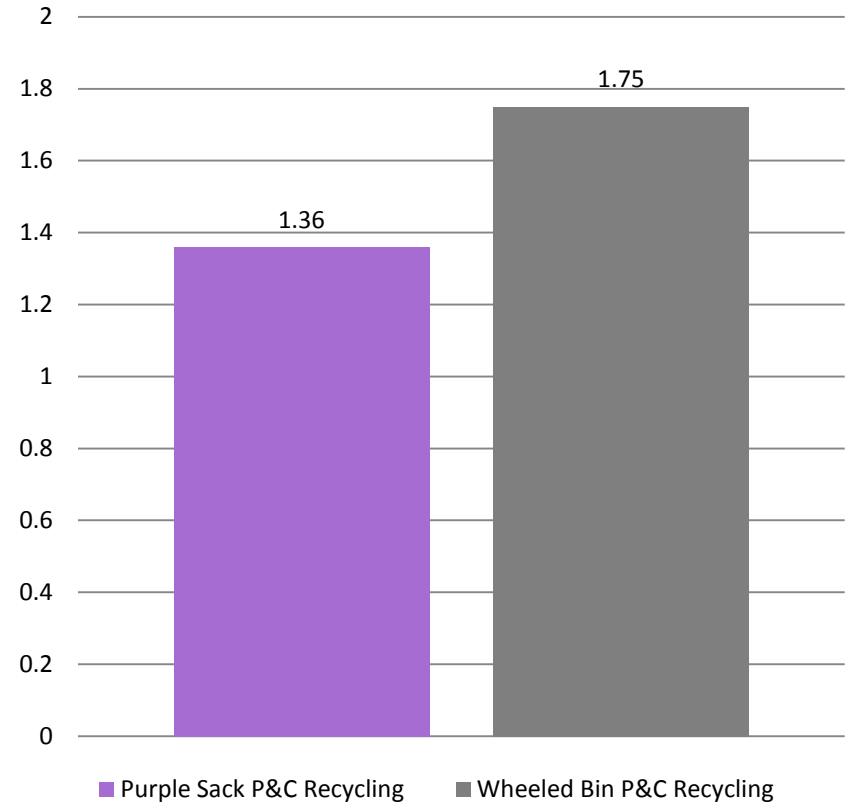


# Recycling Performance

**Average fortnightly Kg of Refuse per property**



**Average fortnightly Kg of Plastic and Card per property**



# Review of the Purple Sack Service

- The growing complaints and Clean Up Carlisle campaign has highlighted the need to reduce the number of properties on sack collections
- How did we do it?
  - Carried out site assessment of 5,538 properties to consider the following aspects;
    - Vehicle Access
    - Storage available for the bin
    - Any access issues with presenting the bin for collection
    - Improvement to the local amenity (clean it up)

# Identified Two Options



Move 4,000 properties onto wheeled bin collections (Shown grey on the maps)

Provide a re-usable sack for the remaining sack collections (Shown purple on the maps)









**Botcherby Ward**

Grey - Moving onto Bins  
 Purple - Remaining on Sacks  
 Blue - Recycling Site

Scale: 1:4,722 Date: 5/02/2013

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**Civic Centre  
 Rickergate  
 Carlisle  
 CA3 8QG**





**Upperby and Harraby Ward**

Grey - Moving onto Bins  
 Purple - Remaining on Sacks  
 Blue - Recycling Site



**Civic Centre  
 Rickergate  
 Carlisle  
 CA3 8QG**

Scale: 1:4,879 Date: 5/02/2013

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**Currock Ward**

Grey - Moving onto Bins  
 Purple - Remaining on Sacks  
 Blue - Recycling Site

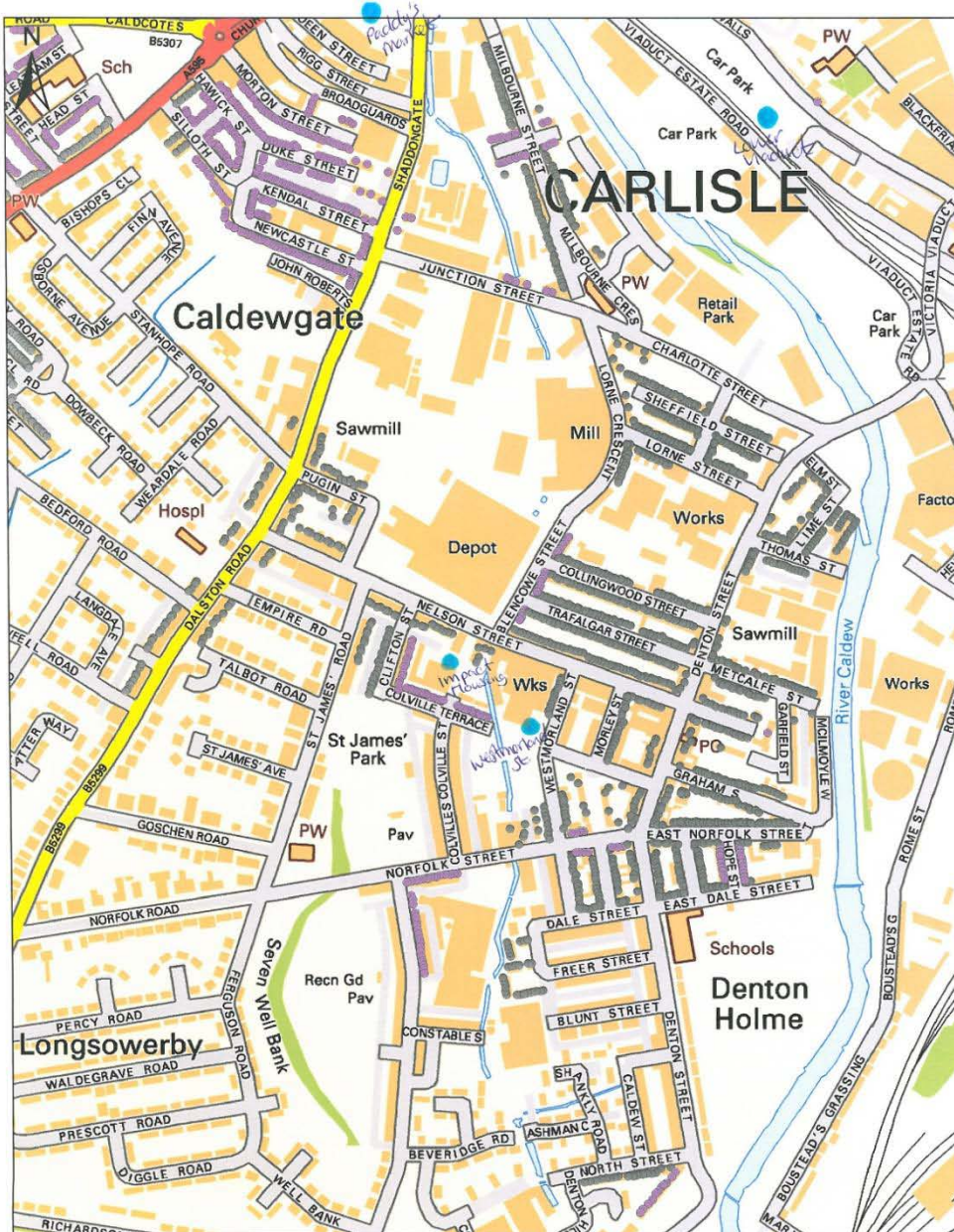
Scale: 1:3,399 Date: 5/02/2013

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**Civic Centre  
 Rickergate  
 Carlisle  
 CA3 8QG**





**Denton Holme Ward**

- Grey - Moving onto Bins
- Purple - Remaining on Sacks
- Blue - Recycling Site



**Civic Centre  
Rickergate  
Carlisle  
CA3 8QG**

Scale: 1:3,851 Date: 5/02/2013

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Belle Vue and Yewdale Ward

Scale: 1:2,901 Date: 5/02/2013

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- Grey - Moving onto Bins
- Purple - Remaining on Sacks
- Blue - Recycling Site

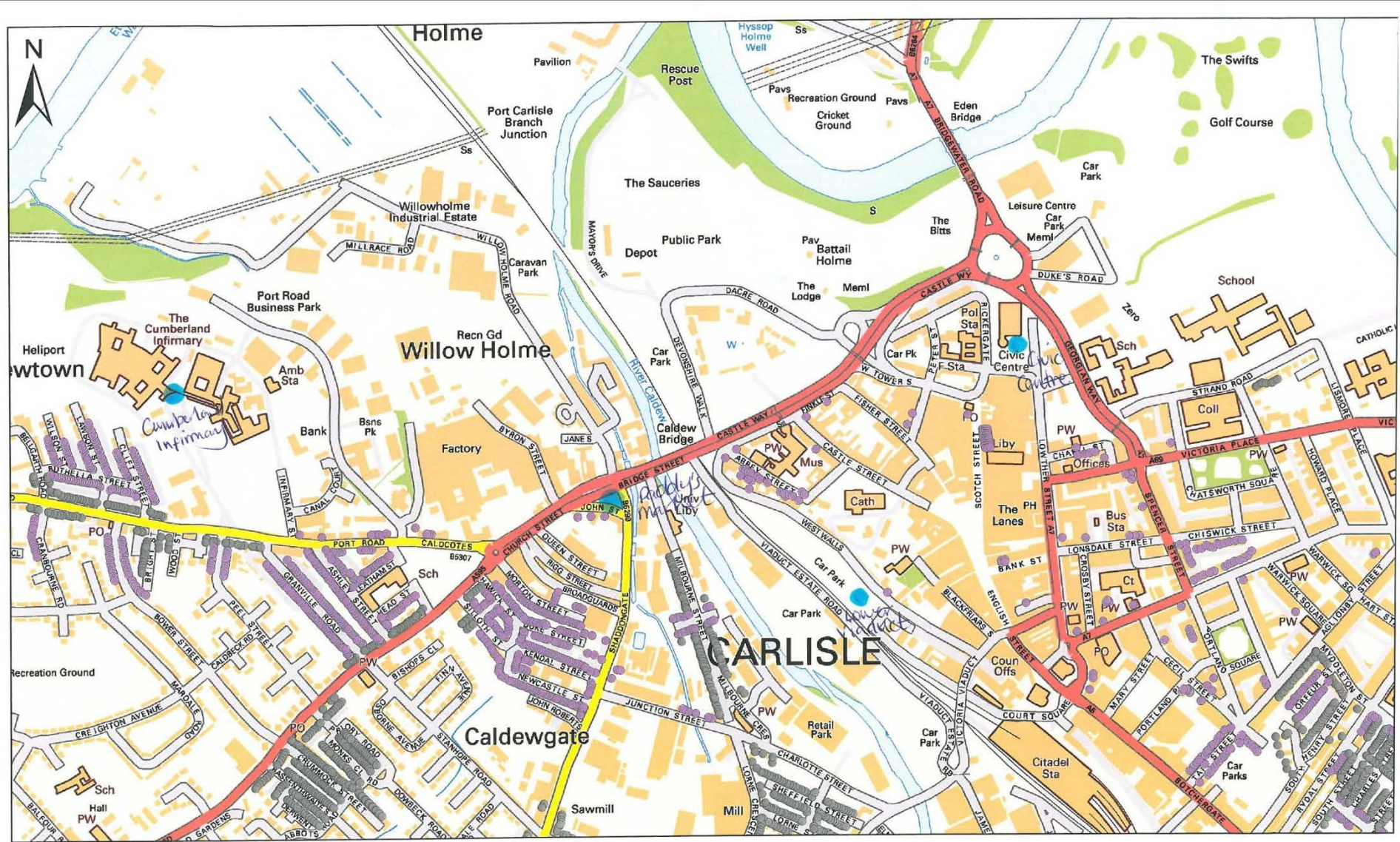
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Civic Centre  
Rickergate  
Carlisle  
CA3 8QG





**Castle Ward**

- Grey - Moving onto bins
- Purple - Remaining on Purple Sacks
- Blue - Recycling Site



**Civic Centre  
Rickergate  
Carlisle  
CA3 8QG**

Scale: 1:5,941 Date: 5/02/2013

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**Belah and Stanwix Urban Ward**

Scale: 1:6,747 Date: 5/02/2013

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Grey - Moving onto Bins  
 Purple - Remaining on Sacks  
 Blue - Recycling Site



**Civic Centre  
 Rickergate  
 Carlisle  
 CA3 8QG**

# Next Steps

- Project documentation and business case with clear costs and benefits
- Executive Report seeking approval for public consultation
- Undertake the consultation with effected households on the 2 options proposed
- Undertake a pilot of the gull sacks during breeding season
- Consult Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Evaluate findings
- Bring back to the Executive for a formal decision

# Implementation

- Capital bid (invest to save) Cost of sacks and bins
- Aim for a September/ October 2013 implementation of the wheeled bin changes
- Followed by the implementation of the new gull sacks
- Project planning to address new calendars, new rounds, equipment, deliveries etc