

**COMMUNITY**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL**  
**Councillor Mrs Nicola Clarke**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January the Panel were introduced to Ms Pennycook, CEX of the Carlisle Youth Zone and Mr Allen Chairman of the Carlisle Youth Zone. Ms Pennycook gave a presentation to the panel, explaining the need for the Youth Zone and how it had been modelled on the Bolton Lads and Girls Club. She went on to advise the panel the Onside Northwest Aim had been to build a network of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Youth Centres across the North West which will give young people quality, safe and affordable places to go in their leisure time. There was a three step support plan for the Youth Zone which included private sector development. She explained that the young people's development group had helped with the bid and the design of the building and would continue to be involved in the Youth Zone. Members were pleased that the youth Zone would be working in partnership with the City but sought re-assurance that local clubs would not be affected by the Youth Zone. The panel were advised it was the intention of the Youth Zone to raise awareness of the activities and clubs being held throughout the communities and feed into them.

The panel also welcomed Mr Patrick Leonard and Mr Paul Taylor from Riverside Carlisle again in January. Mr Leonard gave a brief outline of the summary annual report to tenants 2010 that had been previously circulated to the panel. The report gave an overview of Riverside Carlisle's performance and how it was measured. Mr Taylor gave a brief outline on the progress with the re-development of sheltered housing, in particular the work at Westhill House, Freshfield Court, York Court, Arnside Court, Ladyseat, Morton Court and Barras House. Members were pleased that funding towards the Disabled Facility Grants had been secured from Riverside Carlisle.

Members were also updated on the Housing Strategy Action Plan and were given an outline of the progress of the actions which related to the three themes; Supporting Vulnerable People, Decent Homes including Empty Properties and Affordability and Balancing the Housing Market.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February the panel were presented with the Corporate Performance Monitoring Report. They were reminded of the changes to performance monitoring and how performance would focus on local measures and the Corporate Plan key objectives and outcome for communities. The Corporate Plan actions were developed in September 2010 from the Corporate Plan 2010–13 which had been agreed by Full Council in May 2010. The Corporate Plan would be linked to the

Directorate/Services Plans and the Team Appraisals. The panel were advised that the place survey has been abolished; however, the Council would still need to collect data about the perceptions and experiences of its customers. The Policy & Performance Team aimed to replace the survey with an efficient effective and economical survey focused on the distinctiveness of the district. The panel will have sight of the directorate service plans when they are completed by the end of this municipal year.

The panel were presented with a report which provided the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Equality Scheme. The Comprehensive Equality Scheme had been adopted by the City Council in September 2010 to ensure the Council complied with the duties of the Equality Act and to help meet the local requirements of the 'Achieving ' level of the Equality Framework for Local Government. Since the success of the Diversity Peer Assessment in October 2010, the Scheme had been revised and updated to reflect the most recent changes in legislation and findings from the Peer Assessment.

The Assistant Director for Community Engagement has provided the panel with regular verbal updates on the Transformation of service areas within the remit of the Community Scrutiny Panel and these discussions have been included as a standing item on the agenda. The panel have been informed and discussed various aspects of service including, Tullie House, The Customer Contact Centre, Revenues and Benefits and Community Housing and Health. At our February meeting the panel were presented with an overview of the process which brought together the three service areas of Community Support, Housing and Health and Sport and Recreation and the objectives, which are, to promote shared working and efficiencies and achieve a stronger and more consistent relationship with communities across Carlisle.

**Councillor Mrs Nicola Francesca Clarke**  
**Chairman Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel**