

**PORTFOLIO:**

**HOUSING**

Report of  
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR**  
**JAMES BAINBRIDGE**

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**Choice Based Lettings**

Cumbria Choice Based Lettings (CBL) is a scheme that has been developed in partnership between 6 district councils and 8 housing providers in the county. The scheme is a new system for the allocation of social housing across the county. It is due to go 'live' on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and there will be a launch event in the week before.

**Community Training & Resource Centre (CRTC)**

Construction work on this scheme started in September 2010 and is due to be completed in October 2011.

The Council is currently seeking an external managing agent for the CRTC and started a tender process in December 2010. It is envisaged that an external agent will be in place by May 2011. The specification for this tender lays out the Council's expectations and vision regarding the development of the CRTC.

**Gypsy & Traveller Site**

In December 2010 a tender process was started to appoint an external management agent for the site on a long leasehold basis. It is envisaged that the agent will be in place by April 2011.

**Empty properties**

Currently there are 1600 empty houses in the Carlisle City Council area (including second homes and holiday homes).

The Council has had an Empty Property Officer in post since May 09. The number of empty properties brought back into use since May 09 is 250 (compared to 132 between 2001 – 2008). For each empty property grant provided by the authority to bring it back into use the owner has to agree that it can be used as rented accommodation for a period of 5 years.

**Councillor James Bainbridge**  
**Housing Portfolio Holder**