

Agenda item
9(2)

PORTFOLIO:

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
R BLOXHAM**

1. **HOUSING & HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS**

Officers are currently developing the Council's Housing Strategy, which has to be completed and submitted to Government by the end of July.

Negotiations are continuing with Carlisle Housing Association to produce a series of Performance Indicators.

2. **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Five Neighbourhood Watch Dog Schemes are now in place, providing useful evidence to enable the Enforcement Officers to target those individuals who persistently fail to clean up after their pets.

The Local Air Quality Strategy update, which has to be submitted to Government for approval by the end of May, is being finalized and will be reported to the Executive on 28th April 2003 for approval.

3. **FOOD SAFETY**

The Section has launched its Healthy Eating Award, which recognises both good food hygiene and healthy eating choices. The first two premises to achieve the required standards received their award from the Mayor on 20th March 2003.

4. **BEREAVEMENT SERVICES**

Plans are now finalised for the improvements to the Crematorium and it is hoped that, subject to satisfactory tenders being received, the work can commence in the late summer, early autumn. Action is also being taken to improve the visual quality of the cemeteries, which has recently deteriorated due to the increasing numbers of personal tributes, which have been placed on graves and hung in trees.

5. **TULLIE HOUSE**

A report is being prepared to consider the options for the future delivery of the service. This will be presented to Members in June 2003 to enable the Council to determine if a trust should be established to manage Tullie House or continue with direct delivery via the Council.

The Air Guitar exhibition is proving to be very popular with a younger audience than is normally attracted to Tullie House, which illustrates the wide diversity of appeal the building can provide.

In May various activities "Gloriana" are being arranged at the Guildhall, the Cathedral and the Castle to mark the life and times of Elizabeth I. Children will be learning about Elizabethan food, weights and measures, dance and music.

Tullie house has one of the most important art collections in the region. Paintings are regularly lent to exhibitions that tour abroad. A number of the Pre-Raphaelite works by Dante Gabriel Rossetti are being toured by the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool to Holland; works by Paul Nash are on loan to the Tate, Liverpool; and a Victorian drawing by Charles Ricketts is being toured to Germany, New York and Tokyo. Our portrait of the Duke of Cumberland is in the USA in an exhibition entitled "All the Queens Horses".

Tullie House has a portrait on loan from the Scottish National Portrait Gallery of Bonnie Prince Charlie, which is on display in the Border Gallery

In May Tullie House is opening an exhibition of the 1980s "Boom or Bust" which includes Amstrad computers, music and outfits from the period, as well as sparking off memories of Torville and Dean's victory, the royal wedding and who did shoot JR?

6. **SANDS CENTRE**

A supplier for the new seating has been selected following a tender process and final discussions are underway with the company to determine exact specifications for the new seats, which are planned for installation by the end of summer 2003.

The tenders for the extension to the Sands Centre for the new fitness suite have been received and a contractor has been appointed. This work will commence on site within the next three months with completion by Autumn 2003.

The next phase of the capital work will be a new entrance and revised restaurant area in the Sands. This work is part of the Council's commitment to improving leisure facilities and was agreed as part of the externalization of the management of the service to Carlisle Leisure Limited.

7. **SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

Planning is well underway to allocate the £85,000 committed to Sports Development this year, although at an early stage it is anticipated that the funds will be targeted at both urban and rural areas working alongside existing agencies and partners wherever possible.

R D Bloxham
Health and Wellbeing Portfolio