

# Report to: Council

Agenda  
Item

**11(iii)(b)**

Meeting Date: 30 April 2013

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Chairman's Report –  
Councillor Layden**

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The Draft Carlisle Plan 2013 – 2016 was submitted to the Panel by the Leader of the Council, setting out the Council's vision for Carlisle and the six priorities for action over the medium term. One of the ongoing initiatives was the Leader talking to groups and communities in the Carlisle City Council area. There was some concern as to exactly how far the 'listening council' was reaching out to communities, particularly with regard to young people and to health issues. It was suggested that the status of actions be recorded as they progressed to help the monitoring process.

The Leader referred to speaking with a number of partners including Pirelli, Bendalls Carlisle College as well as Young Farmers' Groups.

Concerns were expressed by panel members about the potential impact of the Welfare Reform Act , the loss of traditional apprenticeships and the improvement of the public realm. It was agreed that it would be useful to reinstate the Botchergate sub group.

The Panel discussed the proposed upgrading of the Kingmoor South Nature Reserve to a Local Nature Reserve, which would deliver a number of benefits. It would increase pride in the local area, improve the quality of the local environment and link in with the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Panel supported the management plan to protect the habitats and species in the Reserve and noted that, once classified, it would be on a national list that could be accessed by visitors to the area. The Panel noted the report and recommended that the Executive supported the new designation.

The Panel received and noted a Performance Update Report with regard to the Service Standards which helped measure the City Council's Performance and customer satisfaction. Members explored the reason for the downward trend in household waste sent for re-cycling and asked if there was a better rate on co-mingled recycling. An annual update will be presented to the Panel in June 2013.

The Panel received and noted a report updating the outcomes and implementation of the Transformation proposals for the Economic Development Directorate.

Meetings have been ongoing for the Talkin Tarn Task and Finish Group in an attempt to understand the budget for the Tarn and the impact of central charges. A witness session was held at the Tarn to gain views of interested parties. Talkin Tarn perhaps encapsulates the inherent dilemma of providing a worthwhile amenity that enhances our lives and wellbeing with the need to generate the finance to maintain it. We look forward to the T & F group finding the key to this balance!

Stephen Layden  
April 2013