

Meeting Date: 16 July 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Resources Overview and Scrutiny Chairman's Report –
Councillor Watson**

Because of the never ending reduction in government grants and the effect that will have on the Benefits Advice Services in Carlisle, the Panel is keeping a close eye on all areas of welfare reform as that will be critical to the long term financial viability of services to the people of Carlisle.

The panel also hope to have a close look at the Asset Management Plan when it becomes available.

The panel was pleased that our concerns regarding the Carlisle Leisure contract have been acted upon and that the Audit Committee have recommended some very significant changes that have been endorsed by the Executive this will reduce the future risks to this Council.

Members expressed concerns that control of commissioning services could be lost to other partners and felt the Council needs to be in control of its services.

The panel sought the assurance that Carlisle Leisure were providing the necessary financial information to allow the Council to carry out its performance monitoring responsibilities. The officers gave that assurance.

Panel members asked questions regarding missed waste collection in January. The Policy and Performance Officer reported that there had been 26 missed collections mainly due to severe weather. The number of missed collections was lower than the industry standard of 40 per 100,000. The proposed changes to the waste services would make a minor improvement on performance figures.

Members would still like to see an increase in successful prosecutions with regard to dog fouling and littering.

The panel was also informed that the welfare reform reserve costs would be shared by Allerdale and Copeland Councils.