

Report to: Council

Agenda
Item

11(iii)(b)

Meeting Date: 8th May, 2013

Public/Private*: Public

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

In compiling this report on the final meeting of the Panel in the last council year and my final meeting as Chairman, I am following three strands of information and comment: to mention some resolutions that came out of recent past work of the Panel; to mention discussion on two ongoing main issues and to reflect on the past year.

It had been a concern to the Panel that, despite the financial assistance given to the University of Cumbria and its importance to the city, the City Council had no representation on the University of Cumbria Board. It was resolved that the Deputy Chief Executive follow up the contact with the University and feed the information back to the Panel

Two significant Task and Finish Groups had been set up in the past year. It was resolved that the Tourist Information Task Group meet on a six monthly basis to monitor the work of the TIC, The second group had undertaken a wide-ranging review of Talkin Tarn. It was resolved that implementation of the recommendations, which had been submitted to the Executive, be monitored over the coming year.

A main item on the Agenda was the Purple Sacks Review. The Director of Local Environment submitted a report setting out proposals to change the 'purple sack' service and minimise the litter currently associated with it. Purple sacks were often split open by seagulls, other animals, vandals and sometimes identity thieves. It was important to strike the right balance between use of 'wheelie bins', the newly proposed 'gull sacks' and the possibility of 'Euro bins'

The Bring Sites Review was discussed. It was noted that when the Bring Sites were introduced, there were no green bag, kerbside recycling collections. Therefore, there was a surplus of Bring Sites, with many being underused. Whilst the Panel was pleased to be consulted at the start of the

process, it was felt that more information about the criteria for Bring Site removal would have been helpful. However, a consultation period would give members a chance to raise issues prior to the issue being discussed by the Executive.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Panel for the way they approached the challenges of the Scrutiny process over the last Council year, especially to commend them on the time spent on researching issues, exploring them in a detailed way, engaging in full, frank and often lively discussion, before coming to a genuine consensus that was able to present an informed view and move it forward in a positive way.

There was an effective group dynamic on the panel which allowed it to look at issues rather than entrenched positions, ultimately for the good of the people we represent, in a proactive way. I thank the members and officers for their contributions to a year I found challenging, exciting and effective. It was a privilege to be the Chair and I wish the Panel well for the coming year.

Stephen Layden

June 2013

Report to: Council

Agenda Item

11(iii)(b)

Meeting Date: 16 July 2013

Public/Private*: Public

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

The Panel met on the 13th June 2013 with the focus of the meeting being the Local Plan - Preferred Options, and on 25th June 2013 to consider the Site Allocations for Development in the Carlisle District. Details of both meetings are included within the minute book.

A Call-In on Executive Decision EX54/13 Bring Sites Review resulted in the matter not being referred back to the Executive; therefore the Decision took effect on the 20th June 2013.

1. Reduce the number of bring sites from 151 to 90, the details of which to be delegated to the Director of Local Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport.
2. Cease the adopt-a-site payments as of 1st July 2013.
3. Provide an in-house service for the collection of bring site materials as from 1st April 2014, pending the wider procurement exercise in 2015.
4. Consider further the provision of an in-house skip service for April 2014.
5. Recommend that the City Council make an invest to save bid for the new vehicles required to provide an in-house service and place orders for machinery with immediate effect (should the service be outsourced in 2015, the vehicle would be included within the specification for the contract).

The panel discussed their work programme for the forthcoming year and will focus on;

Botchergate Conservation Area Action Plan.

Carlisle Enterprise Partnership.

Tourism Service and Review.

Parking Income and Strategy.

Consider a Task and Finish Group on Identity Theft.

Cllr. Marilyn Bowman.

Chairman