

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Report of the Chairman

COUNCILLOR CAROLE RUTHERFORD

Since my last report to the Council there have been further developments in two areas of work undertaken by the Panel. The first relates to the Economy and Skills Workshop that took place in November. As the minutes show, this was discussed at the January meeting of the Panel and its recommendations referred onto the Carlisle Economic Partnership for action.

Since then the Richard Rose Academy at Morton has contacted the Council and invited the Panel to a presentation at the school. The presentation will cover links the school is developing with employers and it is understood that here will be an opportunity to speak to pupils and employers. The Panel has taken up the invitation and we hope to visit the school in March.

The final report of the Carlisle Enterprise Centre Task and Finish Group and the Economic Development Portfolio Holder's response was also discussed at the January meeting. The Panel Members were pleased that some of the maintenance issues had already been dealt with or were being progressed. As the task group findings were forming part of the Council's Project Review, action on some of the other recommendations will be considered when the full review has been completed. A final decision on the Centre's future is to be made at the Executive's April 10th meeting. As the Panel meets a few days prior to this date on the 5th, when an update on the Enterprise Centre is scheduled for discussion, there should be an opportunity for the Panel to have some input before any final decisions are taken.

Chairman Councillor Carole Rutherford

February 21st 2012