

Report to:

Council

Agenda
Item
12 (ii)
(b)

Meeting Date: 5 March 2013

Public/Private*: Public

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

Paper Task Group

The Panel was informed by Councillor Craig who is heading the Saving Paper Task Group that a report would be submitted following the evaluation of the pilot.

Sickness Absence 2012/13

The Panel considered the Council's sickness absence report and voiced a number of concerns

- Why had the Council not conducted 100% of the return to work interviews?
- How was the Council addressing poor performance?
- The Director of Resources said 4 members of staff had been absent for nearly the whole year
- The Panel will continue to monitor sickness for the rest of this year

The Draft Carlisle Plan

In considering the Plan members raised the following comments and questions.

Q. A member felt that the Plan concentrated on the city centre and not the whole Carlisle District.

A. The Leader agreed that in some ways this was correct. But he felt that a healthy active City Centre would benefit the whole Carlisle District and would stimulate the whole of North Cumbria.

Q. A member raised concerns regarding fuel poverty in the city and asked if this was a priority for the city.

A. The Leader expressed concerns regarding all poverty and made mention of the Council's responsibility with regard to affordable housing and he also expected to meet with the Housing Minister when he visits Carlisle in March.

The Panel supported the development of the M6 Corridor.

Performance Update

Concern was expressed about the Council's response to the Welfare Reform and would the processing timetable for new claims increase as a result of this bill.

The Director of Resources acknowledged the capacity challenges but was confident that resources were in place to meet them.