

Agenda item
11(iii)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

INFRASTRUCTURE

Report of
Chairman:

**COUNCILLOR
JAMES BAINBRIDGE**

The Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee as usual had an eclectic range of topics in our February meeting. Firstly we reconsidered the renewal of the Historic Quarter in light of the discussions which members will be aware of. Members were again broadly supportive of these proposals.

An overview of the commercial refuse collection service was given. Whilst we acknowledge the efforts the Waste Services Team have put into improving the 'green' credentials of this refuse service, much of how this service will evolve in the future will depend on the development of the Shanks site at Hespian Wood.

The Garlands Development Brief was discussed briefly; however as with the Caldewgate/Shaddongate Development Brief, we postponed the issue to hold a workshop with both Development Control and local Councillors in order to examine the issues further before submitting comments to the Executive.

As well as considering the latest quarter of Performance Monitoring, we also received the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny minutes of 28 January.2009.

The final meeting of the Infrastructure Committee took place. The first item before us was the proposed changes to the Tourism operation within this Council. Whilst we recognise the good work done by the outgoing Tourism

Manager, we also recognise that the outlined partnership does offer a new and, perhaps, overdue approach to tourism in the City. We are, however, wary in light of the dissolution of the ECCP, that not all partnerships, even those long lasting ones, have a guaranteed certainty about them.

An update upon the Currock – Kingmoor Cycleway was given after the matter had been previously raised by a member. The approach of the City Council contrasts with the County Council approach. However we were reassured by the City Council representatives that the song is still being sung from the same hymn sheet. We do however feel that a meeting of the County Cycle Group is meritorious at this time.

The responses received to the Urban Design Guide and Public Realm Framework, and the consideration of them, was also given. Although most of the comments made were not adopted (and included a reason why this was so), they do provide a thematic overview which will be of use to officers. The procedure of the consultation has also been an informative one.

We were also grateful to Emma Titley and Ned Kemp in updating ourselves on the work of both Learning City and the Carlisle Partnership (Economic Development and Enterprise). It was interesting to note on the latter that we face a choice as a council: should any achieved targets reap a dividend, we could either use the 'reward' to aid poor service in other districts, or bring the 'bonus' into the better performing districts in order to provide a return on the investments that the authority has made. To a man the committee felt that the latter option would be the ideal outcome.

Having previously held a workshop with Development Control and Ward Councillors on the Garlands Development Brief we endorsed the notes of the workshop, to go to the Executive for their consideration.

Councillor J Bainbridge.
Chairman
Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee
14 April 2009