

Meeting Date: 30 April 2013

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Elsie Martlew**

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HIGHWAYS CLAIMED RIGHTS – The Highways Claimed Rights service transferred to the County Council on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. A total of 27 staff have transferred to the County Council, they will be based at Dalston and Parkhouse. In addition to continuing to provide the Highways service for Carlisle the transferring staff will provide some services for the City Council. Details are being discussed at present but the footway lighting service and also the gritting of car parks are likely to be delivered by the County Council. In addition the City Council will be able to make use of County Council Framework Contractors to deliver other services such as bitmac surfacing.

In order to continue to deliver a number of residual engineering related services a City Engineers team has been created. This team is staffed by members of staff who did not transfer to the County Council. The team will provide engineering services and advice for the City Council as well as managing the Parking Services team which provides parking services for Carlisle, Eden and on-street processing in South Lakes for the County Council. The team will also manage the City Centre.

CENOTAPH - A project is being organised to repair and clean the Grade 2 listed Cenotaph war memorial in Rickerby Park in time for the important first war anniversaries coming up starting with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of war next July. The project is to repair the joints, relay the paving, re-align the steps and clean the monument and surrounding retaining wall. Some landscaping work will also be carried out.

Other war memorials in the city will also be inspected with a view to carrying out repairs or cleaning for the anniversary.

**STREET CLEANING** - The City Council and the County Council have agreed to work together with the County, Connect and May Gurney regarding the cleansing of the CNDR. Litter picking has now commenced with May Gurney starting at the start of the 60mph zone and Carlisle City staff starting at the 30mph zone. This work was completed before the Easter break, removing 100 bags of litter. We are still working on a long term solution to the cleaning of the CNDR.

Cleaning of all A roads were completed before the start of the Easter break.

Additional equipment for the street cleaning to assist the improvement in the 'clean up Carlisle live where you live' campaign has now been purchased and put into service. For future clean ups of the CNDR we are establishing the areas of responsibility between the County and the City. We have already received positive feed back regarding the clean up from the general public.

**WASTE SERVICES** - The back office system 'Flare' is being used to monitor complaints for the waste services to enable the team to spot trends and target areas for improvement.

**CLEAN UP CARLISLE** - The Council took 5 successful clean neighbourhood prosecutions in February, 4 for fly tipping and one for incorrectly presenting waste. The Education and Enforcement Team are making great progress in developing the skills and experiences required to ensure successful enforcement action.

As part of an educational programme, the team took part in a Stanwix Primary School assembly for 430 children promoting the "Love Where You Live" message. "Love Where You Live" was also promoted at Brook Street School in St Aidan's. St Aidan's has recently become part of a High Priority Area for dog fouling with new signs fitted across the ward.

Earlier in February the Education and Enforcement Team took part in the launch of the St Aidan's "Together We Can" event at Greystone Community Centre. The area is one of the worst affected in the City by dog fouling and fly tipping/littering. To tie in with the "Together We Can" event the team are planning to work with Impact Housing on a number of activities.

The team is very active in developing successful partnerships to deliver a "Cleaner Carlisle".

**FOOD SAFETY** - As a follow-up from a complaint officers visited an unregistered food business at a small holding, officers found very poor hygiene conditions such as no hot water, no sink or hand washing facilities, evidence of mice, mouldy meat, and generally dirty conditions. Several ready to eat cooked meat products had to be removed from the

premises due to contamination with raw meat. In view of the conditions, officers used powers to close the business immediately; the closure was supported by the Magistrates.

The premises remain closed pending further action by the Environmental Health Service who are working in conjunction with Trading Standards Officers and the Police.

**CONDITIONS OF GARDENS** - Environmental Health Officers have had to serve a number of legal notices on domestic gardens due to the occupiers not keeping them clean and allowing materials to build up that cause unpleasant odours to nearby properties. Although how a garden looks can be a matter of opinion gardens should be maintained so that they do not cause smells and flies that can be a problem for neighbours.

**GREEN SPACES** - From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, the Green Spaces Team took back the maintenance and operation of St James Park, Denton Holme, from Carlisle Leisure Limited who had operated it for the past 10 years or so. With one member of staff transferring, Green Spaces will be working with local people and community groups to improve the park, starting with planting a community orchard later this year.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 a number of allotment sites have taken on the role of 'self-management' under leases with the City Council. Management Committees have been formed to keep waiting lists, allocate plots, collect rents and maintain the sites in good condition. It is hoped that this model will be adopted by more allotment sites over time.

Tree health and safety work has been carried out at both Rickerby Park and Talkin Tarn. A number of mature trees have had essential surgery to keep them alive but safe, while a small number have had to be felled. Where possible the timber has been sold to offset costs.

Hammond's Pond (Upperby) has had a major facelift over the winter. The Wire Mire Beck that runs through the park has been dredged; the overgrown shrubberies have been cut back and cleaned out; and the crumbling lakeside path has been extensively restored to make it safe for visitors. The park is now in a much better condition to greet visitors in the spring and summer and the work has been supported by the very active Friends of Hammond's Pond group.

**BEREAVEMENT SERVICES** - The old Cemetery Lodge office has been closed and staff moved to purpose-built accommodation at the Crematorium complex. This will allow much better communication between the administration staff and the technical teams who look after the cremators and the grounds.

The City Council has now received its certification for the CAMEO scheme under which we can 'trade' 50% of our mercury-abated cremations and receive payments from other

crematoria whose plant does not include mercury abatement. Environmental protection rules mean that 50 % of all cremations in the UK must be mercury abated but not all crematoria are fitted with the relevant equipment. Carlisle Crematorium had the mercury-stripping technology installed in 2007. Last year the Crematorium carried out 1,427 cremations.

**SUBWAY IMPROVEMENTS** – A project is now underway to enhance the various subways around the City Centre which provide the main pedestrian routes into the City. The City Council is working with the County Council, Community Payback and Sponsors to repaint the subways at Trinity School/Georgian Way, Sands Subway and Bitts Park/Hardwicke Circus subways. Local artists have submitted designs and designs have been agreed for Trinity and Sands Subways. The Bitts Park design has not yet been finalised. Work has already started on the Trinity Subway.