Portfolio summary
Protecting and enhancing our environment

Overview of function
The organisation of the Authority relating to the Council’s central services including Member Services and Employee relations. To take the lead on Waste Management/Recycling and relevant Council Plan measures under the environment objectives. To support the Leader of the Council and to deputise in his/her absence.

Key policies, plans and strategies
- Member Training and Development Plan
- Workforce Plan
- Waste Management Strategy
- Licensing and Statement of Gambling Policies

Key areas of responsibility
- Corporate Health and Safety
- Legal and HR Services
- Member Services and Committee Admin
- Member Training and Development
- Waste Management and Recycling
- Streetscene
- Licensing and Gambling
- Carbon/Greenhouse gas Reduction and Community Energy
- Green agenda – Low carbon development, Transport and Cycling
- Joint area planning with Cumbria County Council (CCC)

Current matters

The Portfolio in 2015/16:

Flooding
The council has been very involved with the flooding emergency on the 5/6 December 2015 and the subsequent recovery.

For details of the current situation please see member briefing from the 6 January appended below. A full briefing on the flooding impact to the council as a whole will be provided at the Full Council meeting on 24 February.

Waste collection:
- Latest figures are that 500 tonnes of flood damaged waste has been removed from affected properties, with 600 white goods also collected
- Sandbag collections started on the week commencing the 18 January.
Community flood recovery:
I am chairing the South Lakeland Community Flood Recovery Group which escalates issues to the county wide Community Recovery Group, which is a sub group of the Strategic Recovery Group.

The South Lakeland group involves working closely in partnership with Cumbria County Council Area Engagement Team and with key third sector partners, including members of the Gateway Hub and the British Red Cross, alongside community representatives including Churches Together, Kings Food Bank etc.

Key outcomes:
- Development of Gateway mobile flood support unit visiting key areas
- Registration form has been developed for tracking flood affected individuals and their needs
- Working groups looking at areas of work eg housing, flood unit programme volunteer rota
- Flooded properties address list circulated.

Waste Collection and Recycling

The Street Scene Service commenced a waste and recycling collection round optimisation in the last quarter, which involved changing the collection rounds for 65% of properties in South Lakeland. This was a hugely complex undertaking that has required a great deal of work and planning.

The changes were made to ensure our rounds are operating as efficiently as possible within our existing staff levels and vehicle numbers, to save money on fuel costs and reduce our operational carbon footprint, to build the extra capacity into the rounds to allow us to deliver plastic and cardboard kerbside recycling across the whole district and to ‘future proof’ our collections, by taking account of the extra collections we’ll need to make once the potential new housing developments in the Local Plan are built and deliver a better service without extra cost to the taxpayer.

It was anticipated that with such large changes there would be some initial collection issues in some areas. These included new collection rounds being learnt by new drivers and crews, some confusion with residents regarding changes to their usual collection day and time, and there was an initial problem with a recycling calendar in one area of the district, however this problem was quickly identified and replacement calendars distributed to householders.

Other staff were also out during this time with the bin crews resolving access issues and to assist householders in presenting the correct waste for collection.

The Round Optimisation work has now been delivered to all parts of the district, covering all 52,000 households.

Following the flooding emergency, the waste collection routes have been further affected by bridge and road closures. Collection crews are working to get collections made as soon as they are able to along with the additional flood damaged waste collections.

Portfolio Plan Actions

The Portfolio Plan has been used to review the portfolio actions and future work has also been identified. See tables below:
The council will help residents to reduce the total amount of household waste and extend the range of recycled materials from the kerbside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PH Focus</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Mid year update</th>
<th>Links to other Portfolios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>We will extend kerbside recycling, by increasing the range of recyclables collected and changing the way we collect materials. We will use our waste as a resource to improve the economic return from the reuse and recycling of materials collected from the kerbside</strong></td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
<td>Completed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>Deferred, to be completed throughout the district by February 2017.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Providing long term strategic planning direction for the Council regarding waste and recycling</td>
<td>It is the intention to rollout plastic and cardboard collections by February 2017. Options to collect further materials from the kerbside will be explored, and once an outlet for these materials is identified, dates can then be produced for further expansion.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explore options for future service delivery models including Local Government Association supported Cumbria wide collection models</td>
<td>Allerdale Borough Council is the lead authority for the Cumbrian districts. Progress to be followed up at Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide Member guidance through the Waste and Recycling Project Board.</td>
<td>This is an on-going piece of work to highlight the availability of future disposal outlets, enabling SLDC to continue with their direction of travel. Round optimisation took place in Quarter Three 2015/16.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lead relationships with key stakeholders e.g. County Council and Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership to develop long term ambition for zero waste to landfill.</td>
<td>Updates to be provided from the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Group Members Meeting throughout 2016. Next members meeting was to be held on 15/12/15. Postponed due to flooding emergency.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH Focus</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Mid year update</td>
<td>Links to other Portfolios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The council will make progress in reducing carbon emissions and become more energy efficient</strong></td>
<td>Installation of solar panels on appropriate council buildings</td>
<td>Feasibility for Mintworks has been completed by NPS. Finance are assessing if solar panels would be viable.</td>
<td>Housing and Strategic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>We will reduce the council’s carbon emissions by reducing our energy use through the management of our land and buildings. We will influence and encourage others to reduce their carbon footprint</strong></td>
<td>Carry out feasibility study for social housing and all public buildings</td>
<td>In process, (although impacted by the property services contract tender process and flooding emergency) also links with Development Management Policies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outcome of the NPS assessment of renewable energies and efficiency options for councils buildings published</td>
<td>NPS renewables/energy savings schemes are assessed on an individual basis as they are brought forward.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish the member support and profile for Council’s position on Carbon Reduction</td>
<td>To be established on the Environment Away day postponed to 27 January 2016 due to flooding emergency.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The council will support communities to become more energy efficient</strong></td>
<td>Provide political leadership for future provision of the Community Support Scheme, based upon year’s operation</td>
<td>Ten communities in the South Lakeland area will benefit from a new partnership between SLDC and Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAiS). The council has joined forces with CAiS to demonstrate commitment to community energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The launch took place on 18 July. Some of the work will relate to energy audits of community buildings, and some will be related to support for communities looking at community owned renewable energy installations. Eight communities are currently being supported under the project. Spoke at CAiS conference and outlined the support SLDC provided in general for sustainable projects. Also Community Buildings and Renewable Energy Training and peer to peer learning event: 17 October 2015. A training and peer to peer learning event with a parallel focus on community hydro renewable energy and ventilation in community buildings. Retrofitting course has run at Kendal College – with CAiS, for home owners and builders.</td>
<td>Housing and Strategic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>We will help local communities and individuals access advice to develop micro-renewable energy generating projects. We will promote the Green Deal and other schemes to improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty</strong></td>
<td>Improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty</td>
<td>Eco scheme due to commence at the end of January in conjunction with Npower. A central heating fund scheme is also due to commence around the same time. Supported a growth bid to appoint an officer to deliver this scheme, advised that energy efficiency position will not be filled until after March 2016.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH Focus</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Mid year update</td>
<td>Links to other Portfolios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The council and its communities will enhance and protect the district’s high quality environment</td>
<td>Stakeholder engagement: Grange Promenade – consultation on routing on promenade. Meetings with CCC, Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), Canal Trust, British Cycling</td>
<td>Have attended Canal Trust meetings, met with British Cycling, CCC, LDNPAand Morecambe Bay Partnership to discuss cycle routes. Also Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council in particular to develop and enhance cycling routes.</td>
<td>Health and Well Being Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We will support Cumbria County Council and local partners with their strategies for cycling, such as developing safer routes to work and school and promoting cycle tourism.</td>
<td>Lancaster Canal Northern Reaches – Cycle path feasibility study, financial support for a project officer to progress this and possible contribution to economic impact study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We will explore potential opportunities with the Canal Trust to develop cycle routes</td>
<td>Morecambe Bay Partnership Cycleway – Local Improvement Partnership Grant to assist establishment of cycle route and assistance towards ‘tramper’ cycles (less able bodied users)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>British Cycling recreational cycling projects</td>
<td>SLDC have allocated £10K towards a further two years of the British Cycling programme. Sky Rides programme has been supported this year, and will continue to do so for the next two years. This year 248 people have taken part in rides within South Lakeland Some rides were cancelled and are being rearranged from March, the new programme starts in May. Requesting expanding the programme to more rural areas of the district. Money is allocated from the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs grant and Kendal Business Improvement District for cycle furniture in Kendal, now waiting for CCC to provide project management through Capita.</td>
<td>Culture, Arts and Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engage with Sweetspot and CCC to ensure that South Lakeland host a start or finish of the Tour of Britain by 2017.</td>
<td>Work ongoing, engagement with Sweetspot and British Cycling this year to start the discussion process. Active Travel project on going.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Build Member relationships with CCC, LDNPA, Kendal BID, to agree common priorities for investment and promote cycling routes e.g. cycle routes through Kendal:</td>
<td>A South Lakeland Cycling Plan has been developed supported by an Action Plan. Active Travel project on going.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advocate support for cycling initiatives; including cycle hubs and promotion of cycle trails</td>
<td>Active Travel project on going.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH Focus</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Mid year update</td>
<td>Links to other Portfolios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through a flexible and skilled workforce</td>
<td>Overview of IiP programme – Gold Target</td>
<td>On 10, 13 and 16 July 2015, the Council was re-accredited with the IiP standard. This will continue to support the Council to achieve the objective set within the Council Plan 2014 - 17. Interviewed by IiP Assessor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Effective Corporate Training programme including Cabinet</td>
<td>Programme worked through with HR and Democratic Services.</td>
<td>Innovation and Improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Effective apprenticeship programmes</td>
<td>Four business apprentices appointed. Deployed across the council in various departments to develop broader skills. Agreement for vehicle technician trainee at the garage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health and Safety Committee - Member representative for Health and Safety of the workforce and service delivery</td>
<td>Attended all meetings, progress being made on employee understanding and knowledge.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A look forward:

Roll out of recycling to the rest of the district for completion by February 2017.

Flood recovery will continue for the next 12-18 months. Currently the recovery groups are meeting weekly. Environment awayday will provide detailed targets for the Council Plan including developing community flood resilience.

Cycling, hoping for effective progress once budgets are agreed with partners for leisure cycling and cycle to work schemes under Active Travel Project.

Expected the completion of some of the community micro-energy schemes over the next 12 months.

Within Development Management Policies for planning and housing, there is evidence of real commitment to energy efficiency and protecting the environment.
Appendix 1 –

SLDC flood recovery update issued by Chief Executive on 6 January:

For advice and information go to the special section online at http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/flooding-help-and-advice/

Latest figures

The number of flooded properties stands at 2,205 domestic and 588 commercial, total 2793.

Finance

1) Total cost to authority of £2m currently, £1m of this covered by insurance and the Government.
2) Clarification being sought over details of the Household Resilience Grant (up to £5k) This is crucial for the information we give to householders and subsequent actions we take on the scheme, which is for long-term flood resilience measures only. CCC are leading the discussions.

Revenues and Benefits

1) Processed 1,200 payments of the £500 to flooded homeowners and 23 have returned the money as they were not flooded in their view.
2) Working at weekends to process flood-related applications for various forms of benefit and tackling the backlog of existing work.
3) Awaiting confirmation of the administration grant from government to carry out additional works.
4) The speed we have responded has been well received in the community and recognised elsewhere.

Waste and recycling

1) Five hundred properties now had waste removed. Around 600 white goods removed. Currently 90 requests outstanding and they are being resolved within 3-5 days. Some properties still awaiting insurance assessments, some have been visited four or five times as permissions have been given.
2) An officer – John Barwise – is ensuring compliance and delivery in this key area.
3) Some road diversions will continue for a number of months which can lead to missed bins for a short period.
4) We don’t take builders' waste and have visited many premises to advise on how to get rid of it legally and responsibly.
5) No issues of perishable waste at present.
6) Generally the work of the service has been well received by the public.

Housing

1) Total cases for re-homing is 106 with 58 cases resolved.

Accommodation now available across the District (Kendal in brackets) is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private rented</td>
<td>42 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other less than 3 months</td>
<td>90 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other more than 3 months</td>
<td>62 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>204 (35)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accommodation requests much reduced.

Contact Centre/Reception

1) Clarity needed on the details of the household resilience grant (up to £5k). We are now taking expressions of interest on this until DCLG confirm the position. Further discussions will be needed subject to Ministers’ decision.
2) Calls for flood waste removal are down to two or three a day.
3) A few properties still being identified as flooded.
4) Calls coming in about the £500 grant. The website is working well for people to make applications to Revs/Bens.
**Public Protection**
1) No reported instances of infectious disease. Now dealing with flood-related issues around pest control, flood protection etc.  
2) Managing the household resilience scheme is likely to require additional resources as work associated with grants is time-consuming.

**Assets**
1) Inspection on Kendal Town Hall will be undertaken this weekend.  
2) Rothay Park: EA meeting on site to discuss retaining walls.  
3) Castle Dairy: next stage underway. SLDC leading this project.  
4) Borrans Park: a sink hole has appeared by a retaining wall and is being inspected today (Jan 6).  
5) Costs compiled and included in Bellwin or Council forecasts.  
6) Kendal Magistrates sitting in Kendal Town Hall today (Jan 6) and two days next week.

**Economic Development/Business Support**
1) Significant support being undertaken in Grasmere and Kendal. Concentrating on a number of strategic areas, namely tourism, relocation, grants, business area promotion (not just tourist related). Meeting scheduled with LDNPA to discuss a joint plan of action. Initial car parking numbers in central lakes do not show significant fluctuation from previous years.

**Lake Windermere**
1) All Lake services fully operational, albeit from a temporary portacabin.

**Community Resilience/Emergency Planning**
1) Updating of our emergency plan has commenced to look at what worked well and what can be improved  
2) Third sector is fulfilling a number of important roles. It has provided a flood co-ordinator and a mobile unit that is visiting areas across the district to provide advice and assistance. It is co-ordinating the voluntary sector and churches’ efforts in a cohesive and planned way. SLDC has been enabling and facilitating this process but has not had to step in to deliver any significant delivery.

**Communications**
1) Grants and finance are the key issues at present and messages will be managed carefully.  
2) Website information is comprehensive.  
3) Also supplying comms skills and resource where organisations do not possess them, such as Third Sector.  
4) Queries starting to appear regards the Local Plan allocations, and appropriateness re: recent floods. The message is that new estates have not flooded.

**Weather update**
1) Low levels of rainfall expected over the next week or so, with drier, colder conditions.