

1. Housing and Communities Committee 10.10.19.

There is a lack of affordable housing in Eden. About 264 affordable units are being built per year. There has been a big increase in elderly people. There is a need to make sure there is affordable provision for elderly and disabled.

With cuts in funding from central government, it is much harder for housing associations to build in rural areas. There is an ongoing project: Warm Homes Eden, which will improve energy efficiency in homes. There is a £100k budget for this. There are 450 empty properties in the area. There has been 1.3% rise in house prices (average price: £187k) since 2007, compared with a national average of 23%. The target for affordable housing is 30%, the current rate is 11%. There are 764 specialist older person places, 253 in residential care buildings. An extra 284 residential care beds will be needed by 2032.

2. Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee 24.10.19.

Review of Waste Collection:

The current contract is with Cumbria Waste Management Ltd and is due to finish in March 2020. Options: private sector, local authority trading company, direct services organisation or joint venture.

Costs: need to provide value and quality.

Eden needs to improve recycling. 70% of waste should be recycled. Eden currently recycles 43% of waste. The average Eden resident creates 410 Kg of waste per year, 184th out of 222 authorities. The authority with the lowest waste output creates 250 Kg per person.

3. Council Meeting 7.11.19.

(a) New Council Plan

The new council plan: the main target is for the council to be zero carbon by 2030. The Conservatives opposed this target. The motion was passed.

(b) One Eden project: the council is currently overspending by £1.7 million per year. If nothing is done, the council will be bankrupt by 2023. The shortfall is mostly due to ever reducing central funding from central government. The project will focus on making the council more efficient. The motion was passed.

4. Scrutiny Coordinating Board 14.11.19.

(a) Discussion about the council's performance using the new traffic lights system. Areas for improvement are: affordable housing, improving service quality, workforce strategy and council office accommodation.

(b) Scrutiny Structure Review: currently there are three scrutiny committees. This is a proposal to reduce to one. This will save about £3000 per year and, according to the report, make scrutiny more focused.

5. Housing and Communities Scrutiny Committee 21.11.19.

PC Green from Eden Practice Police Team gave a report on antisocial behaviour (ASB). There has been a 20% drop in ASB in the last year. The police have targeted drug and driving offenders. Driving offenders often use illegal drugs. He discussed Section 59. This is a police power which enables them to confiscate the car of a driving offender. ASB problem spots in Penrith are Sainsbury's car park and MacDonalds restaurant. He was asked if priority is given

to calls in Penrith over those from outlying areas such as Kirkby Stephen. He denied that this is the case.

6. Accounts and Governance Committee 28.11.19.

Heart of Cumbria: this is a housing project started by EDC in 2016. It has been financed by EDC and it will have 81 new houses for rental. The houses are in the Carelton area of Penrith. About 14 are being rented. The AGM in September was postponed by the council executive for five weeks so that the governance arrangements could be examined. Councillor Mary Robinson has been appointed council share holder representative and there has been a change in the number of directors.