

ACRA Informal Meeting with CBC Directorate 20th June 2011

CBC were represented by David McIntosh, David Barnes and Neil Farmer

ACRA were represented by John Pendrill (ACRA Chairman) and Jim Biggin (ACRA Secretary)

New CBC-EDDC Shared Service Administrative Arrangements

Internal systems are being rationalised; staff retention and morale are high; there is no perceived skills shortage across the administration; the rationalisation of services has improved the critical mass of both administrations which will lead to better career development for staff; the perceived stability of the new arrangement has assisted in recruitment, giving our council an edge over councils that may need to rationalise in the future.

NB: We have been asked to please not talk about "merging" as it could be taken to mean that the actual councils are being merged. Could members please note.

Waste Collection

The plans for rationalisation are being developed and are making progress

DCC Road Gritting

The fact that DCC has taken over road gritting from CBC has led to a downgrading of the service and this will be noticed, particularly on side roads

Winter Snow - Path Clearance

CBC will be providing us with written guidance to pass on to our members

Forthcoming Public Surveys

CBC will conduct a survey of residents in autumn 2011; at approximately the same time there will be a consultation on local arrangements for gypsies and travellers; the local development strategy will go out for consultation in 2012

Annual Presentations by CBC to Residents Associations

We said these were useful and should be continued. A framework that encompassed financial and other current issues and how they were developing (such as the Localism Bill) was thought appropriate. If a way could be found of involving DCC this would be helpful.

Town Centre

There has been some real progress in relation to the refurbishment of Druitt Gardens. Major external funding and Committee approval have been obtained subject to confirmation of additional internal funding. Work is planned to commence in September.

There have been some helpful developments concerning Saxon Square redevelopment

Jim Biggin - June 2011