



## **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date**            **Friday 7 October 2016**  
**Time**            **9.30 am**  
**Venue**          **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

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### **Business**

#### **Part A**

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend. Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's agreement.**

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2016 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties
6. Media Relations - Presentation by Media Relations Manager
7. Quarter 4 2015/16 and Quarter 1 2016/17 Revenue and Capital Outturn - Report of Regeneration and Local Services Management Team (Pages 7 - 16)
8. Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Management Report - Report of Corporate Management Team (Pages 17 - 26)
9. Winter Maintenance - Update - Joint Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Corporate Director Regeneration and Local Services (Pages 27 - 32)
10. Scrutiny Review of the Management of the Woodland Estate Owned by Durham County Council - Update on Recommendations - Report of Director Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 33 - 40)
11. Waste Programme - Update - Joint Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Corporate Director Regeneration and Local Services (Pages 41 - 44)

12. Minutes of the County Durham Environmental Partnership Board Meeting held on 27 June 2016 (Pages 45 - 50)
13. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

**Colette Longbottom**  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall  
Durham

29 September 2016

To: **The Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)  
Councillor E Adam (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, J Clare, J Clark, D Freeman, J Gray, D Hall,  
G Holland, I Jewell, C Kay, B Kellett, A Liversidge, P May, O Milburn, S Morrison,  
J Shuttleworth, P Stradling and L Taylor

**Co-opted Members:**

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

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**Contact: Paula Nicholson**

**Tel: 03000 269710**

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**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 8 July 2016 at 9.30 am**

**Present:**

**Councillor E Adam (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair)**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors E Adam, J Clare, J Clark, D Freeman, J Gray, G Holland, C Kay, B Kellett, A Liversidge, P May, S Morrison, P Stradling and L Taylor

**Also Present:**

Councillor B Stephens

**1 Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors B Graham, J Armstrong, D Bell, O Milburn, T Bolton and P Spurrell.

**2 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members.

**3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 18 April 2016 and 3 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager updated Members on apprenticeships in Customer Services and indicated that the Head of Corporate Finance and HR was working on a piece of work on apprenticeships which would be brought to Cabinet for consideration. She would keep Members updated on the progress of this piece of work.

Councillor Adam sought clarification if the information on dog fouling had been provided for display on the parish notice boards. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer would follow this up and advise Members via e-mail.

Councillor May sought clarification if a letter could be sent to individuals who had thrown litter. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer would follow this up and advise Members accordingly.

#### **4 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **5 Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties**

They were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

#### **6 Media Relations**

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes). The articles were:-

- More than 2500 volunteers clean up their communities – Durham County Council in partnership with Darlington Borough Council organised an event as part of litter free Durham big spring clean campaign. Volunteers came from schools, scouts, guides, youth groups, community groups, parish councils, Greenpeace and the Environment Agency.
- Peterlee fly-tipper caught after leaving prescription in dumped rubbish bags – A man was caught fly tipping after his address was discovered on documents found in dumped rubbish bags. The man from Peterlee was convicted and ordered to pay £800.
- County Durham's Environment Awards are open for Entries – Entries are invited from those who are working to improve, enhance and protect the environment, deadline for entries is 15 July 2016.
- Green move out scheme returns for students – Durham County Council is working with partners from the university, police and Durham furniture help scheme to support students when they move out at the end of term and encourage them to donate items for those in need in the local area.
- Five Star Durham seal their place as a sustainable fish city – Durham has become the second city in the UK to achieve sustainable fish status. Their sustainable fish city rating recognises that the city's top restaurants and workplaces, as well as the university, hospitals, council and schools have collectively pledged to serve and promote only sustainably sourced fish.

Councillor Clare referred to fly-tipping and appreciated the message given that people were being caught but they were advertising the methods used to catch offenders which in turn gave the offenders advice on how not to get caught. Councillor Stephens, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships advised that when the case goes to court all information is in the public domain.

Councillor Holland referred to the 'Green Move Out Scheme' and commended the Officers and how the people in his ward appreciated the help from the Council and asked for this to be passed onto the Officers.

#### **7 Performance Management Quarter 4 2015/16**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Management Team which presented progress against the Councils corporate basket of performance indicators for the

Altogether Greener theme and report other significant performance issues for the fourth quarter of the 2015/16 financial year (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager gave a presentation which gave a performance summary and achievements as well as an update of the performance indicators relating to:

- Refuse and Recycling
- Improved Environmental Cleanliness
- Fixed Penalty Notices
- Fly-tipping: Key Trends, Actions and Outcomes
- Condition of the Local Authority Road Network
- Reduction in Carbon Emissions
- Renewable Energy Generation

Councillor May referred to EU funding in relation to the recent referendum result to leave the European Union and asked how much the Council received and are the Council working on a plan to deal with this.

The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that the main area was around carbon reduction in particular the grants for heating schemes. An assessment was being conducted, but they needed to wait until negotiations had started.

The Chairman indicated that an item was due to come to Members of this committee today on European Structural and Investment Fund but in light of recent national events this had been delayed and would be brought to a future meeting when more information was available.

Councillor Holland referred to the reduction in performance relating to the diversion from landfill indicator and the reasons for this. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that this was a result of the planned downtime at the energy from waste Haverton Hill site to increase the number of lines. The Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager advised that targets were still being met and that Suez had liability for any land tax incurred.

Councillor Holland referred to carbon reduction which resulted in energy reduction and suggested that this message should be made clear in the performance report and to residents to maximise energy reduction. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that she would look into this to see how it can be better represented in future.

Councillor Clark referred to recycling collections and asked why bottles had to be put into a separate container from other recycling materials when they are collected as all residents saw was all of the recycling materials emptied into the same vehicle collecting the two containers and were confused and which gave a mixed message.

The Customer Relation Policy and Performance Manager advised that it may look as if all recycling materials are going in together but the vehicle was split and the materials are kept separate.

Councillor Clark also referred to the Leazes Bowl roundabout and sought clarification if this was to remain tarmacked.

The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager and Councillor Freeman confirmed that it was to be reinstated on a smaller scale with a flower bed. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager would provide Members with a general update on the works.

The Chairman thanked the Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager for her very informative presentation.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted.

## **8 Air Quality in County Durham**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which provided Members with an update on the development of the Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

Members received a presentation from the Pollution Control Manager and Senior Air Quality Officer which provided Members with an update on the progress and current position on the Durham City Air Quality Action Plan; recent changes to the Local Air Quality Management Regime; the Draft Air Quality Action Plan v Air Quality Action Plan; Public Consultation Outcome; Amendments to the Draft Air Quality Action Plan and Plan for Implementation (for copy of slides, see file of minutes).

Members were advised that the Council had consulted on the draft Air Quality Action Plan during 2015. The outcome of the consultation and the amended Air Quality Action Plan with additional actions had been reported to and approved by Cabinet in June 2016.

An Implementation Plan would be approved by the Air Quality Corporate Steering Group which would include progress on the implementation of the actions to comply with targets and monitoring of nitrogen dioxide concentrations across Durham City and also sets out key lines of communication.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has issued guidance which provides: streamlined reporting requirements to reduce the reporting burden and help local authorities focus resources on taking action. A new Annual Status Report (ASR) summarises local situations and progress on the action measures together with a technical section that provides more detailed information on modelling/monitoring of key pollutants and for removal for local authorities to report on four historic pollutants which are now under control and fast track AQMAs.

Durham County Council has a plan in place for all departments of the council to work together to address air quality in the area.

Councillor Kay asked about PM2.5s and sought clarification as to whether these were fine particles of pollutant. The Pollution Control Manager confirmed this to be the case and that they were particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less. Councillor Kay then referred

to cycle routes in Durham City being very narrow and how did the plan propose to get cyclists across the City as this could not currently be done safely.

Officers responded that there was nothing specific contained in the Air Quality Action Plan and that the proposals for the expansion of the cycling infrastructure would be contained in the Sustainable Transport Policy. The action measure covering the provision of cycle ways is not the responsibility of the Pollution Control Team but officers would feed this back to the team that is responsible for the implementation of this action.

The Chairman explained that the committee had received information on cycle routes at the last meeting and referred to the recent site visit by the Committee to various cycle routes in the County.

Councillor May referred to the Council trying to get investment into the City but how the Council were also trying to improve the air quality but investment would bring more traffic into the City and suggested that the geography of the city means that there are a restricted number of alternative routes through the city.

Officers responded that they had a guidance document which gave clear guidelines to developers on the air quality impact and how they would need to come up with mitigation measures but recognised investment in the area was a priority. Development could be achieved in a sustainable way through travel plans to reduce impact.

Councillor Holland referred to the measuring of the air quality in the City but there was a lot of works currently going on which would portray an artificial position. People in the City were worried about the Western bypass and are the origin of the standards in the Air Quality Action Plan from Europe. Officers confirmed that the Plan was based on complying with European Standards but they did not anticipate any changes as air quality was a matter of public health and follow World Health Organisation guidelines. Reducing air pollution can also reduce the burden on the National Health Service.

Councillor Holland referred to the Clean Air Act 1956 which had made a difference and was introduced by the UK government and not the European Union.

Councillor Kellett referred to the number of taxis in the City who would sit with their engines running and queried if there were any regulations to limit this practice.

The Pollution Control Manger indicated that diesel cars and busses were the main sources of pollution but taxis themselves were not identified but the plan would be reviewed and this could be picked up going forward.

Councillor Clare referred to Action 1 (Synchronising the sequence of traffic lights on roundabouts through the centre of Durham City) and sought clarification why this action had not been supported.

Officers indicated that the effectiveness of this action was dependent on the interaction with other actions.

Councillor Freeman indicated that the problem was the amount of traffic through the City rather than the flow of traffic. If the bypass did not happen then look at the extension of the park and ride routes together with the provision of further sites.

Officers responded that the bypass was linked to the County Plan.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update on the development of air quality management within County Durham.

## **9 Refresh of the Work Programme**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided members with an updated work programme for the Environmental and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2016-17 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Chairman directed members to the work programme and indicated that this would need to be completed by March 2017 and suggested that the work programme should be agreed and for there to be an element of flexibility for any work coming forward at short notice.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the Community Action Team – Update was scheduled to come to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2017 and not 2016 as stated in the report.

**Resolved:** That the new work programme for 2016-17 be agreed.

## **10 Minutes from the County Durham Environmental Partnership Board held on 9 March 2016**

The minutes of the County Durham Environmental Partnership Board held on 9 March 2016 were received for information.



7 October 2016



**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES QUARTER 4  
REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2015 / 2016**

**Report of Regeneration and Local Services Management Team**

**Purpose of the report**

- 1 To set out details of the final outturn for 2015/16, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services.

**Executive Summary**

- 2 The final 2015/16 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget against the cash limit by £0.860million. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserves, and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 3 The final 2015/16 Capital Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget by £3.182m

**Neighbourhood Services Revenue 2015/16**

- 4 The summary of the revenue outturn position, is shown in the following table analysed by Head of Service:

Head of Service	Revised Base Budget 2015/16 £'000	QTR 4 Report			Cash limit Variance Over/ (Under) £'000
		Final Outturn 2015/16 £'000	Variance Over/ (Under) £'000	Reserves / outside cash limit £'000	
Central Costs	1,348	1,542	194	0	194
Direct Services	36,426	34,948	(1,478)	405	(1,073)
Env, Health & C. Prot	5,562	5,233	(329)	143	(186)
Proj & Business Serv	17,983	17,928	(55)	(102)	(157)
Culture & Sport	19,470	19,284	(186)	430	244
Technical Services	27,030	25,688	(1,342)	1,460	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,819</b>	<b>104,631</b>	<b>(3,196)</b>	<b>2,336</b>	<b>(860)</b>

- 5 The final revenue outturn for 2015/16 was under budget against the cash limit by £0.860million, after taking account of the forecast use of reserves, and items outside the cash limit.
- 6 The cash limit outturn position compares to the previously forecast Quarter 3 position of a cash limit underspend of £1.290million.

7 The following section outlines the main reasons for the variance against budget;

- Direct Services - £1.060 million underspend. The main reasons for this were that there was an overachievement in the surplus generated by Building Services of approximately £0.754 million due to the level of turnover being significantly higher than originally anticipated. In addition there was an underspend of £0.600 million relating to savings in premises costs of Administration Buildings mainly relating to the early achievement of future MTFP savings. These underspends were partially offset by a contribution to an earmarked reserve of £0.300 million for capital works in cemeteries.
- Technical Services £0.105 million overspend. Within this overall position, there was an overspend of circa £1 million on highways maintenance relating to additional policy led expenditure in relation to Category 1 and 2 defects, offset by increased income of approximately £0.9 million that was generated within Design Services.
- Environment, Health and Consumer Protection - £0.187 million underspend, which was largely attributable to underspends on employees, supplies and services in Health Protection, Consumer Protection and Environmental Protection, as a result of the early achievement of future MTFP savings.
- Culture & Sport £0.255 million overspend. The main reason for this is a contribution to earmarked reserves to fund additional capital works associated with a proposed cinema partnership arrangement. This capital work will greatly enhance the cinema offer and result in additional revenue income in future years.
- Within Strategic Waste there have been significant increases in the Materials Recycling Facility costs (£0.500 million) as a result of a national reduction in the market value of recycled materials. A new contract for this service has been procured recently and this will reduce the budget pressure going forward. This overspend is being offset by savings on employee and supplies and services (£0.488 million) across all other areas of Projects & Business Services.

8 Further to the quarter 3 forecast outturn report, the following items have been excluded from the outturn in arriving at the cash limit:

- £2.327 million – relates to a net contribution to earmarked reserves and cash limits to support specific projects in 2016/17, including a £1.430m contribution to earmarked reserves to support one off expenditure in Highways; a £0.430m contribution to earmarked reserves in respect of Culture and Sport; and a £0.405m contribution to earmarked reserves in respect of Buildings and Grounds Maintenance, and Street Cleaning.
- The movement on Reserves includes a contribution of £0.729 million to the Winter Maintenance Reserve that was established at the end of 2013/14. This contribution represents the additional underspend since Quarter 3 on Winter Maintenance activities during 2015/16, and reflects the relatively mild conditions that were experienced during the last winter. The Winter Maintenance Reserve (now £3.074 million) will be utilised when severe winter

or weather events occur and the annual budget is insufficient to meet the unavoidable costs in this area.

- £0.582 million net contribution to reserves in relation to ER/VR costs, Job Evaluation Settlement and Insurance recharges.
- £0.310 million relates to a range of adjustments associated with capital charges, centralised repairs and maintenance and central administration recharges.

9 Taking the outturn position into account, the Cash Limit Reserve to be carried forward for Neighbourhood Services is £2.579 million.

### Neighbourhood Services Capital 2015/2016

10 The following table sets out details of final spend for 2015/16 analysed by individual Heads of Service areas within the Neighbourhoods capital programme against the revised budget.

Head of Service	Revised Budget £'000	Outturn £'000s	Variance £'000s
Direct Services	4,152	3,102	(1,050)
P & B Services	5,143	3,786	(1,357)
Culture and Sport	3,537	3,085	(452)
Technical Services	28,071	27,748	(323)
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,903</b>	<b>37,721</b>	<b>(3,182)</b>

11 The 2015/16 capital spend for Neighbourhood Services was £37.721 million against a revised budget of £40.903 million, which is a £3.182 million underspend for the year. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are as follows:

12 The underspend of £3.182million for Neighbourhood Services is mainly due to:

- **Direct Services** – Underspend £1.050 million. This is primarily due to revisions to the delivery date of vehicles ordered during 2015/16 with delivery expected in 2016/17 (£0.531 million) and the delay in the start of the Bereavement improvement projects (£0.198 million).
- **Culture and Sport** – Underspend £0.452 million. The under spend in this area is due mainly to the reprofiling of works to Wharton Park Project of £0.290 million, which was completed in the current financial year.

- **Projects and Business** – Underspend £1.357 million. Mainly due to an under spend on the CRM project of £0.767 million, which is programmed over two years. The majority of the scheme will now be completed in 2016/17. The remaining underspend of £0.504 million relates to some delays in Waste Management schemes where site investigation works have not yet been completed, and also due to the requirement to provide data to the Environment Agency before the St Bede’s project can commence.
- **Technical Services** – Underspend £0.323 million. Mainly due to the under spend on Seaham North Pier of £0.675 million and £0.124 million on the Wolsingham Depot project along with an overspend on the Street Lighting Energy Reduction programme of £0.503 million for which budget has been brought forward from 2016/17.
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## Recommendations

13 It is recommended that:

- Overview and Scrutiny note the final outturn position on Revenue and Capital for 2015/16.

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<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Ian Thompson</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>03000 267331</b>
	<b>Phil Curran</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>03000 261967</b>

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## **APPENDIX 1 - Implications**

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### **Finance**

To set out details of the final outturn for 2015/16, highlighting areas of over / underspend against the revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services, at each Head of Service level and for the whole of Neighbourhood Services.

### **Staffing**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Risk**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Accommodation**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Crime and Disorder**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Human Rights**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Consultation**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Procurement**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Disability Issues**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Legal Implications**

There are no implications associated with this report.

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7 October 2016



## NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES QUARTER 1 REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2016 / 2017

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### Report of Regeneration and Local Services Management Team

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#### Purpose of the report

- 1 To set out details of the forecast outturn as at Quarter 1 for 2016/17, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services.

#### Executive Summary

- 2 The Q1 forecast for the 2016/17 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget against the cash limit by £0.669 million. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserves, and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 3 The Q1 forecast for the 2016/17 Capital Outturn is currently estimated to be in line with the budget.

#### Neighbourhood Services Revenue 2016/2017

- 4 The summary of the revenue outturn position, is shown in the following table analysed by Head of Service:

Head of Service	Revised Base Budget 2016/17 £'000	QTR 1 Report			Cash limit Variance Over/ (Under) £'000
		Quarter 1 Forecast (Apr-Jun) £'000	Variance Over/ (Under) £'000	Reserves / outside cash limit £'000	
Central Costs	1,431	1,436	5	0	5
Direct Services	36,053	36,453	400	(823)	(423)
Env, Health & C. Prot	5,122	4,778	(344)	118	(226)
Proj & Business Serv	16,679	16,714	35	(72)	(37)
Culture & Sport	19,353	19,941	588	(577)	11
Technical Services	27,691	28,533	842	(842)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,329</b>	<b>107,855</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>(2,196)</b>	<b>(669)</b>

- 5 The forecast revenue outturn for 2016/17 is under budget against the cash limit by £0.669 million, after taking account of the forecast use of reserves, and items outside the cash limit.

- 6 The forecast underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across Neighbourhoods to remain within the cash limit. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are shown below:
- Within Direct Services, there is an overall underspend of £0.423 million which is due to the early achievement of MTFP savings in respect of future years mainly relating to Clean & Green and Facilities Management.
  - Technical Services is showing a break-even position. This is mainly due to additional surplus within Design Services (£0.474 million) and Highways Operations (£0.635 million) which is being offset by a net overspend of approximately £1.139 million within Highways Services, where the additional surplus on the trading account areas have offset additional policy led expenditure on highways maintenance in relation to Category 1 and 2 defects.
  - Environment, Health and Consumer Protection is projected to underspend by £0.226 million, largely attributable to underspends on employees, supplies and services and transport in Health Protection, Consumer Protection and Environmental Protection.
  - Within Strategic Waste there is an overspend of approximately £0.245 million which is the net effect of an overspend on the waste contracts resulting from increasing tonnages, and savings in other areas of Strategic Waste e.g. increased income from Garden Waste. This net overspend in Strategic Waste is being offset by savings on employee and supplies and services (£0.324 million) across all other areas of Projects & Business Services.
- 7 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the forecasted cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Neighbourhood Services is £3.190 million.

### Neighbourhood Services Capital 2016 / 2017

- 8 The following table sets out details of forecast spend for 2016/17 analysed by individual Heads of Service areas within the Neighbourhoods capital programme against the revised budget.

Head of Service	Revised Budget £'000	Outturn £'000s	Variance £'000s
Direct Services	1,894	1,894	0
Projects & Business Services	11,776	11,776	0
Culture and Sport	3,055	3,055	0
Technical Services	28,500	28,500	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,225</b>	<b>45,225</b>	<b>0</b>



- 9 As at 31 March 2016, the NS Capital Programme for 2016/17 was £44.188m. The capital budget has subsequently been adjusted at MOWG meetings during the year as a result of additional funding sources being identified, and this has now resulted in a revised 2016/17 Capital Programme of £45.224m. It is currently anticipated that the full budget of £45.224m will be spent in 2016/17.

## **Recommendations**

10 It is recommended that:

- Overview and Scrutiny note the Quarter 1 forecast outturn position on Revenue and Capital for 2016/17.

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<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Ian Thompson</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>03000 267331</b>
	<b>Phil Curran</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>03000 261967</b>

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## **APPENDIX 1 - Implications**

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### **Finance**

To set out details of the Q1 forecast outturn, highlighting areas of over / underspend against the revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services, at each Head of Service level and for the whole of Neighbourhood Services.

### **Staffing**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Risk**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Accommodation**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Crime and Disorder**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Human Rights**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Consultation**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Procurement**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Disability Issues**

There are no implications associated with this report.

### **Legal Implications**

There are no implications associated with this report.

## Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 October 2016



### Quarter One 2016/17 Performance Management Report

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#### Report of Corporate Management Team

**Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships**  
**Councillor Simon Henig, Leader**

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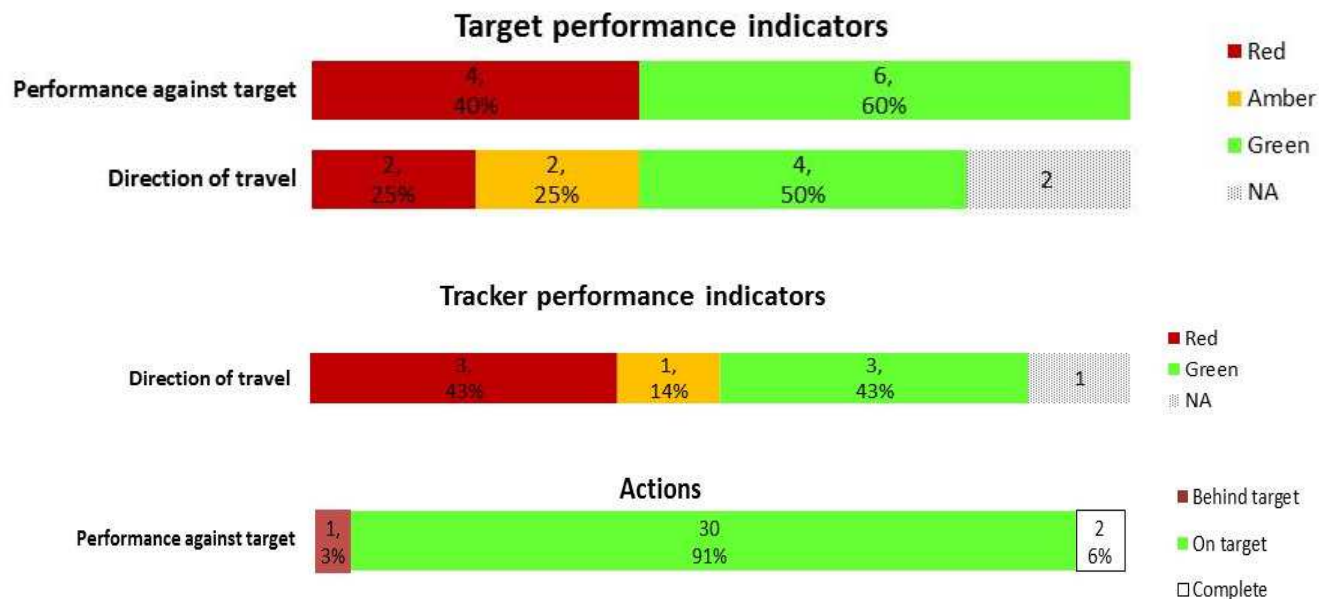
#### Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and report other performance issues for the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year, covering the period April to June 2016.

#### Background

2. The report sets out an overview of performance and progress by Altogether priority theme. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of:
  - a. Key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners (see Appendix 3, table 1); and
  - b. Key tracker indicators – performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence (see Appendix 3, table 2).
3. Work has been undertaken by all services to develop a revised 2016/17 corporate set of indicators. This set of indicators is based around our Altogether priority themes and will be used to measure the performance of both the council and the County Durham Partnership.
4. During the year a review will be undertaken to improve performance reporting, including streamlining reports.
5. The corporate performance indicator guide has been updated to provide full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2016/17 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet (at Councillors useful links) or can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at [performance@durham.gov.uk](mailto:performance@durham.gov.uk).

## Altogether Greener: Overview



## Council Performance

### 6. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. During the 12 months ending May 2016, 95.7% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill. Performance achieved the 95% target. Over the same period less household waste was re-used, recycled or composted (38.9%).
  - A new Facebook page, Recycle for County Durham, has been launched. The page is used to get messages to residents about recycling and to promote campaigns such as, Love Food, Hate Waste, and Bin it Right.
  - A total of 56,575 megawatt hours (MWh) of energy were generated from municipal waste sent to the energy from waste plant during the 12 months ending May 2016.
- b. Between April and June 2016, there were 122 renewable energy feed in tariff installations registered and approved, 120 of those were solar photovoltaic and two were wind installations. The feed in tariff installations have contributed 221.37 megawatts of energy as at the end of June 2016.
- c. Surface Condition Assessment for the National Network of Roads (SCANNER) survey data for 2015/16 indicates that 4% of A roads, and 4% of B and C roads in County Durham should be considered for maintenance. Road conditions are better than 12 months earlier (5% of A roads and 6% of B and C roads), and are in line with the latest national (4%) and regional average (4%) for A roads, and better than the latest national (7%) and regional average (8%) for B and C roads.

### 7. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. During the 12 months ending June 2016, performance was below the target of 95% for all categories of recorded actionable defects on carriageways and

footways repaired within deadline. 93% of category 1 defects were repaired within the target of 24 hours. Over the same period, 84% of category 2.1 defects were repaired within the 14 working days target and 61% of category 2.2 defects were repaired within the 3 months target.

Year on year increases in defects combined with other highway priorities have impacted on target response times. Although operational resource has increased to meet this demand, it has proved difficult to meet the sheer volume of identified work. The situation is being reviewed to identify a way forward.

- b. A key tracker indicator on fly-tipping shows an increase of 578 incidents from last quarter to 7,782 incidents during the 12 months ending June 2016 (see Appendix 4, Chart 1). There has been an increase of fly-tipping incidents across the county mainly in relation to white goods. Although the number of white goods abandoned is declining, residents continue to place electrical goods outside for scrap collectors to take away. Low scrap values have reduced the number of collectors operating and goods are either abandoned at their original location (often back alleyways) or stripped and the carcasses left / fly tipped elsewhere. The most significant increase has been fridges (stripped) which have little scrap value. There has also been an increase in the fly-tipping incidents related to household waste of various sizes and construction waste of small van or transit van size that was mainly confined to the east of the county, and to a lesser extent in the north.

During quarter one, cameras were deployed to 57 locations and 38 incidents were caught on camera. Seven stop and search operations were carried out resulting in two duty of care warnings, six producers and six Fixed Penalty Notices. There were six prosecutions which led to Durham County Council being awarded £3,160 in fines, compensations, costs and surcharges.

- c. A key Council Plan action which has not achieved target in this theme is the development of an Air Quality Action Plan for Chester-le-Street to improve air quality and meet specific air quality objectives. This has been rescheduled from June 2016 to December 2016. Air quality monitoring results have indicated a reduction in nitrogen dioxide pollution levels in the affected area. Discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are ongoing to determine whether an Air Quality Action Plan is necessary, and whether the subsequent Air Quality Management Area declaration can be revoked.

- 8. There are no key risks which require any mitigating action in delivering the objectives of this theme.

## Recommendations and Reasons

- 9. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and consider any performance issues arising there with.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** - Latest performance information is being used to inform corporate, service and financial planning.

**Staffing** - Performance against a number of relevant corporate health Performance Indicators (PIs) has been included to monitor staffing issues.

**Risk** - Reporting of significant risks and their interaction with performance is integrated into the quarterly monitoring report.

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** - Corporate health PIs are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

**Accommodation** - Not applicable

**Crime and Disorder** - A number of PIs and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

**Human Rights** - Not applicable

**Consultation** - Not applicable

**Procurement** - Not applicable

**Disability Issues** - Employees with a disability are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

**Legal Implications** - Not applicable

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## Appendix 2: Key to symbols used within the report

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Where icons appear in this report, they have been applied to the most recently available information.

### Performance Indicators:

#### Direction of travel/benchmarking

Same or better than comparable period/comparator group

**GREEN**

Worse than comparable period / comparator group (within 2% tolerance)

**AMBER**

Worse than comparable period / comparator group (greater than 2%)

**RED**

#### Performance against target

Meeting/Exceeding target

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Performance >2% behind target

### National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, for example educational attainment is compared to county and unitary councils however waste disposal is compared to district and unitary councils.

### North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e. County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland. The number of authorities also varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils.

### Nearest Neighbour Benchmarking:

The nearest neighbour model was developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), one of the professional accountancy bodies in the UK. CIPFA has produced a list of 15 local authorities which Durham is statistically close to when you look at a number of characteristics. The 15 authorities that are in the nearest statistical neighbours group for Durham using the CIPFA model are: Barnsley, Wakefield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Wigan, Kirklees, St Helens, Calderdale, Dudley, Northumberland, Tameside, Sheffield, Gateshead, Stockton-on-Tees and Stoke-on-Trent.

We also use other neighbour groups to compare our performance. More detail of these can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at [performance@durham.gov.uk](mailto:performance@durham.gov.uk).

### Actions:

**WHITE**

Complete (action achieved by deadline/achieved ahead of deadline)

**GREEN**

Action on track to be achieved by the deadline

**RED**

Action not achieved by the deadline/unlikely to be achieved by the deadline

## Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
<b>Altogether Greener</b>											
45	NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	95.7	Jun 2015 - May 2016	95.0	GREEN	96.7	AMBER			
46	NS19	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	38.9	Jun 2015 - May 2016	38.0	GREEN	42.2	RED	43.7	37.58*	2014/15
									RED	GREEN	
47	NS14a	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	5.89	2015/16	7.00	GREEN	5.32	RED	10.00		2014/15
									GREEN		
48	NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	8.18	2015/16	10.00	GREEN	8.87	GREEN	27.00		2014/15
									GREEN		
49	REDPI48	Percentage change in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from local authority operations	-10.40	2014/15	-4.00	GREEN	-9.00	GREEN			
50	REDPI 109	Number of private sector properties benefiting from an energy efficiency measure installed by British Gas through the Warm Up North Partnership	515	2015/16	200	GREEN	404	GREEN			



Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
51	NS04	Percentage of recorded actionable defects on carriageways and footways repaired within 24 hours (category 1)	93	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	95	RED	94	AMBER			
52	NS05a	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 14 working days (category 2.1)	84	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	95	RED	80	GREEN			
53	NS05b	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 3 months (category 2.2)	61	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	95	RED	New indicator	NA			
54	NS05c	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 12 months (category 2.3)	80	2015/16	95	RED	New indicator	NA			

**Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators**

Page 24 Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
<b>Altogether Greener</b>											
167	NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents	7,782	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	7,204	RED	7,674	AMBER			
168	NS09	Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from municipal waste sent to the energy from waste plant	56,575.0	Jun 2015 - May 2016	64,696.0	RED	66,206.0	RED			
169	NS14c	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	1.26	2015/16	1.08	RED	1.08	RED	7.00		2014/15
170	REDPI46	Percentage reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in County Durham	42.0	As at Dec 2013	39.0	GREEN	39.0	GREEN			
171	REDPI47	Amount of renewable energy generation - megawatts equivalent (MWe) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	221.37	As at Jun 2016	220.84	Not comparable [1]	215.72	Not comparable [1]			
172	REDPI49	Number of new registered and approved new feed in tariff installations [2]	122	Apr - Jun 2016	329	RED	374	RED			
173	NS06	Percentage of A roads where maintenance is recommended (scanner survey)	4	2015/16	5	GREEN	5	GREEN	4	4*	2014/15

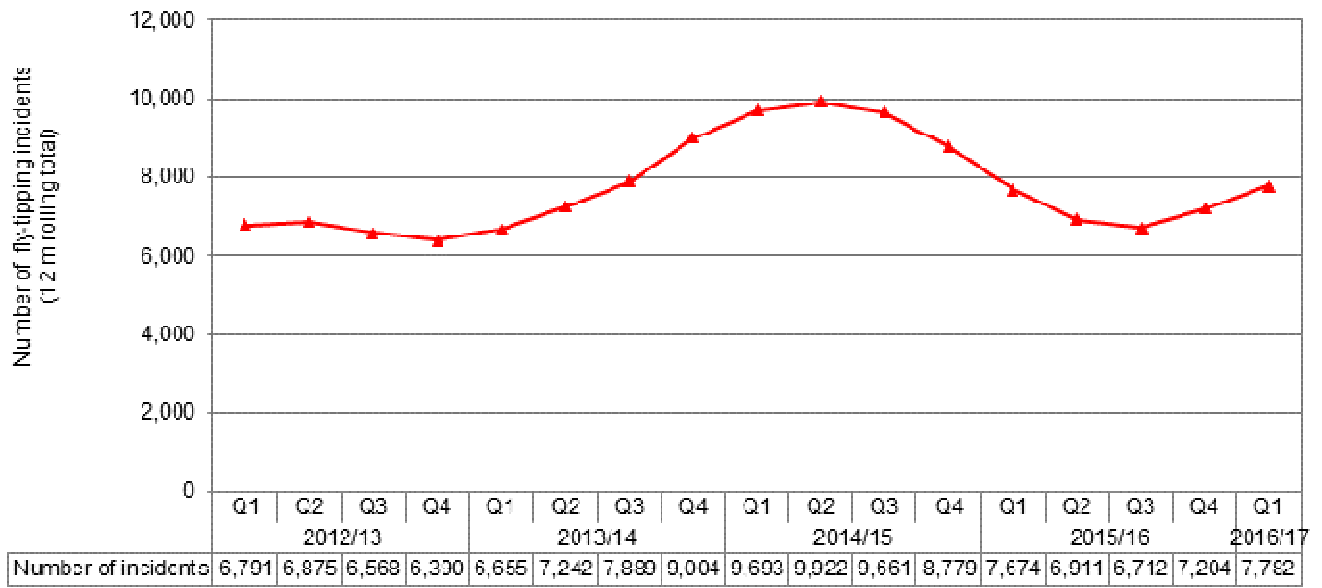
Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
174	NS07	Percentage of B and C roads where maintenance is recommended (scanner survey)	4	2015/16	6	GREEN	6	GREEN	7 GREEN	8* GREEN	2014/15

[\[1\] Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable](#)

[\[2\] Government have made major changes to the tariffs payable which have reduced take up](#)

## Appendix 4: Volume Measures

### Chart 1 – Fly-tipping incidents



**Environment and Sustainable  
Communities Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**



**7 October 2016**

**Winter Maintenance Policy**

**Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director Transformation and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services**

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information in advance of an update presentation on the Winter Maintenance Policy.

**Background**

- 2 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2009 carried out a focused scrutiny review looking at the winter maintenance strategy/service. The review resulted from the severe weather experienced across the UK in 2008/09 following a pro-longed spell of cold weather which exposed weaknesses with existing policies on the supply and stocks of salt.
- 3 During this period, demand for salt outstripped the amount that could be supplied by UK salt suppliers, which left many areas at high risk of running out of salt. The Government was required to intervene in arrangements between Local Authorities and salt suppliers to prioritise distribution in order to keep local road networks functioning. This highlighted the need for Local Authorities to have appropriate plans in place to ensure that such intervention was not necessary should similar circumstances occur in the future. During this period Durham County Council acted as a supplier of salt to a number of Local Authorities who paid the Council for this service as the County Council had adequate supplies.
- 4 The severe weather over the winter of 2008/09 necessitated spending considerably more than in previous years on snow clearing and winter gritting of paths and highways to ensure safe movement, to keep traffic delays to a minimum and that access to emergency facilities was maintained. The Council was not only concerned with the increased costs but the complaints and concerns expressed by organisations, the general public and interested parties in relation to the level of service provided. The report made a number of recommendations which were considered by Cabinet in September 2009 and then incorporated into the Winter Service Plan.
- 5 The following winter of 2009/2010 was the worst winter the country had experienced for 3 decades. During the period December 2009 to March

2010, County Durham was subject to severe weather conditions of sub-zero temperatures and heavy snowfall with temperatures of in excess of -10 degrees C with nine inches of snow falling over the new year weekend which necessitated continuous winter maintenance.

- 6 It was therefore thought appropriate to establish a further scrutiny review group to look at the progress made against the recommendations contained in the winter maintenance strategy/service scrutiny review report. The findings of the review group were considered by Cabinet in May 2010 and resulted in significant amendments to the Code of Practice 'Well Maintained Highways' with these amendments also incorporated into the Winter Maintenance Policy and Operational Plan.
- 7 The Scrutiny Winter Maintenance Service Review report 2010 acknowledged the financial pressures that would affect local government in the future and made the following recommendations:
  - To review the pre-salting routes to include main roads into villages and all bus routes including bus routes to schools.
  - To introduce a salt bin numbering system and to devise a system to record and report when the filling of the salt bin is complete.
  - To review the contracts and conditions of employment for farmers.
  - To discuss with farmers whether they can assist with refuse collection during severe winter weather.
  - To approach all Town and parish Councils regarding entering into a service level Agreement to undertake winter maintenance treatment of agreed priority footways.
  - To discuss with neighbouring local authorities the requirement for a consistent approach to winter maintenance at all boundary crossing points.
  - To liaise with the Housing Associations and Arm's Length Management Organisations (ALMOs) operating within the County to identify where there are significant numbers of older/vulnerable people to ensure they are not isolated in severe winter weather.
  - To further develop the opportunities for the Council to use its well being powers.
  - To further develop the use of the handyperson to undertake winter maintenance for older and vulnerable groups.
- 8 Due to the previous involvement of Overview and Scrutiny in shaping the Winter Maintenance Policy updates have been provided to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the 2013/14 and 2014/15 work programmes. As part of the refresh of the work programme for 2015/16 it was proposed that members receive detail of the delivery of winter maintenance during 2015/16 together with the winter maintenance plans for 2016/17.
- 9 Arrangements have been made for John Reed, Head of Service and Brian Kitching, Highway Asset Manager to attend the meeting on the 7 October 2016 to provide an update for members on the resources used during winter 2015/16 and those available and in place prior to the start of the winter period 2016/17. The presentation will focus on the following:
  - Update on winter 2015/16

- Winter Maintenance Policy – background.
- Treatment routes - Detail – Carriageways Priority 1, Carriageways Priority 2, Snow Routes, footways and cycle ways
- Salt and grit bins – how provided.
- Key facts and figures for 2015/16 including total budget, total salt stocks, number and type of winter equipment available for use (gritters, trailers and snow blowers etc.), salt bins – number of, average salt cost etc.
- How DCC works In Partnership, detail of key partners for 2015/16.
- Plans for winter maintenance 2016/17.

## **Legal responsibility and duty**

10 The Winter Maintenance Policy details the service levels of where and when the Council will provide winter maintenance on the adopted highway in accordance with the national code of practice 'Well-Maintained Highways – Code of practice for Highway Maintenance Management' (the 'Code').

11 The purpose of winter maintenance is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. Winter maintenance involves:

- Pre-treatment – precautionary salting before the formation of ice;
- Post-treatment – continuing salting following the formation of ice;
- Clearance of ice and snow;
- Dealing with continuous severe conditions; and
- Provision of salt and grit bins/heaps.

12 As the Local Highway Authority, the Council is responsible for ensuring the highway network is managed and maintained for the safe and convenient movement of people and goods.

13 The Highways Act 1980 sets out the main duties of the Local Highway Authority in respect of highway maintenance. Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act 1980 (duty of Highway Authority to maintain highway) states : 'In particular, a Highway Authority is under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice'.

14 The Highways Act does not specify the level of winter maintenance although the Code offers guidance in line with national best practice. Given the scale of commitment and other resources involved in delivering winter maintenance the Code recognises that it is not reasonable either to:

- Provide the service on all parts of the adopted highway; or
- Ensure running surfaces are kept free of ice or snow at all times, even on the treated parts of the adopted highway.

The Code expects the Local Highway Authority to formally approve and adopt policies and priorities for winter maintenance and this is the purpose of the Winter Maintenance Policy.

## Objectives of winter maintenance

15 The Winter Maintenance Policy is essential to keep the highway network open for the safe and convenient movement of people and goods. The objectives of winter maintenance are as follows:

- Customer - Meeting user needs and expectations through an efficient, effective and proportionate service.
- Safety - Complying with statutory obligations, meeting user's needs for safety.
- Serviceability – Ensuring availability, maintaining reliability.
- Sustainability – Minimising whole life costs, maximising value to the community and minimising environmental impact.

## Winter Maintenance Policy

16 Durham County Council's Winter Maintenance Policy covers the following:

- **Treatment routes** – it is not practical to treat all parts of the adopted highway. Therefore, in accordance with the Code the Council has criteria for prioritising certain carriageways, footways and cycle ways within the County.
- **Provision of salt and grit bins** – The Council undertakes precautionary salting on only a proportion of the adopted highway network and many minor roads are not treated. In these areas the Council will provide salt and grit bins for the public to use themselves based on objective criteria.
- **Provision of salt and grit heaps** - Salt and grit heaps are provided in rural locations on steep banks and bends for the public to use themselves on a case by case basis.
- **Deployment and response times** – Criteria and response times for precautionary salting, post treatment and clearance of ice and snow (priority 1 routes and minimum winter network), post treatment and clearance of ice and snow (priority 2 routes) and snow routes.
- **Resilience** – Following recent severe winters the Council has improved resilience by increasing salt stocks at the start of the winter maintenance season.
- **Customer Services** – Detail of contact numbers and reporting process.

## Next Steps

17 It is intended that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive a further update informing members of the delivery of winter maintenance during 2016/17 together with detail of winter maintenance plans for 2017/18.

## Recommendations

18 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment upon the information provided in the report and presentation.



19 That an update on the delivery of winter maintenance for 2016/17 and detail of winter maintenance plans for 2017/18 is included in the Environment and Sustainable Communities work programme for 2017/18.

**Background Papers**

Review of the Winter Maintenance Service/Strategy – Scrutiny Review Report- September, 2009.

Review of the Winter Maintenance Service /Strategy – Scrutiny Review Report - May, 2010.

Winter Maintenance Policy 2015/16.

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<b>Author: Diane Close</b>	<b>Tel: 03000 268141</b>
<b>Author: Brian Kitching</b>	<b>Tel: 03000 268099</b>

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**Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance – NA**

**Staffing – NA**

**Risk – NA**

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – NA**

**Accommodation – NA**

**Crime and Disorder – NA**

**Human Rights – NA**

**Consultation – NA**

**Procurement – NA**

**Disability Issues – NA**

**Legal Implications – NA**

**Environment and Sustainable  
Communities Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**



**7 October 2016**

**Environment and Sustainable  
Communities Overview and  
Scrutiny Review - Management of  
the Woodland Estate owned by  
Durham County Council**

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**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation  
and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director,  
Regeneration and Local Services**

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**Purpose**

1. The attached report presents members with an update on the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained within the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review Group report on the management of the woodland estate owned by Durham County Council.

**Background**

2. At a meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 November 2014 members agreed the terms of reference for the review with the aim of the review to investigate how Durham County Council strategically manages its woodland estate and identify any areas for improvement. It was agreed that the review would focus on:
  - Are DCCs current policies, strategies and plans effective in managing the woodland estate?
  - Is partnership working within the County in relation to management of the woodland estate robust?
  - How will DCC fund woodland management in the future including opportunities for income generation?
  - Should DCC be seeking to create new woodland that meets multiple objectives on DCC estate where appropriate?
  - How DCC and partners encourage, engage with and support communities within County Durham to participate in woodland projects and initiatives?
  - DCC's current and future arrangements for the diversification of the woodland estate?
  - How DCC and partners promote biodiversity within the woodland estate?

3. A review group of ten members was established from the membership of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Evidence was gathered over a period of six meetings and two site visits with information from Durham County Council officers from Regeneration and Economic Development (RED) and Neighbourhoods Service Groupings; Forestry Commission; Durham Wildlife Trust (DWT) and Northwoods.
4. The report was considered by Cabinet at the meeting on the 16 September, 2015. At that meeting Cabinet agreed the recommendations contained within the review report which included a recommendation for a six monthly update on the progress against the recommendations contained in the report. The report was shared with the County Durham Environment Partnership Board at the meeting on the 10 December 2015.

### **Recommendations of Review**

5. The review group made the following recommendations:
  - a) That Durham County Council as part of the audit of the woodland estate considers:
    - The future strategic management of the woodland estate.
    - The partnership management approaches adopted by key partners within County Durham such as Durham Wildlife Trust.
    - The development and implementation of a streamlined corporate strategy/policy framework for the management and protection of woodland owned by Durham County Council.
  - b) That Durham County Council maximise the income generation and employment opportunities from timber extraction on existing and potential new sites including consideration of new management models such as those produced by the SIMWOOD project for the marketing and extraction of timber.
  - c) That Durham County Council's procurement process for the letting of timber extraction contracts ensure that:
    - Contracts are advertised to target and maximise interest from the private sector.
    - That in conjunction with the Corporate Procurement Manager the required documentation and process is simplified to make contracts more attractive to private sector companies.
  - d) That Durham County Council maximises the funding opportunities available via the Common Agricultural Policy (Countryside Stewardship Scheme for England) and the European Structural and Investment Fund (Low Carbon Economy Strand) if and when such funding becomes available for the benefit of the Durham County Council woodland estate.

- e) That Durham County Council continues to actively encourage and promote the volunteering opportunities available within the woodland estate via the Durham Community Action's Do-it website, AAPs, Durham County News, Durham County Council Staff (current and former), Resident Organisations, Community Centres and County Council Members.
- f) That Durham County Council ensures that the contact details of the Countryside Service are clearly displayed on community woodland sites for use by the general public and that Durham County Council publicise via factsheets information in relation to the benefits of biodiversity; woodland management and the illegal status of fallen timber taken from the woodland estate.
- g) That a review of this report and progress made against the recommendations will be undertaken six months after the report is considered by Cabinet including as part of this process an update on the progress of the audit of the woodland estate.

### **Current position**

- 6. The attached Action Plan (Appendix 2) provides information on the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the scrutiny review report.

### **Next Steps**

- 7. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the systematic review process will receive a further update of progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report at a future meeting of the committee.

### **Recommendations**

- 8. Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment upon the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report.
- 9. That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further report detailing progress made against the recommendations contained in the scrutiny review report at a future meeting.

### **Background papers:**

Management of the woodland estate owned by DCC Scrutiny Review Report 2015.

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## Appendix 1: Implications

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**Finance** – The report highlights the need for DCC to maximise the funding opportunities for woodlands available via the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the European Structural and Investment Fund via the Low Carbon Economy Strand when funding becomes available. In addition, woodlands present an opportunity to generate income for the Authority which needs to be maximised via timber extraction from the forest estate on appropriately identified sites.

**Staffing** – None

**Risk** – None

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – The necessary Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared concerning the review report.

**Accommodation** – None

**Crime and Disorder** – None

**Human Rights** – None

**Consultation** – None

**Procurement** – In relation to timber extraction contracts for DCC woodland estate the report identifies the need to ensure that contracts are advertised appropriately to maximise interest and target the private sector. The report also identifies the need for the required documentation and procurement process to be simplified to make the contracts more favourable to the private sector.

**Disability Issues** – DCC tries to ensure that community woodlands sites can be accessed by people with disabilities including by the use of mobility scooters. However, some sites have limited access and advice can be given by the Countryside Service as to the accessibility of individual sites.

**Legal Implications** - None

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<b>Review Recommendation</b>	<b>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</b>	<b>Resib'ty</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<p>2. That Durham County Council maximise the income generation and employment opportunities from timber extraction on existing and potential new sites including consideration of new management models such as those produced by the SIMWOOD project for the marketing and extraction of timber.</p>	<p>Discussions underway with several forestry companies for extraction on new sites. Contracts for thinning on a number of sites in progress, £22,000 in income so far. Developing project 'Woodland Return Durham' will mobilise timber onto the markets and stimulate the forestry sector.</p>	SM	2017
<p><b>Review Recommendation</b></p> <p>3. That Durham County Council's procurement process for the letting of timber extraction contracts ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts are advertised to target and maximise interest from the private sector.</li> <li>• That in conjunction with the Corporate Procurement Manager the required documentation and process is simplified to make contracts more attractive to private sector companies.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</b></p> <p>Sales of standing timber are now going through a timber auction company.</p>	<b>Resib'ty</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<p><b>Review Recommendation</b></p> <p>4. That Durham County Council maximises the funding opportunities available via the Common Agricultural Policy (Countryside Stewardship Scheme for England)</p>	<p><b>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</b></p> <p>This is an issue for all areas not currently under management as there will be no new funding agreements issued by the Forestry Commission after</p>	SM	2017



<p>and the European Structural and Investment Fund (Low Carbon Economy Strand) if and when such funding becomes available for the benefit of the Durham County Council woodland estate.</p>	<p>the autumn statement this year. In order to get funding to prepare management plans and get felling licences in place, land has to be registered on the Rural Land Registry which is an extremely time consuming exercise. Alternative arrangements are now being considered to move this process along.</p>	
<p><b>Review Recommendation</b></p> <p>5. That Durham County Council continues to actively encourage and promote the volunteering opportunities available within the woodland estate via the Durham Community Action's Do-it website, AAPs, Durham County News, Durham County Council Staff (current and former), Resident Organisations, Community Centres and County Council Members.</p>	<p><b>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</b></p> <p>Volunteer Durham is a new clearing house for all volunteering opportunities within Culture and Sport and potential new volunteers are signposted to Countryside volunteering through this route. Woodland sites are promoted as part of the countryside estate through the county website.</p>	<p><b>Resib'ty</b></p> <p>Vol Durham (Julie Lavery) Publicity content (April Shelley)</p> <p><b>Timescale</b></p> <p>March 2017 Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Review Recommendation</b></p> <p>6. That Durham County Council ensures that the contact details of the Countryside Service are clearly displayed on community woodland sites for use by the general public and that Durham County Council publicise via factsheets information in relation to the benefits of biodiversity; woodland management and the illegal status of fallen timber taken from the woodland estate.</p> <p>Page 39</p>	<p><b>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</b></p> <p>All Countryside Estate sites have site information in various forms, with contact details for further information. Some sites have online downloadable PDF information regarding site management. These will be increased as resource becomes available.</p>	<p><b>Resib'ty</b></p> <p>Darryl Cox</p> <p><b>Timescale</b></p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	<p><b>Review Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Resib'ty</b></p>	<p><b>Timescale</b></p>
<p>7. That a review of this report and progress made against the recommendations will be undertaken six months after the report is considered by Cabinet including as part of this process an update on the progress of the audit of the woodland estate.</p>				

**Environment and Sustainable  
Communities Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**



7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Waste Programme - Update**

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**Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and  
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local  
Services**

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**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information in advance of the update on the Council's Waste Programme.

**Background**

- 2 The work programme for Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes monitoring the delivery of the Council's waste strategy and performance. This is in relation to the objective of "Delivering a Sustainable Approach to Waste Management" within the Altogether Greener section of the Council Plan.
- 3 This work involves maintaining a sustainable approach to waste management in the face of reducing funding and challenging market conditions, along with monitoring of performance of the existing arrangements and new developments.

**Update**

- 4 An update on the progress of the waste programme will be presented by Alan Patrickson, Head of Projects and Business Services for the information of the committee.
- 5 The introduction of a subscription service for Garden Waste collection was a significant change to this popular service in 2015. The service is now in its second year of operation and this update will present the outcomes from a business and service perspective as well as a forward look to future developments.
- 6 A further update will be provided on the capital programme within the waste management service regarding replacing Thornley waste transfer station and Stainton Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre. Waste transfer stations are an essential link in the chain for waste management logistics, providing a

tip off point for refuse collection vehicles where waste can be bulked into larger vehicles for efficient onward transportation.

- 7 Household waste collection is a central and essential service provided by the Council to every property in the County however it cannot remain static. New housing developments and other changing circumstances mean the service needs to flex from time to time. October 2016 will see some changes to routes in the East of the County, this update will cover the changes being made and the background work to ensure the change is as seamless as possible.
- 8 Finally, with continuing austerity, many councils are looking at changes to their waste management systems, including less frequent collections, in order to reduce costs and increase efficiency. This update will include a brief overview of some of the schemes being considered elsewhere and their applicability for County Durham.

### **Recommendation**

- 9 It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the waste programme update.

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**Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** - None

**Staffing** - None

**Risk** – None

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – There are no equality and diversity issues to be considered as part of this update.

**Accommodation** – None

**Crime and Disorder** - None

**Human Rights** – none

**Consultation** – None.

**Procurement** – None

**Disability Issues** – None.

**Legal Implications** –. None

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**County Durham Environment Partnership Board  
Minutes**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Terry Collins’ Office, County Hall, Durham**

**Apologies**

Tara Duncan - Durham University

**Attendees:**

**Chair:** Terry Collins - Durham County Council

Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust  
 Jamie Fletcher - Environment Agency  
 Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council  
 Ian Houtt - Durham County Council  
 Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council  
 Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council  
 Tim Wright - Durham County Council  
 Jayne Watson - Durham County Council  
 Victoria Burrell - Durham County Council  
 Stella Hindson - Durham County Council  
 Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b>                      The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. Introductions were given.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b>                      Tara Duncan has contacted Liz Charles (Project Co-ordinator) Food/Energy from Durham Community Action (DCA) and Liz is now a member of the Climate Change Group.                      The revised Durham Tourism Plan has been published – Steve Bhowmick to chase this up and provide a link to the document.                      Stella Hindson included the article regarding Julie Form’s contribution to the Environment Partnership and County Durham Partnership in the Spring edition of the newsletter. The terms of reference were circulated by Victoria Burrell and comments received back.                      An expression of interest for the Vice-Chair position was included in the Environment Partnership newsletter.</p>	Steve Bhowmick

	<p>Gordon Elliott is to approach Liz Charles and ask if she is interested in the position of Chair of the Environment in Your Community Group.</p> <p>Bryan Harris electronically circulated sponsorship information to the Group relating to the Environment Awards.</p> <p>Stella Hindson has produced a press release to highlight the Environment Awards.</p> <p>The Vice-chancellor of Durham University has been made aware of the Environment Awards.</p> <p>Ian Hoult reported that the Big Spring Clean had been successful and continues to develop each year.</p> <p>A joint press release (DCC and Durham University) was produced for Earth Hour.</p> <p>A discussion between Gordon Elliott and Oliver Sherratt did not take place regarding information on grants, however this information has been collated.</p>	Gordon Elliott
3.	<p><b>Environment Awards</b></p> <p>Steve Bhowmick reported that the Environment Awards are now open for entries. Steve asked the partners to look at the categories to establish if there are any schemes to be entered. Steve thanked Terry Collins for his editorials and support.</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick to send the link to the Environment Awards page.</p> <p>Steve stated that the current balance of the budget is £8500. Banks Group has provided £2000, Durham Wildlife Trust has given £250, Groundwork has offered £300, Durham County Council has input £5000. Durham University has also provided sponsorship. Marmax has offered prizes. Further responses regarding sponsorship will be reported at the next meeting.</p> <p>The awards launch went live on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and runs to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016.</p> <p>Stella Hindson is to produce further communication relating to the Environment Awards.</p> <p>Steve pointed out that the format of the evening for the awards process was discussed at the previous meeting of the Board which included streamlining the ceremony and refining the judging procedure.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor of Durham University has agreed to attend the Environment Awards ceremony.</p> <p>World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June 2016) – was well supported across the county:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haggrid Project – at Durham City Railway young people from the Haggrid Project worked with Virgin Train staff and DCC staff to hang flowers and plant summer bedding.</li> <li>• Pupils from Gilesgate Primary School and members of the British Legion joined DCC staff to plant a carpet bed on Gilesgate roundabout to commemorate the Battle of the Somme.</li> </ul>	<p>Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>Stella Hindson</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A beach litter blitz was held at Seaham as part of the Reach for the Beach Festival.</li> </ul> <p>The Energy Management in Community Buildings event on 9<sup>th</sup> June was very successful, with 70 people attending. Steve added that next year the Board event must be more coordinated in scheduling dates for launch events.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Environment Partnership Communications</b></p> <p>Stella Hindson circulated copies of the Altogether Greener newsletter (Summer 2016) and gave a brief update of the events and projects taking place including Heritage Open Days which runs from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and National Recycle Week which also takes place in September.</p> <p>All Board members to email Stella with any changes or comments to the newsletter.</p> <p>Jim Cokill to email Stella more information on HLF Landscapes project pipeline workshop.</p> <p>Stella reported that there is one Caring for your Environment Award in progress with Durham University.</p>	Jim Cokill
5.	<p><b>Updates from Group Chairs &amp; Questions</b>  <u>Coastal, Heritage &amp; Landscape Group</u></p> <p>Oliver Sherratt circulated copies of the latest edition of the Coastal, Heritage and Landscape Steering Group newsletter. He gave a brief update of the ongoing projects which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage at Risk – DCC is continuing to work with partners in the development of a new Heritage at Risk Strategy. A programme of works involving the conservation and consolidation of the Scheduled Monuments of Brusselton Incline and The Gaunless Bridge on the Stockton to Darlington Railway Line.</li> <li>• Bright Water Project covering the 200 sq km catchment area of the River Skerne is now underway.</li> <li>• Reach for the Beach – a programme of events and activities along the coast which took place between 28<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June.</li> <li>• Limestone Landscapes project – work has come to an end, residual funds left.</li> <li>• Wildflower Meadows – work ongoing.</li> <li>• Woodlands work ongoing.</li> <li>• HLF landscape project pipeline workshop – a workshop to develop a pipeline of landscape environmental projects across the North East will be held this summer.</li> <li>• War Memorials – a project to help communities discover, care for and conserve their local war memorials.</li> <li>• Land of Oak and Iron – practical work is being</li> </ul>	

- undertaken on the first projects.
- Looking at refreshing the projects and the possibility of new schemes.

#### Environment in Your Communities

Ian Hoult reported that:

- Britain in Bloom is going well, with judging taking place in early August.
- It's Your Neighbourhood Grant Scheme (growing) – trying to push a grant scheme for growing which links into the food network.
- The Growing group is putting together a calendar of events, building on such things as composting. Looking at expanding the Growing group to include members of the Food group.
- Operation Stop It – Flytipping campaign is ongoing.
- Activities taking place with the help of Groundwork.

#### Local Nature Partnership/DEFRA

Jim Cokill provided an update on the work of the Local Nature Partnership which included:-

- Bright Water Project – ongoing work including specialist reports have been produced. There is uncertainty as this project requires match funding (European funding).
- Heritage at Risk Sites – ongoing work with partners.
- Limestone Landscape partnership bid – a project looking at the limestone coast.
- HLF – Jim Cokill has joined their committee.
- The Durham Wildlife Trust's project Kittiwake Cam is a finalist in this year's National Lottery Awards (Environment category) and has a chance to win to help continue their work. Jim to send the link to it to Board members.

Jim Cokill

#### Climate Change Group

Victoria Burrell provided an update of the groups work in the absence of Tara Duncan. Some of the main points being:-

- Building Community Resilience for Sever Weather – The Civil Contingency Unit has produced an annual report for the project (circulated). The project is going well with an upcoming focus on caravan sites and a high profile event is planned for the uniformed youth organisations who have completed the Community Safety Award.
- Community Energy Event held on 9<sup>th</sup> June (as mentioned earlier in the meeting), with 70 people attending. Speakers covered a range of opportunities for community buildings to save money on energy bills and reduce their emissions.
- Modal shift – It has been decided to no longer go

	<p>ahead with this project and will now focus on an initiative as part of the successful North East Combined Authority bid for revenue funding from the Department for Transport's Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund. The aim of the funding is help to cut carbon emissions by reducing congestion through the promotion of sustainable travel. Looking at a wide range of projects to promote walking, cycling and public transport will be delivered in partnership with major employers, schools and local communities focussed on Durham City and Chester le Street. One idea is for an 'in town without my car' day promoting the National Event in Durham City in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorn Lighting – there is a proposal to run a 'Dragon's Den' style event at Thorn Lighting with five secondary schools in the County. There would be a tour of the site and judging of the ideas.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Jim Cokill stated that the LNP has a consultant on board and is looking at ideas and talking to a few partners. Jim to send Terry Collins an invite to speak to the consultant. Steve Bhowmick reported that the County Durham Plan is being refreshed and described work relating to this. The Consultation is running till mid August. Steve to email the link to Board members.</p>	<p>Jim Cokill</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick</p>
7.	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016. 13.00pm to 15.00pm, The Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham.</p>	

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