

**Minutes
Environment Scrutiny Panel**

**21 May 2008
5.30 p.m.
Mayor's Chamber, Town Hall**

Present: Councillors Simpson (in the Chair), Carr, Colledge, Crooks, Mavin, Turnbull and Wilkinson.

Also in Attendance: Councillors Howarth, Kellett, Southwell and Young.

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kelly, Martin, Rae, Wolstenholme and Wynn.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 02 April 2008

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held 02 April 2008 were confirmed as a true record.

3. Scrutiny Topic – Carbon Emissions from the Council's Fleet of Vehicles

- 3.1 The City of Durham's Fleet Manager, John Green was in attendance to explain the Council's position as regards carbon emissions from its fleet of vehicles, how the Council worked to reduce these emissions and to answer any questions Members had on the subject.
- 3.2 The Fleet Manager went through the facts and figures (details attached as Appendix A to these Minutes) obtained from an Audit of the Transport Section carried out in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust, their contribution being 2½ days consultation, free of charge.
- 3.3 It was noted by Members that wherever possible, Council vehicles had been fitted with Continuous Regeneration Traps (CRT) in order to re-burn exhaust gases in order to reduce particulate size. This in turn leads to improved figures relating to emissions. Unfortunately, some of the smaller Fleet vehicles cannot utilise this technology as the system requires an engine temperature over 90°C. It was also noted that whilst this leads to emissions of only 0.03 kg/l of CO₂, the vehicles on average only have a fuel economy of 4 miles per gallon (mpg). Members were informed that there are savings made by the fitting of these traps as there is a rebate on vehicle duty, though this is not applicable to the smaller vans within the Fleet.
- 3.4 The Fleet Manager gave Members further information relating to the 30 tonne reduction of CO₂ by using a 5% blend bio-diesel. The Vice-Chair asked whether the bio-diesel was obtained from a sustainable source, and the Fleet Manager informed Members that it is secured via an Office of Government Commerce (OGC) contract. This is a national contract that supplies bio-diesel to many public sector areas such as the Fire, Police and Ambulance Services as well as to Local Government Authorities. The local depot for the North-East is at Jarrow.

- 3.5 Drivers within the City Council have access to training in relation to aspects of their driving that can help to reduce inefficiencies and to help give better value for money to the Council. Examples of how review and monitoring were given, including examples from a meeting the Fleet Manager attended recently of the Transport Group. One example was how refuse collection routes were being scrutinised to see if there was a possibility of more efficient routes being developed, reducing mileage for these vehicles. A second example was that of how City Care were being asked to look at their call-out procedures to see if there was any possibility of more efficient use of vehicles, perhaps by utilising an additional member of staff. Another example given was how vehicles within Property Services had been noted to have increased mileage, thought to be due to the new procedures for booking out repair jobs (via SX3). This has been addressed and now figures for mileage have returned to acceptable levels.
- 3.6 Members asked whether companies that were operating under Contract for the City Council had their figures for emissions and carbon footprint incorporated into our figures. The Fleet Manager noted that this may be possible to include in the future, but that within their relevant contracts, companies would be obliged to adhere to a standard of sustainability and environmental responsibility. Also the Fleet Manager noted that within the Durham County Council's Waste Strategy there may be many changes based upon the experiences of the seven District Authorities that are fed into the new Unitary Authority.
- 3.7 Members queried the average age of Fleet vehicles and wondered whether this had an impact on emissions. The Fleet Manager explained that the majority of the Fleet vehicles were on average 9 years old. This was slightly skewed by the inclusion of older agricultural vehicles that were only used periodically and that would be impractical to replace on a regular basis, i.e. their amount of wear and tear would not warrant such replacement. The average replacement age for vans was 5 years, with 7 years for refuse vehicles. This is in line with the national average.

4. Scrutiny Topic – Sustainable Procurement Policy

- 4.1 The City of Durham's Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Southwell and Director of Strategic Services, Liz Hall were in attendance to explain to Members aspects of the Council's Procurement Strategy 2007-2010 relating to sustainable procurement.
- 4.2 The Director of Strategic Services gave Members a briefing on the background behind the Council's Procurement Strategy, a copy of which is attached at Appendix B to these Minutes.
- 4.3 Members were informed that the main driver had been the 2005 Sustainable Development Strategy set out by Central Government which aimed to have the United Kingdom being amongst the leaders in the European Union in relation to sustainable procurement by 2009. Many other policies and strategies follow on from this (as set out in Appendix B) and an aspect of the City of Durham response was to produce its Procurement Strategy 2007-2010.
- 4.4 It was noted that the direction given from Central Government was always influenced heavily from the Private Sector. Indeed Sir Neville Simms, a leading

private sector proponent of sustainability was asked to head up the Government's Sustainable Procurement Taskforce.

- 4.5 Members were asked to bear in mind that "sustainability" did not purely refer to environmental concerns, but rather to encompass those alongside economic, social and commercial issues. A balance between these elements must be achieved in order to secure any truly sustainable resource or system. Accordingly, a "whole-life" approach must be taken, rather than a mere concern for the "best" initial cost or perceived environmental benefit. This approach fits with the Council's Corporate Policy of "Working for a cleaner and greener local environment" and is reflected within work with the Local Strategic Partnership and Community Plans.
- 4.6 All City of Durham tenders have a set of criteria relating to sustainability. The process has been made easier for tendering Companies by a harmonisation process that has taken place across the North-East which has led to Contract being much more uniform across Authorities, enabling Companies to focus on achieving higher standards of tenders, rather than wasting resources merely drafting many forms of tender to match wildly varying stipulations.
- 4.7 The City of Durham, within its Sustainable Development Policy, encourages local companies in efforts to minimise their impact on Climate Change. Also the Council has helped in achieving a "Fair-Trade" status for the City and the Council sources many of its goods from fair-trade Suppliers.
- 4.8 Efficiencies have been made by utilising electronic procurement and by working with other Local Authorities in the Durham Virtual Procurement Partnership to secure better quality for the City of Durham. The Council also has a role in providing advice to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in how they can produce efficiencies that can also translate into minimising any impact on the environment.
- 4.9 Using the Local Multiplier 3 (LM3), a tool for calculating local, regional and national impacts of Local Authority spending, it has been possible to determine where the Council is spending its money and enabled a benchmark to be made to enable meaningful measurement of progress in the future. Of the Council's £20.2 million spend in 2006 / 2007; £6.7 million was spent with local Suppliers, i.e. a payment address within the City of Durham. However, it was noted that £11.7 million was spent within the North-East area, demonstrating a commitment to supporting the local economy.
- 4.10 Members were informed that, where appropriate, the Council would use North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) and OGC methods of securing Contracts that not only offered value for money to the Council, but also offered sustainable solutions that could be utilised a local level, i.e. a percentage of a contract should deliver a benefit to the local area, e.g. jobs. The City of Durham has adopted the Durham County Council's Temporary Agency Workers Contracts, which ensures that the level of equality given to those workers providing a service for the Council is the same as if they worked for the Council itself.

- 4.11 The Director of Strategic Services and the Portfolio Holder for Finance both gave specific examples of where the Council had worked to build up relationships with Partners to help achieve the aims of sustainable procurement. It was noted that much of this work was not recent and had in fact had been undertaken over many years working with the other District Authorities and the County Council.

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1 Members noted many of the “teething problems”, as experienced by Residents within their Wards, with the new recycling scheme undertaken by Greencycle. It was noted by the Chair and Vice-Chair that this topic was scheduled for review by the Panel in September / October as agreed in the Panel's previous report on Recycling.

6. Actions for the Next Meeting

- 6.1 In relation to a review of the Council's Neighbourhood Warden Services, that the Council's Technical Manager, Andrew Jackson and Senior Neighbourhood Warden, Belinda Snow be invited to attend the next meeting to give Members information on the changes to the service and how the service will transition into Unitary Local Government.

The Meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.

Report to Environment Scrutiny Panel

21 May 2008

Carbon Footprint – City of Durham Fleet (John Green – Fleet Manager)

The Council operates a fleet of 128 commercial vehicles delivering service throughout the district, along with what is nationally termed as the gray fleet, casual / essential car users.

The Transport Section carried out an Audit in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust in the financial year of 2006/2007 the findings of which are as follows:

Department / Section	Fuel Consumption (litres)	Equivalent CO ₂ (tonne)
Refuse Collection	140626 (diesel)	359
Housing Maintenance	60790 (diesel)	159
Grounds Maintenance	55877 (diesel)	143
Street Cleaning	42733 (diesel)	109
Street Scene	24666 (diesel)	63
Property Services	8221 (diesel)	21
City Care	9219 (diesel) 1184 (petrol)	26
Neighbourhood Wardens	3565 (petrol)	8
City Courier	2728 (diesel)	7
Other	31272 (plant) 658 (petrol)	82
Sub-total	376131	977
Private Cars	-	112
Overall Total	-	1089

The Authority has used bio-diesel since 2004 in a 5% blend, as is the legal norm and equates to a saving to the Council's Carbon Footprint of 30 tonnes per year. National tests are being conducted as to the increase of the blend, though it is noted that currently manufacturer warranties do not cover vehicles that use a blend above 5% as this can lead to "waxing" within the engines.

Upon considering vehicles for purchase all manufacturers are requested for the CO₂ emission ratings and the average miles per gallon for each vehicle. There are monthly meetings with service users, with set terms of reference giving information on legal issues, transport costs, fuel usage / mileage and insurance data.

In house "toolbox" presentations are carried periodically for all fleet Drivers covering legal responsibilities, road worthiness, how to manage work related road safety, and environmental issues.

Recommendations that came from the Audit were:

1. To request miles per gallon and CO₂ emissions details from all vehicle manufacturers when purchasing vehicles.
2. To use real life fuel economy data to feed into the purchasing process.
3. To monitor other Councils' progress in relation to the possibility of using higher percentage bio-diesel fuel blends.

4. To identify “Fuel Champions” from within the service users to develop effective reporting systems.
5. To set fuel targets and create vehicle benchmarks.
6. To raise awareness with Drivers as regards good driving technique and fuel economy.
7. To monitor Fleet mileage by end-user group and set targets for improvement.
8. To establish a baseline, set a global target for reducing transport carbon emissions and devolve targets to individual service areas.
9. To monitor progress being made using a range of performance indicators.

Report to Environment Scrutiny Panel

21 May 2008

Sustainable Procurement (Liz Hall – Director of Strategic Services)

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the issues concerning 'Sustainable Procurement' (SP) as raised by the members of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.
2. Update members regarding the City Council's sustainability achievements and aspirations
3. Update members regarding the joint collaborative arrangements in place between the Durham district councils and Durham County Council to achieve sustainable procurement solutions now and in the future.

Background

The Councils Procurement Strategy outlines the aims of procurement in relation to the social responsibility agenda. It relates to the areas of sustainability and the long-term effects of our procurement practices, environmental management, equality and diversity, fair trade and the Supporting the Local Economy through the Local Multiplier 3 (LM3).

Definition of Sustainable procurement:

"Sustainable Procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits, not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, while minimising damage to the environment."

Procuring the Future (Sustainable Procurement Task Force, June 2006)
(Environment, Economic and Social)

In the 2005 Sustainable Development Strategy, the UK Government stated its ambitious goal to be amongst the leaders in the EU on sustainable procurement by 2009. To enable this to be achieved the Sustainable Procurement Task Force (SPTF), jointly funded by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and HM Treasury, was set up under the direction of Sir Neville Simms a leading private sector proponent of sustainability. The National Action Plan: 'Procuring the Future', delivered its findings and recommendations on 12 June 2006.

The Government's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (SPAP) was published in March 2007 and together with HM-Treasury's 'Transforming Government Procurement', formed the central government response to the recommendations of the industry-led SPTF.

The Local Government Association (LGA) and Communities and Local Government (CLG) have now launched the Local Government Sustainable Procurement Strategy endorsing it to every Authority.

The national group of Local Authority Chief Executives responsible for each of the 9 regional procurement and efficiency partnerships have agreed there will be reference to sustainable procurement development in each regional improvement efficiency strategy (RIES). The Audit Commission have published a consultation paper highlighting the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the Use of Resources 2009, together with the Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) for 2009 assessments which places a strong emphasis on sustainable procurement.

Current Position

There is a perception that sustainability is all about the environment however Sustainable Procurement should consider the environmental, social and economic (Value for people, place & money) consequences of: Design; non-renewable material use; manufacture and production methods; logistics; service delivery; use; operation; maintenance; reuse; recycling options; disposal; and suppliers' capabilities to address these consequences throughout the supply chain.

Sustainable procurement must encompass the whole life costs of the project. When considering procurement options the Council is committed to ensuring that whole-life decisions should involve more than the initial procurement costs or even costs over the life of the building, other asset or product.

One of the Council's key priorities as outlined in the Corporate Performance Plan is 'Working for a cleaner and greener local environment'. As our procurement activities, and those of our suppliers, affect the local environment and have an influence on whether we achieve our sustainable and environmental aims, it is crucial that all procurement activity throughout the Council contributes positively towards this priority.

City of Durham Council through its involvement with the Durham Local Strategic Partnership and the Community Plan acknowledges the importance of educating employers, employees and the broader society as to why sustainability and environmental protection must be central ingredients to economic growth.

The Council aims to ensure that procurement activity contributes positively towards sustainable development and improves the social, economic and environmental benefits for the community as set out in the Corporate Performance Plan.

The Council currently has:

- prepared an Environmental Statement which clearly outlines our commitment
- has produced a Sustainable Development Policy which clearly outlines our position

- addresses sustainability within service business plans, the Corporate Performance Plan and Local Strategic Partnership
- has evaluated whole-life costs and benefits in business cases for all capital projects
- ensures that whole-life costs and benefits are consolidated during contract specification, tendering and evaluation
- has undertaken a Sustainability Appraisal of its Corporate Performance Plan, Capital Strategy and Capital Programme.

The Components of Sustainable Procurement (Environmental)

Most goods procured will have some impact on the environment in one way or another, be it the way it is made, packaged, delivered etc. The Council are continually working to improve how and what is purchased, taking into account the environmental impact and whole-life costs of each solution.

In its dealings with businesses wishing to supply goods or services to City of Durham Council, we lead by example and use direct action, monitoring, education and encouragement to improve the local environment.

We endeavour to ensure that our Suppliers:

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation
- Prevent pollution
- Train and encourage their staff in environmental best practice
- Provide environmental policies or commitments
- Examine their own supply chain and promote environmental awareness
- Investigate the use of reduced packaging and disposable products

During the tender process potential Suppliers are evaluated on contract specific criteria relating to price, quality and “sustainability issues” and ranked accordingly to determine the most economically advantageous tender. The harmonised suite of Contract Documents as developed by all the North East authorities in conjunction with the NECE has helped in this regard. This suite of documents has streamlined and standardised the tender process for Suppliers across the region and has been so successful that it has also been endorsed nationally by all 9 Regional Centres of Excellence (RCE).

The City of Durham Council has developed a Sustainable Development Policy. Sustainable Development has been defined as, “*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*” (United Nations, Department Of Economic And Social Affairs).

An important part of Sustainable Development to encourage local partnerships between communities, businesses and the Authority, in order to address the much wider and often overwhelming global issues of Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

City of Durham Council is committed to the implementation of Sustainable Development through our procurement practices, and to providing assistance and support to local firms. There are a number of areas in which we strive to achieve this, including:

- **Fair Trade**

The term “Fair Trade” covers a variety of activities aimed at helping producers and workers in developing countries receive a fair price for their products. In the UK, goods sourced from the developing world bear a FAIRTRADE certification label where they meet internationally recognised standards of fair trade.

- **Technology**

The Council, as part of its adoption of e-Procurement and electronic invoicing / payment works with Suppliers in their e-enablement processes ensuring that the electronic solution selected by the Council is accessible to small and medium sized enterprises (SME’s). We endeavour to educate SME’s of the benefits of doing business electronically, for example in resources saved and reduced invoicing costs.

- **Access to information about doing business with the Council**

The Council’s website has a “How to do business with the Council” guide which explains how Suppliers and contractors can do business with the Council. The guide is being updated to include access to the Procurement Strategy, procurement policies, and contact details for various members of the Procurement Team in the various service areas.

- **Realistic Contract Awards**

City of Durham Council undertakes detailed Supplier appraisals as part of the tender / quotation process. This ensures that contracts are not awarded to firms who would be overexposed if that contract was terminated. In the interest of the development and sustainability of local businesses, the Council ensures that contracts awarded are realistic according to the ability of the Supplier to fulfil their obligations according to that contract.

- **Supplier Performance Management**

A Supplier Performance Management System is being developed by City of Durham Council. This will provide a formal method by which the Council can judge the performance of a Supplier, and the perceptions of the Supplier towards the Council. The system will allow the Council to provide feedback on the performance of the Supplier in areas such as:

- Delivery targets
- Customer service
- Issue resolution
- Adherence to contract terms

- **Feedback to unsuccessful Suppliers**

In order to assist the development of local firms, City of Durham Council provides written feedback to firms who have been unsuccessful after providing a quotation or tender. Where relevant, information is provided to the potential Supplier detailing any assistance available to them through the City Council's own Economic Development Team or external bodies, as well as details of suitability for any future City Council opportunities. It is the aim of the Council that unsuccessful firms are able to use this feedback to improve future submissions to the Council or other awarding bodies, and thus assist in the development of those firms.

The Components of Sustainable Procurement (Economic)

Where and how the Authority spends money can have Local, Regional and National impacts. A simple evaluation tool called LM3 (Local Multiplier 3) has been developed by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) for use in determining a benchmark.

The LM3 tool enables local authority's to measure how much their organisation or initiative impacts on the local economy. LM3 measures three rounds of spend - how money enters, how it is spent, and how it is re-spent.

The North East Centre of Excellence (NECE) has supported a regional LM3 project and 24 authorities, including the City of Durham, have undertaken this piece of work. Analysis of payments made through the Council's payments system for 2006/07 identified spend of £20.2m of which £6.7m was spent with local Suppliers (i.e. a payment address in the City of Durham), and £13.5m with companies outside the local area.

Almost £11.7m of spend was within the North East. These impressive results were reported to Cabinet in November 2007 and demonstrate our commitment to supporting the local economy.

Due to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) the next steps are to work with the other County Durham District Councils and the County Council Procurement and Economic Development Service Areas to stimulate regeneration and growth where gaps are identified. This includes improved ways of engaging with Small, Medium Enterprises (SME's) and the Third Sector, (Voluntary and Community Organisations VCO's) and also regionally across the North East.

Initiatives such as supporting the "Harmonisation of Contract Documents" project as mentioned above will help to further break down the barriers for SME's and VCO's to doing business with the council.

The Components of Sustainable Procurement (Social)

Procurers have a social responsibility at Local, National & International level, in ensuring businesses that we purchase from are acting in a responsible way to the people they employ. For example do they treat their Employees to the same standards as City of Durham regarding Equality & Diversity? The adoption of both the NEPO and Durham County Council Temporary Agency Workers Contracts by the City Council are examples of a procurement which fulfils these criteria.

The contract ensures that workers supplied from the Agencies receive a level of pay determined by the Council appropriate to the level of work they are engaged to provide.

We currently promote the use of Fair-Trade products helping producers and workers in developing countries receive a fair price for their products. In the UK, goods sourced from the developing world bear a FAIRTRADE certification label where they meet internationally recognised standards of fair trade. City of Durham Council endeavours to support fair trade by encouraging Fair-Trade companies to bid for contracts where relevant.

Flexible Framework

The SPTF identified the need for an overarching approach to assist organisations understand and take steps needed at an organisational and process level to improve procurement practice and to make sustainable procurement happen. A 'Flexible Framework' (five by five matrix) was developed which identifies 5 key themes of People; Policy; Strategy & Communications; Procurement Processes; Engaging Suppliers and Measurement & Results.

There are also five levels, 1 Foundation; 2 Embed; 3 Practice; 4 Enhance and 5 Lead. The Task Force is suggesting that all councils should aim to achieve Level 3 in 2009 and be at Level 5 in at least one area.

"Quick Wins" are one part of the Flexible Framework. The 'Quick Wins' are a set of minimum environmental standards covering a range of commonly-purchased goods, including IT equipment, white goods, paper and construction materials. The standards relate to characteristics such as energy consumption, recycled content, and biodegradability. LGR provides an opportunity to review contracted products in each Council against the Quick Win standards in order to identify areas of budget and resource implications for the new Authority in 2009.

Next Steps

Sustainable Procurement sits at the 'heart' of the authority as it involves and impacts upon all functions, disciplines and service areas.

Sustainable Procurement contributes to the long-term integrated economic social and environmental well-being of our communities. It clearly delivers genuine Value for Money for Citizens and helps to build resilient communities for better public health, social, local economic and environmental outcomes. Such work helps to reduce environmental harm particularly linked to climate change and reduces the financial cost that arises from unnecessary waste, poor resource use and demand management.

Developing a sustainable development approach as part of collaborative working at regional, sub-regional and local levels has a positive role to play in place shaping to improve the prosperity and vitality of our communities. It will help maximise the positive contribution of all sectors (Public, Private and Third Sector) can make to the delivery of services to improve the quality of life for all communities.

The Council acknowledges the importance for Councils to work together to combine their buying power, to procure or commission goods, services or works jointly or to create shared services. In order to develop procurement in the County Durham region the Durham Procurement Partnership Forum (DPP) was established. This Forum is attended by a representative who has a senior role in the procurement function from each of the District Councils and the County Council. The Strategic Projects Manager attends on behalf of the City of Durham Council.

The remit of the Forum is to share best practice, identify areas of possible collaboration, develop a shared approach to supplier take-on and meet regional objectives, with an aim to enhancing the procurement activity ongoing within each Council. Easington District Council's Head of Corporate Procurement is involved with the Sustainability agenda nationally and is a member of the Group. He sits on the National Sustainable Procurement Stakeholder Group who are looking at Whole Life Costing (WLC) methodologies and models for key commodities including development of a set of metrics for new and more effective ways of valuing / evaluating tender submissions.

Following endorsement by the Strategic Procurement Network (SPN) to undertake a Sustainable Procurement baseline assessment, the NE IEP formally NECE are proposing to carry out a study across all North East Councils. The assessment will engage the key strategic leads across Policy / Strategy, Regeneration, Sustainable Development and Strategic Procurement at each authority. The City of Durham will be actively involved in this work.

Sustainable Procurement potential:

- Community Benefits & Enhancing Wellbeing
- Collaborative, Partnership & 'Use of Resources'
- Health's 'Corporate Citizen' Agenda
- Business Sector's Corporate Social Responsibility
- Economic, Regeneration & Sustainability strategies
- Social Cohesion, Equality & Diversity
- 3rd Sector Public Service Delivery
- Environmental, Spatial and Rural strategies
- Waste Strategies
- Health Improvement Strategies
- Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative
- LAA's, LSP's and LEGI's

Integrating sustainable development into performance management processes will:

- Help the Authority to deliver its duty to progress environmental, social and economic well-being
- Help the Authority achieve an excellent CPA assessment
- Help the Authority assess and manage risks more effectively
- Help the Authority progress joined up service delivery
- Help Authority deliver value for money and efficiency improvements
- Help the Authority improve Partnership working
- Help the Authority to deliver the Government's SP strategy 'Securing the future' and the CLGs Sustainable Communities agenda

The City of Durham Council recognises that good procurement practices lead to sustainable procurement which benefits society as a whole and will continue to strive for further improvement to achieve this end.

Examples of City of Durham Sustainable Procurement

- **North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) Stationary Contract:**

Value for Money (VFM) achieved by use of NEPO stationary contract. The Supplier, Lyreco, is a large international company; however Community benefits have been achieved as local depot in North East employees approximately 80 people due to the extra volume of business generated by the NE Local Authorities using the contract. Combined orders are placed by our purchasing staff avoiding small orders to keep transportation mileage to a minimum.

- **NEPO – Printer and Copier Paper Contract:**

The City of Durham uses this contract which ensures a balance between VFM and sustainability is achieved. Paper from sustainable sources and recycled paper are covered under this contract. Delivery can be made in bulk to our stores reducing transportation mileage.

- **Office Furniture Contract:**

A collaborative procurement by the Durham Virtual Procurement Partnership (DVPP) involving five of the Durham District Councils. VFM achieved and community benefits realised as Albany is a NE based company. Products available made from recycled materials and also from sustainable sources.

- **Multi Functional Devices (MFD) Contract:**

Contract for use of MFD's has resulted in cashable efficiency savings (2006/07 £36,000) and environmental benefits have been achieved. Desk top printers have been removed (no printer cartridges required) and MFD's cater for office printing and copying requirements.

- **Cleaning and Janitorial Products Contract:**

The City of Durham now uses the Durham County Council contract which ensures VFM and products specified have been fully tested and approved by the County Council to minimise harm to the environment.

- **Green Recycling Bags for Household:**

The collaborative procurement across the district of recycling bags to enable householders to recycle their waste.

- **NEPO Energy Contract:**

Gas and Electricity is purchased via the NEPO framework which is recognised regionally as the most efficient and value for money approach.

- **Office of Government Commerce – Buying Solutions (OGC) Fuel Contract:**

The City of Durham uses this contract for the supply of fuel for fleet vehicles. Achieves VFM and is a nationally recognised contract. Also Bio-fuel is used for some vehicles.

- **OGC Mobile Phones Framework:**

The City of Durham uses this contract for the supply of mobile phones and PDA's. Achieves VFM and obsolete equipment is recycled.

- **OGC IT Equipment Framework:**

The City of Durham uses this contract for the supply of IT equipment. Achieves VFM and obsolete equipment is recycled.

- **Refurbishment of Community Centres:**

The Property Services Department are involved with projects to refurbish Community Centres at Bowburn and Coxhoe. Grant funding is available to enable feasibility studies and energy audits to be carried out so that the most appropriate technology is incorporated into each project and consideration is given to renewable energy solutions. The projects will provide a balance between VFM and environmentally friendly technology.

- **Disabled Stir Lifts Maintenance Contract:**

This contract stipulates that redundant installations are recycled. The equipment is removed, refurbished and reinstalled in other properties as required.

- **External Access Ramps for the Disabled:**

This contract caters for modular components which can be reconfigured and reused at other locations when the requirement no longer exists at the original property.

- **Supply and Fit of Windows & External Doors Contract:**

Local contractors are used for the installation of windows and doors. Windows are also manufactured within the North East. The old windows and doors removed from council properties are recycled. The glass and ironmongery is removed from the timber frames allowing each component to be recycled individually

- **Replacement Central Heating to Council Properties Contract:**

A local Contractor undertakes the installation work for this high value contract. Redundant pipe work, boilers and radiators are recycled. New High efficiency condensing combination boilers are installed.

The above examples demonstrate the diversity of sustainable procurement and its application by the City of Durham Council.