

CABINET

Thursday, 19 October 2006

10.00 a.m.

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

AGENDA and REPORTS

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যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান অথবা যদি আপনার একজন ইন্টারপ্রেটারের প্রয়োজন হয়, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

本文件可以翻譯為另一語文版本，或製作成另一格式，如有此需要，或需要傳譯員的協助，請與我們聯絡。

यह दस्तावेज़ यदि आपको किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये, या आपको आनुवाद-सेवाओं की आवश्यकता हो तो हमसे संपर्क करें

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਸਮਝਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰੈਟਰ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

یہ دستاویز اگر آپ کو کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہو، یا اگر آپ کو ترجمان کی خدمات چاہئیں تو براۓ مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کیجئے۔

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Democratic Services



01388 816166

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To notify the Chairman of any items that appear in the agenda in which you may have an interest.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2006. (Pages 1 - 6)

KEY DECISION

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

4. DISABLED PERSONS ADAPTATIONS

Report of Director of Housing. (Pages 7 - 10)

MINUTES

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

To consider the minutes of the following:

- (a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 - 12th September 2006 (Pages 11 - 14)
- (b) Overview & Scrutiny Committee 3 - 26th September 2006 (Pages 15 - 20)

6. AREA FORUMS

To consider the Minutes of the following:

- (a) Area 4 Forum - 19th September 2006 (Pages 21 - 28)
- (b) Area 5 Forum - 26th September 2006 (Pages 29 - 34)

EXEMPT INFORMATION

The following item is not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. As such it is envisaged that an appropriate resolution will be passed at the meeting to exclude the press and public.

OTHER DECISION

LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

7. REVIEW OF CATERING SERVICES - GREEN LANE AND CHILTON DEPOT

Report of Director of Leisure Services. (Pages 35 - 40)

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lead Members are requested to inform the Chief Executive or the Head of Democratic Services of any items they might wish to raise under this heading by no later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting. This will enable the Officers in consultation with the Chairman to determine whether consideration of the matter by the Cabinet is appropriate.

B. Allen
Chief Executive

Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
11th October 2006

Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong, Mrs. B. Graham, A. Hodgson, M. Iveson, D.A. Newell, K. Noble, R.A. Patchett and W. Waters

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Item 3

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CABINET

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Thursday,
5 October 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor R.S. Fleming (Chairman) and

Councillors Mrs. B. Graham, M. Iveson, D.A. Newell, K. Noble,
R.A. Patchett and W. Waters

In

Attendance: Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. K. Conroy,
V. Crosby, Mrs. A.M. Fleming, A. Gray, J.G. Huntington, B. Meek,
Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Smith, Mrs. I. Jackson Smith and T. Ward

Apologies: Councillors Mrs. A.M. Armstrong and A. Hodgson

CAB.79/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members had no interests to declare.

CAB.80/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**CAB.81/06 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2006 (KEY DECISION)**

Consideration was given to a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Local Development Scheme (LDS) was a public statement of the Council's programme for the production of Local Development Documents (LDDs), which would form part of the Local Development Framework. It set out the documents, which the Council intended to prepare and the timetable for their preparation.

Members noted that although the Local Development Scheme would not be subject to public comment or independent examination, the Planning Inspectorate would be consulted on the draft LDS and it would be submitted to the Government Office for the North East for scrutiny and approval before the Council could adopt it.

RESOLVED : *That the Local Development Scheme be endorsed and formally submitted to the Secretary of State (represented by Government Office for the North East) for approval and at the same time to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to enter into a Service Level Agreement.*

CAB.82/06 SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - MAJOR ALLOCATIONS DRAFT SEARCH SEQUENCE AND DETAILED ASSESSMENT (KEY DECISION)

Consideration was given to a report regarding the above. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Local Development Framework would contain a Major Allocations Development Plan Document, which would set out the location of all major housing and employment development across the Borough to 2021.

The draft Search Sequence and Detailed Assessment had been developed to assess all potential housing sites against the aims of the Local Development Framework. It would identify all major constraints and opportunities that may apply to each of the potential housing sites. If there were any significant adverse impacts that could be satisfactorily overcome or alleviated, then the particular site would be deemed unsuitable for residential development. To date the Council had received 112 representations for sites to be considered for housing development.

Members noted that an informal consultation exercise on the draft Search Sequence and Detailed Assessment would be undertaken to ensure that the statutory consultation bodies and development industry were given the opportunity to fully engage in the location of future development and were able to suggest additional criteria.

RESOLVED : That the Draft Search Sequence and Detailed Assessment be endorsed and published for consultation.

CAB.83/06 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (KEY DECISION)

The Leader of the Council presented a report regarding the above Plan. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the Organisational Development Plan had been developed via a series of focus groups, interviews and discussions with directors, managers, elected members, officers and trade union representatives. It drew together the development of the Council's employees and elected members and assisted in matching human resources with the demands placed upon the Council through the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan ambitions.

The Plan incorporated key national and local issues and drivers, a summary of findings against 5 key themes and identified actions to address the findings. The five key themes were: Management Development, Planning, Performance Management, Communication and Member Development. Each theme had an identified Lead, drawn from the four Directors and the Chief Executive. Strategic responsibility for the Plan at elected member level, would be provided by the Leader of the Council, within the Strategic Leadership portfolio.

Members noted that the budget for organisational and member development for 2006/07 was £40,000 and £20,000 respectively.

RESOLVED

1. *That approval be given to the assignment of a Lead Director for each theme and for the actions contained within the five themes to be implemented.*
2. *That the Organisational Development Plan be cascaded appropriately by Heads of Service to other managers within their departments to promote awareness and responsibility for ensuring its implementation and success.*
3. *That resources be allocated via departmental Training and Development budgets to ensure the Organisational Development Plan succeeds in raising the capacity of the Council's workforce to meet its corporate priorities.*
4. *That the Resources Plan (Appendix 7 of the Organisational Development Plan) be used as a tool within all Service Improvement Plans to inform workforce analysis and decision making, succession planning and emerging business development opportunities impacting on the required skills, competencies, composition and structure of departments.*

CAB.84/06

CPA - DISTRICT COUNCIL FRAMEWORK FROM 2006

The Leader of the Council presented a report setting out details of the new framework for District Council Comprehensive Performance Assessment from 2006 through to 2008. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that under the new CPA framework, re-categorisation of District Councils would only be considered if Councils could demonstrate that performance was significantly better than that identified in the original Corporate Assessment or where there was evidence of significant deterioration in either service or corporate performance

Decisions on whether or not to undertake re-categorisation activity would be made regionally by Audit Commission panels, which would include council peer representatives and out of region Audit Commission staff.

It was noted that priority would be given in the first instance to those Councils where there was evidence of deteriorating performance. Priority would subsequently be given to Councils in the poor or weak categories where there was evidence of significant improvement and where requests had been made for re-categorisation.

Members noted that although the Council had improved its performance since its CPA assessment in 2003 when it scored 'good', it was difficult

given the above priorities to seek re-categorisation as an 'excellent' authority.

- RESOLVED :**
1. *That the Council builds the CPA Performance Indicators into its performance management system and reports progress against those CPA indicators to each Strategic Working Group.*
 2. *That CPA Performance Indicators activity be addressed via the Heads of Service Group to ensure that service performance information was effectively co-ordinated and managed at Head of Service level.*
 3. *That a Direction of Travel statement be completed to reflect and report on the progress the Council had made against its key ambitions.*
 4. *That clear links be maintained (through the Council's Direction of Travel and Use of Resources work) between the Council's priorities/ambitions and the delivery of efficiency/value for money arrangements.*

**CAB.85/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT -
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

Consideration was given to a schedule detailing the Cabinet's response to the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Review Group and the proposed actions. (For copy see file of Minutes)

RESOLVED : *That the schedule be agreed.*

CAB.86/06 AREA FORUMS

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the following :

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Area 1 Forum | - | 4 th September 2006 |
| Area 2 Forum | - | 5 th September 2006 |
| Area 3 Forum | - | 13 th September 2006 |

(For copies see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : *That the reports be received.*

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: *That in accordance with Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1,2 and 9 of Schedule 12a of the Act.*

CAB.87/06 TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES - PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING

The Lead Member for Learning and Employment presented a report outlining proposals for restructuring the Council's Training and Employment Services Section. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the recommendations detailed in the report be adopted.

CAB.88/06 PROPOSED ORGANISATION OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Consideration was given to a report outlining proposals for revising the staffing structure of the Council's Development Control Team. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RESOLVED : That the recommendations detailed in the report be adopted.

CAB.89/06 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 - UPDATE/REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report, which gave an update on changes to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act legislation and any amendments that would affect the Council as a result. (For copy see file of Minutes)

The report also outlined the conclusions of the second triennial inspection and gave details of the introduction of a revised draft Code of Practice for the Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data.

RESOLVED : That the recommendations detailed in the report be adopted.

Published on 6th October 2006.

Any key decisions contained in these Minutes will be implemented on Monday 16th October 2006 five working days after the date of publication unless they are called in by three Members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call in procedure rules.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Item 4

KEY DECISION

REPORT TO CABINET

19TH OCTOBER 2006

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DISABLED PERSONS ADAPTATIONS

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, requires Social Service authorities who receive initial applications for either equipment or adaptations to arrange assistance for the provision of applicant needs if necessary, hence it is normal for other organisations, such as a local housing landlords, to receive recommendations for work to be undertaken in relation to its own stock.
- 1.2 In recent years demand for the DPA service has far outreached the available budget. Indeed during the 2006/07 Budget round an additional £303,000 was allocated.
- 1.3 However the agreed budget of £735,000 will be exhausted by the end of September, resulting in the build up of a further backlog of work, if additional funding is not secured.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That an additional £300,000 be made available from Housing Revenue Account balances in order to ensure that all applications for adaptations can be dealt with for the remaining months of 2006/07.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 Durham County Council Occupational Therapy Service is responsible for the assessment of the needs of Sedgefield residents with physical disabilities and for providing them with advice, information and where necessary making arrangements for them to receive appropriate equipment or adaptations. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, requires Social Service authorities to arrange assistance, hence it is normal for other organisations, such as a local housing landlords, to receive recommendations for work to be undertaken in relation to its own stock.

3.2 During 2005/06, £432,000 was allocated from the Repairs and Maintenance Budget and whilst that was a significant sum it left the department facing a backlog of work to the value of £485,00 at the end of March 2006. To assist in dealing with this problem the DPA budget for 2006/07 was increased to £735,000. However the agreed budget of £735,000 will be exhausted by the end of September if additional funding is not secured, with the consequence that we would commence next year (2007/08) with a projected 'back log' of work to the value of £271,000.

3.3 The 2006/07 budget of £735,000 has been utilised as follows:-

Backlog - £69,300 per month April – October	£485,100
New requests for work £43,200 per month April – September	£271,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£756,300

3.4 In order to address this situation, and permit the Department to continue to address the demand being received it is estimated following meetings with colleagues from Social Services that an additional budget sum of £300,000 is needed this year. That additional injection of monies would permit the Housing Department to deal with the estimated demand for the remainder of this year within the agreed timescales for service delivery.

3.5 A review of this service was undertaken and reported to Management Team in February this year, key recommendations from that review have subsequently been incorporated into the Housing Department Service Improvement Plan. The allocation of additional funding for 2006/07 will provide an opportunity to review the budgetary needs of this element of our service, without the negative impact of an operational backlog from 2007/08 onwards.

3.6 The increased budget this year, 2006/07 (£735,000) has allowed us to eliminate the backlog and deal with requests received since April 2006 within the agreed time scales for the work. The allocation of an additional sum of £300,000 will result in that position being maintained.

3.7 The HRA has a contingency sum of £414,400 for 2006/07 however at this stage of the financial year it has been assumed that the balance on the contingency sum, after accounting for the costs of the job evaluation exercise, will be fully utilised during the year. Therefore any additional funding would need to be allocated from HRA balances currently estimated to be £4.558m at the end of 2006/07.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 No consultation issues have been identified in the preparation of this report.

5. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATAIONS

5.1 Links to Corporate Objectives/Values

The contents of this report support the community outcome of promoting independent living.

5.2 Risk Management

There are no specific factors to take into account.

5.3 Health and Safety

No additional implications have been identified.

5.4 Equality and Diversity

There are no specific factors to take into account.

5.5 Legal and Constitutional

There are no specific factors to take into account.

Contact Officer: Martin Smith
Telephone Number: 01388 816166 Ext. 4421
E-mail address: msmith@sedgefield.gov.uk

Wards: All Wards

Key Decision Validation: Expenditure over £100,000

Background Papers: Not applicable

Examination by Statutory Officers:

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Item 5a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday, 12
September 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor J.E. Higgin (Chairman) and

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T.F. Forrest, D.M. Hancock, G.M.R. Howe,
J.P. Moran, K. Thompson, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P

Tenant Representatives

Mrs. M. Thomson

In

Attendance: Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby, Mrs. A.M. Fleming, A. Gray,
B. Hall, B. Meek, G. Morgan, A. Smith and Mrs. I. Jackson Smith

Apologies: Councillors J. Burton, Ms. M. Predki and J. Robinson J.P

OSC(2).5/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members had no interests to declare.

OSC(2).6/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Specific reference was made to the request to consider the implementation of tracking devices to all Council vehicles.

The Chairman of the Committee read out a statement in response to the evaluation of the installation of Tracking Systems. It was explained that there was too significant a fleet covering all directorates, therefore it would be inappropriate for one Directorate to evaluate and consider the introduction of such a system. Consideration could only be taken if the Council decided corporately to undertake a review of the fleet management, which at this present time was not possible.

OSC(2).7/06 HOUSING DEPARTMENT SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

M. Smith, Business Development Manager, Housing Services attended the meeting to give a presentation on Housing Department's Service Improvement Plan, outlining actions that had been achieved and would be undertaken for the duration of the plan. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was pointed out that the Housing Departments Service Improvement Plan (SIP) was developed from a gap analysis of the Audit Commission's Key Line of Enquiries (KLOE) to drive forward quality services and to

provide focus and structure to service improvements for a period of 4 years.

Members were informed that each KLOE represented sets of questions, which contained 3 overarching themes with the rest concentrating on the specific service area. At the time the SIP was produced 8 landlord specific KLOE's were included, which were then reviewed under further development of the SIP. The review process included consultation with customers, staff and elected members, refinement of the number of actions that had previously been included and identified a number of potential service improvements.

The development of the Strategic SIP and the activities to be completed, which were structured around seven key themes were also outlined, including the time frame for completion of the activities.

Detailed discussion was held regarding the Decent Homes Standards and the targets the Council was aspiring to meet.

Agreed: That Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 receive the report.

OSC(2).8/06 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - ACTUAL OUTTURN 2005/2006

Consideration was given to Performance Indicators actual outturn 2005/2006 (for copy see file of Minutes) relating to the Community Health, Leisure and Culture, Housing and Safer Communities portfolios.

It was explained that the targets had been set by Strategic Working Groups and the report identified how outcomes had performed against those targets.

The comments of the responsible officer for particular targets were identified in the report and gave explanations on individual results.

Discussion was held regarding the limited number of Performance Indicators that had set targets. It was pointed out that almost half of the Performance Indicators were below the national average. G. Darby pointed out that the overall trend was improving, however, those Performance Indicators missing their targets would be identified with any necessary improvements being made.

It was also pointed out that there were too few Performance Indicators targeting value for money and that further local Performance Indicators should be developed to target that.

Agreed: That the information be noted.

OSC(2).9/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - STREET SAFE INITIATIVE REVIEW GROUP

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee detailing Cabinet's response and Action Plan following its consideration and recommendations arising from work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Street Safe Review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Committee was reminded that the review had originally been undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3, however due to the portfolio changes Street Safe was now the responsibility of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2.

Agreed:

1. That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations of the review together with the implementation timetable outlined.

2. That progress on the action plan be reviewed in three months.

OSC(2).10/06 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Committee was updated on the progress of each of the Review Groups Provision of Affordable Housing and Leisure Centre Concessionary Fares.

AGREED : That the Committee's Work Programme be approved.

OSC(2).11/06 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings held on 3rd April and 5th June, 206 were considered and noted. (For copies see file of Minutes).

OSC(2).12/06 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT CCTV Camera

Concerns were raised regarding the operation of CCTV equipment across the Borough. Members felt that they were not cost-effective and requested that an officer with responsibility and the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities be invited to the next meeting.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Item 5b

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
26 September 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

- Present:** Councillor Mrs. B. A. Clare (in the Chair) and
Councillors D.R. Brown, G.C. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, K. Henderson,
M.T.B. Jones, A. Smith and Mrs. C. Sproat
- Invited to attend:** Councillor R. A. Patchett
- In Attendance:** Councillors A. Gray, B. Hall, D.M. Hancock, J.E. Higgin, J.G. Huntington,
J.M. Khan, J.P. Moran and T. Ward
- Apologies:** Councillors B.F. Avery J.P, V. Crosby and Mrs. L. Smith

OSC(3)7/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No declarations of interest were received.

OSC(3)8/05 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th July, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was pointed out that at that meeting discussion on the cleansing of Woodham Burn related to one specific area from Greenfield Way to Stephenson Way.

OSC(3)9/05 OPERATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COUNCIL'S TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.
Shaun Meek, Training Services Manager, attended the meeting to give a presentation in respect of the Operation and Achievements of the Council's Training and Employment Services.

The presentation gave an overview of the work of the Section, put into context what the Section was trying to achieve and how the Section was responding to changes in Government policy.

It was explained that the Training and Employment Services was originally part of the Personnel Section of the Council but had subsequently been transferred to the Strategy and Regeneration Section of the Council. The rationale behind this move was that regeneration was not merely about physical regeneration but also raising the social aspects of an area, including improving the basic skills levels of the community to deal with unemployment.

The Training and Employment Service was a non statutory service and was not provided by a number of other Councils. It had been established

in the 1980s in response to the unemployment situation in the area at that time and at the request of Manpower Services Commission.

Members were informed that the service was self-financing and did not rely on funding from the Borough Council. Income was generated from external contracts with Job Centre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council.

It operated in a competitive environment with competition from other organisations and institutions such as colleges, schools etc.

With regard to finance, the service operated a trading account which allowed surpluses to be carried forward to the next financial year and enabled investments to be made. It also allowed balances to be used to smooth out difficult times.

Training and Employment Services were traditionally involved in work - based learning, i.e school leavers who did not go on to further education and wished to pursue Modern Apprenticeships. Most of its work was now with the unemployed, i.e those claiming Job Seeker's Allowance and the jobless, i.e those not claiming any form of benefit.

In addition to those areas, it was now involved in two new initiatives:

- Train for Gain scheme, and
- A project involving Year 10 and 11 pupils.

The Train for Gain Scheme concentrated on raising skills levels in the workplace to Level 2 and offering incentives to employers to encourage employees to participate. The project involving Year 10 and 11 pupils offered the opportunity for training, particularly in engineering, at Shildon workshops. To date 100 young people had taken part in the project which had given them the opportunity to work on up-to-date equipment. The project was proving successful and this year had generated 10 Modern Apprentices from the programme.

It was explained that at the current time, Training and Employment Services had 61 clients on the unemployed programme which was split into 2 groups – those aged 18 – 24 and those 25+. The programmes were for either a 13 or 26 week duration. There were approximately 140 apprentices on various programmes. The Borough Council used the apprentice programme as the main source of recruitment for junior clerical staff. There was one client on the Train for Gain programme which would be built up over time. With regard to the Years 10 and 12 pupils, five schools were involved in the project with approximately 90 pupils taking part.

Two Environmental Taskforces had been formed working with the Council's Housing Department – the Helping Hands Project and a Rapid Response Team. The Helping Hands programme provided a service to assist tenants in undertaking tasks which they were unable to carry out

themselves such as gardening, decorating etc. The Rapid Response Team's task was to generally clean up the environment.

Training and Employment Services operated from three premises :-

- Spennymoor Training Centre
- Chilton Depot, and
- Shildon Business Centre

The Council's Training and Employment Services was self-financing and had approximately £458,000 in balances accrued as at 31st March 2006. For this financial year, however, the Service was running at a deficit of £42,000 after 5 months. It was aimed to keep the deficit at around £60,000 for the financial year.

The Council accrued financial benefits from Training and Employment Services in the form of rental from premises and internal service charges of around £130,000. It was estimated that the apprenticeship scheme saved the Council in the region of £60,000 per annum in recruitment and salaries costs and the Environment Service Teams saved the Council £60,000 a year in salary costs.

Funding for the Training and Employment Service came from the Learning and Skills Council and Job Centre Plus. Job Centre Plus this year, however, had made a significant change to the way in which the Service was funded. Previously contracts had been awarded directly to organisations. Now, instead of a number of smaller contracts, there was one large contract awarded to a lead provider. Action for Employment was the contractor with Cee Mac the link provider. The Council's Training and Employment Services was now a sub-contractor, which meant working for a private company which took a cut of the money allocated.

The Service was beginning to generate some funding from schools (approximately £90,000) but the real benefit of this was creating a stepping stone into training from the Schools. Job Centre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council paid on performance. With regard to the apprenticeship scheme an amount was paid per apprentice and a further amount when the programme was complete. For the adult programme there was additional payment if full-time employment was gained.

In relation to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), the percentage of unemployed adults gaining employment last year ran at 32% against a target of 20%. In relation to the percentage of young people on the Entry to Employment Programme who progressed to employment the target was about 50% against an actual figure of 43%. However, even though the target had not been met, the national target was around 40% and the outcome was above national target. 75% of apprentices completed their apprenticeships, although a problem was that only 35% were completed within the agreed timescale as a result of high staff turnover.

The Training and Employment Services was subject to inspection by the Adult Learning Inspectorate. It had last been inspected in September

2005 and had received an excellent report and a Grade 1 for Business Administration.

Issues being faced included the decline in the number of school leavers, with more remaining in full-time education, the number of young people deciding to do nothing after the age of 16, the introduction of education maintenance allowances, the lack of employers willing to employ apprentices and the changing priorities of Job Centre Plus.

There were also internal issues which needed to be addressed including a high staff turnover, with the loss of 25% staff in the last three months.

The challenges being faced included the need to retain a financial surplus, the need for staff stability, implementation of the Train to Gain project, development of a strategic partnership with Bishop Auckland College, engagement of more employers and contractual performances.

Members of the Committee queried what changes would assist in dealing with the challenges. It was explained that the introduction of the new Job Centre Plus arrangements, which involved awarding a big contract covering County Durham and Sunderland to a lead provider, made it difficult for contractors. It was felt that the contract covered too wide an area and the use of lead providers diverted resources from its purpose with a detrimental impact on Training and Employment Services.

It was noted that Cabinet at its meeting on 14th September, 2006 had considered a report seeking agreement to investigate the feasibility of entering into a Strategic Alliance arrangement with Bishop Auckland College to provide a complementary training service and, in due course, Centre of Excellence for different types of training located at strategic sites within South West Durham. That concept was endorsed and officers were to investigate the feasibility of such an alliance. It was considered that this would lead to a better strategy for the area and avoid providers all bidding for the same learners.

Discussion was held regarding the Adult Learning Centre and issues in relation to premises. There would be a loss of income which had been generated by sharing the premises with Bishop Auckland College and it may be necessary to consider sub letting premises in the future.

Concern was expressed at the level of staff turnover and in particular the impact that this had on the standard of trainers and the programme delivery to trainees. It was explained that there was a shortage of trainers, particularly in the construction industry, related primarily to the low level of pay offered in comparison to other providers and the construction industry.

In response to a query raised regarding the level of 16 year olds not engaged in education, employment, or training which at the current time was running at 10%, it was explained that issues were being discussed at LSP meetings, although more work needed to be undertaken. However, a number of initiatives, including Sure Start and work in schools, were tackling some of the issues .

AGREED : 1. That the information be noted and the work undertaken be supported.

2. That the concerns of the Committee that the decision to award large Job Centre Plus contracts to lead providers had diverted funding from its purpose, with a detrimental impact on training and employment services, be referred to Cabinet for further consideration.

OSC(3)10/05 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Consideration was given to Performance Indicators actual outturn 2005/2006 (for copy see file of Minutes) relating to the Social Regeneration and Partnership, Environment, Learning and Employment and Planning and Development portfolios.

It was explained that the targets had been set by Strategic Working Groups and the report identified how outcomes had performed against those targets.

The comments of the responsible officer for particular targets were identified in the report and explanations given on individual results.

During discussion of this item, specific reference was made to **BVPI204 – The Percentage of Appeals Allowed against the Authority’s Decision to Refuse on Planning Applications** and Members queried the reason for the disappointing outcome. It was suggested that this could be examined at a future meeting and an item be placed on the Committee’s Work Programme.

AGREED : That the information be noted and areas of concern be highlighted in the Work Programme.

OSC(3)11/05 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee’s Work Programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were updated on the current position in relation to the Recycling Services Review Group and the Reducing Economic Inactivity (Worklessness) Review Group.

Discussion was held regarding progress towards the achievement of **Best Value Performance Indicator 204 – the percentage of appeals allowed against the Authority’s Decision to refuse on planning applications** – and it was considered that clarification was needed on the reason for the disappointing performance.

A question was raised about scrutiny of licensing policies and whether members may periodically consider the impact of such decisions.

AGREED : 1. That the Work Programme be noted.

2. *That an item be placed on the Work Programme relating to progress towards the achievement of Best Value Performance Indicator BVPI 204.*
3. *That the Chairman and Vice Chairman seek further advice on the issue of scrutiny of licensing policies.*

OSC(3)12/05 THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Members were updated on the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, a pledge to actively tackle climate change and work to reduce emissions.

It was suggested that this may be an issue for future consideration by the Committee.

AGREED: That the information be noted

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Item 6a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 4 FORUM

Shildon Sunnydale Leisure
Centre

Tuesday,
19 September 2006

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Present: Councillor D.M. Hancock (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council and

Councillor J.G. Huntington	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. I. Jackson Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.M. Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Inspector S. Ball	–	Durham Constabulary
Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman	–	Durham County Council
Councillor V. Chapman	–	Durham County Council
D. Sadler	–	Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forum
A. Learmonth	–	Sedgefield PCT
Councillor Mrs. A.M. Armstrong	–	Sedgefield PCT
C.A. Fletcher	–	Shildon Community Safety
Councillor M.A. Stott	–	Shildon Town Council
Reverend R. Kalus	–	St. Johns Church
I. English	–	South West Durham Credit Union
A. Thompson	–	New Shildon
K. Bowes	–	Resident
W. Middlemas	–	Resident
G. Penfold	–	Resident
J.L. Chapman	–	Resident
M. Quigley	–	Resident
T. Slater	–	Resident
C. Watson	–	Resident
I. Watson	–	Resident
G. Presledge	–	Resident

In

Attendance: R. Clayton, G. Garrigan and C. Walton

Apologies:

Councillor G.M.R. Howe	-	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. L. Smith	–	Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor H. Robinson	–	Eldon Parish Council
C. Wood	–	Shildon Centre
Mrs. E. Carr	–	Jubilee Fields Community Association

AF(4)11/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members had no interests to declare.

AF(4)12/06 MINUTES
The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regard to Minute AF(4)5/06, it was reported that the Chairman of the Forum had sent a letter to the Secretary of State for the Home Department regarding the difficulties in trying to contact the Police on the non emergency telephone number. A copy of the reply was circulated to Members of the Forum. (For copy see file of Minutes)

With regard to Minute AF(4)8/06, the Forum was informed that a meeting had taken place on 8th September 2006 with the Town Council and community representatives and the following actions had been agreed:

Bus Shelters – Town Square and Bus Terminus

Bus Terminus

Remove all glass panels from the lower half of all shelters and replace with green coloured smooth finish glass fibre panels. Utilise the above recovered glass panels to replace damaged panels in the top half of the shelters.

Town Square

Replace damaged units with glass panels and all damaged roof tiles, fascia boards and decorative units as required.

The paintwork to all shelters to be refreshed as necessary.

Gazebos – Town Square

Attempt to clean and seal the York Stone Hackworth Wheel feature.

Ascertain the capital cost of restoring the fountain to full working order.

Clean up the fountain and attempt to remove graffiti.

Take down all damaged soffitt boards and replace with new boards with more substantial fixing detail.

Fix new vertical boarding to full perimeter of ledge to prevent access by pigeons.

Replace all damaged roof tiles and hip ridge tiles as required.

Town Square – General

Repaint as necessary, repair damaged paving as required and jet wash Town Square.

Identify alternative lighting options as the lanterns had been removed owing to health and safety concerns, however the brackets had been retained for use as hanging basket supports.

Provide temporary lighting from gazebo.

Consider replacing the litterbins with plastic coated steel cylinder bins.

Paint timber seats, if required.

The Forum was informed that the CCTV cameras were fully operational.

AF(4)13/06 POLICE REPORT

Inspector S. Ball was present at the meeting to give details of the crime statistics for the area.

The reported crime figures for July and August were as follows:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Total Crime	84	109
Violent Crime	13	23
Violence against person	13	23
Robbery	0	0
Dwellinghouse Burglary	3	7
Burglary Other	1	10
Criminal Damage	34	33
Vehicle Crime	12	15
Shoplifting	3	2
Total Theft	29	33
Nuisance/Rowdy Behaviour		99

With regard to nuisance/rowdy behaviour in August, it was reported that 22 incidents related to neighbour issues and 36 were youth related.

Specific reference was made to a public meeting that had taken place the previous evening to discuss the problems associated with the congregation of youths in St. Johns churchyard, particularly on weekends between the hours of 5.00 p.m. and 1.00 a.m. The problems included: litter, broken glass around the gravestones, damage to the fencing of the churchyard, damage to garage door handles in the vicinity, abusive language from youths who were often inebriated and solvent abuse.

It was pointed out that the graveyard was closed and Shildon Town Council was responsible for grass cutting. It was queried whether the boundary fencing was the responsibility of the Town Council or the Church Commissioners. Chairman agreed to seek clarification. It was noted that the Church was willing to make a contribution towards the cost of repairing the fencing.

The Forum noted that Helen Dent, Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Manager, Sedgfield Borough Council, had been informed of the problems and had proposed that a meeting of the appropriate parties be arranged to discuss what action could be taken. In the meantime, Sedgfield Borough Council Neighbourhood Wardens would patrol the area on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and the mobile CCTV camera would be deployed.

It was noted that the Police were also prepared to divert resources to the churchyard and the Crime Reduction Partnership had been requested to undertake a survey of the area.

It was pointed out that rowdy/nuisance behaviour from youths was a national problem and consideration must be given to providing the youths with appropriate recreational facilities.

Specific reference was made to the problem of vandalism in the park and the need to obtain Police support in respect of the Local Improvement Programme application for funding for CCTV cameras.

It was reported that the Police had agreed to support the application and assurances were given that the necessary documentation would be forwarded to Shildon Town Council.

AF(4)14/06

SEDGEFIELD PRIMARY CARE TRUST

Alyson Learmonth and Mrs. A.M. Armstrong attended the meeting to give an update on local health matters.

It was reported that County Durham Primary Care Trust would be formed on 1st October 2006, following the merger of the current Durham and Chester-le-Street, Derwentside, Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgefield PCTs. Lady Anne Calman had been appointed as Chair of the new PCT and applicants for the post of Chief Executive would be interviewed on 27th September 2006. Nigel Porter, Chief Executive of Sedgefield PCT, would be taking early retirement/voluntary redundancy on 5th November 2006.

It was pointed out that the new bigger County Durham PCT would significantly reduce expenditure on management and administrative functions as there would only be one Board.

The Forum's attention was then drawn to the North East Strategic Health Authority – Monthly Performance Score Card schedule. Copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

Specific reference was made to the Ambulance Service targets and the tremendous improvement with regard to number of Category A calls achieving a response within eight minutes.

A. Learmonth also gave details of the recently published Director of Public Health Annual Report. The report had been prepared as a stimulus to action and service development that would improve health and wellbeing for the people of Sedgefield. It provided an overview of the health of the population, tracking changes since last years report, identified inequalities that must be addressed if the gap in the health experience was not allowed to widen and made recommendations for Sedgefield in the context of the Combined County Durham and Darlington Public Health Annual Report.

The presentation covered those areas where good/steady and little progress had been made in the past year, the priorities for the Local

Strategic Partnership, Practice Based Commissioning Groups, Practice Business Plan and the report's recommendations.

The Forum queried what arrangements had been made to address the potential problems of a pandemic flu outbreak. It was explained that the PCT had prepared an operational management plan. GPs practices had also plans in place as had the Borough Council to minimise the expected disruption to services.

Members of the Forum expressed concern regarding the difficulties in making appointments to see a particular GP as a result of the appointment systems that had been introduced. It was pointed out that a number of practices were aware of this problem and were trying to move to a dual appointment system for urgent/non urgent appointments.

AF(4)15/06 SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION
Ruth Clayton, Waste Management Officer, attended the meeting to give a presentation on the above.

It was explained that the Council was in the processing of developing a new Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan to take the Authority forward to 2012.

Sedgefield Borough, as the designated 'Waste Collection Authority', had a duty to provide a service for the collection of municipal waste, which included household waste and litter. Durham County Council was the designated 'Waste Disposal Authority' responsible for the disposal of all municipal waste collected within the County.

Household waste included material collected from domestic wheeled bins, plus items such as white goods, bulky waste for example furniture and carpets and garden waste. Municipal waste comprised household waste, plus commercial trade waste.

It was noted that on average, household waste within Sedgefield Borough was increasing by approximately 3% a year, and the Council was determined to take positive steps to tackle the problem.

The Forum was given details of what type of waste was found in bins. It was noted that 35% of the contents comprised of green or food waste. Waste Minimisation Initiatives such as home composting, re-usable nappies, reducing the amount of junk mail, smart shopping and bin size reduction were being examined.

Specific reference was made to a stakeholder consultation, which had been undertaken to gain an understanding of residents views on:

- Support towards a number of waste reduction methods including alternate weekly collections
- Current level of satisfaction with the current waste collection service
- Future services residents would like to see provided.

It was reported that a questionnaire had been developed and had been delivered to houses throughout Sedgefield Borough. Copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

Members were reminded of the Council's existing waste management service which included domestic wheelie bins/trade waste, special collections, bring sites, white good collection and the Kerb It Scheme. The Council offered a free special collection service for white goods to all residents across the Borough.

It was reported that the current kerbside recycling scheme – 'Kerb It' was scheduled to expire in March 2008 and decisions needed to be made in the near future about the provision of an alternative/replacement service. It was reported that there were health and safety concerns over the manual lifting and handling of the containers both by the operatives and by the householders.

It was noted that the collection of green waste was very popular with residents, however, Durham County Council did not pay recycling credits for its collection.

Reference was made to the challenges facing the Council and the existing and future recycling and composting targets. The target for 2007 was 20% and it was anticipated that it would increase to 30% to 35% in the next couple of years.

It was reported that any system chosen needed to be convenient to use and accessible to residents financially sustainable and operationally sustainable it also must fit in with the residual waste collection service and the disposal and treatment services available. It was pointed out that the questionnaire sought the public's views on which materials they would like collected for recycling. The list included plastics.

Reference was made to the contribution to the Council's 20% recycling rate by the various collection services. It was noted that 58% came from the Kerb It Collection Scheme, 9% from Green Waste/Composting and Wood Waste, 5% from White Goods, 4% from Bring sites, 20% from material recovered by the Thornley Digester and 4% from third party and other.

Members of the Forum expressed concern regarding the amount of packaging on goods and pointed out that the Government needed to work more closely with multi-national companies to reduce packaging and promote recycling. It was noted that a number of supermarkets were promoting recycling by the reward of loyalty points for the re-use of carrier bags.

With regard to the operation of the Kerb It Scheme, it was pointed out that extra boxes were provided free of charge and lids could be purchased at a cost of £1.50, which included delivery.

AF(4)16/06

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th November 2006 at 6.30 p.m. in Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Item 6b

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA 5 FORUM

Town Council Offices,
School Aycliffe Lane,
Newton Aycliffe

Tuesday, 26
September 2006

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. A.M. Fleming (Chairman) – Sedgefield Borough Council
and

Councillor Mrs. B.A. Clare	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor M.A. Dalton	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor R.S. Fleming	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor G.C. Gray	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. J. Gray	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor J.P. Moran	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor	– Sedgefield Borough Council
Acting Inspector S. Ball	- Durham Constabulary
Councillor C. Wheeler	- Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. S.A. Sinclair	- Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. S. Mlatilik	- Great Aycliffe Town Council
J.P. Rodwell	- Agnew Community Centre
S. Hill	- DISC
Mrs. D. Bowman	- Junior Neighbourhood Watch
B. Lodge	- Member of the Public
N. Porter	- Sedgefield PCT
T. Walsh	- Sedgefield PCT
D. Rutherford	- Sedgefield PCT
H. Hent	- Sedgefield Borough Council – Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Manager

Apologies: Councillor Mrs. M.Dalton - Great Aycliffe Town Council

Councillor Mrs M. Gray	– Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs B. Raw	– Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. A. Clark	– Middridge Parish Council
Councillor W. Iveson	– Great Aycliffe Town Council
Councillor Mrs. S. Iveson	– Durham County Council
W.M. Blenkinsopp	- Sedgefield Borough Council
Mrs. J. Croft	- Sedgefield Borough Council
V. Crosby	- Sedgefield Borough Council
B. Hall	- Sedgefield Borough Council
K. Henderson	- Sedgefield Borough Council
M. Iveson	- Sedgefield Borough Council
J.K. Piggott	- Sedgefield Borough Council

AF(5)6/05

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th July, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In respect of Minute No : AF(5)4/05 Local Improvement Programme it was noted that since the meeting a letter had been received from Greenfield School and Community College in respect of their request for Local Improvement Programme funding for changing accommodation and admin. area indicating that the situation had changed and unfortunately the application had had to be withdrawn due to unforeseen circumstances.

AF(5)7/05

POLICE REPORT

The following details of crime statistics for the area were given :-

	<u>JULY, 06</u>	<u>AUGUST, 06</u>
Total Crime	141	153
Total Detection Rate	34.7%	34.7%
Violence against a Person	29 (76% detection rate)	29 (76% detection rate)
Robbery	0	0
Burglary - Dwelling	4	8
Burglary – Other (Sheds/ Garages)	13	12
Criminal Damage	68	44
Theft of Vehicle	0	6
Theft from Vehicle	1	5
Criminal Damage to Vehicle	18	15
Shoplifting	3	10
Total Theft	17	49 (down on last year)
Nuisance Rowdy Behaviour	166	180
Nuisance of which youth related	70	67
Nuisance neighbour related	72	23

Members of the Forum expressed concern that there had been no replacement community police officer for the Simpasture/ Neville Parade area. It was explained that the area was being covered by other officers.

Discussion was held regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Williamfield Area which was particularly being carried out by a small group of youths. It was explained that the incidents were significant and witness statements were needed. The co-operation of local residents was needed to combat the issue.

Reference was made to Neighbourhood Wardens and concern was expressed that there were only two to cover the whole of the area including Middridge. In response Members of the Forum were informed that there was a response team based in the geographical area to respond to issues. The resources were limited but there was a Street Safe Response Team. There were also other Wardens available within Street Safety who could be moved to areas where there were particular issues.

AF(5)8/05

SEDGEFIELD PCT - PROGRESS UPDATE

Nigel Porter attended the meeting to give an update on local health matters.

It was reported that the County Durham PCT would come into existence on 1st October, 2006. The new Chief Executive appointment would take place the following week. Meanwhile there was a need to ensure that transition was smooth and without disruption. The final Board Meeting of Sedgefield PCT would be held on Thursday of that week. Meanwhile it was "business as usual".

The Chairman of the Forum, on behalf of the Forum, expressed her thanks to Nigel Porter and the officers of Sedgefield PCT for their work and offered her best wishes.

Tony Walsh, from the Health Improvement Team, attended the meeting to present the Annual Report.

The report had been prepared as a stimulus to action and service development that would improve health and wellbeing for the people of Sedgefield. It provided an overview of the people of the population, tracking changes since last years report, identified inequalities which must be addressed, the gap in the health experience was not allowed to widen and made recommendations for Sedgefield, in the context of the combined County Durham and Darlington Public Health Annual Report.

The presentation covered those areas where "Good", "Steady" and "Little" progress had been made in the past year, the priorities of the Local Strategic Partnership and Practice Based Commissioning Groups, Practice Business Plans and recommendations.

AF(5)9/05

SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Ruth Clayton, Waste Management Officer, attended the meeting to give a presentation on the above.

It was explained that the Council was in the processing of developing a new Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan to take the Authority forward to 2012.

Sedgefield Borough, as the designated 'Waste Collection Authority', had a duty to provide a service for the collection of municipal waste, which included household waste and litter. Durham County Council was the designated 'Waste Disposal Authority' responsible for the disposal of all municipal waste collected within the County.

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It was noted that on average, household waste within Sedgfield Borough was increasing by approximately 3% a year, and the Council was determined to take positive steps to tackle the problem.

The Forum was given details of what type of waste was found in bins. It was noted that 35% of the contents comprised of green or food waste. Waste Minimisation Initiatives such as home composting, re-usable nappies, reducing the amount of junk mail, smart shopping and bin size reduction were being examined.

Specific reference was made to a stakeholder consultation, which had been undertaken to gain an understanding of residents' views on:

- Support towards a number of waste reduction methods including alternate weekly collections
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Members were reminded of the Council's existing waste management service which included domestic wheelie bins/trade waste, special collections, bring sites, white good collection and the Kerb It Scheme. The Council offered a free special collection service for white goods to all residents across the Borough.

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It was noted that the collection of green waste was very popular with residents, however, Durham County Council did not pay recycling credits for its collection.

Reference was made to the challenges facing the Council and the existing and future recycling and composting targets. The target for 2007 was 20% and it was anticipated that it would increase to 30% to 35% in the next couple of years.

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Reference was made to the contribution to the Council's 20% recycling rate by the various collection services. It was noted that 58% came from the Kerb It Collection Scheme, 9% from Green Waste/Composting and Wood Waste, 5% from White Goods, 4% from Bring sites, 20% from material recovered by the Thornley Digester and 4% from third party and other.

Discussion was held regarding enforcement and it was explained that a lot was being done nationally to make it easier for Councils to carry out enforcement but this was not high on the agenda.

A query was also raised regarding the new digester system and how far the County Council had progressed with the proposals. It was explained that the County Waste Disposal Strategy had been put on hold. There were still issues to be resolved and the document was still developing. Therefore the system that the Borough Council put in place had to be flexible enough to take account of the County's disposal strategy.

AF(5)10/05

DISC DRUG SERVICES

Frazer Hill from the DISC Drug Service attended the meeting to give a presentation. He explained that DISC employed approximately 300 and had drugs projects in various areas throughout the region. There were three managers for the areas.

DISC Drug Service was a specialist agency providing structured interventions for people with substance misuse problems. It operated in a multi-agency way with the NHS, Social Services, and the North East Council for Addiction.

Clients were given the opportunity to move away from drug problem use and into a healthy lifestyle through one to one key working, group working and workshops.

Specific reference was made to a client's journey and stages involved which were : referral to the service, assessment of need, formation of careplan, programme review and monitor improved social functioning and proved life and basic skills, increased personal independence, increased personal responsibility, exit strategy.

It was noted that last year there had been 240 referrals for alcohol abuse in the area. Since April, 2006 there had been 41 referrals for drug abuse and 66 for alcohol abuse.

Clients were given a ten question questionnaire to assess themselves. Exercises were also used from the Probation Service to look at the effect of taking drugs, how behaviour could be changed and what triggers drug use. At various stages of the programme further self-assessments were undertaken to allow clients the opportunity to see how they were progressing under the programme. .

A query was raised regarding how DISC was funded and it was explained that the project was SRB funded and there was a part time post also funded by the PCT and the Drugs Action Team.

AF(5)11/05

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to be held on 28th November, 2006

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