

12 September 2005



Work Programme

Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To give consideration to the Work Programme for the Sub-Committee.

Background

- 2 Under the new Constitution, the Sub-Committee, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the main Committee, sets its work programme.
- 3 The work programme provides the opportunity to plan the work load of the Sub-Committee. This, however, needs to be continually reviewed but provides a guide in terms of Forward Planning and Project Management.
4. A project about Tourism in County Durham has now started. The Terms of Reference of this project are:-

“To review the current arrangements to create a strong tourism sector as envisaged in the Strategic Vision for County Durham and to consider, in particular, the long-term benefits for residents and to make any appropriate recommendations”.

5. Some background information has been provided about the current estimated number of tourists and their tourist spend together with an outline of tourist infrastructures. Further detailed information will be provided over time.
6. The Strategic Vision for County Durham, which is the statutory community strategy sets out a challenge to create a strong Tourism sector and, at the same time, protecting our distinctive, beautiful environment. The immediate aim is to:-
 - Increase the percentage of the workforce employed in tourism, heritage, culture and leisure industries.
 - Increase skill levels.
 - Increase the percentage of people who rate their experience as excellent.
 - Increase the amount of money people spend in the County.
 - Raise local and national awareness of the County’s attractions.

- Increase the number of tourists coming to enjoy the natural environment and wildlife.

These areas would form a useful basis for monitoring progress.

7. The next stage of the process will be a dialogue with key stakeholders in the tourism industry. This should provide a direct insight into their perceptions of the current services they receive and future strategies. This will be a basis to have further discussions with One North East and other interested parties. One of the aims of the project will be to have a deeper understanding of this topic.
8. Similar to the other Sub-Committees, performance management is reported to this Sub-Committee on a regular basis. However, the current performance indicators for the Economy are not particularly helpful.
9. There are also a number of projects which need to be reviewed following earlier investigations.

Recommendation

9. You are recommended to note the work programme.

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**SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE FOR
BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY**

**WORK PROGRAMME
JULY 2004 – DECEMBER 2005**

CALENDAR	PROJECT		REVIEW
2004			
July		Modern Apprentices	
August			
September	Knowledge Economy	Performance Management	
October			
November	Strategic Alliances		
December	Funding and Community Partnerships	↓	
2005			
January			
February			
March	Netpark Visit Visit to Durham Tees Valley Airport	Performance Management	
April			
May			
June		Performance Management	
July			
August		Tourism project	
September	Performance Management		
October			Strategic Alliances Review? Training Review
November			
December		↓	