

Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Looking after the Environment



12 December 2005

Work Programme

Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members of the Sub-Committee about the work programme for the Sub-Committee.

Background

2. The Work Programme provides the opportunity to plan the work of the Sub-Committee. The programme, however, does change in response to new issues which arise. The Work Programme, therefore, provides a guide in terms of forward planning and project management. The timing of projects in the programme constantly needs to be adjusted. There are a number of projects which need to be reviewed, as set out in the attached table.
3. The project to consider Access to the Countryside in County Durham has now started to collect evidence. The overall aim of this project is to assist in achieving the Council's strategic objective to revitalise conserve and protect the County's countryside. A key outcome is to improve access and enjoyment of the countryside. This is a timely investigation bearing in mind the impact of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 which introduced new rights of open access to the countryside. The project, however, has a much wider base than the implications of this new legislation.
4. A position statement has been provided explaining the role of the County Council and others in relation to countryside issues. Some possible issues have been identified including improving rights of way, supporting parish councils, managing open access, any tourism potential and the benefits of access to the countryside for the health of residents. Disabled access also needs to be considered.
5. Site visits have been made to footpaths in the mid-Durham area, Thornley area, Hamsterley and West Durham. This includes meeting with local interested parties to seek their views.

Recommendations

6. You are recommended to note the current Work Programme.

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SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE FOR LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

2005

CALENDAR	PROJECT	REVIEW
	2005	
January	Household Waste Recycling Centres	
February		
March		
April	↓	Fly Tipping
May		
June		
July		Sustainability
August		Access to the Durham Coast
September		
October	Access to Open Countryside	
November		
December		Fly Tipping
	2006	
January	↓	Household Waste Recycling Centres
February		Fear of Crime

✓ = Completed