



**Chester-le-Street**  
District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	1 September 2008
<b>Report from:</b>	Director of Corporate Services
<b>Title of Report:</b>	Review into Local Watercourses

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## **1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To present the report of the Leisure and Neighbourhood Overview and Scrutiny Panel to the Executive, following the review into Local Watercourses as set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 To allow members the opportunity to discuss, amend and consider the report and the recommendations contained therein.

## **2. CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 In the investigations and preparation of the review report, a wide variety of officers, members, partner organisations and outside agencies were consulted.
- 2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board approved the report and the recommendations contained therein, prior to it being submitted to the Executive.

## **3. TRANSITION PLAN AND PEOPLE AND PLACE PRIORITY**

- 3.1 The review into Local Watercourses will help contribute towards the authority's new single priority of People and Place.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial**

Financial implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

#### 4.2 Legal

Legal implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

#### 4.3 Personnel

There are no personnel implications to this report at this current time.

#### 4.4 Diversity

Diversity implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

#### 4.5 Risk

Risk implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

#### 4.6 Crime and Disorder

Crime and Disorder implications are considered where possible in Appendix 1.

#### 4.7 Data Quality

Every care has been taken in the development of this report to ensure that the information and data used in its preparation and the appendices attached are accurate, timely, consistent and comprehensive. The council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report.

#### 4.8 LGR Implications

The report consulted widely during the evidence gathering stage and one of those consultees was Durham County Council and it is hoped that the final report can be submitted into the new authority to help in the management and development of local watercourses.

### **5. BACKGROUND, POSITION STATEMENT & OPTION APPRAISAL**

5.1 The Leisure and Neighbourhood Overview and Scrutiny Panel conducted a major review into Local Watercourses. The review began in July 2007 and was concluded in March 2008.

5.2 The purpose of the review was to look at the quality of local watercourses and the environmental issues surrounding them.

- 5.3 The review team undertook extensive consultation involving a wide variety of stakeholders and used various techniques to gain information and evidence to support the recommendations contained in the report. Focus Groups, questionnaires, site visits and discussion groups are examples of the methods used during the review process.
- 5.4 The review panel visited a number of organisations and environmental schemes in order to fully understand the issues, the partnership approach and current thinking in the sustainability and improvement of local watercourses.
- 5.6 The review team gathered a lot of information and evidence throughout the review process and this has been collated and presented in the report attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 That Members note the review and agree to the recommendations contained within.
- 6.2 That the Executive agree that the report be forwarded to Durham County Council for consideration.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS / DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO:**

- As set out in Appendix 1.

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