

# Public Document Pack

24 October 2008

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the Executive will be held in the **Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH3 3UT on Monday, 3rd November, 2008 at 3.00 pm**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Templeman', written over a light grey rectangular background.

**R TEMPLEMAN**

**Chief Executive**

## **AGENDA:**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of Meeting held 6 October 2008 (Pages 1 - 6)
3. Public Speaking
4. To Receive Declarations of Interest
5. Forward Plan and Work Programme (Pages 7 - 18)
6. Executive Decision Tracker (Pages 19 - 20)

People and Place Priority

7. Implementing the Transition Plan: Developing 'People and Place' (Pages 21 - 36)

Report Of Director of Corporate Services

Usual Business

8. Climate Change Strategy (Pages 37 - 70)

Report Of Senior Sustainability Officer

Local Government Review

9. No Items

10. Exclusion of Public and Press. To RESOLVE:

“That, in accordance with Regulation 21 (1) (b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded during the transaction of the following business because it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.”

11. Regeneration Quarterly Report

Verbal update by Chief Executive

12. Sacriston Heart of the Village Regeneration Scheme (Pages 71 - 74)

Report Of External Funding and Regeneration Officer

## **THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESTER-LE-STREET**

Report of the meeting of Executive held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH3 3UT on Monday, 6 October 2008 at 3.00 pm

### PRESENT:

Councillor L Ebbatson (Leader of the Council)

Councillor L Armstrong, (Portfolio Holder for Resources and Value for Money)  
Councillor M Sekowski, (Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Partnerships)

Councillor C J Jukes, (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Strategic Planning)

Councillor S C L Westrip, (Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services)

Officers: R Templeman (Chief Executive), T Galloway (Director of Development Services), N Tzamaris (Assistant Director of Development Services), J Elder (Acting Head of Resources), S High (Leisure Services Manager), R McMullen (Town Centre Development Manager), L Howley (Chief Environmental Health Officer), A Stephenson (Executive Assistant) and D Humble (Democratic Services Assistant)

### **41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **42. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 1ST SEPTEMBER 2008**

RESOLVED: "That the minutes of the meeting held 1 September 2008, copies of which had previously been circulated to Members, be agreed as a correct record."

The Leader proceeded to sign the minutes.

### **43. PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no questions or representatives received from members of the public.

### **44. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Sekowski declared his interest in Item No. 13 of the Agenda in his capacity as a member of Pelton Community Management Association.

### **45. FORWARD PLAN AND WORK PROGRAMME**

The Leader introduced the Forward Plan and Work Programme.

The Chief Executive gave an update in relation to the Hanlon Tracking System that had been considered and supported by the Partnerships for Futures Board. It was agreed that an update on this be given at the next Meeting and the decision date on the work programme be amended to November.

It was noted that following the request of the Chief Executive, the Land Matters report on the work programme, which was listed as Item No. 15 on the Agenda would be withdrawn from consideration at this meeting.

It was agreed that the employee survey results be deleted from the Work Programme and an update on this item be included on the Decision Tracker. Councillor Westrip suggested that these results could form part of the handing over the baton report.

The Director of Development Services advised that Item 13 on the Agenda on Pelton Community Project was a late item and therefore had not been included on the Forward Plan.

It was agreed that the Climate Change Strategy be considered at the next Meeting and the decision date on the work programme be amended to November.

RESOLVED: "That the Forward Plan and Work Programme be noted and updated accordingly."

#### **46. EXECUTIVE DECISION TRACKER**

Consideration was given to the Decision Tracker. The Chief Executive gave a verbal update in relation to the Heart of the Village, Pelton Fell and advised of discussions with the local community on the community centre. Through the tendering process there was now a manageable deliverable project within budget and announcements would be made soon on how this would progress.

The Chief Executive also gave an update on the Community Resource Centre at Sacriston and advised that a formal opening of this Centre was due to be held on Saturday. The Leader suggested that the Portfolio Holder Councillor S Westrip should be included in the list of invites.

It was agreed that the Corporate Training and Development Plan be deferred for consideration until the next meeting and the Decision Tracker be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED: "That the Decision Tracker and the suggested amendments be noted."

#### **47. IMPLEMENTING THE TRANSITION PLAN; DEVELOPING 'PEOPLE AND PLACE**

The Chief Executive gave an update on the progress made on the People and Place Delivery Plan and advised that all the projects were now well underway. He advised that although there was no material slippage there was a need to watch capacity issues.

In relation to Partnerships for Future he advised that the appointment process had been unsuccessful and the positions would be re-advertised.

The Leader suggested that a report be produced in November on the resources of the Action Learning Sets.

RESOLVED:

- “1 That the progress to date on implementing the Transition Plan be noted;
- 2 That the progress made in respect of individual progress be noted.”

#### **48. DEVELOPING A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR CHESTER-LE-STREET TOWN CENTRE**

The Town Centre Development Manager gave a background to the report and explained the development of a Business Improvement District including forming a BID, the consultation process and the administration and management of the BID.

In response to queries from Members, the Town Centre Development Manager advised that the voting process would iron out inequalities with regards to rateable values and explained that the funding of the BID was part of the application for the investment into the Town Centre through the Action Learning Set money that had been set aside for marketing and developing the BID.

It was agreed that a Meeting be arranged with the Leader, Chief Executive and the Town Centre Manager to discuss promoting and protecting the initiative. The Chief Executive suggested that this matter also be flagged up through the finance workstream.

RESOLVED:

- “1 That the development of a Business Improvement District for Chester-le-Street Town Centre be agreed.
- 2 That it be agreed to use People and Place Capital funds to employ a part time assistant for the Town Centre Development Manager and to develop the BID.”

**49. NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF PETITION REGARDING DISABLED PARKING IN CHESTER-LE-STREET**

The Leader advised that this item was to consider the notice of receipt of a petition regarding disabled parking in Chester-le-Street. All Members of the Executive were in receipt of copies of this petition and the covering correspondence, which had been submitted anonymously.

The Leader advised of consultation that had been undertaken with groups involved with the disabled when parking charges were introduced who had commented that they would rather pay for a parking space and find that sufficient spaces were provided for people with disabilities than find that they could not park where they needed to. It was noted that the Council regularly consulted business and community groups including people with disabilities and the elderly in the run up to budget setting in March.

The Chief Executive explained the legal position in respect of the budgetary implications for the new authority. He advised that this Authority was not in a position to make decisions in relation to car parking charges which would be a legal responsibility of the new authority. Durham County Council would be responsible for the parking charges throughout County Durham in the successive years' budgets. This District Council cannot amend the payment regime at this time.

RESOLVED: "That the petitioners be notified of the comments expressed by the Executive and be advised of whom they should contact in the new unitary authority."

**50. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS. TO RESOLVE:**

RESOLVED: "That, in accordance with Regulation 21 (1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded during the transaction of the following business because it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972."

**51. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS**

The Chief Environmental Health Officer gave a background to the report on Disabled Facilities Grant and outlined the history of the case, the options in dealing with this referral and his suggested recommendations.

The Executive discussed this case and sought clarification on a number of issues, which were clarified by the Chief Environmental Health Officer. Particular clarification was given in relation to the funding of this referral.

The Chief Executive suggested that we pursue compensatory payment from Durham County on the different Occupational advice and also seek compensation for the poor management of the previous project.

The Director of Development Services clarified the situation in relation to the compensation claims and the separate action taken by the applicant against the Home Improvement Agency.

The Leader sought clarification in relation to the tenure of the contractors and suggested that this be looked into.

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the Council approve in principal the sum of £13,000 to be made available from the Council's approved Capital Programme.
- 2 The release of such funds is subject to sufficient Capital funds being available within the existing programme or the identification of a suitable scheme of lower priority being released and hence the funds being made available to support the £13,000 investment and that such a decision be made only after consultation with the Chair of the Capital Working Group so that the associated priorities could be understood before such funding could be made available.
- 3 That the Council pursues the recovery of any additional capital funding from Durham County Council as a result of the different Occupational Therapist advice and the recovery of compensatory costs associated with the management of the previous scheme."

**Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor M Sekowski declared his interest and left the Meeting.**

## **52. PELTON FELL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Acting Leisure Services Manager gave a background on a request received from Pelton Community Association to support them in a bid to the 'People's Millions fund as part of the Big Lottery by way of agreeing a deed of dedication for the development of a Community garden adjacent to the Community Centre.

Councillor Westrip advised of his concerns in relation to the potential health and safety aspects including the access through the scheme. The Acting Leisure Services Manager advised that the scheme would still require planning permission and any considerations about car parking access would be dealt with at that time.

It was noted that since the report and recommendations had been drafted approval had now been obtained from Durham County Council on the scheme.

RESOLVED: "That a deed of dedication, for a minimum of 5 years in respect of the area of land proposed for the community garden be approved on the condition that Durham County Council confirms their agreement."

**53. WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS**

The Acting Head of Resources spoke in relation to the report on the write-off of Irrecoverable debts.

RESOLVED: "That authorisation be granted to write-off the debts detailed in section 5.2 of the report."

**54. LAND MATTERS**

RESOLVED: "That this item be withdrawn for consideration at this meeting."

The meeting terminated at 4.25 pm





**Chester-le-Street**  
District Council

## **Executive Forward Plan and Work Programme**



**November 2008**

9 October 2008

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## About this document

Chester-le-Street District council is committed to continuous improvement. We want to make sure that we engage people in the decisions we make wherever we can. We want to let people know what decisions we are going to make and when.

The council's Executive, which is made up of the Leader and five Executive Members have powers to make certain decisions on behalf of the council. This document aims to go further than what the law requires us to do and let people know as far in advance what decisions the Executive is to make on the councils behalf. Where possible and in relation to what are called key decisions, it will let you know how you can make representations and who they can be made to. This document will be published every month at the Civic Centre and on the council's website at [www.chester-le-street.gov.uk](http://www.chester-le-street.gov.uk).

This document is in two parts:

**Part One: Chester-le-Street District Council's formal Executive Forward Plan**

**Part Two: the Executive's Decision Work Programme for the next year**

## Part One

The Executive Forward Plan is a statutory document which the council must produce every month covering a four month period. It is published fourteen days before it comes into effect. This is the first day of each month. It includes:

- a list of all 'key decisions' the councils will make on the council's behalf;
- details of the nature of the decision;
- details of the decision taker, which in the councils case is normally the council's Executive;
- when the decision is to be made;
- who are the principal consultees and the means by which consultations will be undertaken;
- a list of documents to be considered by the decision maker; and
- details of how and by when representations can be made.

**What are 'key decisions'?**

'Key decisions' are defined as executive decisions which are:-

- decisions likely to result in the District Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the District Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
- significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the Council

## Part Two

The Executive's work programme is not a statutory document which the council must produce. It is advance notice of all other important decisions the Executive will take either on behalf of the council or in making recommendations to the council. It includes:

- a list of the non 'key decisions the councils will make;

- details of the nature of the decision;
- details of the decision taker, which in the council's case is normally the council's Executive as a group;
- when the decision is to be made;
- who are the principal consultees and the means by which consultations will be undertaken;
- a list of documents to be considered by the decision maker; and
- details of how and by when representations can be made.

### Who are the Executive?

The Executive is made up of the Leader of the Council and five other Executive Members as follows:

<b>Cllr. Linda Ebbatson</b>	<b>Tel: 0191 387 2090</b>
<b>Leader of the Council with responsibility for Human Resources, Equalities, and Young People</b>	<b>E-Mail: lindaebbatson@chester-le-street.gov.uk</b>
<b>Cllr. Simon Westrip</b>	<b>Tel: 0191 387 2090</b>
<b>Deputy Leader and Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>E-Mail: simon.westrip@bigfoot.com simonwestrip@chester-le-street.gov.uk</b>
<b>Cllr. Chris Jukes</b>	<b>Tel: 0191 389 1136</b>
<b>Regeneration and Strategy Planning Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>E-Mail: chris.jukes1@btopenworld.com</b>
<b>Cllr. Lawson Armstong</b>	<b>Tel: 0191 3873195</b>
<b>Resources and Value for Money Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>E-Mail: lawsonarmstrong@chester-le-street.gov.uk</b>
<b>Cllr Mike Sekowski</b>	<b>Tel: 0191 3703416</b>
<b>Community Engagement and Partnerships Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>E-Mail: m.sekowski@metronet.co.uk michaelsekowski@Chester-Le-Street.gov.uk</b>

### How do I find out when the Executive is meeting?

Information about the time and venue for a particular meeting of the Executive may be obtained from the agenda available from the Reception Desk at the Civic Centre, from the District Council's website or from the Executive Assistant. Public Speaking is allowed at Executive meetings so long as you comply with the council's procedures. To find out more contact Democratic Services.

### How do I contact Members of the Executive or the Council Chief Officers?

Contact details for Members of the Executive and for the Council's Chief Officers are set out in this Forward Plan.

If you have any queries about the Forward Plan, please contact the Executive Assistant at the Civic Centre on 0191 387 2010 or e-mail the Executive Assistant at: [amandastephenson@chester-le-street.gov.uk](mailto:amandastephenson@chester-le-street.gov.uk).



**Chester-le-Street**  
District Council

## Part One: Executive Forward Plan



**November 2008**



## Executive Forward Plan

Summary of Key Decision	Decision Taker and Documents to be considered	Decision Date	Contact Officer	Consulted Parties and means of consultation	How to make representations and when by (If making representations in writing, please address them to the Director/Manager named at: Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3UT)
Hanlon Tracking System	Executive	Revised date November 2008	Leila Dawson 0191 3872233	Relevant Executive Members Corporate Management Team Partnerships for Futures Board	In writing or by telephone to the Acting Head of Regeneration or by email to leiladawson@chester-le-street.gov.uk
Land Matters	Executive	November 2008	Leila Dawson 0191 3872233	Portfolio Holder Corporate Management Team	In writing or by telephone to the Acting Head of Regeneration or by email to leiladawson@chester-le-street.gov.uk

Summary of Key Decision	Decision Taker and Documents to be considered	Decision Date	Contact Officer	Consulted Parties and means of consultation	How to make representations and when by (If making representations in writing, please address them to the Director/Manager named at: Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3UT)
Land Matters	Executive	December 2008	Leila Dawson 0191 3872233	Portfolio Holder Corporate Management Team	In writing or by telephone to the Acting Head of Regeneration or by email to leiladawson@chester-le-street.gov.uk
Bad Debt report Quarterly Report	Executive	January 2009	Jim Elder 0191 3872300	Acting Head of Resources Head of Corporate Finance Internal Auditor	In writing or by telephone, to the Acting Head of Revenue and Benefits or by email to jimelder@chester-le-street.gov.uk
Land Matters	Executive	January 2009	Leila Dawson 0191 3872233	Portfolio Holder Corporate Management Team	In writing or by telephone to the Acting Head of Regeneration or by email to leiladawson@chester-le-street.gov.uk
Land Matters	Executive	February 2009	Leila Dawson 0191 3872233	Portfolio Holder Corporate Management Team	In writing or by telephone to the Acting Head of Regeneration or by email to leiladawson@chester-le-street.gov.uk

Summary of Key Decision	Decision Taker and Documents to be considered	Decision Date	Contact Officer	Consulted Parties and means of consultation	How to make representations and when by (If making representations in writing, please address them to the Director/Manager named at: Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3UT)
Land Matters	Executive	March 2009	Leila Dawson 0191 3872233	Portfolio Holder Corporate Management Team	In writing or by telephone to the Acting Head of Regeneration or by email to leiladawson@chester-le-street.gov.uk



**Chester-le-Street**  
District Council

## **Part Two: Executive Work Programme**



# *People & Place*

**November 2008**





## Executive Work Programme

Summary of Non Key Decision	Decision Taker and Documents to be considered	Decision Date	Contact Officer	Consulted Parties and means of consultation	How to make representations and when by (If making representations in writing, please address them to the Director/Manager named at: Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3UT)
Climate Change Strategy	Executive	Revised date November 2008	Andy Stephenson 0191 3833745	Corporate Management Team Regeneration Strategic Housing Environmental Services Planning Local Environment Groups The LSP The Town Centre Manager Members of the public	In writing or by telephone, to the Senior Sustainability Officer or by email to <a href="mailto:andystephenson@chester-le-street.gov.uk">andystephenson@chester-le-street.gov.uk</a>

Summary of Non Key Decision	Decision Taker and Documents to be considered	Decision Date	Contact Officer	Consulted Parties and means of consultation	How to make representations and when by (If making representations in writing, please address them to the Director/Manager named at: Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3UT)
Regeneration Quarterly Report	Executive	Revised date November 2008	Leila Dawson 0191 3872233	Relevant Executive Members Corporate Management Team	In writing or by telephone to the Acting Head of Regeneration or by email to leiladawson@chester-le-street.gov.uk
Sacriston Heart of the Village regeneration scheme	Executive	November 2008	Janice Lunn 0191 3872158	Corporate Management Team Ward Members Sacriston Community trust Durham County Council Urban Renaissance Team	In writing or by telephone to the External Funding and Regeneration Officer or by email to janicelunn@chester-le-street.gov.uk
Review of People and Place Action Learning Set Budgets	Executive	November 2008	Ian Forster 0191 3872130	Relevant Executive Members Corporate Management Team	In writing or by telephone to the Director of Corporate Affairs or by email to ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk

Summary of Non Key Decision	Decision Taker and Documents to be considered	Decision Date	Contact Officer	Consulted Parties and means of consultation	How to make representations and when by (If making representations in writing, please address them to the Director/Manager named at: Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3UT)
Corporate Performance Report July 2008 to September 2008	Executive Corporate Performance and covering report	December 2008	Ian Forster 0191 3872130	Relevant Executive Members Corporate Management Team  Internal consultation e-mail	In writing or by telephone to the Director of Corporate Affairs or by email to <a href="mailto:ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk">ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk</a>
New power to establish Parish Councils (including Town Councils)	Executive	December 2008	Ian Forster 0191 3872130  Chris Potter 0191 3872011	Corporate Management Team Portfolio Holder Executive Members	In writing or by telephone to the Director of Corporate Affairs or by email to <a href="mailto:ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk">ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk</a> or to Head of Legal and Democratic Services or by email <a href="mailto:chrisspotter@chester-le-street.gov.uk">chrisspotter@chester-le-street.gov.uk</a>
Communities for Health - Mental Health Project – Final report	Executive	March 2009	Tony Galloway 0191 3872100	Corporate Management Team Portfolio Holder Health Improvement Sub Group	By phone, or in writing to the Director of Development Services or by email to <a href="mailto:Tonygalloway@chester-le-street.gov.uk">Tonygalloway@chester-le-street.gov.uk</a>

Summary of Non Key Decision	Decision Taker and Documents to be considered	Decision Date	Contact Officer	Consulted Parties and means of consultation	How to make representations and when by (If making representations in writing, please address them to the Director/Manager named at: Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3UT)
Corporate Performance Report October 2008 to December 2008	Executive Corporate Performance and covering report	March 2009	Ian Forster 0191 3872130	Relevant Executive Members Corporate Management Team  Internal consultation e-mail	In writing or by telephone to the Director of Corporate Affairs or by email to <a href="mailto:ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk">ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk</a>



## EXECUTIVE DECISION TRACKER

	<u>Date of decision</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Progress/ Key Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Officer Lead</u>
1	6 February 2006  3 December 2007	<p><b><u>Development Framework Principles for the Heart of Pelton Fell</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That the Executive confirm the support given to the Pelton Fell Community Association to date and the principle of them seeking to establish the community facility, but it be recognised that the Council is unable to commit to any additional funding and that in order for them to move forward they be required to produce a sustainable business plan which is viable.</li> <li>▪ Negotiations to take place for the purchase and disposal of land. Report back to Executive prior to any acquisition.</li> <li>▪ The revised plans for the Heart of the Village, Pelton Fell will be presented to the people of Pelton Fell for consultation.</li> </ul>	Verbal update November 2008	Progressing	Negotiations under way with landowners and prospective interested parties in the village.	Leila Dawson
2	2 June 2008	<p><b><u>Budget 2009/10 Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update on financial planning on the formal budget process.</li> </ul>	November 2008	Progressing	Ongoing	Ian Herberson
3	1 October 2007	<p><b><u>Updates Community Resource Centre at Sacriston</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular updates to be given to Executive on the progress on the Community Resource Centre</li> </ul>	November 2008 Executive	On schedule	Ongoing	Leila Dawson

	<u>Date of decision</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Progress/ Key Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Officer Lead</u>
4	4 August 2008	<p><b><u>Corporate Training and Development Plan</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It was agreed an update on the plan, including an evaluation of the mental health awareness and first aid training be given to Executive</li> <li>▪ It was agreed this would like in with the Employee Survey report.</li> </ul>	November 2008	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ian Forster
5	6 October 2008	<p><b><u>Employee Survey</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It was agreed an update on the Employee Survey would be given to Executive.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed this would be included in the 'handing over of the baton report'.</li> </ul>	November 2008	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ian Forster
6	6 October 2008	<p><b><u>Petition re Disabled Parking</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Response/contact details</li> </ul>	November 2008	Ongoing	Ongoing	Amanda Stephenson



**Chester-le-Street**  
District Council

**REPORT TO:** Executive

**DATE OF MEETING:** 3rd November 2008

**REPORT OF:** Director of Corporate Services

**SUBJECT:** Implementing the Transition Plan; Developing 'People and Place'

**ITEM NUMBER:**

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**1 Purpose and Summary**

- 1.1 In March 2008 the council adopted its Transition Plan for 2008/2009. Since that time early progress has since been made on the implementation of plan. The purpose of this report is to update members on progress specifically on the '**People and Place**' Priority and to seek Members agreement to progress made on developing the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plan
- 1.2 So far the following progress has been made. The council has:
- agreed the principles and financial allocations within the 2008/2009 Corporate budget setting process;
  - agreed the '**People and Place**' priorities and four areas of focus as part of the adopted 'Transition Plan';
  - set up the four action learning sets and appointed leads, Executive support and sponsors;
  - provided guidance and support to leads;
  - Executive has agreed the delivery plan by the action learning set leads;
  - carried out a launch event on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008
  - worked with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to undertake a workshop in May;
  - agreed to a single '**People and Place**' Scrutiny Panel with a task and finish approach to undertake work to support the delivery of the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plan which had its first meeting in June;
  - agreed a Draft '**People and Place**' Scrutiny Work programme
  - agreed an approach to monitoring and reporting progress to the Executive on the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plan of which this report is the fifth
  - agreed an approach to delivering the '**People and Place**' Personal Profile for all employees and launched the project .

- Commenced time lining and crosscutting work to re-evaluate the scale and practicality of delivering the **'People and Place'** Delivery Plan;
- Set up a resource centre and commenced a programme of weekly member engagement opportunities in early July.

1.3 With specific regard to the **'People and Place'** Delivery Plan specific progress has been made on developing the high level proposals and details of proposals are set out in Appendix 1.

1.4 Members are recommended to:

- 1) Note the progress to date on implementing the Transition Plan;
- 2) Note the progress made in respect of individual progress and comment on the issues raised

## **2. Consultation**

2.1 Executive Members, the Chief Executive, Directors, relevant Service Team Managers, Action Learning Set Members (including external stakeholders) have been engaged in the development of the **'People and Place'** Delivery Plan and its implementation to date.

2.2 No other consultations were considered necessary at this stage including external consultations or engagement.

## **3. Transition Plan and People and Place Priority**

3.1 The Transition Plan, in effect, replaces the Corporate Plan 2007/2010. The Transition Plan includes a schedule of proposals from the previous seven priorities which ought to be and can be achieved in the remaining life of the council.

3.2 The council's choice to move towards a single priority of **'People and Place'** priority was considered as part of the budget setting process and forms a firm part of the Transition Plan. This report tracks progress to date and puts forwards proposals to take forward the delivery of the **'People and Place'** priority.

3.3 The Delivery Plan content identified in the appendices in this report address all four areas of the **'People and Place'** priority focus i.e.

- Partnerships for Futures;
- Investment in the Town Centre;
- Strengthening Partnerships; and
- Neighbourhoods



## 4. Implications

### 4.1 Financial implications and value for money statement

The Transition Plan takes account of the 2008/2009 budget process. Specific resources have been made available for both the contribution to setting up the new organisation and the implementation of the '**People and Place**' priority. It is considered that the council has properly reviewed its priorities in the light of Local Government Re-organisation and its abilities to deliver services during the transitional period. The view is taken that in doing so the council will achieve value for money in a year of significant challenge. In delivering '**People and Place**' resources may need redirecting during the forthcoming year. Action Learning Set leads and relevant Executive members are responsible for the allocated budgets to deliver the four strands of the '**People and Place**' priority

### 4.2 Local Government Reorganisation Implications

The Transition Plan and the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plan is the council's response to the challenges it faces in the final year of its existence. It is considered that the plan commits the council to working within its capacity to provide human and financial resources to help establish the council while delivering 'Business as usual'. It is considered that the Plan meets the guidance and recommendations provided by the Audit Commission set out in their Annual Audit and Inspection Letter. The subject of this report is principally progress against this plan and specifically the '**People and Place**' priority. It is not considered that the subject matter of the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plans at this stage requires any consultation or approval of the County Council because the proposals have been part of the budget process. Should potential resource issues change e.g. further unbudgeted resources caught within the direction occur then appropriate consultation with the County Council will take place.

### 4.3 Legal

The Transition Plan includes a factual statement of legal guidance to managers and Members. This remains under preparation and will be added to the Plan when complete. It is considered that the Transition Plan provides vehicle to enable the council to work within its legal powers during the transition period.

#### 4.4 Personnel

How the council supports its employees through the transition process is a key part of the Plan. The Transition Plan revises the Organisational Development Strategy commits the council to supporting its employees through the process and help them take advantage of opportunities that will occur in the new authority. A key part of this is the development of a '**People and Place**' Personal profile for all employees. It is important to note that the Transition plan and the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plan are both living and developing documents and will be reviewed as a result of consultations undertaken and progress made. The approach to '**People and Place**' is through an 'action learning set approach' which has been a key tool used to deliver the council's improvement programme over the last three years. A key risk to delivery of business as usual next year is the capacity of the organisation to deliver. The council is faced with depleting human resources and account will be taken as to the ability of the council to deliver by regularly reviewing the strategic planning documents.

#### 4.5 Other Services

The Transition Plan and the '**People and Place**' priority have implications to all services delivered by the council.

#### 4.6 Diversity

There are no specific diversity issues in respect of the Transition Plan. The Plan does not replace the Equality Plan which will continue to be implemented through the lifetime of the council. In terms of developing In the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plan, action learning set leads are having regard to ensuring the projects are fully inclusive and projects regarding engagement with otherwise excluded groups and social cohesion are included within the delivery plan proposals.

#### 4.7 Risk

There are clear risks to the organisation in failing to continue to maintain and improve on its progress in its remaining year. The council remains committed to improving its services although it faces difficult capacity challenges through the transition period. The council will be undertaking a strategic risk assessment once the delivery plans in relation to '**People and Place**' have been developed. A key risk to delivery of business as usual next year is the capacity of the organisation to deliver. The council is faced with depleting human resources and account will be taken as to the ability of the council to deliver by regularly reviewing the strategic planning documents. The timelining and cross cutting work currently being undertaken is intended to help evaluate the councils ability to deliver on its '**People and Place**' priority while continuing to deliver improving services to communities within the District.

#### 4.8 Crime and Disorder

It is not felt there are any specific implications of the report on Crime and Disorder. Actions agreed through the delivery of the '**People and Place**' priority include proposals to positively address crime and disorder issues.

#### 4.9 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, valid, reliable, timely, relevant and complete. The council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report.

#### 4.10 Other Implications

The report does not relate to a key decision. It is considered that the information will be communicated to the community and stakeholders by inclusion on the web-site. The Transition Plan has already been made available to staff and Members through the intranet and a web-site has been developed. The Transition Plan has been made available to the County Council. An Intranet site for 'People and Place' has been established and work has been undertaken to update the council's own website to communicate the new priority. Should Members adopt the delivery plan progress towards achieving the '**People and Place**' priority will be significantly promoted and communicated. A '**People and Place**' brand has been developed and this will be used to co-ordinate, communicate and celebrate achievements in the coming months. Appendix 1 includes achievements that need to be communicated and celebrated and work is ongoing with the Communications Team to ensure that this happens.

### 5. **Background, Position Statement and Options Appraisal**

5.1 As a result of Local Government Reorganisation Chester-le-Street will cease to exist as a council from April 2009. In order to set a framework as to how the council will conduct its business during this final year a 'Transition Plan' has been approved by the council in March 2008 The Transition Plan aims to:

- state the Council's aims, objectives and priorities during the transition period;
- build on the councils learning and continue its improvement programme;
- set out revised corporate activity and funding arrangements for transition period;
- clarify corporate transition programme management arrangements;
- identify how we will support and motivate and support staff through the process;
- set out the values and principles by which the Council will operate during transition; and

- establish terms of engagement with 'County Durham Council' Change Programme
  
- 5.2 In doing so the Transition Plan incorporates a review of the Corporate Plan 2007/2010. It also takes account of the 2008/2009 budget process and provides a summary of the budget agreed. It sets out the council's new single priority of **'People and Place'**. The Plan includes the council's Corporate Improvement Plan following its learning through Comprehensive Performance Assessment last year. The new priority of **'People and Place'** is being implemented through an 'Action Learning Set' approach, an approach which has brought the council significant success as part of its improvement journey to date. The Plan includes proposals to develop delivery plans to secure sustainable change to the people and places within the district and customer focused outcomes which can be used to influence the agenda of the new unitary council.
  
- 5.3 This Transition Plan is the overarching plan for Chester-le-Street District Council during the transition period, and as such sets out how services and projects will be facilitated, delivered and resourced. It is a rationalisation of the Council's Corporate Plan (incorporating the Best Value Performance Plan) 2007-2010, published in June 2007, and associated Medium Term Financial Plan, Organisational Development Strategy and Corporate Improvement Plan. As such, it represents the Council's contribution to the Districts Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and the Strategic Vision for County Durham
  
- 5.4 The Council has already made progress in implementing the plan which is summarised as follows. The Council has:
  - agreed the principles and financial allocations within the 2008/2009 Corporate budget setting process;
  - agreed the **'People and Place'** priorities and four areas of focus as part of the adopted 'Transition Plan';
  - set up the four action learning sets and appointed leads, Executive support and sponsors;
  - provided guidance and support to leads;
  - Executive has agreed the delivery plan by the action learning set leads;
  - carried out a launch event on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008
  - worked with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to undertake a workshop in May;
  - agreed to a single **'People and Place'** Scrutiny Panel with a task and finish approach to undertake work to support the delivery of the **'People and Place'** Delivery Plan which had its first meeting in June;
  - Agreed a Draft **'People and Place'** Scrutiny Work programme

- agreed an approach to monitoring and reporting progress to the Executive on the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plan of which this report addressees
- agreed an approach to delivering the '**People and Place**' Personal Profile for all employees and launched the project .
- Commenced time lining and crosscutting work to re-evaluate the scale and practicality of delivering the '**People and Place**' Delivery Plan;
- Set up a resource centre and commenced a programme of weekly member engagement opportunities in early July.

5.5 In terms of the delivery of the '**People and Place**' priority the Action Learning Sets have been working with Executive Members to develop and implement Delivery Plans. This remains work in progress and the delivery plans are continuing to be developed. Progress to date in the four Action Learning Sets and key issues are as follows:

#### **Partnerships for Futures**

- Confirmation of in-kind contribution from Beamish Museum
- Second round of interviews for Executive Director took place on 25 September 2008 but no appointment made
- Approval to be sought from the Board on 5 November 2008 to re-advertise Executive Director post.
- Funding bid submitted for single programme funds for delivery of post employment support in the district

#### **Investment in the Town Centre**

- The International Market was badly affected by the rain in September
- The Honest Food Festival scheduled for 18 October had to be cancelled but the multi cultural celebration focused on Divali will go ahead on 25 October and will include numerous activities
- The Executive, at its meeting on 6 October 2008 approved the employment of a part time assistant for the Town Centre Development Manager and to develop the Business Improvement District.
- Members of the Task and Finish Group have visited other markets as part of the Research into the Future of the Market project
- A Meeting is to be held on 24 October 2008 to obtain the opinions of the Chester-le-Street Market Traders
- The Town Centre Banners were removed on 15 October to allow for the installation of the Christmas lights on 2 November 2008.
- Work to extend canopies is postponed until research on the market is complete
- Monies allocated for Footfall counters will now be used to purchase new timers for Christmas lights

## **Strengthening Partnerships**

- Filming of women's achievements planned to be completed by the end of November 2008.
- Website for 'What Wonderful Women' to go live by the end of October 2008.
- Meetings with Youth Groups and Headteachers have now taken place regarding the Youth Forum and the first meeting of the forum will take place after nominations have been collated.
- The Action Packed Futures event is scheduled for 13 December 2008
- Initial meeting held with trustees of Sacriston Community & Sports Trust to discuss the scope and methodology of Sports & Activity Network project
- Collation of information regarding Third Sector organisations underway for the Strengthening the Voluntary and Community sector project
- Exploring extending Cestria Credit Union to 3 villages as part of the Community Cohesion project
- ICT equipment now in place at Grange Villa and work underway on ICT support service level agreement with 3 community centres

## **Neighbourhoods**

- The rollout of activities at schools for Local Democracy Week has commenced with good feedback from those schools participating
- A draft DIY Neighbourhoods Toolkit has been developed and is being reviewed
- The bulb planting contractor will start work in the District at the end of October 2008, as part of the Chester in Bloom project
- All work with regard to the Respect & Anti-Social project is on target
- Performances undertaken in schools by 'The Word' and Solent Peoples Theatre on 'Who Runs this Place'

5.6 A significant amount has already been achieved in setting up the Action Learning Sets, developing and rationalising the delivery projects and implementing the projects agreed. The delivery plans are living documents and built to cope with change. The use of funds to employ a part time assistant for the Town Centre Development Manager and to develop the Business Improvement District was approved at the Executive meeting held 6 October 2008. County Durham Sport will undertake research work for to the Sports and Activity Network project and the Council's Leisure Manager is also providing support to the project.

5.7 Successes to celebrate include performances by the 'The Word' and Solent Peoples Theatre on 'Who Runs this Place' as part of the Local Democracy Activities, ICT Equipment in place at Grange Villa and the Youth Forum at nominations stage, nearing the first meeting of the forum.

6. **Recommendations**

6.1 Members are recommended to:

- 1) Note the progress to date on implementing the Transition Plan;
- 2) Note the progress made in respect of individual progress and comment on the issues raised

7. **Background Papers/Documents referred to**

7.1 Transition Plan March 2004

7.2 Corporate Plan 2007/2010 – June 2007

7.3 Budget reports to Council dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008

7.4 Report to Executive 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008

7.5 '*People and Place*' Action Learning Set Monthly monitoring reports

**Ian Forster**  
**Director of Corporate Services**  
**20 October 2008**  
**Version 1.0**

Ian Forster Tel 0191 3872130 e mail [ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk](mailto:ianforster@chester-le-street.gov.uk)



**'People and Place' Action Learning Set Monthly Monitoring Report**

<b>ALS Ref</b>	Action Learning Set 1
<b>'People and Place' Theme</b>	Partnerships for Futures
<b>Milestone and outcome achievement</b>	Confirmation of in-kind contribution from Beamish Museum.
	Second round interviews for Executive Director took place 25 <sup>th</sup> September, however appointment not made.
	Funding-bid submitted to Tyne and Wear Employment Consortium for single programme funds for post-employment support to be delivered in the district. Partnerships for Futures is proposed lead-commissioning partner with delivery undertaken by Groundwork West Durham & Darlington, CLS CVS & VB, Skill Training and Wise Group.
<b>Actions behind target and remedial measures proposed</b>	
<b>Issues to be resolved and who by</b>	Approval from board to be sought at board meeting on 5 <sup>th</sup> November to re-advertise Executive Director post.
<b>Successes to communicate and celebrate</b>	<p>Both public and private sector support has been gained for the project, with the following organisations agreeing to sit on the board to guide and provide strategic oversight to Partnerships for Futures. Board members consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beamish Museum</li> <li>• Durham County Cricket Club</li> <li>• Enterprise Agency</li> <li>• Hermitage School</li> <li>• New College Durham</li> <li>• Ambic Ltd</li> <li>• Chester-le-Street District Council</li> </ul> <p>The initial establishment of the project could be promoted internally though team talk/intranet. Once further development work has taken place and a clear framework is in place for delivery of Partnerships for Futures it can be promoted externally.</p>
<b>Comments</b>	.





**'People and Place' Action Learning Set Monthly Monitoring Report**

<b>ALS Ref</b>	Action Learning Set 2
<b>'People and Place' Theme</b>	Investment in Town Centre
<b>Milestone and outcome achievement</b>	<p><b>The programme of events</b> The rain badly affected the International Market that I brought to the Civic Heart on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September. Food such as cheeses, olives, dried fruits and nuts, biscuits and cakes as well as artefacts from Indonesia and Thailand were offered. Thursday's market went well with a steady stream of shoppers, (including staff from the civic centre) spending. However the heavens opened on the Friday and the market had to be closed because of a severe weather warning. The organiser decided to cut his losses and moved on.</p> <p>Plans for October included an honest food festival on 18<sup>th</sup> but this had also to be cancelled due to lack of take up from traders and because I was let down at the last minute by a marquee company.</p> <p>The multi cultural celebration focused on Divali on the 25<sup>th</sup> will go ahead and it should be fantastic it will include:</p> <p><b>Hands &amp; Feet</b> A collaboration between Park View and Hermitage Schools involving 80 secondary school students drumming and dancing in brilliant Carnival costumes.</p> <p><b>Spice FM Radio Roadshow</b> <b>Featuring</b> MC Mr Gee Dohl drummers &amp; dancers</p> <p><b>Ravinda Cheema</b> Presents a Bollywood Dance Workshop.</p> <p><b>Amabutho Arts</b> A presentation of African music and dance</p> <p><b>APU</b> A funky mix of traditional and modern Latin American samba, salsa and cumbia rhythms from this internationally acclaimed group.</p> <p>And lots more, including: Henna body painting - Confirmed Face painters, Asian Food concessions, Arts &amp; crafts stalls</p>

<p><b>Milestone and outcome achievement</b></p>	<p>Work to develop a <b>Business Improvement District</b> has moved on a little A meeting is arranged between the Leader Chief Executive and I to discuss the direction of the terms of reference and purpose of a private sector led Steering Group and it's purpose relating to Town Centre Master Plan. The Executive at their meeting on 6th October discussed a report on the development of a BID. It was decided that monies may be used to employ an assistant to help in the organisation and development of essential data etc.</p> <p>Work to <b>Research the Future of the Market.</b> This research is going well and members of the Task and Finish Scrutiny group to visited markets in Darlington, Stanley, Blyth, South Shields and Stockton. Some very interesting questions are being raised during the process. A meeting is planned for 24<sup>th</sup> October to obtain the opinions of Chester-le-Street Market Traders thereafter a brainstorming meeting will be held with members to come to conclusions about the research findings and make recommendations.</p> <p>Work on <b>dressing the town with banners</b> The banners were installed on 19<sup>th</sup> August. But they will be removed on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> to make room for the Christmas lights which will be installed on 2 November.</p> <p><b>The locator board</b> maps are being designed and a planning application needs to be made to install the plinths and map cases.</p> <p>Work to <b>extend canopies and provide better sheeting for market stalls</b> is postponed until the research on the market is complete.</p> <p>The money set aside for <b>footfall counters</b> will be used to purchase new timers for the Christmas lights, which were at the end of their safe working life.</p> <p>The new lights for the Christmas tree are on order and will be installed. I have been informed that we do not need to have the lampposts re-inspected.</p>
<p><b>Milestone and outcome achievement</b></p>	<p>The project to use <b>coloured paving slabs or adhesive signs leading from Riverside to the town centre</b> is on hold pending some estimates – the viability of these needs to be tested.</p>
<p><b>Actions behind target and remedial measures proposed</b></p>	
<p><b>Issues to be resolved and who by</b></p>	
<p><b>Successes to communicate and celebrate</b></p>	
<p><b>Comments</b></p>	



**'People and Place' Action Learning Set Monthly Monitoring Report**

<b>ALS Ref</b>	Action Learning Set 3
<b>'People and Place' Theme</b>	Strengthening Partnerships
<b>Milestone and outcome achievement</b>	<p>What Wonderful Women's Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project moving to challenging stage of collating and writing stories of local women's achievements.</li> <li>- Preferred supplier appointed to film and provide DVD archives. Filming of women's achievements planned to be completed by the end of November.</li> <li>- Website for 'What Wonderful Women' to go live by the end of October 2008. Initial phase I development will further identify and collate women of achievement. Phase II of website to showcase women's achievements.</li> </ul>
	<p>Youth Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meetings with Youth Groups and Headteachers have now taken place. Letters, consent forms and nomination forms to take part in the forum, have been drafted and will go out to all schools and youth groups by end of October</li> <li>- First meeting of the forum will take place after nominations have been collated.</li> <li>- Joint working with Derwentside DC to make use of additional capacity to assist with project.</li> </ul>
	<p>Action Packed Futures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Event now scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
	<p>Sports and Activity Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A proposal from Durham Sport has been accepted to develop a strategic business case for a Phase II development for sports facilities at Sacriston This would deliver a report that would identify what sporting facilities s would be feasible, what could be achieved and sustained and likely sources of funding.</li> <li>- An initial meeting took place with the Trustees of Sacriston Community &amp; Sports Trust on 1st October to discuss and agree the precise scope and proposed methodology for this study.</li> <li>- County Durham Sport will undertake the research work and associated consultation during the period October-December '08 and present findings to the Trust in January '09.</li> <li>- The Council's Community Leisure Manager is providing support to the project.</li> </ul>

	<p>Strengthening the Voluntary/Community Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collection of information about third sector organisations in Chester-le-Street District underway.</li> <li>- Next meeting in October scheduled to collate the overall picture of the work being undertaken in the third sector and to establish what works well, what should be promoted, the value they contribute to the district and how they complement the work undertaken by other public sector/private sector organisations</li> <li>- The project team will work towards a framework or model for the third sector to allow them to work better together to improve capacity and also to achieve an effective relationship with the new unitary Council. Best practice examples will be included in the handing over the baton report and consideration is also being given to other methods by which the work of the third sector can be promoted.</li> </ul>
	<p>Community Cohesion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exploring extending Cestria Credit Union to 3 villages.</li> <li>- Considering food co-operative to make use of allotments in Stella Gill to provide food for community centres.</li> <li>- Investigating a kitchen franchise for kitchens at community centres. Visit taken place on 16<sup>th</sup> September to look at similar arrangements at Choppingham Miners Community Centre.</li> <li>- ICT equipment now in place at Grange Villa.</li> <li>- ICT working on ICT support service level agreement to enter into arrangements with 3 community centres to provide sustainable support for ICT equipment</li> <li>- Further exploration underway of online booking systems.</li> <li>- Content gathering underway for Sacriston and Pelton Fell websites.</li> </ul>
<b>Actions behind target and remedial measures proposed</b>	Websites need completion for What Wonderful Womens, Sacriston and Pelton Fell. – Graeme Clark, Alan McKay and Julie Underwood.
<b>Issues to be resolved and who by</b>	
<b>Successes to communicate and celebrate</b>	<p>Youth Forum at nominations stage and nearing first meeting of the new forum.</p> <p>ICT equipment in place at Grange Villa.</p>
<b>Comments</b>	Overall good progress being made.



**'People and Place' Action Learning Set Monthly Monitoring Report**

<b>ALS Ref</b>	Action Learning Set 4
<b>'People and Place' Theme</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>Milestone and outcome achievement</b>	<b>Local Democracy Week</b> – the rollout of activities has commenced with good feed back from the schools participating
	<b>DIY Neighbourhoods Toolkit</b> - A draft toolkit booklet has been developed and is being reviewed.
	<b>Chester in Bloom</b> - All Parish Councils have now been contacted and the response has been positive. Specific areas for improvements has now been arranged with appropriate staff and Parish representatives. The bulb planting contractor will start work in the District at the end of October.
	<b>Respect &amp; Anti Social Behavior</b> – All work under this project is on target and being developed as per the original action plan
<b>Actions behind target and remedial measures proposed</b>	There are no actions behind schedule and all projects are now live.
<b>Issues to be resolved and who by</b>	-
<b>Successes to communicate and celebrate</b>	Press release for The WORD and Who Runs this Place can be produced
<b>Comments</b>	

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**Chester-le-Street**  
District Council

**Report to:** Executive Committee

**Date of Meeting:** November 2008

**Report from:** Senior Sustainability Officer

**Title of Report:** A Climate Change Strategy for Chester-le-Street

## **1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to Executive for approval the climate change strategy for Chester-le-Street.

## **2. CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 The consultation process for this strategy has included elected members, service teams across the council including planning, regeneration, environmental services and leisure services.
- 2.2 External consultation has also taken place through the Environmental, Housing and Planning sub-group of the LSP, The Federation of Environmental Groups, Durham County Council and individual members of the public.

## **3. CORPORATE PLAN AND PRIORITIES**

- 3.1 The strategy contributes to Priority 4 of the Corporate Plan – regenerating the District, Chester-le-Streets regeneration strategy by ensuring low carbon solutions are included in regeneration projects, the benefits of which are felt by our communities. The strategy also helps to ensure compliance with National Indicators NI185, 186 and 188, the latter two of which are both included in the Local Area Agreement Chester-le-Street District Council also committed itself to writing a climate change strategy after signing up to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change in July 2007

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial & Value for Money**

There is no financial implications for Chester-le-Street DC, though the New Unitary Authority for Durham will need to invest in both adaptation measures to lower the impact of severe weather events caused by climate change such as flooding or excessive heat and mitigation measures such as installation of cavity

wall and loft insulations, low carbon technologies such as biomass and renewable technologies and advice provision.

#### **4.2 Legal**

This report does not raise any specific legal implications.

#### **4.3 Personnel**

A successful Climate Change Strategy will require resources to implement it and these are fully detailed in the action plan, however these are currently being included in the development of a Low Carbon Strategy for County Durham. .

#### **4.4 Other services**

Climate Change impacts on the Council ability to deliver its statutory functions including grounds maintenance, refuse collection, access to services etc.

#### **4.5 Diversity**

The Strategy has no implicit Diversity implications as it is a cross-cutting issue

#### **4.5 Risk**

The strategy is an important step in assessing the long-term risks Climate Change will have on Chester-le-Street. By having a strategy going into the new authority, the requirements of Chester-le-street will receive significant input into it's priority areas as opposed to those areas without a strategy.

#### **4.6 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications in this strategy

#### **4.7 Other implications**

There are no other implications arising from this report.

#### **4.8 Data Quality assurance**

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

### **5. BACKGROUND. POSITION STATEMENT AND OPTION APPRAISAL.**

- 5.1 In July 2007, Chester-le-Street District Council became a signatory on the Nottingham Declaration on climate change. The signing of this document committed the Council to developing a climate change strategy.



- 5.2 In April 2008, three new indicators specific to carbon management and climate change were included in the National Indicator performance set; NI185, The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for Local Authority Operations, NI186, The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita across the Local Authority Area, and NI188 Adaptation to Climate Change. Of these three indicators, NI186 and NI188 are both included in the Local Area Agreement for County Durham and NI186 is currently being introduced into the Multi Area Agreement for the Tyne and Wear City Region which will affect Chester-le-Street.
- 5.3 With the Introduction of these indicators into the LAA, it was agreed that a County Wide approach was required to addressing Climate Change to ensure performance on these indicators and Chester-le-Streets Senior Sustainability Officer has become the lead for this co-ordination under the LGR process. However, due to the diverse nature of County Durham, it has also been agreed that each area needs to have its own action plan to address those issues that are specific only to that area. The development of this Chester-le-Street strategy will ensure that the specific needs of the Chester-le-Street community will be taken into account.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Executive approve the strategy for submission to Full Council.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There are no background papers to this report.

**Andy Stephenson**  
**Senior Sustainability Officer**  
**Tel 0191 387 2158**

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# Chester-le-Street District Council Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

# **Contents**

## **A Short Tale**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Context**
- 3. Local Effects of Climate Change**
- 4. Actions Already Taken**
- 5. Carbon Emissions baseline and progress for Chester-le-Street**
- 6. Key priority areas**
- 7. Action Plan**

## A Short Tale

A normal day in 2037 is unbelievably different to a normal day in 2007. You cannot walk along the street without seeing overflowing recycling boxes. Everybody is mad about recycling now, when my mam and dad were young, nobody was really that bothered about it. They would recycle glass and tins and paper but still some people just put them in the bin.

Mam and Dad used to get the car or the bus to school. When they told me that, I didn't have a clue what a car was! The only way of transport now is by boat, as the flooding is that bad. In our house every single light bulb is an energy efficient light bulb. Mam and Dad used to change their light bulb every few months. Every where you look now all you see is windturbines. There's no such thing as fossil fuels and power stations now. We don't have a outside tap either, we have water butts to collect the rain water and we use that to water the garden. Not that we have to water the garden very often because it rains that much.

We Grow our own vegetables in our own gardens as getting to the shop isn't as easy as it used to be. Everybody has compost bins in their gardens and everybody uses them. We also have solar panels on our roof and we are prosecuted if we don't unplug our phone chargers or if we leave anything on stand-by.

I still cannot believe that my Mam and Dad didn't try and do anything to help. They never thought about us. It didn't matter when they were my age. They never thought about their future. The planet has been ruined. They never realised how lucky they were.

By Lauren Moss.  
Fyndoune Community College.

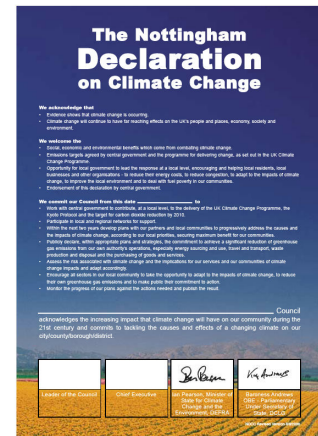
## Executive Summary

**“Our actions over the coming decades could create risks of major disruption to economic and social activity, later in this century, on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th century”**

HM TREASURY (2006), The Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change, Cambridge University Press

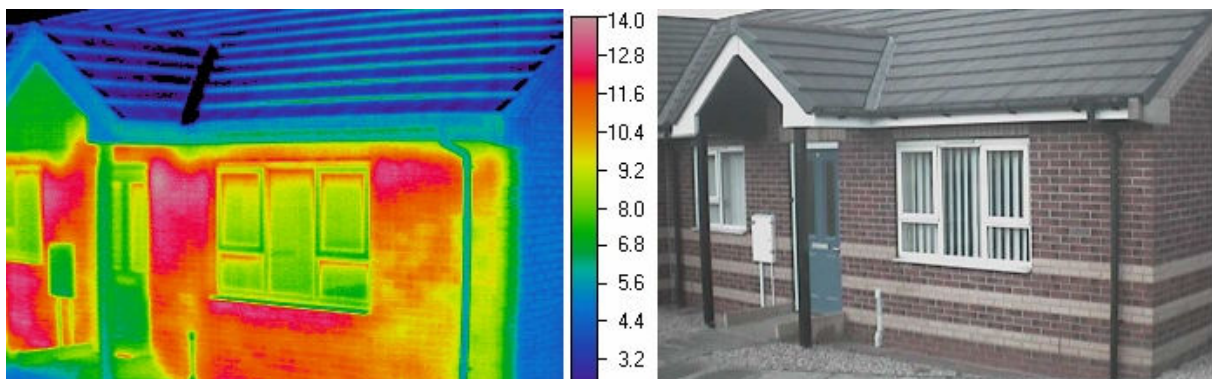
In signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, Chester-le-Street District Council made a commitment to help tackle the threat of climate change. The aim of this Climate Change Strategy and accompanying Action Plan is to make a significant contribution to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions across the district and develop adaptation plans to counteract the effects that Climate Change will have.

As the District Council, Chester-le-Street District Council is in a position to lead by example in its actions to combat Climate Change. The Council has over the past 12 years shown this by carrying out schemes and awareness raising projects across the District which has led to it having the lowest Carbon Footprint per Capita in the North East. This Figure currently stands at 5.83 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person, where the National Average is 7.5 Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person.



The actions of this strategy will result in direct benefits to local communities, local businesses and council operations. Communities will benefit from warmer healthier homes, lower energy bills, increased employment opportunities and a more sustainable environment. While reduced operational costs for local business could increase profits encouraging growth which in turn helps to increase local employment with subsequent benefits to the local economy.

This Climate Change Strategy sets out an Action Plan detailing proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the district. It highlights the opportunities for local actions and the opportunities for local communities and local businesses to save energy.



*Thermal Image of a Bungalow in Chester-le-Street – the Red indicates high heat loss through the walls. This can be cured by installing cavity wall Insulation*

## 1. Introduction

Climate change has the potential to cause human suffering on an unparalleled scale. If left unchecked, climate change is predicted to disrupt food supplies, cause conflict over energy and water and devastate efforts to eradicate world poverty. Recent flooding in parts of the UK (Including Chester-le-Street) and the heat wave in central Europe in 2003, which killed an estimated 27,000 people, demonstrates how vulnerable we are to extreme weather events.



*Flooding at the Cong Burn in 2000*

Some changes to the climate are now inevitable. This strategy sets out how we can adapt to these changes and details measures to reduce the impacts in our district. The case for action is extremely pressing. The majority of scientists agree that if emissions are not substantially reduced immediately, many more billions of tonnes of greenhouse gasses could be released into the atmosphere from permafrost, rainforests and the world's oceans, greatly accelerating the rate of global warming. Many identify this level as a 2°C rise in average world temperatures.

Tackling Climate Change requires a two-pronged approach to help tackle the issues surrounding climate change by attending to:

*Mitigation* – Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council services and activities. This is required to help limit the most severe impacts of climate change.

*Adaptation* – Action to minimise the adverse impacts of climate change and to take advantage of the opportunities that it might present.

Chester-le-Street DC will play a fundamental role in Implementing these actions due to it's:

- **Direct connections with local communities and businesses;**
- **Opportunities to stimulate and support local communities, organisations and businesses to make the changes necessary to benefit themselves and the local economy;**
- **Ability to make national issues become locally relevant ;**

The Climate Change Action Plan sets out actions and targets to maximise reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

## 2. Context

In signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, Chester-le-Street Committed itself to the developing a Climate Change Strategy to take the agenda forward across the District. This however is not the sole reason for developing the strategy and there are many obligations placed upon Local Authorities which the development of this strategy gives the framework to bring together the Councils aspirations with statutory obligations

To aid local authorities in developing climate change programmes, a number of policies and agreements have been developed at an international, national and local level. These policies and strategies have one main aim:

- **To reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses.**

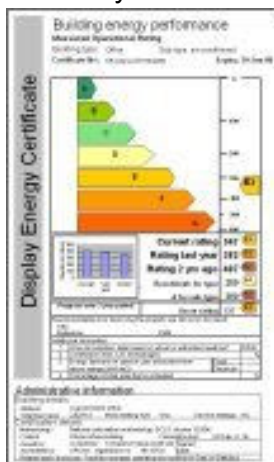
The main context for this is the Government's 'Energy White Paper' published in 2003 and updated in 2007, which states that a cut of 60% in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, by 2050 (using 1990 as the baseline) should be enough to avoid 'catastrophic' climate change (involving a temperature change of above 2°C).

The majority of Council Services are influenced by climate and weather patterns. Planning for change now will avoid unnecessary costs and damage in the future. Local authorities have a responsibility to 'lead the way' in terms of reducing emissions and planning for adaptation. We need to ensure that buildings and infrastructure are sustainable in a changing climate that services can continue to be provided at reasonable costs and that communities are able to adapt to change.

In 2006, the Local Government White Paper detailed the urgent need for local authorities to act on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and drive local action through strong visible leadership.

The recent changes by Government have led to a large scale push on Carbon Reduction programmes including changes to the Planning System, e.g. the Introduction of the Code for Sustainable Homes to ensure that new developments implement measures so by 2016 all new developments will be Zero carbon.

The introduction of Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) as part of the Home Information Pack (HIP), while controversial are designed to encourage home owners to tackle up energy efficiency measures in helping to raise the value of their property. Social Landlords which include Cestria Community Housing, have an obligation to carry out an EPC once a property becomes void from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 and make it available to any prospective tenants. This is designed to give more choice and an understanding of what the energy bills are likely to be.



Also from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008, Local Authorities have an obligation on Public buildings over 1000m<sup>2</sup> to produce a Display Energy Certificate which has to be renewed on an annual basis. These Certificates are to demonstrate to the public how energy efficient the building are, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted and what improvements have been made over time. Chester-le-Street DC has Four Buildings that require these certificates. These are the Civic Centre, The Leisure Centre, The Riverside Sports pavilion and the Donald Owen Clarke Centre.



A new national set of indicators that local authorities have to report to Government on includes 4 related to Energy and Climate Change. These are:

**National Indicator 185** – The public sector is in a key position to lead on efforts to reduce CO2 emissions by setting a behavioural and strategic example to the private sector and the communities they serve. The way in which the local authority delivers its functions can achieve CO2 emissions reductions. Measurement against this indicator requires each local authority to calculate its CO2 emissions from analysis of the energy and fuel use in their relevant buildings and transport, including where these services have been outsourced.

**National Indicator 186** – Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities by raising awareness and to influence behaviour change. In addition, through their powers and responsibilities (housing, planning, local transport and powers to promote well-being) and by working with their Local Strategic Partnership, LAs can have significant influence over emissions in their local areas. The indicator relies on centrally produced statistics to measure end user CO2 emissions in the Local Area from:

- Business and Public Sector,
- Domestic housing, and
- Road transport

The percentage reduction in CO2 per capita in each LA will be reported annually. The statistics for 2005, the most recent data available, will be used as the baseline from which performance improvements will be measured.

**National Indicator 187** – NI187 measures progress in tackling fuel poverty through the improved energy efficiency of households inhabited by people claiming income related benefits

**National Indicator 188** – The aim of this indicator is to embed the management of climate risks and opportunities across the all levels of services, plans and estates. It is a process indicator which gauges progress of an LAA to:

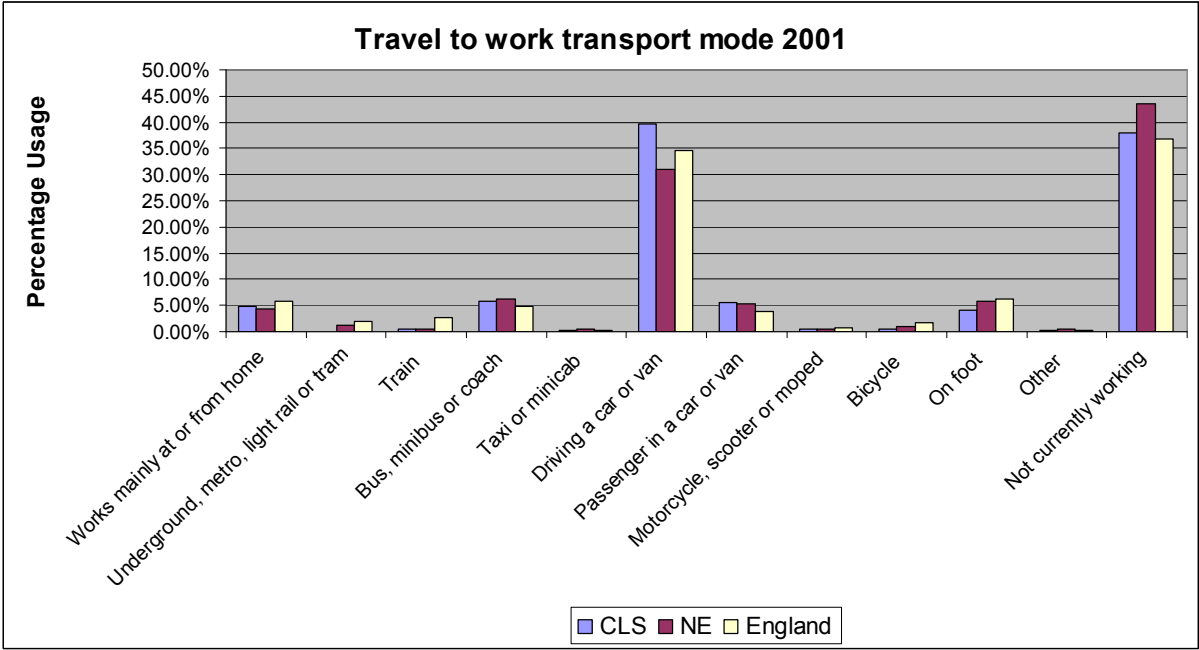
- Assess the risks and opportunities comprehensively across the area;
- Take action in any identified priority areas;
- Develop an adaptation strategy and action plan setting out the risk assessment, where the priority areas are – where necessary in consultation & exhibiting leadership of local partners - what action is being taken to address these, and how risks will be continually assessed and monitored in the future; and
- Implement, assess and monitor the actions on an ongoing basis.

Chester-le-Street Though has always been pro-active in its approach to Climate Change. First detailed in the Local Action 21 Plan in 1999 with regard to “*our careless use of energy and the high emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>*”, it was adopted as a key priority by the Sustainable Community Strategy in 2003 and as a partner Chester-le-Street DC played a major part in the development of the County Durham Climate Change Strategy published in 2006. The Leader of Chester-le-Street DC, Linda Ebbatson has also played a leading role in the Association of North East Councils (ANEC) task and Finishing group report on Climate Change which was published in 2007 and the adoption of the actions that have come from that group. This report proved so successful that every Authority in the North East has now signed up to the Declaration – only the second region to achieve this.

Also on a Regional Basis the development of the Climate Change Adaptation on the Wear strategy in 2006 carried out by the Environment Agency and the Northumbria Regional Flood Defence Committee has given a greater in-site into what the future effects are likely to be across the catchment area of the River Wear and its tributaries and what measures need to be put into place to minimise these effects. This study proved to be so effective, it led to the North East Adaptation study covering the whole of the region being published in 2008.

On a local, regional and national basis the issue of Climate Change and Carbon management has become more and more high profile. Government firmly sees Local Authorities as one of the key people in tackling the issues and delivering projects in partnerships to reduce the Carbon emissions across the Country. While Chester-le-Street DC has played a major part already in tackling Climate Change, it has a long way to go to make the significant cuts required to hit the Governments Targets.

As Chester-le-Street has less business and Commerce in relation to other areas, the majority of people in employment have to commute to work in either Tyne and Wear or other areas of County Durham. This leads to its own problems as the chart below shows, most people use the car as the primary mode of travel and as such, emissions from transport are percentage wise higher in Chester-le-Street than they are across other parts of the region. The chart also shows that Chester-le-Street has a higher percentage of people using the car than either the regional or national averages. This shows that tackling transport and encouraging people out of their cars has a greater relevance in Chester-le-Street District than in other areas.



Data for the chart taken from the 2001 census

### 3. Local effects of Climate Change

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Wear highlighted that the predicted climate changes by the 2050s will not necessarily lead to any single catastrophic impact, risk or disaster in the area. However, when assessing the risks posed by the predicted changes, the two greatest impacts appear likely to be:

- 1) The effects of extreme hot temperatures and increasing number of heatwaves on vulnerable populations, such as babies and the elderly; and
- 2) The impacts of increased sea levels and winter rainfall on flood risk from rivers, streams, and the sea and drainage systems.

Of these, the risks from flooding are presently being addressed in a pro-active manner by the Environment Agency, Local Authorities and Northumbrian Water, involving:

- Flood warnings;
- Land use planning and development control;
- Long term and strategic planning;
- Capital investment in schemes;
- Maintenance of existing structures;
- Research and development into the effects of climate change.

Consideration of both climate changes and management approaches, such as flood storage areas and sustainable drainage systems (Suds), is now common-place and therefore future risks are being identified and planned for

The effect of heatwaves on vulnerable populations is of greater concern. This primarily is because not only are extreme temperatures and the number of heatwaves set to increase notably by the 2050s but predicted demographic changes mean that there will be more people within vulnerable age classes by this time.

During the heatwave in August 2003, the number of deaths in the population over the age of 75 years increased by 22% overall in the UK, During times of high temperatures, increased demand is placed on cooling and refrigeration systems in turn demanding more energy and thereby increasing the very greenhouse gas emissions that are largely causing man-made climate change

There will be also be a number of others impacts experienced by across the district by the 2050s. Whilst many of these appear at the present time small in magnitude, they should not be underestimated. This principally is because such impacts will lead to increased maintenance commitments for infrastructure and buildings and, unless these maintenance needs are adequately met, there will be progressive deterioration in engineering condition. When combined with an increase in a particular weather aspect, the full impact could become manifest through a gradual deterioration over time, rather than a single sudden event, but nonetheless may ultimately be equally damaging.

These impacts will affect the ability of the Local Authority to deliver its services. Key impacts on Service Delivery include:

- Higher risk of flooding / erosion of developments in floodplains;
- Increased risk of severe weather events causing disruption;
- Higher risk of subsidence as soils shrink in hotter drier summers;
- Changing design parameters, in response to new climatic conditions.
  
- Temperature increases will affect thermal comfort of buildings;

- Increase in air conditioning costs;
  - Extreme weather events causing damage to building infrastructure;
  - Wetter winters causing damp, condensation and mould problems;
  - Higher average temperatures will reduce the need for space heating.
- 
- Increase in excess summer deaths, decrease in excess winter deaths, but sudden Cold spells have greater impact;
  - Higher risk of skin cancer / sun burn;
  - Increase in heat stress cases, especially amongst vulnerable people;
  - Higher levels of dust in the air leading to an increase in respiratory problems;
  - Greater potential for outdoor activities may improve the health and fitness of residents.

Other potential problems locally include

- Higher temperatures could increase the cases of food poisoning;
- More frequent flooding from foul and surface water drainage systems.
- Increase in grass growth rate leading to year round maintenance;
- Loss of native plant and animal species;
- Increased rainfall intensity causing local flooding;
- Increased risk of grassland and forest fires.
- Rubbish will decay more rapidly in higher summer temperatures.
- Increased potential for tourism as the region warms;
- Greater potential for businesses to relocate from the south of the country as water resources become scarce;
- Increase in insurance claims and premiums due to extreme weather events.

#### **4. Actions already taken**

Over the Past 12 years Chester-le-Street has primarily focussed its efforts in tackling Climate Change on measures in the domestic sector with energy conservation and fuel poverty programmes. The Warm and Healthy Homes scheme Launched in 2003 and the COSY grant provided energy saving advice and grants to householders across Chester-le-Street District.



## Warm and Healthy Homes

This period of time has seen over £6million invested in Social and Private sector housing through the Council, Utility Companies and support agencies. It has resulted in Insulation measures and new high efficiency Boilers being installed to over 16,000 homes – approximately 65% of all Housing across the District. The Big Successes include Sacriston where 99% of dwellings have had measures fitted and 95% all dwellings in Grange Villa.



People attending a Warm and Healthy Homes roadshow at Bullion Hall

Between 2003 and 2006 The Council carried out a series of roadshow's to Residents in conjunction with partner agencies including the Fire Service, The Energy Savings Trust, Warm Front, The Pensions Service and Citizens Advice; helping to advise people on grants and assistance that is available to keep warm, reduce energy bills, become more energy efficient and keep safe in their own homes. The roadshow's proved very popular with over 50 events and over 8000 people attended over this period. The events have also featured at Flu-Jab days in doctor's surgeries and given talks to community groups and other organisations.

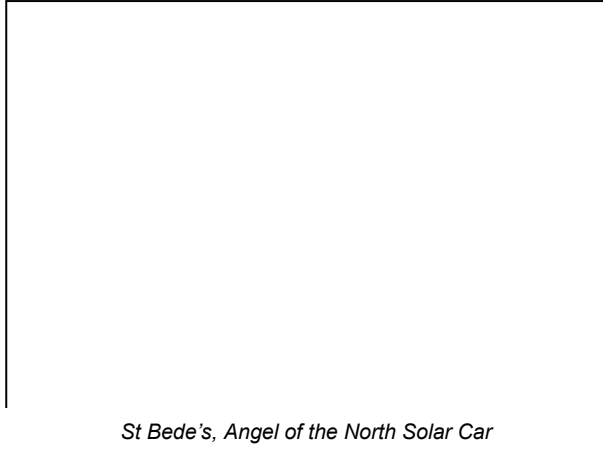
Targeting and identifying those areas that need most assistance is always a difficult task and in 2004 with partnership funding, the Council commissioned an Aerial Thermal Infra-Red imaging survey of the area. The results of the survey highlighted areas across the district with high heat loss in housing and these were effectively targeted over the next few years significantly helping to reduce the Carbon Emissions across the area

Thermal Image picture of Area

Aware  
events in the Town Centre

ough

In 2005, Chester-le-Street took part in the Regional Solar Car Challenge, where primary schools built and designed a solar car to take part in a race. Heats were held at the Riverside Stadium and the three winners chosen represented the District at the Regional Final held at Nissan in Washington.

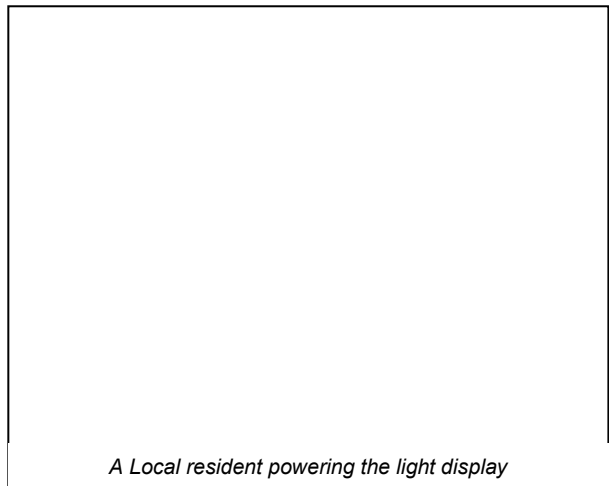


*St Bede's, Angel of the North Solar Car*

The three Schools that entered the Finals were Roseberry Primary School, Red Rose Primary School and St Bede's Schools. Red Rose and Roseberry primary school qualified for the final race in the speed category. Both schools had an excellent race, coming second and third respectively. Red Rose also managed to gain second place in the design category. The Solar Car project gave the children a chance to learn about and use a renewable energy technology in a fun and interesting way.

In 2007 another awareness raising campaign took place in conjunction with the local schools around the future of Chester-le-Street District and what it may look like in 30 years time. Focusing on how we will live and travel, talks took place to around 20 schools and over 1000 pupils on what effect Climate Change was having on the District and how weather had changed dramatically over the past 20 years. Over 500 entries were received into a competition organised by Chester-le-Street DC ranging from articles by Children in Secondary Schools to drawing of transport and homes from Pupils in Primary Schools. The winners were selected by Trai Anfield of BBC Look North and were used in a newspaper that was sent as a wraparound in the Chester-le-Street Advertiser in November of that year. The winning entry was by Lauren Moss and her article appears as the short story at the beginning of this strategy

The Christmas Lights in Chester-le-Street have recently been changed from standard light fittings to LED. These reduced the energy consumption by over 94% and 540 kW of energy in the first year of its operation alone. To give a practical demonstration of how energy efficient the Christmas lights were, Chester-le-Street developed an energy bike that was used light up a Christmas Display at the switch-on of the Christmas Lights in December. The Bike was connected up to a generator that used human power to generate the energy to light the display. Supported by Npower, The principle behind the display was to demonstrate how little energy the Christmas Lights were using in comparison to previous years by actually being lit from Pedal Power. The event proved to be very successful and attracted local and regional media attention.



*A Local resident powering the light display*

There have also been many other successful approaches and innovative ways of tackling climate change from the use of Hand Held thermal imaging cameras on properties to working in partnership with De-Montfort University in developing methods to encourage the uptake of low Carbon technologies across the area.

The production of this Strategy develops the plans for mitigation of climate change through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions beyond the domestic side and will also encompass the following activities:

- Council operations, changes in practices could result in significant reductions in utility costs and greenhouse gas emissions (i.e. council buildings energy consumption, planning policy, waste management, transport);
- Sectors outside direct council control where local partners can influence change (i.e. business energy consumption, local communities and individual choice).

### **Carbon Neutral Edmondsley**

An ambitious scheme to reduce the carbon emissions of Edmondsley has been instigated by the Council in partnership with several organisations including One North East, The Energy Savings Trust and the village itself. A feasibility study was carried out in 2004, which identified that the village’s energy demand could be met by renewable technology was possible. This could be carried out through an embedded energy system with district heating. The plan is to develop a centralised energy plant that will generate heat and electricity for the village. The heat in turn would be distributed to each dwelling who joins the scheme via an underground pipework network. The electricity generated in turn would be fed into the national grid, but used to subsidise the village’s needs.

While the concept itself, is fairly simple, there are many issues and areas that need to be developed before the schemes can be undertaken. This includes gaining full support of the village, ensuring that the proposed technology is acceptable to the residents and the infrastructure is put into place to support the scheme.

There has already been a considerable amount of work carried out in the village, This includes improvements to Insulation, Heating systems, and general building repairs as well as carrying out a comprehensive thermal imaging study of the village. This has allowed for the first time a greater understanding of weakness are occurring in the fabric of the buildings and the routes via which heat escapes the properties and what work can be carried out to prevent this from occurring.

A business plan has been prepared for the scheme and a series of interviews with village residents in conjunction with De-Montfort University are taking place to identify which is the best way to take the project forward and gain full acceptance.

## **5. Carbon Dioxide Emissions Baseline and progress for Chester-le-Street**

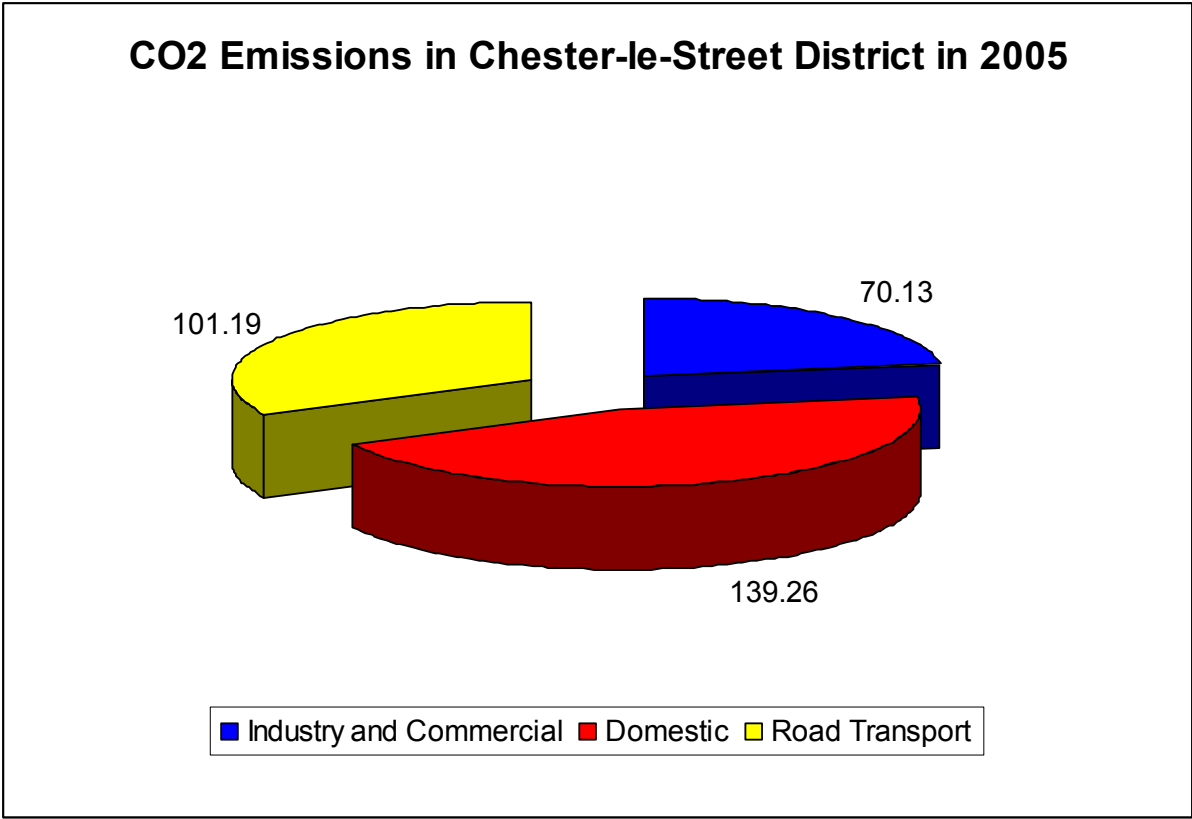
Using energy data collected by DEFRA for national use, In 2005\* Carbon dioxide emissions for the district were measured as 326,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum. The diagram below identifies emissions from the following sectors:

- Domestic Sector
- Local Industry/Business
- Local Road Transport

By setting this emissions baseline it will enable the impacts of future greenhouse gas reduction activities to be assessed.

*\*The 2005 Data used is the agreed Baseline figures set by Government*

**Figure 1**  
**Carbon Dioxide Emissions Baseline for Chester-le-Street District (total approx 310,450 tonnes)**



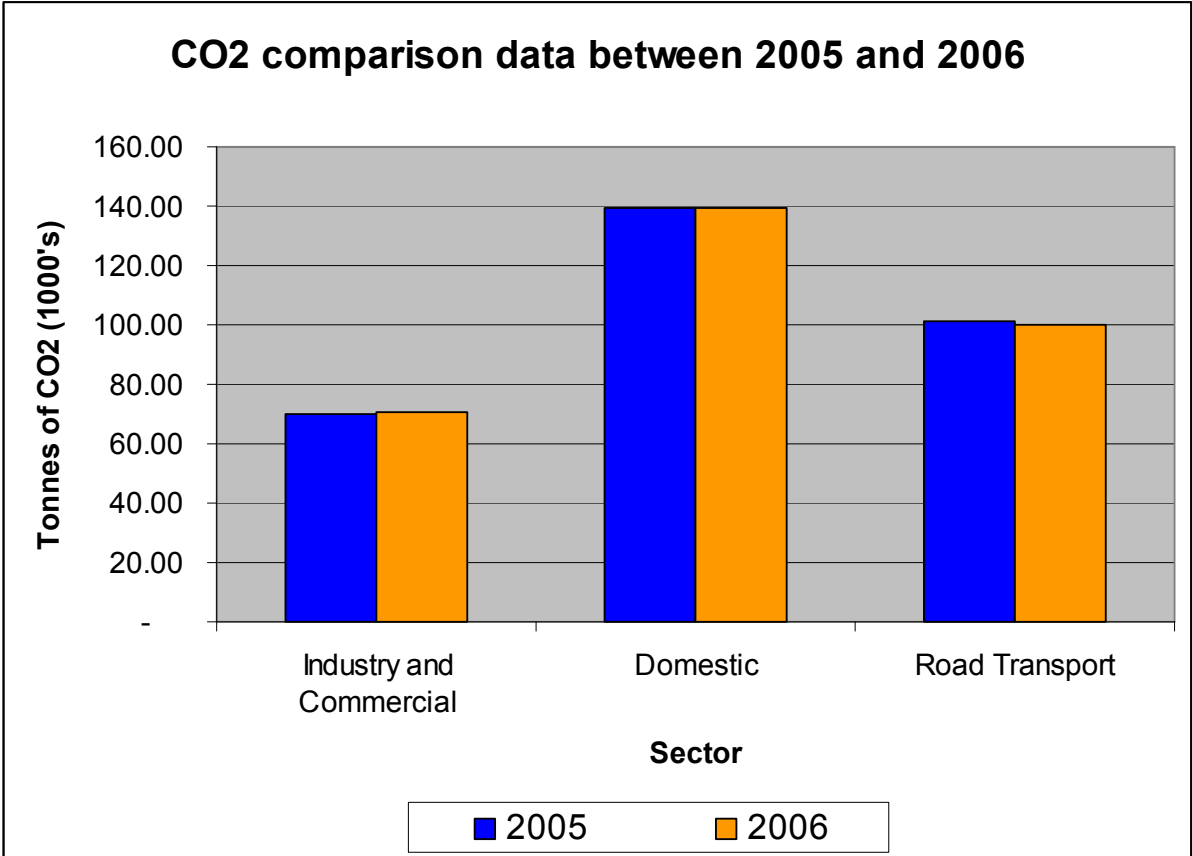
The above chart shows that by far the biggest contributor to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Chester-le-street is Domestic Housing followed By Transport. As the District is primarily a commuting Town, this is to be expected and also highlights where the key areas the action plan will be directed towards.

Recently the 2006 figures were released for the district. These have shown a slight decrease in carbon emissions across the district. CO<sub>2</sub> has gone down from 310,450 tonnes to 310,130 tonnes. However not all energy consumption was reduced. While reductions have been made in the use of gas, solid fuel and oil, especially in housing, there have been large rises in the consumption of electricity in business and housing.



This is mainly due to the rise of plasma and LCD technology in home entertainment, increased sales of portable air conditioning systems (as 2006 had a particularly hot summer) and the increased purchases of IT equipment. The result of this increased usage is that Chester-le-Street has effectively “stood still” in effectively reducing carbon. It also shows that one of the key priorities for this strategy is awareness raising to ensure people understand how to use energy efficiently and effectively at home and at work.

**Figure 2**  
**Carbon Dioxide Emissions comparison for Chester-le-Street District between 2005 and 2006**



**6. Key Priority Areas**

The overall aims of the Climate Change Strategy are to:

- Highlight the benefits of reducing energy use and carbon emissions to local communities and business sectors

- Set realistic targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the District
- Ensure appropriate stakeholders/partners participate in the strategy with appropriate responsibility for delivery of actions
- Establish a methodology and mechanisms for monitoring progress

These aims will be highlighted in each of 5 key areas for action:

- 1) Domestic
- 2) Commercial and Public
- 3) Transport
- 4) Zero and Low Carbon Technologies
- 5) Awareness Raising

While each of these areas is important to ensuring Climate Change is effectively tackled many of the issues are cross-cutting

## **7. Climate Change Action Plan**

### **1) Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings in the Domestic Sector**

## Existing Performance

Chester-le-Street District Council is already involved with a significant number of initiatives to improve the quality and energy efficiency of the housing in the district including:

- Warm and Healthy Homes Campaign assist's households and fuel poor to claim the range of grants available to improve the energy efficiency of their homes
- In Partnership with the Go-Warm Area based Scheme in County Durham and Warm Front, there exists a variety of free or discounted home insulation schemes
- High priority of eliminating fuel poverty
- CLS Senior Sustainability Officer is Chair of the North East Domestic Energy Forum
- Sustainable Community Strategy states that it will "Promote sustainability and energy efficiency in residential dwellings to achieve affordable warmth"
- Annual Reporting on the Home Energy Conservation Act has highlighted significant improvements across the District
- Cestria Community Housing have proactively Insulated their Housing stock and have an on-going replacement programme of Double Glazing and the Installation of High Efficiency Boilers

**Table 1: Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings - Domestic Sector**

Task	Ref:	Actions to reduce Climate Change	Delivery Partners	Resources	Outputs
Continue to Promote Energy Efficiency Schemes	D1	<p>Insulation schemes are being delivered in Partnership with Go-Warm. This scheme will continue until 2010.</p> <p>Grants for High Efficiency Boilers are available through Warm Front to people in receipt of set benefits or over the age of 70.</p> <p>Ensure that these schemes maintain a high profile across the district</p>	<p>CLS EST Eaga Go_Warm, Fuel Utilities</p>	<p>No additional funding or staff resources required</p>	<p>Home Energy Conservation Act requires a 2% cut in energy consumption per annum</p> <p>A 3% commitment is achievable</p>
Existing Dwelling Fuel Poverty Target	D2	<p>Establish a minimum energy efficiency target for all existing domestic properties will greatly assist in achieving long fuel poverty reduction targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min energy performance of SAP 65 for all existing properties</li> <li>• Comply with Warm and Healthy Homes Strategy and Energy Conservation Act targets to eliminate fuel poverty by 2016</li> </ul>	<p>EST Eaga NEA LSP LAA EEC Fuel Utilities</p>	<p>Funding for measures to achieve SAP 65 is available for certain criteria</p> <p>No additional funding or staff resources required</p>	<p>Eradication of fuel poverty across the District</p>
New Dwellings Building Regs and renewables enforcement	D3A D3B	<p>Ensure compliance and enforcement with Part L of Building Regulations is a priority focus for new build developers</p> <p>Enforce the Merton Rule – 10% of all energy must be generated from renewable sources</p>	<p>Planning Policy team Building Control Senior Sustainability Officer</p>	<p>Officer time required from planning policy team and building control</p>	<p>New housing built to high energy efficiency standards</p>

CO2 reduction in New Dwellings	D4	Set Local Development Framework (LDF) escalating target to reduce carbon emissions in new housing developments  Consult on an adopt Minimum Standards from the Code For Sustainable Homes to reduce CO2 emissions from New properties	Planning Policy team  Senior Sustainability Officer	Development of LDF is currently ongoing with planning policy team	New housing developers must include renewable energy measures within new developments
Develop targets for CO <sub>2</sub> reductions in Existing Dwellings	D5	Carry out a scoping study with research support into opportunities and areas to continue making carbon reductions from existing dwelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include areas on reducing fuel poverty and improving health</li> </ul>	Senior Sustainability Officer NEA EEC Fuel Utilities	Funding required, to be sourced	Long-term targets set to allow significant CO2 reductions to occur

## 2) Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings in the Commercial and Public Sector Buildings

### Existing Actions

Chester-le-Street is responsible for the administration of approx 70 buildings which have energy usage. The operation and maintenance of these buildings fall under the responsibility of the service team whose responsibility they are. Many of the Buildings under the management of CLS are small and use very little energy such as Changing Rooms and Communal rooms, however a few Building are large and require careful management. The Main and largest buildings that require close energy management are the Civic Centre, the Leisure Centre and the Riverside Stadium. While no action plan or strategy is in place to tackle these buildings directly, work has been carried out to identify potential savings along with careful management practices that have reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In the commercial sector, many energy improvements are driven through economic savings, however while this is true in larger businesses, many smaller businesses cannot afford either the time or fees to develop energy strategies. It is well known that currently there is a gap in the provision of energy advice to small and medium business enterprises (SMEs), though Grants are available to help businesses

The following are some of the actions that have been undertaken:

- A Carbon Trust Energy Audit has been conducted against the 5 largest buildings owned by the Council
- Re-roofing of the Civic Centre has taken place, with higher levels of insulation to reduce emissions and heat gains
- Procurement – sustainability is a strong theme in procurement strategy / members of the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) to ensure best value when purchasing energy with green credentials.
- The appointment of a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Officer to advise businesses on the steps they can take to reduce the impacts of a catastrophic event taking place

### Performance Improvements for Additional CO<sub>2</sub> savings

The Governments 2006 Climate Change Programme suggests an additional 0.2Million tonnes of carbon dioxide could be saved in the commercial sector by 2010 by simply providing energy advice and support to Small to Medium size businesses.

The proposed additional measures relate to the following:

- Rolling out the Governments Energy Efficiency Loans scheme for SMEs
- Introducing measures under the Governments Action Energy Programme to encourage SMEs to take up free energy saving opportunities
- Provision of a free specialist advice and site survey service from the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust to show businesses how to save energy

Success in delivering these measures is likely to depend crucially on effective engagement at a local level with the business sector to encourage action and take up of the free advice and support services. Therefore, the assumption is made that if the actions set out below on providing more effective advice are put into effect, they will yield a 3.5% reduction in emissions by 2010.

**Table 2: Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> Savings –Commercial and Public Buildings**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Actions to reduce Climate Change</b>	<b>Delivery Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
Establish an Energy Management Strategy for Public Buildings	P1	<p>Develop an energy management strategy to provide value for money in utility accounts including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurate monitoring of elec, gas and water usage along with detailed energy performance data to allow monitoring of targets</li> <li>• Record and financially manage all utility accounts</li> <li>• Achieve best value</li> <li>• Compliance with environmental and procurement policies</li> <li>• Compliance with current and future legislation</li> <li>• Reduction of energy use and carbon dioxide emissions</li> </ul> <p>Participate in the Local Authority carbon management programme run by the Carbon Trust</p>	EST Carbon Trust Action Energy NEPO	Ensure effective management of building is embedded into the new Authority to help reduce emissions	<p>Reduced Utility accounts</p> <p>Best value achieved in utility accounts</p> <p>Energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions reduced</p>
Existing Public Buildings Refurbishment Schemes	P2	<p>Set high energy efficiency standards for all refurbishment schemes and consider the use of renewable energy systems</p> <p>Funding may also be available through the next round of the treasury's Invest-to-Save programme</p>	Senior Sustainability Officer Carbon Trust One North East	No additional staff resources required energy efficiency improvement measures to be costed in works carried out	<p>Sustainable energy systems provide percentage of renewable energy</p> <p>Energy usage reduced</p>

<p>Assist Local Businesses to Save Energy and reduce carbon emissions</p>	<p>P3</p>	<p>Develop a promotional strategy to inform the local business sector that government grants and support are available to assist them to reduce energy bills and energy consumption to meet climate change emission targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify employers with Durham County Council Development Agency and Business Forum</li> <li>Approach business energy managers to introduce the free help and support available external agencies</li> </ul> <p>Encourage reinvestment of financial savings into business using energy efficient practices</p>	<p>Senior Sustainability Officer Carbon Trust One North East EST Carbon Trust</p>	<p>No additional funding required Senior Sustainability Officer to work with LSP and business forums</p>	<p>Reduction of business energy usage and carbon dioxide emissions</p>
<p>Assist Local Businesses to prepare adaptation plans to reduce impacts of a catastrophic event</p>	<p>P4</p>	<p>Work in partnership with the Business Climate Change Adaptation Officer and local businesses to help raise the profile of an adaptation and risk management plan for smaller organisations and ensure that they are aware of support networks and infrastructures to help a business get back on its feet if a catastrophic event takes place</p>	<p>Regional Climate Change Adaptation Officer, Senior Sustainability Officer, Business Link</p>	<p>No additional funding required Senior Sustainability Officer to work with LSP and business forums</p>	<p>Ensure continuity of economic base and prevention of business locating elsewhere to “safer” areas.</p>



### 3) Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings in the Transport Sector

#### Existing Council Transport Actions

Chester-le-Street District Council is carrying out the following actions to reduce energy use and emissions from its own travel and transport activities:

- 100% of the fleet use biodiesel (5% mix)
- Continuously Regenerating Traps fitted to 2% of vehicles – a device for capturing particulates from diesel engine exhausts
- Vehicle trackers fitted to 27% of the fleet, reducing private mileage and speeding problems can also be monitored
- Commitment to write a green fleet management plan
- Commitment to introduce a vehicle replacement policy to take advantage of new technology (EU4)

#### Existing General Road Transport Emissions Activities

- The Environment, Housing and Planning sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has recently established a transport sub-group
- Local Transport Plan (responsibility of Durham County Council) has set a non-mandatory target to constrain growth in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from road transport to 1% per annum to 2010.
- Chester-le-Street Local Development Framework (LDF) aims to incorporate more proactive and positive statements on parking and accessibility guidelines for new developments to reduce transport emissions

#### Additional CO<sub>2</sub> savings from concerted local actions

Encourage the development of Green Travels Plans for Businesses and for the District and utilise the development of the LDF to ensure new developments seek to reduce car travel through home working, proximity to work, access to public transport routes

**Table 3: Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings - Road Transport Sector**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Actions to Reduce Climate Change</b>	<b>Delivery Partners</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
Local Travel Plan	T1	<p>Develop a travel plan to look at commuting and business travel, with targets for energy/ CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting car sharing schemes</li> <li>• Improving facilities for walking and cycling</li> <li>• Staff awareness to encourage reduced car usage</li> </ul>	<p>CLS DCC LSP Transport sub-group EST Sustrans</p>	<p>Officer time required for the development of a full travel plan</p>	<p>Greater awareness of climate change impacts of car usage leading to reduction of car usage</p>
Fleet management	T2	<p>Encourage development of a fleet management plan leading to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of green fleet management plan</li> <li>• Clear targets for reducing carbon emissions</li> <li>• Driver training and use of incentives for improvements</li> <li>• Trial of clean fuel vehicles in the council fleet i.e. electric cars; dual fuel cars</li> </ul>	<p>EST LSP Transport sub-group</p>	<p>EST Transport Programme offer free fleet consultancy  Officer time required</p>	<p>Reduced emissions from Council fleet operations</p>
Planning policies	T3	<p>Develop LDF policies on encouraging new developments to be closer to work places and accessible to public transport hubs</p>	<p>LSP Transport sub-group Carbon Trust</p>	<p>Local Authority Carbon Management Programme contains information on sustainable transport schemes</p>	<p>Decreased use of cars and increased use of other forms of transport</p>

## 4 Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings – Zero and Low Carbon Technologies

### Existing local actions

Chester-le-street is carrying out the following actions in this sector:

- Aims to encourage the use of renewable energy and low carbon technologies within regeneration schemes
- Aims to enforce use of sustainable energy measures as part of the master planning stage via planning policy
- The Council are looking into an exemplar project in the district containing different energy saving features to be showcased.

### Additional CO<sub>2</sub> savings from concerted local action

Power generated by domestic renewable energy would have the effect of reducing greenhouse gas and electricity energy demand and consequently:

- Save energy
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Reduce domestic energy bills

The installation of renewable technologies into domestic housing will also help to alleviate the problem of Fuel Poverty across the area.

Integrating renewable energy technologies into either new build or retrofit will produce energy savings to contribute to the additional savings for concerted local action set out for the sectors above.

Table 4 Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings – Zero and Low Carbon Technologies

Task	Ref	Actions to Reduce Climate Change	Delivery Partners	Resources	Outputs
Renewable Energy Strategy	R1	<p>Develop a renewable energy policy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify council sites that may be appropriate for renewable technologies</li> <li>Consider use of renewable energy systems as part of refurbishment schemes to council operational buildings</li> <li>Consider use of renewable energy systems as part of new council buildings</li> <li>Consider use of renewable energy systems in Council domestic schemes</li> <li>Work with partners to encourage showcase schemes i.e. Eco Schools Programme</li> </ul>	<p>Carbon Trust</p> <p>EST</p> <p>DCC</p> <p>CLS</p> <p>LSP</p>	<p>Senior Sustainability Officer to progress with partners</p>	<p>Strategy will allow renewable energy technologies to be used in council projects</p>
Local Development Framework	R2	<p>LDF to set a target of at least 10% energy use from on-site renewables in new developments</p> <p>LDF could require new developments, particularly major retail, commercial and residential, to have embedded within them a minimum of 10% energy supply from renewable sources</p>	<p>Planning Strategy</p>	<p>LDF is already being progressed by Planning Team</p>	<p>New developments will employ renewable energy technologies to meet statutory requirements</p>
Promotion of Renewable Energy Grants	R3	<p>Develop promotional campaign to highlight the availability of government grants for renewable energy measures</p>	<p>CLS</p> <p>EST</p> <p>DCC</p>	<p>No additional funding required</p>	<p>Greater awareness of renewable energy and uptake in domestic and commercial projects</p>

## **5 Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings –Awareness of Climate Change for Public, Staff and Local Businesses**

The Governments Climate Change Programme produced in 2006 suggests significant reductions in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions will be achieved by providing relevant advice, support and training on how to save energy and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

A key part of achieving these reductions is through a change in the way we use and think about our energy. This can only be done through a series of awareness raising programmes and training to professionals to help embed new thinking into people's consciousness

The table on the following page sets out actions for achieving energy savings by raising awareness and providing practical help and support.

Table 5: Actions for CO<sub>2</sub> savings – Training and Awareness

Task	Ref	Actions to Reduce Climate Change	Delivery Partners	Resources	Outputs
Community awareness and publicity campaign	TA1	Partner on the Act on CO2 Campaign to provide clear advice to encourage local public to make lifestyle and behaviour changes in favour of saving energy and reducing climate change	CLS EST LSP LAA	No additional funding required	Encourage lifestyle changes necessary for sustained reductions in energy use and emissions
Community Training Events	TA2	Carry out rolling programme of training events in all settlements 2006 - 2008 to produce a community energy network district wide to develop community involvement in reducing greenhouse gas emissions	CLS EST NEA LSP	No additional funding required	Move towards sustainable communities
Travel Awareness	TA3	Expand awareness on alternatives to car travel, provide information to residents and businesses  Work with agencies to provide information to local public	DCC LSP EST	No additional funding required  Free advice and information available from the EST	District wide awareness raising leading to lifestyle changes and actions
Renewable Energy training for Planning Officers and key staff	TA4	Provide training on planning issues relating to renewable energy technologies and climate change issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planners, Building Control, internal key staff, Housing officers</li> </ul> Engage planning service and others in training to encourage understanding and support to increase the uptake of low carbon technologies	NEDEF EST CSE EEBPP	No additional funding required  Free external training available	Training on Planning Issues around renewable energy  Enhanced understanding of renewable technologies

School Education	TA5	Work in conjunction with schools to continue to raise awareness through innovative schemes	CLS DCC Climate Change teacher	No additional funding required Free external training available	Children can influence adults to make the lifestyle changes necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
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