



**PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE
BOROUGH OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday,
29 April 2008
10.00 a.m.

Council Chamber,
Council Offices
Spennymoor

AGENDA
and
REPORTS



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large print and audio format upon request**

العربية (Arabic)

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.

বাংলা (Bengali)

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

(中文 (繁體字)) (Cantonese)

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

हिन्दी (Hindi)

यदि आपको सूचना किसी अन्य भाषा या अन्य रूप में चाहिये तो कृपया हमसे कहे

polski (Polish)

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਓ।

Español (Spanish)

Póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea recibir información en otro idioma o formato.

اردو (Urdu)

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2008. (Pages 1 - 4)

4. SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY - 6 MONTH UPDATE

To consider the attached report. Stephen McDonald , Energy Manager will also attend the meeting to give a presentation in relation to the Council's Climate Change Strategy. (Pages 5 - 28)

5. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - PROGRESS UPDATE

To receive a progress update in relation to the Local Improvement Programme. (Pages 29 - 32)

6. WORK PROGRAMME

Report of Chairman of the Committee. (Pages 33 - 36)

7. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

Members are respectfully requested to give the Chief Executive notice of items they would wish to raise under the heading not later than 12 noon on the day preceding the meeting, in order that consultation may take place with the Chairman who will determine whether the item will be accepted.

**B. Allen
Chief Executive**

**Council Offices
SPENNYMOOR
21st April 2008**

Councillor G.C. Gray (Chairman)
Councillor B. Lamb (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson, P. Gittins J.P., D.M. Hancock, Mrs. I. Hewitson, G.M.R. Howe, Mrs. E. Maddison, J. Robinson J.P, A. Smith, B. Stephens and A. Warburton.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection etc. in relation to this agenda and associated papers should contact Liz North 01388 816166 ext 4237 email: enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk

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**PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Council Chamber,
Council Offices
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
11 March 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor G.C. Gray (Chairman) and

Councillors P. Gittins J.P., D.M. Hancock, B. Lamb, Mrs. E. Maddison,
A. Smith, B. Stephens and A. Warburton

In Attendance: Councillors T. Brimm, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, J.E. Higgin, J.G. Huntington,
Ms. I. Jackson, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and T. Ward

Apologies: Councillors Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson, Mrs. I. Hewitson, G.M.R. Howe and
J. Robinson J.P

P&A.33/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

P&A.34/07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 24th January, 2008, 29th January,
2008 and 18th February, 2008 were confirmed as correct records and
signed by the Chairman.

**P&A.35/07 PROGRESS TOWARDS CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE
INDICATOR CPP29**

Shaun Meek, Training Services Manager, was present at the meeting to
outline progress towards Corporate Plan Indicator CPP29 – Number of
People Achieving NVQ Level 2 through Train 2 Gain.

It was explained that, at the meeting of the Committee held in November
2007, concern had been expressed that Performance Indicator CPP29
relating to number of people achieving NVQ Level 2 through Train 2
Gain was not meeting its target. The Train 2 Gain Programme was a
Government initiative aimed to help young people and unemployed back
into work and to engage employers in skill activity and enabling their
employees to receive a range of training and support. It was aimed at
employees where their skill level was lower than NVQ Level 2.

The Government and Learning Skills Council provided free training to
help employees gain their first full Level 2 qualification and/or Skills for
Life first numeracy and literary qualification. This was provided by a
network of training providers of which Sedgefield Borough Council was
one.

It was anticipated that the Train 2 Gain budget would grow by almost 50% in 2008/9 and by a further third in 2009/10.

The success of the scheme was measured against the following criteria:-

- Number of employers engaged.
- Number of Level 2 and Basic Skills starts and achievements

The presentation outlined the performance of the scheme at Sedgefield Borough from August, 2007 to July, 2008. It was explained that in that time there had been 38 leavers, 37 of which had achieved qualifications making the success rate 97.4%. This was above the national average of 80%. There were 29 still in training and projected starts of 30 in March/ April.

Members were informed that it had taken longer than anticipated to engage employers in the process. However, there were 19 employers now engaged.

The types of skills in which qualifications were on offer included, Business Administration, Customer Services, Manufacturing, Site Carpentry, General Operative Construction and Bricklaying.

In respect of future developments in the scheme it was explained that the Council was working with three companies, Mears, Service Direct - Durham County and Wright Construction.

During discussion of this item a query was raised regarding the number of apprentices which were retained following their apprenticeship and what steps were taken to ensure that the apprenticeship actually covered the career aspirations of the apprentices.

In response it was explained that, when companies employed apprentices, they were given a fixed period apprenticeship. The companies were making a major investment in the apprentices and therefore the majority were retained having completed their apprenticeship. Of those that were not retained this was often associated with the apprentices performance or with the state of the economy and the company having insufficient work to warrant retention. Two exit interviews were undertaken. Approximately 85% were retained. Those that were not retained the Council sought to find alternative employers for the apprentices.

In response to a query which was raised regarding incentives given to employers to employ apprentices, it was explained that the funding was not designed to offer incentives. The employer would be expected to pay the apprentices wages. The Council, however, would pay for the training.

A query was also raised regarding the standard of training given. It was explained that qualifications were now assessed in the work place and not as previously in a simulated environment.

Discussion was held regarding the quality of instructors and machinery used by the companies employing apprentices. It was explained that it was difficult to recruit quality trainers and there was a high level of staff turnover. With regard to machinery, a business approach had to be taken and an assessment made of the cost benefits.

In response to a question raised regarding the criteria for qualifications, it was explained that there were standard criteria set for qualifications, which were quite rigorous.

During discussions it was suggested that a site visit be held to the Council's Training Centre at Coulson Street, Spennymoor to allow Members to see the Centre in operation.

- AGREED :**
1. *That the Committee is satisfied with progress in relation to Corporate Plan Performance Indicator CPP29 – Number of People Achieving NVQ Level 2 through Train 2 Gain.*
 2. *That a visit to the training centre be included in the Committee's Work Programme.*

P&A.36/07 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Programme. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that a State of the Borough Review was to be undertaken which would examine achievements within each of the Council's four corporate ambitions. The Review would provide a benchmark for future assessment, highlight areas for improvement and make recommendations to the new Council where appropriate.

It was proposed that Overview and Scrutiny Committee's establish Review groups to examine each of the Council's ambitions. Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee would set up reviews relating to Prosperous Borough and Attractive Borough ambitions.

It was noted that Strategic Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee had responsibility for issues such as corporate governance and resource management and did not have direct responsibility for scrutiny of the Council's ambitions. However, to allow all Scrutiny Members the opportunity to contribute to the Reviews, all Members would be invited to participate in a Review Group of their choice with the criteria that there were nine Members maximum for each Review Group and that the Chairman of the Review Group be a Member of the Parent Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- AGREED :*
1. *That the Work Programme as outlined be approved.*
 2. *That two Review Groups be established as follows:-*
 - *Prosperous Borough Review Group*
 - *Attractive Borough Review Group*
 3. *That a site visit be arranged to Coulson Centre Training Centre.*

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Liz North 01388 816166 ext 4237 email: enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk

Item 4

REPORT TO PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 APRIL 2008

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Sedgefield Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy – 6 Month Update

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The SBC Climate Change Strategy was examined by Prosperous and Attractive, Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2007. It was agreed at that meeting, that a six month update report would be delivered following Cabinet approval. This was achieved in October 2007.
- 1.2 This 6 month update report details how Sedgefield Borough Council are meeting the key actions (detailed within Appendix 1) and are moving towards fulfilling the overall aim of an annual 3% reduction in CO₂ emissions.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the half year report be received and an update report be prepared for consideration at a future meeting

3 THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – 6 MONTH UPDATE

- 3.1 The report focuses upon the steps departments are making to ensure they are on track to deliver the actions within the strategy. It also identifies the barriers and constraints which are preventing the successful delivery of actions and the steps that are in place to achieve the actions in 2008/09.
- 3.2 Although there have been gaps in the delivery of some of the actions, strong progress in a number of key areas have been made during this period. This includes 'Development and Planning' advice, 'Awareness Raising' and improvements within 'Housing'. This is further detailed within Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
Because of the timescales associated with LGR, most sections have had to re-prioritise their workload. This has meant that those actions which have long timescales or those that require substantial capital investment have had to be removed from Section work plans, as departments rationalise their service delivery.
- 3.4 Current Emissions
In 2003 Sedgefield Borough Council emitted 7115 tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere as a result of the energy used to service the Council's buildings portfolio, fleet vehicles

and business travel. In 2007, energy consumption was reduced to 6050 tonnes of CO₂; a reduction of 15% from 2003 levels and 5.8% from 2006 levels, which exceeds the 3% annual reduction target. This large decrease in consumption is down to the achievement of the actions detailed within Appendix 1.

The Next 6 Months

3.5 This level of investment and awareness must be maintained over the next year to ensure that we lead by example and take this good practice forward into the new authority.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Any specific proposals developed to drive forward identified actions, along with associated financial implications, will be the subject of future reports to Management Team.

5 CONSULTATIONS

5.1 Appendix 1 was completed by the departments and lead officers responsible for their specific action.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Equality and Diversity

The update report will be made available in alternative languages, Braille or in audio format where requested.

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

This report meets the requirement within the Nottingham Declaration, to report on the progress of the agreed actions.

6.3 Links to Community Strategy / Corporate Plan

Corporate Ambition	Community Outcome	Delivery Plan Aims 2006/07 - 2008/09
Attractive Borough	Ensuring a cleaner greener environment	<i>Aim A1</i> – Monitor and improve local environmental conditions
	Reducing waste and managing natural resources	<i>Aim A6</i> - Raise awareness of sustainability issues within the Council and external organisations
Corporate Values	Be responsible with and accountable for public finances	<i>Aim C7</i> – Identify year-on-year efficiency gains from the conception, procurement, and delivery of goods, services and works

6.4 Risk Management

The Council must continue to work towards the achievement of the strategy aim and objectives in the coming year. Failure to do so will have substantial negative effects for the Borough, including:

- Higher energy and building maintenance costs;
- Greater potential for adverse health effects, including; skin cancer, heat related deaths, food poisoning, vector borne diseases and impacts from severe storms and floods;
- A decrease in native biodiversity; and
- Disruption to businesses and services affected by extreme weather events.

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be updated on the progress of the strategy actions in October 2008.

8 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: 6 Month Update Report

Contact Officers: Stephen McDonald, Energy Officer
Telephone No: (01388) 816166 ext 4638
Email Address: smcdonald@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): All

Background Papers:

Sedgefield Borough Council Climate Change Strategy 2007 - 2012

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6 Month Update Report on Climate Change Actions

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Key Objective 1: To reduce the impact of development on climate change and to ensure new developments are 'climate proofed'

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (Oct 07 – March 08)	Date to be Achieved	Actions (March 08 - April 09)
DPM1	Development Control Manager	All development (either new build or conversion) with a floorspace in excess of 1,000m ² , or ten or more residential units, to incorporate embedded energy from renewable sources, in order to provide at least 10% of the predicted energy requirements.	Guidance and advice on achieving the 10% requirement is being given by the Sustainable Communities Section. Improving links between Sustainable Communities, Development Control and Regeneration has ensured developers are more likely to be informed of the requirement at the earliest possible stage. So far, four developments have met the condition, although none have been completed. It is estimated that the total amount of energy offset by renewable technologies in the last two approved developments was 1,051 MWh.	Ongoing	Further information will be supplied to developers by developing a series of marketing packages, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New detailed information on SBC website. New planning info sheet for developers.
DPM2	Forward Planning Manager	Reduce the impact of development on climate change, through the Local Development Framework.	Production of Draft Windlestone Hall Supplementary Planning Document published March 2008. Local Development Framework Contextual Indicators published in March 2008.	01/2009	Publication of Affordable Housing SPD expected after the publication of the Durham Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
DPM3	Development Control Manager, Sustainable Communities	Developers to be encouraged to use most sustainable methods of construction available.	Advice given to developers via 'One Stop Shop' and individual requests via Development Control and Regeneration.	06/2008	Continue with advice through 'One Stop Shop'. Explore opportunities to produce sustainable construction guidance and promote Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 in all

DPA1	Manager Forward Planning Manager	All new development sites to be directed to flood zone 1 (areas that are at little or no risk of flooding) as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report.	Ongoing Investigated the possibility of including flash flooding hotspots into the GIS. Such occurrences are usually down to drain blockages and as such are not a reflection on increased weather variability.	Ongoing	housing developments. Investigation into flood mapping will continue.
DPA2	Development Control Manager, Sustainable Communities Manager	Promote design of new developments that takes into account future climatic conditions.	New developments advised on adaptation issues through One Stop Shop and Regeneration Department. This includes information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Shading. • Optimisation of Solar Gain. • Natural Ventilation. • SUDS. • Green Roofs. 	Ongoing	

PUBLIC BUILDINGS & CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Key Objective 2: To substantially reduce the consumption of natural resources from Council activities

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (Oct 07 – March 08)	Date to be Achieved	Actions (March 08 - April 09)
PBM1	Energy Management Group	Implement the actions encompassed within the 2007 'Sustainable Energy and Water Policy' and associated 'Annual Energy Management Plan', to provide for a 3% reduction in energy consumption.	<p>Annual Energy Management Report produced. This contained the following achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT implemented a programme of energy saving measures across the computer system in Nov 07. The software: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turns off monitors after 10 minutes of inactivity. • Turns off hard drives after 2 hours of inactivity. • Hibernates computers after 3 hours of inactivity. • 36 Variable Speed Drives were purchased on Heating & Ventilation fans and swimming pool pumps. This reduces the amount of fuel used to heat and ventilate the LC's. Cost £48,925. Payback less than 1 year. • Gas boilers have been replaced at Newton Aycliffe, Ferryhill, and Shildon Sunnydale and gas burners have been replaced at Spennymoor. • Replacement of pool dosing systems saving water. • Installation of water saving devices on both toilet and urinal flushing cisterns. • Lighting controls and occupancy sensors have been incorporated into most areas that were refurbished in 07/08 in the leisure centres. • All Valves and Flanges in plant rooms have now been insulated where appropriate. • All leisure centre managers have had extensive tour of plant rooms with detailed explanations of 	2007- 2012	<p>Trial installation of T5 high frequency lighting in small office area.</p> <p>Display Energy Certificates¹ to be installed in appropriate Council buildings in accordance with Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.</p>

¹ www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/theenvironment/energyperformance/certificates/displayenergycertificates/

			how the plant works. Managers also hold budgets for energy.			
PBM2	Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager	Establish a comprehensive management system for energy and water within the six main operational buildings.	Report agreed at Management Team on energy monitoring strategy. DCC to monitor energy and water usage, bill validation, produce annual consumption reports and ensure compliance with EPBD for main sites.	03/2008	03/2008	Ensure DCC comply with terms of agreement. Investigate extension of agreement to include smaller sites.
PBM3	Energy Management Group	Reinvest up to 50% of financial savings from energy savings measures into new energy conservation initiatives and investigate potential external funding sources.	Removed because of LGR		07/2008	
PBM4	Technical Services Manager	Produce a strategy for the sustainable management of municipal waste throughout the Borough.	New recycling management contract now in place, with Greencycle. Daily tonnages are nearly double compared to the same period in 2007.		03/2009	Report upon recycling targets on 6 monthly basis.
PBM5	Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager	Assess feasibility of generating electricity from on-site renewable technologies at each location within the Council's building portfolio. Where appropriate and cost effective, generate 5% of a building's total electricity usage by 2012.	No work undertaken. All capital works (and budgets) have been severely curtailed because of LGR, on the basis that significant works should not be carried out when we do not know what the future holds. Therefore no such works will be considered until after LGR and then the new Council will need to decide its strategy.		03/2012	
PBA1	Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager	Review ventilation strategies in the existing building portfolio, to ensure that the most financially & environmentally sustainable standards are introduced.	No work undertaken. All capital works (and budgets) have been severely curtailed because of LGR, on the basis that significant works should not be carried out when we do not know what the future holds. Therefore no such works will be considered until after LGR and then the new Council will need to decide its strategy.		03/2009	

HOUSING

Key Objective 3: To improve the energy rating of all domestic properties in order to achieve an average SAP rating of 62 across the Borough by 2012

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (Oct 07 – March 08)	Date to be Achieved	Actions (March 08 - April 09)
HM1	Sustainable Communities Manager	Continue to deliver energy efficiency and grants advice to all residents in partnership with the Home Improvement Agency (HIA), EAGA and The Energy Saving Trust (EST).	<p>New partnerships being developed with 'GoWarm' and 'Rights to Warmth' to deliver a comprehensive fuel poverty and insulation scheme for residents of the Borough.</p> <p>Group Repair Scheme (GRS) work on 2-28 Haig Street, Ferryhill Station commenced December 2007. The works selected by residents have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking out of the existing ground floor to provide a new insulated construction. • Cavity Wall insulation was programmed in but was omitted due to the presence of bats. • Stripping out of the existing central heating and hot water system and provision of a new central heating and hot water system incorporating a solar panel and energy efficient condensing wall mounting boiler. • Upgrading of the loft insulation. <p>'GoWarm' are compiling SAP data for non Council housing stock.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Updates from 'GoWarm', 'Warm Front' and 'EST' to be delivered to SBC on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Distribute, in partnership with MEARS, energy efficiency publicity to Council residents.</p>
HM2	Sustainable Communities Manager	Accurately record household energy data to enable annual energy performance (SAP) reports to be produced for all non Council housing stock.		03/2009	Investigate compliance with NI 187 through the use of 'GoWarm' SAP data. Investigate potential transfer of data from 'GoWarm' to Council Database.

HM3	Design & Management Manager - Housing	Review heating systems of grouped accommodation and investigate the potential for installing renewable technologies, where appropriate.	Central boiler plant renewals have taken place in two grouped accommodations. The 25 year old gas boilers have been renewed with new more efficient gas boilers, more and updated heating controls have been installed to improve the control of the system and increase energy efficiency at a cost of £300,000.	03/2009	A feasibility study is planned for a grouped accommodation scheme, which also provides heating about 12 or so small bungalows. The boiler is 25 years old and was originally solid fuel and was converted to gas and as such is extremely inefficient.
HM4	Design & Management Manager - Housing	Increase average SAP rating of Council housing to 78.	The Council has a target to ensure that all of its housing stock meets the Governments Decent Home Standard by 2010, in order to meet this target old gas boilers have been replaced with new high efficiency condensing combination boilers and improved heating controls have been installed.	03/2008	The recent stock condition survey indicated that no Council housing fail the thermal criteria and that a large proportion of the work required to meet the Decency Standard is boiler replacement. Therefore old boilers will be replaced with high efficiency gas boilers and improved controls will also be fitted to the heating systems. This will not only attain the Decent Homes, but will also go some way to achieving the Target SAP rating.

HA1	Design & Management Manager - Housing	Continue to carry out regular inspections of council housing stock in relation to the potential adverse impacts of a changing climate.	<p>The Council have focused the capital programme works to deal with the properties identified as failing decency, from the stock condition survey. This has seen an increase in the number of heating, electrical and roofing works carried out.</p> <p>The Council have also entered into a five year strategic partnership with Mears covering all Housing related construction services. This also includes the Capital Programme which will ensure the Council meets the Decent Homes target. This has cost an overall total of £5.6m.</p>	Ongoing	The Council will continue to focus the capital programme on achieving the Decent Homes targets, carrying out works identified to meet this target from the Stock Condition Survey.
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GREENSPACE & BIODIVERSITY

Key Objective 4: To manage green spaces to take account of changes to the climate

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (Oct 07 – March 08)	Date to be Achieved	Actions (March 08 - April 09)
GSM 1	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Develop a Woodland Management Strategy to: a) Improve the management regime of existing woodland sites. b) Identify opportunities for extensive tree planting. c) Identify local opportunities to utilise felled materials as biofuel or fuel in biomass generators.	Removed because of LGR	03/2009	
GSA1	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Discourage planting of high water demanding plants and encourage use of native species of local provenance in appropriate locations.	Streetscene have an ongoing programme of improving efficiencies across its service delivery area. Actions currently undertaken include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use P4 soil conditioner to reduce the required watering in newly planted areas. Mulch all planted areas' both old and new with our own re-cycled wood chips. Top up with mulch where and when required. Plant as early as possible in the dormant season Nov-Jan to establish a good root system that will require less water for the first season. Water only for the first planting season (if required). Reduce the re-planting of shrub beds in the Borough and replace with grass. 	Ongoing	Looking for new locations for heather beds within 2008 to reduce watering further.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Micro PHC mycorrhizal fungi root dip on all new stock to reduce stress in drought conditions. • Use self watering hanging baskets with an enclosed water reservoir. • Phasing out the use of hanging baskets throughout the Borough. • Replaced 5 flower and shrub beds with heather beds which require less water. 		
GSA2	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Develop a Green Space Strategy (GSS) to identify partnerships and resources for the protection and enhancement of important habitats and the links between them (ecological corridors).	The Green Space strategy has been put on hold due to a change in members of staff; the new officer covering this strategy has recently started in post.	11/2007	Progress in 2008.
GSA3	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Incorporate potential climate change impacts and opportunities for adaptation, into site specific management plans, strategies and project work.	Due to a change in staff, the Countryside Officer (Projects and Maintenance) post has become vacant. It is hoped that the new officer will be reviewing the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) management plans through the summer season 2008.	03/2009	Progress in 2008.
GSA4	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Disseminate guidance, and develop policy on the identification, avoidance and removal of invasive exotic plant species.	Guidance has yet to be developed.	03/2010	This will be an integral part of the work to complete the Green Space Strategy and as such will be picked up during the summer.

TRANSPORT
Key Objective 5: To reduce fuel consumption from all vehicles operated by the Council by 5% by 2012

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (Oct 07 – March 08)	Date to be Achieved	Actions (March 08 - April 09)
TM1	Sustainable Communities Manager & Policy and Finance Manager	Produce a comprehensive package of information/events to promote alternatives to the car to staff and residents.	Staff Car Sharing scheme still ongoing. Other items removed because of LGR.	Ongoing	
TM2	Transport Manager	Appraise all aspects of the utilisation of fleet vehicles, aiming to reduce costs and consumption of fuel.	Transport Section still waiting for approval to purchase a new fuel management system which will be able to provide mileage, MPG and consumption information. LGR may be a deciding factor in the approval for the capital investment required to install the fuel management system.	03/2008	Planned activities will be confirmed once a decision is made regarding the purchase of a new fuel management system.
TM3	Human Resources Manager	Review the environmental impacts of the Council's current policy on lease cars.	Removed because of LGR	03/2008	
TM4	Transport Manager & Sustainable Communities Manager	Implement actions outlined within the Borough Council's Travel Plan.	Removed because of LGR	03/2009	

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Key Objective 6: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable procurement solutions

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (Oct 07 – March 08)	Date to be Achieved	Actions (March 08 - April 09)
SPM1	Policy & Finance Manager	Develop sustainable procurement practices and ensure effective communication to key staff and suppliers.	<p>All paper purchases currently contain a minimum of 75% post consumer waste and carry the NAPM logo.</p> <p>Use of electronic tender system instead of manual paper based system. Benefits include, no paper used in process for both SBC and suppliers, no postage costs, time efficiency savings.</p>	03/2009	Inclusion of Sustainability paragraph in upfront detail for all tender specifications distributed by Procurement.
SPM2	Policy & Finance Manager	Ensure sustainability impacts are identified and that 'whole life costing analysis' is adopted when determining purchasing specifications and evaluation criteria.	Sustainability is used as part of the evaluation criteria within the assessment toolkit. This % score can be changed in relation to the significance initiators place on sustainability for each contract.	03/2009	Promote the use of E-Tendering system to all departments.
SPM3	Audit Manager	Investigate purchase of renewable electricity (in preference to green electricity) at contract renewal periods.	<p>SBC are now in the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) which allows the authority greater power to purchase energy at reduced costs. Renewable electricity is prohibitively expensive at the moment because of a shortage of supply. Electricity is therefore purchased from 'Good Quality CHP' (the simultaneous generation of usable heat and power (usually electricity) in a single process).</p> <p>Renewable energy aspect removed because of LGR timescale.</p>	03/2010	

AWARENESS RAISING

Key Objective 7: To ensure employees, businesses and residents have a clear understanding of the potential impacts of climate change, how they can adapt to these impacts and contribute positively towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions


Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress	Date to be Achieved	Actions (March 08 - April 09)
ARM 1	Sustainable Communities Manager	Provide climate change and energy awareness advice to Borough Council Members, staff and residents.	<p>Actions taken from October 2007 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy consumption update provided to staff via 'Team Briefs'. • Energy Awareness leaflet produced and distributed to every member of staff. • A range of publicity information has been included with various issues of INFORM. From October to March there were 10 articles within INFORM based on a sustainability theme. This included a four month trial of SMART electricity monitors with public volunteers. 6 out of the 7 volunteers managed to reduce their electrical consumption over this period compared to the previous 4 months. • Three SMART electricity monitors have been installed into community buildings while a trial scheme involving 'supported housing schemes' is being investigated in partnership with Carelink. • Renewable energy advice has been distributed to all community organisations within the Borough. This was followed up with a further three site visits relaying more detailed energy efficiency and renewable 	Ongoing	<p>Produce further update for staff in April.</p> <p>Appoint a 'Climate Change Champion' both at Member and Chief Officer level, in line with recommendations from the Key Findings and Recommendations of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group from the Association of North East Councils (ANEC)².</p>

² Association of North East Councils (2008), CLIMATE CHANGE: Key Findings and Recommendations of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group

			<p>energy information and advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DEFRA funded regional Climate Change Dome made four visits to Sedgefield Borough during 2007. This provided residents with advice and information about Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. 		
ARM 2	Regeneration Manager & Sustainable Communities Manager	Develop a Borough-wide Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in partnership with the LSP, communities and local businesses.	Removed because of LGR.	03/2009	
ARM 3	Economic Development Manager & Development Control Manager	Stimulate the development of a renewable energy infrastructure and environmentally sustainable buildings at key business locations within the Borough.	Economic Development are working with a major landowner on Aycliffe Business Park who are selling land to a renewable energy provider. This development will face lengthy planning issues and won't be in place for some time, but will ensure that waste products of one of Aycliffe's major companies are converted into energy.	08/2009	Working with developers of Green Lane Industrial Estate to integrate sustainable energy, BREEAM and 'eco-homes' into planning application due to be submitted in June 2008.
ARA1	Sustainable Communities Manager & Carelink Services Manager	Raise awareness of potential climate change impacts and provide adaptation advice to communities.	No Progress.	Ongoing	Highlight appropriate adaptation measures as a priority with vulnerable groups and service leads.
ARA2	Head of Financial Resources & DCC	Ensure emergency procedures for all sites are updated and meet requirements for increased risks.	Removed because of LGR.	03/2008	

Carbon Management Matrix

	POLICY	ORGANISATION	INFORMATION AND DATA	COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING	FINANCE	MONITORING & EVALUATION
Excellent	Specific climate change policy with targets signed off and implemented + Action plan with clear goals and regular reviews to confirm actions undertaken and targets achieved/being progressed	As 4: + Climate change responsibilities integrated into responsibilities of senior managers in different departments + <i>Political support from the highest level in the council.</i>	CO ₂ emissions compiled for all main LA sources for a baseline year and regular collation of annual emissions data + Data externally verified	As 4: + Communication on carbon and energy related matters with the community and other key business partners	Well defined and effective internal financing mechanisms for carbon/energy saving projects + Extensive use of external finance sources as appropriate + Good internal resources for management/coordination tasks	Management Review of carbon management process by senior management. + Regular reviews by core team on progress with carbon management
Very Good	Specific climate change policy with targets developed and signed off, but not implemented	Climate change/carbon management is a <u>full</u> -time responsibility of an individual + Climate change responsibilities integrated into responsibilities of senior managers in different departments	CO ₂ emissions compiled for all main LA sources for a baseline year (i.e. buildings, streetlighting, transport (fleet and commuting) and waste if relevant) + Data internally reviewed	Formalised communication and training plan for all staff on carbon and energy related matters, including integration in induction and other normal training processes	Internal & external funding on a regular basis for carbon/energy saving projects + Sufficient internal resources for management/coordination tasks	Regular reviews by core team on progress with carbon management (e.g. review of actions, check against emissions profile and targets, addition of new opportunities etc.)
Good	Climate change included in wider policy documents.	As 2: + Climate change responsibilities integrated into responsibilities of people in different departments	CO ₂ emissions data compiled for some sources for a baseline year (e.g. buildings and streetlighting) and source data available for other sources (e.g. transport)	Ad hoc communication and training delivered to all staff on carbon and energy related matters	Internal & external funding on an ad hoc basis for carbon/energy saving projects + Limited internal resources for management/co-ordination tasks	Ad hoc assessment of all aspects of carbon/energy policies/strategies, targets and action plans
Fair	Climate change as an aspiration in non-policy documents	Climate change/carbon management is a part-time responsibility of an individual	No CO ₂ emissions data compiled for any sources but energy data compiled on a regular basis	Communication and training to specific groups in the Council (e.g. energy team) on carbon or energy related matters	Some internal financing on an ad hoc basis for carbon and/or energy efficiency related projects + Limited internal resources for management/coordination tasks	Ad hoc reviews of specific aspects of carbon/energy policies/strategies, targets and action plans
Poor	No climate change policy or strategy and no mention of climate change in policy/strategy documents	No individual with responsibility for climate change issues	No CO ₂ emissions data compiled for any sources and energy data not compiled on a regular basis	No communication or training to staff on carbon or energy related matters	No internal financing or funding for carbon and/or energy efficiency related projects	No monitoring of carbon/energy policies/strategies, targets and action plans

 2007 Level: Fair/Good

 2008 Level: Good/Very Good (columns with no blue shaded box represent no progress)

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SBC Climate Change Strategy

6 Month Update



Update Report Focus

- The steps departments are making to ensure they are on track to deliver the actions within the strategy.
- The identification of barriers and constraints to the successful delivery of actions.
- The steps that are in place to achieve the actions in 2008/09.



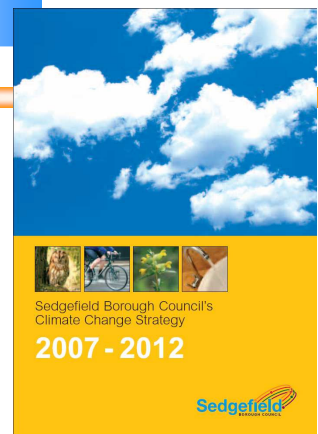
Contents

- Background
 - Aim of the Strategy
 - Objectives
- Update on the Actions
- 2007 CO₂ Emissions
- Conclusions



Background

- SBC Climate Change Strategy
 - Impacts
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation



Objectives

- **Development and Planning** - To reduce the impact of development on climate change and to ensure new developments are 'climate proofed';
- **Public Buildings & Consumption of Natural Resources** - To substantially reduce the consumption of natural resources from Council activities;
- **Housing** - To improve the energy rating of domestic properties to achieve an average SAP rating of 62 across the Borough;
- **Green Space and Biodiversity** - To manage green spaces to take account of changes to the climate;
- **Transport** - To reduce fuel consumption from all vehicles operated by the Council by 5% by 2012;
- **Sustainable Procurement** - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable procurement solutions;
- **Awareness Raising** - To ensure employees, businesses and residents have a clear understanding of the potential impacts of climate change, how they can adapt to these impacts and contribute positively towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Development & Planning

- Upholding of the 10% embedded renewable energy policy for all new developments over 1000m² in the Borough
- Sustainable Construction Advice



Public Buildings and Consumption of Natural Resources

- ICT energy saving measures
- Purchase of Variable Speed Drives
- Energy Management
- New Greencycle contract in place



Housing

- Delivery of heating and insulation projects with partners
- 'GoWarm'
- Private Sector Renewals
- Council Housing



Green Space and Biodiversity

- Streetscene Services
 - Reducing plant watering
- Green Space Strategy



Transport

- Fuel Management
- Streamlining Routes
- Vehicle Purchase



Sustainable Procurement

- The Electronic Tender System
- Electricity Purchase



Awareness Raising

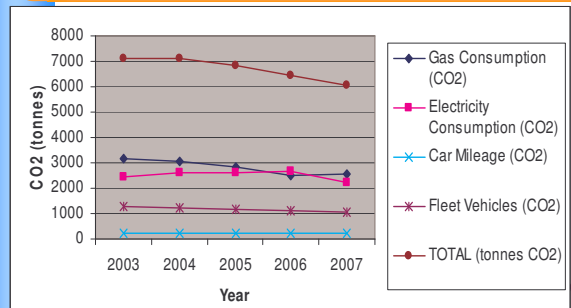
- Energy Awareness Articles
- Economic Development



CO₂ Emissions

Emissions	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Improvement from 2006	% Improvement from 2003
Gas (CO ₂)	3191	3054	2857	2499	2552	-2.1	20.0
Electricity (CO ₂)	2443	2603	2604	2684	2219	17.3	9.2
Buildings (CO ₂)	5634	5657	5461	5119	4771	6.8	15.3
Business Mileage (CO ₂)	195	197*	198	199	201*	-1.0	-3.1
Fleet Vehicles (CO ₂)*	1286	1230*	1175	1107	1078	2.6	16.2
TOTAL (tonnes CO₂)	7115	7084	6834	6425	6050	5.8	15.0

Total CO₂ Emissions 2003 - 2007



Conclusions

- Emissions Reduction
- Development and Planning
- Awareness Raising
- Improvements in Housing

- LGR
- Timescales

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Item 5



Local Improvement Programme

...Making life better in your neighbourhood

Summary of Local Improvement Programme (LIP) for Prosperous & Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Presentation – April 29th 2008

The following note provides Overview and Scrutiny members with a summary of the Local Improvement Programme (LIP) to help inform the discussion / presentation on the Programme that will take place at the meeting to be held on 29th April.

A presentation will be given at the meeting that builds on the information presented to the Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee that took place on 29th January 2008.

1. Overview of the Programme

The purpose of the Local Improvement Programme is to tackle the issues facing the Borough linked to aspects of the Community Strategy and intelligence from Community / Area Appraisals.

As part of this process, resources could be released to improve individual sites, buildings and community facilities throughout Sedgefield Borough.

Local community / voluntary organisations and partner Town and Parish Councils can submit project proposals at any time. These are appraised and then discussed at the Area Forum meeting. The Area Forum role is key in providing a view as to the priority of the project within that area. The project is then tabled at the Council's Cabinet, who will assess the project and decide which projects are supported.

2. Criteria

Projects eligible for support through the Local Improvement Programme would need to demonstrate that the project meets the following key criteria:

- Conformity to the Department for Communities and Local Government 'regeneration criteria' which states:

***“The carrying out of works or activities on any land where the land, or a building on the land, is vacant, unused, under-used, ineffectively used, contaminated or derelict;
and
....the works or activities are carried out in order to secure that the land or the building will be brought into effective use.”***

- Clear linkages to the delivery of the Council's **Community Strategy** and its key aims and planned outcomes.

Community Strategy issues include;

- Improve the physical and environmental conditions to help create more sustainable communities.
- Achieve wider regeneration benefits than physical renewal by linking this investment to schemes able to generate other regeneration benefits in areas of skills training, improved health, community safety and greater social and community cohesion.

Projects are also expected to meet the following secondary criteria:

- The project should have carried out **appropriate levels of community consultation** and reference to any local community appraisal. A **clear need for the project must have been identified**.
- The project should have specific **measurable benefits** as to justify any support. These benefits should relate to specific timescales.
- The project should have considered how any recurrent or **revenue funding implications will be managed**.
- Value for money should be clearly demonstrated, to include any match funding from other grant sources as well as accessing a minimum of **3 quotes** regarding the proposals for work.
- Where the applicant is a Town or Parish Council, there should **normally** be the commitment of a financial contribution of approximately one third of the total cost of the project, to ensure the resources being made available are addressing local priorities as well as those of the Council. This contribution could include other external funding that the Town or Parish Council has secured from sources such as the National Lottery, or other funders where opportunities exist. The funding of future revenue implications will also be considered. All applications will be considered on their individual merits.
- Applicants must be set up for **charitable purposes**. We are unable to support commercial organisations through the Local Improvement Programme.
- If the project has a sports focus, applicants must discuss and prepare a **Sports Development Plan** with the Leisure Services section of Sedgfield Borough Council.

Andrew Megginson
Capital Programme Manager
Strategy & Regeneration

Local Improvement Programme

*Prosperous & Attractive
Borough Overview and
Scrutiny Presentation –*

*Update on the Programme
and Progress Made*



Background to the Programme

- Sale of land for housing has created an opportunity to further invest in Regeneration across the Borough
- Creation of the Local Improvement Programme (LIP)
- £3.8m has been earmarked to LIP across the Borough over a 3 year period to March 2009 * *subject to resources being available*
- Allocation tied to Area Forum Areas and based on number of households within that area



Financial Allocation per Area Forum

Breakdown of Local Improvement Programme funding by Area Forum

Area Forum locality	No of Households	%	TOTAL LIP Funding *
Area1 - Spennymoor	8,300	22	£836,000
Area 2 - Ferryhill & Chilton	8,130	22	£836,000
Area 3 - Rural East	5,250	14	£532,000
Area 4 - Shildon	4,700	12	£456,000
Area 5 - Newton Aycliffe	11,140	30	£1,140,000
Total	37,790		£3,800,000

* 2008/09 Financial Year of the overall LIP Budget Allocation to be confirmed through SBC Budget process



Main Grant Criteria

- Compatibility with Government Regeneration Defn.
 - Focus activity on underused land and or buildings
- Programme designed to tackle the key issues facing the Borough linked to:
 - Community Strategy Objectives,
 - A Strong Local Need – backed through appraisals
 - Measurable benefits – *what difference will the project make?*
 - Added Value / additional activity
 - Appropriate Local Consultation
 - Given Regeneration Definition, activity will be focused towards land and buildings



Key Issues Raised at the January Meeting

- Current performance
- Timescale of project delivery
- Impact of LIP schemes
- Match Funding secured against LIP monies
- Differing levels of activity across Borough
- Consideration of a 'cut off' date for new applications
- Issues facing applicants, quotes process, external timescales



Update on Progress since January meeting

- Increase in project activity
- Third of all LIP projects submitted in last 6 months
- Good press coverage of the scheme
- Increase in member involvement within areas
- Active Area Forums
- Increase in project activity in Shildon and Newton Aycliffe



Consideration of a cut off date

- Internal consultation undertaken
- Support for principle of a cut off date
- Review of average turn-around time
- Consideration of future Area Forum dates
- Need to develop a clear communication strategy
- Need to avoid a 'dash for the cash' philosophy
- Give all groups opportunity to submit applications
- Recognise differing needs of groups and turn around time for projects



Next Steps

- Need formal agreement of a cut off date
- Communication of a cut off date
- Press / information articles
- Engagement with Area Forums
- We have started to encourage potential applicants to submit initial draft applications to us ASAP.



Contact details

- Applications packs in paper and/or electronic versions are available.
- Contact Details – Andrew Megginson Ext. 7764

Linda Goundry or Nicola Woodgate LIP Officers
(01388) 816166 Ext. 7775 / Ext. 7774
lgoundry@sedgefield.gov.uk
nwoodgate@sedgefield.gov.uk



Questions

- Happy to take any questions
- We are also happy to discuss individual project ideas / comments outside this meeting with Councillor and or Community Groups.



Item 6

PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 APRIL 2008

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

This report sets out the Committee's current Work Programme for consideration and review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee's Work Programme be reviewed.

DETAIL

1. In accordance with Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 8 of the Council's Constitution, Overview & Scrutiny Committees are responsible for setting their own work programme.
2. Each Overview & Scrutiny Committee should agree a realistic, achievable and considered work programme on the understanding that, from time to time, more urgent or immediate issues may require scrutiny. Issues may, for example, be raised by Cabinet reports, Members' constituency business or be referred to Scrutiny by Cabinet in advance of a Cabinet decision.
3. The current Work Programme for this Committee is appended to the report which details:-
 - Scrutiny Reviews currently being undertaken.
 - Scrutiny review topics held in reserve for future investigation.
 - A schedule of items to be considered by the Committee for the period to 31st March 2009.
4. **Scrutiny Review**
The Committee should aim to undertake a small number of high quality reviews that will make a real difference to the work of the Authority, rather than high numbers of reviews on more minor issues. Overview & Scrutiny Committees should normally aim to undertake two reviews concurrently. Any additional review topics that have been agreed by Members will be placed on a reserve list and as one review is completed the Committee will decide on which review should be undertaken next.

A workshop was held for Overview & Scrutiny Members on 20th February 2008 to discuss the role of the Committees within the period leading to the establishment of a new Unitary Council in April 2009. One element of the workshop was to consider a number of options for undertaking scrutiny reviews

within this period. Members supported undertaking a State of the Borough Review, which would look at achievements within each of the Council's ambitions. The Review would provide a benchmark for future assessment, highlight areas for improvement and make recommendations to the new council where appropriate.

It was proposed that Overview & Scrutiny Committees establish Review Groups to examine each of the Council's ambitions as follows:-

Committee	Review Groups
Healthy Borough with Strong Communities O&S Cttee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Borough Review Group• Strong Communities Review Group
Prosperous and Attractive Borough O&S Cttee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prosperous Borough Review Group• Attractive Borough Review Group

The final reports from each of these reviews would be combined to form a single State of the Borough report.

5. Business for Future Meetings

The Committees Work Programme for the period leading to the establishment of a new Unitary Council in April 2009 is attached for consideration.

Members are requested to review the Committee's Work Programme and identify, where necessary, issues that they feel should be investigated by the Committee. The Work Programme will need to be carefully managed to ensure that the most important issues are considered in the limited time available.

It will not always be possible to anticipate all reports which will need to be considered by an Overview & Scrutiny Committee and therefore a flexible approach will need to be taken to work programming.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None associated with this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Contact Officers: Jonathan Slee
Telephone No: (01388) 816166 ext 4362
Email Address: jslee@sedgefield.gov.uk

Ward(s): Not ward specific
Background Papers None

**PROSPEROUS & ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

WORK PROGRAMME

Ongoing Reviews

State of the Borough Review

Future Reviews

There are currently no review topics identified by the Committee for future review. As one review is completed Members will decide which review should be undertaken next.

ANTICIPATED ITEMS

2008/09 Municipal Year

July 2008*

- *Performance Indicators 2007/08 - Year End Performance*

September 2008*

- *Overview and Scrutiny Review: The Council's Contribution to Reducing Economic Inactivity (Increasing Employability) - Progress on Action plan*
- *Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review: Future Recycling Services Options – Progress on Action Plan*
- *Building Control Service - Performance Update*
- *The Provision of Conservation Area Appraisals – Performance update*

November 2008*

- *Half Yearly Performance Report*

December 2008*

- *Prosperous Borough Overview & Scrutiny Review Group Report*
- *Attractive Borough Overview & Scrutiny Review Group Report*

January 2009*

- *No items identified*

March 2009*

- *No items identified*

**Meeting dates subject to approval at Annual Council in May 2008.*

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