



# PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday,

27 January 2009

10.00 a.m.

Council Chamber,  
Council Offices  
Spennymoor

# AGENDA

and

# REPORTS



**This document is also available in other languages,  
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 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 (Pages 1 - 4)

**4. DRAFT GREEN SPACE STRATEGY**

Tammy Morris-Hale, Countryside Officer will be attending the meeting to give a presentation on the draft Green Space Strategy.

Copy of the presentation is attached. (Pages 5 - 8)

**5. SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY –  
PROGRESS UPDATE**

To consider the attached report.

Stephen McDonald, Energy Officer, will be attending the meeting to present the report. (Pages 9 - 26)

**6. WORK PROGRAMME**

To consider the attached report of Chairman of the Committee.  
(Pages 27 - 30)

**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**

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. S. J. Iveson, Mrs. E. Maddison, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, A. Smith and B. Stephens.

**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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# Item 3

## SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

### PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Council Chamber,  
Council Offices  
Spennymoor

Tuesday,  
9 December 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m.

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

Councillors Mrs. L. M.G. Cuthbertson, P. Gittins J.P., D.M. Hancock,  
Mrs. I. Hewitson, Mrs. E. Maddison and A. Smith

**In**

**Attendance:** Councillor A. Gray

**Observers  
with the  
Chairman's  
Consent:**

Councillors V. Crosby, A. Hodgson and W. Waters

**Apologies:** Councillors G.M.R. Howe, Mrs. S. J. Iveson, B. Lamb, Mrs. E.M. Paylor  
and B. Stephens

#### **P&A.16/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **P&A.17/08 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were confirmed  
as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **P&A.18/08 "STATE OF THE BOROUGH" - PROSPEROUS BOROUGH REVIEW GROUP REPORT**

Consideration was given to the State of the Borough (Prosperous  
Borough) Review Group report (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the report covered :-

- Background to the review
- Objectives of the review
- The process and methodology of the review

The following quality of life topics had been examined during the  
process of the review :-

- Employment and economic activity
- Regeneration of town centres
- Local Improvement Programme
- Learning and Skills

Relevant key statistics had been identified together with interventions which were in place to address issues, progress being made in relation to those interventions and issues which still needed to be addressed.

The Review Group had reached a number of conclusions and recommendations which were set out in the report.

Cabinet Members then left the meeting to allow the Committee to deliberate.

**AGREED :**                    *That the State of the Borough Review (Prosperous Borough) be approved and submitted to Cabinet for consideration with other State of the Borough Reviews.*

**P&A.19/08      "STATE OF THE BOROUGH" - ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH REVIEW GROUP REPORT**

Consideration was given to the State of the Borough (Attractive Borough) Review Group report (for copy see file of Minutes).

It was explained that the report covered :-

- Background to the review
- Objectives of the review
- The process and methodology of the review

The following quality of life topics had been examined during the process of the review :-

- Street cleanliness and waste
- Open space
- Transport

Relevant key statistics had been identified together with interventions which were in place to address issues, progress being made in relation to those interventions and issues which still needed to be addressed.

The Review Group had reached a number of conclusions and recommendations which were set out in the report.

Cabinet Members then left the meeting to allow the Committee to deliberate.

**AGREED :**                    *That the State of the Borough Review (Attractive Borough) be approved and submitted to Cabinet for consideration with other State of the Borough Reviews.*

**P&A.20/08    WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme for the Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of Minutes).

*AGREED :    That the Work Programme be approved.*

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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](mailto:enorth@sedgefield.gov.uk)

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**Tammy Morris-Hale**  
**Countryside Officer (Planning and Strategy)**

Draft Green Space  
 Strategy  
 Consultation



### What I will be covering

- What is a greenspace strategy and why we have to produce one;
- What the greenspace strategy covers;
- Some of the most important elements in the strategy including the vision, aims, policies and indicators;
- The Greenspace Framework
- What this means for the Borough and the future of greenspace management.

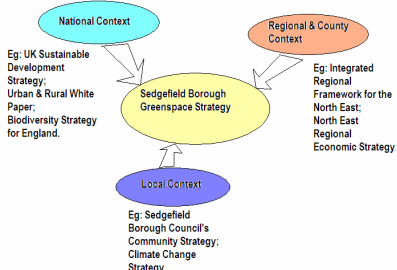


### What is the Green Space Strategy?

“Green space strategies establish a **vision** for the use of green spaces within a given area. They establish the **goals** that a local authority or partnership would like to achieve through the management of green space, and identify the **resources and protocols** necessary to achieve these goals” (CABE Space)





### Policy Context





**National Context**  
 Eg: UK Sustainable Development Strategy; Urban & Rural White Paper; Biodiversity Strategy for England.

**Regional & County Context**  
 Eg: Integrated Regional Framework for the North East; Regional Economic Strategy

**Local Context**  
 Eg: Sedgefield Borough Council's Community Strategy; Climate Change Strategy.




Extensive consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken through the Open Space Needs Assessment, (published for the Borough in 2007) and forms the evidence base for the production of this strategy.

### What types of Green Space have we looked at?

- Parks and public gardens
- Natural and semi-natural spaces
- Green / ecological corridors
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Informal / amenity green space
- Allotments, community gardens and city farms / community supported agriculture
- Provision for children and young people
- Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds
- Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
- Publicly managed flower beds and tree belts
- Unmanaged spaces owned by the Borough Council

Most mapped through Open Space Needs Assessment, but some additional mapping for green space strategy



## The Vision for Green Spaces

“Sedgefield Borough’s green spaces belong to the people of Sedgefield Borough. They are places where people can learn about and experience our **natural, cultural and historic heritage** and they are a central part of our vision for a **prosperous, attractive and healthy Borough with strong, safe communities**. They should contribute to the quality of life of everyone that lives, works or visits our Borough and will be **clean, safe, interesting, accessible and well-connected spaces** that are **sustainably managed** and maintained to respect the needs of people and wildlife.”



## Existing Greenspace

- Sedgefield Borough Council currently owns around 536.81ha of greenspace.
- 8551.53ha owned by other organisations or private.



## Gaps in Greenspace network

Greenspace Typology/ Locality	Parks and Public Gardens	Semi-natural greenspace	Allotments
Bishop Middleham			
Comforth		Eastern edge	
Pishburn		East	
Trimdons			
Seannymoor		North & South west	
Ferryhill	East & South	Centre & Dean Bank	
Sedgefield			
Shildon	West	North & South west	
Chilton		South & West	
Newton Aycliffe	North west & South	Aycliffe Village, and the South.	North & East & School Aycliffe



## Draft Aims

- To improve the quality and provision of greenspace throughout Sedgefield Borough;
- To encourage a sense of community ‘ownership’ of greenspace;
- To enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity value of greenspace;
- To manage greenspace to take into account of a changing climate; and
- To ensure legislative compliance.



## Policies & performance indicators

- In order to ensure the aims and standards of this strategy are achieved a series of policies have been developed to be adopted.
- The implementation of the policies will in turn be monitored through a series of performance indicators.



## Policies – a taster

- All households should be within 300m walking distance of an accessible local semi-natural greenspace of at least 0.5ha in size.
- All households should be within 2000m/30min walking distance of an accessible semi-natural greenspace of at least 20ha in size.
- At least 0.5ha of publicly accessible parks and gardens should be provided per 1000 population across the Borough. These should be located within 1000m/15min walk time from households.
- The council will work in partnership with Town and Parish Council’s to safeguard allotment sites and seek opportunities for improved provision, having regard to the need to maintain provision in the Borough and the constraints on disposal.
- Work with schools and youth workers to ensure young people are consulted on the design and management of greenspaces, where appropriate.
- Devise protocols for management and identification of important ecological corridors with partners, and protect key ecological corridors in the LDF;
- Ensure greenspace sites meet the requirements of DDA where possible/appropriate;
- Produce publicity and guidance on exotic/invasive species found in the Borough and means of getting rid of them safely.



## Indicators

- % of households within 300m of a semi-natural greenspace;
- Area (ha) of accessible LNR's per 1000 population across the Borough;
- Area (ha) of accessible public parks and gardens per 1000 population, across the Borough;
- Area (ha) of accessible informal greenspace per 1000 population across the Borough;
- No. of Green Flag Awards;
- Area (ha) of equipped play areas per 1000 population across the Borough;
- % of population within 1km (15min) walking distance of an allotment;
- Area (ha) of accessible outdoor sports space per 1000 population across the Borough.



**Sedgefield**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Conclusion

- The opportunities identified through this strategy include proposals for the protection, enhancement and creation of multifunctional greenspaces within Sedgefield Borough.
- The responsibility for delivering these changes will lie not only with the Borough (Unitary Authority), but with statutory bodies, non-statutory organisations and developers operating within the Borough both now and in the future.



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## What's next?

- The draft document is now out to consultation for 6 weeks. After which time it will be amended, and the final sections added, including the action plan which is currently being drafted and will be consulted on separately. A Sustainability Appraisal of the Document will then be carried out to identify any further gaps. The document will then be published and hopefully adopted by the Borough Council before the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
- The document will form the evidence base for the new Green Infrastructure Strategy as part of the requirements for the South and East Durham Growth Point, and the County Local Development Framework.

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# Item 5

## PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 January 2009

### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

#### Portfolio: ENVIRONMENT

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

#### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The SBC Climate Change strategy was approved by cabinet in October 2007. During this period departments have been actively delivering the objectives and actions contained within the strategy. Appendix 1 details how Sedgefield Borough Council are meeting the strategic objectives and moving Sedgefield Borough Council towards fulfilling the agreed aim:

*Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2012, meeting yearly 3% reduction targets, to ensure that dependence on finite fossil fuels is reduced. The Council also aims to fully prepare services for the potential impacts of climate change.*

#### 2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the report be received.

#### 3 THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY – 12 MONTH UPDATE

##### The Actions

- 3.1 Appendix 1 details the progress made towards fulfilling the actions set out within the SBC Climate Change Strategy. The report focuses upon:

- Assessing whether departments are on track to deliver the 'Key Actions' within the Strategy.
- Identifying any barriers and constraints to the successful delivery of actions.
- Identifying any corrective actions that need to be undertaken.

Although there have been gaps in the delivery of some of the actions, due mainly to the LGR process, strong progress in a number of key areas, has still been made.

##### Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- 3.2 Because of the timescales associated with LGR, most sections of the Council have had to re-prioritise their workload. Actions that have long term timescales or those that require substantial capital investment have had to be removed from section work plans as departments rationalise their service delivery.

### National Indicator 185 – CO2 emissions from the local authority estate

- 3.3 This new national indicator (NI) will help to ensure that all local authorities monitor emissions across their portfolio. This will help to identify where mitigation measures should be targeted in a co-ordinated approach. Sedgefield Borough Council has been monitoring CO2 emissions for a number of years, however new arrangements for the NI mean that monitoring is conducted over the financial year and not the calendar year as previously conducted. This means that emissions can no longer be compared to previous years and as such no suitable emission figures are available for 2008.

## **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **5 CONSULTATIONS**

- 5.1 Senior Managers from relevant departments within the Authority were invited to a series of internally co-ordinated workshops to discuss and consider the potential impacts of a changing climate on the services delivered by the Council and the community at large.
- 5.2 The key actions, responsibilities and timescales identified within the Strategy Action Plan were developed and agreed in consultation with the senior officers attending the above events.

## **6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### 6.1 Equality and Diversity

The Climate Change Strategy will be made available in alternative languages, Braille or in audio format where requested, and will be placed on the Council's website in pdf format.

### 6.2 Legal and Constitutional

There are no legal or constitutional constraints associated with the publication of the Strategy.

### 6.3 Links to Community Strategy / Corporate Plan

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

## 6.4 Risk Management

The risks associated with long term variations in the Borough's climate and weather patterns are considered to be substantial<sup>1</sup>. Failure to adapt to climate change or to reduce emissions 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.

It is considered that all future strategic risk assessments carried out by business plan holders should have regard to the risks associated with climate change.

## 6.5 Sustainability

The Strategy by its very nature conforms to the principles of sustainable development.

## 6.6 Social Inclusion

Social inclusion issues are discussed within the Climate Change Strategy.

## 7 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Prosperous and Attractive Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for monitoring the action plan through six monthly progress reports prepared by the Director of Neighborhood Services.

## 8 **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – 2008/09 Update Report on Climate Change Actions

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

**Ward(s):** All

**Key Decision Validation:**

**Background Papers:**

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<sup>1</sup> SUSTAINED (2003),

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**2008/09 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'**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Lead Manager</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress (April 08 – April 09)</b>	<b>Date to be Achieved</b>
<b>DPM1</b>	<b>Development Control Manager</b>	All development (either new build or conversion) with a floorspace in excess of 1,000m <sup>2</sup> , 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.	<p>The 10% embedded renewable energy policy received a boost in 2008 when the new Regional Spatial Strategy included a similar policy requirement, meaning that all local authorities across the region should implement this same policy.</p> <p>Within Sedgefield Borough there have been over 20 developments that have been subject to the 10% policy since it was first implemented in 2007. Although data has not been available for all developments it is predicted that the 10% renewable energy policy will save at least 500,000 kg per/year of CO<sub>2</sub>, within these developments. This figure does not include the installation of the biomass boiler at Heighington Lane West which could potentially save over 2,000,000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum. Various technologies have been installed under this policy including biomass boilers, ground/air source heat pumps and solar thermal panels.</p>	Ongoing
<b>DPM2</b>	<b>Forward Planning Manager</b>	Reduce the impact of development on climate change, through the Local Development Framework.	<p>Two technical papers are currently being produced by SBC's Sustainable Communities Section that will help inform the new LDF for the County with reference to reducing the impact of climate change. These are: 'Renewable Energy Developments' and 'Energy Efficiency in Developments'. Climate Change is a central thread running throughout the whole LDF and all technical papers currently being produced to inform it.</p> <p>The energy efficiency paper will help to reduce the impact of development by ensuring they reduce the need for energy, are as</p>	01/2009

			energy efficient as possible and use renewable energy. The renewable energy paper will help to influence and shape the role of major renewable energy developments in County Durham.	
<b>DPM3</b>	<b>Development Control Manager, Sustainable Communities Manager</b>	Developers to be encouraged to use most sustainable methods of construction available.	Ongoing - Continuation of best practice advice through 'One Stop Shop' and to individual developers upon request.	06/2008
<b>DPA1</b>	<b>Forward Planning Manager</b>	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 – Flood Mapping remains an issue which is being investigated regionally. This is likely to be of high priority within the new Unitary Authority for County Durham.	Ongoing
<b>DPA2</b>	<b>Development Control Manager, Sustainable Communities Manager</b>	Promote design of new developments that takes into account future climatic conditions.	Ongoing – Developers are given advice upon request and are signposted to relevant professional guidance (e.g. TCPA).	Ongoing

### Conclusion

Planning policy is the ideal tool to ensure developments incorporate sustainability principles. During this period, policy implementation has meant that new developments have reduced their potential energy consumption, helping to, as a consequence, reduce their utility costs and improve economic competitiveness. Developers are assisted wherever possible to achieve greater sustainability and many are now recognising the economic benefits and building this into their initial proposals.

The new LDF for County Durham is currently being drafted along with technical papers as described above. This will help to shape future planning policy for the whole of County Durham, ensuring that sustainability is embedded throughout.

**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 (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
<b>PBM1</b>	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>Energy consumption data will now be monitored through National Indicator 185 CO2 emissions from the local authority estate. This gives local authorities a renewed focus on energy consumption as they aim to reduce emissions. The baseline year for this indicator is to be 2008/09. Previous data has been collected by SBC for calendar years and as such comparisons and reduction targets can no longer be made sufficiently.</p> <p>There is an ongoing process to ensure this indicator is completed by July 2009 and a County working group has been established to ensure co-ordination of data.</p> <p>SBC are now fully compliant with EPBD legislation, which requires us to have energy performance certification displayed. Results are below: Classification of buildings ('A' being most efficient and 'G' being least efficient):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Lane: E</li> <li>• Locomotion: B</li> <li>• Newton Aycliffe LC: E</li> <li>• Spennymoor LC: D</li> <li>• Ferryhill LC: C</li> <li>• Shildon LC: C</li> </ul>	2007 - 2012
<b>PBM2</b>	Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager	Establish a comprehensive management system for energy and water within the six main operational buildings.	System agreed with Durham County Council's Energy Management Unit (DCC-EMU). All appropriate consumption and billing data is sent to DCC for them to produce annual reports, validate bills and check consumption. Annual reports are due in January 09.	03/2008

<b>PBM3</b>	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.	<b>Removed due to LGR</b>	07/2008
<b>PBM4</b>	Technical Services Manager	Produce a strategy for the sustainable management of municipal waste throughout the Borough.	Waiting for information	03/2009
<b>PBM5</b>	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.	<b>Removed due to LGR</b>	03/2012
<b>PBA1</b>	Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager	Review ventilation strategies in the existing building portfolio, to ensure that the most financially & environmentally sustainable standards are introduced.	<b>Removed due to LGR</b>	03/2009

### Conclusion

Unfortunately many of the key actions have had to be severely curtailed because of LGR, on the basis that significant works should not be carried out when there is no certainty over the current portfolio. It is likely though that this will be a key area that will need to be addressed as a priority for the new authority.

One of the key highlights was ensuring that all applicable buildings received their energy certification on time. Although the results were mixed, it was not unexpected, leaving us with more proof of the need to upgrade plant and improve efficiencies. The new national indicator further raises the profile of the local authority's requirement to reduce energy consumption and emissions.

**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 (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
<b>HM1</b>	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>GoWarm are completing work in 8 wards carrying out 619 measures (April – November) at a cost of £174,642, helping to reduce instances of fuel poverty. The scheme has overall, been welcomed by residents. There are some issues as to the length of time taken from assessment to installation, due to the capacity of the installers. This is being closely monitored by SBC. GoWarm is contracted to run to April 2009 and beyond using the same ward-by-ward approach.</p> <p>Warm Front has continued to deliver household energy improvement grants throughout 2008 and will continue post April 2009. Referral levels have declined in recent months, due the high level of work already completed. It has been suggested that Sedgefield Borough has hit a ceiling whereby major mailouts are no longer worthwhile and a more targeted approach be implemented.</p> <p>The Borough Council still has an obligation under the 1996 HECA act to compile annual home energy reports. For the year 2007/08, energy consumed within domestic properties fell by 3.51%, giving a total energy reduction of 24.74% since 1996. Although there has been a suggestion that this act may be repealed in 2009, it is now looking more likely that local authorities will be required to continue to monitor this performance indicator until its conclusion in 2011.</p>	Ongoing
<b>HM2</b>	Sustainable Communities Manager	Accurately record household energy data to enable annual energy performance (SAP) reports to be produced for all non Council housing stock.	<p>Sedgefield Borough Council alongside the other County authorities engaged the Energy Saving Trust to carry out a survey that would help to record SAP data but would also produce the data required for the new national indicator 187 on fuel poverty. The results showed that domestic properties in Sedgefield Borough have an average SAP (Energy Rating) of 57 out of 100, with only 4% of properties below the significant SAP 35 threshold. It is likely that further work will be undertaken in 2009 to acquire a full domestic stock database relating to energy efficiency to help target measures at those most in need. Details of those properties with SAP ratings of below 35 have been passed to the Housing</p>	03/2009

			Department or in the case of private rented accommodation to the Environmental Health Section.	
<b>HM3</b>	Design & Management Manager - Housing	Review heating systems of grouped accommodation and investigate the potential for installing renewable technologies, where appropriate.	No Further Comment Made	03/2009
<b>HM4</b>	Design & Management Manager - Housing	Increase average SAP rating of Council housing to 78 (SAP 2001 methodology (out of 120)).	Current rating 74 (SAP 2001 Methodology (out of 120))	03/2008
<b>HA1</b>	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.	No Further Comment Made	Ongoing

## Conclusion

Most of the actions which cause climate change take place at a domestic level through our gas and electricity usage. By promoting energy efficiency and practical insulation measures to private residents and installing over £3 million (2007/08) worth of measures into Council properties SBC has succeeded in helping to reduce instances of fuel poverty and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by nearly 25% over the 1996 Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) baseline.

The new national indicator (NI 187 – fuel poverty) will further highlight the existing work being undertaken throughout Sedgefield Borough and the County. The 7 District Council's have been working in partnership to progress fuel poverty alleviation schemes since 1996 and are therefore well placed to progress this issue further within the new Unitary Authority for County Durham. With the survey suggesting that only 4% of housing in Sedgefield Borough falls below the SAP 35 threshold, this shows that the Council and its partners have been successful in targeting help and grants at those most in need.

The creation of a new full stock database will be central to achieving the above key objective and is something that will be taken forward as a priority within the new authority. This, as indicated, will help to improve targeting further.

The new authority also needs to work closely with the range of social housing providers to ensure that energy efficiency measures continue to be installed and recorded as is currently undertaken by Sedgefield Borough Council.

## GREENSPACE & BIODIVERSITY

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

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
<b>GSM1</b>	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 such as biofuel or fuel in biomass generators.	<i>Removed because of LGR</i>	03/2009
<b>GSA1</b>	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.	Probable removal of hanging baskets in some towns, due to health and safety and cost implications rather than water saving issues	Ongoing

<b>GSA2</b>	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).	Production of the Green Space Strategy was delayed by over 3 months due to the departure of the Countryside Officer (Planning & Strategy) at the beginning of the financial year and subsequent delays in recruiting new officers due to HR policies imposed by LGR.  The draft strategy is now out for consultation. Green Space policies in relation to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change have been drafted and are being consulted on presently. Wider consultation is planned for the end of January 2009. The final Green Space Strategy will be published by March 2009. The Green Space Strategy is being used to inform the development of the Local Development Framework for the new Unitary Authority for County Durham.	11/2008
<b>GSA3</b>	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Incorporate potential climate change impacts and opportunities for adaptation, into site specific management plans, strategies and project work.	Delay in recruitment of Countryside Officers earlier in the year, means that this task is around 3-4 months behind schedule. A review of the five-year site management plan for Ferryhill Carrs (SSSI) has recently commenced. Each revised site management plan will take into account the potential impacts to the reserve from climate change impacts.	03/2009
<b>GSA4</b>	Sustainable Communities Manager / Forward Planning Manager	Disseminate guidance, and develop policy on the identification, avoidance and removal of invasive exotic plant species.	Delay in recruitment of Countryside Officers means that this task is around 3-4months behind schedule. However, a policy on the identification, avoidance and removal of invasive exotic plant species has been drafted as part of the draft Green Space Strategy.  Data in respect of known locations of invasive species will be recorded onto the GIS once the strategy has been finalised and implemented in the new year.	03/2010

### Conclusion

The production of the Green Space Strategy will help to ensure all green spaces within the Borough take account of changes to the climate. It will also help to inform the LDF process for the new Unitary Authority.



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

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
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.	<b>Staff Car Sharing scheme still ongoing. Other items removed because of LGR.</b>	Ongoing
TM2	Transport Manager	Appraise all aspects of the utilisation of fleet vehicles, aiming to reduce costs and consumption of fuel.	A new fuel management system has been installed for fleet vehicles, helping to accurately assess mileages done by vehicles.	03/2008
TM3	Human Resources Manager	Review the environmental impacts of the Council's current policy on lease cars.	<b>Removed because of LGR</b>	03/2008
TM4	Transport Manager & Sustainable Communities Manager	Implement actions outlined within the Borough Council's Travel Plan.	<b>Removed because of LGR</b>	03/2009

**Conclusion**

Because of LGR it has not been possible to further many of the actions within this objective. Records show that emissions from fleet vehicles and business travel have reduced on a yearly basis since records began in 2003. While it is not known if this trend is set to continue, it is essential that transport remains a high priority within the new authority. The new national indicator (NI185 – CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from local authority operations) includes transport as part of the measurement criteria and as such this brings with it more emphasis on reducing fuel consumption and costs.

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

Ref	Lead Manager	Action	Progress (March 08 - April 09)	Date to be Achieved
<b>SPM1</b>	Policy & Finance Manager	Develop sustainable procurement practices and ensure effective communication to key staff and suppliers.	Will be progressed with new Authority	03/2009
<b>SPM2</b>	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
<b>SPM3</b>	Audit Manager	Investigate purchase of renewable electricity (in preference to green electricity) at contract renewal periods.	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).	03/2010

**Conclusion**

Sustainability is now used as part of the evaluation criteria for most contracts. Although cost remains the overriding evaluation criteria, sustainability can no longer be ignored and businesses must show what, if any sustainability policies they have in place and which are acted upon.

## 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
<b>ARM1</b>	Sustainable Communities Manager	Provide climate change and energy awareness advice to Borough Council Members, staff and residents.	<p>Energy awareness leaflet distributed to all members of staff in 2008. There have been a number of awareness raising schemes during 2008, with 6 articles printed within INFORM and a range advertising on the 'intranet' and 'noticeboard', together with a specific event for Energy Saving Week.</p> <p>No approach has been made in line with the recommendations from ANEC regarding the appointment of a climate change champion at Chief Officer and Member level, due to LGR.</p> <p>A renewable energy event was held at Locomotion in June 2008, which aimed to answer resident's questions regarding the various technologies.</p>	Ongoing
<b>ARM2</b>	Regeneration Manager & Sustainable Communities Manager	Develop a Borough-wide Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in partnership with the LSP, communities and local businesses.	<b>Removed because of LGR.</b>	03/2009
<b>ARM3</b>	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.	Some progress made in helping to promote the use of renewable energy technologies in various developments, through the 10% embedded renewable energy policy.	08/2009


<b>ARA1</b>	Sustainable Communities Manager & Carelink Services Manager	Raise awareness of potential climate change impacts and provide adaptation advice to communities.	Awareness raising activities in general have centred around INFORM articles including a large 1 page spread in the August Issue. Measures have also been highlighted with Carelink Services, who already have heatwave plans in place.	Ongoing
<b>ARA2</b>	Head of Financial Resources & DCC	Ensure emergency procedures for all sites are updated and meet requirements for increased risks.	<b>Removed because of LGR.</b>	03/2008

### Conclusion

Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change has continued to be a central theme in activities throughout 2008. Highlights include the Renewable Energy Event held at Locomotion, which attracted exhibitors and residents alike and resulted in a number of firm orders for technologies. The full page spread about climate change impacts and adaptation in INFORM in August reiterated previous messages about the need to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle at home and at work.

### Carbon Management Matrix

The matrix below shows the performance of SBC in 2008 and 2007 against the categories shown. The results shows that improvements have undoubtedly been made from 2007 to 2008 and that the Council could be regarded as good/very good compared to the 2007 level of fair/good.

 2007 Level: Fair/Good

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

## Carbon Management Matrix

	POLICY	ORGANISATION	INFORMATION AND DATA	COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING	FINANCE	MONITORING & EVALUATION
<b>Excellent</b>	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 <sub>2</sub> 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
<b>Very Good</b>	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 <sub>2</sub> 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.)
<b>Good</b>	Climate change included in wider policy documents.	As 2: + Climate change responsibilities integrated into responsibilities of people in different departments	CO <sub>2</sub> 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
<b>Fair</b>	Climate change as an aspiration in non-policy documents	Climate change/carbon management is a part-time responsibility of an individual	No CO <sub>2</sub> 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
<b>Poor</b>	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 <sub>2</sub> 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



# Item 6

## PROSPEROUS AND ATTRACTIVE BOROUGH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27<sup>th</sup> January 2009

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.
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**

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**Ward(s):** Not ward specific  
**Background Papers** None



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

**WORK PROGRAMME**

**Future Reviews**

- No reviews identified

**ANTICIPATED ITEMS**

**2008/09 Municipal Year**

**10 March 2009**

- *No items identified*

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