



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Friday 16 July 2021
Time 9.30 am
Venue Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham

Business

Part A

**Items which are open to the Public and Press
Members of the public can ask questions with the Chair's
agreement, and if registered to speak**

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 March 2021 (Pages 3 - 20)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Neighbourhoods and Climate Change - Overview:
 - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 21 - 26)
 - b) Presentation by the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 27 - 54)
7. Environment and Climate Change Partnership - Overview:
 - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 55 - 64)
 - b) Presentation by Members of the Environment and Climate Change Partnership Board (Pages 65 - 78)
8. Quarter 4 2020/2021 - Performance Management Report - Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) - Presented by Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager, Resources (Pages 79 - 94)

9. Refresh of the Work Programme - Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) - Presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Pages 95 - 114)
10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
8 July 2021

To: **The Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor B Coult (Chair)
Councillor J Elmer (Vice-Chair)

Councillors E Adam, P Atkinson, B Avery, L Brown, J Charlton, L Fenwick, G Hutchinson, C Kay, C Lines, R Manchester, C Martin, B McAloon, I McLean, D Nicholls, R Potts, J Purvis, J Quinn, T Stubbs and S Townsend

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Holding

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Friday 19 March 2021 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor E Adam (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors O Milburn, B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, L Brown, B Coult, R Crute, S Dunn, T Henderson, J Higgins, R Manchester, I McLean, A Simpson, P Sexton and M Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Holding

Also Present:

Councillors D Hall, A Hopgood, E Scott, M Wilkes and Mrs R Morris

Mrs R Morris – Co-opted Member of Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 Apologies

An Apology for absence was received from Councillor C Kay.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2021 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Impact of COVID 19 on Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Service Grouping

Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been invited to attend the meeting for this agenda item.

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change that provided Members with an update in the actions that the teams within Neighbourhoods and Climate Change had taken, working with partners to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change was in attendance to present the report and deliver a presentation (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The presentation set out details of Refuse and Recycling; Parks and Open Spaces; Impact on Bereavement Services; Community Protection; Technical Services and the Government Roadmap.

Members were advised that Refuse and Recycling was the most important service for them to keep going during the pandemic which they had achieved. It was a key priority for the service to ensure that bins were emptied. Social distancing measures had necessitated that more vehicles were used which had an effect on the productivity of the service, but it had remained operational throughout the pandemic. The Garden waste service was disrupted during the first lockdown and a month of service was missed and this had been recognised in the price of the service being reduced for those signing up to the service for 2021, again to compensate for the service reduction last year. The Garden Waste service had operated on a Saturday and Monday during 2020 but would return to the usual collection days of Tuesday to Friday in 2021.

The Corporate Director highlighted that Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) continue to be extremely busy and had social distancing measures in place which had led to traffic management plans in operation at some Household Waste Recycling Centres to ensure road safety. He confirmed that this had resulted in queues at some Household Waste Recycling Centres and the service was looking to address this with the introduction of a live tracking feed for residents to access via the Durham County Council website prior to heading out to a Household Waste Recycling Centre to check the levels of the queues. The service was also looking at trialling a booking system for Household Waste Recycling Centres. Members were reminded that work on multi local authority waste procurement was

also progressing. The Corporate Director highlighted to members that at the beginning of the pandemic it had been necessary to remove some play equipment from various parks to encourage social distancing and that the equipment would be replaced when it is safe to do so. The cafes at Hardwick and Wharton parks were closed but would reopen for a takeaway only service and all toilets in parks were open for those using the parks for exercise.

Members were advised of the work of bereavement service throughout the pandemic and that in order to maintain the service staff from other areas had been redeployed to provide support. The service had retained the capacity to cope during the pandemic whilst providing a sensitive service but had also experienced technical issues relating to cremators which were having to be managed by staff.

Members were also advised that the government had just announced further monies available for the Safer Street initiative and the council would be trying to access the money, so that further work could be undertaken around the county.

The big issue with Technical Services was coping with the hardest winter maintenance season that they had seen for a number of years. In higher parts of the county crews dealt with substantial snow fall while at a lower level crews dealt with issues of ice. This was not just the length of the cold weather but also the variation between some cold weather then some very warm weather creating freeze thaw situations, that were difficult to manage. The Service had focused winter maintenance measures to ensure that all GP surgeries, testing centres and vaccination centres were kept clear. An update was given in relation to the work that was continuing on New Elvet Bridge and it was confirmed that Witton Park Bridge was now open to the public.

The Corporate Director then referred to the four-step roadmap out of lockdown that the Corporate Management Team were looking at closely. Government had not produced any draft legislation or government guidance for each of the steps other than the general guidance. The rule of six would apply again on the 29 March 2021 that would have an impact on the service. They would be able to start supporting a limited number of community activities as they had missed some activities such as the big spring clean and community litter picks. Step 2 of the roadmap would be a busy stage for the community protection team as this was when outdoor hospitality would be allowed and the licensing teams would be working closely with licensed premises, they would also see indoor leisure return. Step 3 of the roadmap allowed indoor hospitality so there would be a lot of work to do with businesses to get this right and planning for a spike in town centre issues such as litter and community protection. The fourth step of the roadmap would hopefully see the removal of most of the controls.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Director for his presentation and indicated that it had been a difficult and very unusual year that had brought many challenges for staff and the corporate team, but overall the situation had been handled very well.

He asked that thanks be conveyed to staff for their hard work and the effort they had put in.

Councillor Wilkes thanked the Corporate Director for all his work and commented that there were a number of officers behind the scenes who were working extraordinary hours beyond the normal hours you would expect someone to have to work. He then referred to the access to GP surgeries and advised that for surgeries in his area gritting had not taken place and this had resulted in himself and residents gritting the roads and he asked why this wasn't the case for some other areas in the county. He also commented on the proposed booking system for the Household Waste Recycling Centres and the use and cost of traffic management system at the Household Waste Recycling Centres and asked if a booking system could not have been introduced earlier. He continued by commenting that last year he had asked if a booking system could be introduced for the household waste recycling centres as it would be cheaper and more sensible with less queuing and highlighted that he was aware that other local authorities had introduced a queuing system. He commented that during lockdown the amount of recycling had increased so people were using the household waste recycling centres as they could not get everything into their recycling bins. However, due to the size of the queues at the household waste recycling centres people were using alternatives such as recycling stations at supermarkets for instance and gave the example of Sainsburys at the Arnison Centre where the recycling facilities had been overflowing since last year. He had asked officers if some temporary recycling facilities could be made available to assist the public and reduce the problems at the household waste recycling centres and noted that Sainsburys at the Arnison Centre had spent a considerable amount of money to remove the waste deposited at their facility.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change thanked Councillor Wilkes for his appreciative comments and the priority had been to keep these services going and commented that the supply chains for the recycling centres were still not back to normal. He then referred to the gritting of GP surgeries and advised that they had a priority footpath schedule that was agreed with public health and the NHS so he did not understand why the GP surgery mentioned was not on that priority list and would pick this up outside of the meeting. With reference to the household waste recycling centres consideration was given to a booking system last year and an assessment was made but indicated that there would be little benefit due to the size and number of Household Waste Recycling Centres. Durham County Council was in a different position to other local authorities in the area who only had one or two household recycling centres. Other authorities who had a similar geography to Durham and a similar household waste recycling network had followed the same path as Durham. The number of sites where they had to have traffic management restrictions related to the highway such as Potterhouse Lane, Seaham and Annfield Plain where the queues risked interfering with the highway and traffic management was put into place to ensure the safety of the highway and its users. When social distancing requirements reduce, they hoped that the necessity to protect the highway from queuing would reduce.

The Chair referred to the difficult situation around household waste recycling centres and the work done to keep the service open was very well planned and commented that some Local Authorities that had a booking system had still experienced queues.

Councillor Wilkes indicated that in relation to the gritting at GP surgeries that the footpaths at the GP surgeries in his area had been gritted, it was the access roads to them that had not been gritted.

Councillor Sexton also wished to thank the teams and referred to traffic management costs and asked if it was legislation which required that the traffic management schemes were manned and suggested the use of a static barrier to stop traffic. He also asked apart from the booking system what other strategies had the service considered.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change responded that in Chester-Le-Street they had reopened the Hett Hills site for extended hours which would reduce the pressure on other local Household Waste Recycling Centres and that this site was now open seven days a week instead of weekends and bank holidays. The nature of the traffic management at Potterhouse Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre was that it was to assist with traffic movements and it was not possible for a permanent barrier across the road as vehicles still needed to use that road to service the site during working hours which was the reason why it had to be manned.

Councillor Sexton wished to confirm that the road closures were legislative and asked why the vehicles that serviced the site could not use the diversion to access the site.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change confirmed that Highways legislation states that the local authority has a duty to protect the highway. He referred to Potterhouse Lane site and stated that the vehicles that service the site cannot use the diversion as they are heavy good vehicles and the diversion route was inappropriate for this type of vehicle.

Councillor Avery wished to thank the Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change and his team for their fantastic work during this difficult period in particular the bin crews.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change thanked Councillor Avery for his words and commented that it had been a massive team effort across the service.

Councillor Dunn echoed Councillor Avery's comments regarding the bin crews who had been outstanding. He commented that the need for the household waste

recycling centres and the use of them had increased massively through the pandemic. He disagreed with the comments regarding the traffic management system as the Coxhoe site was located on a 60-mph windy road and had large queues. The traffic management system used had prevented accidents and protected road users and staff and he believed that the measures in place, certainly at his local centre were absolutely necessary. The queues were still large and welcomed the live feed tracking system on the website to show how busy the centres were and thanked all those involved.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change thanked Councillor Dunn for his comments. He indicated that the council have 12 sites across the county all in different positions and in the past they have had many challenges managing the sites due to historical issues resulting from a wide and diverse estate when it comes to the recycling centres and that traffic management was put in place to ensure highway safety.

The Chair indicated that all members appreciated the work and effort that had been accomplished by the teams over the past twelve months and wished to show their appreciation from this committee to those staff as well as the corporate team.

Resolved: (i) That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

(ii) That a further update be included in the 2021/22 work programme.

7 Climate Emergency Response Plan - Year 1 Update

Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been invited to attend the meeting for this agenda item.

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change that provided Members with an annual update on progress of the actions within the Climate Emergency Response Plan including an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 had on the Council's and county wide carbon emissions (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Principal Officer – Low Carbon Economy and the Carbon and Energy Analyst – Low Carbon Economy were in attendance to present the report and deliver a presentation (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The presentation set out details of the Council Emissions and Targets; County Emissions and Targets; Council and Countywide Actions: Looking Ahead and the new Corporate Environmental Statement (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The Carbon and Energy Analyst provided detail of the Council's emission targets, the levels of emissions from Durham County Council which were reducing and

looking forward to the future, a target of 70% reduction in emissions was planned for five years' time and an 80% reduction by 2030. Members were advised that the major sources of Durham County Council's emissions were Heat, Electricity and Travel and the service needed to keep on track in relation to emissions by monitoring and targeting support.

She continued by confirming the percentage emissions, in relation to transport (21%), Electricity (35%) and Heat (44%). Transport was the smallest percentage and can be reduced with simple steps such as moving to remote meetings and swapping fossil fuel transport for ultra-low emission vehicles or electric vehicles. Work was continuing to reduce the percentage further with the introduction of the use of electric vehicles. Electricity had the second highest percentage of emissions in relation to Durham County Council's carbon footprint, as we move forward we will use more electricity with the greater use of electric vehicles and using electric heating but the footprint of electricity used would reduce as the national grid moves to more renewable generation moving away from fossil fuel generation. Heat which had the largest percentage of emissions of Durham County Council's carbon footprint at 44%, with 43% of that footprint from the use of gas heating and 1% from oil heating to heat Durham County Council buildings and it was highlighted that this is-the biggest issue for the authority.

Members were provided with details of the council emission reductions by service area. The largest reductions to Durham County Council emissions was from street lighting, the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project (SLERP) which had reduced both the amount of energy being consumed from the grid and carbon emissions.

Countywide emissions were more difficult to achieve as there was less control and the Principal Officer advised that Durham County Council had set a target of 60% reduction by 2020. However, this data would not be available until 2022 due to national time lags in processing the data. Current data indicates that in 2018 the countywide emissions were 54%. It is hoped with the help of Government, Businesses and the public that we can improve on the 2050 target. Members were advised of aspirational targets of 82% by 2030 and 95% by 2040.

The progress made between 2019-20 saw a 16% reduction in Electricity due to decarbonisation of the grid and actions by Durham County Council had led to reductions in the Council's emissions such as retrofit LED lighting in schools and other Durham County Council buildings such as the new headquarters. Although the emissions had risen for heat with a 5% increase which was largely due to weather conditions, for example if there was a cold winter then it was likely we would use more heat. However, work was being done to install air source heat pumps in Durham County Council buildings where possible. Transport had an 11% reduction in emissions, the council had trialled the use of an electric refuse collection vehicle that had been successful and was leading to the purchase of an electric vehicle. Remote working had also been successful in limiting the amount of transport and

there is an expectation that transport emissions would have dropped significantly in the last twelve months.

Members were provided with details in relation to countywide emission reductions, projects in Housing Regeneration such as the Solid Wall Insulation Initiative and the Warms Homes Fund off gas heating systems; transport related projects such as the work being done to install electric vehicle charging points in rural areas and work in the natural environment such as the Woodland Revival project to plant 64 hectares of trees and restoration of the Peatlands were all reducing the County's carbon footprint. The Principal Officer highlighted that in relation to the restoration of peatlands this was not recorded as a carbon saving by national data. Durham County Council along with other local authorities have highlighted this to the government. Members were reminded of the work carried out to aid Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the Business Energy Efficient Projects (BEEP); there was work being done in the east of the county where the team were working with private organisations to use minewater to heat homes and of a business case being developed for the Durham City District Heating proposal.

There had been 44% of the county's waste reused, recycled or composted and there was success in the Single Use Plastic pledge. Members were advised of various schemes and projects planned for 2021 such as further tree planting, oyster farms; electric vehicle schemes such as try before you buy which was targeting SMEs but Durham County Council would also take advantage of this scheme. Members were advised that one of the key areas to come from the consultation was the necessity of continuous awareness raising and a new website was launched to address this.

Looking ahead to 2021 for the reduction of Durham County Council emissions, work is continuing on a Zero carbon emission depot; the use of air source heat pumps; the use of electric vehicles where possible in Durham County Council fleet; the Low Carbon Team was involved in the leisure centre transformation programme. In relation to monitoring Durham County Council was looking to improve its Building Energy Management System across its estate which would assist in fault finding and ultimately for repairs to be carried out remotely.

Members were advised of the Environment Strategy based on the Environmental Statement report that was agreed by Cabinet at its February 2021 meeting. A draft action plan for the Environmental Statement has been put together with the involvement of senior managers across the Council.

The Chair thanked the officers for their comprehensive report and presentation and advised that Members could see the variety of work that needed to be done to progress the actions within the Climate Emergency Response Plan. He also thanked the team for their hard work to make sure the council could deliver on the targets that the council had set, he looked forward to the new 2022-24 plan.

The Chair then referred to the report in relation to e-cargo and asked for an explanation of what this was as he had not heard of this previously. He then referred to the graph at paragraph 28 in regard to reducing carbon emissions and commented that transport was an issue, although the council were making huge improvements, he was concerned of the wider aspect in terms of industry and heavy goods vehicles and busses and asked what work could be undertaken to help reduce emissions.

The Principal Officer responded that e-cargo was an initiative to deliver the last mile of a journey using a bicycle they started to look at this scheme before the pandemic and Newcastle City Council had a similar scheme that they ran in conjunction with the NHS and ZED move where blood and tissue tests were taken from the Royal Victoria Infirmary to the Centre for Life using electric bikes and cargo bikes. In County Durham, colleagues from the Sustainable Transport had initiated an e-cargo trial in Durham City working with the market traders to deliver produce to customers living in a radius of two miles from the city centre. He would speak to the Sustainable Transport team to ascertain if the pilot had been successful and update members. In relation to the Chair's question regarding transport the service expected the price of electric cars to be equal to that of petrol cars by 2025 as demand increased. Vans and heavy good vehicles were more difficult as the vehicles were more expensive but other local authorities had taken a significant lead on this such as Manchester City Council who had purchased 27 electric Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs), but they were an urban authority who had shorter collection routes. The Council had done some mapping work and commented that the RCV that was trialled had been successful on all routes. Coventry City Council were hoping to be one of the first cities outside of London to have all electric buses. Electric vehicles were more expensive, but prices were reducing.

The Carbon and Energy Analyst added that the new bus station in Durham City would have cables installed to support electric buses.

Mrs Morris welcomed the update and the developments around the plan and targets and commented that detailed delivery plans were needed but raised concerns regarding other 'players' that she hoped the council would be able to bring into the plans such as industry, schools and highlighted that young people would need the necessary skills to support this sector in the future. She asked given that the target for electric cars by 2030, if Durham was going to hit this target then the infrastructure would need to be in place and commented that a target of 100 vehicle charging points would not be adequate for the demand generated and would everyone have access to charging points for their vehicles. She also referred to the servicing of electric vehicles and that currently the skills needed to service electric vehicles were not quite there and suggested this was a skills growth area for the future.

Mrs Morris then asked what was being done to meet recycling targets and if there was going to be a substantial reduction in incineration and landfill in favour of

recycling as she had concerns around incineration projects and the CO₂ emissions that were generated from the incineration process which were often higher than the emissions from burning coal. Was the council working to a target of no more incineration or landfill.

The Principal Officer agreed that in terms of electric vehicles there was a skills gap and these skills were essential to the green revolution. There was already a number of further education colleges that had shown an interest in developing new programmes for the manufacturing of air source heat pumps and highlighted that these skills were key in the future workforce. In reference to charge points for electric vehicles, the Principal Officer indicated through the Scaling on Street Charging Infrastructure (SOSCI) project 100 electric vehicle posts had been erected with each post having two charging points. Durham County Council were installing charging points at its depots and buildings and the authority has worked closely with Northern Power Grid (NPG) to ensure they have capacity to accommodate all the additional charging points. The infrastructure was key, as the grid was going to be under tremendous pressure which could be mitigated through increased battery storage. Northern Power grid and the Network Distribution Operator (NDO) in our area were all consulting very widely and very closely with all local authorities and they had assurances that there were no issues. The Principal Officer indicated that there were also private charge point operators in operation.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change added that Mrs Morris had raised some interesting points and indicated that by 2030 petrol and diesel cars would no longer be sold as new cars and when you consider the network of fuel stations and think how that was going to be replaced, there was still a long way to go. This was both national and international and Durham County Council would do what it could when opportunities came along and continue to further develop the network over the next eight to nine years. In terms of the recycling the Corporate Director advised that the authority was doing everything it could to maximise recycling and were waiting for the Environment Bill to go through parliament that would put new duties on county councils and waste collection authorities and disposal authorities and provide the funding and infrastructure to support these new duties. He continued that he hoped that this would take a lot of the biodegradable materials out of the waste treatment process and help increase recycling. There would always be residual waste left over which needs to be dealt with and there is a lot of discussion concerning whether burning to create energy was the right thing to do. The council were working with several other local authorities in the region to procure a new residual waste disposal facility that had been planned to take account of all the additional recycling measures that were coming through in the Environment Bill, so they would be minimising the amount of residual waste that would go through that plant with all seven authorities having huge commitments to increase recycling and to reduce residual waste and ensure that the waste management system was sustainable.

Councillor Wilkes referred to Appendix two of the report and was delighted that Abbey Leisure Centre was to benefit from both solar panels on the roof and a new air source heat pump system. This was brilliant news and would assist with the leisure centre becoming almost carbon neutral. He thanked the team for their effort and time in putting together the bid to receive the funding. He then referred to school buildings and the backlog of repairs and maintenance with only a small rebuild programme and asked to what extent could the Council's carbon footprint be reduced by installing energy efficient systems in schools and if there were opportunities for match funding to be acquired if the Council put in additional funding.

The Chair added that this was a valid point and that support was needed to attract funding to help with the maintenance of school buildings and it was additionally difficult to track funding because in most cases it was usually done on a bidding process.

The Principal Officer responded that schools accounted for 44% of Durham County Council's building emissions so anytime a building was undergoing a retrofit for lighting, roofing or heating it was important that the Low Carbon Team were involved as early as possible to investigate if there was the opportunity to embed low carbon elements and gave an example of a school in the county that was due for heating replacement with an air-source heat pump that would reduce CO₂ emissions however this would also require additional funding. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme had funding available and that Durham County Council had requested funding for seven projects and had been successful in obtaining three lots of funding. They had been informed yesterday that there was going to be further funding available with submissions by 7 April 2020 and projects completed by March 2022 which were 100% funding and that the Service would do their best to maximise this funding.

Councillor Wilkes suggested that additional funding was put forward so that where work was being done the Low Carbon Team were involved to see where or what else could be done at that time and not to install new systems such as gas central heating boilers that would need to be taken out after only a couple of years to meet government targets. He continued that if the authority could put money towards the government budget, they could make a huge difference and save money for the schools.

The Chair indicated that this would be taken forward to the appropriate body to investigate this.

Councillor L Brown thanked officers for their presentation and was pleased that carbon reduction was on track. She expressed her disappointment that the photovoltaic cells on the rooftop of the new headquarters were an afterthought and the new office block at Aykley Heads did not meet British Research Establishment

Environment Assessment Method (BREEAM) standards and was worried about the commitment from Durham County Council to carbon reduction.

The Chair commented that members had seen the council's commitment to carbon reduction as Councillor Brown had commented on the excellent report. Everyone could look at small projects and think we could have done better but improvements were being made and solar panels would be on the new headquarters.

The Principal Officer responded that the team would be looking to maximise low carbon opportunities throughout the rest of the Aykley Heads site, but he could not comment on particular projects. He indicated that BREEAM was included in the County Durham Plan.

Councillor Sexton echoed other members sentiments about all the hard work that had gone into the plan and that this was fantastic given the size of the team. He indicated that they needed a clear and transparent plan to track progress and what effect this would have on delivery timescales. He then referred to cycling in County Durham specifically the new bollards on cycle lanes and suggested that the bollards attracted an accumulation of debris and detritus around them and around drains and gullies; he also highlighted the issue of needing to avoid subsiding drains when cycling but because of the bollards you could not move out of the way and asked if there was a machine to clean around the bollards and the drains and gullies. He also referred to the electric vehicle charging points in the SOSCI scheme, highlighting that in his ward he had a concentration of about 900 homes without garages or driveways and suggested that officers should consider the location of some charging points as they may not get used if they were located in the more remote parts of the county.

The Principal Officer responded that in relation to charging points it was an issue but there were different options that some local authorities had taken including cabling or ducting over pavements or utilising streetlights. Durham County Council had looked at various options and adopted the Charge Point Delivery Plan. There were a number of fast charging points, but they were towards the main highway network and the SOSCI project was partly based on cost and if the cost to get to the network was too expensive it would not proceed. The authority is looking to install charging points in some Durham County Council car parks and some social housing car parks too. It was more difficult to install charging points on land that was not owned by the council.

The Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change indicated that the highways team had been looking at the issue of houses that don't have drives and how they would get the cables across the pavements from the house to the car. Some authorities had introduced licensing schemes where you paid a fee that sometimes included a cable guard. This issue did not just affect Durham and had been taken to the Regional Highways Group who were looking across the region to ensure local authorities in the region worked in harmony on this and they did not want different regimes which would be negative against electric vehicles. In terms of

the bollards he advised members that the bollards were installed to encourage active travel during the pandemic and had to be installed quickly as the funding was only available for a number of weeks and were not long term planned pieces of cycling infrastructure. They would have other projects that would improve the cycling infrastructure across the county.

Councillor Avery referred to the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project (SLERP) in particular the removal of columns on housing estates which had resulted in these areas now being dark. He asked what could be done to improve the illumination of the lights.

The Principal Officer advised that this would be passed over to street lighting colleagues.

Councillor Crute indicated that he was going to raise street lighting under the work programme agenda item. He continued that there is a need for the committee to look at the effects of the SLERP. This project had worked well to the extent that it had produced huge dividends in energy reduction but there was a need to look at any unintended consequences. He added that there is in the current climate a need to look at the impact of the removal of columns in urban areas but specifically in relation to rural areas where columns have been removed on roads connecting villages. This could also be picked up by Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair agreed that this was something that could be raised under the Work Programme item.

Councillor Hall referred to the launch of the forthcoming website mentioned in the presentation that was welcomed as a number of residents had asked him what they could do as local residents, and for detail of what the council is doing to encourage residents to reduce carbon emissions. He commented that the CO₂ targets were extremely important but alongside that there were opportunities to potentially increase community resilience by making sure households and businesses had affordable heat and energy. There was an opportunity for the forthcoming planning process to include this alongside the CO₂ targets and look at the practical benefits for local communities and businesses that could be achieved through certain projects at the same time.

The Principal Officer responded that the website was intended to be a community website and would be focused on what local communities and businesses were doing so would include things such as case studies, it would also have links to Durham County Council's corporate website in relation to what the Low Carbon Team were doing.

Resolved: (i) That the progress made against the delivering of the first year of the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan and the forecast drop in Council emissions, magnified by the influence of COVID-19 across the estate be noted.

(ii) That members received a further update report in 2021/22 on the progress made against delivering the actions of the Climate Emergency Response Plan.

8 Quarter 3 2020/21 - Revenue and Capital Outturn

The Committee considered the Joint Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) and Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which set out details of the forecast outturn budget position for the service area. The report highlighted and explained any major variances in comparison with the budget, based on the position to the end of Quarter 3.

The Finance Manager, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change was in attendance to present the report and gave a presentation (for copy of report and presentation, see file of minutes).

Councillor Wilkes asked for an explanation of £1.33 million going back into reserves and suggested that rather than going into reserves it should be spent and asked if the government were fully covering COVID costs in relation to this Service Grouping.

The Finance Manager referred to the £1.33 million underspend and explained that this would go into a cash limit reserve for Neighbourhoods so would be carried forward to be used for initiatives that were specific to that service. Some of the overspend related to Culture and Sport so that would go into the Regeneration, Economy and Growth cash reserve. In terms of the COVID costs, the costs for this service were being covered.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted

9 Quarter 3 2020/2021 - Performance Management Report

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) that presented the progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the Council's corporate performance framework (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager was in attendance to present the report.

He reported that overall environment cleanliness remained good but fly tipping incidents reported to the council were on the increase and were at a three-year high. Members were advised that Highway and Transport Satisfaction Survey

results were released and were favourable for County Durham although the cleanliness of pavements in County Durham were lower than the national rates but higher than the rate for the North East.

The Community Action Team had just completed a project in Horden, and 366 issues of concern were identified and tackled that included the issue of 311 legal notices to enforce some activity. The next area of focus for the team would be Shildon. The find and fix team had undertaken works in 34 area across the county.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager then referred to carbon emissions and adapting to climate change and advised members that the provisional estimates showed that the council were 59% lower than the 2008 baseline. There had been a 17% reduction in carbon emissions in comparison to last year's figure which was a significant reduction and was normally 6% a year and COVID-19 had a major contribution towards this reduction that was not sustainable.

Cabinet had considered a report this week on additional tree planting scheme that aimed to plant a tree for every child of school age that amounted to 69,000 trees through a woodland creation programme in partnership with a charity. Cabinet had also considered the leisure transformation programme that included adopting the BREEAM excellent standards for leisure centres that would contribute towards carbon emissions.

In terms of waste, one of the key indicators for household recycling showed the tonnage of both refuse and recycling had increased since the first lockdown. Recycling tonnage had increased but it hadn't increased as sharply as refuse tonnage so the recycling rate proportion that's recycled had gone down by two percentage points since last year. The increase in the volume of waste nationally had meant that waste disposal facilities were at capacity and have had to process some waste through non-energy waste channels such as landfill. This had resulted in the percentage of waste that was diverted from landfill was reduced by 2.7 percentage points since last year's figures. There had also been a steady increase in contamination levels of household recycling that resulted in that recycling not been able to be processed that had a financial effect on the council as they had to compensate contractors, this was monitored and action undertaken. There had been a six percent increase in the garden waste collection uptake and a three percent increase in bulky household waste collection.

The Chair noted that in terms of performance it was not significantly different to what they would normally expect. COVID had impacted on services, although it was disappointing to see the figures this could be recovered and performance improved.

Resolved: That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter three performance, the impact of COVID-19 on performance and the actions being taken to address areas of underperformance including the significant economic and well-being challenges due to the pandemic be noted.

10 Refresh of the Work Programme

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) that provided Members with an updated work programme for 2020/21 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer was in attendance to present the report and indicated that the process of refreshing the committee's work programme started this time of year. The report highlighted that the refresh reflected the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and was set in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035 and other key strategic documents and government legislation. In addition to using these documents to refresh the work programme they would also meet and discuss areas with colleagues in the service grouping and the climate change and environment partnership and members for their suggestions too.

The 2021 work programme had been delivered differently due to COVID-19, with a reduced number of meetings and prioritised items coming to virtual committee meetings and the remainder of the work programme items circulated electronically as briefing reports to members outside of the meeting.

The report outlined the committee's activity that had taken place this municipal year including cross-cutting areas where items across the remit of one or more committee's and where members of other overview and scrutiny committees were invited to attend this committee or vice versa. The number of items considered both virtually or as a briefing report had been identified by members of the committee to receive further updates, these items would go forward into the refreshed work programme.

The committee had previously identified an area for focused review back in February 2020 and this was Durham County Councils Refuse and Recycling Collection Policy, however this review was put on hold as a result of the pandemic.

Members were asked to decide if they wanted to identify this area as a topic for a future review activity or whether members wanted to suggest another topic for inclusion in the proposed work programme 2021/22.

Councillor Crute referred to the refuse and recycling collection policy review that was a priority as one of the main services of the council. He would support a review of this and previously indicated that members may wish to consider the impact of the street lighting and energy reduction programme, specifically on routes between settlements in rural areas and some location in urban areas, the programme itself brought huge dividends in terms of energy reductions and emission reductions but they might need to be assured as a council that this had not been done at the detriment of safety on streets during the hours of darkness. They needed to

consider if there had been any unintended consequences of the programme and if so look at ways of addressing them.

The Chair indicated that officers would take note of his proposal and consider for next year's work programme.

Councillor Avery commented that he had concerns about safety on the streets in particular housing estates.

The Chair indicated that it had been four years since this street lighting programme came in and was something that members needed to consider.

Resolved: That the work programme for 2020/21 be noted.

11 Any Other Business

The Chair indicated that this was the last committee meeting before the forthcoming local elections and wished to convey his thanks to all members and officers for their valuable contributions over the past four years that had been enlightening and interesting and most of all professional in nature and thanked members.

Himself and Councillor Milburn gave a big thank you to Overview and Scrutiny Officers for their unrelenting enthusiasm and hard work in making sure the committee ran smoothly and were provided with the most up to date and relevant papers.

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**Environment and
Sustainable Communities
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



16 July 2021

**Neighbourhoods and Climate
Change Service Overview**

**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the committee with an introductory overview of the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change service grouping.

Executive summary

- 2 Neighbourhoods and Climate Change is one of five service groupings that make up the establishment of Durham County Council. The council service groupings with the associated corporate Directors are as follows:

John Hewitt:	Chief Executive
Jane Robinson:	Adult and Health Services
John Pearce:	Children's and Young Peoples Services
Alan Patrickson:	Neighbourhoods and Climate Change
Amy Harhoff:	Regeneration, Economy and Growth
Paul Darby:	Resources

- 3 Neighbourhoods and Climate Change contains a wide range of front line services working with and for our communities. The structure of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change with the associated Heads of service is as follows:

Joanne Waller:	Head of Community Protection
Oliver Sherratt:	Head of Environment Services
Gordon Elliot:	Head of Partnerships and Community

	Engagement
Mark Readman:	Highway services Manager
Paul Watson:	Strategic Highways Manager

- 4 It is to note that Highway Services and Strategic Highways make up Technical Services, however there is currently a vacancy for the Head of Technical Services post, which will be recruited to shortly. In the interim the two Strategic Managers listed above are reporting directly to the Corporate Director.
- 5 The corporate Director will deliver a presentation at the meeting highlighting the key areas of work within the service grouping pertinent to the work of the committee and will take questions from committee members.

Recommendations

- 6 That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:
 - a) note the content of the report and presentation and comment accordingly.

Background

- 7 Neighbourhoods and Climate Change delivers a wide range of front line services to residents within County Durham, many of these functions contribute to their quality of life.
- 8 The team covers four key service areas of:
 - Community Protection
 - Environment Services
 - Partnership & Community Engagement
 - Technical Services
- 9 Neighbourhoods & Climate Change has a budgeted expenditure of around £195 million, which is offset by around £85m of income through fees, charges and grants to give a net budget of around £110m. In addition, the team has a capital budget of around £43m, the majority of which, around £30m is related to highways.
- 10 Services are provided by 1,500 FTE staff, almost 1,000 of whom are in the Environment Services team dealing with refuse collection, clean & green and other frontline services

ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

- 11 Environment Services offers a wide range of the council's environmental services, that through direct delivery, strategic planning, education and enforcement contribute to making County Durham environment attractive and sustainable, all of which contribute to the vision of connected communities and more and better jobs.
- 12 The team has 972 (FTE) members of staff and has the responsibility for the following functions:-
 - Refuse & Recycling
 - Strategic Waste
 - Clean & Green
 - Environment & Design
 - Neighbourhood Protection
 - Fleet

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

- 13 The Community Protection Team provides essential services to County Durham's residents, traders and visitors to protect their health, safety and environment including the air they breathe, the food they eat, goods they buy, their safety in the workplace and in their homes.
- 14 They offer advice and support for local businesses that are key to the local economy and promote a safe, fair and equitable environment by dealing effectively with crime and disorder and rogue traders who often take advantage of our most vulnerable people.
- 15 The team has responsibility for the following functions:
 - Food Safety and Wellbeing
 - Occupational Health and Safety
 - Environment Protection
 - Licensing
 - Trading Standards
 - Safer Communities
 - Neighbourhood Interventions

PARTNERSHPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 16 The Partnerships & Community Engagement teams engage directly with our communities, building bridges and partnerships with the voluntary sector, town and parish councils, statutory partners and the business community. The team support our statutory partnerships across the safer and safeguarding themes and also provide the County's emergency response co-ordination through the civil contingencies unit.
- 17 The teams have responsibility for the following functions:
- Area Action Partnerships,
 - Community Buildings,
 - Civil Contingencies Unit,
 - County Durham Partnerships,
 - Humanitarian Support
 - the Local Safeguarding Boards for Adults and Children.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- 18 The Highways Services team and Strategic Highways work closely together creating an integrated asset management delivery model. They undertake significant amounts of work on the network including inspections, investigation of issues, scheme design, implementation of repairs and maintenance, and the completion of larger scale capital projects. In addition, they engage with several framework contractors to support the delivery of capital schemes.

HIGHWAYS SERVICES

- 19 Highway Services is the operational in-house team within Technical Services who are responsible for the delivery of all civil engineering, construction, and maintenance activities.
- 20 With an in-house resource of over 300 staff and an external framework support mechanism utilising local providers wherever possible. The service delivers budgets in excess of £40 million for both capital and revenue related activities.
- 21 The service offers a one stop shop methodology for the delivery of projects from feasibility, design, estimating and construction, functions include
- Winter Maintenance
 - Street Lighting

- Major Works
- Highways

STRATEGIC HIGHWAYS

22 Strategic Highways comprises of the following teams:-

- Highways Assets
- Street Lighting
- Structures
- Network Management
- Drainage and Coastal Protection
- Public Rights of Way
- Highway Adoptions

Conclusion

Neighbourhoods and Climate Change contains a wide range of front line services working with and for our communities.

Background papers

- None

Contact: Alan.Patrickson@Durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Finance

Not applicable.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable.

Climate Change

Not applicable.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable.

Staffing

Not applicable.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

Not applicable.

Procurement

Not applicable.

.



INTRODUCTION TO SERVICE GROUPING:
Neighbourhoods & Climate Change
Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director

Environment Overview and Scrutiny 16 July 2021

Neighbourhoods & Climate Change Management Team



Alan Patrickson
Corporate Director



Joanne Waller
Head of
Community
Protection



Oliver Sherratt
Head of
Environment
Services



Gordon Elliot
Head of
Partnerships &
Community
Engagement



Mark Readman
Head of Technical
Services (Interim)



Paul Watson
Head of Technical
Services (Interim)

Environment Services



Clean & Green



County Fleet & Depots



Environment & Design



Neighbourhood Protection



Refuse & Recycling



Strategic Waste

Clean and Green

- Grounds Maintenance
- Plant Nursery
- Street Cleansing
- Countryside Services
- Parks
- Play Areas
- Pitches



Neighbourhood Protection

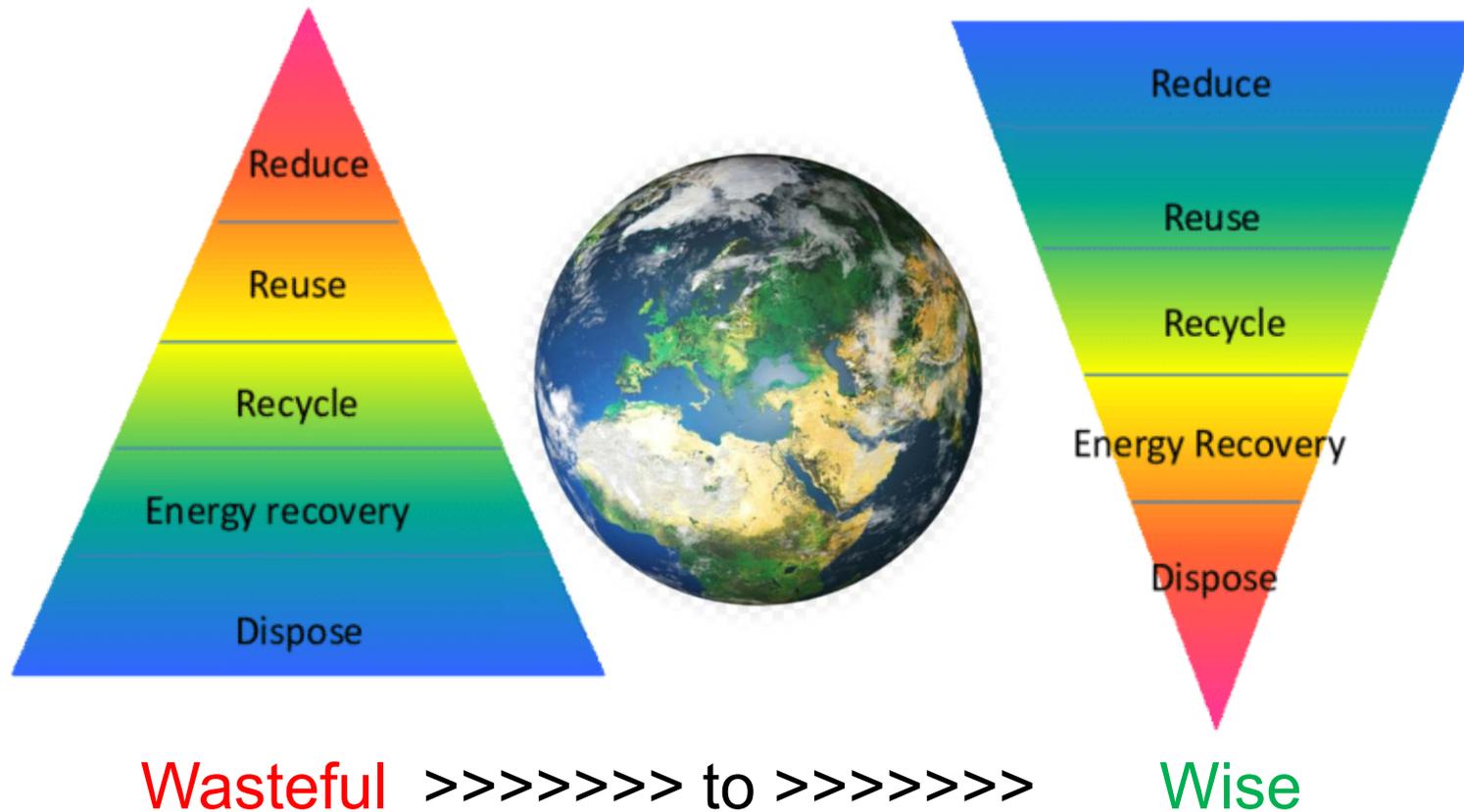
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Civic Pride
- Bereavement Services
- Pest Control
- Allotments



Waste Management Overview



Big Picture: Waste Hierarchy



Big picture: County Durham Operations

Resources

- More than 300 frontline and office staff
- 86 Front line refuse & recycling vehicles
- 12 Household Waste Recycling Centres and 1 mobile HWRC at Frosterley
- 4 Waste Transfer Stations
- 1 composting facility

Productivity

- 2019/20, County Durham households generated 231,341 tonnes of waste
- 41.2% reuse, recycling and composting (2019/20)
- 249,736 bins to be collected every week 99.86% successful per quarter.
- Over 2,000 bulky collections carried out every month
- Over 65,000 garden waste subscriptions.

Waste Reduction Campaigns

Love Food Hate Waste



Junk Mail



Christmas



Smart Shopping

Home Composting



More but of the right stuff



Bin it right

A guide to what you can put in your recycling bin and box

Recycling bin

- Wash and squash plastic bottles and replace lids (except pumps). Metal only lids and caps can also be recycled in your bin.
- Place all clean, dry items loose in to your bin. Do not bag!

Recycling Box

- Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles
- Cartons, cans, aerosols and foil
- Paper and cardboard
- Glass bottles and jars

Do not put any of these items in your recycling bin or box:

- X Black bags / liners / black plastic
- X Carrier bags / bags for life
- X Food
- X Nappies
- X Clothes / shoes / textiles
- X Plastic bags / wrapping / film
- X Crisp packets / sweet and biscuit wrappers
- X Kitchen roll / tissues / wipes
- X Scrap metal / wood / electricals
- X Batteries / Light bulbs
- X Polystyrene / bubble wrap

Why does recycling matter?

For every item we recycle, we are reducing the need to use raw materials, which helps save energy and precious resources. It only takes a quarter of the energy to make a plastic bottle from recycled plastic as from new materials.

Metal and glass packaging can be recycled endlessly, without loss of quality. Imagine how much energy you could save!



Household waste recycling centres

Please take any other recyclable items, which are not collected at the kerbside, to a household waste recycling centre. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc to find your nearest centre and what you can recycle and dispose of there.

03000 36 0000
wastecare@durham.gov.uk
www.durham.gov.uk/recycling
 Recycle for County Durham
 #RecyclingMatters #BeRight

In Partnership With
MetalMatters

Don't delay -
 recycle today!

recycle
 for County Durham

Durham
 County Council

Recycling Matters

Where do the things you recycle end up?



In your recycling bin, do not bag items in plastic black bags, liners or carrier bags.

Please place all items **loose** into your recycling bin. We must be able to see the contents of your bin can be collected for recycling.

Extra recycling can be placed in a clear plastic bag next to your recycling bin.



The challenge of contamination

The main contaminants found in recycling bins, in County Durham are:

- **Pet waste**
- **Nappies and**
- **Food waste**



Other contaminants are:

Black Bags – items placed in black bags can't be recycled because the collection crews can't see what it is in the bag and it could contain contaminated recycling/waste.

Mixed plastics including polystyrene – markets for plastics other than bottles, pots, tubs and trays are limited.

Textiles – cannot be processed at the sorting plant and can damage the sorting equipment.

Garden Waste



Garden waste collections 2020

Collections from the kerbside between **April** and **November**.

-  **Fees for 2020**
Annual subscription £35
-  **To sign up**
For collections in the Teesdale area, contact
Rotters Community Composting (bag)
Go to www.rotters.org
Email rotterscomposting@yahoo.co.uk
- For collections in other areas of
County Durham (bin)
Go to www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste
Call 03000 260 000

Terms and conditions apply.



ROTTERS
Community
Composting

Altogether greener



- Inhouse service began May 2020
- Operating Monday & Saturday collections (now back to Tues- Friday)
- Over 65,000 subscriptions

Other Collection Services

- Clinical Waste Collection (free)
- Bulky Waste Collections (charged)
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (free)
- “Bring” sites (free)
- Trade Waste Collections (charged)



Contracts

- Residual Waste Treatment
- Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Haulage
- Material Recycling Facility (Recyclate)
- Clinical/WEEE/Weighbridge software/laboratory/monitoring equipment maintenance/....



Residual Waste Re-Procurement

- Partnership Project
- Security of supply
- State of the art facility
- Economies of scale
- Public Ownership
- Energy and Heat offtake
- Carbon Reduction/Capture



Home NEWS EVENTS CORONAVIRUS PACKAGING COUNCILS

Batteries Coronavirus Councils ELVs-Tyres Energy General Glass Legislation Metals Organi

ENERGY

24 JULY 2020 by James Langley

North East councils plan £2.1bn EfW project

Seven councils across the North East are joining forces in plans for a 40-year energy from waste (EfW) project potentially worth £2.1 billion.

The 'Tees Valley' facility is proposed for a region where the private sector, notably Suez, already provides EfW facilities – the local authorities see their proposed plant as a “commercial opportunity” to generate income.

Durham county council, Newcastle city council, Middlesbrough and the boroughs of Darlington, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees plan to build an ‘energy recovery facility’ with a 450,000 tonnes per annum capacity.

A 25-acre brownfield site in Redcar and Cleveland which has been earmarked for the proposed Tees Valley facility is currently owned by the South Tees Development Corporation.

Environment and Design and ANOB

- Low Carbon Team
- Archaeology
- Ecology
- Arboriculture
- Heritage Coast Partnership
- Seascapes Partnership
- Built Heritage
- North Pennines AONB



Feb 2019 - Climate Emergency Declared

**July 2019 - Climate Emergency Update
Report**

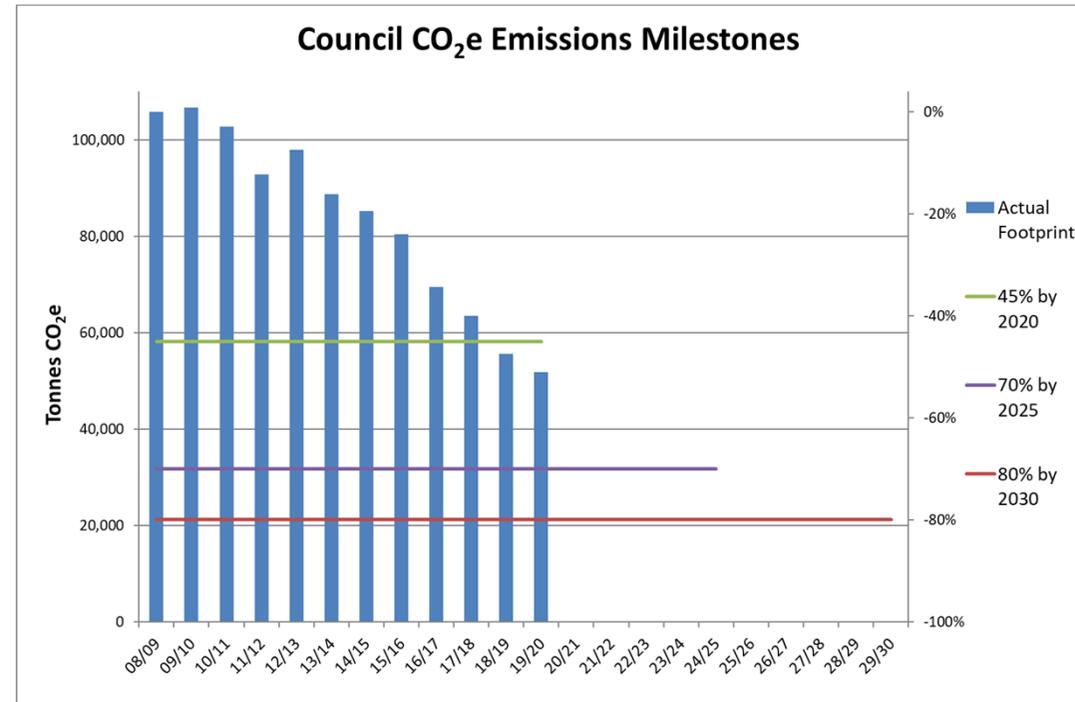
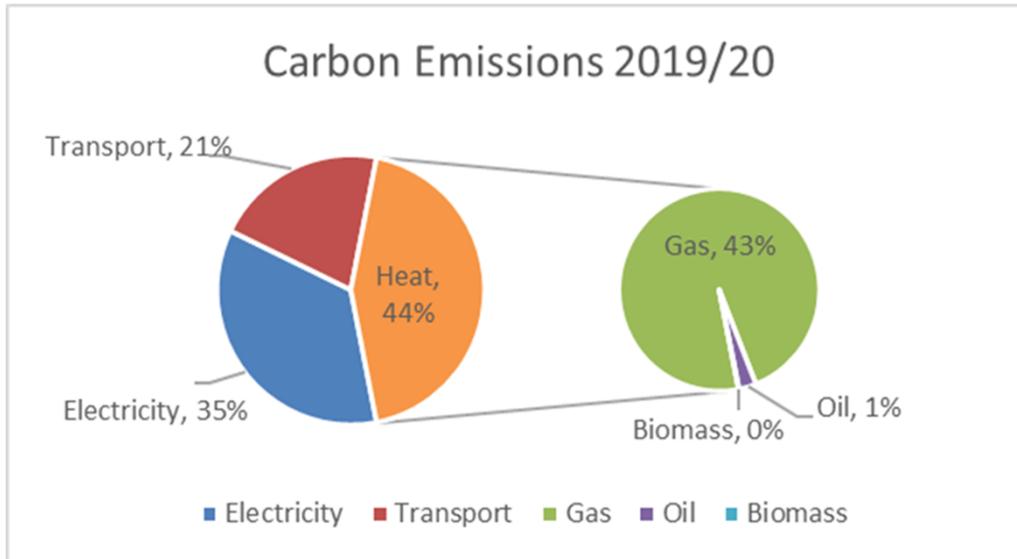
**Sept 2019 - 6 week Public and Employee
Consultation Commenced**

**Feb 2020 - Climate Emergency Response
Plan Adopted**

March 2021 – Annual Update



Carbon Emissions - Progress – Net Zero



Gas Boilers

Current Emissions: 22,000 tonnes CO₂e

DCC 2030 80% reduction Target: 21,000 tones CO₂e

Technical Services



Highway Services

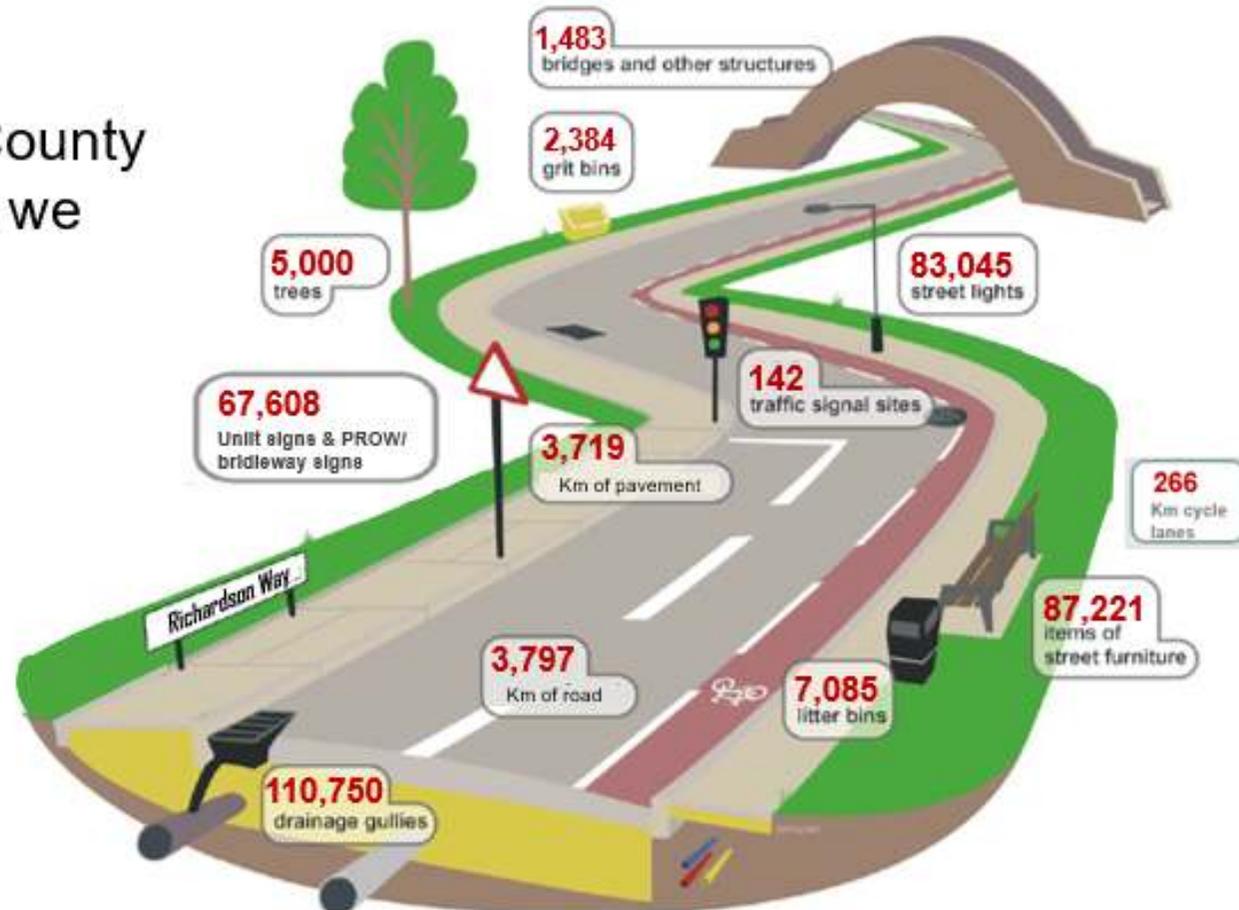


Strategic Highways



Highway Assets

Across County Durham, we have...



Street Lighting

- SLERP II
- Lighting replacements
- Routine Maintenance
- Cast Columns
- Specialist lighting
- Christmas



Drainage and Flood Risk Management

- Flooding episodes
- Minor cleansing and repair schemes
- Larger scheme that require detailed design and capital budget are suggested on a risk based approach



Bridges, structures and Public Rights of Way

- Bridge Inspections
- Minor works and capital works
- Capital bids
- PROW Inspections



Highways

- Structural Inspection data
- Highway Inspector requests
- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Prioritisation
- Annual Programme
- Requests & Reports



A different kind of emergency

- Winter Maintenance
- Ploughs
- Salt & Gritting
- Salt bins
- Priority routes
- Priority footpaths
- COVID support



Challenge

Key Challenges
for the next 4
years.....

- Climate Change / Net Zero
- Waste Contracts
- Neighbourhood Issues
- Developing Regulatory Environment
- Winter / Climate Adaptation
- Staffing & Resources

Any Questions?

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Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 July 2021



Environment & Climate Change Partnership

Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation from Executive Board members of the County Durham Environment & Climate Change Partnership (ECCP). The presentation will focus on background and structure of the partnership, vision and partnership priorities, plans and challenges.

Executive summary

- 2 Following the Vision 2035 agreement in September 2019 and the restructure of the County Durham Partnership (CDP) governance structure in September 2020, a new Environment & Climate Change Partnership was developed and introduced.
- 3 The ECCP role will be focused on delivering the environment and climate change objectives detailed in the Vision 2035. The ECCP Workstreams will focus on the development of the new countywide Climate Emergency Response Plan 2022-24 to achieve County Durham's carbon reduction targets; and a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to improve the natural environment and biodiversity as highlighted in the Environment Bill 2021. Once established, this work will be reflected in a new all-encompassing ECCP Strategy.
- 4 Members of the ECCP Executive Board will provide the committee with a presentation which will focus on:
 - The structure and vision of the ECCP Executive Board.
 - The ECCP's workstreams, their structure, priorities, and plans.
 - The challenges the ECCP face if it is to be successful.

A copy of the presentation is attached as appendix 2.

Recommendation

- 5 Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
 - a) note and comment upon the information provided within the report and presentation.
 - b) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes a further update from the Environment and Climate Change Partnership in its work programme for 2022/23

Background

- 6 In November 2019 the County Durham Partnership (CDP) began to undertake a strategic governance review of its framework of five thematic partnerships and supporting sub-groups. The aim of the review was to ensure the CDP structure was fit to deliver the County Durham Vision 2035 efficiently and effectively.
- 7 Following consultation with partners, and an unexpected delay due to Covid-19, a final proposal for a new CDP governance structure was discussed and agreed at a CDP Board meeting on 25 September 2020.
- 8 It was agreed by the CDP Board that the previous Environment Partnership structure was not the best fit to deliver the new arrangements, and it was decided that an entirely new thematic partnership, the Environment & Climate Change Partnership, would be developed and introduced within the new CDP governance structure.
- 9 A workshop to consider a potential role, structure and priority areas for the new Environment & Climate Change Partnership took place on 10 November 2020. Experts were drawn from across other thematic partnerships as well as stakeholders from Durham County Council, Durham University, external agencies, the voluntary sector and business partners.
- 10 It was agreed that the ECCP will lead on the following County Durham Vision 2035 objectives:
 - (a) Green technologies
 - (b) Core heritage
 - (c) Natural assets and bio-diversity
 - (d) Clean air to support physical activity
 - (e) Carbon emissions and climate change

- (f) Sustainable transport including air quality
 - (g) Energy efficient homes and wider environmental impact
 - (h) Sympathetic building design and development
 - (i) Protecting our natural environment
- 11 To deliver the objectives of the Vision 2035 it was agreed that three workstreams would be set up to support an ECCP Executive Board. These workstreams are:
- (a) Climate Emergency
 - (b) Ecological Emergency
 - (c) Place, Health and Community
- 12 Workstream leads were agreed, key stakeholders for each workstream were identified and meetings to establish the workstream priorities were organised for early 2021.

Current position

ECCP Executive Board

- 13 Following the establishment of the workstreams the ECCP Executive Board met for the first time on 24 March 2021, where they discussed Terms of Reference and a vision statement for the ECCP. The Executive Board is chaired by Jim Cokill, Director of Durham Wildlife Trust, supported by Durham County Council's (DCC) Partnership team.
- 14 It was agreed that the vision would be – 'A better County Durham: sustainable communities, resilient to climate change, richer in nature.' To achieve the vision the ECCP would bring together public, private, voluntary and community sector partners to use their shared knowledge and skills to find innovative solutions to environmental issues which affect County Durham, working together to avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively.
- 15 It was also agreed that the ECCP would have three strategic objectives:
- (a) Address the climate emergency challenges as they apply to County Durham.
 - (b) Address the ecological emergency challenges as they apply to County Durham.

- (c) Promote engagement and activity to improve environmental outcomes in communities across County Durham and promote sustainability, health and wellbeing across each workstream area.

The three workstreams each have a responsibility for one strategic objective.

ECCP Climate Emergency Workstream

- 16 The first meeting of the Climate Emergency (CE) Workstream Strategic Board took place on 18th March 2021. The workstream is chaired by Professor Jon Gluyas, from Durham University and the Durham Energy Institute, supported by DCC's Low Carbon Economy team.
- 17 The CE Strategic Board has representation from a number of key organisations linked to the Climate Emergency. These include:
 - (a) Durham Energy Institute
 - (b) Coal Authority
 - (c) Environment Agency North East
 - (d) Lanchester Wines
 - (e) Northumbrian Water
 - (f) Northern Powergrid
 - (g) Keele University
 - (h) County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
 - (i) Durham Community Action
 - (j) North East and Tees Valley Federation of Small Businesses
 - (k) County Durham Economic Partnership
 - (l) Northern Gas Networks
 - (m) Durham County Council
- 18 The CE Strategic Board agreed that their aim will be to support the reduction of carbon emissions from all sectors across County Durham to tackle the climate emergency and hit our target of being net zero for the whole county by 2050 at the latest.
- 19 The priority areas of work for the workstream over the next year will be to:
 - (a) Explore the potential to develop a replicable model for energy generation from solar carports, potentially incorporating green infrastructure, battery storage, electric vehicle charge points etc. in underutilised carparks across the county.

- (b) Develop a Local Area Energy Plan for County Durham which will identify energy assets and challenges across the County, then develop a programme of interventions to support future investment and growth opportunities.
- (c) Develop a countywide action plan to tackle the Climate Emergency, which will form part of the new Climate Emergency Response Plan that will be published in February 2022.

ECCP Ecological Emergency Workstream

- 20 The first meeting of the Ecological Emergency (EE) Workstream Strategic Board took place on 24th February 2021. The workstream is chaired by Chris Woodley-Stewart, Director at North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership (AONB), supported by DCC's Ecology team.
- 21 The EE Strategic Board has representation from a number of key organisations linked to the Ecological Emergency. These include:
 - (a) North Pennines AONB
 - (b) Durham Wildlife Trust
 - (c) Natural England
 - (d) Environment Agency
 - (e) Woodland Trust
 - (f) Durham County Council
- 22 The EE Strategic Board agreed that their aim will be to co-ordinate strategic action to reverse the decline in biodiversity across County Durham.
- 23 The priority areas of work for the workstream over the next year will be to:
 - (a) Raise of the local profile of the ecological emergency and to promote collaborative action to reverse the decline in habitats and species.
 - (b) Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for County Durham and begin the process of identifying our biodiversity priorities and associated actions.
 - (c) Help drive more coordinated, practical, focussed action and investment to help nature and people flourish together, whilst delivering wider nature-based environmental benefits.

ECCP Place, Health and Community Workstream

- 24 The first meeting of the Place, Health and Community (PHC) Workstream Strategic Board took place on 18th March 2021. The workstream is chaired by Peter Samsom, Food Partnership Co-ordinator at Durham Community Action, supported by DCC's Environment and Design team.
- 25 The PHC Strategic Board has representation from a number of key organisations linked to the environment and communities across the county. These include:
- (a) OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists) North East
 - (b) Durham Wildlife Trust
 - (c) Historic England
 - (d) Environment Agency
 - (e) Groundwork North East and Cumbria
 - (f) DCC Area Action Partnerships (AAPs)
 - (g) North East Rivers Trusts
 - (h) DCC Public Health
 - (i) Durham Community Action
 - (j) DCC Planning Strategy
 - (k) Historic England
- 26 The PHC Strategic Board agreed that their aim will be to promote engagement and activity to improve environmental outcomes in communities across County Durham and promote sustainability, health and wellbeing across each workstream area of the Environment & Climate Change Partnership.
- 27 The priority areas of work for the workstream over the next year will be to:
- (a) Engage with the Sustainable Food Network to encourage community food production and its recognition within DCC priorities and policy.
 - (b) Seek input into DCC Towns and Villages investment plans.
 - (c) Provide advice and support on the new countywide local heritage listing project.
 - (d) Provide advice and support for AAPs in delivering a new Tree Per Child initiative - identifying community, wildlife and climate benefits.

- (e) Create sustainable healthy communities' toolkit – in an ideal world what would a sustainable community look like (wind turbine, walking groups, litter pick groups, flooding preparation etc).
- (f) Promote nature-based solutions to the climate emergency, flood risk management and the Green Recovery process by aligning communications with community networks e.g. compiling a gazetteer of environmental groups across the county and how they can feed into and help deliver joint priorities.

Challenges for the ECCP

28 The new Environment & Climate Change Partnership is at the beginning of a journey and partners recognise that, if the partnership is to achieve sustainable outcomes, there are challenges which will require collaborative work to overcome. These include:

- (a) Working closer with the other thematic partnerships, particularly the Economic Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to address shared agendas. This will involve building on existing collaborative work currently underway e.g. green recovery project.
- (b) Ensuring that strategic objectives relate to what is delivered at national, regional and local levels. This will be dependent on identifying a golden thread from the Vision 2035 through the partnership's strategies and workstreams, underpinned by a robust joint performance framework.
- (c) The size and complexity of the agenda. Effective partnership working will be essential to success and it's recognised that this is a long game which requires patience - short term gains must be linked to longer term objectives.
- (d) Accessing finance and resources to support the ECCP agenda. This requires opportunities for joint commissioning, aligned/pooled budgets, and attracting external funding to be identified.
- (e) Raising awareness of environmental and climate change issues and the work the ECCP is doing/planning to address these issues. This will require improved working with the voluntary and community sector, the private sector, and more effective engagement with, and empowerment of, all sections of our communities across Durham County.

Conclusions

- 29 The ECCP's vision and how the partnership is structured to respond to it, including its priority action areas and the challenges the partnership faces if it is to be successful will be imperative in delivering this high profile agenda.

Background papers

- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

Other useful documents

- [Climate Change Emergency Response Plan](#)

Authors

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- Glenn Robinson Tel: 03000 265442

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken when developing the new governance structure for the County Durham partnership.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Climate Change

Climate change is a key area identified in this report.

Human Rights

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

Disability Issues

Not applicable

Appendix 2: Environment & Climate Change Partnership Presentation

See separate PowerPoint document.

County Durham Environment & Climate Change Partnership

Prof Jon Gluyas – Durham University and Durham Energy Institute

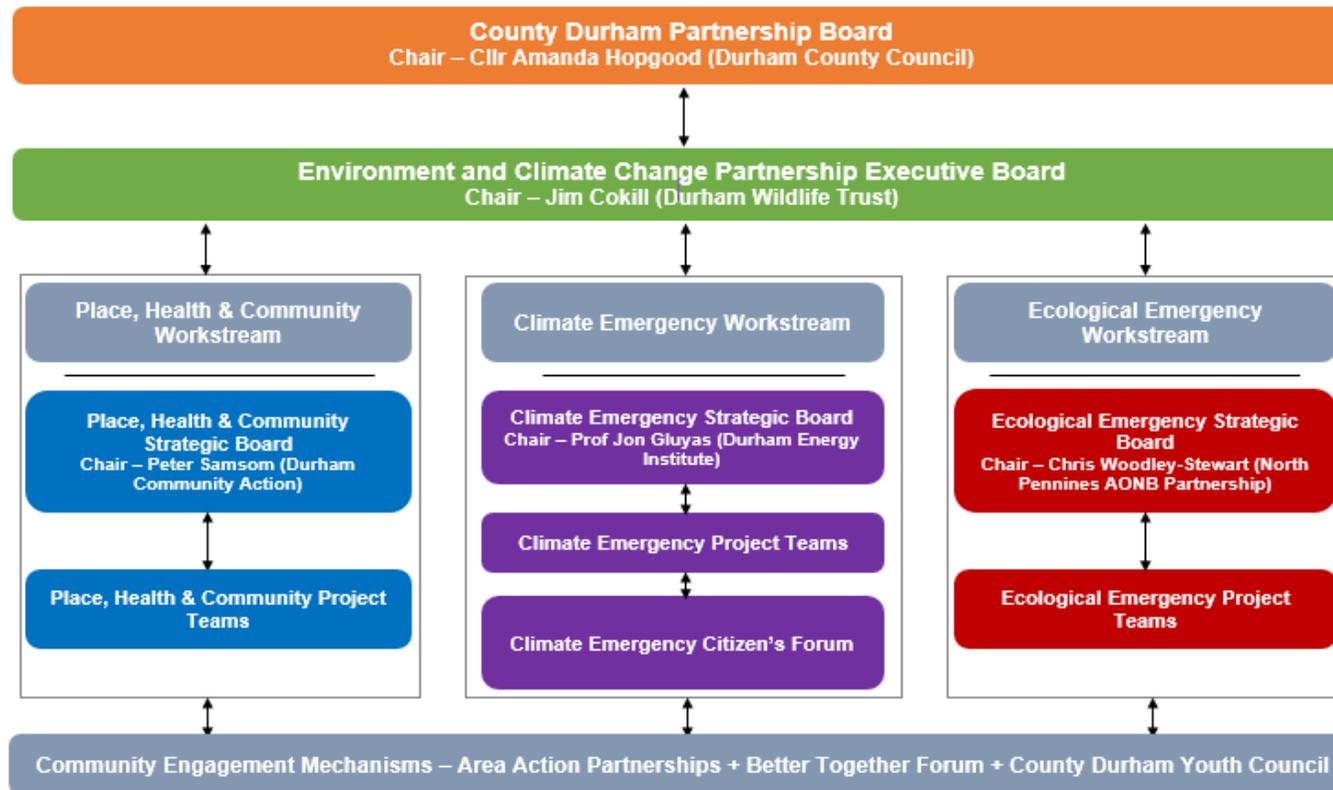
Stuart Priestley – DCC Principal Ecologist

Steve Bhowmick – DCC Environment and Design Manager



Better for everyone

ECCP Partnership Governance Structure



Better for everyone

Delivering the Vision 2035

County Durham is a place where there are more and better jobs, people live long and independent lives and our communities are well connected and supportive.

Environment and Climate Change Partnership Objectives from the Vision 2035

1.2	Build on growth in green technologies
1.3	Protect and enhance our core heritage and natural assets and biodiversity
2.3	Maximise quality of local environment and clean air with opportunities to be physically active
2.3	Reduce carbon emissions and mitigate against the impact of climate change
2.3	Encourage sustainable transport choices
3.5	Air quality (transport)
3.7	Ensure homes are built to ambitious standards in terms of energy efficiency, carbon footprint and wider environmental impacts
3.7	Design of development to be sympathetic to the natural, built and historic environment
-	Protecting our natural environment



Better for everyone

Environment & Climate Change Partnership

Vision: 'A better County Durham: sustainable communities, resilient to climate change, richer in nature.'

Executive members:

- County Durham Economic Partnership
- County Durham Sport
- Durham Community Action
- Durham County Council
- Durham Energy Institute
- Durham University
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership



Better for everyone

Climate Emergency Workstream – overview

- Chair Jon Gluyas, Durham Energy Institute
- Supported by Low Carbon Economy team
- Meetings quarterly
- Attendees - major County Durham organisations
- Remit - countywide emissions
- Links to national government – Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Ministry of Housing CLG present as observers



Gala Theatre Durham solar photovoltaic array



Better for everyone

Climate Emergency Workstream – priority areas

- Each partner outlined organisation’s carbon reduction and climate change engagement targets, plans and activities to date
- Immediate priority actions :
 - Solar car ports, electric vehicle charging and the greening of under-utilised car parks
 - Develop a customised Local Area Energy Plan
 - Develop a Countywide action plan to tackle the Climate Emergency



Ecological Emergency Workstream – overview

Role: to co-ordinate strategic action to reverse the decline in biodiversity across County Durham.

Workstream representatives include:

- Durham County Council
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- North Pennines AONB
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Woodland Trust



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Ecological Emergency Workstream – priority areas

- Raise of the local profile of the ecological emergency and to promote collaborative action to reverse the decline in habitats and species.
- Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for County Durham Including identifying our biodiversity priorities and associated actions.
 - A statement of biodiversity priorities, outcomes and actions
 - A local habitat map
 - Statutory requirement of the Environment Bill



Place, Health & Community Workstream – overview

Vision: ‘To promote engagement and activity to improve environmental outcomes in communities across County Durham and promote sustainability, health and wellbeing across each workstream area of the Environment and Climate Change partnership.’

Workstream representatives include:

- Housing providers
- Environmental NGO’s: OASES, Groundwork, Rivers Trusts
- Environment and community 3rd sector organisations: Durham Community Action, Durham Wildlife Trust
- DCC policy leads: Planning, Public Health, Partnerships
- Governmental policy leads: Historic England, Environment Agency



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Place, Health & Community Workstream – objectives

- Providing support and information
- Integrate our priorities within those of the Health and Economy thematic groups.
- Enabling collaborative working across the other ECCP workstreams so that the liveability agenda is recognised within both Ecological and Climate Emergency workstream priorities.
- Engaging with regional actors and national initiatives to bring learning experiences that can enhance county-based responses.



Place, Health & Community Workstream – priority areas

Next 12 months

- Community food production
- Towns and Villages investment plans
- Local Heritage Listing project
- ‘Tree Per Child’ initiative
- Suite of indicators and targets

Long term

- Create sustainable, healthy communities
- Promoting nature-based solutions to the climate emergency, flood risk management and the Green Recovery



Better for everyone

Challenges for the Environment & Climate Change Partnership

- Thematic links
- Strategy to delivery
- Size of agenda
- Finance and resources
- Raising awareness
- Achieving meaningful outcomes



Questions or comments



Better for everyone

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**Environment and Sustainable Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

16 July 2021

**Quarter Four, 2020/21
Performance Management Report**

Ordinary Decision



Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework.

The impact of COVID-19

- 2 2020/21 has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the world more than 115 million people have been infected and more than 2.5 million have died.
- 3 Following confirmation of its first cases in January 2020, the UK government subsequently put in place [restrictions](#) to contain the virus, minimise deaths and prevent health and social care systems being overwhelmed. Those restrictions, in varying forms, have impacted our everyday lives, our health and the economy ever since.
- 4 At the beginning of quarter four, in response to a huge increase in COVID-19 cases and the discovery of a faster spreading variant, restrictions were tightened with a third national lockdown. At the same time, the national vaccination programme¹ continued to be rolled out.
- 5 The subsequent fall in infection rates allowed the government to implement plans for a [gradual and phased route out of lockdown](#). The first step, centred around children and students returning to face-to-face teaching, was enacted in March 2021.
- 6 In line with these developments, alongside our continuing public health role and work with other agencies on the Local Resilience Forum

¹ started on 8 December 2020

(covering both County Durham and Darlington) to protect our communities and support those affected by the pandemic, we are also developing plans for future recovery.

- 7 The COVID-19 surveillance dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

Performance Reporting

- 8 This performance report is structured around the three externally focused results-based ambitions of the [County Durham Vision 2035](#) alongside a fourth 'excellent council' theme contained within our [Council Plan](#)². It also includes an overview of the impact of COVID-19 on council services, our staff, and residents.

Connected Communities – Sustainable Communities focus

- 9 Latest data shows that we have reduced carbon emissions by 51% compared to the 2008 baseline, and are now implementing a range of projects to further reduce to 70% by March 2025. However, it is worth noting that this data relates to a period influenced by COVID-19 restrictions (2019/20), specifically business closures, reduced road traffic levels and more people staying at home, all of which had a positive effect on carbon emissions but are unlikely to be sustained as lockdown eases.
- 10 Another consequence of COVID-19 has been the generation of additional tonnages of household waste due to people spending more time in their homes. However, although we collected more household waste, the proportion recycled reduced – mainly due to closure of the recycling markets early in the pandemic (which have now re-opened) and contamination of kerbside recycling bins remaining high.

Risk Management

- 11 Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's agenda. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects. The latest report can be found [here](#).

Recommendation

- 12 That Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter four performance, the impact of COVID-19 on performance, and the actions being taken to address areas of

² approved by full council October 2020

underperformance including the significant economic and well-being challenges because of the pandemic.

Author

Andy Palmer

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Finance

Latest performance information is being used to inform corporate, service and financial planning.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality measures are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Climate Change

We have declared a climate change emergency and consider the implications of climate change in our reports and decision-making.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

A number of performance indicators and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

Staffing

Performance against a number of relevant corporate health indicators has been included to monitor staffing issues.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

Reporting of significant risks and their interaction with performance is integrated into the quarterly performance management report.

Procurement

Not applicable.



Durham County Council Performance Management Report

Quarter Four, 2020/21



MORE AND BETTER JOBS:

How well do tourism and cultural events contribute to our local economy?

Summary³

COVID-19 Impact Survey⁴ - current status of businesses

90%
closed

2%
fully open

8% open with
reduced hours

75%
income reduced by
more than 50%

4%
income increased

COVID-19 Impact Survey⁴ - main concerns

53%
further restrictions

15%
business survival

12%
lack of demand

³ by Visit County Durham, 11 January to 8 February – 53 responses

More and Better Jobs

1 The ambition of More and Better Jobs is linked to the following key questions:

(a) How well do tourism and cultural events contribute to our local economy?

How well do tourism and cultural events contribute to our local economy?

- 2 The tourism sector continues to be impacted by the pandemic, missing out on the recent Easter season which is one of the most profitable times of the year, along with Christmas. A recent survey⁴ highlighted most businesses were closed during quarter four due to the national lockdown and some were not taking bookings due to uncertainty around re-opening dates.
- 3 The survey also found tourism businesses are putting plans in place to aid recovery with 13% stating that they would be changing their opening pattern and 9% considering discounted tickets or promotions. Thirty one percent indicated that they had already taken steps such as adapting their offer, increasing their range or investigating other revenue streams.
- 4 Although many attractions and venues have been closed due to lockdown restrictions, outdoor spaces such as parks and gardens have been open for exercise. Throughout the year we have seen a significant increase in the number of visitors at Hardwick Park and a good level of take up of our online sessions and Love Exploring app which offers activities such as trails and games.
- 5 A refreshed café, library and exhibition offer has been completed at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, was launched when cultural venues re-open in May. Durham Town Hall will remain closed until the summer to allow conservation and restoration work on the building to be completed.
- 6 Killhope Lead Mining Museum re-opened on 17 May with a new cultural programme and improved café.
- 7 In preparation for Lumiere 2021, the creative commissioning scheme BRILLIANT was launched in January. The scheme will commission six new pieces of work to feature at the event.
- 8 We plan to reinstate both the Seaham and Bishop Auckland Food Festivals, in August and October respectively.

⁴ Visit County Durham COVID-19 Impact Survey

- 9 Work on the Durham History Centre commenced in spring, will be complete by autumn 2022 and open to the public in 2023. It is anticipated that the centre will attract in the region of 70,000 visitors each year with its modern search rooms, innovative digital facilities, dedicated spaces for learning, exhibiting and interpreting, and café.
- 10 During quarter four, Durham County Record Office's online programme of talks, family history courses, school workshops and exhibitions was extended to include children's holiday archive craft activities and a special online talk about the role played by the Durham Light Infantry in the liberation of Belsen Concentration Camp (part of our holocaust memorial programme).

Long and Independent Lives

- 11 The ambition of Long and Independent Lives is linked to the following key question:
 - (a) Are our services improving the health of our residents?

Are our services improving the health of our residents?

- 12 In line with the government's Roadmap to Recovery our leisure centre gyms and pools re-opened on 12 April. Additional outdoor fitness classes, including bootcamps have been added to the programme at some leisure centres. The Mywellness app will continue to be free to use while the leisure centres operate a reduced programme. The app includes daily workouts, challenges and on demand and live fitness classes.

Connected Communities - Sustainability

- 13 The ambition of Connected Communities – Sustainability is linked to the following key questions:
 - (a) How clean and tidy is my local environment?
 - (b) Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?
 - (c) How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste?

How clean and tidy is my local environment?

- 14 During 2020/21, reported fly-tipping incidents increased by 22%. The increase, which mainly occurred between April and June, coincided with the closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres. However, incidents are now starting to return to pre-COVID levels.

- 15 Throughout 2020/21, to help deter fly-tipping, our neighbourhood wardens carried out 2,125 further investigations, deployed cameras at 44 locations, issued 37 duty of care warning letters and 45 Fixed Penalty Notices.
- 16 Our Community Action Team recently focused on rubbish accumulations, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour in Shildon. One hundred and seventy issues of concern were identified and the team served 41 legal notices.
- 17 Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to undertake the third tranche of environmental surveys for 2020/21. We hope to reinstate the survey programme during 2021/22.
- 18 Our [2020 Environment Awards](#), 'rewarding great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit in County Durham' were held virtually in February and broadcast on the Council's YouTube site.

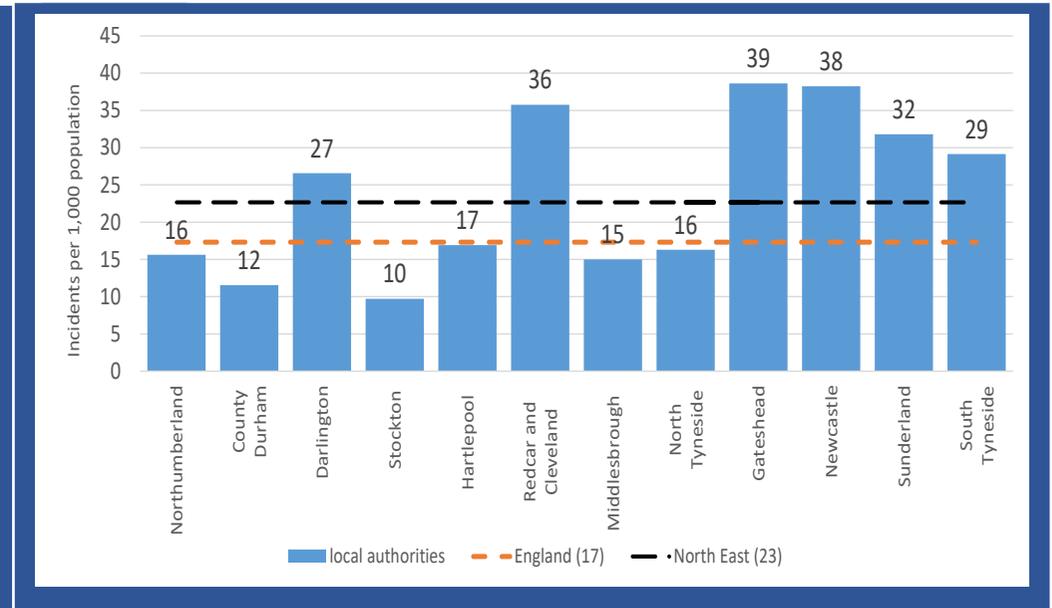
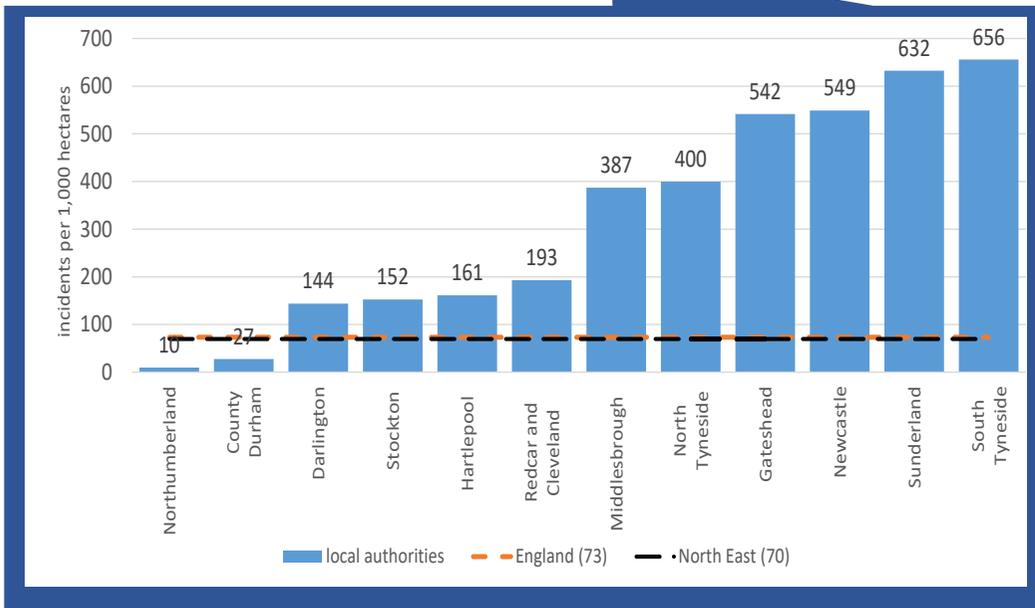
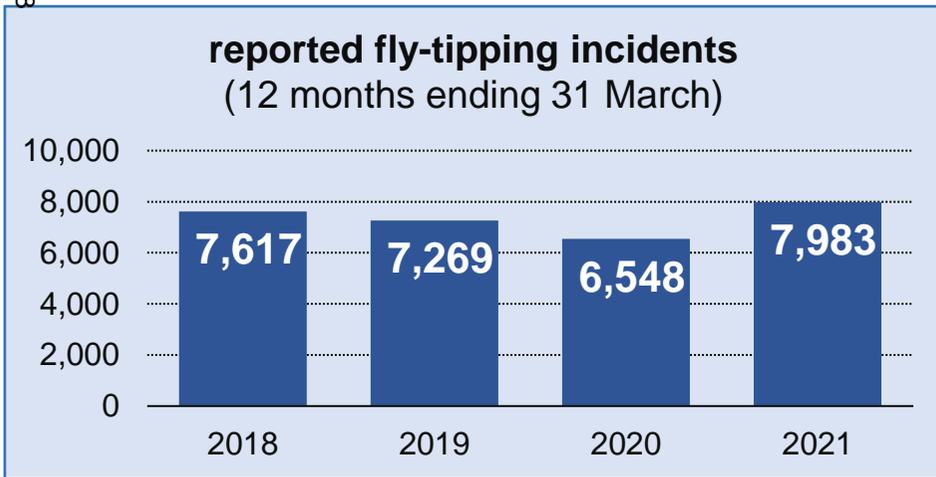
Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?

- 19 In 2019/20, we reduced carbon emissions by 51% (from the 2008 baseline) and are now working towards a 70% reduction by 2024/25. Although, carbon emission figures for 2020/21 will not be available until quarter two, we are aware of the significant impact of COVID-19. However, although we have used 20% less electricity, 14% less gas and experienced a 6% reduction in fleet use, all of which inevitably reduced carbon emissions, most of this was due to building closures. As we hope to re-open later in 2021, these reductions are not expected to be sustained in future years.
- 20 We are moving forward with a £8.3 million project to create a solar farm at our Morrison Busty depot, in Annfield Plain. The solar farm will power the whole depot, including electric vehicle charge points for our fleet. The project is part of a wider refurbishment to improve energy efficiency including new cladding, windows and doors and LED lights.
- 21 The flood prevention scheme at Chester-le-Street was completed during quarter four. The scheme, which opened up a 90-metre stretch of the Cong Burn within the town's market place, has not only reduced flooding risk, it has allowed us to create a more attractive public area with new seating and open spaces.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES (SUSTAINABILITY): How clean and tidy is my local environment?

Summary⁵

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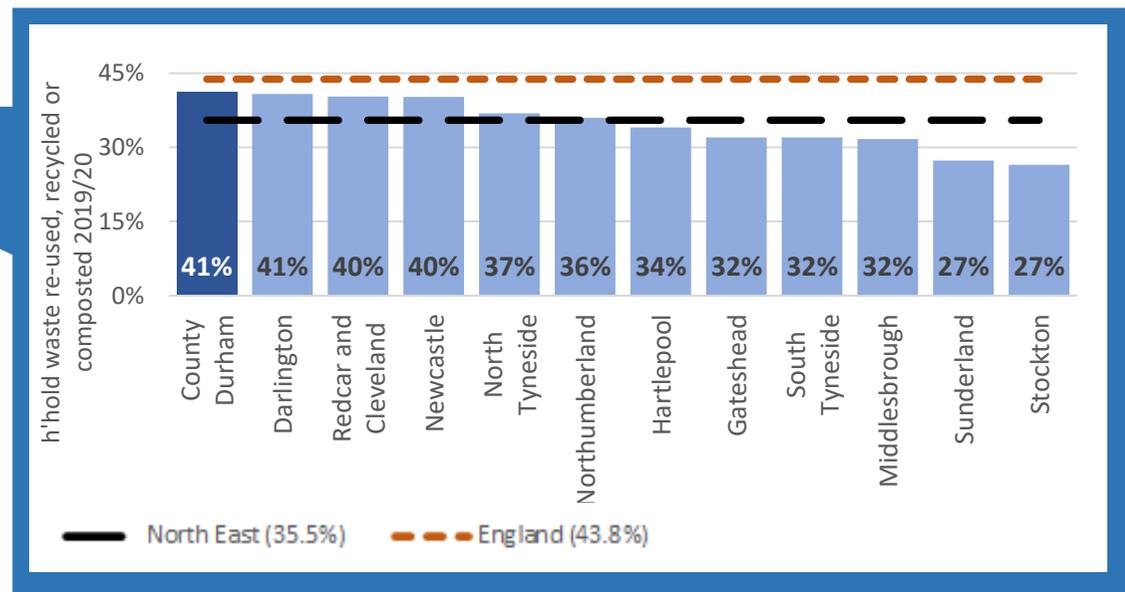
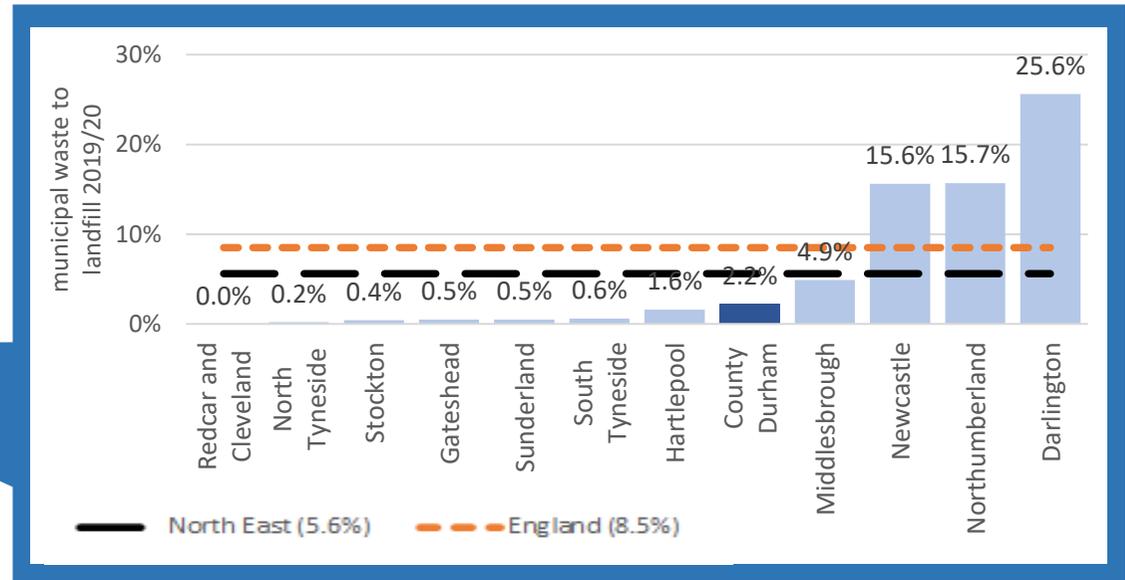
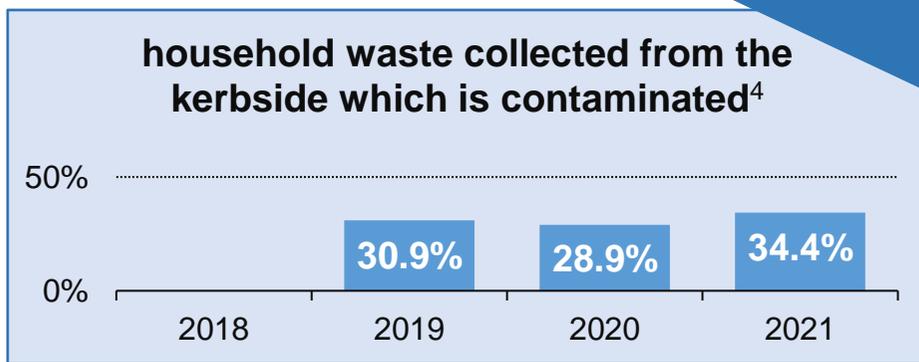
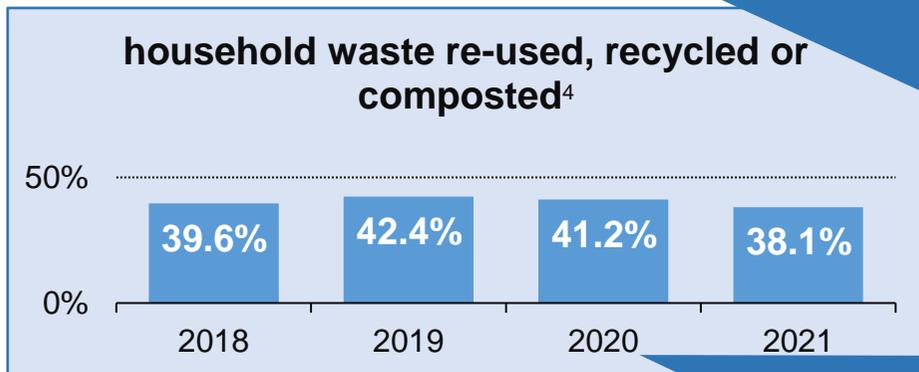
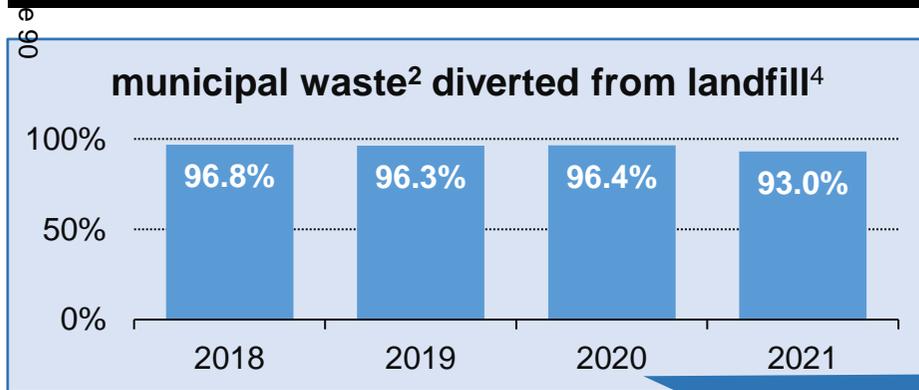


⁵ (data relates to the 12 months ending 31 March 2021, compared to the previous year where applicable)

How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste?

- 22 Throughout the pandemic, due to people spending more time in their homes, we have been collecting increased tonnages of household waste. Although this has resulted in greater tonnages sent for recycling, the proportion of waste recycled has reduced.
- 23 Contamination of kerbside recycling bins remains high but as COVID-19 restrictions ease our Recycling Assistants will re-start targeting areas of low recycling performance. Tonnages of glass sent for recycling continues to surpass the three-year average with latest data showing a 22% increase.
- 24 Although there continues to be an improvement in the HWRC's landfill diversion rate following the re-opening of recyclable markets and increased capacity within the refuse system, the quarter four rate is below the 3-year average of 86%, at 79%.
- 25 Having completed its first full season, and accepted almost 17,000 tonnes of garden waste, the composting pad at Coxhoe has now achieved accreditation which will allow the waste to be used as a soil improver.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES (SUSTAINABILITY): How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste? Summary^{6,7,8}



⁶ municipal waste is all data collected by the authority for disposal. It includes household waste, business waste, street cleaning and rubble

⁷ Waste data is reported a quarter in arrears

⁸ data relates to the 12 months ending 31 December 2020, compared to the previous year where applicable

Key Performance Indicators – Data Tables

There are two types of performance indicators throughout this document:

- (a) Key target indicators – targets are set as improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
- (b) Key tracker indicators – performance is tracked but no targets are set as they are long-term and/or can only be partially influenced by the council and its partners.

A guide is available which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2020/21 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet or can be requested from the Strategy Team at performance@durham.gov.uk

KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Direction of travel	Benchmarking	Performance against target
GREEN	Same or better than comparable period	Same or better than comparable group	Meeting or exceeding target
AMBER	Worse than comparable period (within 2% tolerance)	Worse than comparable group (within 2% tolerance)	Performance within 2% of target
RED	Worse than comparable period (greater than 2%)	Worse than comparable group (greater than 2%)	Performance >2% behind target

National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, for example educational attainment is compared to county and unitary councils however waste disposal is compared to district and unitary councils.

North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e. County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-On-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland.

More detail is available from the Strategy Team at performance@durham.gov.uk

MORE AND BETTER JOBS

How well do tourism and cultural events contribute to our local economy?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
11	No. visitors to County Durham (million)	20.13	2019	Tracker	19.71 (green)					No
12	No. jobs supported by the visitor economy	12,133	2019	Tracker	11,998 (green)					No
13	Amount (£ million) generated by the visitor economy	955	2019	Tracker	914 (green)					No

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – SUSTAINABILITY

How clean and tidy is my local environment?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
95	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	6.4	Sep-Nov 2020	Tracker	6.9 (green)					No
96	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	10.68	Sep-Nov 2020	Tracker	13.36 (green)					No
97	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	1.35	Sep-Nov 2020	Tracker	0.9 (green)					No
98	Number of fly-tipping incidents	7,983	2020/21	Tracker	6,548 (red)					Yes

Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
99	% reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham (carbon neutral by 2050)	55.2	2018	Tracker	54 (green)					No
100	% reduction in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations compared to the 2008/09 baseline, 70% by 2025	51	2019/20	Tracker	47 (green)					No

How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
101	% of municipal waste diverted from landfill	93.0	2020	95 (red)	96.4 (red)	91.5 (green)	94.4 (red)		2019/20	Yes
102	% of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	38.1	2020	Tracker	41.2 (red)	43.8 (red)	35.5 (green)		2019/20	Yes

Other additional performance indicators

Is it easy to travel around the county?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
110	% of A roads where maintenance is recommended	3.0	2019	Tracker	2.6 (red)	3.38 (green)	1.92 (green)		2019	No
111	% of B roads where maintenance is recommended	3.3	2019	Tracker	4.7 (green)	4.57 (green)	2.83 (green)		2019	No
112	% of C roads where maintenance is recommended	4.3	2019	Tracker	3.7 (red)	4.57 (green)	2.83 (green)		2019	No
113	% of unclassified roads where maintenance is recommended	21.3	2019	Tracker	21.0 (amber)	15.08 (red)	16.25 (red)		2019	No

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**Environment and Sustainable
Communities Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**



16 July 2021

**Refresh of the Work Programme
2021/22 for Environment and
Sustainable Communities OSC**

Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ESC OSC) with an updated draft work programme for 2021/22.

Executive summary

- 2 ESC OSC review their work programme each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035.
- 3 The proposed ESC OSC work programme has been framed around the shared County Durham vision 2035 based on the three strategic ambitions – ‘more and better jobs’, ‘long and independent lives’ and ‘connected communities’.
- 4 Overview and scrutiny work programmes are designed to be flexible to accommodate items which may arise throughout the year. This flexibility is particularly important as we make our way along the government’s roadmap out of lockdown. We will consider how best to enable the scrutiny function to respond in these times of continuing uncertainty.

Recommendations

- 5 The ESC OSC is recommended to:
 - a) Receive and comment on the proposed work programme for 2021/22.

- b) Agree the ESC OSC work programme for 2021/22 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

Background

- 6 Scrutiny committee meetings have recently returned to meeting in person following the use of remote arrangements under COVID-19 emergency regulations. During the lockdown period work programmes were reviewed to enable remote meetings to focus on matters of the highest priority. As a result, regular overview reports were circulated to members via email for comment.
- 7 The number of meetings in the corporate calendar available to overview and scrutiny have also been substantially reduced since March 2020 due to staff capacity to support virtual meetings. At this point we are unsure how many meetings we will be allocated for 2021/22 and will reprioritise work programmes if circumstances change. Any review of work programmes will take place with the chair and vice chair and in consultation with the committee.
- 8 The current overview and scrutiny committees work programmes are informed by:
- County Durham Vision 2035
 - Council Plan
 - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
 - Partnership plans and strategies
 - Performance and budgetary control data
 - Changes in government legislation
 - Key questions for improving performance
 - Local priorities
- 9 The County Durham Partnership agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035 based on a strategic assessment of need using our intelligence platform Durham Insight and developed following extensive consultation with the public. This sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve over the next 15 years and is written around three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham:
- More and better jobs
 - People live long and independent lives
 - Connected communities
- 10 These remain the strategic ambitions in our response to the COVID-19 crisis, where key impacts relate to employment, health and wellbeing,

and communities. They will also remain key as restrictions ease and we move along the roadmap from national lockdown and we continue with our restoration and recovery.

Council Plan 2020-2023

- 11 The Council Plan is the primary corporate planning document for the County Council and details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Vision for County Durham 2035 together with its own change agenda. It aims to provide a readable and accessible summary for members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main programmes of work that we will undertake over the coming three years to help achieve these priorities.
- 12 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around the three ambitions which are mentioned above. An additional ambition of an excellent council has been developed for the Council Plan to capture the corporate initiatives that the council has identified and wants to undertake to transform its operations and enable achievement of the ambitions within the vision.

More and Better Jobs

- a) How well do tourism and cultural events contribute to our local economy

Long and Independent lives

- a) Are our services improving the health of our residents

Connected Communities

- a) How clean and tidy is my local environment
- b) Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to Climate Change
- c) How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste

Current Work programme

- 13 During 2020/21 the ESC OSC prioritised items to be considered at a reduced number of formal meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic. Reports on other items were circulated via email to members. However, although there was a reduced number of formal meetings the committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, responded to

consultations and considered overview and progress monitoring reports and presentations in relation to the following:

- Consultations
 - Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document and the Parking and Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document
- Areas of overview and monitoring activity
 - Impact of COVID 19 on the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Service Grouping
 - Strategic Walking and Cycling Plan
 - Single Use Plastics
 - Fly tipping in the county
 - Bereavement Services
 - Woodland Management
 - Air Quality Management in the county
 - DCC's Fleet Management
 - Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham
 - Leisure Centres Programme
 - Gala Theatre
 - Museums and Libraries
 - Stockton and Darlington Bicentennial Celebrations
 - External Low Carbon Funding
 - Fuel Poverty in the county
 - National Fuel Poverty Strategy
 - Carbon Management Plan
 - Climate Emergency Response Plan
 - Community Action Team
 - Highways, Bridge and Footpath Maintenance
 - Heritage Coast and Tourism
 - Heritage Assets
- Budgetary and performance monitoring:
 - Quarterly budgetary monitoring for the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Service Grouping.
 - Quarterly corporate performance monitoring for the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Service Grouping.

14 In addition, the ESC OSC has also considered the following areas which cut across objectives in the Council Plan or cut across the remit of other Overview and Scrutiny Committees including:

- Impact of COVID 19 on the Regeneration, Economy and Growth Service Grouping
- Visit County Durham and the Tourism offer

- Town and Village Centres Programme
- Transport activity regional and local

Areas for Consideration in the ESC OSC Work Programme

- 15 Members of the ESC OSC are asked to agree the proposed work programme for 2021/22 that has been prepared and is attached at appendix two. The work programme is very comprehensive drawing on topical areas across the remit of the committee and it should be noted that it is also flexible.
- 16 Paragraph 13 of the report identifies the activity undertaken by the committee during 2020/21. The committee is asked to consider areas for inclusion in the work programme for 2021/22 in light of the current Council Plan and the Vision for County Durham 2035. Appendix 2 of this report sets out a draft work programme for consideration.

Conclusion

- 17 The work programme identifies areas of work that fall within the remit of ESC OSC and is flexible in its delivery.

Background papers

- [Council Plan 2020 - 2023](#)
- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is an important element of the Council's governance and risk management arrangements.

Procurement

Not applicable

<p>Overview and Scrutiny Draft Work Programme 2021/22</p> <p>Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Lead Officer: Tom Gorman Overview and Scrutiny Officers: Diane Close and Ann Whitton</p> <p>Oliver Sherratt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More and Better Jobs • People live long and independent lives • Connected Communities 			<p>Note:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Review – A systematic six-monthly review of progress against recommendations/action plan</p> <p>Scrutiny/Working Group – In-depth review/light touch review</p> <p>Overview/progress – Information on an issue; opportunity to comment, shape, influence, progress with a scrutiny review</p> <p>Performance/Budget – Ongoing quarterly monitoring performance reports/budgets</p>		
Item	When	Priority during COVID-19 response period	Who	Outcome	Comment
Overview/Progress		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report to ESC • briefing report to ESC members via email 			

Key areas of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (NCC) Service Grouping and Impact of COVID-19	16 July 2021	Report to ESC OSC	Alan Patrickson (NCC)	Members will receive detail of key services within the NCC Service Grouping together with an update on the impact of COVID-19 on those key service areas, the service response and future plans	Members will be aware of the key services within the NCC Service Grouping and the impact of COVID-19 on those key service areas and the service response taken including future planned actions
Environment and Climate Change Partnership	16 July 2021	Report to ESC OSC	Jon Gluyas/ Peter Samsom//Steve Bhowmick/Glenn Robinson (NCC)	Members will receive information on the recent review of the partnership's structure, governance arrangements, development of work streams to align to the vision, current position and next steps	Members will be aware of the recent review of the Partnership's structure and governance arrangements, development of the various work streams to align the partnerships activities to the vision, the current position and next steps
Community Action Team	July 2021	Briefing Report to ESC OSC and S&S OSC members	Jennifer Jones (NCC)	The Committee will receive a progress update that will detail the activity of	Members will continue to monitor the various CAT programmes

				Community Action Team in delivery the programme across the County	across County Durham
Climate Emergency Response Plan and Carbon Management Plan	TBC	Report to ESC OSC (E&E O&S members invited to attend)	Stephen McDonald/ Rosalind Farrow (NCC)	The Committee will receive information on progress made against the actions identified in both plans and identify whether additional actions need to be included	Members will monitor progress made on actions identified in both plans
Renewable Energy	TBC	Report to ESC OSC	Stephen McDonald (NCC)	Members will receive information on various renewable projects being undertaken in the county together with detail of any future projects, identifying and discussing any additional opportunities	The Committee will have knowledge of various renewable energy projects being undertaken in the county and any future projects

Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project (SLERP)	October 2021	Briefing Report	Paul Watson (NCC)	The Committee will receive an update on the SLERP	Members will be aware of the achievements of the project and current position
Winter maintenance	October 2021	Briefing Report	Paul Watson/ Paul Anderson (NCC)	The Committee will receive information on the arrangements for winter maintenance in the county	Members will be aware of the policies and procedures in place for delivering winter maintenance in the County
EU and other Low carbon funding	October 2021	Briefing Report	Maggie Bosanquet (NCC)	Members will receive detail of EU and other funding used to develop projects/initiatives in the county	Members will continue to monitor the various funded projects/initiatives in the county
Fuel Poverty	October 2021	Briefing Report to ESC OSC, AWH and E&E OSC members	Cliff Duff (REG)	The Committee will receive current information on fuel poverty in the county and a progress update on the various	Members will continue to monitor the current level of fuel poverty in the county and the various projects

				projects running in the county to help tackle this issue	taking place and planned to help tackle this issue
Strategic Waste Management	TBC	Report to ESC OSC	Oliver Sherratt/John Shannon (NCC)	Members will receive information of the waste management arrangements in the County and future plans, giving members the opportunity to discuss the Council's approach and whether it can be improved	Members will continue to monitor waste management arrangements in the County
Single Use Plastics (SUPs)	TBC	Report to ESC OSC	Oliver Sherratt/Victoria Burrell (NCC)	Members will receive information providing an update of progress made against the various actions identified in the SUPs action plan and whether there are additional areas for inclusion	The Committee continues to scrutinise progress made against the actions within the SUPs action plan

Fly-tipping	TBC	Report to ESC OSC	Ian Hoult (NCC)	Members will receive information on fly-tipping in the county including: incidents of fly-tipping; reporting process; removal of fly-tipping; enforcement and relevant performance data. The committee will be able to discuss the Council's approach and whether it can be improved	The Committee will continue to monitor the issue of fly-tipping in the county and consider how effective current schemes are in tackling this issue
Environmental Campaigns	December 2021	Briefing Report	Ian Hoult (NCC)	Members will receive detail of various environmental campaigns undertaken by DCC including those undertaken with partners, any challenges and future plans	Members will be able to monitor the various environmental campaigns in the county and determine how successful they have been

Bereavement Services	December 2021	Briefing Report	Ian Hoults/Graham Harrison (NCC)	Members will receive an update in relation to DCC's Bereavement Services including detail of any challenges within the service.	The Committee will continue to monitor delivery of bereavement services in the county
Leisure Centre Programme	TBC	Report to ESC OSC (E&E OSC members invited to attend)	Amy Harhoff/Alison Clark (REG)	Members will receive a progress update on the leisure centres improvement programme, discuss the Council's approach and whether it needs to be improved and identify any future consultation opportunities	Members will continue to monitor the progress of this programme and contribute to any future consultation
Leisure Strategy	TBC	Report to ESC OSC (E&E OSC members invited to attend)	Amy Harhoff/Alison Clark (REG)	Members will receive information on the new Leisure Strategy giving members the opportunity to comment on the strategy and	Members will be aware of the aims and objectives within the Leisure Strategy and will have had the opportunity to inform the future

				inform its further development	development of the strategy
Heritage Coast and Tourism Offer	February 2022	Briefing Report to ESC OSC and E&E OSC members	Niall Benson/Michelle Gorman (NCC ®)	The Committee will receive information on the development of the Heritage Coast and proposals for the future, including, plans for building the tourism offer	Members will continue to monitor work undertaken on the Heritage Coast to build the tourism offer
Museums & Libraries	February 2022	Briefing Report to ESC OSC and E&E OSC members	Alison Clark (REG)	To provide members with information on the work of the service grouping in delivering library and museums services in the County including the challenges resulting from the pandemic	The Committee will be aware of museum and library provision in the County

History Centre	February 2022	Briefing Report to ESC OSC and E&E OSC members	Alison Clark (REG)	Members will receive information on the progress of the History Centre	Members will be aware of the progress of the History Centre
Lumiere	February 2022	Briefing Report to ESC OSC and E&E OSC members	Alison Clark (REG)	Members will receive detail of the Lumiere event	Members will be aware of the Lumiere event
Theatres	February 2022	Brief to be circulated to ESC OSC and E&E OSC members	Alison Clark/Helen Ross (REG)	Members will receive a progress update on the future management of the Gala Theatre and other Theatres under DCC management including the challenges resulting from the pandemic and future plans	Members will be aware of proposals for the management of the Gala Theatre and other Theatres under DCC management including work undertaken to address the impact of COVID and future management plans

Highways, Bridge & Footpath Maintenance	TBC	Report to ESC OSC (E&E OSC members invited to attend)	Paul Watson/ Paul Anderson (NCC)	Members will receive information on DCC's approach to managing highways, bridge and footpath maintenance in the County. The committee will discuss the approach to determine whether it can be improved	The Committee will continue to monitor and scrutinise the progress made by the authority in relation to highways, bridge and footpath maintenance
Air Quality Management	April 2022	Briefing Report	Denyse Holman/Dave Wafer (NCC)	Members will receive information on air quality management arrangements in County Durham	Members will continue to monitor the air quality management arrangements in County Durham including progress on the actions identified in the Air Quality Action Plan

DCC Fleet	April 2022	Brief to be circulated to ESC OSC and E&E OSC members	(NCC)	The Committee will receive an update on the management of DCC's Fleet including detail of measures implemented to reduce carbon emissions	Members will continue to monitor the management of DCC's fleet including the introduction of ULEVs
Sustainable Travel – Walking and Cycling Plan	April 2022	Brief to be circulated to ESC OSC members	Dave Wafer/Victoria Lloyd Gent (REG)	Members will receive information on progress made in relation to the Strategic Walking and Cycling Delivery Plan and local plans.	The Committee will continue to scrutinise progress made against the actions within the relevant plan.
Ecological Emergency Response Plan	TBC	Report to ESC OSC	Steve Bhowmick/Stuart Priestly/Environment and Climate Change Partnership	Members will receive information on how DCC and partners are responding to the ecological emergency and identify as to whether DCC's approach can be improved	Members will understand how DCC and partners are responding to the Ecological Emergency and will continue to monitor progress against any action plan produced

Woodland management	May 2022	Briefing Report	Sue Mullinger (NCC)	Members will receive detail of DCC's woodland management in the county	The Committee will continue to monitor DCC's management of its woodland estate
Flood Risk Management Authorities	May 2022	Briefing Report	Brian Weatherall/Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water (NCC)	Members will receive further information from the Flood Risk Management Authorities (FRMAs) for County Durham on current and future projects, funding, partnership working and any issue/challenges	The Committee will continue to monitor the work undertaken by the FRMAs in partnership to alleviate flood risk in the County
Integrated Transport Management	Joint Special meeting Spring 2022 with E&E OSC members TBC	Report to ESC OSC and E&E OSC members	Amy Harhoff/Peter Ollivere/ Craig MacLennan, Stephen McDonald, Victoria Lloyd-Gent (REG and NCC)	Members will receive information of DCC's plans in relation to Integrated Transport Management and will identify and discuss as to whether the	Members will have an understanding of DCC's plans relating to integrated transport management

				Council's approach can be improved	
Performance/Budget					
Performance Quarterly reporting	Sept/Oct 2021 Jan 2022 March 2022 TBC	Report to ESC OSC	Tom Gorman (Resources)	To provide Members with progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework.	Summary information to Members
Budget Outturn Report Quarterly reporting -	Sept/Oct 2021 Jan 2022 March 2022 TBC	Report to ESC OSC	Phil Curran (Resources)	Detail of budget	Summary information to Members
Minutes					
Environment and Climate Change Partnership	TBC	Minutes to be circulated to ESC OSC members	Partnership Team	Members will be kept updated on the activity of the partnership	The Committee will be aware of activity undertaken by the partnership

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