



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

**Date**      **Wednesday 24 November 2021**  
**Time**      **9.30 am**  
**Venue**     **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham**

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### **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 8 October 2021 (Pages 3 - 20)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties
6. Fly Tipping in County Durham
  - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 21 - 24)
  - b) Presentation by the Neighbourhood Protection Manager, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 25 - 42)
7. Strategic Overview of Resources and Waste Management Services in County Durham
  - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 43 - 48)
  - b) Presentation by the Head of Environment, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 49 - 70)
8. Single Use Plastics Project - Update
  - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 71 - 106)

- b) Presentation by the Head of Environment, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 107 - 130)
- 9. Work Programme Update 2021/22 - Report of the Corporate Director of Resources - Presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Pages 131 - 152)
- 10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

**Helen Lynch**  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall  
Durham  
16 November 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, 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 in **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Friday 8 October 2021** at **9.30 am**

**Present:**

**Councillor B Coult (Chair)**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors J Elmer, E Adam, P Atkinson, B Avery, L Brown, L Fenwick, G Hutchinson, R Manchester, D Nicholls, J Purvis, T Stubbs, S Townsend and M Stead (substitute for C Martin)

**Co-opted Members:**

Mrs P Holding

### **1 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Charlton, B McAloon, C Martin, J Quinn and R Potts and Mr T Bolton.

### **2 Substitute Members**

Councillor M Stead substituted for Councillor C Martin.

### **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held 16 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record by the Committee and 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 Climate Emergency Response Plan**

The Chair welcomed the Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader, Maggie Bosanquet, the Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability, Stephen McDonald, and the Carbon and Energy Analyst, Rosalind Farrow, who were in attendance to provide the Committee with a presentation on the Climate Emergency Response Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

The Carbon and Energy Analyst explained that Durham County Council (DCC) had a Carbon Management Plan since 2009, with the Council declaring a Climate Emergency in February 2019, with a Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) having been adopted by Cabinet in February 2020. Members were asked to note the Council's reduction in annual emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> since 2008/09, with there having been a 58 percent reduction to 2020/21. It was explained that the main element in terms of emissions in 2008/09 was electricity 55 percent, however this had reduced to around 32 percent by 2020/21. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted that the main element was now heat and referred Members to a pie chart which gave a breakdown of each of the elements, electricity, heat and transport. Members noted the low level of business travel, impacted by the pandemic, however, it was explained that the Council's buildings, including schools, had still required heating. It was added that those issues could be addressed through better heating controls, insulation and low carbon heating systems. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted that the Council's fleet was transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs) and the Council would look to increase the efficiency of its electrical appliances and generate its own renewable electricity wherever possible.

In reference to the Council's carbon targets, Members were reminded that the Council's Carbon Management Plan operated over five year periods and had done so since 2010. The Carbon and Energy Analyst explained that the target for the current Carbon Management Plan was for a 70 percent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2025, from the 2008/09 baseline, and an 80 percent reduction by 2030. Members were asked to note there were intermediate guideline targets for each year and that in the last two years the Council had been above target with a 51 percent reduction in 2020, against a target of 45 percent, and a 58 percent reduction in 2021, against a target of 56 percent. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted that targets would become progressively harder to meet as more reduction would need to be made through invasive and expensive projects, such as the replacement of heating systems. It was added that the targets were for an actual reduction in emissions, it was not possible to look to help meet target through processes such as offsetting, planting trees or purchasing renewable electricity, although the Council did undertake both of those activities.

In respect of the cost involved and funding that was available, the Carbon and Energy Analyst explained there was the internal DCC Climate Emergency Fund that was available, also there was Government funds, however, they were heavily over-subscribed, with the £75 million that was made available in March 2021 been oversubscribed within one day of the scheme opening. In respect of decarbonising heating, it was estimated that if this was done across 150 of the Council's main buildings it would leave around 12,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> to manage across operations and fleet by 2030. It was estimated the cost in relation to heating would be approximately £100 million by 2030 and around £10 million in respect of electric vehicles by 2030, giving an average of around £14 million per year each year up to 2030.

The Committee were referred to a slide setting out the areas of priority from the CERP1, noting a requirement to roughly half emissions. The Carbon and Energy Analyst reiterated as regards the reduction in gas use, and noted that in terms of electricity, if the Council generated electricity via renewables, then it would be able to not only power its fleet of EVs and supply its buildings, it would also be able to sell surplus electricity to help fund other projects. It was explained that the reduction of the use of fossil fuels in terms of transport could be achieved through the continuation of remote working and encouraging this where it was practical to do so. In terms of schools, the Carbon and Energy Analyst noted there were hundreds of schools, that they were separate priority areas as they had their own budgets, and that there was a need to support them in a fair way in respect of decarbonising.

Members were asked to note CERP1 Actions relating to the Council, with 18 on track, four completed, one on hold, and five with delays. It was explained that the delays were due to access issues as a result of the pandemic or supply chain issues and also in some cases as some ERDF and RHI funding had been lost. Councillors noted that funding was being sought, including through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.

The Carbon and Energy Analyst explained that the Council only accounted for around three percent of the carbon footprint of the County and referred Members to a graph showing the change in emissions for the County since 2005, though the baseline was 1990, with the percentages given representing a reduction from the 1990 baseline. It was noted that position was over halfway, with a 54 percent reduction since 1990, and Councillors were referred to pie-charts showing the reduction and breakdown of carbon emissions by source from 2005 and 2019. Members noted the reduction in electricity emissions by around two-thirds, with a slight increase in heat as a percentage and an increase in transport. It was explained that around one-third of the County's emissions came from heating homes, with one-third being from transport, and one-third split between electricity and non-domestic heating. It was explained the figures did not include through traffic on the A1(M), A19 and rail network.

The Carbon and Energy Analyst reiterated that the Council needed to cut its carbon footprint and explained that the recent Independent Panel on climate Change (IPCC) report had set out that it was important how quickly that was achieved. Members were referred to a graph showing the actual carbon footprint of the County from 2005 to present, and with three scenarios in relation to carbon budget up to 2050 based upon UK Government carbon targets for 2030, 2035 and 2050, CERP1 targets, and the scientific carbon budget for County Durham as calculated by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research. She asked Members to note the differences in the UK Government and Tyndall budgets, with the UK Government targets looking at elements such as industry and freight. She added that there was some concern that it would be difficult to obtain sufficient funding and resources to go much beyond the UK Government budget. Members noted that the work in terms of CERP2 was looking to try and bring the Council's targets closer to the scientific carbon budget as calculated by the Tyndall Centre with the resources the Council had available.

The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted the period from 2019 to the end of CERP1, 2021, and explained that the County needed to shrink its footprint by eight percent by the end of the year, around 171,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Members noted that the CERP1 County priority areas were similar to the Council's priority areas and that in terms of heat, the reduction in gas use in homes required could be achieved by the equivalent of 20,000 home decarbonising or everyone using around eight percent less gas and oil which could be achieved in part through insulation projects. The Carbon and Energy Analyst explained that renewable electricity generation would support decarbonisation and that in terms of transport there was a need to reduce fossil fuel vehicle use by eight percent or to replace 24,000 fossil fuel vehicles with Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs). She added it could also be achieved if everyone drove a little less or used public transport, cycled or walked more and reduced unnecessary travel through use of remote working. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted the countywide target to be carbon neutral, with offsetting being an additional factor, unlike with the Council's own targets. She explained that therefore work would continue to plant trees, restore peatland, protect the natural environment, and generate electricity through renewable means. She concluded by noting that CERP1 was 82 percent on track or complete and reiterated that delays were from funding loss or as a result of the pandemic.

The Chair thanked the Carbon and Energy Analyst and asked Members for their questions and comments.

Councillor L Brown noted two elements the Council could consider in order to help lower carbon emissions, allowing solar panels within Conservation Areas and insisting that all new developments plans had, at the very least, solar panels. She noted around 2,500 new properties at Bent House Lane and Sniperley, adding there was still time to amend the Masterplans to include renewable energy. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted the Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability may have more information, adding it was difficult to mandate.

The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted colleagues from Spatial Policy were looking at the Masterplan for Sniperley and he had given his views to them. He explained that there was not a blanket refusal for solar panels within Conservation Areas, rather each case would be looked at on its own merits. Councillor L Brown noted she would like to see a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding solar panels and renewable energy, sooner rather than later.

Councillor E Adam thanked all the team for the huge amount of work being undertaken in relation to the CERP. He noted the issues in terms of those projects that were not actioned and referred to the graphs relating to the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Council and the County. He added that looking at those graphs, transport and heat stood out as key areas and those were not progressing as fast as the Council would like. He noted the issue of heat in schools and that the issue of transport in the area had not been tackled and asked as regards plans to reduce carbon emissions from transport from a county perspective and heat from schools, also asking if it would require Government funding or if it could be sustained through Council funds. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted in relation to transport, the Council was moving to EVs for its fleet and pool cars and was encouraging remote working where appropriate to help reduce emissions. She noted the example of electric refuse vehicles. She added that in terms of county emissions it was more difficult as individuals had a choice in terms of how they would travel. She explained that one element was the Council speaking publicly as regards transport, with the new 'County Durham Climate Hub' website that was being launched being one way of being able to engage with the public across the spectrum of carbon reduction activities. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted in respect of emissions from heating, particularly heat in schools, there was currently a number of projects looking to decarbonise heat entirely, funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. She added this had worked well as the upfront capital costs were effectively grant funded with the utility bill being roughly in line with the current costs. It was noted the up front capital cost in terms of technology, such as heat pumps, was the issue.

Councillor E Adam noted he felt that dealing with heat and transport issues would deal with the majority of the carbon emissions and noted the Council should be looking at what other Local Authorities were doing, in terms of restricting transport coming into cities and introducing electric buses, as he felt such measures were not coming forward from DCC. He noted similar issues in respect of heating in schools, accepting there were a number of schools now operating as Academies. He added that the Council needed to ensure that heating systems were upgraded, especially given the current position in terms of gas prices and added that it made sense to transfer to alternative heating systems.

Councillor E Adam noted he understood as regards the upfront financial cost associated and asked if the Council would approach Government again to explain to them that in order to decarbonise our schools, Government would need to help by providing appropriate funding. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted the efforts in decarbonising by around 50 percent prior to declaration of the Climate Emergency and added she would hope that the work and resources would ramp up in terms of decarbonisation. She added that while the cost of electricity was expensive, the price of gas was increasing and, due to the large volumes of gas used, the amount spent on gas was significant. She noted that as gas became increasingly expensive and more difficult to obtain this would then provide a more compelling case for electric heating through technology such as heat pumps.

Councillor B Avery noted the points made by Councillor L Brown in terms of the introduction of solar panels, especially on new buildings, at the planning stage. He noted he felt it would be also beneficial as regards the inclusion of EV charging points at the planning stage for new build properties, noting the difficulty in terms of the existing terraced properties across the county. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted that inclusion of charging points at homes would be beneficial, however, ideally there would be less vehicles in general, as they have a high carbon cost in terms of production and pollution from tyres and brake components, with increased car sharing and use of public transport being beneficial. The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted that it was not mandatory in respect of installing EV charging points within new developments, though he understood conversations were being had at the pre-application stage and he noted that many new schemes were including such charging points. He noted that the hardest element was the infrastructure in respect of EV charging for existing housing, such as terraced housing and flats. He reminded Members as regards the SOSCI (Scaling On Street Charging Infrastructure) project which had looked to install EV charging points within Council car parks within 100 metres of existing housing. He added the Council had been successful in a number of bids for grants to expand such work.

Councillor D Nicholls noted the need to encourage people to use cars less, however, given the state of public transport in the county, he felt that was difficult. He noted an example in his area, Deerness, with a resident that relied upon public transport having tried to catch a bus home at 4.00pm from Durham and not getting back until around 7.30pm. He added that the situation was ruining people's lives and asked what the Council was doing to address the issue, especially with Arriva North East. He noted the Council did provide subsidies in relation to bus services and added that many of the buses used in the county were from 2005. He asked why other areas appeared to have newer buses and were progressing and reiterated he felt the Council needed to address the issues with public transport and timetables in order to attract the public to use it more. The Chair noted the comments from Councillor D Nicholls would likely be echoed by many Members.



The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted that Spatial Policy and Transport colleagues would be best placed to respond on those points, however, he noted the actions within the CERP reflected upon public transport and he understood there had been many changes to bus timetables recently. The Chair noted Officers would take away the question to the service for a response.

Councillor E Adam noted page 84 of the report pack contained the slide that referenced the areas of priority for the county and set out information relating to the natural environment and offsetting. He asked how we were using our land and forests to reduce carbon emissions, and whether the separate report mentioned relating to the issue would be made available. He noted that the Vice-Chair, Councillor J Elmer had put a question to the Portfolio Holder at Council as regards an 'ecological emergency' and that the upcoming Cabinet agenda contained an item calling for further work to be undertaken on the issue. He asked as regards the impact that work could have in terms of existing staff, the work in relation to updating the CERP, and on the Work Programme for the Committee. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted the slide within the agenda pack, when referring to a reduction of 48,000, it was not included within the graph as it would be a negative figure, as the graph showed emissions rather than what was offset. She added that the separate report mentioned was the next agenda item, which the Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability would present. In respect of renewables, the Carbon and Energy Analyst noted that it was not included within the 48,000 figure relating to land use and change of forestry, though it was reported via the Council's website. She explained that in terms of ecology, she noted the Team could work with colleagues from Ecology on some schemes to improve biodiversity, noting an example being the development of the Tanfield Solar Farm. The Chair noted the point raised by Councillor E Adam and explained there would be conversations with the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director as regards the impacts upon Officers and the Work Programme, with an update to come back to Committee.

Councillor J Elmer noted one of the key areas of emissions was Council staff traveling to work in cars, adding there was a desperate need for a Council Travel Plan. He added that, in terms of transport across the County, the Council did have influence in respect of strategic policy relating to the infrastructure network for travel, including making space for buses, cyclists and walking, understanding that was also a Spatial Policy matter. He added there was a need for the Council to make sure its services were joined up in tackling those issues.

In relation to carbon emissions, Councillor J Elmer noted that certain elements that were in the control of the Council to influence, but were not incorporated within the reported figures, these included emissions associated with: staff travel, sometimes referred to as 'the grey fleet'; Council investments; Council procurement; Council pensions; and emissions from the incineration of household waste and waste to landfill. He asked whether the emissions associated with those activities would be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny so that Members could have a more complete picture.

The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted the issue of staff commuting and explained it was very difficult to ask thousands of people to change the way that they travelled to work, having no control over what type of vehicle they bought. She added that to ascertain the emissions associated with commuting would be a huge task, surveying the staff, and also the staff were currently operating in a position between working from home moving towards a hybrid model of working. She explained that in terms of the other areas of Council activity that had associated emissions there was one element that was reported upon, namely incineration from the energy from waste plant as part of the Council's waste emissions. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted the remaining elements mentioned would fall under "scope three", emissions that were harder to tackle. She added that there were procurement plans within the CERP and there were sustainable policies within the Procurement Section.

Councillor J Elmer noted 502 residents responded to the consultation on the CERP, representing a tiny proportion of the population in the county and noted it was likely many of those responding were already aware of the associated issues. He noted that a conversation was needed to engage with the wider community in order for people to take ownership of the work and to illicit behavioural change. He asked going forward what plans there were in terms of seriously engaging with residents across the county. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted there were a few ways, including the ECO2 Smart programme which went into all of the schools in the county, engaging with children who in turn engage with their parents, very successful over a number of years. She explained that the 502 residents mentioned were those who had completed an official survey response, however, there had been a lot more people engaged with. She noted that all Areas Action Partnerships (AAPs) had been engaged with, as well as other groups. It was added that in future, there was a desire for the conversation to be ongoing, so rather than solely having a consultation events, there would be an ongoing process that would take place in part via the new Climate Change Hub website. She explained that it would be a place that people could contact the Team and also share information and it was hoped the whole county could get involved in what was a whole county issue.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager, Tom Gorman explained that in relation to transport, and bus services in particular, Members at the recent meeting of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee had made a number of comments relating to those services. He reminded Members that the issue of integrated transport was identified within the Work Programme for Spring, with a joint session with the Environment and Sustainable Communities and Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In respect of third party emissions from areas such as procurement, investment, pensions and staff travel, the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted work to organise a session looking at those issues.

He added that at the meeting looking at integrated transport there would also be the Pensions Manager, an officer from procurement and the Environment and Design Manager in attendance to speak as regards scope three emissions, scope one being Council emissions, scope two being countywide emissions. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted in terms of an 'ecological emergency', work was ongoing through the Environment Partnership, with any work of the Committee needing to compliment any Ecological Plan that came forward. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Diane Close noted the comments from Members on CERP1 would be fed back to Officers, as well as the questions from the Vice-Chair. She added that the comments from Members, including key comments from the Vice-Chair, would be collated into a response from the Committee to be shared with Members to be agreed and once agreed subsequently passed to the Low Carbon Team, Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change with a view to inform the development of CERP2. She added a further update relating to CERP2 would be given at a future meeting of the Committee.

### **Resolved:**

- 6.1 That the Committee note the progress made against delivering during the second year of the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan.
- 6.2 That comments made by Members in relation to the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan be formulated into a response to be shared with the Committee for agreement.
- 6.3 That the Overview and Scrutiny response be shared with the Low Carbon Team, Cabinet Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change.
- 6.4 That the Committee, at a future date, as part of the 2021/22 Work Programme, receive a report and presentation in relation to the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan 2.

## **7 Renewable Energy Projects**

The Chair asked the Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability to give a presentation on the Renewable Energy Projects (for copy see file of minutes).

The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted the presentation would look to outline information as regards renewable energy and capacity in County Durham, along with a number of projects the Council had developed over the last 12 months. He referred Members to graphs showing renewable energy capacity for the County, with the data coming from the Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and being two years in arrears, with 2020 data due to be shared shortly. He explained that the picture was fairly static following an initial rise in wind energy, with changes in legislation halting such schemes.

He noted a decrease in renewable energy capacity in 2018/19 of 4MW, a decrease in terms of the onshore wind capacity, a concern. He noted the increase in solar / photovoltaic (PV) since 2014. He referred to a graph highlighting renewable energy generation in the county, the amounts generated, and explained as regards the larger amount of wind energy generation in 2015, due to windier weather, with a small decrease in generation in 2018/19, and noted the contribution from plant biomass.

The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted one new project was that at the new Seaham Garden Village, with proposals to heat around 1,500 homes through heat from mine water. It was explained that the Coal Authority were required to pump and clean mine water, in perpetuity, to ensure it did not pollute the local aquifer used for drinking water. He added the Coal Authority had noted the temperature of the mine water, around 20°C and were using it to heat their treatment plant at Dawdon. He noted as the Seaham Garden Village proposals came forward a district heating scheme was proposed, with Council, Durham University, Coal Authority and Tolent, the developer, all working together in terms of a partnership approach. He explained that funding was obtained from BEIS to undertake a feasibility study and the study noted the project was a viable proposal. Members learned that the housing developers going into the site were signed up to the project and the project was at the stage of going out to tender in respect of the delivery of a concession model, for a design, build and operate model for a district heating network. The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted residents would have price protection, being cheaper than the equivalent costs associated with gas heating. He noted colleagues from Regeneration could provide additional information and added there had been Ministerial visits to the pumping and treatment site, as well as from international delegates, as the technology had implications for the legacy mining areas worldwide.

The Committee were informed of the Domestic Housing Retrofits, with many successful funding bids over the last 12 months. The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability referred to LAD (Local Authority Delivery) bids funding work at Chilton and Dene Bank and noted the partners involved. He added that other projects included: Electric Vans, 'Try before you Buy'; community EV Charging Network through SOSCI, WEVA (Weardale Electric Vehicle Accelerator), DOCS (Durham Own Charge Point Sites) and REV UP (Regional electric vehicle unified plan); Borrow a Bike Scheme; Project Gigabit Broadband; Marine Carbon; and the South Stanley SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) Accelerator.

The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted that Heat Decarbonisation projects included those at Woodland Primary School with air-source heat pumps; new solar / PV sites; solar car ports, with some EU funding for canopies for car parks; micro wind exploration; Durham City District Heat Network Business Case; and Lumley School, integrating solar / PV into the new roof. He explained as regards the launch of the new County Durham Climate Hub website at the end of October and noted the next steps in relation to CERP2.

The Chair thanked the Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability and asked Members for their questions and comments.

Councillor T Duffy referred to the graph showing renewable energy generation and noted that the roughly static position in terms of the amounts generated, with wind being the largest component and also the component with the most fluctuation. He noted steady progress in terms of solar. He asked whether the reduction in landfill gas generation was due to less waste going to landfill, what work was being undertaken in terms of growing solar as a renewable at the larger scale, working with industry and Durham University, and whether any schemes involving wave power were being looked at, given the county had a large coastline. The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted the decrease in landfill gas generation, with more now being sent for incineration at Teesside. In respect of solar, he noted the opportunities in terms of expansion, highlighting the power generation at the Council's data centre at Tanfield. He added a factor in terms of solar included the cost of an electricity upgrades that may be required, and the lead-in times associated with such works. He noted work looking at old landfill sites as possible solar / PV sites and some other small wind sites. The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted that wave generation had not been looked at, though he noted some projects in Scotland, adding such schemes depended upon on the types of waves in an area.

Councillor E Adam noted page 90 of the agenda pack referred to wind turbines and stated, 'a number of sites may prove to be viable'. He asked whether that was a focus on Council properties and whether the Council should promote greater uptake from the private sector. He asked if the Council was looking at options in terms of energy storage. The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted one site had been assessed as viable and was at the planning stage, adding there were other sites with more work to be done. He added that Council land was being looked at, with potential to link to buildings to help displace electricity from the grid. He noted the County Durham Plan (CDP) contained a wind energy policy and a wind turbine evidence paper which set out large areas that could be suitable for wind energy at a larger scale. He noted as the scale increased there was less land available, noting that was an area private developers could come forward, although he was not aware of many schemes in the last few years. In terms of solar / PV applications, he noted there had been a lot of applications, with some schemes as large as 50MW. He added that storage was important and if some schemes were to expand, and the cost of battery technology was to fall, then it may be possible to look at each solar / PV scheme.

Councillor E Adam added that CERP2 should include small and micro scale wind and asked as regards the Seaham Garden Village and the purchase of land referred to at paragraph 18, page 91 of the report.

He noted that the type of energy generation referred to was in the public interest and asked why the Council were purchasing land to put these types of generation in place, and asked whether, as there was public interest if compulsory purchase or land being given to the Council for such energy generation could be options, given the mining legacy across the county. The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted there had been a lot of discussions as regards who would own and operate the scheme, with the Council becoming involved in an enabling role.

Councillor B Avery noted the scheme mentioned at Chilton and Dene Bank was very good and when finished the majority would be to a good standard. He noted the slow progress in relation to Newton Street, with some scaffolding having been in place for over six months, he added he had raised the issue with the Housing Regeneration Project Manager. The Chair noted the issue would be mentioned to the service with a response provided.

Councillor M Stead noted he was new to the Local Authority and new to the Committee, in attendance as a substitute. He noted the fantastic work undertaken so far, adding he was looking forward to the new website and noted he would wish to make a few comments in advance of CERP2. He asked if, when putting the proposals to Cabinet, whether a need to increase the staff within the department had been identified, noting the comments from Councillor E Adam in terms of the additional pressures on staff. He asked as regards fact-finding trips to look at activities and technologies and noted the upcoming popular Lumiere event and suggested a similarly scaled event relating to climate change may be beneficial in attracting relevant companies to participate to show off their technologies and innovations. He noted the comments from Members in relation to public transport and noted there were some positives, in terms of the new bus station development in the city and new technologies. He noted the targets through to 2030, 2035 and explained he liked to look back at what we had been doing 10 years ago to be able to take stock of the progress made, citing the rapid progress in battery technology, adding that he had real faith in the technology that was emerging. He noted progress in the Far East with the four main motorbike manufacturers working together to standardise batteries. Councillor M Stead explained an issue in being able to convince people to move away from the current technology was that current petrol and diesel motorcars had a range of around 300 miles from a tank of petrol and there was an existing comprehensive network of fuel stations across the country. He explained that the four motorbike companies had a system whereby a standardised battery could be easily removed from their vehicle, placed on charge at a charging station and swapped for an already charged battery to be the easily fitted to their vehicle so it would be ready to go. He noted there was a lot of exciting progress being made worldwide and hoped that further information could be brought forward in respect of the work of the Council, however, he cautioned as regards how quickly technology could become supplanted, noting charging points as a possible example.

The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted Officers would be happy to speak to Durham University and industry experts and leaders as regards developing such ideas. He noted a company, Power Roll, based at Jade Business Park, Murton, that specialised in producing flexible solar/ PV panels on a roll and noted as such technologies improved, they would become more widespread and cost-effective.

Councillor J Elmer thanked the Officers for all of the fantastic work they were doing on a number of projects. He noted he felt that those Officers need more influence over the strategic direction of the Council, adding the Team had often needed to refer an issue to another Team, such as Spatial Policy. He noted such areas included strategic direction on transport, planning decision making, household insulation, district heating systems. He added that it was possible to influence such matters through various means, such as SPDs as mentioned by Councillor L Brown. He noted the cost of solar car port project was quite expensive, with a figure of £5 million, and explained he thought that the same outcome could be achieved by switching the Council's energy supplier to one that could guarantee 100 percent generation from renewable sources, and with the £5 million being used for other activities, such as retrofitting existing housing with insulation and new heating systems. The Principal Officer - Climate Change and Sustainability noted the solar car port scheme was looking at the potential for such schemes, with areas such as Nottingham developing such schemes, highlighting the high returns in terms of electricity generated. The Carbon and Energy Analyst noted that spending money on solar car ports was beneficial as they would provide additional electricity back to the grid, in a sense being an invest to save, to help develop more projects whereas insulating a property would not help to generate additional income to feed back into projects. The Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader explained the £5 million referred to was a bid to the EU Cities funding scheme and originally it had been turned down with the Council informed that the proposals were not of a grand enough scale. She explained that subsequently the Council submitted a second bid in partnership with Durham University, County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust and the Environment Agency, which was successful. She noted that the bid was the only UK bid to receive any funding from the last tranche of EU Cities Fund, around £60,000 to develop a commercial business case for solar car ports. The Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader noted that the Council was not currently investing any money, though it may choose to do so if the business case was attractive. She added that the Council had a large area in terms of its car parks, and it could be a good opportunity to generate energy, alongside other green works to the car parks, where viable with the grid.

**Resolved:**

That the renewable energy data and progress made on new projects in 2021 be noted.

## **8 Quarter Four 2020/2021 - Outturn Budget Report**

The Chair introduced the Finance Manager - Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, Phil Curran who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter Four 2020/21 Revenue Capital Outturn (for copy see file of minutes).

The Finance Manager - Neighbourhoods and Climate Change referred Members to the information relating to Quarter Four 2020/21 with the service reporting an underspend of approximately £1.1 million, against a revised budget of approximately £112 million. He noted COVID-19 costs of £7.125 million excluded from the outturn position, those costs covered by Government COVID grant. He added the report broke down the figures by Heads of Service and the report also set out the variances. Members noted the Cash Limit Reserve carried forward for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change was £1.294 million and this gave a level of flexibility in terms of any unbudgeted expenditure in the future. It was added that the forecast outturn took into account net contributions to reserves of £3.2 million, consisting of a contribution to reserves of £4 million for future service initiatives, and also COVID-19 funding that was carried forward to 2021/22, as well as a £700,000 drawdown from reserves to fund the cost of the North Pennines Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty (ANOB) for that financial year. He noted the revised capital spend of £43.713 million with an underspend of approximately £8 million, with more detail of the Capital Programme being set out at Appendix 3.

### **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **9 Quarter One Performance Report**

The Chair asked the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager, Tom Gorman to provide the Committee with an update in relation to the Quarter One, 2020/21 Performance Management Report (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager thanked the Chair and referred Members to the information as set out within the report pack. He explained the report contained the areas that fell within the remit of the Committee and noted the report was presented under the four ambitions as set out within the Council Plan. He explained that in relation to 'more and better jobs' the area looked at by the Committee, jointly with the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee was tourism. He noted the three main metrics in relation to tourism were: the vibrancy of the visitor economy, visitor numbers; jobs supported; and the money generated. He added that for the 2020 calendar year, all three had been heavily impact by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Members were informed that the impact had been variable across the county, with Durham City impacted the most being the major tourism centre for the county, however, the county as a whole fared better than other areas across the country, with the majority of the visitors to the county coming from the region.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained a survey of local tourism businesses by Visit County Durham (VCD) on the impact of COVID-19 on businesses, showed a more positive picture following the lifting of lockdown restrictions, with most businesses reporting that they had been able to reopen with healthy numbers of enquires and bookings. It was noted that 18 percent of businesses were predicting summer occupancy to exceed pre-COVID-19 levels, though that may be as a result of continuing international restrictions. Members noted businesses had shared their concerns as regards the potential for further lockdowns and noted booking were more 'last minute'. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained the Council had been awarded £2 million in external funding to support future tourism initiatives, with £1.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the new history centre at Mount Oswald and £724,000 from The Arts Council to support festivals and events such as Lumiere. He added the Council had been reopening its own visitor attractions such as the Killhope Museum, Bishop Auckland and Durham Town Halls and the Empire and Gala Theatres, with refurbishments having been undertaken to the theatres during the lockdown period. He noted that the Council's bid for City of Culture 2025 had been successful in reaching the long list of eight areas, which in turn helps to generate interest in the county as a destination. It was added that the next meeting of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 November, would receive an update report from VCD and Members of the Environment and sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be invited to attend for that item.

In respect of the 'long and independent lives' ambition, the information relating to waste processing showed that the pandemic had impacted upon the amount of domestic refuse that was generated by households, also reflected nationally. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained that had been reflected in three major impacts locally, including an increase in tonnage of the waste collected, with a reduction in the proportion waste that was recyclable, and an increase in the tonnage of kerbside waste and that processed by the household waste recycling centres (HWRCs), again another trend seen nationally, including an increase in relation to the amount of waste diverted to landfill, nine percent up from five percent, though figures were returning to normal levels. He added the third element was an increase in the proportion of kerbside recycling that was contaminated, though those figures had been increasing for a time and may not be wholly attributable to the pandemic. He noted the financial impact of increased contaminated recycling, as the contractors that the Council employed to process the recycling sell the recyclable materials and were not able to do so if contaminated and would need to be diverted to another waste stream.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager highlighted the countywide action launched by the Council in terms of the recycling of small electronic appliances, with 29 collections points across the county.

In relation to the 'connected communities' ambition it was noted one of the indicators related to the blight caused by fly-tipping, with numbers having increased approximately 10 percent over the last 12 months to the end of June 2021. It was explained that figures were returning to pre-COVID-19 levels, with the latest figures to September 2021 was 7,382 incidents, broadly comparable with the reports up to September 2020. It was added the report detailed the work in terms of investigations and enforcement actions undertaken by Neighbourhood Wardens.

It was explained that the latest environmental cleanliness survey results for the April to July 2021 period had been collated, however, it was noted the survey had not been completed for that period in 2020 due to lockdown restrictions in place at the time. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager added that therefore the latest results were compared to the average results for the previous year, though that would not take into account issues such as seasonality. He explained that figures were similar in terms of litter and dog fouling, however there was a significant improvement in relation to detritus.

In connection with the 'excellent Council' ambition and the effective use of resources, the environmental impact of the use of those resources was considered, with a number of projects relating to the reduction of carbon emissions having been presented to Members earlier in the meeting. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager added the report contained additional information, including creating a zero carbon Council depot at Morrison Busty, involving development of a solar farm, LED lighting, to be completed by Summer 2022.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor E Adam noted the information relating to waste collection over the pandemic period and asked as regards the waste to energy, noting he did not see information detailing the increase of waste sent to incineration, and with any associated increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from additional incineration and transport of waste. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted that could be included for a future report to give a more rounded picture of the impact of waste disposal with the Chair adding that waste management would be reported at the next meeting of the Committee. Councillor E Adam noted that a previous infographic within the performance report had included those details and asked if there was a reason that it had been condensed. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted changes to reports following the changes to align with Council Plan ambitions but would look to provide a better picture of how our kerbside waste is processed.

The Finance Manager - Neighbourhoods and Climate Change noted the increased tonnage in terms of waste collected, and while there was an increase in terms of the amount diverted to landfill, he noted that did not necessarily mean there was less recycling, rather higher tonnages of waste in general.

Councillor J Atkinson asked as regards the improvements as set out in the environmental cleanliness survey, noting from his experience there were issues and wondered if it was a case of less reporting of incidents. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained that the survey was carried out three times a year using a national methodology, with 500 transects used, with people physically going out to survey areas and score them according to the Keep Britain Tidy scheme. He added that figures in the report for the period April to July 2021 probably misleadingly were compared to the average for the previous year. This was because there were no figures available for the same period in 2020 as no inspections were carried out due to the pandemic. He noted that when compared to the same period for 2019 the figures for dog fouling were statistically similar.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **10 Quarter One 2021/22 Outturn Budget Report**

The Chair asked the Finance Manager - Neighbourhoods and Climate Change to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter One Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021/22 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Finance Manager - Neighbourhoods and Climate Change referred Members to the information relating to Quarter One 2021/22 with the service reporting a forecast underspend of approximately £114,000, against a revised budget of approximately £105 million, with COVID-19 costs of £3.5 million excluded from the forecast outturn position, those costs covered by Government COVID grant. He noted while the costs were significantly less than the previous year, they were still required in particular to waste disposal costs. He added the report broke down the figures by Heads of Service and the report also set out the variances. It was explained that the forecast Cash Limit Reserve position at 31 March 2022 was £1.008 million after taking the latest outturn position into account and it was noted the amount was not earmarked and gave the service a level of flexibility in terms of any unbudgeted expenditure.

The Finance Manager - Neighbourhoods and Climate Change noted the outturn also took account of the net use of earmarked reserves of £3.8 million, including a drawdown of approximately £4 million for future service initiatives such as waste procurement, Castle and Cathedral lighting and funding for AAPs from the Towns and Villages Reserve.

It was noted there was a contribution of approximately £500,000 in relation to one-off unspent investments for the Find and Fix programme. Members were asked to note a revised capital budget of £56.942 million, with a spend to date of £7.102 million with more detail of the Capital Programme at Appendix 3. It was noted while the spend to date represented a small percentage of the overall budget, it was explained the spend was in line with the profile, with the majority of the capital budget to be spend in the remaining part of the year.

Councillor E Adam noted that previously Overview and Scrutiny budget reports included an additional appendix which set out further details as regards over and under spends and asked if it would be reintroduced or if it had been removed for a particular reason. The Finance Manager - Neighbourhoods and Climate Change noted it had been removed in line with the reports produced for some other Committees, however, he noted he would take the feedback to the Head of Finance. Councillor D Nicholls noted he felt that the level of detail was important and that if it was included for the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he felt other Committees would also benefit from having that same level of detail included.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

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

**24 November 2021**

**Fly Tipping**



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

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with information relating to the work of Durham County Council to address fly tipping issues.

**Executive summary**

- 2 At its meeting on the 16 July 2021 the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ESCOSC) agreed its work programme for 2021 – 2022. Included within that work programme was an item on fly tipping.
- 3 The attached presentation provides an overview about how Durham is performing, and the actions being taken to tackle this key community issue.

**Recommendations**

- 4 That Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive and note the content of the report and presentation and comment on it accordingly.

## **Background**

- 5 Members of the ESCOSC have received regular updates in relation to fly tipping to advise members of current levels of fly tipping; initiatives to reduce fly tipping and future plans.
- 6 At its meeting on 16 July 2021 the ESCOSC considered and agreed its work programme for the ensuing municipal year. Included within that work programme was an item on fly tipping which members were keen to continue to monitor.
- 7 In accordance with that decision arrangements have been made for the Neighbourhood Protection Manager to attend a meeting of the committee and provide information on fly tipping in County Durham.
- 8 Fly tipping is a key concern from our communities and has been a priority to continue to tackle for a number of years. In 2014/5 a multiagency taskforce was set up to tackle the issue which was rising year on year to the point. Since its inception Operation Stop It has reduced fly tipping until the pandemic.
- 9 This report and the associated presentation will bring the committee up to date on how Durham is performing and outline the key actions that have been taken and are planned.
- 10 The Presentation that accompanies this report highlight the following areas:
  - A national perspective
  - A breakdown on flytipping statistics
  - A comparison on regional authorities
  - Waste in perspective
  - Educational/ Awareness activities
  - Enforcement activities
  - Future Plans

## **Conclusion**

- 11 Fly tipping remains a concern for Durham communities, we all have a responsibility to ensure we dispose of our waste correctly. Durham has performed well in tackling this issue but there is more to do.

## **Background papers**

**None**

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**Contact: Ian Hout**

**Tel: 03000 265571**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

The expanded fly tipping team has widened the legal measure that are used to prosecute those that fly tip.

### **Finance**

Fly tipping costs a significant amount each year to clear and enforce against which is borne mainly by Durham County Council.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Not applicable.

### **Climate Change**

Waste tipped misses the opportunity to help ensure it can be reused or recycled so negatively impacting on our climate.

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Fly tipping is a serious criminal offence and the approach taken helps meet our public duty to detect and deter crime.

### **Staffing**

Neighbourhood Wardens continue to have fly tipping as a priority.

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable.

### **Risk**

Nor applicable.

### **Procurement**

Not applicable.



# Environment & Sustainable Communities Scrutiny

Ian Houl  
Neighbourhood Protection Manager  
Fly Tipping

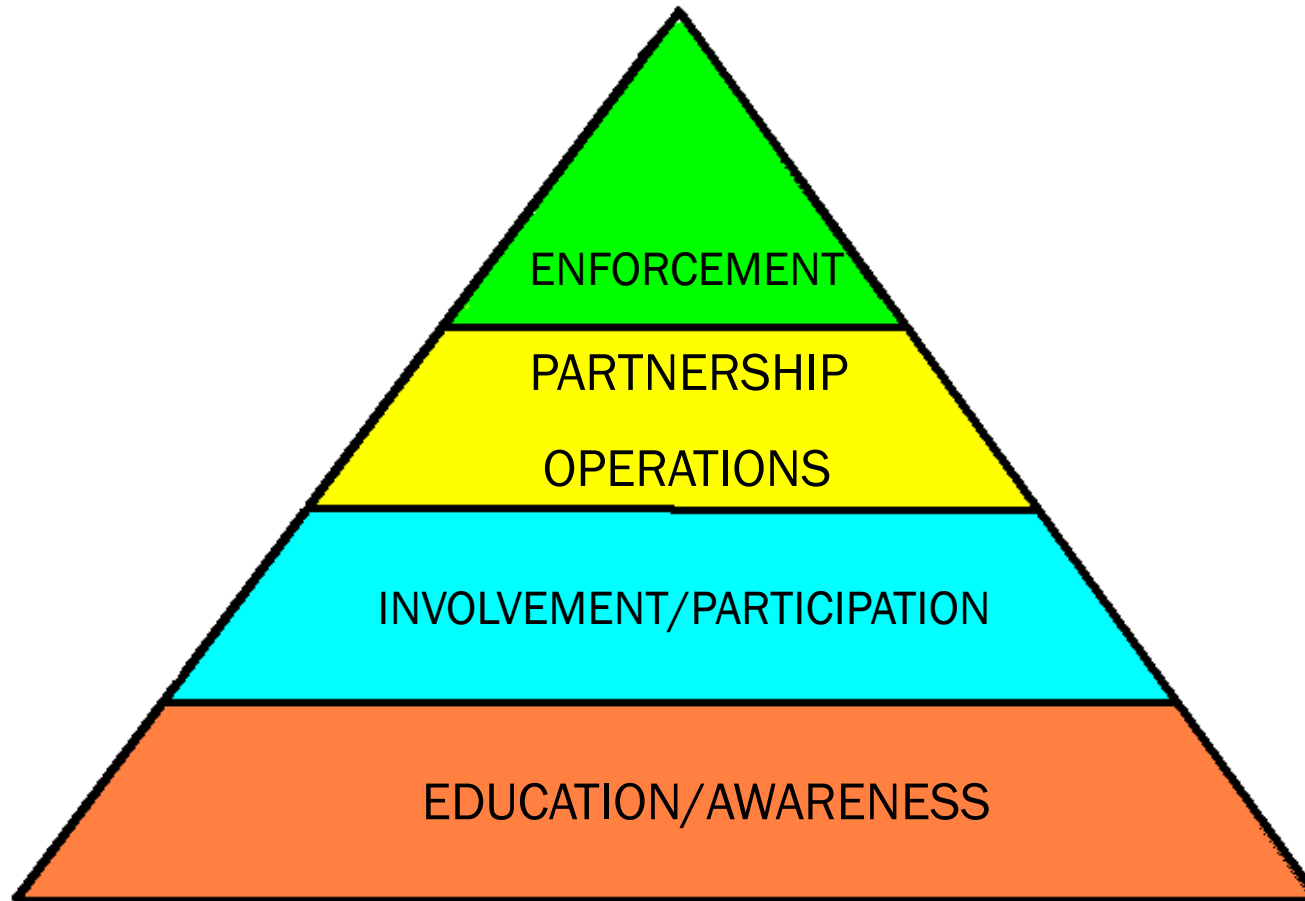
Neighbourhood Protection Manager



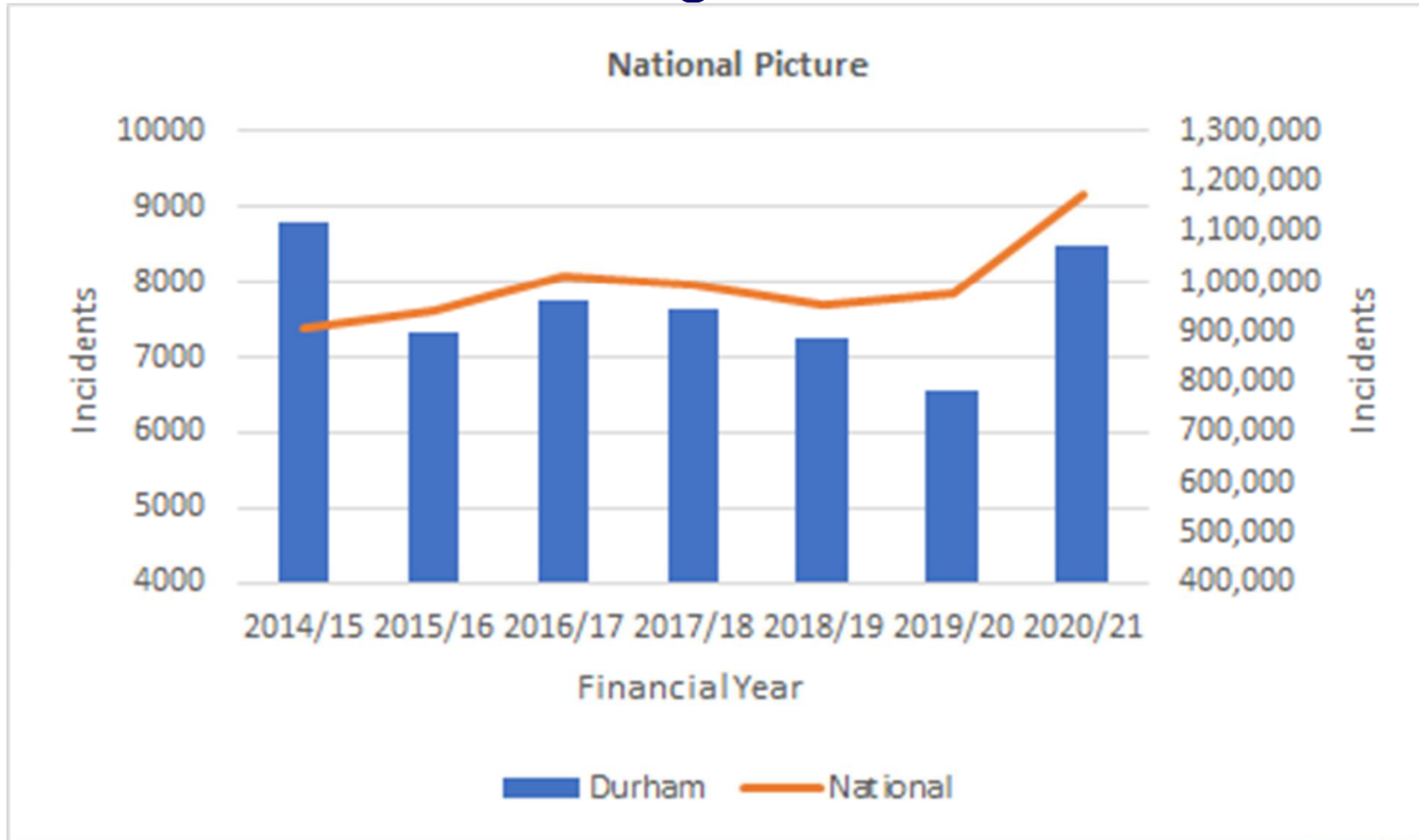
## Fly Tipping

- How is Durham doing?
- What gets fly tipped and where?
- Waste in perspective
- How do we tackle it?
- Future plans

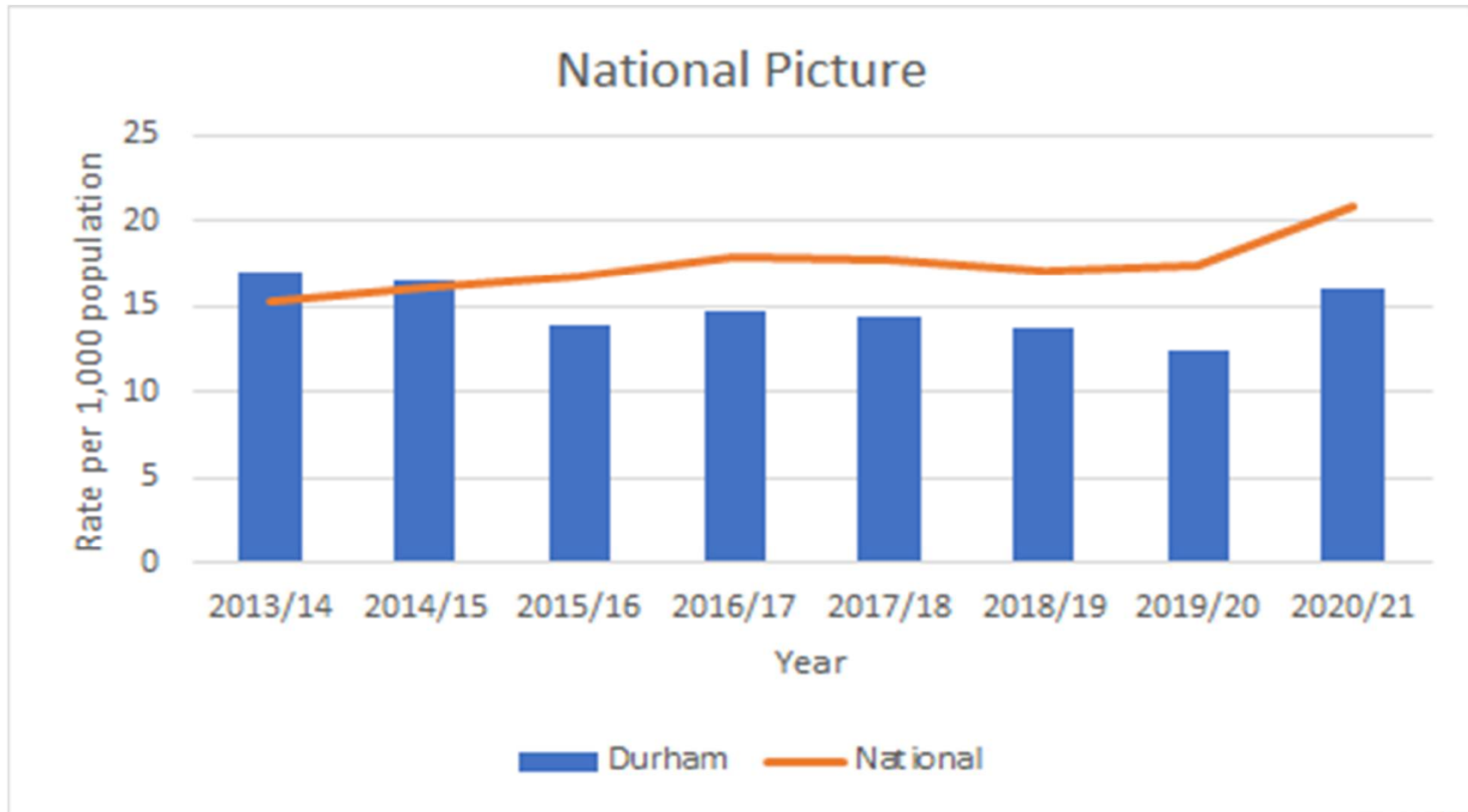
# The Durham Approach



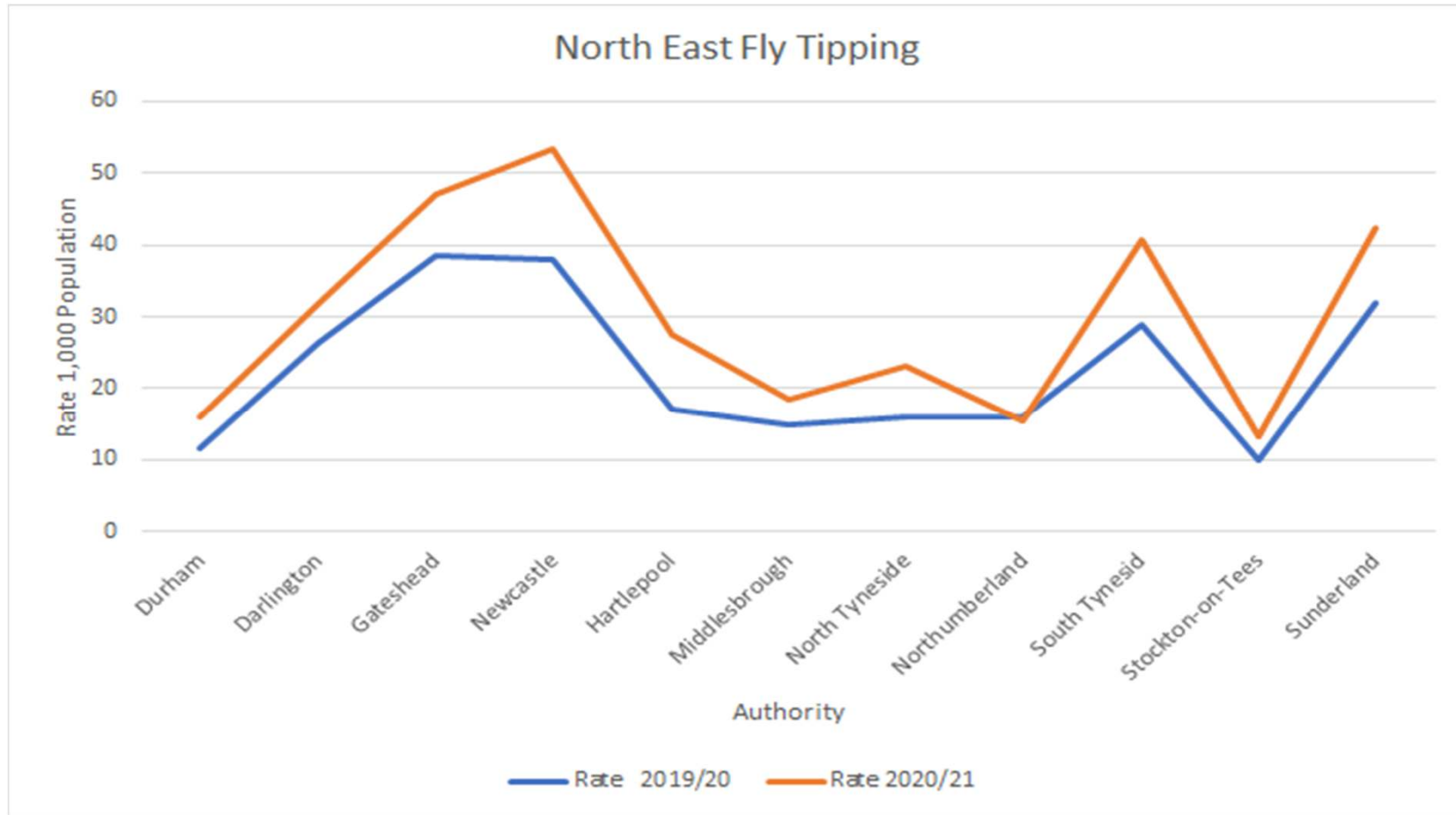
# How is Durham doing?



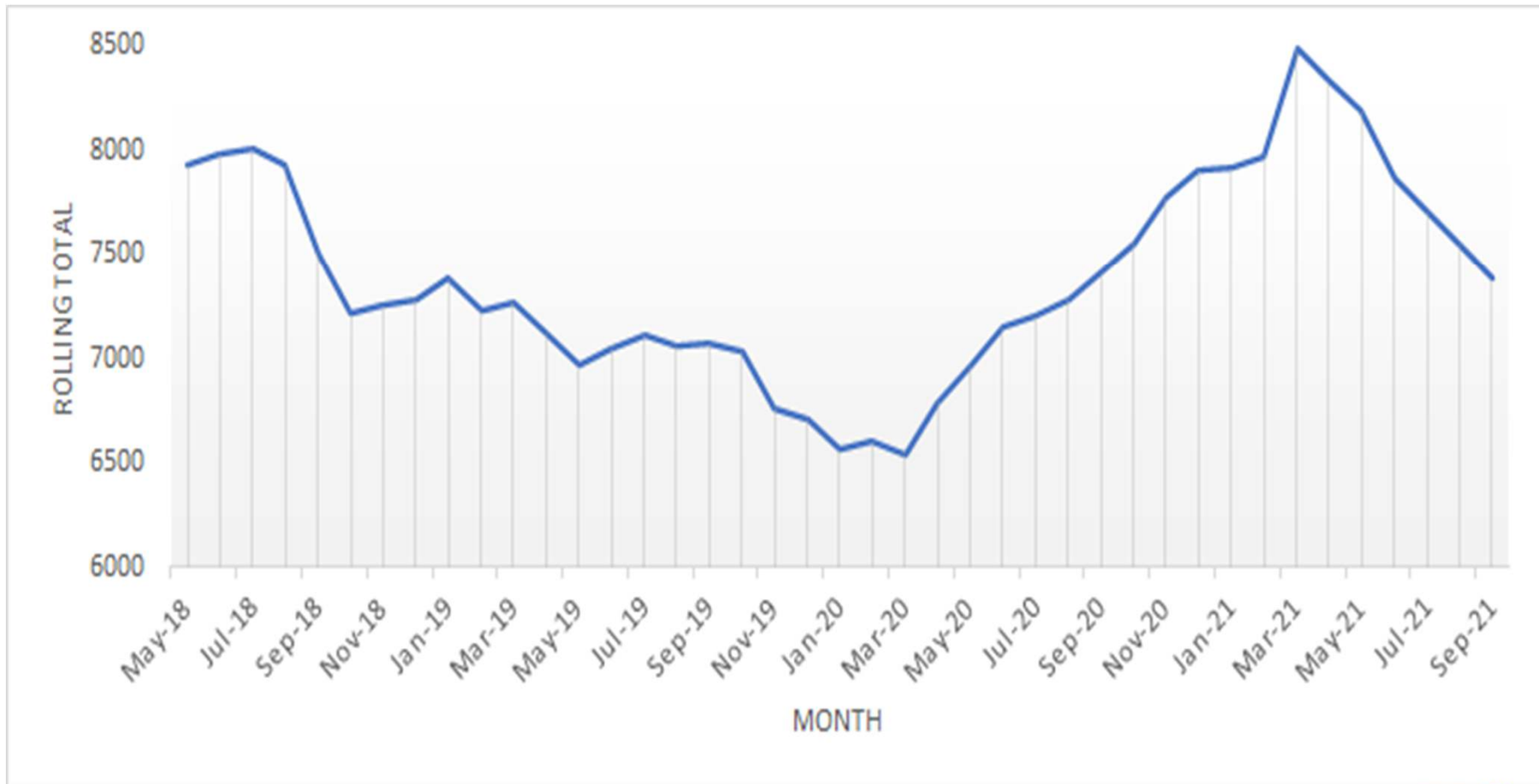
# How is Durham doing?



# Regional Comparison



# Durham Rolling Year Total



# Types of waste 2020/1

Waste Type	Total	
Black bags - household	1710	20%
Other - household waste old furniture	1392	16%
Other - household waste mattresses, carpets	1036	12%
Other - household waste house or shed clearance	681	8%
White goods - Fridge	643	7%
Other - household waste not covered elsewhere	632	7%
Construction, demolition, excavation - brick, concrete, hardcore, soil, timber, plastics, cement, sand	596	7%
Green waste	436	5%
Tyres	311	4%
Other - household waste small scale DIY	237	3%
Other - electrical small appliances - tv, computers, hoovers, radios etc..	185	2%
Other - unidentified	167	2%
Construction, demolition, excavation - large scale DIY waste e.g. complete kitchen units, bathrooms, household fittings	132	2%
Other - commercial waste pallets, packaging	85	1%
Other - commercial waste not covered elsewhere	71	1%
Black bags - commercial	60	1%
Vehicle parts	56	
White goods - Other	47	
Asbestos	31	
Chemical drums, oil, fuel	21	
Clinical	11	
Other - electrical Fluorescent tubes, car batteries etc..	11	
Fly tipped animal carcass	9	
Grand Total	8560	





## Waste in perspective

Tonnages	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Kerbside Refuse, Inc Trade	113,619	113,593	115,532	116,103	129,724
HWRC	50,894	48,840	52,103	52,795	48,516
Kerbside Dry Mixed Recycling & Glass, Inc Trade	48,402	47,032	46,836	45,729	50,668
Bulky Waste	2,612	2,319	2,203	2,282	2,126
Fly Tipping	1,926	1,245	992	1,168	1,742

Numbers					
Bulky collections		25,825	26,594	25,564	28,351
HWRC permits	18,299	17,225	24,155	26,787	19,019



# Services response

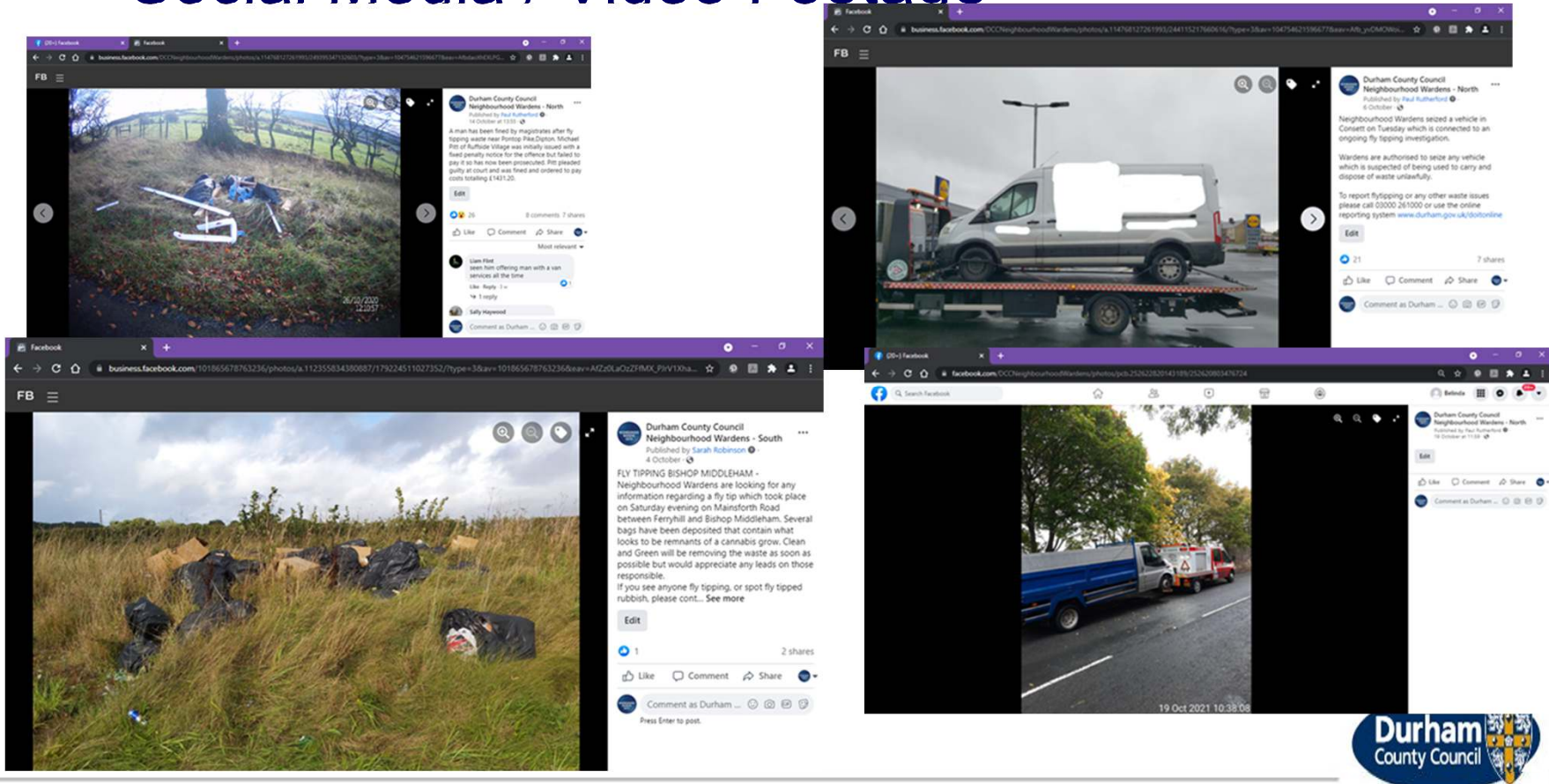
- Services
  - Restoration of services (Bulkies, HWRC's & Wardens)
  - Education & awareness
  - Additional investment in Wardens





# Education & Awareness

- Education campaigns/ awareness
- Social Media / Video Footage



# Flytipping Warden Team Plan

- Recruit – 4 staff & Team Leader
- Review – procedures, CCTV
- Refocus – CCTV deployment, seizure
- Refresh – legislation, targets



## Enforcement

	2016/7	2017/8	2018/9	2019/20	20/21	21/22 Q1&2
No. of locations cameras have been deployed	117	80	76	44	44	33
No. of incidents caught on CCTV	19	23	14	4	14	29
No. of stop check operations	10	36	25	30	15	27
No. of duty of care warning letters	17	18	47	35	37	19
No. of producers issued	9	11	74	14	7	23
No. of FPN's issued for waste carrier offences	10	14	7	13	3	15
No. of vehicles seized	0	2	1	3	16	5
No. of PACE interviews	31	45	21	8	7	14
No. of FPN's issued for fly tipping	17	23	27	20	45	51
No. prosecutions for fly tipping	14	10	9	11	4	10
Awarded fines, compensation, costs and surcharges	£7,019	£8,846	£4,920	£3,630	£1852	£8,149

# CCTV Deployment

- 19 'hidden'
- 8 pole mounted
- Cost
  - physical - £2500-£6000
  - deployment – 2-4hrs
  - battery changes – 30mins/ 1 hr
  - footage retrieval – 1hr
  - Total cost over 4 years @ £13,300





## The Future

- Your Waste Your Responsibility
- Targeted social media
- Targeted surveillance
- eLearning package
- Continued strong enforcement





# Questions?

**FLY TIPPING UNDER INVESTIGATION**  
If you can assist this investigation call: 03000 261 000



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



**24 November 2021**

**Strategic Overview of  
Resources & Waste  
Management Services in  
County Durham**

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

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide members of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the strategic waste management policy, context and service delivery with regard to management household waste and recycling in County Durham.

**Executive summary**

- 2 Durham County Council as a unitary authority has a statutory duty for both the collection and treatment of household waste. It fulfils its responsibilities through direct "in house" provision of collection services including refuse, recycling and garden waste. It fulfils its disposal obligations through a range of contracts, for example residual waste treatment, household waste recycling centres and materials reprocessing facilities (recycling).
- 3 Head of Environment, Oliver Sherratt will provide a presentation which will outline the Councils overall approach to waste management, reflected in a simple priority hierarchy of waste avoidance/reduction where possible, encouraging reuse, promoting recycling and as a last resort waste treatment/disposal. The presentation will illustrate what the Council and partners have been doing against the themes in the waste hierarchy, some of which has gained national recognition.

- 4 The presentation will highlight some of the progress made in the last decade, for instance a move to alternate weekly collection and new waste contracts. It will also outline some of the on-going challenges relating to Covid 19, including adaptations to service. It will look ahead to the next decade with an insight into new developments for instance a multi-Council procurement of waste treatment which commenced in 2019, and the potential statutory requirement for food waste collection signalled in the Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018.

## **Recommendations**

- 5 That Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and comment on it accordingly.

## **Background**

- 6 The Council has statutory responsibility for collection and disposal of household waste. It discharges these functions through a mixture of “in-house” provision (for collection) and through a range of contracts. There is also a statutory duty to make arrangements for the collection of commercial waste if requested by the occupier of the premises in the area.

- 7 A summary of the services provided include:

- Refuse and recycling collections (in house, free at point of delivery)
- Clinical waste collection (in house, free at point of delivery)
- Bring sites (in house, supplemented by third parties, free a point of delivery)
- Garden waste collection and treatment (in house except in Teesdale, charged scheme)
- Bulky waste collection (in house, charged scheme)
- Trade waste collection (in house, on request, charged scheme)
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)(contract, HW Martins)
- Materials Reprocessing (Recyclates) (contract, Biffa)
- Waste Treatment (Energy from Waste) (contract Suez).
- Haulage (contract Suez)

## **Waste Hierarchy**

- 8 The European Waste Framework Directive (2008) first set out the waste hierarchy, enshrining the important principles of avoiding waste where possible, and a descending order of priorities, from reuse to recycling to waste treatment and disposal, with a requirement that Member states adopt these in their waste strategies. Many of these principles remain just as valid today, indeed the latest national Resources and Waste

Strategy 2018 sets out how material resources will be preserved by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England.

- 9 A presentation provided by Oliver Sherratt, Head of Environment will outline the Councils work in fulfilling the principles of the waste hierarchy, making reference with County Durham examples of the benefits of a circular economy. The presentation will include several examples of waste reduction/avoidance together with reuse.
- 10 Collection of refuse and recycling are substantial operations in a large County like Durham. They employ over 300 staff, and 86 vehicles utilising 4 transfer stations for the onward haulage of residual waste and recycling. A range of policies guide the work, including assisted collections, no side waste and extra receptacles for households with more than six people.
- 11 An insight into the use of modern technology will be given for instance in use of a Bartec system for recording missed and non-presented bins, 360 degree cameras which brings benefits for respect of crews and insurance, as well as a breaksafe system.
- 12 An overview of the range of external contracts will be provided in the presentation, ranging from household waste recycling centres through to the energy from waste contract.

## **Challenges and Opportunities**

- 13 The last decade has seen considerable change in waste services in County Durham – the introduction of alternate waste collection, the wind down of Premier Waste and letting of new waste management contracts. These have delivered considerable budgetary savings (c. £4M pa) and also increased recycling/composting to 41.2% (2019/20) which has subsequently decreased due to the pandemic to 37.3% (20/21).
- 14 The service continues to operate robustly, managing impacts of Covid-19 although on a much lesser scale now than during the first lockdown. Initially temporary service suspensions were put in place (bulky goods, garden waste and household waste recycling centres whilst refuse and recycling collections remained fully operational). Services which were initially restored after the first lockdown were done so at significant additional cost and involved providing extra vehicles, staffing, weekend working and in some circumstances (e.g., household waste recycling centres) traffic management. These adaptations came at a time when demand was greater than ever before and at its peak in May 2020 handling 24.8% more recycle and 17.3% more residual waste resulting from more people staying at home.

- 15 The next decade will be guided by the Resources and Waste Strategy for England, and although provisions and timings may change due to Covid -19, the Strategy does signal mandatory food waste collections and the potential of free garden waste collection services through the 'Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England' agenda, as well as wider impacting on recycling for instance through the introduction of an 'Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme' where producers and manufactures of products will be required to provide full net cost recovery of materials placed on the market and a 'Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for England. In addition to this, locally for County Durham, a range of waste contracts will be procured, the largest of which would be a collaboration between 7 North East Councils, for an Energy From Waste (EFW) treatment facility in order to meet future waste treatment needs following achievement of recycling targets for at least the next 25 years.

## Conclusions

- 16 The Council follows the principles of the waste hierarchy which offer the lowest cost and most sustainable solutions to waste management.
- 17 The last decade has seen considerable change in how the Council undertakes its waste management services. It remains to contend with the impacts of Covid 19 where safety of staff and customers are paramount. The next decade will also bring substantial change, with new large scale procurement, and the potential provision of new services.

## Background papers

Defra Resources and Waste Strategy (2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>

Directive 2008/98/EC on waste (Waste Framework Directive)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eudr/2008/98/contents>

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**Contact:** Oliver Sherratt

Tel: 03000 269259

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

The Council has a range of duties and powers for waste management, including those within (but not restricted to) Environmental Protection Act 1990.

### **Finance**

This will be covered in the presentation.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Not applicable.

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable.

### **Climate Change**

Waste avoidance, minimisation, reuse and recycling are important ways we can all help in reducing carbon emissions.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable.

### **Staffing**

This will be covered in the presentation.

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable.

### **Risk**

Not applicable.

### **Procurement**

An outline of contracts and new procurement will be provided in the presentation.

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# Resources & Waste Management in County Durham

## A Strategic Overview

Oliver Sherratt  
Head of Environment  
Neighbourhoods and Climate Change



### Bin it right

nappies	<b>No thanks</b>	<b>Yes please</b>	plastic bottles & tubs
pet waste	food waste	tins, cans & aerosols	paper, cardboard & cartons

Bag before placing in your rubbish bin. Wash, squash and place loose in this bin.

**Recycle** If in doubt, leave it out **Durham County Council** *Altogether greener*



### 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 also saves 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!

Every item recycled saves enough energy to power a TV for 4 hours!

Fill your bins with your recycling. Remember to wash, squash and place loose in this bin.

The more you recycle, the more energy you save.

The more you recycle, the more energy you save.

Recycling glass bottles can save enough energy to power a TV for 4 hours!

Recycling paper can save enough energy to power a TV for 4 hours!

Recycling plastic can save enough energy to power a TV for 4 hours!

### Recycling Matters

Where do the things you recycle end up?

Here, here and here!

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](http://www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc) to find your nearest centre and what you can recycle and dispose of there.



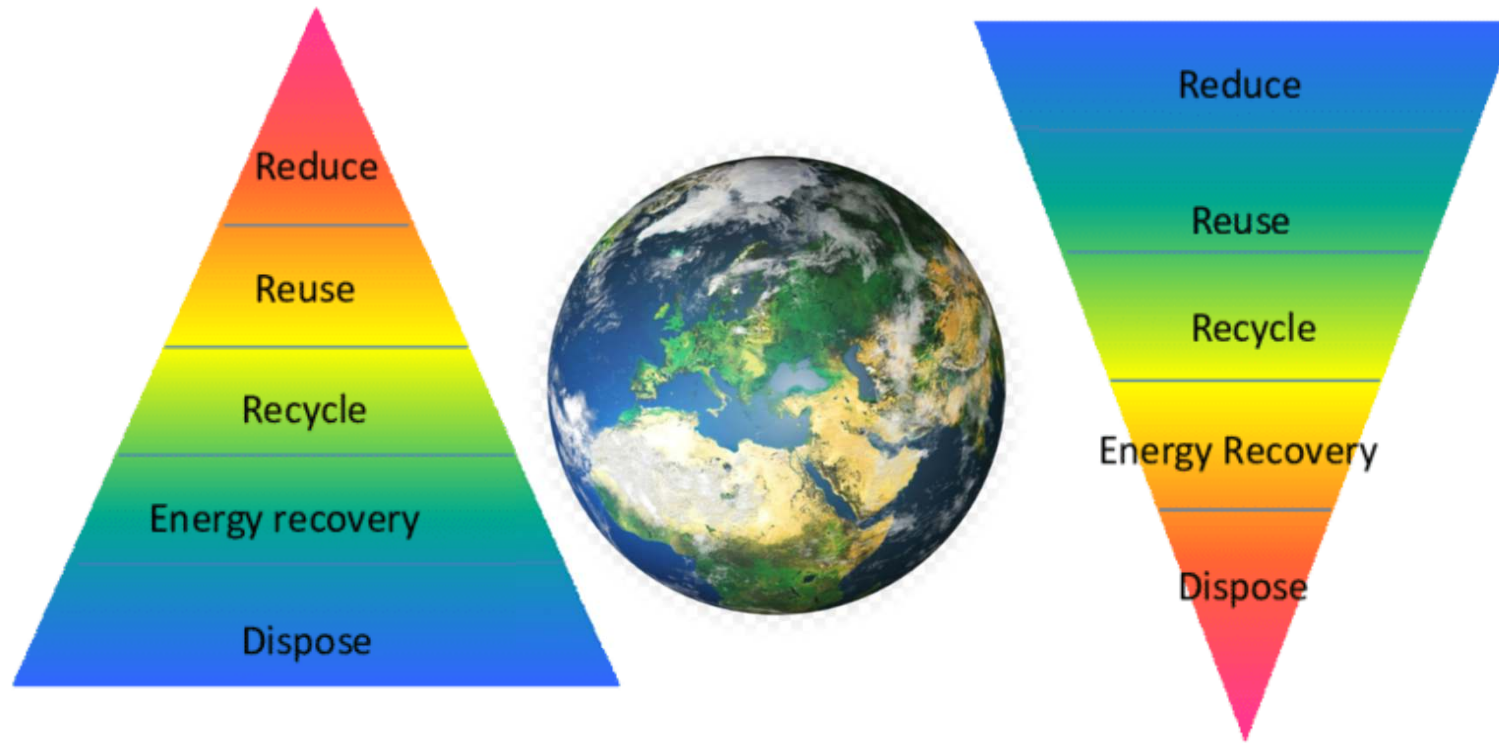
# Presentation Outline



- Big picture
- Reduction and reuse
- Recycling and composting
- Waste treatment
- Other waste services
- Impact of Covid
- The last decade
- What the next may bring.



# Big Picture: Waste Hierarchy



**Wasteful** >>>>>>> to >>>>>>>

**Wise**

# Big Picture: A Circular Economy





# Big picture: County Durham Operations

## Resources

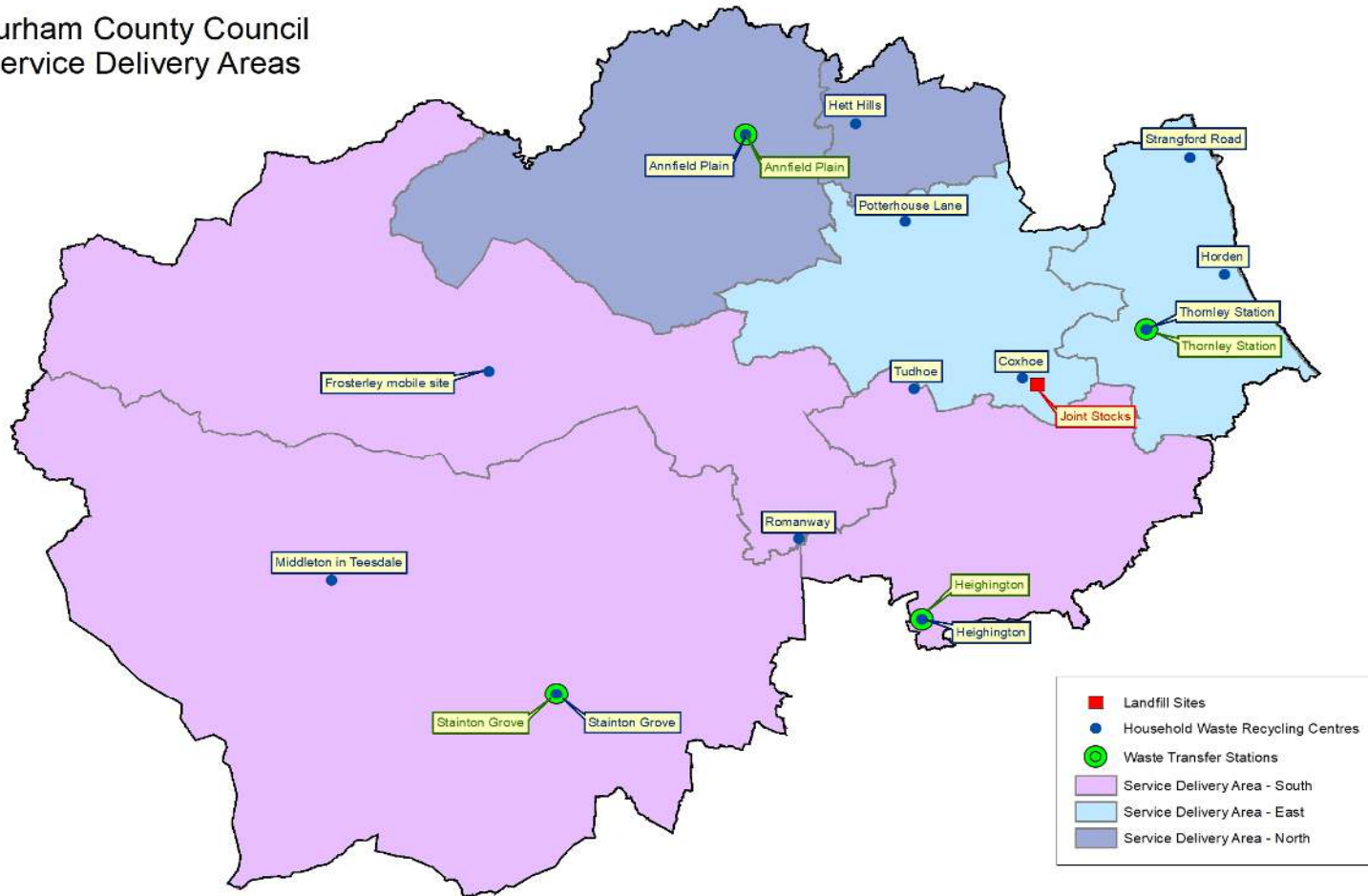
- More than 300 frontline and office staff
- 86 Front line refuse & recycling vehicles
- 12 Household Waste Recycling Centres and 1 mobile HWRC at Frosterley
- 4 Waste Transfer Stations
- 1 new composting facility



## Productivity

- 2020/21, County Durham households generated 243,492 tonnes of household waste
- 37.3 % reuse, recycling and composting (2020/21)
- 249,736 bins to be collected every week 99.86% successful per quarter (Alternate Weekly Collection (AWC) scheme)
- Over 2,000 bulky collections carried out every year
- Over 66,000 garden waste subscriptions.

### Durham County Council Service Delivery Areas



# Waste Reduction Campaigns

Love Food Hate Waste



Smart Shopping



Junk Mail



Real Nappies



Single Use Plastics



Home Composting



Christmas



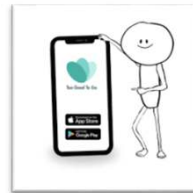


# Encouraging Reuse

### Green Move Out



### Furniture reuse schemes



### Community Fridge and Food Apps

### Re-Usable Containers



### Water Refill Scheme

### Stainton Grove Reuse Shop



### Plastic Roads



# Recycling

What happens to your recycling?



# The challenge of contamination

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

- **Black bags**
- **Pet waste**
- **Nappies**
- **Food waste**
- **Textiles**



Issues:

**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. Black bags can not be recycled easily.

**Mixed plastics** including polystyrene – markets for plastics other than bottles, pots, tubs and trays are limited (e.g. films such as bread bags).

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

# More but of the right stuff



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 that 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.

## Bin it right

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

**Recycling Bin**

- Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles
- 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!
- Cartons, cans, aerosols and foil

**Recycling Box**

- Paper and cardboard
- Glass bottles and jars

**No Thanks**

Please 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!



### Recycling Matters

Where do the things you recycle end up?

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03000 36 0000

[www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)

[www.durham.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.durham.gov.uk/recycling)

Recycle for County Durham

#RecyclingMatters #BinItRight

In Partnership With **Metal Matters**

Don't delay - recycle today!

recycle for County Durham

Durham County Council

### Switch on to small electrical recycling and give them a chance to become something new!

Visit [www.durham.gov.uk/WEEE](http://www.durham.gov.uk/WEEE)

Recycle for County Durham

recycle for County Durham

In partnership with Yelpak, AO.com and County Durham Furniture Help Scheme





# Garden Waste 2021



**Garden waste collections 2021**

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

**Fees for 2021**  
£30.90 existing customers  
£35 new customers

**To sign up**  
Go to [www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste)  
Call 03000 260 000

Terms and conditions apply.



- Inhouse service began May 2020
- Operating Monday & Saturday collections (during Covid-19)
- Over 66,000 subscriptions
- Over 17,500 tonnes collected p.a.

# Teesside Energy from Waste

Energy-from-Waste (EfW) is the process of making energy in the form of electricity and/or heat from the incineration (burning) of waste.



The residual waste is transported by large trucks to the Energy from Waste plant located next to the River Tees at Haverton Hill in Billingham. It is operated by Suez (Waste Management Company) on behalf of a number of councils in the north east region.

96% average landfill diversion rate.  
New Multi Council Procurement Post 2025 underway.

# Other Collection Services

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



# Safety and Policy



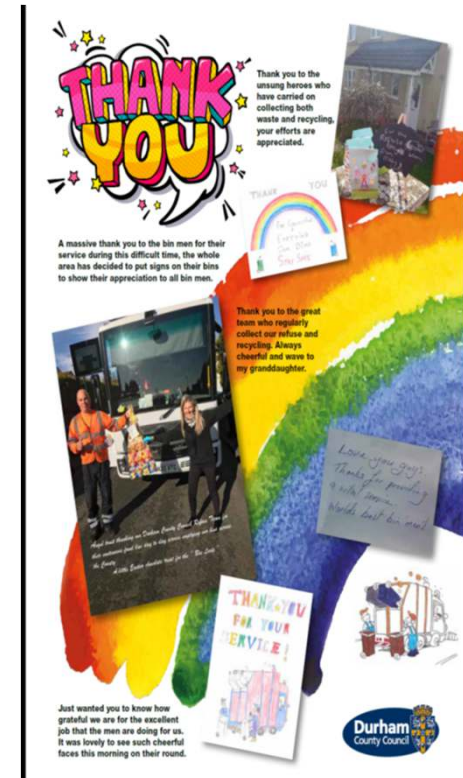
- Assisted collections
- No side waste
- Missed collections
- Putting out receptacles for emptying
- Bin replacements/repair
- Additional residual / recycling bins for larger households
- Enforcement procedures
- Services to charities and community organisations





# Impacts of Covid-19

- Refuse and Recycling collections prioritised, extra resources to operate the service (e.g. retained vehicles).
- Redeployed staff from highways and leisure during peak of lockdown.
- Garden waste service initially delayed by 1 month, the service restarted in May 2020 operating on a Monday & Saturday covering the 65,135 collections (5.6% increase)
- Bulky waste collections were stopped for a time, this service was restarted in May 8,344 collections in Q2
- Initial closure of HWRCs - reopened with Covid restrictions and measures in place e.g. increased traffic management on sites
- Majority of front line staff at work, office based working from home.
- Additional costs, associated with maintaining social distancing across services, market uncertainty/furlough for recycle outlets.





# Tonnage Impacts of Covid-19

	2019/20	2020/21 (COVID)	% Change
Household Re-use, Recycling & Composting Rate	41.2%	37.3%	-3.90%
*Municipal Waste send to Landfill	2.2%	8.2%	+6.0%
*Municipal Waste (tonnes)	252,017	266,698	+5.8%
Kerbside Residual Waste (tonnes)	108,950	122,657	+13%
Kerbside Garden Waste Collections (tonnes)	15,399	16,574	+7.6%
Kerbside Recycling Collections (tonnes)	45,729	50,668	+10.8%

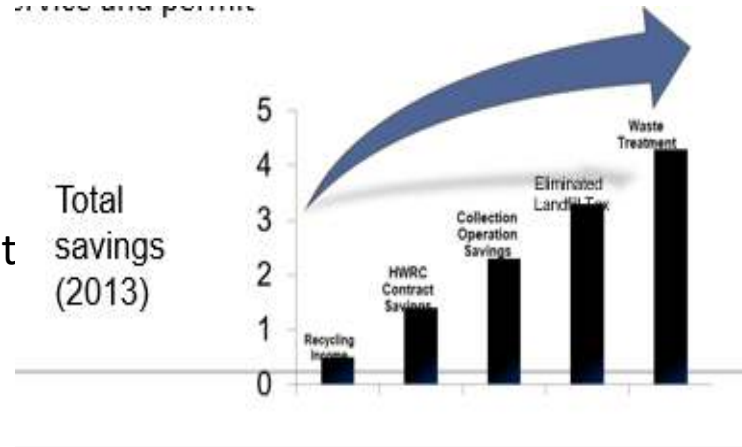
\*Municipal Waste includes household and business waste

# The last decade:

- Alternate weekly collections (from 7 systems).
- Wind down of Premier Waste Management Ltd
- New recycle and EfW contracts
- Refurbished 4 waste transfer stations
- New HWRC contract and Stainton Grove refurbishment
- Garden waste collections – most urban areas.
- Virtually eliminated waste to landfill
- Easier reporting, self service and permit schemes



Costs and permits



# Environment Bill

- Published 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 (resource management, water, air pollution, biodiversity and conservation). Section 44-66 covers RAWS.
- Powers are enabling powers that will enable Government through regulations to...
  - Recover costs of managing products at end of life from ‘producers’
  - Establish extended producer responsibility schemes using the new Environment Bill powers and EA95 PRO powers
  - Implement UK-wide regulations where agreed by the Ministers of each nation
  - They also address loss of ECA 2(2) – under which the Batteries, ELV and WEEE producer responsibility regulations are made
- September 8<sup>th</sup> (initial) and 15<sup>th</sup> (follow up) – House of Lords readings
- 13<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.
- Royal assent expected - Autumn



# Waste & Resources Strategy for England 2018

## Strategy Key Objectives:

- All plastic packaging to be recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025;
- Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030;
- Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of 25YEP;
- Double resource productivity by 2050
- Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050

## Recent Consultations:

- Consistent set of recyclable materials including:
- Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging
- Deposit Return Scheme
- Taxing plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content

## Impacts for Local Authorities:

- Financial implications for consistent collections (food/garden waste)
- EPR & DPS (greater clarity on how this money will be passed to LA's)

65% Recycling rate (MSW)  
Municipal Solid Waste by 2035

50% Recycling rate H/H  
waste by 2050



# Now and next decade?

- Covid 19: Safety and Business Continuity, Monitor HWRCs
- Multi Authority Waste Treatment Procurement Competitive Dialogue stage.
- Future Cost Pressures and savings
- Potential mandatory food waste collections
- Potential mandatory garden waste collections
- An aging workforce
- Lower emission fleet
- Establishing a viable circular economy





# Any questions?

Oliver Sherratt, Head of Environment, Neighbourhoods & Climate Change

[o.sherratt@durham.gov.uk](mailto:o.sherratt@durham.gov.uk)

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

**24 November 2021**

**Single Use Plastics Project - Update**

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

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide members of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a progress report on the work to reduce the use of Single Use Plastics in Durham County Council and across County Durham.

**Executive summary**

- 2 Members will be provided with information relating to progress made against the Single Use Plastic action plan to date.

**Recommendations**

- 3 That Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC (ESC OSC):
  - a) Receive this report and comment accordingly; and
  - b) Receive a future presentation detailing progress made against the actions identified within the report linking into the wider Climate Change agenda.

**Background**

- 4 The Committee has previously agreed to monitor progress in relation to the SUPs action plan and has received several update reports and presentations with the most recent being via a briefing report sent out to members of the committee in March 2021.

- 5 When considering its work programme in July 2021, the ESC OSC agreed that an update on the action plan should come to a formal meeting of the committee to be held in November 2021.

## Detail

- 6 Since 12 November, 2018, in advance of Government legislation being introduced, the SUP task group (consisting of both internal and external partners) has made significant progress towards the reduction of single use plastics across County Durham which has attracted both national and local publicity. Work to date has included the following:
  - The adoption of a bespoke County Durham SUP pledge where residents and organisations can join a growing army of volunteers to reduce and seek alternatives to SUPs. 301 individuals and organisations have signed the pledge since March 2019 (which has celebrity endorsement as featured by Matt Baker from the BBC's One Show);
  - A 90% reduction in the use of single use plastic catering supplies used across DCC and its partner organisations e.g. plastic stirrers have been replaced with reusable ones where possible and the use of 'Vegware' introduced as an alternative to SUP;
  - A DCC reusable cup has been introduced and promoted to DCC staff – over 713 have been sold to date;
  - Schools across County Durham have been promoting 'plastic free' days and eliminating the use of SUPs across their catering functions by washing, returning and reusing meal trays (St. Bede's, RC Primary School at Sacriston, BBC, One Show, media coverage). St Joseph's RC Primary School at Ushaw Moor received local media coverage including T.V. coverage on Tyne and Tees TV in February, 2020 in relation to their single use plastic reduction efforts;
  - Initiatives to reuse plastic containers has been introduced within Durham University catering premises and discount incentives on purchases has been promoted to students (525 reusable containers have been issued to students for reuse);
  - Partners have been promoting Northumbrian Waters 'Refill' initiative, which have grown in number from 83 to 271 Refill stations now located across County Durham in bars, restaurants and public locations. Residents and staff across County Durham are encouraged to carry a reusable water bottle at all times;
  - Trials of using 6.5 tonnes of unrecyclable plastic within Highway road schemes has been introduced on A689, near Sedgelyield, County Durham.



- The Gala Theatre in Durham City has prevented throwing 750kg per year of SUP confetti into the audience per year at the end of each performance by introducing paper confetti as an alternative;
- Leisure Centres across County Durham have stopped providing blue plastic overshoes at the poolside which has saved 2.4 tonnes of SUP going for disposal per year;
- Introduced trails of crisp packet recycling in County Hall via the Walker's crisp packet recycling scheme – over 10,000 crisp packets have been collected and sent for recycling since the scheme was introduced in January 2019. Partners are also supporting this scheme e.g. Beamish Museum and the Land Registry;
- Introduced additional trials of on street recycling containers within Durham City Centre;
- Adopted a SUP logo for Partners and suppliers to give public recognition of their commitment to reduce SUPs across County Durham.
- Delivered 83 community talks and roadshow events across County Durham in relation to reducing SUP's and offering waste awareness advice since the start of the project.
- Encouraged the supply chain via DCC's procurement processes and the North East Procurement Organisation to encourage contractors and suppliers to prevent or seek alternatives to SUPs;
- Shared examples of best practice across the Country and regionally to assist others reduce SUPs;
- Won both a 2019 local County Durham Environment Award and a national Local Authority Recycling Committee (2019 LARAC) award (Waste Prevention and Partnership categories).

7 Despite the Covid-19 global pandemic and the restrictions associated with it, the SUP task group has still made progress in relation to reducing SUPs across County Durham during 2020. Work in relation to this area has included; procurement of goods and services, trading services, DCC policy changes and communications. Various aspects of direct community engagement by the council and its partners has stalled during this time (e.g. information to schools and community groups). Appendix 2 details the work to date in relation to reducing SUPs across County Durham. The SUP Task group is keen to regain the momentum relating to this topic and build upon its successes it gained pre pandemic. The task group, now chaired by Victoria Burrell, Waste Strategy Team Manager (Durham County Council) meets quarterly.

8 A major legislation change occurred in relation to the reduction of single use plastics. From the 1st October, 2020 a restriction on the supply of

plastic straws, stirrers and cotton-buds came into force in England. The Environmental Protection (Plastic Straws, Cotton Buds and Stirrers) (England) Regulations 2020, make it an offence to:

- Supply or offer to supply single use plastic straws to any end user, with exemptions.
- Supply or offer to supply single use plastic stemmed cotton buds to any end user, with exemptions.
- Supply or offer to supply single use plastic drink stirrers.

The restrictions on the supply of straws, cotton buds and stirrers apply in relation to England only. The offences apply only to persons acting in the course of a business. They do not apply, for example, to individuals supplying the restricted items to other family members or to house guests. Business' compliance of this legislation will be monitored via the council's Community Protection Service. Of note, further legislative measures regarding the production and recyclability of plastics, has been proposed via the Government's Plastic Tax due to be implemented from April 2022. This is one of the proposals associated with the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy future reform. The EU and U.K banned the export of contaminated and highly mixed plastic waste to non-OECD countries from 1 January 2021. Defra estimates that around 210,000 tonnes of plastic wastes are exported each year from England to non-OECD countries. Such legislation, going forward will significantly assist with the unnecessary production and reduction of single use plastics not only across England but also across County Durham.

## **Conclusion**

- 9 This report and attached action plan (appendix 2) provide a comprehensive update on how the actions to reduce single use plastics across County Durham have been achieved to date both pre and during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 10 Appendix 3 provides a future draft action plan for the period 2021- 2023 for the task group to take forward and implement in order to facilitate the growing SUP reduction network.

## **Background papers**

None

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**Contact:** Victoria Burrell, Waste Strategy Team Manager

Tel: 03000 266099

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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**

The reduction of single use plastics supports the Climate Change agenda.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable

### **Staffing**

Not applicable

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable

### **Risk**

Not applicable

### **Procurement**

Not applicable

## Appendix 2 - Single Use Plastic Action Plan (2020 / 2021)

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
<b>Corporate / Procurement Services</b>					
	P1	Update the core list of supplies on the council's system to remove single use plastics where possible.	Procurement	January 2020 – March 2021	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Work to date has included reducing packaging on fruit and veg with JR Holland., reductions in packaging for stationary supplies via Banner and discussions around future vending machine contracts.</p> <p>Future initiatives will include working with NEPO to reduce SUPs.</p>
	P2	DCC and Partners to reconsider issuing SUP 'free gifts' at promotional events.	Procurement / Partners / Service Areas	January 2020 – March 2021	All Wagg catalogue (Eco catalogue) to be referred to by all partners.
Encourage contracted	P3	Include in future DCC contract specifications the consideration to	Procurement	January 2020 –	Procurement Strategy specifications to

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
providers to use alternatives to single use plastics.		use SUP alternatives where possible.		March 2021	reference SUP reductions.  New Procurement Strategy highlights SUP requirements.
	P4	Engage with contractors via the North East Procurement Organisation in order to source alternatives to SUPs.	Procurement	January 2020 – March 2021	Initial meeting in relation to SUPs held August 2018.  Follow up meetings held April and September 2019. DCC to attend future regional meetings.
DCC to sign up to reduce sky litter.	P5	Investigate the potential of signing up to reduce the amount of 'sky litter' produced across County Durham (balloons and sky lanterns)	Procurement	January 2020 – December 2020	Currently 'flagged' as an issue via purchasing team.
Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
<b>DCC Catering Services</b>					



Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
Remove the use of unnecessary single use plastics in catering services and source alternatives to SUPs.	C1	Continue to promote the DCC reusable cup to staff.	Catering Services / Communications	January 2020 – March 2021	713 reusable cups sold to date. Further promotion to take place when DCC locations are fully open.
	C2	Source alternatives for SUPs across DCC's catering services.	Catering Services	January 2020 – March 2021	Under regular review.
	C3	Identify SUP use in Culture and Sport catering venues and develop a reduction strategy for implementation.	Catering Services / Culture & Sport	January 2020 – March 2021	Canned water to be introduced at Freemans Quay Leisure Centre and at Durham University (via Marlish Water supplies). Alternatives to SUPs have already been implemented in catering services.
	C4	Develop communication messages to the customer in relation on achievements so far with regards to the reduction of SUP's within DCC catering sites.	Catering Services / DCC Communications	January 2020 – March 2021	More signage required in order to raise awareness of SUP alternatives across DCC and partner organisations.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
	C5	Design and plan new takeaway concepts for the new civic menu roll out that incorporate the elimination of SUP's.	Catering Services / DCC Communications	January 2020 – March 2021	DCC catering services to introduce SUP alternatives in the new civic building.
Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
Consumer Protection Services					
Influence traders and street operators to seek alternatives to single use plastics.	CP1	Review the DCC Licensing Act Policy in order to incorporate the reduction of or alternatives to SUPs where possible, subject to conditions.	Consumer Protection	January 2020 – March 2021	DCC Statement of Licensing Policy updated, references a ban on straws being readily available, takeaway boxes and cups made from expanded polystyrene in line with national legislation.
	CP2	Review the DCC Street Trading Policy in order for alternatives to SUPs be provided where possible, subject to conditions.	Consumer Protection	January 2020 – March 2021	All traders will be encouraged to sign up to the Single Use Plastics Pledge. Briefing note to be developed for traders

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
					regarding updated legislation.
	CP3	Review the DCC Market Operator Agreements in order to influence the use of SUPs.	Consumer Protection	January 2020 – March 2021	Limited progress in this area to date, consumer protection to contact Nobles as part of initial SUP reduction engagement.
<b>DCC Children &amp; Young Peoples Services (Education)</b>					
Promote alternatives to single use plastics to County Durham schools.	E1	Engage with DCC schools catering provider to look at opportunities to reduce SUP's in school catering.	CYPS	January 2020 – March 2021	Taylor Shaws have introduced a policy across all schools catering contracts to reduce SUPs. Separate policy available upon request.  Individual examples of schools' initiatives to be fed back to task group.
	E2	New catering contract for primary schools.	CYPS	April 2022	Ensure that the subsequent Primary School Meals Contract will build on existing

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
					achievements and continue to address the use of unnecessary single use plastics.
	E3	Develop and promote circular economy learning resources with schools across the County.	CYPS / Waste Management	January 2018- July 2019	Ongoing links to be promoted across school network.  Online SUP pledge to be promoted via the school extranet system.
	E4	Link the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the issue of SUP's in new learning opportunities for schools.	CYPS	January 2018- July 2019	Ongoing links to be promoted across school network.
	E5	Encourage all schools to sign up to the SUP pledge and provide advice and support to aid them to reduce their single use plastic usage in school	CYPS / Waste Management	Sept 2019- July 2021	Schools were encouraged pre lockdown but progress has slowed in the past year.
	E6	Share the learning from plastic related school projects funded by	CYPS/ OASES	Sept 2019-	Project delivery delayed due to school closures. But will resume in

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
		<p>two Area Action Partnerships developed and led by OASES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic Fantastic? – two year project funded by East Durham Rural Corridor AAP</li> <li>• Building a Waste Free Future – funded by Chester le Street AAP</li> </ul>		July 2021	March when schools reopen fully.
	E7	<p>Promote opportunities to engage in learning about SUP's through the British Council funded Connecting Classrooms Through Global Learning Programme. This programme incorporates the UN Sustainable Development Goals as its learning framework and SUPs are incorporated into Goals 12, 14 and 15</p> <p>Dedicated resources already produced:</p> <p><a href="https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/resources/global-learning-resources/life-below-water">https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/resources/global-learning-resources/life-below-water</a></p>	CYPS	Sept 2019- July 2021	<p>New plastic specific resources produced:</p> <p><a href="https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/resources/home-learning/life-below-water-secondary">https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/resources/home-learning/life-below-water-secondary</a></p> <p>New resource on Goal 15 – Life on Land produced with Manchester University by OASES team supports this work</p> <p><a href="https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/resources/global-">https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/resources/global-</a></p>

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
					<a href="#">learning-resources/life-on-land</a>
	E8	Make explicit links with the Climate Emergency Response Plan about how waste management and the reduction of plastic consumption / enhanced reuse and recycling can support the targets and aspirations.	CYPS/ Waste Management/ Low Carbon Economy Team	Sept 2019- July 2021	The work of the SUP task group and action plan feature as part of the Climate Emergency Response Plan.
<b>DCC Highways</b>					
Source alternative uses for plastics where possible.	H1	Continue with trials of using pelletised plastic within road construction and feedback on the future viability of expanding the scheme across County Durham.	Highways	January 2020 – March 2021	DCC trial of plastic roads to be rolled out where possible across highway specifications. Social value meeting to be held with Kier and procurement.
<b>Waste Management</b>					
Promote awareness of sustainable waste management practices and	W1	Continue to provide key communication to the public in relation to how SUPs can be prevented and recycled in conjunction with wider waste awareness messages.	Strategic Waste Management / DCC Communications	January 2020 – March 2021	2020 SUP communication produced. Plan to be updated for 2021.



Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
encourage behavioural change in relation to the use of SUPs.	W2	Continue to provide key educational talks to schools and community groups in relation to sustainable waste management practices in relation to SUPs.	Strategic Waste Management	January 2020 – March 2021	Ongoing.  16 specific SUP talks were delivered Oct-March 2020. These are currently on hold due to the pandemic.
	W3	Consider the provision of expanding further street recycling provision across County Durham following feedback from the reintroduction of the Durham City trials.	Strategic Waste Management	January 2020 – March 2021	Trials ongoing, currently issues with contamination, however bins act as a public reminder.
	W4	Continue to work with external partners to promote SUP reduction campaigns to the public e.g. promotion of Northumbrian Water's Refill Campaign.	Strategic Waste Management	January 2020 – March 2021	271 locations across County Durham are registered on Northumbrian Water's Refill app map.
	W5	Engage with Change Advocates to raise awareness of SUPs and their alternatives.	Transformation & Partnerships / Strategic Waste Management / Facilities	January 2020 – March 2021	DCC Climate Change Champion network has been developed as part of the County's Climate Emergency Response. SUP messages to be promoted via this network.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action ref.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>By when?</b>	<b>Update</b>
	W6	Review all DCC owned buildings to ensure the internal recycling schemes are being used in the correct manner.	Transformation & Partnerships/ Strategic Waste Management / Facilities Management / Communications	January 2020 – March 2021	Ongoing. Internal audits to be established once buildings reopen. All partners to engage.
	W7	Investigate options in relation to DCC registering Walkers Crisp packet collection points across County Durham.	Strategic Waste Management / Facilities / Culture & Sport	January 2020 – March 2021	Beamish Museum and the Land Registry have introduced this scheme. DCC trialling in County Hall, nearly 10,000 packets were sent back to Walker's Crisps to be recycled in May 2020.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action ref.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>By when?</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>Culture &amp; Sport</b>					
Promote and implement methods to reduce the amount of SUPs used.	CS1	Promote the SUP message to producers and traders at both Bishop Auckland Food Festival and Seaham Food Festival, giving priority to those traders who demonstrate a commitment to the reduction of SUPs.	Culture & Sport	January 2020 – March 2021	This procedure is in place. Information is shared with producers about environmental impact, and our expectations from them including sustainable waste management.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
	CS2	Commitment to reduction of SUPs at Gala Theatre (c300,000 visitors per year). In addition to changes already made, this will include: replacement of plastic bar glasses with plastic-free alternative, elimination of the sale of water in plastic bottles, replacement of ice-cream and popcorn tubs with compostable alternatives.	Culture & Sport	January 2020 – March 2021	Completed. There are no sales of water in plastic bottles. All bar glasses are a plastic-free alternatives.
	CS3	Roll out of successes at Gala to other Culture & Sport run facilities.	Culture & Sport	January 2020 – March 2021	Ongoing.
Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
<b>External Partner Engagement</b>					
Work with external partners in order to reduce and provide	EP1	Continue the development of a 'plastic free network' with Durham BiD in relation to providing key messages around sourcing alternatives to SUPs.	Durham BiD / DCC Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	SUP pledge and network being regularly promoted via Durham BiD newsletters.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
alternatives for SUPs.	EP2	Continue to promote Northumbrian Water's Refill Campaign across County Durham.	Northumbrian Water / DCC Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	19 June 2020 was National Refill Day. There are 271 Refill stations registered across County Durham. The National Refill day scheduled for 2021 is 16 June.
	EP3	Encourage organisations and partners to join the North East Nature Partnership's Environmental Accreditation Scheme.	NEEP/ DCC Task Group/ Partners.	January 2020 – March 2021	Ongoing.
	EP4	Replicate best practice examples of reusable / washable food containers.	Durham University Catering / DCC Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	Trials to be expanded across other colleges. 525 reusable containers have been issued to students in advance of the pandemic. Other partners to investigate.
	EP5	Adopt the Environment Agency's staff communications scheme and promote plastic free days to staff.	Environment Agency / DCC Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	Further internal engagement required to DCC staff and via Partner organisations

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
	EP6	Promote beach clean ups with staff and external partner organisations.	Heritage Coast / DCC/ Partners	January 2020 – March 2021	Heritage Coast completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 events</li> <li>• 450 bags collected engaging 431 volunteers.</li> <li>• 80% plastic content collected from beaches and sent to BIFFA for recycling.</li> </ul>
Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
Communications					
Develop a communication s plan in order to raise awareness of the SUP issue with the public and interested parties.	C1	Promote the work of the SUP task group via regular updates and features within Durham County News and other platforms.	DCC Communications Team	January 2020 – March 2021	SUP articles featured in Spring & Winter editions of DCN.
	C2	Ensure that residents are informed of both why and when alternatives to SUPs are being used.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	See SUP website: <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics">www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics</a>

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
	C3	Ensure that clear information of the different types of plastic, identifying what can and cannot be recycled is provided to residents.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	See SUP website: <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics">www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics</a>
	C4	Provide residents with an opportunity to identify how SUPs usage can be reduced.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	See SUP website: <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics">www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics</a>
	C5	DCC and partners to offer reward schemes for the use of alternatives to SUPs.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	See SUP website: <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics">www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics</a>
	C6	Develop a plastic information network across County Durham via a web based hub.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	January 2020 – March 2021	282 SUP signups to date from individuals, schools and businesses across County Durham.

**Draft (subject to Cabinet consideration)**  
**Single Use Plastic Action Plan (April 2021- March 2023)**

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
<b>Corporate / Procurement and Sales</b>					
Procurement Pipeline	P1	Work with Low Carbon Economy Team to identify priority 'environmental' procurements (PEP's) within the Council's Procurement Pipeline	Procurement/Low Carbon Economy Team	*April 2021 – March 2023	Ongoing with process to be formalised in FY 2021/22.
	P2	Low Carbon Economy Team to work with services areas on PEP's to develop and strengthen specification in relation to environmental credentials.	Low Carbon Economy Team and Service Areas	*April 2021 – March 2023	Ongoing with process to be formalised in FY 2021/22.
	P3	Procurement to work with Low Carbon Economy Team to develop opportunities within the evaluation process – generally and specifically for PEP's - to measure and score environmental considerations e.g., Themes Outcomes and Measures (TOMS), Selection Questionnaire	Procurement/Low Carbon Economy Team and Service Areas	*April 2021 – March 2023	Ongoing with process to be formalised in FY 2021/22.

\*To be reviewed quarterly.



Procure to Pay Process	P4	Low Carbon Economy Team and Procurement to work with Payment Income and Support Team to identify opportunities to reduce small orders and consequent reduction in CO2.	Procurement/Low Carbon Economy Team/Payment Income and Support Team and Service Areas	*April 2021 – March 2023	Initial meetings have taken with Bunzl (supplier of janitorial products) and responsible teams to initiate pilot exercise to reduce small orders
	P5	Procurement and SUP Task Group to work with Payment Income and Support Team to identify and, where possible, reduce/eradicate SUP orders across the Council	Procurement/SUP Task Force/Payment Income and Support Team and Service Areas	*April 2021 – March 2023	Payment Income and Support Team have provided initial information on sky litter usage to SUP Task Force
Local, Regional and National Engagement	P6	Procurement to promote and influence where possible the reduction of SUP locally, regionally and nationally	Procurement/Local, Regional & National Partners	*April 2021 – March 2023	Local influence – County Durham Procurement Family established.  Regionally – working with North East Procurement Organisation via Collaboration North East  Nationally – Head of Service Procurement, Sales & Business

\*To be reviewed quarterly.

					Services chairs National Social Value Task Force
Policy and Strategy	P7	New Procurement Strategy includes Social Value and Climate Change Action Plan which specifically highlights SUP which will also be incorporated within the forthcoming Social Value Policy Statement.	Procurement	2020 - 2024	New Procurement Strategy has been launched
Sales	P8	Environmental and SUP initiatives to be incorporated within the Council's commercial activities and delivery.	Procurement and Sales/Service Areas	*April 2021 – March 2023	Ongoing initiatives via central Sales Team and Service areas including EDF Social Value regional initiative and Energy Management and Sustainability SLA.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action ref.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>By when?</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>DCC Catering Services</b>					
Remove the use of unnecessary single use plastics in catering	C1	Promote the DCC reusable cup to staff.	Catering Services / Communications	*April 2021 – March 2023	713 reusable cups sold to date. Further promotion to take place when DCC locations are fully open.

\*To be reviewed quarterly.

services and source alternatives to SUPs.	C2	Source alternatives for SUPs across DCC's catering services.	Catering Services	*April 2021 – March 2023	Under regular review.
	C3	Identify SUP use in Culture and Sport catering venues and develop a reduction strategy for implementation.	Catering Services / Culture & Sport	*April 2021 – March 2023	Canned water to be introduced at Freemans Quay Leisure Centre and at Durham University (via Marlish Water supplies). Alternatives to SUPs have already been implemented in catering services.
	C4	Develop communication messages to the customer in relation on achievements so far with regards to the reduction of SUP's within DCC catering sites.	Catering Services / DCC Communications	*April 2021 – March 2023	More signage required in order to raise awareness of SUP alternatives across DCC and partner organisations.
	C5	Design and plan new takeaway concepts for the new civic menu roll out that incorporate the elimination of SUP's.	Catering Services / DCC Communications	*April 2021 – March 2023	DCC catering services to introduce SUP alternatives in the new civic building.

\*To be reviewed quarterly.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
<b>Consumer Protection Services</b>					
Influence traders and street operators to seek alternatives to single use plastics.	CP1	Review the DCC Licensing Act Policy in order to incorporate the reduction of or alternatives to SUPs where possible, subject to conditions.	Consumer Protection	*April 2021 – March 2023	DCC Statement of Licensing Policy updated, references a ban on straws being readily available, takeaway boxes and cups made from expanded polystyrene in line with national legislation.
	CP2	Review the DCC Street Trading Policy in order for alternatives to SUPs be provided where possible, subject to conditions.	Consumer Protection	*April 2021 – March 2023	All traders will be encouraged to sign up to the Single Use Plastics Pledge. Briefing note to be developed for traders regarding updated legislation.

					The DCC Street trading policy review date has been put back to at least 2022/23 as a result of Covid, work backlog and a queue of policy revisions already on the forward plan
	CP3	Review the DCC Market Operator Agreements in order to influence the use of SUPs.	Consumer Protection	*April 2021 – March 2023	Limited progress in this area to date, consumer protection to contact Nobles as part of initial SUP reduction engagement.  Changes to market management arrangements and contracts may occur by the end of 2021/beginning of 2022.
<b>DCC Children &amp; Young Peoples Services (Education)</b>					
	E1	Continue to encourage all schools to sign up to the SUP pledge and	CYPS / Waste Management	*April 2021 –	

\*To be reviewed quarterly.

		provide advice and support to aid them to reduce their single use plastic usage in school		March 2023	
	E2	Make explicit links with the second Climate Emergency Response Action Plan about how waste management and the reduction of plastic consumption / enhanced reuse and recycling can support the targets and aspirations.	CYPS/ Waste Management/ Low Carbon Economy Team	*April 2021 – March 2023	
	E3	Link the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the issue of SUP's in new learning opportunities for schools. Direct links to Goals 12, 13 and 15	CYPS	*March 2023	
<b>DCC Highways</b>					
Source alternative uses for plastics where possible.	H1	Continue with trials of using pelletised plastic within road construction and feedback on the future viability of expanding the scheme across County Durham.	Highways	*April 2021 – March 2023	DCC trial of plastic roads to be rolled out where possible across highway specifications. Social value meeting to be held with Kier and procurement.

## Waste Management

Promote awareness of sustainable waste management practices and encourage behavioural change in relation to the use of SUPs.	W1	Provide key communication to the public in relation to how SUPs can be prevented and recycled in conjunction with wider waste awareness messages.	Strategic Waste Management / DCC Communications	*April 2021 – March 2023	2020 SUP communication produced. Plan to be updated for 2021/22.
	W2	Provide key educational talks to schools and community groups in relation to sustainable waste management practices in relation to SUPs.	Strategic Waste Management	*April 2021 – March 2023	Ongoing.  16 specific SUP talks were delivered Oct-March 2020. These are currently on hold due to the pandemic.
	W3	Consider the provision of expanding further street recycling provision across County Durham following feedback from the reintroduction of the Durham City trials.	Strategic Waste Management	*April 2021 – March 2023	Trials ongoing, currently issues with contamination, however bins act as a public reminder.
	W4	Work with external partners to promote SUP reduction campaigns to the public e.g. promotion of Northumbrian Water's Refill Campaign.	Strategic Waste Management	*April 2021 – March 2023	271 locations across County Durham are registered on Northumbrian Water's Refill app map.

\*To be reviewed quarterly.



	W5	Engage with Change Advocates to raise awareness of SUPs and their alternatives.	Transformation & Partnerships / Strategic Waste Management / Facilities	*April 2021 – March 2023	DCC Climate Change Champion network has been developed as part of the County's Climate Emergency Response. SUP messages to be promoted via this network.
	W6	Review all DCC owned buildings to ensure the internal recycling schemes are being used in the correct manner.	Transformation & Partnerships/ Strategic Waste Management / Facilities Management / Communications	*April 2021 – March 2023	Ongoing. Internal audits to be established once buildings reopen. All partners to engage.
	W7	Investigate options in relation to DCC registering Walkers Crisp packet collection points across County Durham.	Strategic Waste Management / Facilities / Culture & Sport	*April 2021 – March 2023	Beamish Museum and the Land Registry have introduced this scheme. DCC trialling in County Hall, nearly 10,000 packets were sent back to Walker's Crisps to be recycled in May 2020.
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action ref.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>By when?</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>Culture &amp; Sport</b>					

Promote and implement methods to reduce the amount of SUPs used.	CS1	Promote the SUP message to producers and traders at both Bishop Auckland Food Festival and Seaham Food Festival, giving priority to those traders who demonstrate a commitment to the reduction of SUPs.	Culture, Sport & Tourism	*Ongoing	This procedure is in place. Information is shared with producers about environmental impact, and our expectations from them including sustainable waste management.
	CS2	Commitment to reduction of SUPs at Gala Theatre, Empire Consett and Bishop Auckland Town Hall. This will include replacement of plastic bar glasses with plastic-free alternative, elimination of the sale of water in plastic bottles, replacement of ice-cream and popcorn tubs with compostable alternatives.	Culture, Sport & Tourism	*August 2021 - March 2022	Completed for Gala. The successes will be rolled out to the other cultural venues.
	CS3	Roll out of successes to other Culture & Sport run facilities.	Culture, Sport & Tourism	*August 2021 - March 2022	Ongoing.
	CS4	Encouraging all festivals and events partners to go plastic-free, and transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives.	Culture, Sport & Tourism	*August 2021 - March 2023	Ongoing.

\*To be reviewed quarterly.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
<b>External Partner Engagement</b>					
Work with external partners in order to reduce and provide alternatives for SUPs.	EP1	Continue the development of a 'plastic free network' with Durham BiD in relation to providing key messages around sourcing alternatives to SUPs.	Durham BiD / DCC Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	SUP pledge and network being regularly promoted via Durham BiD newsletters.
	EP2	Continue to promote Northumbrian Water's Refill Campaign across County Durham.	Northumbrian Water / DCC Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	19 June 2020 was National Refill Day. There are 271 Refill stations registered across County Durham. The National Refill day scheduled for 2021 is 16 June.
	EP3	Encourage organisations and partners to join the North East Nature Partnership's Environmental Accreditation Scheme.	NEEP/ DCC Task Group/ Partners.	*April 2021 – March 2023	Ongoing.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
	EP4	Replicate best practice examples of reusable / washable food containers.	Durham University Catering / DCC Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	Trials to be expanded across other colleges. 525 reusable containers have been issued to students in advance of the pandemic. Other partners to investigate.
	EP5	Adopt the Environment Agency's staff communications scheme and promote plastic free days to staff.	Environment Agency / DCC Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	Further internal engagement required to DCC staff and via Partner organisations
	EP6	Promote beach clean ups with staff and external partner organisations.  Carry out surveys on beach litter for the Marine Conservation Society and support Great British Beach Clean and World Oceans Day.  Train 5 volunteer beach clean leaders to carry out beach cleans.	SeaScapes/Heritage Coast / DCC/ Partners	*July 2021 – March 2022	Previously Heritage Coast completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 events</li> <li>• 450 bags collected engaging 431 volunteers.</li> </ul> 80% plastic content collected from beaches and sent to BIFFA for recycling.

\*To be reviewed quarterly.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
		Work with schools and colleges to promote SUP and raise awareness of plastic in the marine environment.			
	EP7	Actively engage in the development of a Source to Sea Plastic Free Wear Catchment programme.	Wear Catchment Partnership/DCC/Partners	*June 21 to June 22	Initial scoping meeting held. Development workshop to be held October 21
Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
<b>Communications</b>					
Develop a communications plan in order to raise awareness of the SUP issue with the public and interested parties.	C1	Promote the work of the SUP task group via regular updates and features within Durham County News and other platforms.	DCC Communications Team	*April 2021 – March 2023	SUP articles featured in Spring & Winter editions of DCN.
	C2	Ensure that residents are informed of both why and when alternatives to SUPs are being used.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	See SUP website: <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics">www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics</a>

\*To be reviewed quarterly.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
	C3	Ensure that clear information of the different types of plastic, identifying what can and cannot be recycled is provided to residents.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	See SUP website: <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/sin-gleuseplastics">www.durham.gov.uk/sin- gleuseplastics</a>
	C4	Provide residents with an opportunity to identify how SUPs usage can be reduced.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	See SUP website: <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/sin-gleuseplastics">www.durham.gov.uk/sin- gleuseplastics</a>
	C5	DCC and partners to offer reward schemes for the use of alternatives to SUPs.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	See SUP website: <a href="http://www.durham.gov.uk/sin-gleuseplastics">www.durham.gov.uk/sin- gleuseplastics</a>
	C6	Develop a plastic information network across County Durham via a web based hub.	DCC Communications Team & SUP Task Group	*April 2021 – March 2023	We have a total of 301 sign ups to date Individuals 192 Schools 38

\*To be reviewed quarterly.

Objective	Action ref.	Action	Responsibility	By when?	Update
					Businesses 42 Community Groups 29



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21st November 2021

Single Use Plastics:

From Pledge to Practice

Oliver Sherratt,  
Head of Environment,  
Neighbourhoods & Climate Change  
Durham County Council.



# Plastic: Fantastic or Frightening?

- **Versatility**: a blessing and a curse: 2 million tonnes produced in 1950 rising to 381million tonnes in 2015 !
- **Durability**: a blessing and a curse: It can last 400-600 years.
- **Lightness**: a blessing and a curse – easy to transport, but pollutes environments.
- **Inexpensive**: – can be thrown away but wasteful.

# Why Focus on Single Use Plastics?

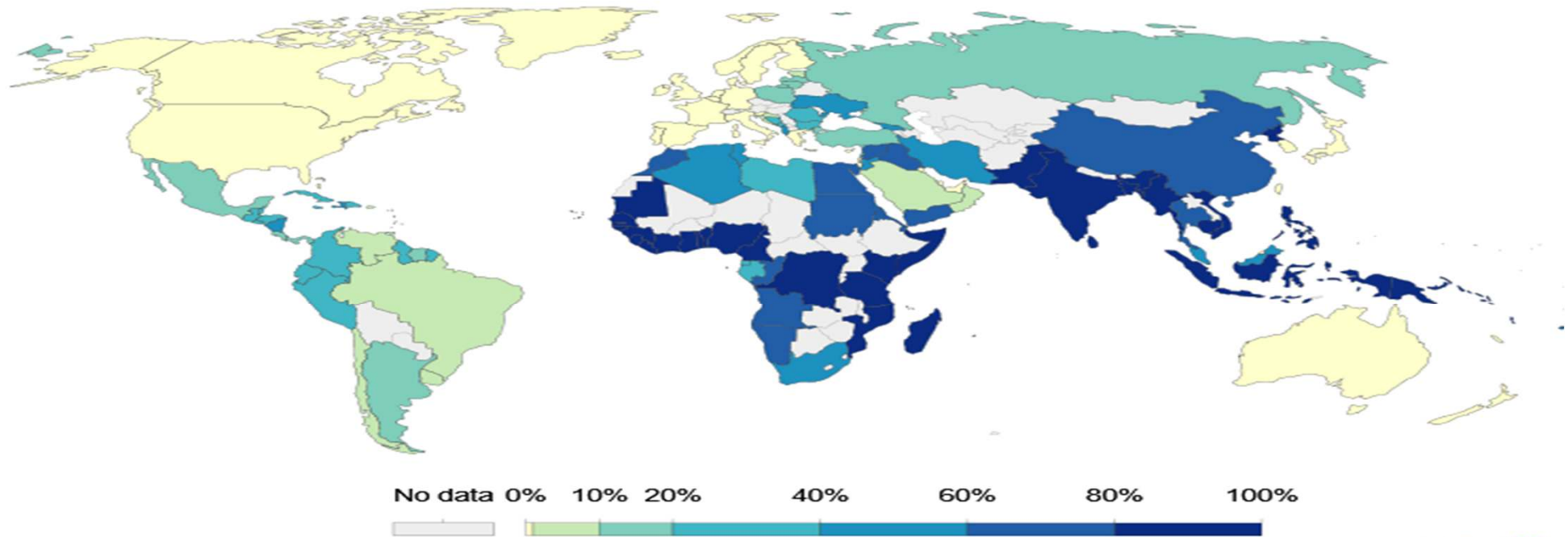
- Half of all plastics SUPs
- 50% of EU beach pollutants SUPs (other 34% plastic).
- Wasteful of resources/fossil fuels
- Smaller – more likely to break down/ ingest
- Unnecessary/avoidable
- Not all recyclable



# Global Perspective

## Share of plastic waste that is inadequately managed, 2010

Share of total plastic waste that is inadequately managed. Inadequately disposed waste is not formally managed and includes disposal in dumps or open, uncontrolled landfills, where it is not fully contained. Inadequately managed waste has high risk of polluting rivers and oceans. This does not include 'littered' plastic waste, which is approximately 2% of total waste (including high-income countries).



# Closer to home

- We have excellent waste management systems and domestic market for plastics.
- **Sector does however involve global markets**
- 82% pollutants on Durham beaches are plastics, some may be “leakage” from litter, fly tipping.
- Estimated 22% County Durham residual waste bins are plastics that could have been recycled.
- **Need to set example, contribute to the world wide efforts, ensure sustainable end use and conserve resources.**



# From our beaches.....



Photos courtesy of Roger Coulam



# Background

**24 January 2018 Durham County Council Resolution:  
Request that a report be brought to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the options for bringing an end to the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUP) in County Durham, taking account of the following measures to:**

- a) enable Durham County Council to become a full signatory of the 'Plastic Free Pledge', by phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in all County Council buildings, and working with commissioning partners to end the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the DCC supply chain;*
- b) encourage the County's businesses, organisations and residents to go 'plastic free,' working with best practice partners across the County to explore the creation of a 'plastic free network,' that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives;*
- c) to incentivise traders on Council land to sell re-usable or non-plastic biodegradable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out SUPs; including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission, strengthening DCC's existing guidance for exhibitors and traders*

# Our Approach

- Not Just Council Focused – Partnership is Key
- For the Council – a corporate approach all service areas.
- Not waiting for legislation
- Crucial role for Scrutiny.
- Audit and understand what is happening in practice.
- Task Group Established – generated international interest
- Action orientated – reports via scrutiny committee.
- Not always an easy solution, but sometimes it is!
- Covid has impacted – from face coverings to implementation of plans

# The “easy” bit



Individuals 192  
Schools 38  
Businesses 42  
Community Groups 29

We have a total of 301 sign ups to date

You can sign too!

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics>



# Work to date: Action Plan Waste Management

- Coordinated audits across DCC venues
- Provided key communications to the public in relation to how SUPs can be prevented.
- Delivered education talks to schools, community groups, AAPs etc
- Introduced on street recycling provision in Durham City;
- Implemented recycling of street litter collected by DCC.
- Engaged with Change Advocates to raise awareness of SUPs
- Reviewed all DCC owned buildings to ensure the internal recycling schemes are being used correctly.
- Introduced Walker's crisp packet collection points in DCC buildings (trial)





# Work to date: Action Plan

## DCC Catering Services

- Removed 90% of SUPs across DCC catering services
- Introduced a DCC reusable cup (cheaper coffee too!)
- Sourced alternatives to SUPs where possible
- Identified SUP usage across Culture and Sport catering venues,
- Designed and planned new takeaway concepts for new civic menu roll out.
- Moved to recyclable, compostable, biodegradable, Vegware food takeaway packaging and hot food service containers as standard
- Sachets to served portions (where possible)
- Moved from plastic to Vegware cutlery and then subsequently wood alternatives
- From plastic coated cups to biodegradable ones
- Glass provision including jars where possible.





## Work to date: Action Plan Culture and Sport

- Removed SUP confetti at the Gala Theatre and replace with sustainable alternative.
- Phased out the supply of SUP blue overshoes at DCC owned leisure centres.
- Promoted the SUP message to producers and traders.
- Commitment to the reduction of SUPs at the Gala Theatre.
- Rolled out successes at the Gala Theatre to other Culture and Sport run facilities.
- SUP collection at Major events eg Durham City Run

## Work to date: Action Plan

### Corporate Procurement Services

- Undertook internal audits across the organisations involved
- Produced and undertook a SUP survey with key suppliers
- Engaged regarding their SUP issues – sought to resolve
- Updated the core list of supplies to remove single use plastics
- Ensured DCC future contracts consider alternatives to SUP where possible
- Engaged with contractors via the North East Procurement Organisation
- Provided advice on SUP reductions to other local authorities and national procurement networks





## Work to date: Action Plan

### Consumer Protection Services

- Reviewed the DCC Licensing Act Policy in order to incorporate the reduction of or alternatives to SUPs where possible.
- Considered the DCC Street Trading Policy in order for alternatives to SUPs be provided where possible.
- Considered the DCC Market Operator Agreements.





## Work to date: Action Plan Highways

- Trialled the use of pelletised plastic within road construction
- Received an national APSE award (innovation category)
- Submitted a national funding bid to Department of Transport to expand the scheme

# Work to date: Action Plan

## Communications

- Promoted the work of the SUP task group via regular updates and features with Durham County News and other platforms.
- Ensured residents are informed of both why and when alternatives to SUPs are being used.
- Ensured that clear information of the different types of plastics, identifying what can and cannot be recycled is provided to residents.
- Provided residents with an opportunity to identify how SUPs usage can be reduced.
- Developed a single use plastic information network across County Durham via a web based hub.



# Work to date: Action Plan

## Education and Wider Partners

- Engaged with DCC schools catering provider
- Developed and promote circular economy learning resources
- Promoting the example of St.Bede's, Sacriston as a best practice example to other schools
- Continue the development of a 'plastic free network' with Durham BiD in relation to providing key messages around sourcing alternatives to SUPs.
- Promote Northumbrian Water's Refill Campaign across County Durham.
- Encourage organisations and partners to join the North East Nature Partnership's Environment Accreditation Scheme.
- Replicated best practice examples of reusable/washable food containers.
- Promoted further beach clean ups with staff and external partner organisations.



# 2020-2021 Action Plan Summary

Area	Total Number of Actions	Completed	Outstanding	Completed %
Corporate Procurement Services	5	4	1	80%
DCC Catering Services	5	5	0	100%
Consumer Protection Services	3	2	1	66%
DCC Children and Young Peoples Services	8	6	2	75%
DCC Highways	1	1	0	100%
Waste Management	7	6	1	85%
Culture and Sport	3	3	0	100%
External Partner Engagement	6	5	1	83%
Communications	6	5	1	83%

Awards



# Legislation

- From the 1st October, 2020 a restriction on the supply of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton-buds came into force in England.
- Defra published guidance for businesses and suppliers of these items <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/straws-cotton-buds-and-drink-stirrers-ban-rules-for-businesses-in-england>



# Waste & Resources Strategy for England 2018

## Strategy Key Objectives:

- All plastic packaging to be recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025;
- Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030;
- Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of 25YEP;
- Double resource productivity by 2050
- Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050

## Recent Consultations:

- Consistent set of recyclable materials including:
- Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging
- Deposit Return Scheme
- Taxing plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content

## Impacts for Local Authorities:

- Financial implications for consistent collections (food/garden waste)
- EPR & DPS (greater clarity on how this money will be passed to LA's)



65% Recycling rate (MSW)  
Municipal Solid Waste by 2035

50% Recycling rate H/H  
waste by 2050

# Where do we go from here?

- Implement and support introduction of legislation as required.
- Develop further the County Durham SUP network;
- Develop further education and awareness materials e.g. living without SUPs;
- Continue to audit SUP usage;
- Promote further the Environmental accreditation scheme and audit for organisations
- Promote more Refill stations across County Durham
- Work with NEPO to influence the supply chain





# Summary

- National exemplar of best practice.
- Corporate and Partnership approach taken.
- A lot done, but more to do, and we are not perfect.
- Lots of interest, opportunity to use this to support more fundamental cultural changes.

# Any questions?

Oliver Sherratt, Head of Environment,  
Neighbourhoods & Climate Change

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**COUNTY DURHAM  
SINGLE USE  
PLASTICS  
PLEDGE**

**Could you carry a reusable shopping bag, swap to a reusable coffee cup or stop using plastic straws?**

Many County Durham businesses, schools, groups and individuals have already signed our County Durham Single Use Plastics Pledge. Could you?

You can pledge to do as little or as much as you can to help reduce the amount of single use plastics.

Find out more and sign up:  
[www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics](http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics)

**Altogether  
better  
Durham**  
County Durham Partnership



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



**24 November 2021**

**Work Programme Update 2021/22**

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**Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

None

**Purpose of Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ESC OSC) with an updated work programme for 2021/2022 and to set out a proposal to address the recommendations included in the report to Cabinet on 13 October 2021 concerning consideration of whether an Ecological Emergency needs to be declared.

**Executive Summary**

- 2 The work programme of the ESC OSC was agreed by members of the committee at its meeting on 16 July 2021. Members will recall that the report clearly identified those priority areas within the work programme that would be considered at the formal meetings of the committee and those which would be delivered via briefing reports.
- 3 In addition, it was highlighted at the meeting that a further five meetings of the ESC OSC had been identified from October to May 2022 with a further special meeting to be arranged focusing on integrated transport management.
- 4 Members will recall that during consideration of the work programme members requested that further additional areas were included and that resulted in a refreshed work programme being sent to members of the committee on the 29 July 2021 which included those additional areas identified.

- 5 At County Council on 22 September a question was asked by the Vice-Chair of this committee, Cllr Elmer, that the Council adopt the same approach to an ecological emergency as it had in relation to the climate emergency and consider as to whether a declaration of an emergency needed to be made. The Cabinet Portfolio Holder in response to the question informed Council that he would provide a report to the next meeting of Cabinet in October.
- 6 A report was subsequently submitted to Cabinet on 13 October which recommended that a request be made to Overview and Scrutiny that this focused piece of work is included in the committee's work programme and that an initial report back to Cabinet from Overview and Scrutiny is submitted within a six-month timescale.
- 7 To address Cabinet's request and the recommendations within the Cabinet report, it is proposed that a further two special meetings of the ESC OSC are arranged to ensure that all members of the committee are given the opportunity to be engaged and contribute to this focused piece of work.
- 8 It is also proposed that the consideration by members as to whether an Ecological Emergency is declared is added to the work programme and a revised work programme is attached as appendix two providing detail as to the focus of each meeting.

## **Recommendation**

- 9 That Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:
  - a) Add to its work programme two special meetings to consider information in relation to the decline in natural habitats in County Durham.
  - b) Following receipt of this information, prepare a report to Cabinet setting out its finding and recommendations.

## **Background**

- 10 At its meeting on the 16 July 2021 ESC OSC agreed its work programme for 2021/2022 which included an item coming to a future meeting of the committee in May 2021 providing detail of the work of the Ecological Emergency workstream of the Environment and Climate Change Partnership and any work undertaken by DCC in relation to the decline of natural habitats.
- 11 At a meeting of County Council on the 22 September 2021, Councillor Elmer, Vice Chair of ESC OSC asked if Durham County Council would adopt the same approach to an ecological emergency as it had in

relation to the climate emergency and consider as to whether a declaration of an emergency needed to be made.

- 12 The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change advised that he would bring a report to the October meeting of Cabinet in response to the question. A copy of the minute from County Council can be found at <https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=51005>

## County Durham Landscape

- 13 At a meeting of Cabinet held on 13 October 2021 a report entitled 'Consideration of an Ecological Emergency in County Durham' was considered which set out the complex history the County has had with regard to wildlife and habitat. Once the home of mining and heavy industry, which left a legacy of contamination and landscape degradation, the county has seen significant restoration over recent decades improving habitat and land, water and air quality. This work continues through the activities of the Council and partners. The North Pennine uplands and the Durham Coast and associated Magnesian Limestone Grasslands in particular support rare and threatened species and both have been the subject of considerable conservation effort. This positive progress over decades must be set against the continuing pressures placed on the natural landscape from development and other human activity.
- 14 In addition, the county a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These sites represent the best examples of our national heritage of wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms and there are 91 SSSIs wholly or partly in County Durham.
- 15 Perhaps the most striking example of this work in County Durham is the internationally recognised restoration of the County Durham coastline, which has been transformed as part of the Heritage Coast initiative. The Turning the Tide (TTT) partnership programme consisted of over one hundred projects delivered along the Durham Heritage Coast. The Durham Coast hosts 92% of the total area of para-maritime Magnesian Limestone grassland habitat in Britain and the TTT partnership has recovered over 225ha of land for habitat creation. Such is the success of the programme that much of the area has subsequently been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves.
- 16 On a larger scale, the North Pennines AONB Partnership has led the restoration of approximately 16,000ha of peatland in the county over the last 16 years, (as part of restoring an area of peatland over three times the size of Newcastle within the AONB as a whole). This work is

continuing and expanding through the AONB team's leading role in the Great North Bog initiative.

- 17 The County Council, Durham Wildlife Trust, the AONB Partnership, the Heritage Coast Partnership, Rivers Trusts and other bodies are all delivering significant action for nature recovery in the county, with an ever-increasing degree of collaboration.

### **County Durham Environment and Climate Change Partnership**

- 18 The ecological emergency has been recognised by the County Durham Environment and Climate Change Partnership. In November 2020, the partnership reviewed its structure, membership, and governance arrangements as part of a wider partnership review triggered by the revised county Durham Vision 2035 document. As part of this work the potential for a locally declared ecological emergency was recognised and reflected in the partnership structure as one of the principal subgroups to the board. The ESC OSC has included in its current work programme an overview from the Ecological Emergency Sub-Group to come to committee on the 13 May 2021.

### **Environment Bill**

- 19 Any ecological declaration to the Council may choose to make in the future must be in accordance with and take due notice of existing and new legislation, not least the Environment Bill which is entering its final stages.
- 20 Parliament seeks to make provision for improvements to the environment through the Environment Bill which will introduce measures and targets around a range of areas including nature and biodiversity.
- 21 This Bill includes provisions to strengthen the duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity, mandate net gains in biodiversity through the planning system, require the preparation and publication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Species Conservation and Protected Site Strategies, address illegal deforestation in supply chains through a due diligence system and provide for Conservation Covenants between landowners and responsible bodies.

### **Declaration of an Ecological Emergency**

- 22 On 22 of September 2021 at a meeting of the County Council, a question was raised seeking Cabinet's view on the declaration of an ecological emergency in County Durham. Arguments were presented for both declaring an ecological emergency and preparing an ecological emergency response plan in parallel to the existing climate emergency



response plan, which itself will be refreshed in 2022.

- 23 In response to the question, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change committed to bring forward a Cabinet report recommending that work is undertaken to make a thorough assessment of the issues pertaining to an ecological emergency declaration particularly in the context of County Durham, including a thorough analysis of the evidence and data available through the work of the Council and others, including ongoing work by the Environment and Climate Change Partnership, alongside an assessment of the potential outcomes of such an initiative.
- 24 The report to Cabinet on the 13 October 2021 recommended that Cabinet requests, that scrutiny includes in its work programme, examination of the evidence base relating to the decline in natural habitats in County Durham and provide an initial report to Cabinet within six months.
- 25 Due to the time limitations involved and the need to provide the opportunity for all members of the committee to be engaged and contribute to this focused piece of scrutiny activity, it is suggested that ESC OSC holds two special meetings to consider the methodology for gathering the necessary information and consider national and local data/information provided, determining as to whether the declaration of an Ecological Emergency is required.
- 26 The Overview and Scrutiny report with key findings and any potential recommendations will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

## **Conclusion**

- 27 A lot of work has been done to restore our landscapes blighted by the county's industrial past and we continue to, as all local authorities are required, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of our functions such as in planning and development control and our estates management. The Council continues to work in partnership with a number of other agencies to try and conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- 28 However, the UK has experienced a decline in species abundance of 13% on average with 15% of species within the UK threatened with extinction and since 1970, the abundance of UK priority species has

declined by 60%.<sup>1</sup> Of the G7 counties, the UK is at the very bottom in terms of how much biodiversity survives.<sup>2</sup>

- 29 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny has been asked as the relevant scrutiny committee to examine the data available and to make recommendations to Cabinet on the utility in declaring an ecological emergency for County Durham as the Council has done in declaring a climate emergency.
- 30 Members will be aware of the updated work programme that can be found at appendix two and the proposed actions to address the request from Cabinet.

### Background papers

- County Council 22 September 2021
- Cabinet 13 October 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Hayhow et al, The State of Nature 2019. The State of Nature Partnership 2019

<sup>2</sup> The Natural History Museum, UK in the relegation zone for nature, reveals Natural History Museum and RSPB, accessed 27 April 2021

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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

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<p><b>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22</b></p> <p>Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p><b>Lead Officer:</b> Tom Gorman  <b>Overview and Scrutiny Officers:</b> Diane Close and Ann Whitton</p> <p><b>Oliver Sherratt:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More and Better Jobs</li> <li>• People live long and independent lives</li> <li>• Connected Communities</li> </ul>			<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
Focused/Special meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report to ESC</li> <li>• briefing report to ESC members via email</li> </ul>			

Ecological Emergency	2 special meetings dates TBC	Reports /presentations to ESC OSC	Stuart Priestly Steve Bhowmick Oliver Sherratt	Members will receive detail of the methodology used to gather information/data on the decline in natural habitats and will have had the opportunity to consider the methodology together with the relevant information/data provided  Members will also consider any additional information/data which they have requested and determine what recommendations will be made to Cabinet	Members will have informed the methodology for the collection of the information/data, considered the information and data provided and will have made recommendations to Cabinet
<b>Overview/ Progress</b>					
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 Community Action Team in delivery the programme across the County	Members will continue to monitor the various CAT programmes across County Durham
Climate Emergency Response Plan and Carbon Management Plan (including detail of any further	8 October 2021	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	Members will monitor progress made on actions identified in both plans and any further progress

development of the Climate Emergency Work Stream of the ECCP)				actions need to be included. In addition, Members will receive detail of any progress made by the Climate Emergency Workstream of the ECCP (detail of the development of this workstream was provided to ESC OSC in July 2021)	made by the Climate Emergency Workstream of the ECCP
Renewable Energy Including detail of the Seaham Garden Village Project	8 October 2021	Report to ESC OSC	Stephen McDonald (NCC)	Members will receive information on various renewable schemes being undertaken in the county including detail of the Seaham Garden Village project 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



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 projects running in the county to help tackle this issue	Members will continue to monitor the current level of fuel poverty in the county and the various projects taking place and planned to help tackle this issue
Strategic Waste Management	24 November 2021	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	Members will continue to monitor waste management arrangements in the County

				discuss the Council's approach and whether it can be improved	
Single Use Plastics (SUPs)	24 November 2021	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	24 November 2021	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 information on various environmental campaigns including Civic Pride together with detail of 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 Hoult/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	18 January 2022	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	18 January 2022	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 inform its further development	Members will be aware of the aims and objectives within the Leisure Strategy and will have had the opportunity to inform the future 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 &REG)	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
Stockton and Darlington Railway Bicentennial celebrations	February 2022	Briefing Report to ESC OSC and E&E OSC members	Alison Clark (REG)	Members will receive a progress update on the activities undertaken and planned for the Stockton and Darlington Railway Bicentennial Celebrations in 2025	The Committee will be aware and will be able to monitor the progress of various activities undertaken by DCC and partners to commemorate the Stockton and Darlington Railway Bicentennial
Theatres	February 2022	Brief to be circulated to ESC OSC and E&E	Alison Clark/Helen Ross (REG)	Members will receive a progress update on the future management of the Gala Theatre and	Members will be aware of proposals for the management of the Gala Theatre and

		OSC members		other Theatres under DCC management including the challenges resulting from the pandemic and future plans	other Theatres under DCC management including work undertaken to address the impact of COVID and future management plans
DCC's management of allotments	February 2022	Brief to be circulated to ESC OSC members with a report to come to ESC OSC in 2022/23	Ian Hoults/Mark Farren (NCC)	Members will receive information on changes to allotment management and detail of the key findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review looking at DCC's proposed allotment policy (with a view to an update on the recommendations in the report to come to committee in 2022/23)	The Committee will be updated on any changes in relation to the management of DCC's allotment portfolio. In addition, members will be aware of the key findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review looking at DCC's proposed allotment policy with a view to an update on the recommendations being presented to committee in 2022/23

Highways, Bridge & Footpath Maintenance	28 March 2022	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
Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project (SLERP)	28 March 2022	Report to ESC OSC (E&E OSC members invited to attend)	Paul Watson (NCC)	Members will receive an update on the SLERP including the current situation regarding the removal of lighting columns	The committee will continue to scrutinise the performance of the SLERP including the criteria for the removal of lighting columns
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 (including detail of the Ecological Emergency Workstream and the Place, Health and Community Workstream of the ECCP)	13 May 2022	Report to ESC OSC	Steve Bhowmick/Stuart Priestly/Environment and Climate Change Partnership	Members will receive information on work undertaken by DCC and partners (including the Environment and Climate Change Partnership) in responding to the ecological emergency. Members will also receive information on the Brightwater Landscape Project which is active in the county	Members will understand how DCC and partners are responding to the Ecological Emergency including consideration of appropriate projects taking place in the county such as the Brightwater Landscape Project



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 Council's approach can be improved	Members will have an understanding of DCC's plans relating to integrated transport management
<b>Performance/Budget</b>					

<b>Performance</b> 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
<b>Budget Outturn Report</b> Quarterly reporting -	Sept/Oct 2021 Jan 2022 March 2022 TBC	Report to ESC OSC	Phil Curran  (Resources)	Detail of budget	Summary information to Members
<b>Minutes</b>					
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