



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 13 May 2022**

Time **9.30 am**

Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

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

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2022 (Pages 3 - 12)
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Environment and Climate Change Partnership Progress Update
 - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 13 - 22)
 - b) Presentation by the Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Partnership (Pages 23 - 36)
7. Scope 3 Emissions
 - a) Joint report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change and the Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 37 - 40)
 - b) Presentation by: Principal Officer, Climate Change and Sustainability, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change; Procurement Manager, Resources and Head of Pensions, Resources (Pages 41 - 62)

8. 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
5 May 2022

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

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Monday 28 March 2022** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Coult (in the Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Elmer (Vice Chair), E Adam, P Atkinson, J Charlton, L Fenwick, G Hutchinson, B Kellett (for Councillor D Nicholls), I McLean, R Manchester, L Mavin (for Councillor L Brown), R Potts, J Purvis, J Quinn and S Townsend

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Holding

Also Present:

Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor B Moist and Co-opted Member, Mrs R Morris

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors L Brown, C Martin, D Nicholls and T Stubbs.

2 Substitute Members

Councillors B Kellett and L Mavin were in attendance for Councillors D Nicholls and L Brown respectively.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the Special meeting held on 13 December 2021, the meeting of 18 January 2022 and the Special meeting held on 14 February 2022 were confirmed as correct records 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 reported from Co-opted Members or interested parties.

6 Leisure Transformation

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth which set out the progress of the Leisure Transformation programme (for copy of report and presentation see file of minutes).

The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism attended the meeting to present the report and deliver the presentation. Providing background information, the Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism referred to reports previously considered by Cabinet which outlined the purpose of the plan and the proposals for the new build locations. The Committee noted that a briefing report had been circulated to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2021 which detailed the development of the leisure programme within the context of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2021, a further report was circulated setting out the plans for consultation relating to the first leisure conversation phase. The consultation, which took place between October 2021 and November 2021, captured the feedback from the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism referred to the expected benefits of the plan including the added social value and an increased level of physical activity with an emphasis on specific groups. In addition, the programme will support the council's overall plans and strategies including the climate emergency response plan and the carbon reduction target.

The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism then highlighted plans for cohort 1 which covers Abbey, Peterlee, Spennymoor and Teesdale leisure centres, with the plans at Spennymoor including the relocation of the library into the leisure centre. Proposed refurbishments planned for cohort 2, covering the Louisa Centre, Meadowfield, Newton Aycliffe and the Riverside, include an increased family offer including a Clip and Climb facility and a café at the Louisa Centre. Wellbeing suites planned for the Louisa Centre and Meadowfield will be designed to encourage those who are new to exercise or are recovering from injury. Newton Aycliffe, a relatively new centre, is planned to receive general maintenance improvements to the sauna, steam room and toilet facilities. The Committee heard that the service is working closely with partners including the football association and Park View Academy to develop the Riverside location into a county-wide sporting hub-site. Plans include the installation of two new 3G pitches, improvements to the athletics track and changes aimed at encouraging increased day-time use.

The Committee also received information on the proposals for refurbishments at Consett, Freemans Quay, Shildon and Wolsingham, which include the reinstatement of the swimming pool at Consett Leisure Centre.

The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism explained that the roadmap for delivery was subject to external influences and it was therefore a best estimate, with more exact timeframes for individual projects to be finalised later in the design process. In terms of consultation and engagement, the Committee noted the three stage process of consultation aimed to ensure comprehensive engagement. Explaining the activities to be delivered within the consultation and conversation stages, the Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism outlined the engagement process with the public, elected members, sports bodies, and key specialist groups including Durham County Council's Disabilities Forum, young people and older people.

The Committee was informed that the first cohort of conversations received a good response and feedback supported the projects to proceed as planned, with minor points to be considered within the design work. During the first conversation, social distancing measures remained in place and it was confirmed that the reach of the digital engagement had been good. However, it is hoped that going forward, there will be increased workshop attendance in the future.

The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism explained that the next steps will include the second cohort of leisure conversation and plans for the delivery of subsequent consultation stages. Designs for all schemes will be progressed and an evaluation of the budget position will take place. A further report will be presented to Cabinet setting out the options for Seaham Leisure Centre.

The Chair thanked the officer for the presentation and invited questions and comments.

Councillor Townsend referred to concerns raised by residents of Shildon that the scale of the work required to refurbish the leisure centre at Shildon may lead to a decision to close the centre and she asked whether a timescale was available for the plans for Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism responded that the position at Shildon will be clarified on completion of the site survey and an update will be provided on this together with an update in relation to the timeline for Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre to be provided as further information becomes available.

Councillor Moist spoke of the planned refurbishment of the Riverside and commented that whilst the residents of Chester-le-Street were aware of the conversations that had taken place with Park View Academy and the football association, they had raised concerns regarding the lack of conversation with the community and views had been expressed that the plans include little community use.

Residents had also commented that the tennis courts had been neglected and the athletics track, if it was to remain as six-lanes rather than eight-lanes, would be unsuitable to host competitions.

Councillor Moist requested that public consultation be carried out and further consideration be given to the plans for the tennis courts and athletics track. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism replied that the consultation in respect of the Riverside was imminent and will include consultation with elected members and the public. The plan to retain the athletics track as a six-lane track had been considered alongside the regional facilities and a six-lane track is considered by the athletics club as being sufficient for the level of racing which will take place at the Riverside. The plan for the tennis courts will be considered in phase two of the refurbishment, provided more funding is available and this will form part of the sports hub site, with an emphasis on improving community health and participation.

Councillor Moist expressed concerned at the lack of progress with the plans which were initially proposed in 2019 and he questioned whether the initial budget was achievable. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism spoke of the high level of cost confidence as the council had undertaken a highly comprehensive cost plan and applied contingency and risk to the schemes. In addition, she explained that the plans include a basic design for all facilities, however, the exact nature of each of the facilities will be subject to review as plans progress. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism acknowledged timescales were difficult to determine at this stage, with external factors such as supply chain and sub-contractor availability impacting on timescales.

Councillor Atkinson gave the view that smaller towns are often overlooked and added that those centres which had been transferred and are managed by communities such as the leisure centre at Ferryhill would very much welcome additional provision from Durham County Council. In response, the Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism stressed that provision in smaller communities is a vital part of the draft Physical Activity Strategic Delivery Framework ie the next report, which aims to be inclusive and takes a holistic approach.

In response to a question from Councillor Purvis as to whether further detail was available on the plans for the leisure centre at Seaham, the Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism informed the Committee that Cabinet will receive a report in the near future which will provide updated information on the Seaham site locations and the options available.

Mrs P Holding asked if the proposed refurbishment work at Abbey Leisure Centre would lead to a temporary closure of the facilities whilst the work is carried out. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism confirmed that closure periods will be minimised during refurbishment works.

Councillor Fenwick referred to the initiative to provide free swimming for children and asked whether there were any plans to extend this to other physical activities. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism stated that the free swimming initiative would continue, however, there were no plans, at this stage, to extend this to other activities.

Councillor Adam commented that the report outlined the council's prudent financial approach to the project and he expressed his concern with regard to the ongoing increasing costs. Councillor Adam also pointed out the further additional cost considerations of delivering a path to Net Zero and he questioned whether there was a risk that there will be no scope to fund the Net Zero improvements, should costs continue to increase. He commented that he hoped that the forthcoming Cabinet report will include information on the timescales for the delivery of the project and how the increasing costs will be funded. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism referred to public sector grants available which provided a level of confidence with regard to the cost of the work leading to Net Zero and she added that cost planning had been ongoing and the forthcoming Cabinet report will provide more detailed analysis of the budget.

Due to time constraints, Councillor Quinn agreed to submit a question by email.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That a further update on the progress of the programme is provided at a future meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7 Draft Physical Activity Strategic Delivery Framework

The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism presented a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth on the draft Physical Activity Strategic Delivery Framework (PASDF) for Durham County Council's Culture Sport and Tourism Service (for copy of report see file of minutes).

In presenting the report, the Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism referred to the health outcomes following the COVID-19 pandemic which had underlined the important role for a physical activity strategy to enable the people of County Durham to live long, healthy and independent lives. The Committee heard that the strategy is aligned to the public health led physical activity strategy and aims to work with internal and external partners to take a whole life approach to physical activity. She continued that input from the Committee was welcomed.

Mrs R Morris said it was pleasing to see that the strategy supports the wider council policies, however, she raised concerns that walkers, runners and cyclists are exposed to traffic related air pollution and she questioned how the different strategies would work together. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism explained that the work will link with highways and public rights of way teams and that whilst it was difficult to ensure strategies are aligned and joined up work is ongoing to address this.

Mr T Bolton referred to those living in rural areas who are not served well by public transport and rely on cars to access sports facilities and he asked if there were plans in place to improve transport links and encourage more use of public transport and cycle routes.

Mr T Bolton continued by explaining that as a member of the Local Access Forum which advises the council on recreation, he was aware of many small areas of land owned by the council which have public access. He suggested that, if the council dedicated those areas of land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, this would improve public access and he requested that this be taken into consideration. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism responded that public transport issues were being considered and she confirmed that access to footpaths, cycle shelters and public transport links were included in plans for the new build leisure centres. In addition, the strategy makes provision for physical activity closer to home and promotes all activities which contribute to a healthy life, including encouraging movement and activity in general, as well as sports and exercise within formal settings such as leisure centres.

Councillor Elmer expressed his support for the strategy which, he highlighted, is very much a cross-cutting council strategy with functions such as planning, rights of way, the provision of safe active transport and the prevention of anti-social behaviour all contributing to the health and wellbeing of residents in County Durham. He questioned whether one department can exert influence on all the services that are required to be engaged and contribute to such a strategy. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism replied that the service was leading the changes through the Leisure Transformation programme and will strive to engage with all services to promote the successful delivery of the strategy, which had been designed to link into the wider council policies including Net Zero, the climate emergency response plan and the low carbon strategy.

Councillor Moist referred to small local sports clubs, observing they are often reluctant to apply for funding from other organisations and asked if this could be taken into consideration. The Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism commented that these issues were being built into the framework in order that the strategy maximises the benefits for all. In response to a question from Councillor Moist regarding Chester-le-Street Cross Fit lease, the Head of Culture, Sport and Tourism confirmed that the service was aware of the issue.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That a further update report on the development of the framework is provided at a future meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8 Neighbourhoods and Climate Change - Quarter 3: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021/22

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided details of the forecast outturn budget for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget based on the position to the end of the third quarter of 2021/22 (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Presenting the report, the Finance Manager for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change reported a forecast cash limit underspend of £1.006 million against the revised budget of £109.255 million, with the outturn taking account of £5.6 million of COVID-19 related costs treated as outside of the cash limit. These include waste disposal costs, increased agency fees relating to staff absences and increased costs related to social distancing.

The Finance Manager highlighted the forecast cash limit reserve position was £1.9 million which will provide the service with some flexibility to deal with unbudgeted expenditure in the future. The outturn also took account of a contribution to and from reserves of £407,000 which will be used to fund future initiatives. The Committee noted the revised capital budget of £45.405 million, with expenditure during the first nine months amounting to £29.636 million. Key areas of spend during the period included highways and bridges and environmental and crematoria schemes.

Resolved:

That the report be noted

9 Quarter Three 2021/22, Performance Management Report

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which presented an overview of progress, in and to the end of quarter three, (October to December 2021), towards achieving the key outcomes of the Council's corporate performance framework and highlighted key messages to inform strategic priorities and work programmes (for copy of report see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager highlighted three key areas of performance within the quarter, namely tourism and the visitor economy, waste and highways.

Referring to tourism and the visitor economy, the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained the key performance indicators used for benchmarking, ie the number of visitors, the number of jobs in the visitor economy and the amount of revenue generated from the visitor economy had all reduced compared with previous years. The most recent survey by Visit County Durham reported an increase in enquiries and bookings, however future bookings remain below average. It is hoped this will improve as confidence grows following the pandemic. The Committee heard that recruitment and supply chain issues were being reported and some businesses were suffering from a lack of demand. One of the highlights during the quarter was the Lumiere event and a detailed analysis of its impact will be available for the year end performance report. The Committee noted that unforeseen issues related to the listed building had led to delays with the History Centre which will extend the completion date of October 2022.

Referring to performance relating to waste, it was noted that the volume of waste had increased, with the pandemic and the increase in housing stock being contributing factors. In addition, a smaller percentage of waste was being recycled and a larger percentage of contaminated recycling was reported. Members were previously advised of the costs of the penalties for the removal of contamination which was £188,000 for the ten months up to January 2022. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained that, if the situation remained constant, this would equate to approximately £226,000 to the end of the current financial year. Contamination continues to be tackled through enforcement action. The Committee noted that fly tipping had increased on pre-COVID levels however the council's rate of incidents of fly tipping was low compared with statistical neighbours. There was however a larger proportion of incidents which had required enforcement action.

Referring to highways, the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager informed the Committee that County Durham has a high percentage of unclassified roads requiring maintenance compared regionally and nationally. In February, the Council agreed to supplement the Local Transport Plan government grant with additional capital investment in the unclassified road network to bring this element of the network up to national average standards.

The Chair thanked the officer for the report and invited questions and comments.

Responding to a question from Councillor Potts regarding the cost of separating contaminated waste and the possibility of recycling that waste, the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager undertook to make enquiries with the waste team to confirm that waste is recycled when appropriate and he emphasised the importance of tackling the problem of contaminated waste at source, through education and enforcement.

Councillor Quinn thanked officers for the information relating to costs associated with contaminated recycling and he asked whether there had been a response to his question raised at the last meeting as to the level of contamination required for a full load of recycling to be classed as contaminated. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager responded that he would refer Councillor Quinn's question to the service for a response to be supplied.

Mr T Bolton referred to the council's Find and Fix programme and asked whether the programme could be extended, for example to Parish Councils. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager confirmed that the programme applied to council owned property however the service may wish to consider this opportunity to generate further income and he agreed to pass Mr Bolton's comments to the service.

Councillor Elmer referred to the increasing cost of living and asked the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager for his view as to how this was likely to impact on the tourism economy.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager replied that this may be beneficial, for example if people choose staycations instead of foreign holidays. He also highlighted the potential benefits to the tourism economy should Durham's City of Culture Bid be successful.

Council Elmer then spoke of the council's strategy of economic growth and referred to the costs associated with it, including the increased costs relating to housing, waste and roads. He raised a question as to whether council tax revenue generated would cover the additional costs of the growth strategy and suggested that the aim should be for economic stability rather than economic growth. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager responded that it was incumbent upon the council to take these factors into account, for example through measures to reduce vehicular traffic on highways. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager spoke of the importance of tackling the reasons for the increase in the amount of waste per household, which is a national issue.

Councillor Charlton asked whether contamination occurs in garden waste bins and referring to the green waste collected and it being sent to the Joint Stocks composting site, she asked what the compost is used for. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager clarified that no contamination of green waste had been identified in the performance indicators. He explained that compost is increasing in quality and the service is currently exploring whether compost can be recycled back to householders who are part of the garden waste collection service. Councillor Potts praised the Clean and Green service and commented that recycled compost had been used at Hamsterley.

Councillor Adam referred to paragraph 4 of the Performance Management report which noted the unforeseen works delay to the plans for the new History Centre and asked when further information will be available on the additional costs. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager responded that further information will be provided in due course.

Mrs P Holding raised concerns at the quantity of packaging being used by companies and whilst she acknowledged that some packaging may be recycled there is often confusion as to which plastics are recyclable. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager replied that in the future, it is expected that the Waste and Resources Strategy will impose standardisation and that all authorities will adopt a uniform approach.

The Chair referred to the proposal for stickers to be placed on recycling bins to clarify what can and cannot be placed in rubbish and recycling bins and reminded members to email comments to Victoria Burrell, Waste Strategy Team Manager by 1 April.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

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

13 May 2022



Environment & Climate Change Partnership Update

**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 the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ESC OSC) with background information in advance of a presentation from Jim Cokill, Director of Durham Wildlife Trust and Chair of the County Durham Environment & Climate Change Partnership (ECCP). The presentation will focus on the activity of the partnership over the past year and future plans.

A copy of the presentation is attached as appendix 2.

Executive summary

- 2 The ECCP have agreed a new ECCP Plan 2022-25, which includes a new fourth priority for the partnership:
 - (a) Increase cross thematic partnership collaboration with the Economic Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
- 3 The ECCP have been heavily involved in promoting the ECCP Climate Emergency agenda over the past year, linking to the UK hosting Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 in November 2021. The partnership has also supported a wide variety of projects through the three workstreams, examples of which are detailed in the presentation.

Recommendations

- 4 Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
 - a) note and comment upon the information provided within the report and presentation.

- b) include a further update from the Environment and Climate Change Partnership in its work programme for 2023/24.

Background

- 5 The new ECCP was established following a strategic governance review of the County Durham Partnership. The ECCP Executive Board was set up to manage the partnership, supported by three workstream strategic boards:
 - (a) Climate Emergency
 - (b) Ecological Emergency
 - (c) Place, Health and Community
- 6 The partnership agreed their strategic objectives for 2021/22:
 - (a) Address the climate emergency challenges as they apply to County Durham.
 - (b) Address the ecological emergency challenges as they apply to County Durham.
 - (c) Promote engagement and activity to improve environmental outcomes in communities across County Durham and promote sustainability, health and wellbeing across each workstream area.
- 7 The ESC OSC invited the Chair of the ECCP to discuss with members of the committee the priorities of the partnership, activity undertaken over the past year and what is planned for the future.

Current position

ECCP Executive Board

- 8 The ECCP Executive Board, as well as managing the workstreams, have been focusing on engagement activities through:
 - (a) County Durham Partnership Event: Environment and Climate Change – Our Local Response, 26th November 2021. Members of the ECCP provided knowledge and support for the event, including a key note speech from the EECPP Chair and delivering themed workshops.
 - (b) Durham Conference of the Parties (COP) 2021 – partners from the ECCP Climate Emergency workstream organised and delivered the event where over 70 delegates, including representatives from Durham County Council, Durham

University, businesses, and the NHS, gathered at Beamish Hall on Monday 1st November 2021 to sign a new climate change agreement.

- (c) Climate County Durham website – launched at the Durham COP; the website has information on what local residents, businesses, children and young people, and community groups can do to reduce their impact on the climate and the environment. It also providing individuals and Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with the opportunity to sign up to the new climate change pledge.
 - (d) 32nd County Durham Environment Awards – the 2021 Environment Awards received 48 entries submitted over 12 categories and the winning entries were announced via a live streamed online ceremony on Youtube at 7 p.m. on 13th May.
- 9 Following a review of the ECCP strategic objectives for 2022, at a meeting held on 8th March 2022, the Executive Board agreed the ECCP Plan 2022-25, which sets the strategic direction for the ECCP over the next three years. This includes the addition of a fourth strategic priority for the partnership:
- (a) Increase cross thematic partnership collaboration with the Economic Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).

A workshop was held on 28th April 2022 where members of the ECCP and the Economic Partnership met to discuss working together to address linked environmental and economic issues, and how these can influence the new Economic Strategy currently being developed. Plans are also in place to develop stronger links to the HWB over the coming year.

ECCP Climate Emergency Workstream

- 10 As well as launching the new County Durham Climate Change Agreement at Durham COP, the Climate Emergency workstream's main function has been the development of the countywide Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP2). A detailed report on the plan is scheduled to come to future ESC OSC meeting. The workstream have also been supporting a number of projects, including:
- (a) Try before you buy – electric vehicle (EV) loan scheme to give businesses the opportunity to try an EV van before committing to the purchase of one. ECEP Chair and delivering themed workshops.

- (b) EV charging points – various schemes have enabled over 100 charge posts to be installed thus far, more schemes ongoing and further funding to be applied for.
- (c) Peatland restoration in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB) – Continue programmed peatland restoration work, estimated at 1,162 hectares.
- (d) External wall insulation schemes – which have improved household energy efficiency at schemes in six towns and villages across the county.
- (e) Solar carports – we are working to develop an investment case to energise and bio-diversify large public car parks with solar PV carports and Green Infrastructure. This project is EUCF funded, and the feasibility study will be completed by September 2022.
- (f) Horden minewater project – partners have been working with representatives of the local community in Horden, the East Durham Trust and East Durham Business Services supported a scoping study into the minewater heat at Horden, that is currently being pumped to the surface and into the sea, to see if it could be used as a renewable heat source.
- (g) Climate County Durham website and the new Climate County Durham branding – support the development of the website mentioned above and the new branding used to promote the climate emergency message. Members of ESC OSC can visit the website at ClimateCountyDurham.org.uk

11 Future projects that will be supported by the Climate Emergency workstream include:

- (a) Homeowners retrofit loan pilot – a loan scheme to help residents with the cost of energy efficiency measures.
- (b) County Durham Summer COP events – following on from the successful Durham CoP event in November a new programme of events is being arranged for July 2022.
- (c) Business Energy Efficiency Project 3 (BEEP) – following on from the Nationally recognized BEEP project, the partnership is looking at ways to extend the project when European Regional Development Fund funding finishes in March 2023.
- (d) Explore ways to enable on street charging – working alongside Oxford County Council to extend a trial they are undertaking to Durham County.

- (e) Local Area Energy Plan – a long term project to inform, shape and enable key aspects of the transition to a net zero carbon energy system.

ECCP Ecological Emergency Workstream

- 12 The Ecological Emergency (EE) Workstream Strategic Board has set up two subgroups, whose role is to further the development of the two components of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS): the statement of biodiversity priorities, and the mapping of our biological resource and the opportunities for creating or improving habitat for nature.
- 13 The first of these sub-groups is the Statement of Priorities Subgroup which met in December 2021. The group discussed the broad outline of the statement of priorities document and agreed the use of Natural Character Areas as a starting point to describe the region. The EE Strategic Board agreed that their aim will be to co-ordinate strategic action to reverse the decline in biodiversity across County Durham.
- 14 The Mapping Subgroup met in January 2022 and updated the sources of local data that we would need to deliver the mapping, this included gaining permissions to use specific datasets and providing datasets to the Environmental Records Centre North East England (ERIC).
- 15 Progress within the Subgroups is constrained by the lack of guidance from DEFRA on the final shape and form of a LNRS. The Subgroups and the wider EE Strategic Board continue to develop ideas, collate data and share learning where possible while waiting from DEFRA.
- 16 The EE Strategic Board have previously agreed that their aim will be to co-ordinate strategic action to reverse the decline in biodiversity across County Durham and that the priority areas of work for the workstream are:
 - (a) Raise of the local profile of the ecological emergency and to promote collaborative action to reverse the decline in habitats and species. This aim continues to be promoted with members of the EE Strategic Board presenting to Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Information on the ecological declines in County Durham and the work been done to reverse the declines was presented to Councillors on the 13th December 2021. Members of the EE Strategic Board also presented at the County Durham Partnership event on Environment and Climate Change held on the 26th November 2021.

- (b) Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for County Durham and begin the process of identifying our biodiversity priorities and associated actions. Two subgroups have been established and have met to discuss the statement of priorities and mapping for the LNRS. The wider EE Strategic Board continues to meet to discuss the LNRS process and support the subgroups.
- (c) Help drive more coordinated, practical, focussed action and investment to help nature and people flourish together, whilst delivering wider nature-based environmental benefits. Durham County Council has agreed to fund a Local Nature Recovery Officer whose role will be to co-ordinate the delivery of the LNRS and help drive focussed action across the County.

ECCP Place, Health and Community Workstream

- 17 The Place, Health and Community (PHC) workstream continues to engage a wide cross section of place and community based partners in quarterly sessions to pursue its goals as agreed 12 months previously. Projects supported include:
- (a) The Glasgow Food declaration – the partnership has promoted the Glasgow Food Declaration with the aim of persuading DCC to sign and commit to developing and implementing integrated food policies and strategies, reducing greenhouse gases from urban and regional food systems. Calling on national governments to establish enabling policy frameworks and multi-level governance mechanisms.
 - (b) Local Heritage Listing – the development of a countywide list of non-designated heritage assets (NDHAs) that the council is piloting for a national register for Historic England with a view to these being afforded greater statutory protection. To date, an initial trawl of 167 buildings/site reviews have been undertaken for a total number of 1534 DCC assets. The group agreed these were important community assets that could be promoted and supported through its membership network and has committed to participating in the next stages including participation in a community forum, identifying nominations from the community as a legacy of the pilot phase. The Information is currently being finalised and updated with report to DCMS in September and publication of local lists for the pilot areas.
 - (c) A Tree Per Child – a tree planting project with schools, which aims to see 20,000 of the county’s children plant at least one tree in the next 4 years. To date 1500 children from over a dozen schools have had the experience of either planting trees

in their own school grounds or at one of the council's new woodland sites.

- (d) County Durham Environment Awards – took a lead on the 32nd Environment Awards mentioned above.
 - (e) Brightwater – made possible by £2.6M of National Lottery funds, Brightwater is a £3.2 million project to preserve and enhance riverside habitats and historic sites across the catchment of the River Skerne over a four year timeframe. Managed by the Bright Water Landscape Partnership, the area extends over 200 square km of lowland in County Durham and Darlington, focusing on the River Skerne from Hurworth Burn reservoir in East Durham to South Park in Darlington.
 - (f) Community Food – the Food Durham partnership, part of the Sustainable Food Places Network, has achieved Bronze Food Places status and is working to achieve silver by August 2023. Focused on growing and procurement they are also involved in promoting the Veg Cities, Sugar Smart and Fish City campaigns. The partnership has been involved in a food resilience project targeting those accessing emergency food provision and advising on the potential of growing food using mine water heat in Horden.
- 18 Future work for the PHC workstream will be leading on the work to develop links with the other thematic partnerships e.g., working with the Economic Partnership to consider the potential for helping achieve wider objectives for community-based outcomes for the draft economic strategy and those in the towns and villages regeneration plans and the city of culture bid. There is work commencing on understanding how partner assets can help influence and contribute to these through a short survey. It asks where our reach would best be felt and what assets could we bring to the agenda.

Conclusions

- 19 The ECCP have had a busy first year, particularly given it coincided with the UK hosting COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. The partnership has been heavily involved in raising the profile of the Climate Emergency and embedding this message within communities across the county will be a challenge moving forward, and the successful delivery of CERP2 will be vital to this. There will also be the challenge of developing the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy over the coming years, and the ECCP will have an important role to play not only in its development but also in the strategy delivery long term. To support the CERP2 and the LNRS the ECCP will need to ensure these

agendas are integrated into the work of the Economic Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the adoption of a new strategic priority linked to improving thematic partnership collaboration will support this aim.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Authors

- Steve Bhowmick Tel: 03000 267122
- Glenn Robinson Tel: 03000 265442

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Climate Change

Climate change is a key area identified in this report.

Human Rights

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

Disability Issues

Not applicable

Appendix 2: Environment & Climate Change Partnership Presentation

See separate PowerPoint document.

County Durham Environment & Climate Change Partnership

Jim Cokill – Director Durham Wildlife Trust and Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Partnership



Better for everyone



Engagement, Promotion and Collaboration

- County Durham Partnership Event – Environment & Climate Change, Our Local Response
- Durham COP 2021
- Climate County Durham website
- 32nd County Durham Environment Awards
- Economic Partnership Links



Climate
County
Durham

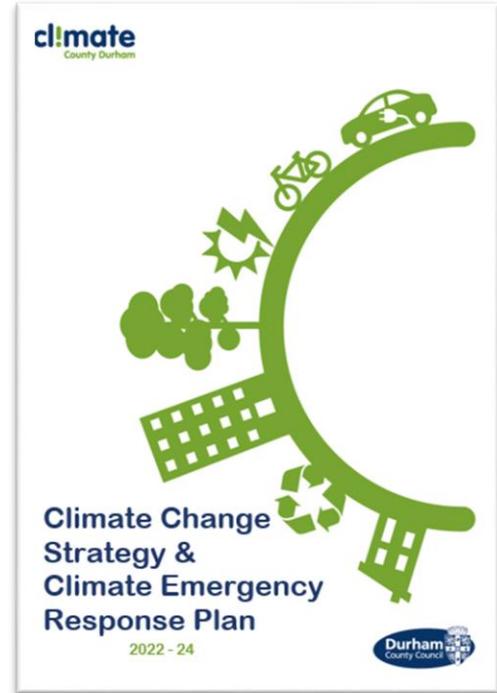
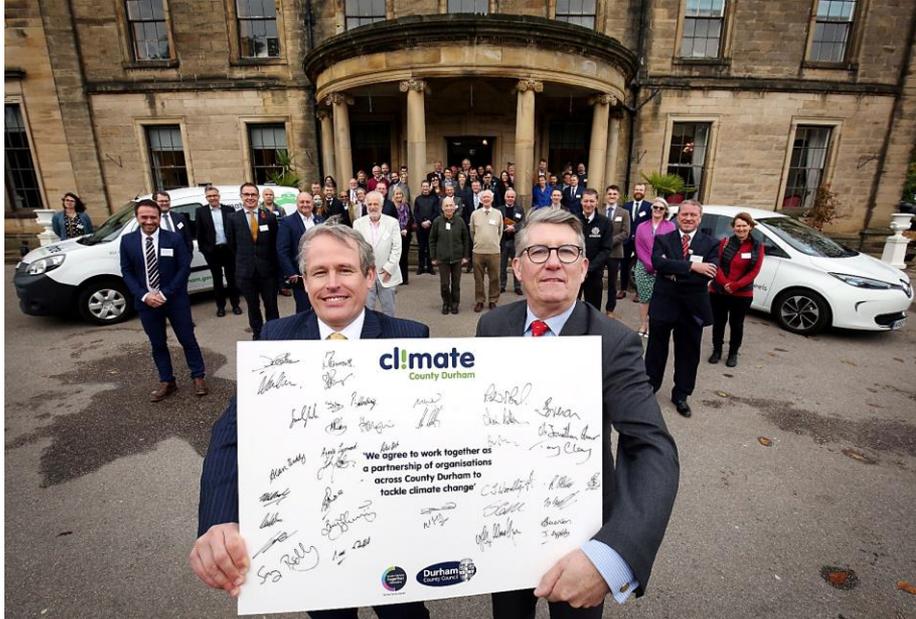
Sign the Climate Change and Carbon Reduction pledge at:

www.climatecountydurham.org.uk



Better for everyone

Climate Emergency



Climate Emergency Projects (selected)

- 2021/22 Countywide Projects
- Electric Van – Try before you Buy
- EV Charge Points
- Peatland restoration in the AONB
- External Wall insulation schemes in Chilton
- Solar Carports
- Horden Minewater Branding, Website and Communications



Climate Emergency Future Projects

Countywide Projects

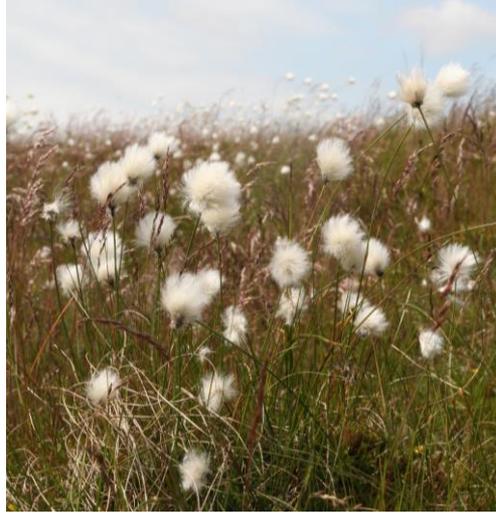
- Homeowners retrofit loan pilot
- County Durham Summer CoP events
- Development of Business Energy Efficiency Project version 3
- Exploration of ways to enable on street charging alongside Oxford CC
- Local Area Energy Plan



Ecological Emergency

Priority Areas

1. Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for County Durham
 - Statement of Biodiversity Priorities
 - Local Habitat Mapping
2. Raise the local profile of the Ecological Emergency
3. Help drive a more coordinated, practical, focused action to deliver nature based environmental benefits



Statement of Biodiversity Priorities

- Broad description of the LNRS area.
- Use National Character Areas (NCA) to define characteristic landscapes in County Durham.
- Identification of key habitats and species within the 6 NCA.
- Identification of threats to nature recovery.
- Identification of opportunities and actions to promote nature recovery.



Local Habitat Mapping

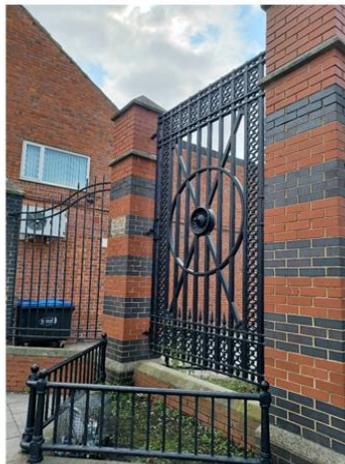
- Created from national and local datasets
- Maps important habitats across the LNRS area e.g. Priority habitats and designated sites.
- Identifies habitat network areas where we need to take opportunities to restore and create new habitats helping to create a joined up sustainable network



Place, Health and Communities

Projects (selected)

- Glasgow Food Declaration
- Local Heritage Listing
- A Tree per Child
- 32nd County Durham Environment Awards
- Brightwater Landscape Scale Project
- Community Food



Tree Per Child; school planting project

- 3 year planting programme involving over 10,500 pupils from 70 schools
- Planting across all 14 AAPs
- Identifying sites ranging from school grounds to related local planting schemes, with engagement of partners.
- Working with environment Expert team from DCC Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists, OASES, appointed leads.
- (Illustration shows staff with pupils at Moorside Primary School, Consett)



Food Durham – Progress to Date



- Developed a County Durham Food Charter in 2013
- Established the Partnership in 2014 through DCA
- Its part of the national Sustainable Food Places Network
- Its achieved Bronze Food Places status and is now working towards silver by August 2023.
- Sub groups have focused on Growing and Procurement
- Plus Veg Cities, Sugar Smart & Fish City Campaigns and the Community Good Food Network
- Recent projects included a Food Resilience Project targeting those accessing emergency food provision and potential of growing using mine water heat in Horden



<https://fooddurham.net/>



Food Durham – Moving Forward

- Food Durham transferred from Durham Community Action to OASES in late 2021. Will be appointing a new Coordinator
- Applying for Lottery Funding to expand the capacity
- North-East Sustainable Food Alliance project with Middlesbrough and Newcastle Food Partnerships and FADNE
- Applied (in April) to develop a Dynamic Procurement Hub in the region with Middlesbrough and Newcastle with [DPUK](#)
- Sustainable Local Food is so important for both Climate and Biodiversity plans and targets. Food and Land Chapter included in CERP2.



Questions or comments



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

13 May 2022

Scope Three Emissions



**Joint Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of
Neighbourhoods and Climate Change and Paul Darby, Corporate
Director of Resources**

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 (ESC OSC) with background detail as to why Scope Three Emissions are to be considered by the committee prior to a presentation by colleagues for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change and Resources Service Groupings.

Executive summary

- 2 Following consideration of the Climate Emergency Response Plan at its meeting on 8 October and questions raised at previous meetings of the committee when considering the quarterly performance reports, members of ESC OSC requested further information in relation to DCC's third party emissions (Scope Three Emissions).
- 3 In accordance with that request arrangements were made for the: Principal Officer, Climate Change and Sustainability; Chief Procurement Officer and Head of Pensions to attend a meeting of the committee to provide members with some detail as to the actions currently taken by DCC in relation to third party emissions together with detail of any future plans.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 5 During previous meetings of the ESC OSC, when considering the quarterly performance reports, members have raised the issue of third party emissions and whether they were included in the percentage reduction in CO₂ emission figures provided to committee on a quarterly basis.
- 6 This issue was again raised by members at the meeting of the committee on the 8 October 2021, when members of the ESCOSC considered a report on the Climate Emergency Response Plan and asked for more information relating to third party emissions, in relation to Pensions, Procurement and Investments. In answer to the question members were informed that arrangements would be made for information to be presented to a future meeting of the committee.
- 7 Arrangements have been made for Stephen McDonald, Principal Officer, Climate Change and Sustainability, Richard Carroll, Procurement Manager and Paul Cooper, Head of Pensions to be in attendance at the meeting to provide a presentation covering Scope Three Emissions, these are emissions that are the result of activities from assets not owned or controlled by Durham County Council.
- 8 The power point presentation slides will cover the following areas:

DCC Scope Three Emissions

- What contributes to emissions
- Where next?

Procurement impact on Scope Three Emissions

- What are we doing now?
- What can we do further?
- Next steps

Pensions

- Context

- Border to Coast Shareholders
- Fiduciary Duty (Context)
- Border to coast – Managing Climate Risk
- Supporting Climate Opportunities
- Looking Ahead – Taskforce on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

Conclusion

- 9 Members of the ESC OSC will be aware of the actions taken by Durham County Council in relation to third party/Scope Three Emissions and will have had the opportunity to comment and ask questions with the option of a further update to be included in their work programme for 2022/23.

Background papers

- None

Contact:	Ann Whitton	03000 268143
	Diane Close	03000 268141

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Scope Three Emissions are emissions that are the result of activities from assets not owned or controlled by Durham County Council.

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

Scope 3 Emissions

Stephen McDonald
Principal Officer – Low
Carbon Team



CERP Progress Update

Contents

What contributes to emissions?

Scope 1

Scope 2

Scope 3

Where next?



Scope 1

Scope 1 is direct emissions, which means any emissions that come as a direct result of us burning a fuel such as oil, gas, or petrol

Source of Emissions	2008/09 (baseline year)	2020/21 (last year)
Scope 1 (direct emissions)		
Solid Fuel (wood pellets)	0	7
Liquid fuels	515	40
Gaseous fuels	34,345	7,245
Vehicle fleet and plant	11,259	9,409
Scope 1 total	46,119	16,700



Scope 2

Scope 2 is indirect emissions, which here just refers to the emissions produced when our electricity was generated in a power station.

Scope 2 (indirect emissions)	2008/09 (baseline year)	2020/21 (last year)
Purchased electricity (Grid)	51,065	7,696
Scope 2 total	51,065	7,696



Scope 3

Scope 3 is emissions from areas where we can't have full control. Scope 3 includes business travel, as we can not control the type of vehicle our staff choose to use.

Scope 3 (emissions outside of DCC's control)	2008/09 (baseline year)	2020/21 (last year)
Business Travel	3,830	499
Solid Fuel (wood pellets)	0	2
Liquid fuels	0	605
Gaseous fuels	23	12,275
Purchased electricity (Grid)	334	5,414
Electricity Distribution	3,996	1,127
Scope 3 total	8,183	19,922



SCOPE 3 – Where Next?

Investors in the Environment

- Work to measure, monitor and reduce the Council's environmental impacts

Awareness Raising

- More and better recycling and composting from Council properties
- Staff commuting



Durham County Council



Procurement impact on Scope 3 emissions

Richard Carroll
Procurement Manager



Agenda



- **What we are doing now?**
 - Request for Carbon Reduction Plans from Suppliers
 - TOMS Assessment – Environmental Measures
 - Identifying Key Category's & Improving specification content
- **What can we do further?**
 - Work with Key Suppliers on innovative solutions
 - Baseline current key Contracts
 - Encourage early engagement of key projects with LCT
- **Next Steps...**



What are we doing now? - Carbon Reduction Plans



- Procurement Policy Note 06/21: Taking account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0621-taking-account-of-carbon-reduction-plans-in-the-procurement-of-major-government-contracts>

- Currently optional for Local Government (mandatory for Central)
- DCC have adopted this as part of a mandatory requirement when appropriate
- Contracts over 5m per annum

Section 6.3	Carbon Reduction Plans	Response
	I / We confirm that the organisation have suitable systems in place to measure our carbon footprint and have in place a commitment to Net Zero target on carbon emissions for 2050.	Yes No



TOMS Assessment – Social Value impact



- New County Durham Pound ‘Durham TOMs 22’ (Themes, Outcomes & Measures)
- Environment: Decarbonising and Safeguarding our World Section
 - Savings in CO2 emissions on contract achieved through de-carbonisation (specify how these are to be achieved)
 - No. car miles saved on the project as a result of a green transport programme or equivalent (e.g. cycle to work programmes, public transport or car pooling programmes, etc.)
 - No. car miles driven using low or no emission staff vehicles included on project as a result of a green transport programme
 - Hard-to-recycle waste diverted from landfill or incineration through specific recycling partnerships (e.g. Terracycle or equivalent)

Environment: Decarbonising and Safeguarding our World	Carbon emissions are reduced	CDF28	NT31	Savings in CO2 emissions on contract achieved through de-carbonisation (specify how these are to be achieved)	tCO2e
	Air pollution is reduced	CDF29	NT32	No. car miles saved on the project as a result of a green transport programme or equivalent (e.g. cycle to work programmes, public transport or car pooling programmes, etc.)	miles saved
		CDF30	NT33	No. car miles driven using low or no emission staff vehicles included on project as a result of a green transport programme	miles driven
	Resource efficiency and circular economy solutions are promoted	CDF31	NT72	Hard-to-recycle waste diverted from landfill or incineration through specific recycling partnerships (e.g. Terracycle or equivalent)	tonnes

Identifying Key Category's & Improving Specification content & Sourcing Local



- Under our Category Management set-up we can identify key Category areas which can have a high impact on Scope 3 emissions:
 - Waste
 - Food
 - Construction
- Use specifications to reduce energy use, (costs), and identify performance requirements across the supply chain to be tracked, monitored and reported.
- Identify appropriate procurement approaches to support the Local agenda and utilise the benefits of the County Durham Pound to create & increase Local opportunities.
- Utilise the TOMs matrix to improve the local supply chain support on Major Projects.



What can we do further? – Innovative Solutions



- Identify key Contract Partners (through Supplier Relationship Management) who have innovative solutions to reduce emissions and carbon impact:

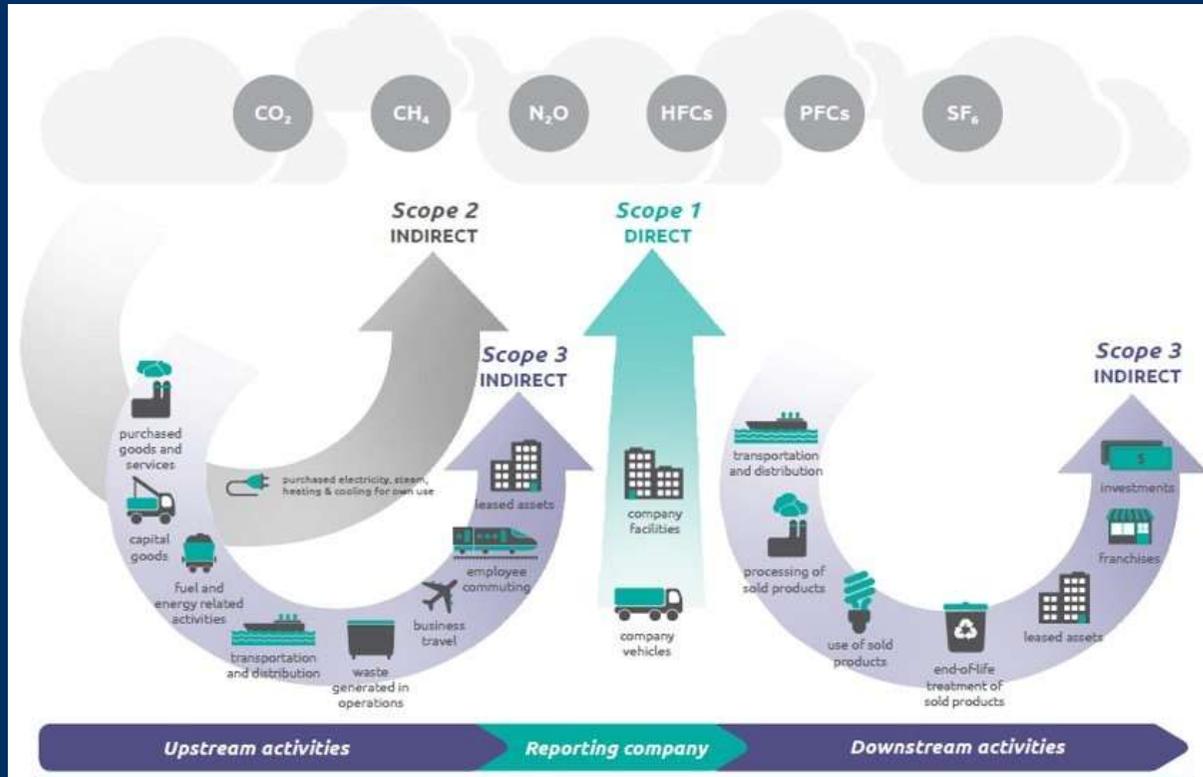
Case Study:

- Surface Dressing Contractor – Rainton Construction *part of MGL*.
- Long term partner delivering multi-million pound annual programme.
- Identified that lowering the temperature of the ground conditions during the road surfacing procedure resulted in a decrease of around 30% of fuel usage and subsequent emissions.
- Highway Services continue to work with partners on innovative solutions through strong SRM approaches trialling new techniques such as re-used plastic through our contract arrangements.



Baseline current key Contracts/Early involvement of LCT

D²⁰₂₅
UK City of Culture Bid



Identify baseline of key contracts will allow us to generate specific reduction targets in any re-procurement exercises

LCT to encourage early consideration as part of specification development, building design and contract performance in Project planning.

IF THESE AREAS ARE NOT CONSIDERED PRIOR TO ENGAGING PROCUREMENT IT'S NORMALLY **TOO LATE**



Next Steps

Work with LCT on
planned Pipeline
Procurement process
identifying op's

Continue Key Supplier
engagement &
innovation processes

Encourage baseline
mapping of key
Contract Scope 3's

Utilise Social Value to
improve localised
delivery

Use Procurement
processes to
challenge the supply
base



Durham County Council Pension Fund Climate Risk & Emissions

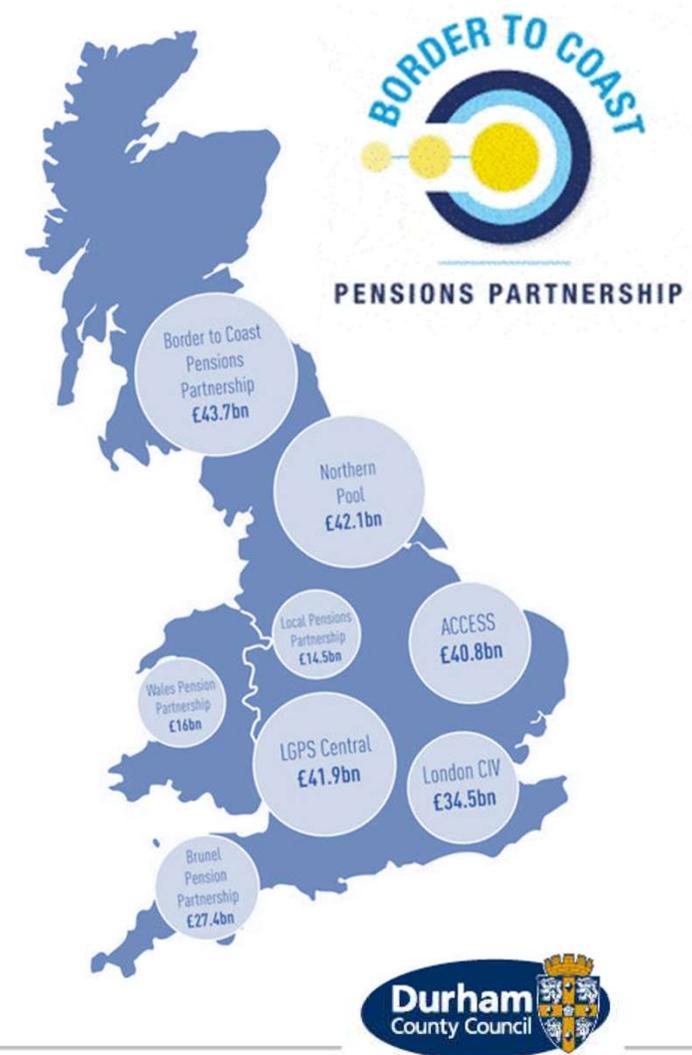
Paul Cooper, Head of Pensions



Context - Asset Pooling

All Local Government Pension Funds in England and Wales required to pool assets.

- 79 individual funds across the country to consolidate assets into 'pools'
- Aim of improving investment opportunities and reducing costs
- Durham formed 'BCPP' with 10 other equal shareholders
- £40bn+ of assets to be under BCPP management, transition process ongoing
- FCA Regulated entity, with Authorised Contractual Scheme ('ACS') at its core – a regulated, UK tax transparent fund for institutional investors



Border to Coast Shareholders



CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL



DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL



EAST RIDING PENSION FUND



BEDFORDSHIRE PENSION FUND



LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSION AUTHORITY



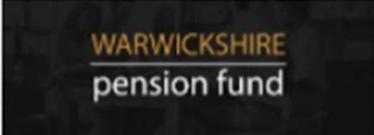
SURREY PENSION FUND



TEESSIDE PENSION FUND



TYNE AND WEAR PENSION FUND



WARWICKSHIRE PENSION FUND



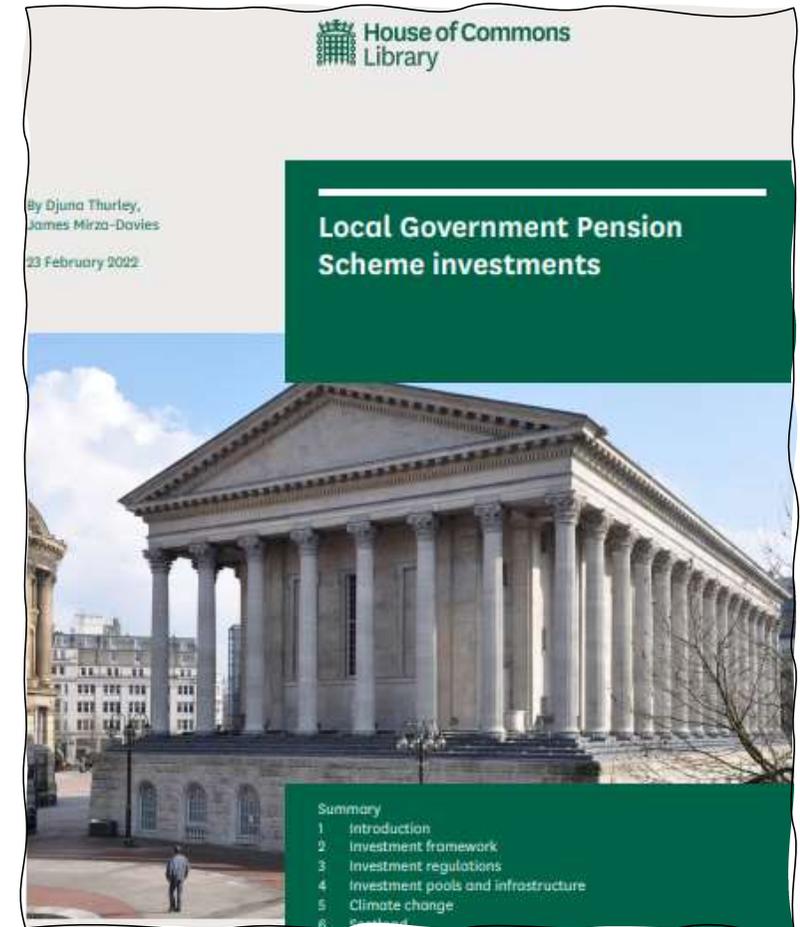
BORDER TO COAST JOINT COMMITTEE



Context - Fiduciary Duty

The Pension Fund has a duty to act in the best interests of scheme members. Whilst considering ESG factors, the Fund must not risk material financial detriment.

- *R (on the application of Palestine Solidarity Campaign Ltd and another) (Appellants) v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Respondent)* established that LGPS Funds are **not** public money
- In managing an LGPS fund, the administering authority has both fiduciary duties and public law duties
- Investment powers must be directed to achieving what is the best for the financial position of the fund
- An LGPS Fund may be influenced by wider ESG issues so long as that does not risk material financial detriment and the administering authority may not prefer its own interests to those of other scheme employers
- The administering authority cannot impose its view on scheme employers nor can scheme employers impose their view on the administering authority if either resulted in a material risk to the return to and/or a suitable balance of assets in the fund



Border to Coast - Managing Climate Risk

Responsible Investment, Climate Change and Voting Policies

- Net Zero commitment
- 2050, or sooner

Quarterly Carbon reporting to Pension Fund Committee

- Carbon Intensity
- Benchmark comparison

Engagement approach, rather than blanket divestment, however exclusions of:

- Tar Sands
- Pure Coal

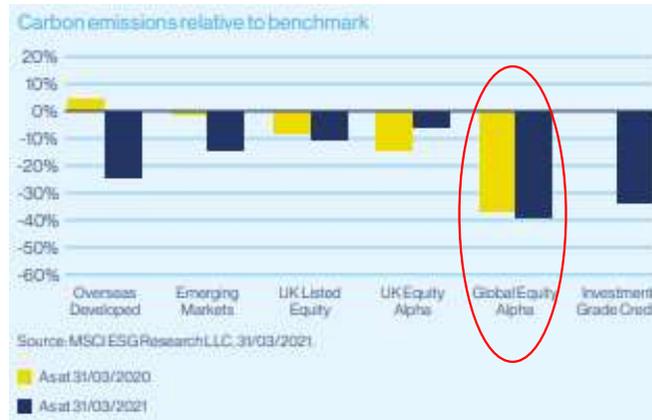
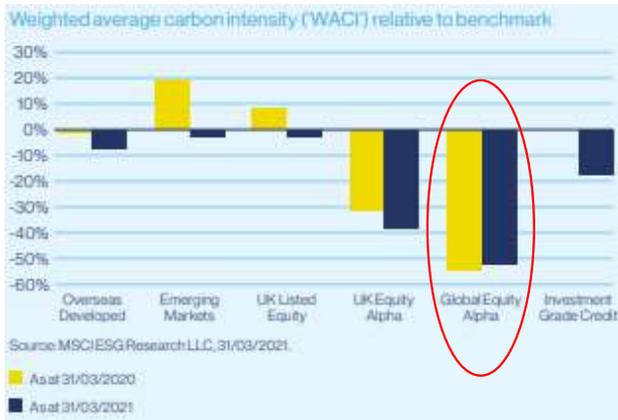
Engagement with Royal Dutch Shell plc (listed equity)

Reason for engagement: Reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050 is vital to halt climate change and avoid irreversible consequences. Climate change poses systemic risks to the global economy and financial system and companies play a key role in mitigating these risks. At the same time, companies can reap the opportunities that arise from the transition and mitigation.

Objectives: To improve and enhance transparency on long-term climate planning in alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Scope and process: A lengthy engagement with Shell has featured regular conversations with key decision makers, including the CEO, chair, and the other independent board members. Extensive engagement was undertaken by investors from Climate Action 100+, led by Robeco and the Church of England Pensions Board, along with other platforms including the Dutch investors group Eumedion and the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change.

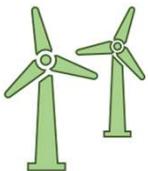
Outcome: In 2020, engagement led to an upgraded climate ambition to become a net zero energy business by 2050. The plans provided more insight into levers under the company's control to achieve this and commitment to continued transparency on progress. Following ongoing dialogues, in early 2021, Shell was the first company in its sector to announce a "Say on Climate" proposal at its AGM.



Supporting Climate Opportunities

In March the Pension Fund Committee committed **£70m** to support the launch of a Climate Opportunities Fund through Border to Coast

- Target 8% investment return
- Global exposure with European (inc. UK) and North American focus
- Invests into opportunities focused on reducing carbon emissions and supporting the transition to a low carbon economy



Looking Ahead - TCFD

- Taskforce on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (**TCFD**)
- LGPS Consultation on TCFD expected Summer 2022
- Expected requirement for scenario analysis, and
- Measurement against three metrics

“Disclose Scope 1, Scope 2 and, if appropriate, Scope 3 greenhouse (‘GHG’) emissions, and the related risks”



Any Questions?