



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

**Date**      **Wednesday 24 July 2024**  
**Time**      **9.30 am**  
**Venue**     **Committee Room 2, 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 for Absence
- 2 Substitute Members
- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2024 (Pages 3 - 14)
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items from Co-opted Members and Interested Parties
- 6 Strategic Overview and Update of Resources and Waste Management Services in County Durham
  - i) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 15 - 20)
  - ii) Presentation by the Strategic Waste Manager (Pages 21 - 46)
- 7 Quarter Four, 2023/24 Performance Management Report - Report of the Chief Executive (Pages 47 - 102)
- 8 Refresh of the Work Programme 2024/25 for Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 103 - 128)

- 9 Minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Partnership Executive Board (Pages 129 - 138)
- 10 Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

**Helen Bradley**  
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall  
Durham  
16 July 2024

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

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

Councillors M Abley, E Adam, P Atkinson, L Brown, R Crute, C Kay,  
C Lines, B McAloon, I McLean, D Nicholls, D Oliver, J Purvis, A Reed,  
P Sexton, A Simpson, T Stubbs, D Sutton-Lloyd, S Townsend and R Yorke

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**Contact: Jill Hogg**

**Tel: 03000 269711**

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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 **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Friday 10 May 2024** at **9.30 am**

**Present:**

**Councillor B Coult (in the Chair)**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors J Elmer (Vice Chair), E Adam, R Crute, B McAloon, I MacLean, J Purvis, A Reed, A Simpson, T Stubbs, D Sutton-Lloyd and C Varty

**1 Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Councillors P Atkinson, D Nicholls, S Townsend and Co-opted Member, Mr P Walton.

**2 Substitute Members**

Councillor C Varty attended as substitute for Councillor D Nicholls.

**3 Minutes**

The minutes of Special joint meeting held on the 4 March 2024 and the meeting held on 25 March 2024 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

**4 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

**5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested parties**

No items were reported from Co-opted Members or interested parties.

## **6 Environment and Climate Change Partnership – Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which provided an update on the activity of the Environment and Climate Change Partnership (ECCP) over the year (for copy of report and presentation see file of minutes).

Jim Cokill, Director of Durham Wildlife Trust and Chair of the County Durham ECCP was welcomed to the meeting to deliver the presentation. The Chair of the ECCP noted the ECCP's vision for a 'better County Durham: sustainable communities, resilient to climate change, richer in nature'. The Executive Board of the ECCP had developed three workstreams to support the vision, namely, Climate Emergency, Ecological Emergency and Place, Health and Community. During the year, the work of the Climate Emergency workstream had focused on the delivery of the countywide Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP3) through projects including supporting the Food for the Planet project; the Horden Minewater project; developing action on scope 3 emissions and increasing the number of EV charge points in Durham. Over the forthcoming year, the Climate Emergency workstream will act as a governance group for CERP3 and it will continue to develop the countywide elements of CERP3.

The Committee heard how work in respect of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy included the production of Durham's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), with the aim being, to meet the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) deadline of March 2025. In the year ahead, work will focus on establishing sub-groups; providing workshops for landowners and farmers; the introduction of the Statement of Priorities and consideration of the responses from the recent consultation.

The Chair of the ECCP commented that the Place, Health and Community workstream played a supporting role, aiming to add value to the other workstreams by influencing people's behaviour in respect of environmental priorities. Over the year, there had been engagement with public health on community based projects, for example, on the healthy weight initiative and the Local Heritage Listings Update.

Members heard that the ECCP Executive Board held an emergency summit in March 2024 which brought together environmental and community leaders across County Durham to collaborate on the agenda for the coming year. Three key areas were identified; to improve communication with an emphasis on counteracting misinformation; to increase funding to invest in solutions and to ensure that environmental issues will be a significant part of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority's agenda.

The Chair, Councillor Coult, spoke of how honoured and inspired she had been to be part of the judging panel for the recent Environment Awards, organised by the Environment and Climate Change Partnership.

The Chair explained that the awards recognise the work towards caring for the natural environment through innovation, design and volunteering across the county's communities and businesses. Steve Bhowmick, Environment and Design Manager, presented some highlights from the awards ceremony and commented on how the awards aim to be inclusive, in order to harness greater community action and promote positive behaviours towards the environment. He encouraged members to promote the awards through their networks and he added that communications will be sent to all members regarding next year's event, in due course.

The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation and invited comments and questions from the Committee.

Councillor Crute welcomed the initiatives of the ECCP, however he stated his concerns regarding the availability of future funding for delivery of ECCP actions and he asked how the work of the ECCP will link with the North East Mayoral Combined Authority's environment agenda. The Chair of the ECCP highlighted that Durham County Council was part of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority's Environment, Coastal and Rural workstream which has a coordination role, in addition to providing a voice in respect of central government funding. Principal Ecologist, Stuart Priestley, commented that local authorities who are engaged in projects which have a high value in terms of biodiversity net gain, will be best placed to succeed in future funding opportunities. The Principal Ecologist referred to a recent meeting with Defra (the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs) which focused on funding for delivery of the LNRS and he clarified that Durham County Council was working towards the government's March 2025 deadline for the production of the LNRS. He continued that there is a need to look at funding post development and commented on opportunities such as biodiversity net gain.

Councillor Stubbs asked if Durham were to achieve the March 2025 deadline for the development of the LNRS, whether that would place Durham in a better position than those authorities who failed to meet the deadline. The Principal Ecologist responded it was unlikely to provide Durham with an advantage, as, if the decision were taken to make funding for the delivery of the LNRS available, the funding would be available throughout the country.

Councillor Sutton-Lloyd referred to the key areas identified at the ECCP's emergency summit, one of which was to improve communication and counteract misinformation and he asked what misinformation was being communicated. The Chair of the ECCP responded that there had been recent organised social media campaigns denying climate change, therefore action was being taken to prevent the public from being misled.

Councillor Elmer referred to a recent report of the British Ecological Society which examined the success of biodiversity offsetting and found that it required a regulatory environment and he drew parallels with carbon offsetting, which, in his view, had not resulted in a substantial net loss in carbon emissions. Councillor Elmer stated his concern was that without a robust regulatory environment in place, the same situation would happen in respect of biodiversity net gain. The Principal Ecologist highlighted that safeguards were in place through the Environment Act 2003 which required that significant increases from on-site pre-development biodiversity value were required to be secured for at least 30 years. In addition, step-in rights were built into contracts.

Councillor Adam referred to the Environment Awards and he asked whether initiatives judged as outstanding were rolled-out to the wider community. The Environment and Design manager confirmed that the aim was to encourage ideas to be replicated throughout the county. Councillor Adam then asked how success was measured. The Environment and Design Manager commented that, at present limited resources meant that it was not possible to review all entries, however, previous winners had been followed-up and had been encouraged to re-enter when their activities had expanded, for example Recyke y'bike.

Councillor Lines welcomed the new categories in the Environment Awards which include the active outdoors and he spoke of the value of encouraging people to modify their existing hobbies to incorporate activities to benefit the natural environment, such as the 'Sedgefield Ploggers'. Councillor Lines explained the Sedgefield Ploggers running group participants pick up litter whilst jogging. The running was carried out at a sociable pace, to encourage people of all abilities and ages to join in. The Environment and Design Manager agreed that initiatives which combined exercise, a sense of community and care for the natural environment can greatly improve mental health and wellbeing.

Councillor Kay commented that he had hoped to gain funding to start a similar organisation to Recyke Y Bike in the south of the county but this had not come to fruition and he added that he would welcome support to develop this in the future, should the opportunity become available.

**Resolved:**

Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Noted and commented upon the information provided within the report and presentation.
- b) Included a further update from the Environment and Climate Change Partnership in its work programme for 2024//25.

## 7 Management of DCC Land for Biodiversity

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which provided an update on progress of the Parks and Countryside Team together with colleagues in the Clean and Green Team, in managing nature reserves and other green spaces across Durham County Council owned land (for copy of report and presentation see file of minutes).

Prior to the presentation, the Chair referred to the recent visit to Hardwick Park at which members learned of the various approaches being used to increase biodiversity on the site. In addition, members received information on how the park had been developed to allow specific areas to grow wild, to encourage further habitats. At the time of the visit, several groups of school children were also visiting the park and were enjoying participating in planned activities. The team was thanked for hosting the informative visit and for providing members with the opportunity to see for themselves the hard work being undertaken and the plans for the future, despite the difficult financial circumstances for parks across the county. Darryl Cox, Principal Parks and Countryside Ranger, thanked members for their attendance and their feedback on the visit.

The Principal Parks and Countryside Ranger introduced the presentation by describing the Parks and Countryside estate, which consisted of 63 sites, two major destination parks and 80 miles of railway path network. The Principal Parks and Countryside Ranger explained that the sites had five year management plans, with long term projects. The Committee noted additional medium term financial plan investment in respect of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan (EEAP) had enabled increased capacity to secure external funding for the benefit of biodiversity and additional staff, including two countryside rangers and three temporary programme staff.

Lindsay Archer, Parks and Countryside Development Manager, provided information on outdoor learning events. She highlighted that a Volunteer Coordinator had been in post for approximately 18 months and this had increased the number of volunteers and site management and programming throughout the county. There had also been development in corporate volunteering and school engagement, which was at its highest level, with school children visiting the destination parks and participating in activities which support the curriculum and incorporate environmental based sessions. Work continued to support the LNRS consultation process, through school visits. Community engagement had been boosted by growth bids enabled by the additional resources and the Community Engagement Coordinator targeted specific areas to engage the community, change behaviour and promote positive biodiversity messages. In addition, a strong guided walks programme was offered, to support health and wellbeing and there was also support for 'Friends' groups at Wharton Park, Hardwick Park and Witton Dene.

The Parks and Countryside Development Manager commented that additional resources had provided increased capacity to develop the service which had led to more success in external funding bids as well as facilitating future planning for development projects.

The Principal Parks and Countryside Ranger then outlined the challenges and opportunities for the future, which included the potential loss of temporary staff, budget pressures which will impact upon development ability and the current cost of living crisis leading to loss of income. Opportunities included the progress of CERP3, the EEAP and the LNRS.

Geoff Knight, Technical and Service Development Manager informed the Committee that a number of parks were amenity parks, which were not managed by the Countryside Team and were the remit of Clean and Green. These parks provided a public health benefit to communities.

The Technical and Service Development Manager updated the Committee that following consultation with elected members, eight pilot sites had been selected for a biodiverse approach to management and the strategy for these open spaces will dovetail with the LNRS and biodiversity net gain strategies.

The Sub-Committee noted that Glyphosate remains in use as no viable alternative was available, however a trial in which herbicide spraying on green spaces to allow natural species to grow around trees and hedges had resulted in no complaints and the trial had been extended for a further year, to fully understand its effectiveness.

Concluding his presentation the Technical and Service Development Manager corrected an error in his previous presentation to the Committee by clarifying that verge maintenance is carried out twice per year.

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

Councillor MacLean, local member for Horden division, referred to plans to create woodland on the former colliery site at Horden which had been part of the unsuccessful Levelling-Up bid. He questioned why the tree planting had not gone ahead, as he understood that the plans and finance were in place at the time. The Principal Parks and Countryside Ranger agreed to speak to Councillor MacLean after the meeting, to follow-up the matter.

Councillor Lines, local member for Sedgefield division, thanked the team for the amount of activity being undertaken and he commented on the importance of improving access to encourage the public to use parks and countryside, which may encourage more people to volunteer and to consider active travel in the future.



Councillor Lines gave an example of a partnership project in Sedgefield between members and Hardwick Park, which provided a path linking Sedgefield to Hardwick Park, bypassing the busy road. He added that a Heritage 100 route now follows the path.

Councillor Sutton-Lloyd remarked that he was unaware of some of the initiatives such as Branch Out and the Species Survival Fund, and he suggested there was more work to be done to increase the reach of communications. He added that community groups and AAPs (Area Action Partnerships) would welcome presentations from the team on the work being undertaken. The Principal Parks and Countryside Ranger explained that engagement work had taken place over the years with community groups and AAPs however, the work was resource intensive and the success of engagement work largely depended upon public interest at the time. He clarified the Branch Out scheme was a partnership scheme with Northumbrian Water and the Species Survival Fund was a partnership with the National Trust, to access Defra funding to support the creation and restoration of wildlife rich habitats.

Councillor Brown referred to the use of Glyphosate and referred to issues she had raised in respect of poor application of herbicides, asking whether operatives were trained. The Technical and Service Development Manager confirmed operatives were trained to a high standard, however there had been issues with faulty equipment and he agreed to look into the issues raised by Councillor Brown, at the conclusion of the meeting.

Councillor Adam thanked officers for the presentation and for their contribution to the development of the CERP and the LNRS. He referred to one of the challenges identified being the potential loss of temporary staff and he asked the officers to explain to the Committee why the temporary staff should be retained. The Principal Parks and Countryside Ranger outlined the benefits of the staff, including the increase of school and volunteer engagements and that the additional staff had enabled the team to visit some of the harder to reach areas of the county. The staff also added value in the work to improve infrastructure, engage with communities and to identify issues in the wider environment as well as providing the flexibility to be reactive and make the best use of resources. He highlighted that the staff had done a great amount of work in a relatively short time which had made a significant contribution to the overall aims of the team.

Councillor Adam requested that, in light of the comments from the Principal Parks and Countryside Ranger, the Committee should consider an additional recommendation, to request that Cabinet consider the retention of the temporary members of staff.

Councillor Elmer, local member for Brandon division, spoke of two urban parks in his division, both of which had wildflower meadows and he raised concern regarding the maintenance regime in previous years, which resulted in clippings being left on the sites. The Technical and Service Development Manager responded that financial constraints and a lack of equipment were factors and he agreed to take the comments back to the service. Councillor Elmer then spoke of the ceasing of grass cutting which had occurred in some areas of the county and it had been met with positivity. He pointed out that the challenge lay in public perceptions and he referred to a study by Durham University to research public perceptions of grass cutting and he hoped the study would reveal a positive public attitude to the change.

**Resolved:**

Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Noted that continued effective management of nature reserves, other countryside sites, and green spaces across Durham County Council is contributing significantly to biodiversity protection and gain.
- b) Noted the progress made in delivering the linked objectives of the Parks and Countryside Service and Durham County Council's Ecological Emergency and Climate Emergency reports.
- c) Recognised the progress that has been made in the development of links between the Parks and Countryside Service and the delivery of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the county. More work is needed in this area as the LNRS develops but Services remain committed to supporting the effective development of this strategy and aiding its delivery.
- d) Recognised that although a significant level of work has been undertaken and is continuing, longer term risk is present due to the temporary nature of the additional staff resource provided in 2022/23. Resource requirement beyond the 2024-25 financial year needs consideration to ensure the protection of biodiversity management and community buy-in for the future.
- e) As per (d) above, whilst there is a plan to determine the condition of LWS held within the Countryside Estate, there is no additional resource available to carry out any of the work that may be deemed necessary to either return the sites to good condition, nor maintain current condition.

The Committee agreed the following additional recommendation:

- f) That the Chair of this committee write to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change highlighting the significant benefits which have been delivered by the three temporary posts and ask that consideration be given to extending the contracts of the three temporary staff to allow for the continuation of vital engagement activity and support currently provided to the Parks and Countryside Team.

## **8 Update on the Review of Allotments**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which provided an update on progress of the implementation of improvements to the Council's allotment portfolio presented by Mark Farren, Neighbourhood Protection Enforcement Manager (for copy of report and presentation see file of minutes).

The Neighbourhood Protection Enforcement Manager introduced the presentation by recapping on progress thus far. The Committee noted, in January 2020, the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee reported the findings of its review of the service to Cabinet. Concerns were expressed by a number of tenants and, in November 2022, a report to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee provided a response to the Scrutiny recommendations for delivery, recognising the concerns expressed. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to reconfirm the previous policy recommendations resulting in updated policy and tenancy agreements and noted that safeguards would be included in the new policy and tenancy agreements. The Committee also noted that allotments held by higher tier authorities should transfer to lower tier authorities set up after 2009 and the impact of recent investments in allotments.

The Committee heard that the Council managed allotments through direct letting and through Allotment Associations. The Neighbourhood Protection Enforcement Manager outlined the progress of the policy and tenancy agreements in relation to direct let sites and associations and he explained the tenancy policy had not been implemented at non-allotment sites, pending a review of the sites and at various sites in Stanley, which were due to transfer to Stanley Town Council. Information was provided on the progress of transfers to Town and Parish Councils.

Details were provided of the investment for improvements in sites to be made and the small grant scheme for associations as well as the work undertaken to improve direct let sites. Referring to the transition rules, the Neighbourhood Protection Enforcement Manager informed the Committee that tenants were given 18 months' notice of the changes and he acknowledged that there were challenges with regard to the transition rules, particularly in relation to allotments which were not used as allotments, as well as in relation to vehicles, dogs, horses and large animals.

The Neighbourhood Protection Enforcement Manager spoke of the Committee's recommendation that the establishment of allotment associations should be encouraged where appropriate. The Committee noted that allotment associations collected rent, managed sites, had greater autonomy and benefited from local understanding. However, good governance and financial management were key to success and the Council had provided a template to assist associations, to calculate rent which should increase periodically to account for site maintenance in the future.

In terms of forming new associations, the view was that a new association required approximately 50 plots, which would provide the number of volunteers required to run the site. Only two of the remaining direct let sites had more than 50 plots.

Analysis of rents showed Durham County Council rents were currently between £52 and £62 per year for direct let sites, which generated £57k income, however, the costs of running the service were significantly higher. The average direct let plots cost £288 per plot per year to provide and the cost of association plots was £68 per plot, due to associations carrying out their own maintenance, however the Council did not receive rent from association plots.

The Neighbourhood Protection Enforcement Manager outlined future work included a policy review in relation to bonfires and a review of provision, which was planned to take place within the next 18-24 months. Whilst local authorities had a duty to provide allotments, some sites had long waiting lists and the average waiting time for a plot was six years, however waiting times for some of the more popular plots were up to 24 years.

The Chair thanked the officer for the detailed presentation and welcomed questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor Reed commented that even small increases in rent may have a large impact on allotment holders and she asked for more information on the Council's approval process for financial plans submitted by allotment associations. The Neighbourhood Protection Enforcement Manager explained that associations entering into agreements with the Council must submit a financial plan and the Council reserved the right to cancel the agreement if it was not satisfied that the plan was viable. In addition, liaison visits were made to association sites to discuss improvements required and the Council had the power to terminate agreements. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager, Ian Hault, acknowledged that the new policy was a culture change and the requirement for financial plans to be submitted was to assist associations to understand the costs of running a site and to project future costs.

Councillor Adam spoke of the lengthy transition period of five years for large animals to be prohibited on allotment plots. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager highlighted that progress was being made, with the historic agreements naturally phasing out and new tenants were bound by the new agreements.

Councillor Adam asked if data were available as to whether plots which are returned to the Council are reallocated straight away as that would suggest that the increase in rent was not a disincentive. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager replied that there was a high demand for sites which are returned to traditional allotments.

Councillor Adam raised the issue of those people who run small businesses from their allotments and therefore pay only allotment rents and what action the Council was taking to address the issue. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager agreed to follow-up the comment.

Responding to a question from Councillor Adam as to who was responsible for removing rubbish when a plot was vacated, the Neighbourhood Protection Enforcement Manager clarified that the tenancy agreement stated that the tenant must return their plot in the same, or better, condition. This process required records to be maintained which had been carried out on direct let sites and associations had also been advised to maintain records.

Councillor Elmer commented that he was aware that the National Planning Policy Framework gave instructions to Councils to ensure allotments were considered in terms of green space provision associated with bulk housing applications. However, he had knowledge of only one bulk housing provider who had made allotment provision available and he urged the Council to encourage bulk developers to make allotments available. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager agreed to follow-up Councillor Elmer's comments after the meeting.

**Resolved:**

The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report and presentation and commented accordingly.

## **9 Such Other Business**

The Chair reminded Members that a Special joint meeting with Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on 6 June at 9.30am to consider Regional and Local Transport.

Two visits were to be held. The first visit, on 4 June will visit Morrison Busty and on 17 June, there will be a visit to the Heritage Coast. Emails had been sent to members for expressions of interest, prior to arranging transport. All members were encouraged to attend both visits, if possible.

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



**24 July 2024**

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

**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 update to some of the key areas of their recently expressed interest:
  - Waste tonnages and levels of recycling within County Durham, regionally and nationally,
  - What we are doing to reduce contamination within kerbside recycling,
  - An update on various campaigns including Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and vapes;
  - Environment Act, Resource and Waste Strategy, Simpler Recycling;
  - An update on the Tees Valley Energy from Waste project.

**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 A presentation will be provided by the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Directorate outlining the Council’s 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 provide a strategic overview and update to that provided in October 2022 to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The presentation will highlight the background to the waste management service provide by the council, update on work undertaken within the past year in relation to the Strategic Waste Management Service with particular reference to waste contracts, waste and recycling trends and how contamination levels within kerbside recycling are being tackled and update on the potential statutory requirement for food waste collection signalled in the Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018.

(Appendix 2 attached provides the Waste Management PowerPoint presentation which will be delivered by the Neighbourhoods & Climate Change Directorate.)

## **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, 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 The presentation provided 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 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**

- 11 The council's reuse, recycling and composting performance was 37.1% (2022/23). Contamination levels found within kerbside recycling have fell by 3% in 2023/24 down to the lowest contamination level post the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 12 The waste management service operates robustly and the next decade will bring further challenges. The next decade will be guided by the Resources and Waste Strategy for England, and the Government's recently announced Simpler Recycling policies which include mandatory food waste collections and adapted 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.
- 13 In addition to this, locally for County Durham, a range of waste contracts have been 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

- 14 The Council follows the principles of the waste hierarchy which offer the lowest cost and most sustainable solutions to waste management.

## Background papers

Waste Management Overview Report, Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, October 2022

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**

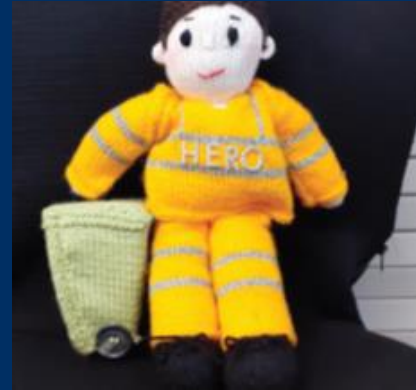
An outline of contracts and new procurement will be provided in the presentation.

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# Resources & Waste Management in County Durham

## A Strategic Overview & Update

Neighbourhoods and Climate Change  
24<sup>th</sup> July, 2024



**This is your recycling bin**

<p><b>Yes please</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper and cardboard</li> <li>Cartons, cans, aerosols and foil</li> <li>Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles</li> <li>Recycle glass bottles and jars in your kerbside box</li> </ul> <p><b>Recycling Bin</b></p>	<p><b>No thanks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black bags</li> <li>Food waste</li> <li>Pizza boxes</li> <li>Pet waste</li> <li>Nappies</li> <li>Batteries</li> <li>Bedding/textiles</li> <li>Polystyrene</li> <li>Electrical items</li> <li>Crisp packets</li> <li>Plastic bags/ready meal film</li> </ul>
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✓ Clean, dry and loose    ✓ Thank you for recycling

For more information about reuse and recycling visit:  
[www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere](http://www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere) and [www.durham.gov.uk/reducereuseandrecycle](http://www.durham.gov.uk/reducereuseandrecycle)



**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!

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

Recycling is a closed loop. All materials are recycled and used to produce a new product. The products are then used for another product. This means that the materials are used over and over again.

Recycle glass bottles and jars in your kerbside box

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

**Recycling Matters**  
Where do the things you recycle end up?

Here, here and here!



# Presentation Outline



- Big picture to County Durham
- Performance update
- Reduction and reuse
- Recycling and composting
- Waste treatment
- Legislation update – Simpler Recycling
- Now and the next decade



# Big Picture: A Circular Economy



# Big picture: County Durham Operations

## Resources & Contracts

- More than 300 frontline and office staff
- 86 Front line refuse & recycling vehicles
- 12 Household Waste Recycling Centres and 1 mobile HWRC at Frosterley (DCC owned Martins contract)
- 4 Waste Transfer Stations
- 1 composting facility
- Energy from Waste (EFW) contract with Suez
- Material Recycling Facility (MRF) with BIFFA
- Haulage contract (Suez / Hargreaves)

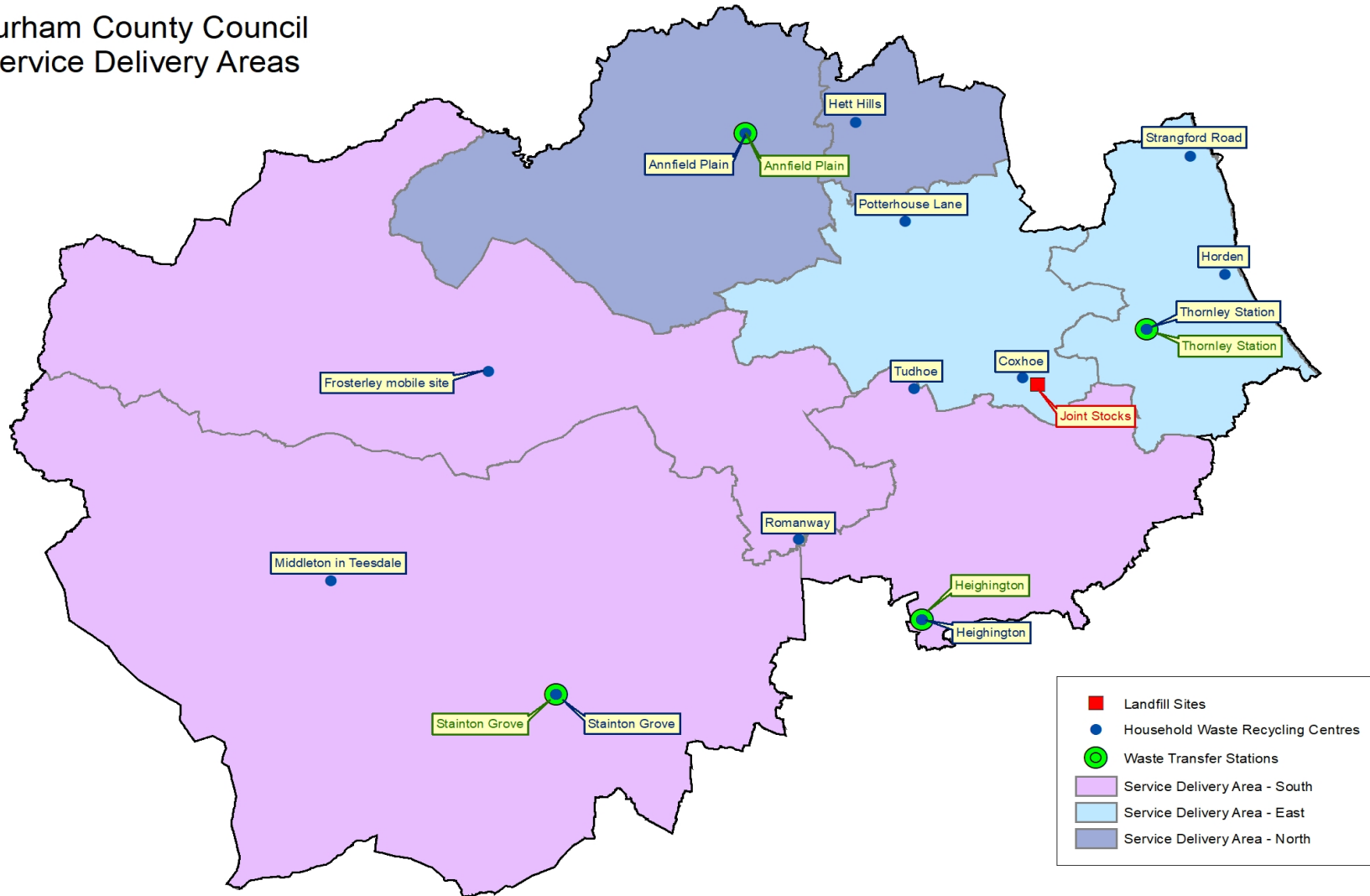


## Productivity

- 2022/23, County Durham households generated 251,114 tonnes of household waste
- 37.1 % reuse, recycling and composting (2022/23)
- 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 68,000 garden waste subscriptions.



# Durham County Council Service Delivery Areas



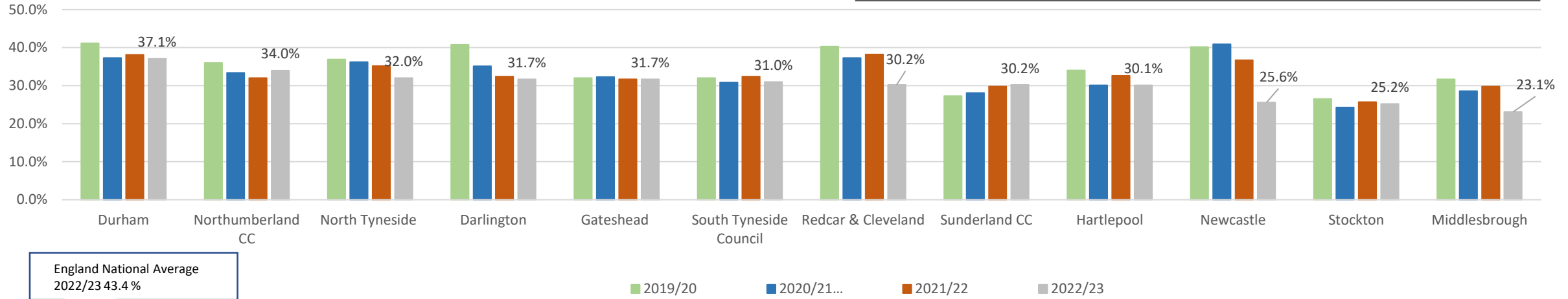
# Performance Update (& Covid-19 Impacts)

	2019/20	2020/21 (COVID)	% Change	2021/22	% Change	2022/23	% Change
Household Re-use, Recycling & Composting Rate	41.2%	37.3%	-3.90%	38.1%	+0.80%	37.1%	-1%
*Municipal Waste sent to Landfill	2.2%	8.2%	+6.0%	10.6%	+2.4%	9.6%	-1%
*Municipal Waste (tonnes)	252,017	266,698	+5.8%	272,484	+2.16%	252,114	-7.5%
Kerbside Residual Waste (tonnes)	108,950	122,657	+13%	119,265	-2.77%	113,337	-5%
Kerbside Garden Waste Collections (tonnes)	15,399	16,574	+7.6%	17,368	+4.80%	14,882	-14%
Kerbside Recycling Collections (tonnes)	45,729	50,668	+10.8%	49,039	-3.21%	45,640	-7%

\*Municipal Waste includes household and business waste

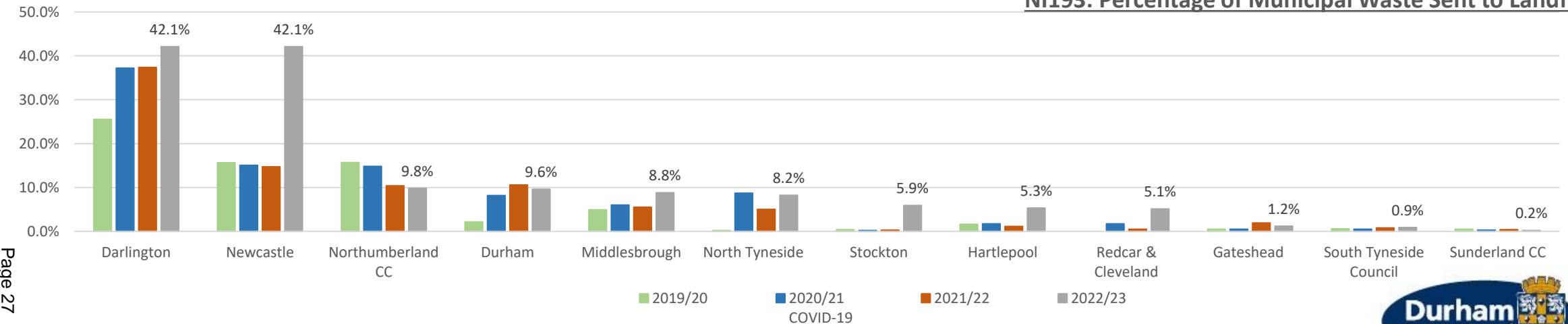
# NE Performance

**NI192: Percentage HH waste sent for Reuse, Recycling & Composting**



**\*Reuse, recycling and composting rate in England**  
**2019/20 – 45.5%, 2020/21 – 41.4% , 2021/22 – 44.1%, 2022/23 – 43.4%**

**NI193: Percentage of Municipal Waste Sent to Landfill**



# Waste Reduction Campaigns

## Love Food Hate Waste



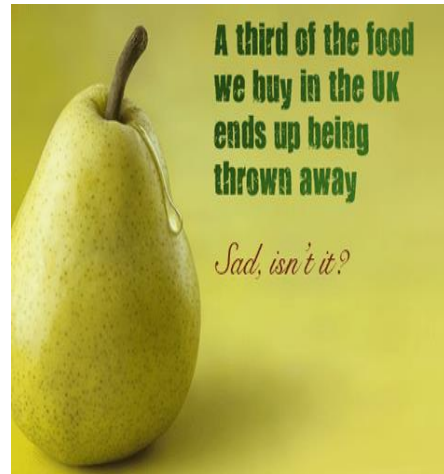
## Smart Shopping



## Junk Mail



## Real Nappies



## Single Use Plastics



## Home Composting



## Christmas

Home > Residents > Rubbish & Recycling > Reduce, Reuse, Recycle > Reduce your waste at Christmas and Recycle

### Reduce your waste at Christmas and Recycle

Below are our top Christmas recycling tips to help you reduce your impact on the environment as well as your waste. Find out what to do with old batteries, Christmas trees and wrapping paper. Over the festive period, 33% more glass bottles and jars, food and drink cans, paper and cardboard will be thrown away.

#### Christmas shopping

- Take reusable shopping bags or carrier bags with you.
- Buy gifts made from recycled materials or with minimal packaging.
- Use wrapping paper and cards which can be recycled. Plain card and envelopes, glass or aluminium can be recycled if in an airtight paper, remember this scratch test: if it scratches, it can be recycled. Remove sticky tape and decorations before recycling. Foil wrapping paper cannot be recycled.
- If you're buying electrical goods, check if the retailer has a 'take back' service to recycle anything which you may be replacing.
- Buy from green business for electrical goods and toys.
- Get rid of packaging and wrapping paper altogether.
  - Cut it up after using gift tags and to use as an animal.
  - Cut it up gift recipients - eg festive table, drop out when leaving.
  - Burn it as Christmas card.
  - Use a reusable gift bag.

#### Christmas trees

- Use an artificial tree.
- If you purchase a real tree, source it from a sustainable grower and make sure it has FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification.
- Recycle via most of household waste recycling centres.

#### Festive food

- Plan your Christmas meals ahead.
- Use a shopping list and sort out your freezer before going to your food shop.

# Single Use Plastic Project Update

- Significant progress reducing SUPs across County Durham pre pandemic, picking momentum back up.
- Dedicated task group established (internal & external partners). Meet quarterly.
- Dedicated action plan.
- Website content available [www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics](http://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics)
- Bespoke pledge over 300 individuals, organisations and community groups across County Durham signed up.
- National and local publicity and awards!
- Sharing best practice (internally and externally) on catering alternatives, procurement, waste management, Education, Leisure Services, communications etc.
- National legislation is helping the agenda!



# Encouraging Reuse

### Green Move Out



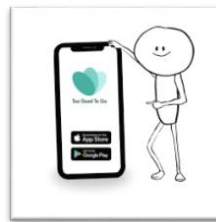
### Furniture reuse schemes



### Re-Usable Containers



### Water Refill Scheme



### Community Fridge and Food Apps

### Stainton Grove Reuse Shop



### Plastic Roads

# Recycling - 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; Cartons, cans, aerosols and foil; Paper and cardboard.
- Recycling Box:** Glass bottles and jars.

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!

**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!



### 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.

03000 36 0000  
[wasteware@durham.gov.uk](mailto:wasteware@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



### Recycling Matters

Where do the things you recycle end up?



## 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 Volpak, AO.com and County Durham Furniture Help Scheme



# 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.



# Countywide Contamination Campaigns

- Social media activity (Facebook, Twitter).
- Updated website content. Dedicated videos.
- Produced a dedicated video showing 'what goes where' & Plastic Matters (externally funded £100k)
- Local press.
- Further community engagement activity – door knocking, educational visits, roadshows (please contact the Waste Strategy Team to get booked in! – contact [wasteaware@durham.gov.uk](mailto:wasteaware@durham.gov.uk))
- Carried out 7,715 educational visits to properties with contaminated recycling bins across 2023/2024
- Contamination levels fell by 3% in 2023/24, down to the lowest contamination level DCC has had post Covid-19 pandemic (32.8%).
- Delivering more awareness messaging and communications during 2023/2024.



# Waste Electronic & Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Project

- WEEE Project has received further external funding for 2024 (100K).
- Allows DCC access to Material Focus advertising & comms including HypnoCat.
- Now involves 158 WEEE collection points and 52 vape collection points spread across the county.
- The project has collected and recycled 43,650Kg of small electricals to date alongside 300Kg of vapes (which only launched in autumn 2023).
- WEEE scheme continues to grow and collected 5,250Kg more electricals in 23/24 (17,960Kg) than in 22/23 (12,710Kg).
- Won a National Recycling Award in 2022.
- Shortlisted at 2024 MJ Awards.



HUMANS OF COUNTY DURHAM

## Don't bin them, recycle your old electricals

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled and turned into something new. Gather up your electricals and drop them off at your local recycling point. Visit [www.durham.gov.uk/weee](http://www.durham.gov.uk/weee) to find your local drop-off points. Don't forget to enter the monthly recycling competition once you've recycled, to win a prize from AO!

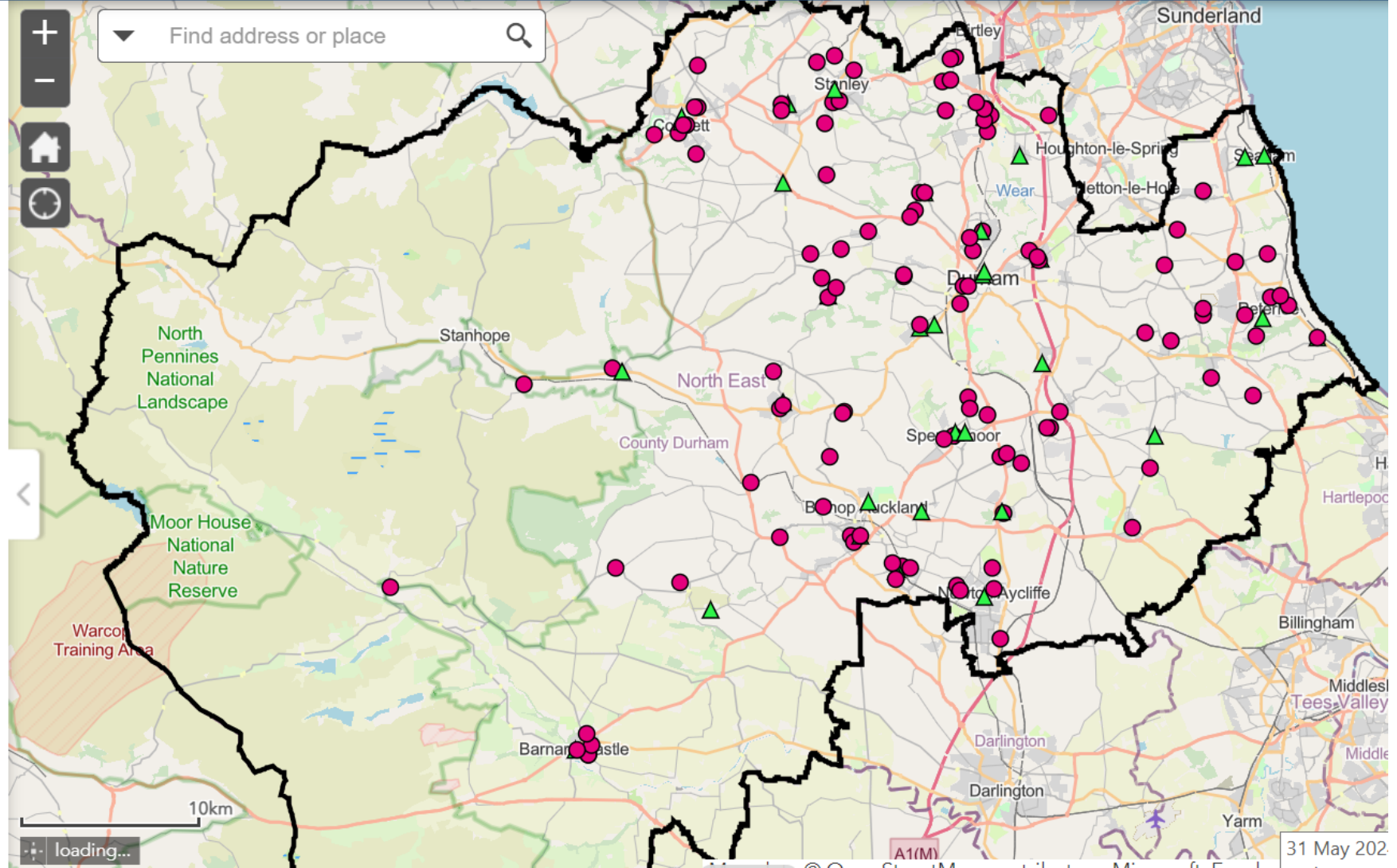
recycle your electricals

Together with Durham County Council

## Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Recycling Collection Points

- WEEE Recycling only
- WEEE Recycling with E-cigarette collection

County Durham Boundary



# Repair Café

- The WEEE Project also runs a repair café in collaboration with County Durham Furniture Help Scheme.
- DCC's touring repair café has hosted 44 events repairing 431 items, saving the equivalent of 10,344 Kg of CO2 emissions.
- This has expanded into offering PAT test training to increase social value and enable volunteers to set up their own repair cafés.
- DCC now supports 3 permanent volunteer led Repair Cafes in County Durham and is in talks to set up two more.

## Permanent Repair Cafés

There are several volunteer run repair cafés in County Durham. Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they are all about fixing things together. Visitors bring their broken items from home, then together with 'fixers' they make their repairs in the Repair Café. It's a fantastic way to help the environment, prevent waste, save money and learn new skills. Current Permanent Repair Cafés in County Durham are:

- Friendly Fixers Repair Café - Fishburn Youth and Community Centre (TS21 4ED) - First Saturday of the month from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
- Seaham Repair Café - St John's Church Hall, Seaham (SR7 7SA) - Second Saturday of the month from 12.00pm to 4.00pm
- Merryoaks Repair Cafe - Merryoaks Community Hall, Park House Road, Durham, (DH1 3QF)- generally occurs every table top sale- contact the venue to for more information.



# Single Use Vapes

- Single Use Vapes consist of brittle plastic, a Lithium Ion Battery and a Nicotine reservoir.
- The WEEE regulations were laid in 2013, when vapes were in their infancy. This has led to vapes falling through the cracks, very few producers have designed them to be recyclable or offered takeback scheme as they are legally obliged to.
- The majority of WEEE is shredded when recycled to separate waste types, however the Lithium Ion battery present inside vapes is very volatile and is a fire risk when placed in the general waste stream. There has been a surge in waste fires related to vapes.
- In January 2024 government announced a disposable vapes ban to come in force as soon as possible – this is expected in 2025.
- 5 million single use vapes are thrown away every week, and there is still a large problem with illegal vapes. So a recycling collection will still be required for the foreseeable future.



Single-use vapes sparking surge in fires at UK waste plants

The 1.3m disposable e-cigarettes discarded every week often end up in general waste and their broken batteries are highly flammable



Many retailers are installing vape collection points as a matter of safety – further collection schemes will help the issue.

# Garden Waste Scheme

- 2024 subscription cost - £38
- 17 collections between March/April – November
- Fortnightly service
- Over 68,000 subscriptions
- Over 17,500 tonnes collected p.a.



**Sign Up Today**

## Garden waste collections 2024

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

**Fees for 2024**  
Annual subscription **£38**

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

Terms and conditions apply.

# Waste Treatment - Teesside Energy from Waste

## Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility Procurement (TVERF)

- Partnership procurement for a 450,000 tonne residual waste treatment facility generating nearly 50MW of electricity – or enough to power the equivalent of 60,000 average homes.
- Final tenders from 2 bidders received in March 2023 however the project was paused due to market uncertainty around grid connection.
- Final planning permissions for the 2 bidders respective proposals were granted July 2023.
- Grid connection offers secured with Northern Powergrid which has allowed the procurement process to re-commence. Revised final tenders now due late 2024 after which, a preferred tenderer will be appointed with the aim of achieving Financial Close in 2025.
- Approx 4 year period for construction, testing and commissioning – commercial operations expected to commence late 2029.
- Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) – shortlisted but unsuccessful in the Government's Phase 2, Track 1 bidding process. Future funding rounds are expected and the opportunity can be considered again.
- A huge range of information on the project including FAQ's are available to the public on the website:



# Page 40 Legislation Update: Collection & Packaging Reforms

## Key government Objectives:

1. All plastic packaging to be recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025;
  2. Work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030;
  3. Eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of 25YEP;
  4. Double resource productivity by 2050
  5. Eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050
  6. 65% recycling rate (MSW) Municipal solid waste by 2035
- The Collection and Packaging reforms are a set of three reforms which will transform waste management in England and the UK, driving us towards a circular economy and to achieving these targets. These reforms are **Simpler recycling** (England only), **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** and a **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)** for drinks containers.





# Simpler Recycling (England Only)

- Simpler Recycling is a reform to the recycling system which means that people across England will be able to recycle the same materials, whether at home, work or school, putting an end to the confusion over what can and cannot be recycled in different parts of the country.
- All Local authorities will be required to collect Glass, Paper & Card, Metal, Plastic packaging (including films and flexibles from 2027), Food Waste and Garden Waste.
- The materials in scope must be collected from some businesses by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, and households from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- Residual collections to be carried out a minimum of fortnightly, and an exemption from TEEP waste legislation which will allow comingling of recycling collected.
- **What this means for County Durham:**
  - Free weekly food waste collections to all households
  - An expanded garden waste service – service to operate over 36 weeks between March – October inclusive
  - The potential to change the way we collect recycling from households



# Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Local Authorities will be compensated by packaging producers for the costs of efficiently and effectively managing household packaging waste.
- A scheme administrator will calculate producer fees and local authority payments based on efficiency and effectiveness.
- Producers will start paying EPR fees in October 2025 for packaging placed on the market across 2024. Local Authorities expected to receive first payments towards the end of 2025.
- **What this means for County Durham:**
  - Income for managing packaging waste
  - DCC will be assessed on efficiency & effectiveness, potential that comingling could affect payments
  - EPR & Simpler Recycling will lead to clear OPRL “Recycle” or “Do Not Recycle” on packaging, hopefully reducing confusion and contamination.



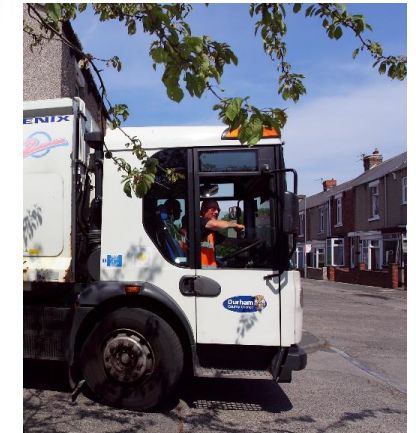
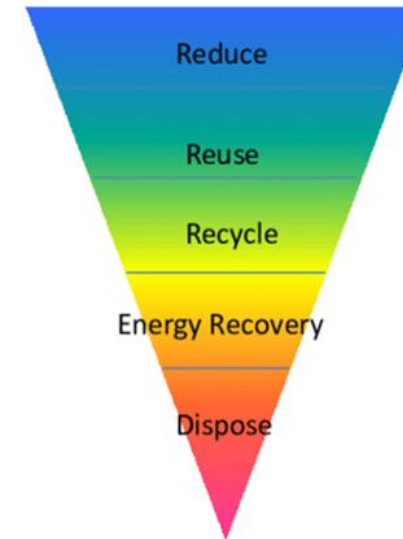
# Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

- DRS is a reform whereby a small deposit would be placed on single use drinks containers (excluding glass) from 150ml-3L
- These deposits can then be redeemed when the container is taken to a reverse vending machine (RVM), every store selling drinks containers will be expected to host a RVM.
- This will be managed by a Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) which will be appointed by DEFRA. The DMO will set the deposit level and a DRS logo. DEFRA is keen to ensure interoperability so a container purchased anywhere in the UK can be returned in any UK nation.
- DMO will be appointed in Spring 2025 and will be in charge of set up before a launch in October 2027.
- **What this means for County Durham:**
  - Trading Standards will have a large role in ensuring producers & retailers comply
  - County Durham's Dry Recycling waste stream could lose a proportion of drinks containers in 2027
  - Local authorities will have to engage with the DMO concerning the process of collecting unredeemed deposits from drinks containers placed in the recycling bin rather than taken to a RVM.



# Now and the next decade

- Impacts of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England, 2018 and Simpler Recycling.
- Establish a viable circular economy.
- Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy.
- Opportunity to shape the future waste management service offered to residents and further public engagement.
- Links to the Climate Emergency Response agenda ie. separating food waste for Anaerobic Digestion.
- Residual waste will always need a home – new TVERF to provide a secure route for treatment, diverting from landfill.
- New contracts for waste management service - Haulage & HWRC are now bedding in.
- Large scale Local Authority with a growing population – increasing demand on the service.





Any questions?

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## Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24 July 2024

Quarter Four, 2023/24  
Performance Management Report



### Report of John Hewitt, Chief Executive

#### Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To share information about our performance with members, senior managers, employees and the public.
- 2 The report tracks our progress towards achieving the strategic ambitions and objectives set out in our 2023-27 council plan. It contains the most recent performance data available on 31 March. Contextual information relates to activity and events taking place in the fourth quarter of the 2023/24 financial year (January to March). It provides insights into what is going well and the issues we are addressing.

#### Executive Summary

- 3 We are a key player within the County Durham Together Partnership and are working with our partners to deliver the [County Durham Vision 2035](#). This vision sets out what we want the county to look like over the next decade and beyond. The overall vision is for:

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

- 4 Our [Council Plan](#) sets out how we will contribute to achieving this vision, while continuing to effectively deliver our day-to-day services.
- 5 We refresh our Council Plan every year. Council has now approved the plan for the forthcoming four years ([Council Plan 2024-28](#)). We will commence reporting performance against our ambitions, objectives and priorities for this plan from 1 April.
- 6 We continue to be a 'well-functioning council' in relation to performance. We operate to the characteristics set out in guidance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)<sup>1</sup>. And we are continuing to

<sup>1</sup> [Best Value standards and intervention](#)

develop the following through our performance management processes and the wider Corporate Business Intelligence Review:

- (a) A council-wide approach to continuous improvement, with frequent monitoring, performance reporting and updating of the corporate and improvement plans;
  - (b) A Council Plan that is evidence based, current, realistic and enables the whole organisation's performance to be measured and held to account;
  - (c) Clear and effective mechanisms for scrutinising performance across all service areas. We regularly report our performance to the public to ensure citizens are aware of the quality of services being delivered.
- 7 The government has established an Office for Local Government (Oflog). Oflog aims to increase understanding about the performance of local authorities, warn when authorities are at risk of serious failure, and support local government to improve itself.
- 8 Oflog is bringing together existing data in an informative way through the [Local Authority Data Explorer](#). Their suite of metrics is being continually expanded and will eventually cover all local government responsibilities. The next tranche of data will be added later in the year. We will also add the new metrics to our performance framework and include in our reporting process.

## Context

- 9 We are a large organisation providing a broad range of services. Our operating environment can at times be challenging, influenced by various interconnected factors including inflationary and demand pressures, demographic shifts and the changing needs of our residents, economic uncertainties, and the ongoing impacts of global events.
- (a) Cultural events and venues are well attended with local businesses enjoying their economic impact.
  - (b) Key measures around waste collection and disposal show that we are diverting a smaller proportion of waste to landfill, and contamination of our household recycling continues to come down. It is anticipated that significant national changes to domestic waste collections will improve recycling levels across the country and bring County Durham into line with national recycling rates. Bus patronage for our park and ride scheme is increasing and public bus services have been impacted by industrial action. Work is going on at national, regional and local levels to improve bus services;
  - (c) Fly-tipping reports to the council remain at an all-time low due to the proactive approach. The number of eligible private sector rented properties which are fully licensed or where legal proceedings have been instigated under the selective licensing scheme is now at 48%.



Timeliness of repairing all categories of highway defects are better than or near target.

## **Recommendation**

- 10 Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
  - (a) note the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter four performance (January to March), and the actions being taken to address areas of challenge.

## Background papers

- County Durham Vision (County Council, 23 October 2019)  
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s115064/Draft%20Durham%20Vision%20v10.0.pdf>

## Other useful documents

- Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (current plan)  
<https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/34954/Durham-County-Council-Plan-2023-2027/pdf/CouncilPlan2023-2027.pdf?m=638221688616370000>
- Quarter Three, 2023/24 Performance Management Report  
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s186162/Q3%202023-24%20Corporate%20Performance%20Report.pdf>
- Quarter Two, 2023/24 Performance Management Report  
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s183015/Q2%202023-24%20Corporate%20Performance%20Report.pdf>
- Quarter One, 2023/24 Performance Management Report  
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s178933/Q1%202023-24%20Corporate%20Performance%20Report%20-%20Cabinet%2013.09.23.pdf>
- Quarter Four, 2022/23 Performance Management Report  
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s174900/Item%204%20Q4%202022-23%202%201.pdf>
- Quarter Three, 2022/23 Performance Management Report  
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s166398/Corporate%20Performance%20Report%20Q2%202022-23%20v2.1.pdf>

## Author

Steve Evans

Contact: [steve.evans@durham.gov.uk](mailto:steve.evans@durham.gov.uk)

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Finance**

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

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

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

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

### **Climate Change**

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

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable.

### **Crime and Disorder**

A number of performance indicators and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with the Safe Durham Partnership and its sub-groups.

### **Staffing**

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

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable.

### **Risk**

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

### **Procurement**

Not applicable.



# Corporate Performance Report

## Quarter Four, 2023/24



## Contents (blue text links to sections of the report)

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	➤ <a href="#">Executive Summary</a>
<b>Our Economy</b>	➤ <a href="#">Our Economy Performance Report</a>
	Performance Dashboards
	➤ <a href="#">Cultural offer: cultural events, venues and libraries</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Cultural offer: cinemas and theatres</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Visitor economy: public transport accessibility to visitor attractions</a>
<b>Our Environment</b>	➤ <a href="#">Our Environment Performance Report</a>
	Performance Dashboards
	➤ <a href="#">Waste: diversion from landfill and residual waste</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Waste: recycling and contamination</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Sustainable transport and active travel</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Ecology: tree planting</a>
<b>Our People</b>	➤ <a href="#">Our People Performance Report</a>
	Performance Dashboards
	➤ <a href="#">Physical activity</a>
<b>Our Communities</b>	➤ <a href="#">Our Communities Performance Report</a>
	Performance Dashboards
	➤ <a href="#">Housing standards</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Transport connectivity: public transport patronage, punctuality and satisfaction</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Transport connectivity: accessibility by public transport</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Highway maintenance</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Clean and attractive communities</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Data Tables</a>
	➤ <a href="#">Glossary</a>

## **Executive Summary**

- 1 This report shows how we are performing against the priorities set out in our Council Plan 2023-27.
- 2 We are reporting performance on an exception basis with key messages structured around the five thematic areas of, our economy, our environment, our people, our communities, and our council.
- 3 We are reporting the most recent performance available as at 31 March. Contextual information relates to activity and events taking place in the fourth quarter of the 2023/24 financial year (January to March).

### **Our economy**

- 4 The aim of this priority is to create an inclusive economy with more and better jobs, major employment sites which cement our position as a premier place in the region to do business, a good tourism base and cultural offer, and employability support programmes which help people back into jobs or to start their own business. Our children and young people will receive the education and training required to access opportunities.

#### **Going Well**

- 5 We have recorded increased attendances at all our cultural venues, strengthening our position as the culture county and contributing significantly to the local economy. The number of library borrowers continues to grow and performed better than target.

#### **Issues we are addressing**

- 6 Scheduled maintenance and operational issues have impacted on cinema occupancy and ticket sales. The operational issues have been resolved and the scheduled maintenance is due to be complete in September.

### **Our environment**

- 7 The aim of this priority is to protect our natural environment, including biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. In 2019, the council declared a climate emergency with a commitment to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and contribute towards a carbon neutral county by 2045. In April 2022, the council declared an ecological emergency and committed to address ecological decline wherever possible. Our county is of significant landscape value and supports unique combinations of plant and animal species.

#### **Going Well**

- 8 Domestic waste diverted from landfill continues to be better than target and performance is improving. Kilograms of waste collected per household remains consistent. Contamination of recycle collection continues to improve following targeted education and enforcement activity.
- 9 Park and Ride patronage is better than last year driven by the cessation of free after 2.00pm off-street parking in January 2024.

- 10 During the last three planting seasons, we planted 74,000 trees. Land has been identified to plant a further 11,000 trees in the next planting season to achieve the target.

### **Issues we are addressing**

- 11 Household recycling rates are worse than last year and remain lower than national average. We await further detail on the national standardisation of recycling collections, including the introduction of food waste collections. This will increase our recycling rate and narrow the gap between local authority performance.

### **Our communities**

- 12 The aim of this priority is to ensure our communities are well connected and supportive of each other, with vibrant and accessible towns and villages which are well-used, clean, attractive and safe. We will support our most vulnerable residents, particularly those isolated or financially vulnerable. We will maintain a strong focus on tackling poverty throughout the cost-of-living crisis.

### **Going Well**

- 13 Response times to rectify highway defects are better than or near target for all three defect categories.
- 14 Highways conditions have shown an improvement due to targeted investment and are better than all benchmarking comparators.
- 15 We continue to see lower levels of fly-tipping following a proactive approach towards perpetrators. As a result of our ground maintenance services there is also a high level of cleanliness across County Durham.

### **Issues we are addressing**

- 16 Forty eight percent of private rented sector properties covered by the selective licensing scheme are either fully licenced, in the process of being licenced, or have had legal proceedings instigated. Our enforcement team continue to target all properties not yet licensed.
- 17 Bus patronage and punctuality were heavily impacted by seven weeks of Go North East industrial action during October and November 2023. Overall satisfaction with bus journey shows County Durham is worse than benchmarking comparators. We continue to work in partnership with other local authorities in the region to implement the North East Bus Service Improvement Plan.

### **Risk Management**

- 18 The government's statutory guidance for best value authorities sets out the characteristics of a well-functioning authority. This details the arrangements that councils should have in place for robust governance and scrutiny including how risk awareness and management should inform decision making. The latest [Strategic Risk Management Progress Report](#) provides an insight into the work carried out by the Corporate Risk Management Group between October and December 2023.

# Our Economy

## Priority Aims:

County Durham has a thriving and inclusive economy with more and better jobs and fewer people suffering from the hardships of poverty and deprivation. We are continuing to,

- deliver a range of employment sites across the county
- deliver a strong, competitive economy where County Durham is a premier place in the North East to live and do business
- ensure a broader experience for residents and visitors to the county
- ensure young people will have access to good quality education, training and employment
- help all people into rewarding work
- ensure fewer people will be affected by poverty and deprivation within the county
- improve employment opportunities for disabled people

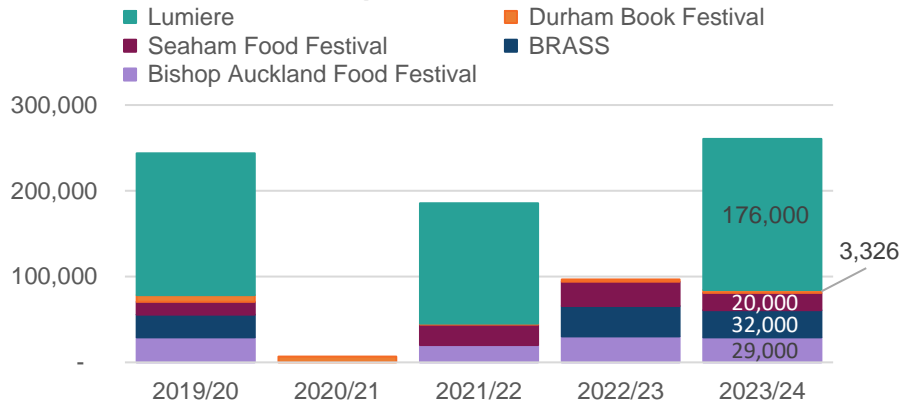


# Cultural Offer Dashboard: cultural events, venues and libraries

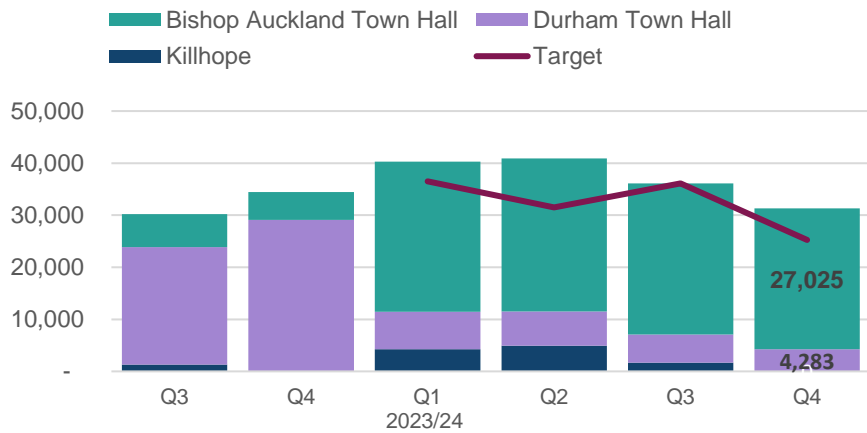
(year to date ending 31 March 2024 / discrete quarterly data)

## Cultural events and venues

### Attendance at cultural events delivered by Culture, Sport & Tourism

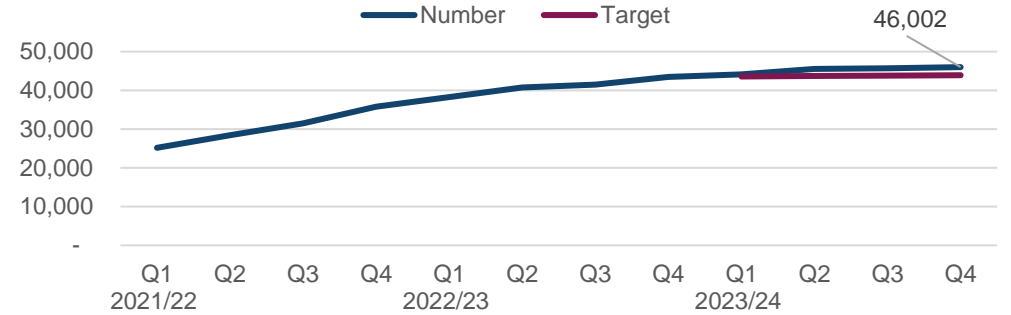


### Visits to council owned cultural venues

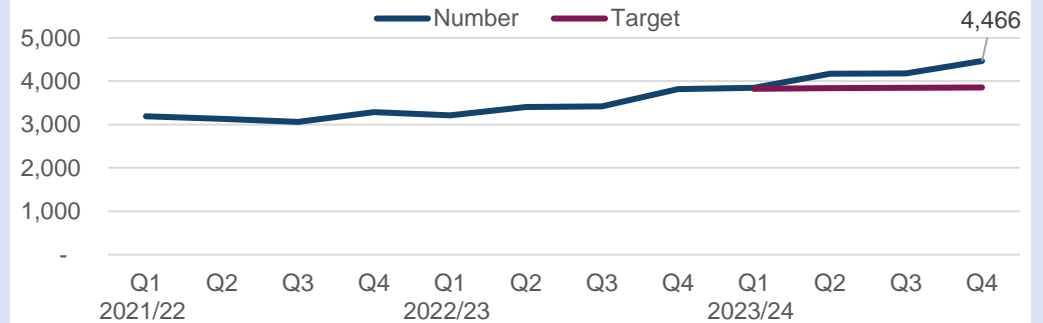


## Libraries

### Active borrowers (libraries)



### Digital borrowers (libraries)



Reporting dates of official figures:

Quarter two	Quarter three
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bishop Auckland Food Festival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BRASS Festival</li> <li>Seaham Food Festival</li> <li>Durham Book Festival</li> <li>Lumiere (biennial)</li> </ul>

Note - Durham Town Hall was under-reported in 2022/23, issues now rectified.

## Cultural events

19 Our continued investment in our cultural events programme strengthens County Durham’s position as the ‘culture county’ and demonstrates the council’s ongoing commitment to culture-led regeneration.

- 3,326 people attended the two-day Durham Book Festival in October 2023, 483 more than 2022. Despite increased attendance, lower average visitor spend and a lower value of contracts placed in County Durham contributed to the festival’s direct economic impact being worse than last year.

Direct economic impact when held in 2022	Direct economic impact when held in 2023	Council investment
£65,077	£46,634	£65,000

- 97% of visitors rated the whole experience positively, and 95% of visitors felt the festival was a worthwhile event for the council to support. Visitors thought the atmosphere at venues and value for money of tickets was a standout strength. The quality of the programme, particularly the variety of authors, was also commended. Authors themselves found the event to be inclusive and welcoming and would welcome future involvement in the festival.
- A full evaluation for Lumiere will be provided at quarter one 2024/25 (April 2024 to March 2025).

20 Preparations are well underway to deliver the cultural events programme for 2024/25 (April 2024 to March 2025). Events include food festivals at Bishop Auckland and Seaham, Durham BRASS Festival and Durham Book Festival.

## Cultural Offer Investment

21 We continue to increase the cultural offer within the county. The Story, a new history centre and registration service for County Durham is scheduled to open at Mount Oswald in June. Plans are also well under way to establish a County Durham Culture Trust; a charitable incorporated organisation with our partners to promote the arts, culture and heritage in County Durham.

22 County Durham’s culture and regeneration programme received £1.25 million from the Arts Council (through the National Lottery) to support the three-year programme ‘Into the Light’. We submitted the bid on behalf of the Culture Durham Partnership (of which we are a partner) and Durham University. The funding builds on the £2.6 million already in place. The programme will invest in our county through cultural projects which:

- increase understanding of employment opportunities in the sector amongst children and young people,
- develop skills at all levels,
- create cultural opportunities for artists and communities. and
- develop pride of place.

23 We are also lead authority for the Culture Creative Tourism and Sport portfolio for North East Devolution. Working with local authorities, North of Tyne Combined Authority and partners across the region to make sure ambitious and relevant cultural plans are developed for the North East Mayoral Combined Authority

## **Visits to council owned cultural venues (BATH, Durham Town Hall, Killhope)**

- 24 Visits to our cultural venues increased (+16.6%, 21,160) this year (April 2023 to March 2024) compared to the same period last year (127,475). In the 12 months to March 2024, there were 148,635 visits across our three venues, 18,635 better than target (130,000).
- 25 Despite operational issues at venues throughout the year, for example a broken projector at Bishop Auckland Town Hall (BATH), all venues performed above individual targets. A new café menu at BATH, popular exhibitions and Gallery Days, including International Women’s Day, contributed to high visitor numbers. BATH are also marketing a new wedding package that includes civil ceremonies, which will hopefully generate more wedding bookings.
- 26 Killhope is currently closed for the winter and will remain closed for the 2024 season to carry out essential works. These works, which include repairs to the underground mine, washing floor, mine shop, buddle house, and jigger house will preserve the site and secure its future as a heritage and visitor attraction. Future programming of the site will be revised and refined ready for reopening in April 2025.

## **Libraries**

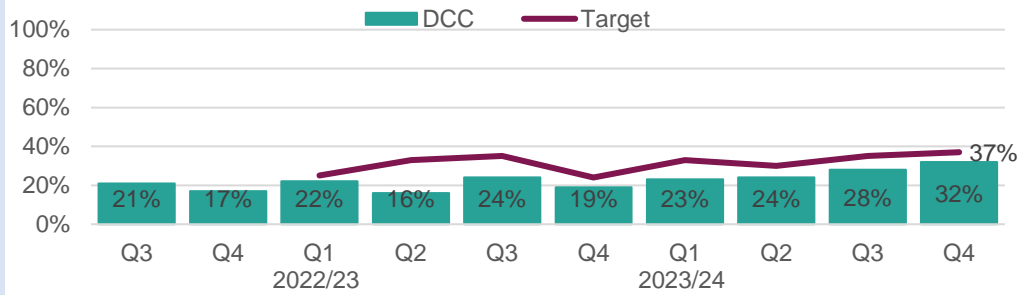
- 27 Both active borrowers and digital borrowers performed better than target again this quarter, with 46,002 (+4.8%, 2,092) and 4,466 (+15.8%, 610) borrowers, respectively.
- 28 The strong growth in digital borrower numbers is mainly due to an increased digital offer. The addition of newspapers to the BorrowBox App which has driven the downloading over 25,000 issues since September 2023.
- 29 Active borrower numbers continue to follow an upward trend quarter on quarter.
- 30 To continue this growth, we have significantly increased engagement with borrowers over the last six months with further initiatives planned for 2024/25 (April 2024 to March 2025). This has included:
- Appointed two part-time library engagement support officers through the ‘Know Your Neighbourhood’ programme (funded to May 2025) to support reading and access to books for those with high health inequalities and chronic loneliness in the north Durham area.
  - Through our Durham Reads project, we held two author events this year, with a further four events scheduled between April 2024 and March 2025, including New Writing North’s Northern Bookshelf Live programme.
  - Monthly reading groups across our libraries, both in person and digital, and encourage extra membership of our VIP (visually impaired) reading group.
  - Continued support of grassroots literature festivals including Durham Book Festival and engagement with local schools through Literacy Trust’s World of Stories initiative to promote The Reading Agency’s Summer Reading Challenge 2024.

# Cultural Offer Dashboard: cinemas and theatres

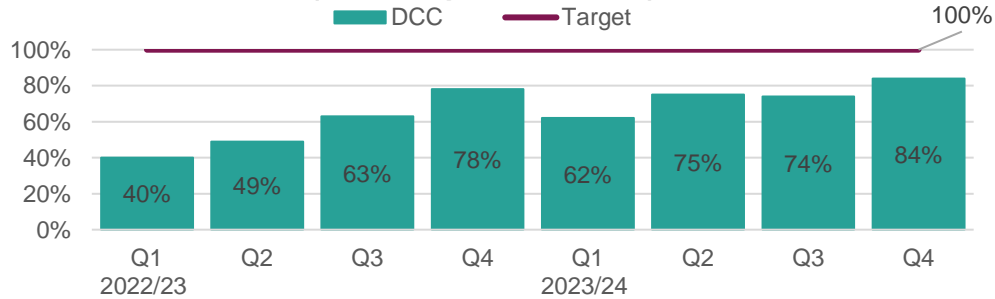
(discrete quarterly data)

## Cinemas

Average occupancy of cinema screenings (Gala, Empire and BATH)

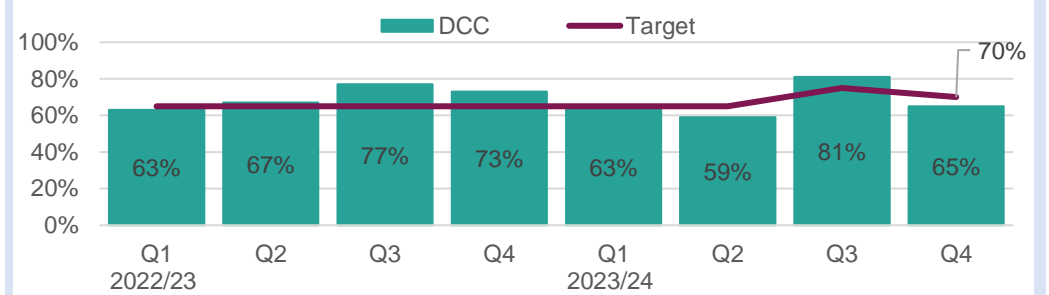


Average yield of cinema screenings (Gala, Empire and BATH)

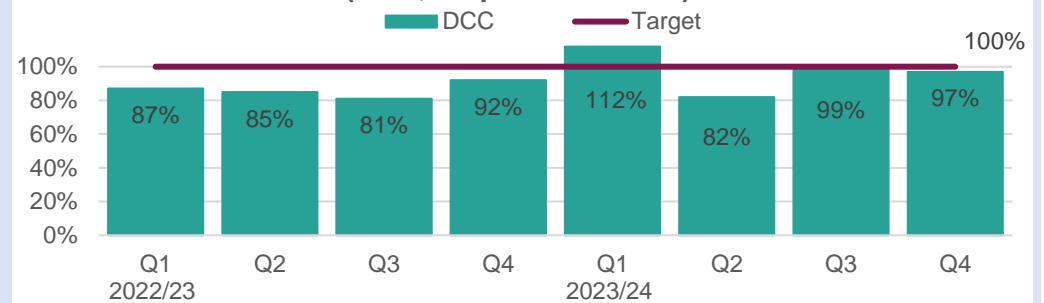


## Theatres

Average occupancy of theatre performance (Gala, Empire and BATH)



Average yield of theatre performances (Gala, Empire and BATH)



\* yield = proportion of potential income achieved

## **Cinemas: Gala, Bishop Auckland Town Hall and Empire**

- 31 During quarter four (January to March 2024), the average occupancy rate across all cinema screenings was 32%. Worse than target (37%), but better than the same period last year (19%, January to March 2023).
- 32 Similarly, income from projected ticket sales was also worse than target (100%), with sales achieving 84%. However, we are seeing an improvement in sales compared to the same period last year (78%, January to March 2023), specifically at Gala.
- 33 Both occupancy levels and projected tickets sales have been impacted by:
- fewer screenings at Empire due to closure for roof maintenance;
  - ongoing projector issues at Bishop Auckland Town Hall (BATH); and
  - the Gala lift being out of service for six weeks.
- 34 The projector and lift have now been fixed and the Empire is scheduled to reopen in September.

## **Theatres: Gala, Bishop Auckland Town Hall and Empire**

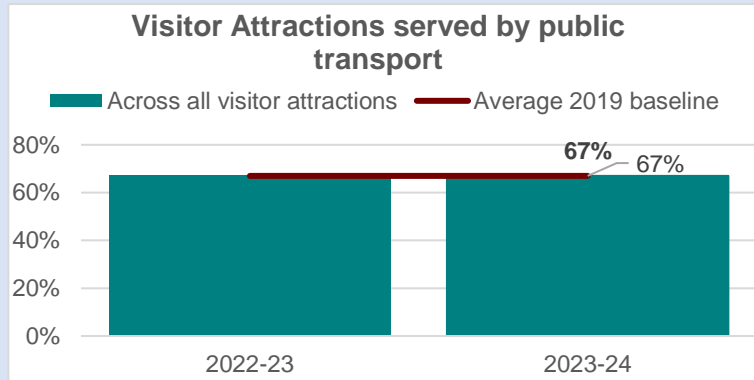
- 35 Average occupancy rate across all theatre performances for quarter four (January to March 2024) was 65%, worse than target (70%). It is also worse than the same period last year (73%, January to March 2023).
- 36 Half of theatre performances at Gala were hires this quarter, with the hirer responsible for marketing. Hires are not as well attended as programmed shows; however, hires generate a guaranteed fee regardless of sales.
- 37 Occupancy levels at Empire were lower than expected, with only one professional show delivered as the venue had to close for essential roof repairs.
- 38 Performances at BATH had an average occupancy of 69%, an improvement from quarter three (53%, October to December 2023).
- 39 Average theatre tickets sales performed well this quarter with 97% tickets sold across all theatre performances. Although worse than target (100%) an improvement on the same period last year. Guaranteed income from hires and ongoing audience development work at BATH, including activity from the new Learning Engagement team has contributed to improved sales.

# Visitor Economy Dashboard: public transport accessibility to visitor attractions

(year to date ending 31 March 2024)

## Accessibility to visitor attractions

Visitor attractions that have an hourly bus service on Mon-Sat and a Sunday service of at least 5 buses/day, within a walk of no more than 0.5 miles.



Visitor Attraction	Accessible by public transport
Auckland Castle	Yes
Beamish Museum	Yes
Botanic Gardens	Yes
Diggerland	No
Killhope	No
Oriental Museum	Yes
Palace Green Library	Yes
Raby Castle	No
Bowes Museum	Yes
Locomotion	Yes
Hardwick Park	No
Chester-le-Street Cricket Ground	Yes
The Story	Yes
Seaham Sea Front	Yes
Ushaw Historic House and Gardens	No

## **Accessibility by public transport to visitor attractions**

- 40 In 2023/24 (April 2023 to March 2024), 10 out of the 15 visitor attractions (67%) were accessible by public transport<sup>2</sup>. This remains unchanged from the 2019 baseline and 2022/23 (April 2022 to March 2023).
- 41 Of the five attractions which are not accessible by public transport:
- Killhope has no bus services.
  - Diggerland, Raby Castle and Ushaw Historic House and Gardens do not have a Sunday service.
  - Hardwick Park is more than half a mile walking distance from the nearest bus service.
- 42 We continue to work in partnership at a regional level with bus operators and other local authorities to implement the North East Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to transform bus services and improve the bus network.

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<sup>2</sup> Monday-Saturday and a Sunday service of at least 5 buses per day, within a walk of no more than 0.5 miles

# Our Environment

## Priority Aims:

County Durham has taken action to tackle the climate emergency, reduce the impact of pollution and waste on our county and protect, restore and sustain our natural environment. We are continuing to,

- create a physical environment which will contribute to good health
- work with others to achieve a carbon neutral county by 2045
- reduce the impact of waste and pollution on our environment
- protect, restore and sustain our natural environment for the benefit of future generations

## National, Regional and Local Picture

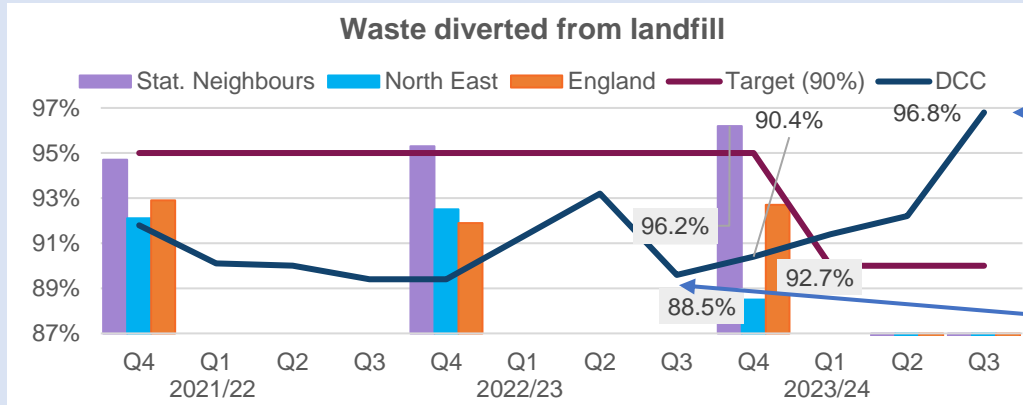
- 43 The government's ambition to improve the environment is set out in the [25 Year Environment Plan](#) (2018) and subsequent [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#). The improvement is set out in 10 environmental goals and the government is developing a suite of strategies, plans and programmes to achieve these. This includes rolling out the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- 44 In response to recently announced government proposals which include the implementation of [simpler recycling collections and tougher regulation](#) by March 2027, and the introduction of food waste collections by March 2026, we are undertaking financial modelling to assess the impact for the council, residents and local businesses.
- 45 We are developing, with other councils across the region, plans for a new energy recovery from waste facility that will meet the future needs of the county.
- 46 The council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and approved an initial Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) in 2020 which set out challenging targets. The [second phase of the CERP](#) was approved in 2022 and has committed the council to achieving net zero by 2030 and an 80% real carbon reduction to our emissions. We will work with partners to achieve a carbon neutral County Durham by 2045. The development of CERP3 is underway and expected to be approved in summer 2024.
- 47 The council declared an ecological emergency in April 2022 and approved an Ecological Emergency Action Plan in December 2022.



# Waste Dashboard: diversion from landfill and kilograms of residual waste

(year to date ending 31 December 2023)

## Waste diverted from landfill

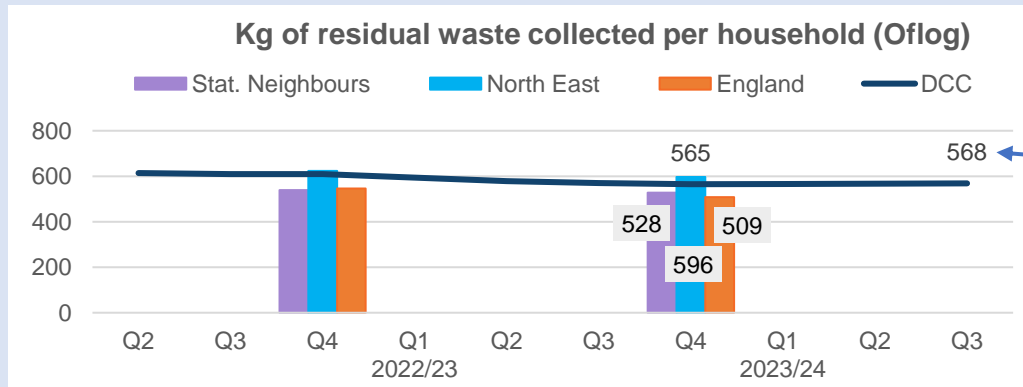


Impact of issues at regional waste facility no longer included in 12 month figure

Issues at regional waste facilities autumn/winter 2022

Differing policies and contract arrangements, mean comparisons with other local authorities are not on a like for like basis.

## Kilograms of residual waste collected (Oflog)

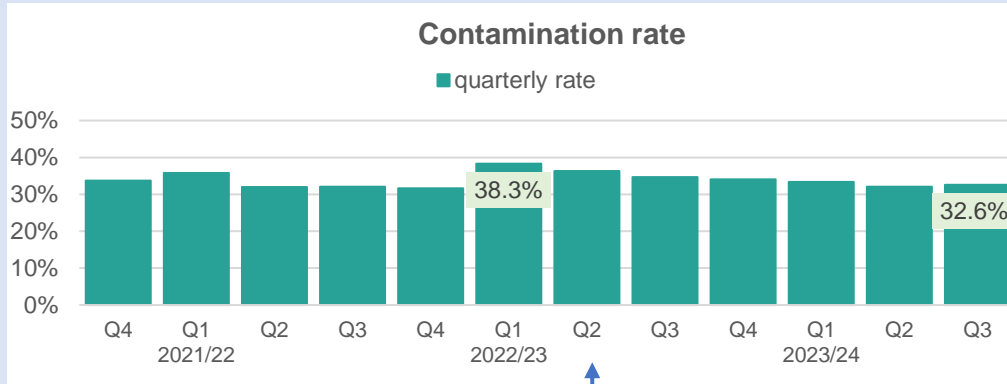


Significant improvement from 619kg at pandemic peak (Sept 2020 – Jun 2021)

# Waste Dashboard: recycling and contamination

(year to date ending 31 December 2023 / discrete annual data)

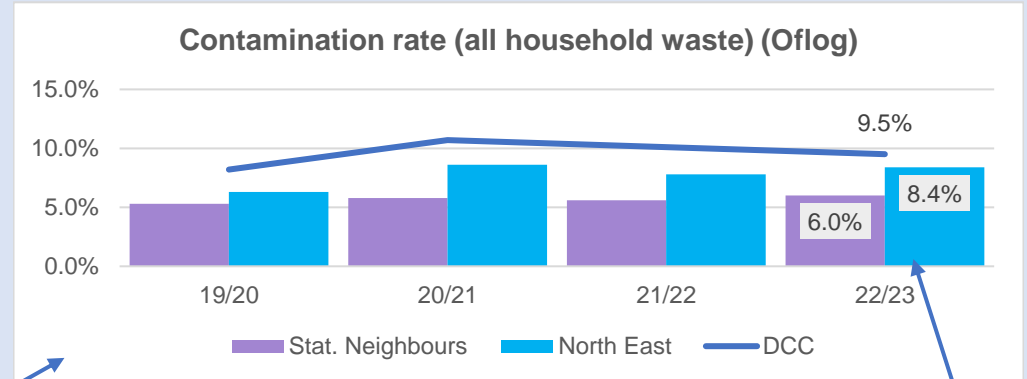
## Contamination rate (local)



Different methodologies, not comparable with oflog contamination measure

## Contamination rate (Oflog)

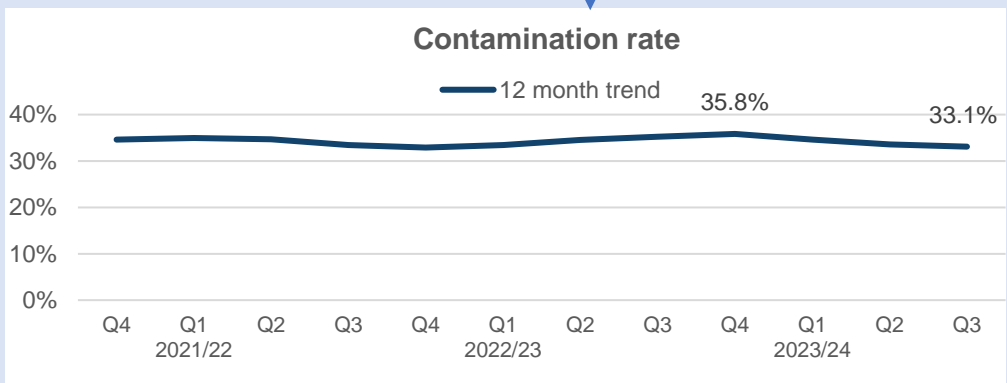
2 year trend shows improving performance



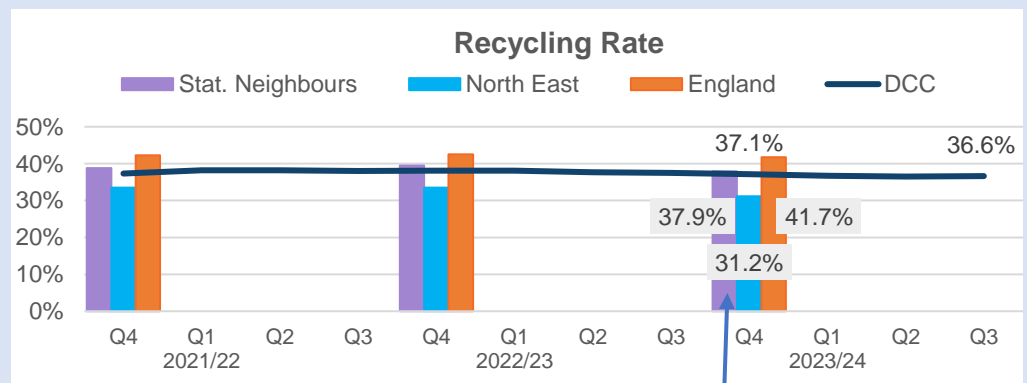
Discussions with Defra on methodology

England average not available due to duplication of data in county/ district areas.

## Contamination rate (local)



## Recycling rate (Oflog)



Differing policies and contract arrangements, mean comparisons with other local authorities are not on a like for like basis.

## **Waste diverted from landfill**

- 48 The total amount of waste that we handle and send for processing continues to reduce with 253,455 tonnes collected in the 12 months ending December 2023, a reduction on the previous 12 months of 2,204 tonnes (255,699 tonnes).
- 49 This reduction together with the sustained performance at the waste processing facilities has improved the landfill diversion rate (96.8% for the 12 months ending December 2023). Significantly better than target (90%) and the previous 12 months (89.6%). Equating to 8,034 tonnes of waste being landfilled from the 253,455 tonnes collected.
- 50 Latest benchmarking for 2022/23 (April 2022 to March 2023) shows that County Durham had a landfill diversion rate of 90.4%. Worse than our statistical neighbours (96.2%), and national average (92.7%) but better than the North East average (88.5%).
- 51 The effects of the operational issues at the regional waste processing facilities during late 2022, can be seen in both the County Durham figure and the regional figure. As the situation has improved, current performance is now more in line with our statistical neighbours.
- 52 Following confirmation of a grid connection, the new energy recovery plant being developed with six of our regional neighbours will re-commence procurement in spring 2024. Once operational, anticipated in 2027, the facility is expected to have a positive impact on landfill diversion for both the County and the region.

## **Kilograms of residual waste collected per household (Oflog measure)**

- 53 Latest data (January-December 2023) show that the amount of residual waste per household remains consistent with 568kg per household.
- 54 There has been a significant improvement in the amount of residual household waste per household from the pandemic peak (619kg, September 2020 to June 2021).
- 55 Latest benchmarking for 2022/23 (April 2022 to March 2023) shows that the amount of residual household waste per household for County Durham (565.5kg) was better than the regional average (596.3kg) but worse than the national average (508.8kg) and our statistical neighbours (527.9kg). Differing policies and contract arrangements of local authorities, mean comparisons are not on a like for like basis.

## **Recycling, re-use or composting (Oflog measure)**

- 56 We continue to advise and encourage residents to recycle through the What Goes Where campaign and the active promotion of campaigns and initiatives:
- Our WEEE campaign and repair cafés for the collection, recycling and repair of small electrical and battery-operated items. During January to March 2024, 50 household items have been recycled saving 1,200kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through waste prevention.
  - 140kg of vapes have been collected for recycling.
  - The countywide plastics campaign with external partner RECOUP, with communications continuing with more social media content.

- 20 talks have been delivered to schools and community groups and 11 events have been supported in libraries, colleges and Durham Market Place on recycling initiatives including Food Waste Action Week.

- 57 Latest data (36.6%, January-December 2023) show that the amount of household waste being sent for recycling is worse than the previous 12 months (37.5%).
- 58 Latest benchmarking for 2022/23 (April 2022 to March 2023) shows that County Durham recycled 37.1% of household waste. Better than the North East average (31.2%) and on par with our statistical neighbours (37.9%), an improvement on the previous 12 months. However, we remain worse than the national average (41.7%).
- 59 The effects of changing recyclate markets and legislation have impacted nationally with the national, regional, and statistical neighbour averages all being less than the previous year. Differing policies and contract arrangements of local authorities for the processing of waste, mean comparisons are not on a like for like basis. Following the implementation of the government's Waste and Resources Strategy policies and contracts will be more consistent.

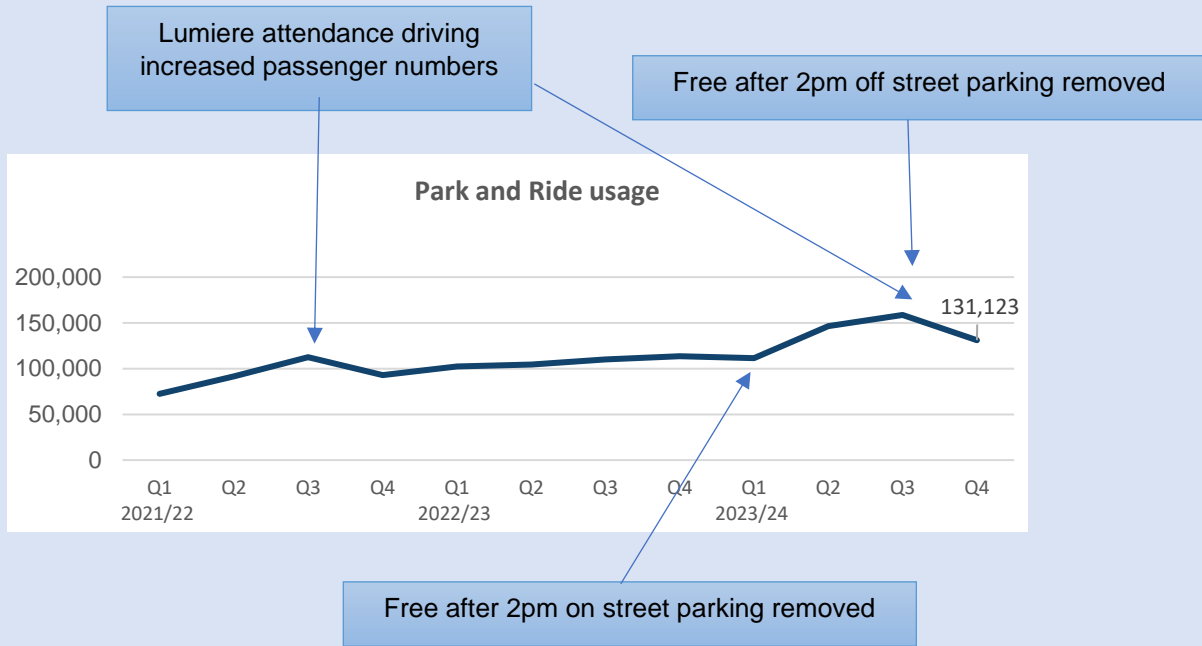
### **Contamination of recyclate waste (Oflog measure)**

- 60 The government has published a new annual measure on the proportion of all household waste sent for recycling but rejected for contamination. This measure is based on a different methodology than our current contamination measure and is not comparable. Discussions are taking place with Defra to understand the calculation method.
- 61 The Oflog County Durham rate for 2022/23 (April 2022 to March 2023) is 9.5%. An improvement on the previous year (10.1%, April 2021 to March 2022), although worse than the regional average (8.4%) and our statistical neighbours (6%).
- 62 Differing policies and contract arrangements of local authorities for the processing of waste, mean comparisons are not on a like for like basis. Following the implementation of the government's Waste and Resources Strategy policies and contracts will be more consistent.
- 63 Latest quarterly rate for Oct – Dec 2023 is 32.6%. An improvement on the previous year (34.6%) and from the peak of 38.3% (April - June 2022).
- 64 This improvement is reflected in the 12 month rate which has improved to 33.1% (January-December 2023). An improvement on the previous 12 months (35.2%, January-December 2022). This reduction has been driven by:
- A 7% reduction (23,119 tonnes) during April-December 2023 in the amount of waste in the kerbside recycling bins (blue bins) compared to the same period in 2022 (24,890 tonnes).
  - Schemes such as the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) project, which recycled almost 12 tonnes in April-December 2023.
  - An increase in waste collected at the Household Waste Recycling Centres; in particular, green waste, which increased by 15% (April-December 2023) due to the wet growing season.
  - The “What Goes Where” campaign and the issuing of notices for contaminated blue bins (28,489 issued in the 12 months to March 2024).

# Sustainable Transport and Active Travel Dashboard

(discrete quarterly data)

## Park and Ride Usage



## **Park and Ride Usage**

- 65 Quarter four performance is better than the same period last year (113,434 passengers). Mainly driven by the free after 2.00 pm for off street parking ceasing in January 2024.
- 66 Park and ride provision on Sundays at Belmont and Sniperley commenced April 2024. Following a successful application to the government's Transforming Cities Fund the expansion of Sniperley Park and Ride facility has begun. This will increase capacity to nearly 600 spaces (an additional 262 spaces).

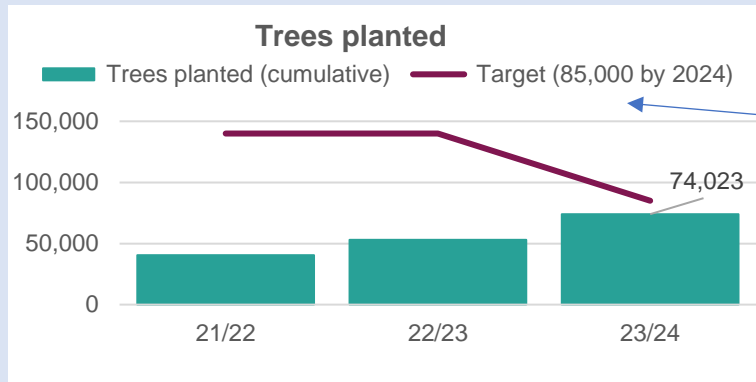
## **Active Travel**

- 67 To improve cycle routes, we have been successful in our Active Travel England bid for the 'North Durham Active Corridor scheme.' Linking the city centre with Durham Moor in the south and the Arnison Centre in the north. The new cycle route will be separate from motor traffic and improve connectivity between New College Durham, Framwellgate School, residential areas in Pity Me and Framwellgate Moor and the Sniperley Development Site.
- 68 In March 2024, we secured Devolution Funding totalling £9.2m for 'Ayckley Heads Innovation District'. This will deliver some priority routes in Durham City Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) by 2026.
- 69 Cabinet approved our Right of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP4) in February 2024. This sets out how we will improve our network of Public Rights of Way (PROW) over the next 10 years. The ROWIP4 focuses on four main objectives, which include:
- managing and enhancing the network;
  - promoting the contribution to the green economy;
  - empowering communities and individuals to move more; and
  - ensuring the network is accessible to people of all abilities.

# Ecology: tree planting

(discrete annual data)

## Trees planted on council land



Target amended to 85,000 (from 140,000) to reflect the amount of available council land

## Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- 70 A Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is under development. Consultation took place between 5 February and 16 April. Progress is in line with regional LNRS delivery.

### Trees planting and management

- 71 An additional 21,023 whips and standard trees have been planted at sites on council land during the 2023 planting season. Bringing the total over the last three planting seasons (2021 to 2023) to more than 74,000. Land has been identified to plant 11,000 trees in the next planting season to achieve the target of 85,000.
- 72 Wider efforts to increase the amount of tree coverage include other initiatives such as the Durham Woodland Revival programme and the Urban Tree Challenge Fund.
- 73 The Durham Woodland Revival programme has recently ended. 76 hectares of additional woodland has been planted over the course of the programme.
- 74 We have also recently approved a [Tree Management Policy](#) and inspection procedures which bring together all tree management issues. This includes how we manage risks, inspect and maintain, and deal with requests from the public and Tree Preservation Orders.

### Habitat protection

- 75 In February, we launched the SeaScapes Coastal app. This enables people walking the King Charles III England Coastal Path to be notified of points of interest and shows wrecks off the coast on a map. Detailed models of four wrecks appear as augmented reality when the user is at the correct site.
- 76 Alongside the app we also launched the [ReadingtheRocks](#) website. The website gives details of three Durham Coast self-guided beach walks. Information about the rock formations allows users to understand the geology of the coast.
- 77 Through celebrating and educating people on shorelines and oceans, the app and website aim to protect and improve these vital habitats for both people and wildlife.



# Our People

## Priority Aims:

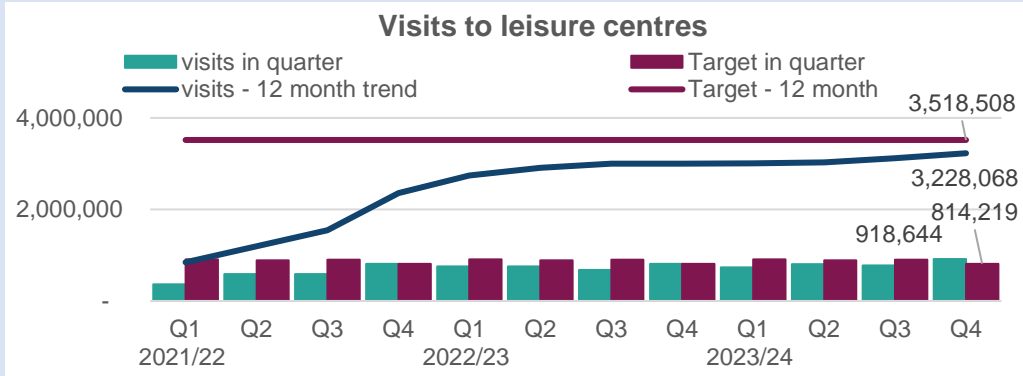
County Durham is a place where people will enjoy fulfilling, long and independent lives. We aim to,

- ensure children and young people will enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing
- ensure children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will achieve the best possible outcomes
- ensure all children and young people will have a safe childhood
- promote positive behaviours
- better integrate health and social care services
- tackle the stigma and discrimination of poor mental health and build resilient communities
- people will be supported to live independently for as long as possible by delivering more home to meet the needs of older and disabled people
- support people whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect adults with care and support needs from harm
- protect and improve the health of the local population, tackling leading causes of illness and death

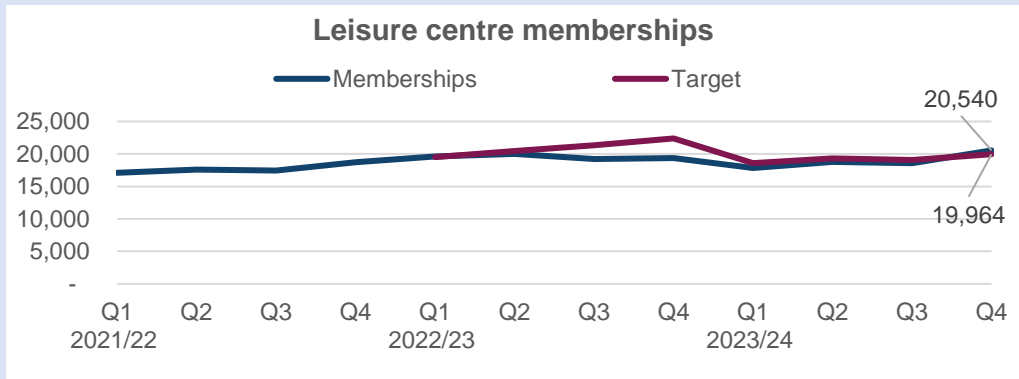
# Physical Activity Dashboard

(discrete quarterly / as at 31 March 2024 / year to date ending 31 March 2024)

## Leisure centre visits



## Leisure memberships



## Leisure Centre Visits

- 78 Our substantial leisure transformation programme continues to deliver upgraded and new facilities. Abbey leisure centre, the first site to undergo transformation works, fully opened to the public in July 2023. Since reopening there have been nearly 94,000 visits (August 2023 to March 2024) a 192% increase on the same period pre-transformation (32,035, August 2021 to March 2022).
- 79 Visits across all leisure centres this year (3,228,068, April 2023 and March 2024) have improved on last year (April 2022 and March 2023) by 7.6% (+228,547).
- 80 However, site closures, disruption to services and our ongoing recovery following the pandemic have resulted in this being 14.8% (-518,985) worse than target (3,518,508). Targets were based on a fully operational service. This will be reviewed for 2024/25 (April 2024 to March 2025) to reflect ongoing disruption at some sites and positive impacts following our improvement works.
- 81 Visits were also affected by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis that has been a real challenge for our communities.
- 82 Moving forward, our transformation programme is expected to have a positive impact across our leisure centres. It is anticipated that the upward trend seen at quarter four (January to March 2024) and at Abbey leisure centre will continue for other transformed sites.

## Leisure Centre Memberships

- 83 Our leisure membership sales continue to increase, despite disruption to services and transformation programme site closures. The highest growth period was January 2024. At the end of March 2024, we had 20,540 members. 756 better than target (19,964), and 1,989 better than quarter three (18,551, December 2023).
- 84 In September 2023 we launched a digital enquiry system for all leisure centres. This has received over 11,000 enquiries since it launched and the impact of this has been reflected in quarter four sales.
- 85 We also launched a brand-new website for thrive and improved our digital advertising with the support of our digital marketing partner. They have provided us with dedicated capacity to market our products, and most importantly industry expertise. Following their advice, we have changed our discount / promotion led approach and implemented a 'campaign' led approach. This has reduced our advertising spend per membership to 72p, the lowest rate that TA6 has produced with any leisure operator.
- 86 To continue improving, keep our members longer and reduce cancellation:
- We will also build on our new 'onboarding' retention system that launched in September 2024.
  - We are developing a new customer app that will provide customers with a one stop shop for Thrive. Customers will be able to book activities, purchase memberships or invite a friend to join Thrive.

# Our Communities

## Priority Aims:

Durham is a great county in which to live, with flourishing communities which are connected and supportive of each other. We aim to,

- ensure standards will be maintained or improved across County Durham's housing stock
- have towns and villages which are vibrant, well-used, clean, attractive and safe
- ensure people will have good access to workplaces, services, retail and leisure opportunities
- ensure communities will be able to come together and support each other
- deliver new high-quality housing which is accessible and meets the needs of our residents
- ensure our rural communities will be sustainable whilst maintaining those characteristics which make them distinctive
- narrow the inequality gap between our communities
- build inclusive communities

## National, Regional and Local Picture

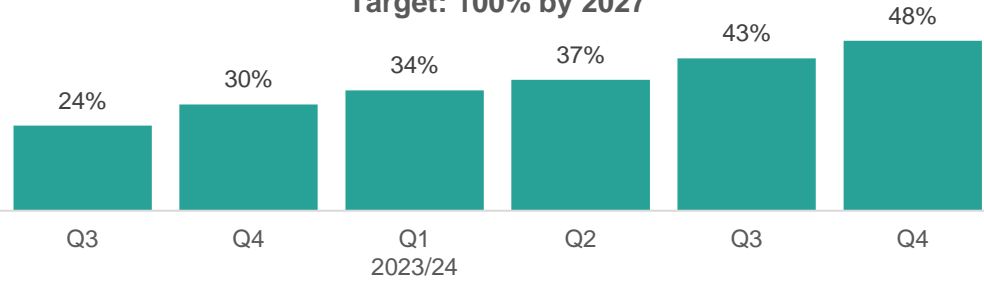
87 Accessing opportunities across the county continues to be priority. The county has good North-South connectivity both by road and rail, and the improved A66 connects east to west. However, some areas have limited public transport or major roads, especially in more rural areas. Our large, rural geography means residents are often reliant on cars for commuting. 80% of those surveyed for the [Inclusive Economic Strategy](#) said they travel to work by car, compared to 5% who use public transport.

# Housing Standards Dashboard

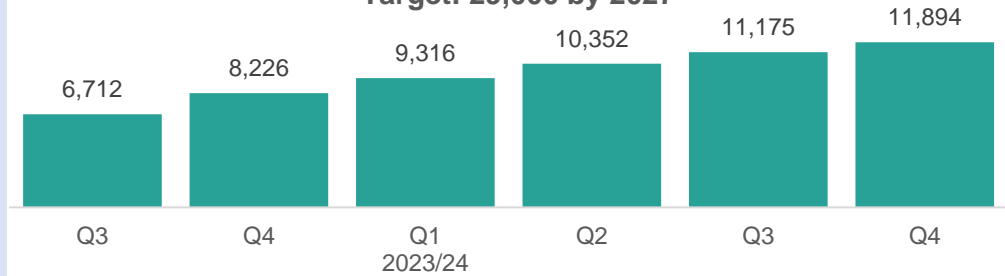
(discrete quarterly data / as at 31 March 2024)

## Selective Licensing (Private Rented Sector properties - PRS)

**% of PRS properties covered by SL scheme that are fully licenced or legal proceedings instigated (YTD)**  
Target: 100% by 2027



**No. PRS properties covered by Selective Licence Scheme that are fully licenced (YTD)**  
Target: 29,000 by 2027



## **Selective Licensing**

- 88 As at 31 March 2024, of the estimated 29,000 private sector properties covered by the scheme, 11,894 (41%) are now fully licenced. A further 1,302 (4%) applications were being processed and four live temporary exemptions and 347 family exemptions are in place.
- 89 A further 424 properties are under investigation for not having a licence. Four prosecution files relating to 11 properties, are being progressed, with one successful prosecution and one going to retrial. As at 31 March, eight civil penalties had been issued and 64 notices of intent to issue a civil penalty served.
- 90 14,071 (48%) of private rented sector properties covered by the scheme are either fully licenced, in the process of being licenced, or have legal proceedings instigated.
- 91 We continue to target private rented sector modelled properties that have not yet been licenced. Staff are in place to focus on identifying landlords of unlicensed properties using numerous data sources and carry out enforcement proceedings. We are also focusing efforts in Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) where licence numbers are lower. A new financial penalty policy is now in place to assist with enforcement action (as an alternative to prosecution) and encourage unlicensed landlords to apply.

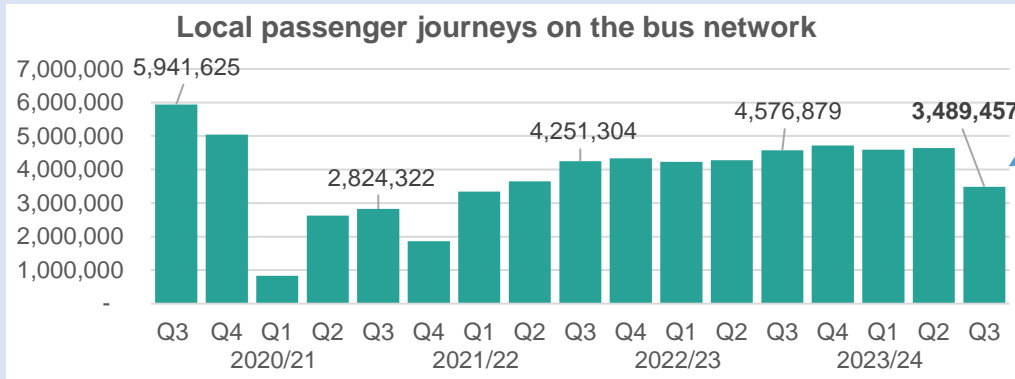
## **ASB in Selective Licensing Areas**

- 92 We continue to experience issues with one element of our ASB recording system so are unable to provide an update in relation to this indicator. We are working to resolve the issue. If a resolution cannot be found the baseline will need to be reset based on the remaining elements of the available ASB data.

# Transport Connectivity Dashboard: public transport patronage, punctuality and satisfaction

(discrete quarterly data / year to date ending 31 December 2023)

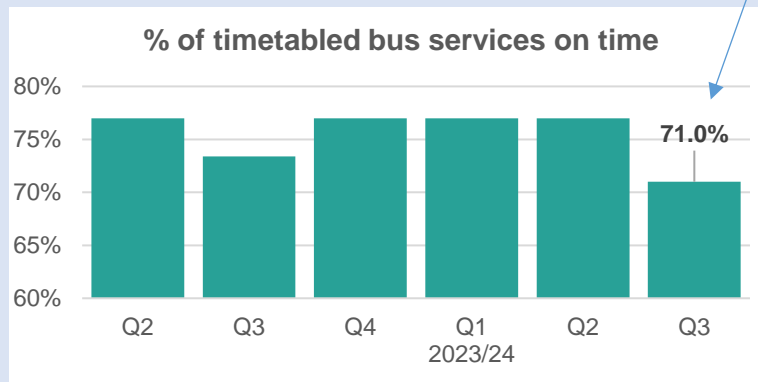
## Public Transport Patronage



Passenger numbers were heavily impacted because of Go North East industrial action.

## Punctuality

Punctuality was heavily impacted as a result of Go North East industrial action.



## Satisfaction: 'Your Bus Journey 2023' – Transport Focus Survey

Transport Focus nearest neighbours benchmarking rural group: County Durham, Cornwall, East Riding of Yorkshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Oxfordshire and Suffolk.

Your Bus Journey 2023	Durham	Rural	All England
Overall Satisfaction	75%	80%	80%

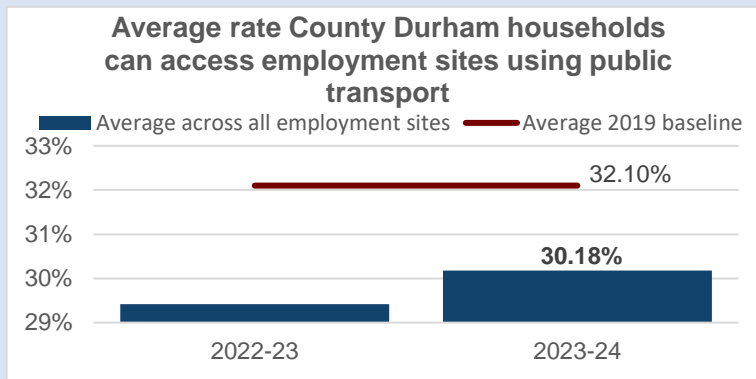
Not comparable with previous Transport Focus Survey

# Transport Connectivity Dashboard: Accessibility by public transport

(discrete annual data)

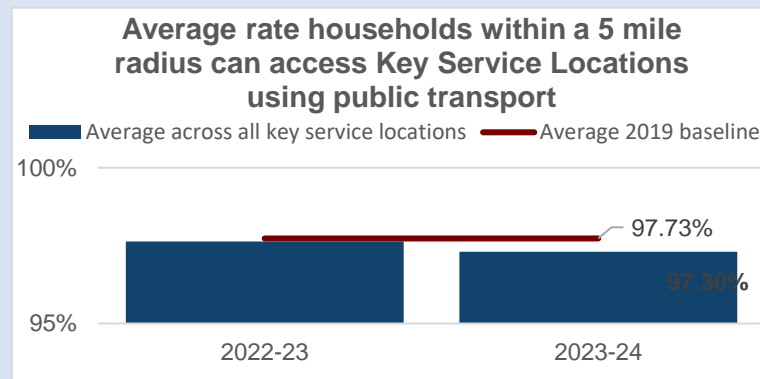
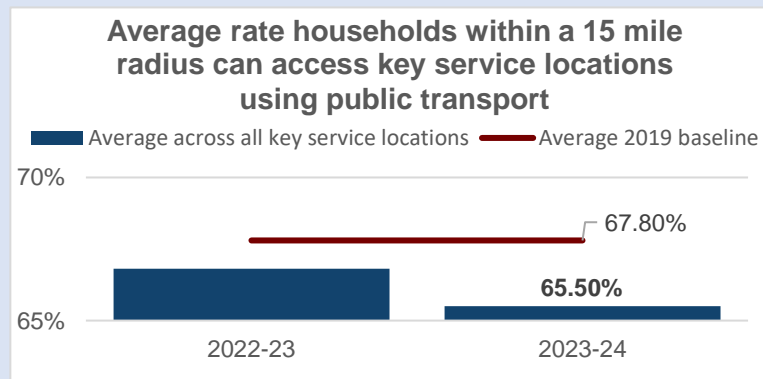
## Accessibility to Employment Sites

Employment site that can be accessed before 8.30 and within 1 hr by bus



## Accessibility to Key Service Locations

Key service locations that can be accessed between 10 – 12 on a Tuesday within 1 hour.





## Public transport patronage and punctuality

- 93 Bus patronage continues to be worse than pre-Covid levels and is not likely to return to those levels in the medium term.
- 94 Passenger numbers (3,489,457, October - December 2023) were heavily impacted by seven weeks of Go North East industrial action during October and November 2023. Consequently, overall passenger numbers were at around 75% of the previous year (4,576,879, October - December 2022).
- 95 In the same period, journeys on smaller operators saw an increase of 57% on services which run alongside Go North East routes.
- 96 Punctuality deteriorated (71.0%, October - December 2023) compared to the same period of the previous year (73.4%, October - December 2022) because of the Go North East industrial action.
- 97 Buses operated by other companies saw increased passenger numbers slowing down boarding times, alongside increased car usage, impacting on their ability to operate to scheduled timetables.
- 98 We continue to implement the North East Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) in partnership with bus operators and other councils to encourage patronage growth and improve punctuality.

## Bus journey satisfaction

- 99 Overall satisfaction with bus journey shows County Durham (75%) is worse than the rural statistical neighbours (80%) and national (80%) averages.
- 100 Satisfaction with value for money is the only element where County Durham at 74% is better than the rural statistical neighbours (69%) or national (67%) averages.

Your Bus Journey 2023 - satisfaction with....	Durham	Rural	All England
value for money	74%	69%	67%
bus stop where you caught the bus	69%	75%	76%
length of time you had to wait for bus	60%	69%	68%
punctuality of bus at stop (arriving on time)	64%	72%	70%
bus driver	84%	87%	85%
length of time journey on bus took	80%	80%	81%

- 101 Satisfaction by operator in County Durham indicates:

Your Bus Journey 2023 satisfaction by operator	Go North East	Arriva
Overall Satisfaction	82%	70%
Satisfaction with value for money	69%	73%
Satisfaction with bus driver overall	86%	84%

- 102 We continue to work in partnership at a regional level, with bus operators and other local authorities, to implement the North East Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to transform bus services and improve the bus network.
- 103 Further analysis and research will be undertaken to understand the initiatives that contributed to higher performance. For example, the £2 fare and other ticketing initiatives.

- 104 The 2024 results will track changes in passenger satisfaction, identify any trends and link these to BSIP funding and interventions.
- 105 The Transport Focus ‘Your Bus Journey’ passenger satisfaction survey was launched in January 2023 and ran until December 2023. It is not comparable with from the previous Transport Focus Bus Passenger Survey which ran until 2019.
- 106 Challenges in delivering bus services and progress against implementing the National Bus Strategy differ across transport authorities. To benchmarking results Transport Focus has split areas into four types: urban metropolitan, urban other, semi-rural and rural. County Durham has been placed in the rural group alongside Cornwall, East Riding of Yorkshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Oxfordshire and Suffolk.

**Accessibility to employment sites and key service locations**

- 107 The average rate for accessibility to employment sites across County Durham for households using public transport in 2023/24 (30.18%, April 2023 to March 2024) is worse than the average 2019 baseline (32.10%) but better than 2022/23 (29.43%, April 2022 to March 2023).
- 108 Of the eighteen employments sites:

- Six exceeded their 2019 baseline in 2023/24 (April 2023 to March 2024).

Employment Sites	2019 baseline	2022/23	2023/24
Peterlee Industrial Estate	24.99%	25.56%	25.94%
Merchant Park	11.97%	13.55%	17.25%
Number One Industrial Estate	26.22%	27.70%	30.30%
Spectrum Business Park	20.58%	23.62%	25.49%
Forrest Park	13.58%	12.55%	15.11%
Belmont Business Park	41.13%	40.55%	43.07%

- Accessibility at one employment site; Jade Business Park, remains unchanged from its 2019 baseline (0.05%) and 2022/23 (0.05%, April 2022 to March 2023).
  - The remaining eleven sites are worse than their 2019 baselines.

Employment Sites	2019 baseline	2022/23	2023/24
Aykley Heads	62.54%	57.17%	56.48%
NetPark Business Park	34.96%	25.36%	23.01%
Integra 61	35.79%	24.89%	25.74%
Aycliffe Business Park	22.45%	20.64%	19.13%
Bracken Hill Business Park	24.12%	22.91%	22.74%
Dragonville	54.84%	50.28%	50.96%
Drum Industrial Estate	23.17%	22.30%	22.55%
Durham Science Site	57.69%	49.77%	52.58%
Durham Way (NA Trading Estate)	22.45%	20.64%	19.13%
Abbey Road	50.40%	45.48%	46.47%
Abbey Woods	50.74%	46.46%	47.21%

- 109 The average rate for accessibility to the two key service locations of Bishop Auckland and Durham City by public transport for households within a 15-mile radius in 2023/24

(65.50%, April 2023 to March 2024) is worse than the average 2019 baseline (67.80%) and 2022/23 (66.81%, April 2022 to March 2023).

Key Service Locations within a 15-mile radius	2019 baseline	2022/23	2023/24
Bishop Auckland	55.14%	53.46%	53.76%
Durham City	80.46%	80.16%	77.24%

110 The average rate for accessibility to the other key service locations across County Durham by public transport for households within a 5-mile radius in 2023/24 (97.30%) is slightly worse than the average 2019 baseline (97.73%) and 2022/23 (97.63%, April 2022 to March 2023).

111 Of these 14 key service locations:

- Four have exceeded their 2019 baseline in 2023/24 (April 2023 to March 2024).

Key Service Locations within a 5-mile radius	2019 baseline	2022/23	2023/24
Barnard Castle	89.48%	94.57%	90.19%
Dalton Park	99.67%	99.79%	99.83%
Arnison	99.25%	99.54%	99.53%
Tindale Shopping Centre	92.77%	92.75%	93.06%

- The remaining ten sites are worse than their 2019 baselines.

Key Service Locations within a 5-mile radius	2019 baseline	2022/23	2023/24
Chester-le-Street	99.46%	99.42%	99.39%
Consett	98.39%	98.77%	98.38%
Crook	94.49%	93.10%	93.51%
Newton Aycliffe	99.24%	98.62%	98.98%
Peterlee	99.69%	99.68%	99.67%
Seaham	98.66%	97.92%	98.62%
Spennymoor	99.31%	98.43%	98.39%
Stanley	99.54%	99.46%	99.45%
Ferryhill	98.97%	99.46%	99.45%
Sildon	99.06%	99.09%	97.24%

112 For both accessibility by public transport to employment sites and key service locations, in most cases, changes from the baseline are reflective of marginal changes in timetables causing changes in travel time or different connecting opportunities.

113 Service changes since 2019 have resulted in about 10% fewer buses running on the overall network. Mainly due to reduced frequencies on higher frequency corridors rather than whole service withdrawal. In a few cases a change of bus may now be required to make a journey, with an impact on travel time.

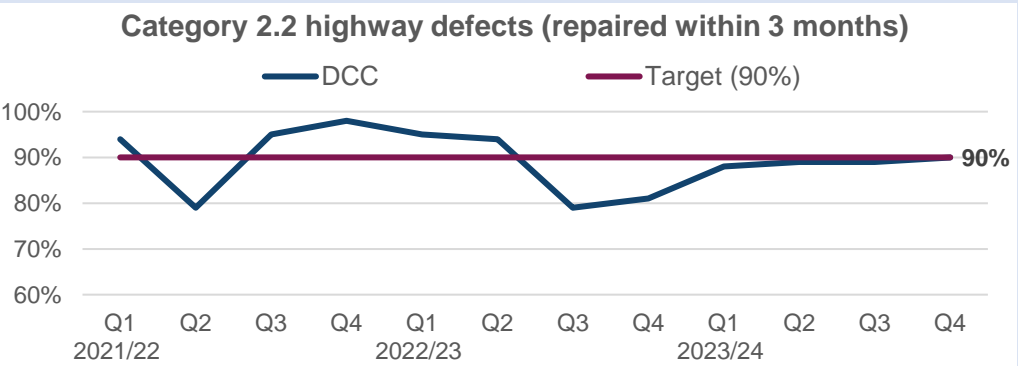
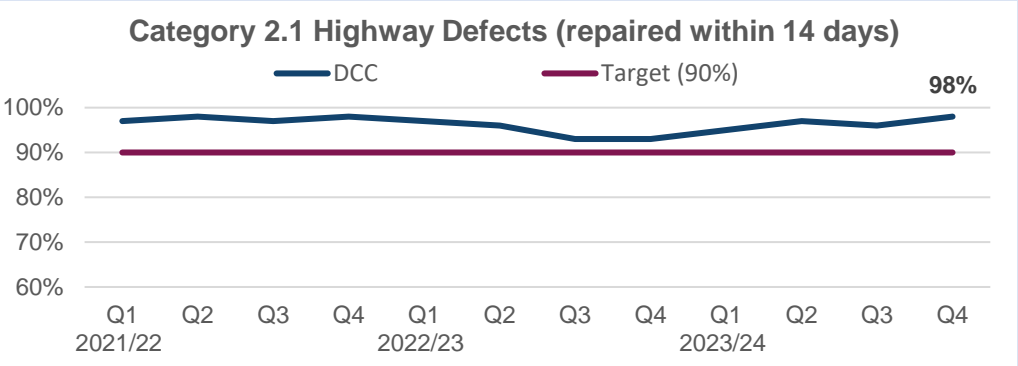
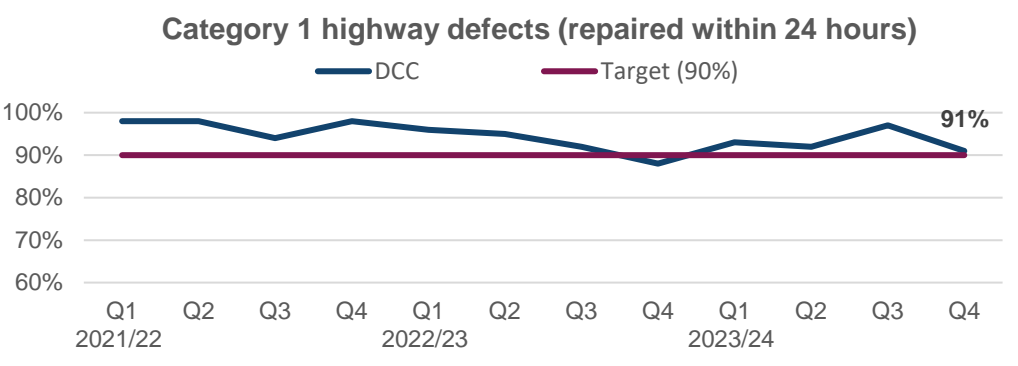
114 We continue to work in partnership at a regional level, with bus operators and other local authorities, to implement the North East Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to transform bus services and improve the bus network.

# Highway Maintenance Dashboard

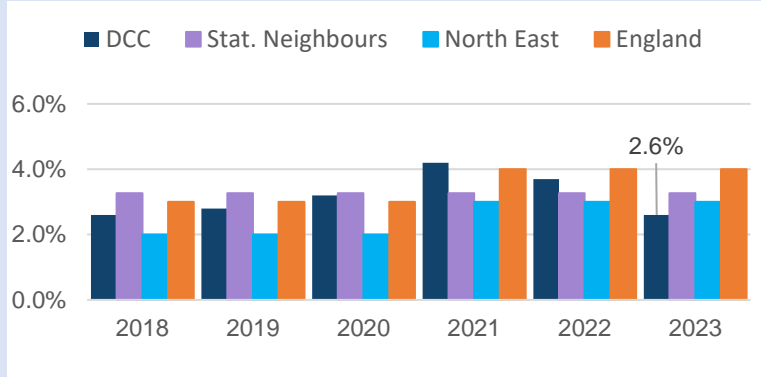
(discrete quarterly data / discrete annual data)

## Highway Maintenance

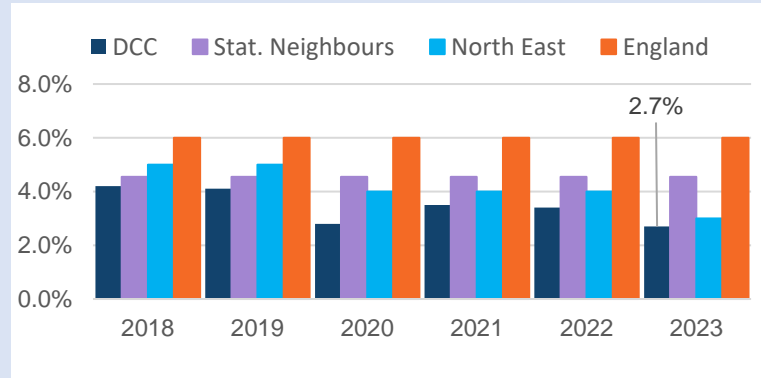
Defects are categorised on a risk basis, resources targeted at those likely to pose the greatest risk of harm. Category 2.2 highway defects pose the lowest risk based on footfall and location.



## Percentage of A Roads where maintenance should be considered (Oflog)



## Percentage of B & C Roads where maintenance should be considered (Oflog)



## Highways Maintenance

- 115 Highway defects are categorised on a risk basis and where there is a high number of defects across all categories. Resources are targeted at those likely to pose the greatest risk of harm. Category 2.2 defects pose the lowest level of risk to the public based on footfall and location.
- 116 Maintenance of Category 1 highway defects (91%, January to March 2024) remains better than target (90%). Although weather impacted performance this quarter due to defects being covered in snow. Category 2.1 highway defects (within 14 days) (98%) continue to be better than target (90%) and the previous 12 months (3%, January to March 2023).
- 117 Following a downward trend last year, Category 2.2 highway defects continued to improve in quarter four (90%, January to March 2024) and is on target (90%). Heavy rain in March preventing the repair of some defects within timescale affected performance.

## A and B and C Road Condition (Oflog measures)

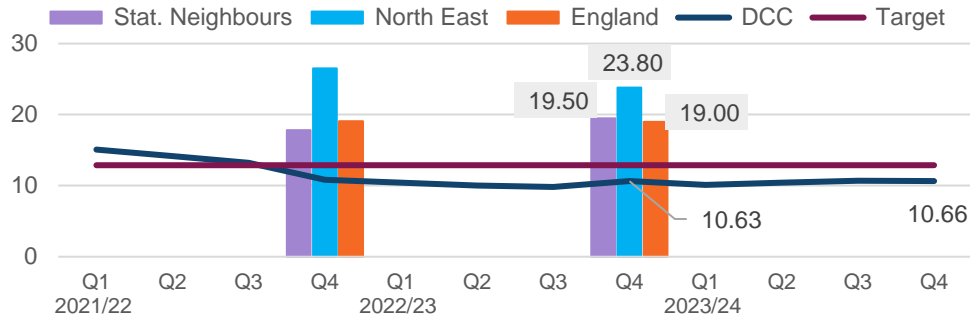
- 118 In 2023 the percentage of A roads where maintenance should be considered was 2.6%. Better than our statistical neighbours (3.27%), the North East (3.0%), England (4.0%) and the 2022 period (3.7%).
- 119 Similarly, the percentage of B and C roads where maintenance should be considered was 2.65%. Better than our statistical neighbours (4.55%), the North East (3.0%), England (6.0%) and the 2022 period (3.4%).
- 120 Highways conditions have shown an improvement due to targeted investment.
- 121 The Highways Asset Maintenance Plan is complete. However, we are currently awaiting guidance from local authorities in the region to complete the maintenance backlog to ensure continuity of reporting.
- 122 The most up to date condition data and treatment costs have been used to enable an accurate highways maintenance backlog to be calculated. Early indications are that the backlog will have increased significantly driven by inflation which is outside of our control.

# Clean and Attractive Communities Dashboard

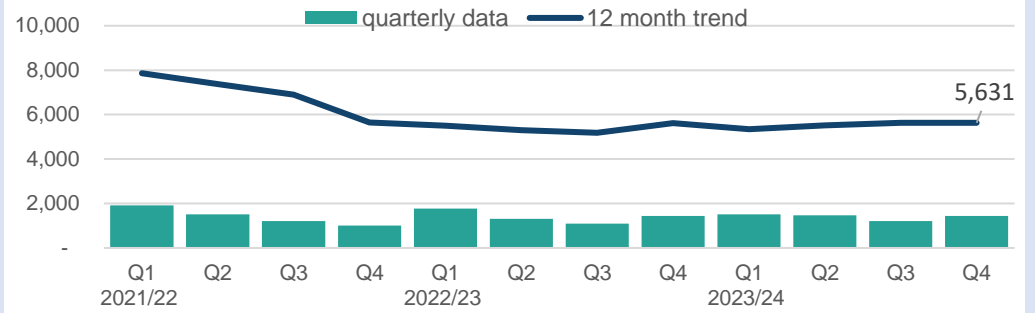
(12 months ending 31 March 2024 / discrete quarterly data / as at 31 March 2024)

Lower is better

### Fly-tips per 1,000 population

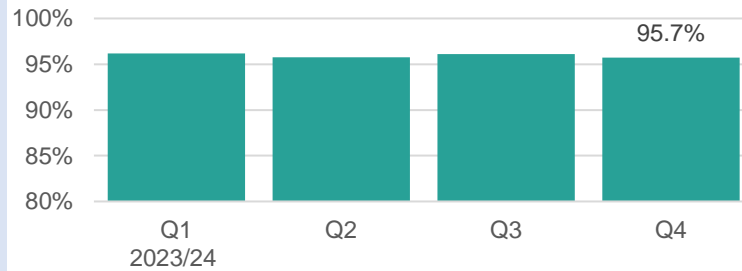


### Number of fly-tips

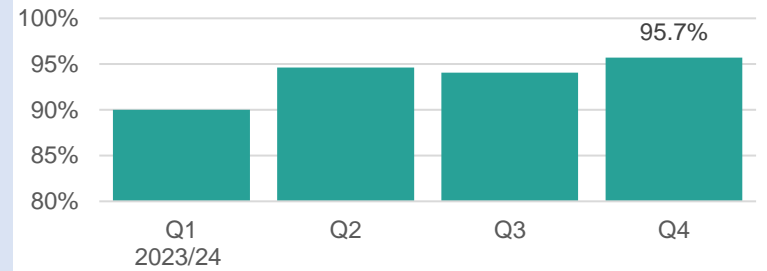


## Street Cleanliness Surveys

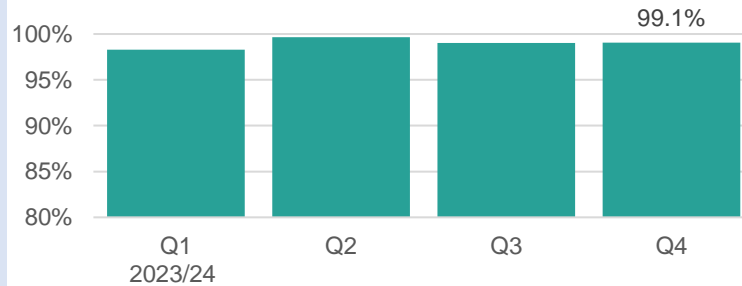
### Street Cleanliness Survey Streetscape - litter



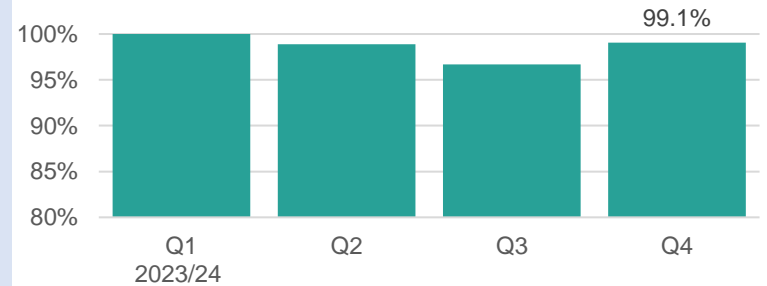
### Street Cleanliness Survey Green Space - litter



### Street Cleanliness Survey Streetscape - dog fouling



### Street Cleanliness Survey Green space - dog fouling



## **Fly-tipping**

- 123 We continue to address fly-tipping, in the last 12 months we have continued to take a proactive approach against perpetrators, this has included:
- 19 prosecutions carried out;
  - 71 incidents caught on CCTV;
  - seizure of five vehicles;
  - 41 fixed penalty notices issued for fly-tipping offences;
  - 69 fixed penalty notices issued for waste carrier offences; and
  - 3,003 further investigations of incidents carried out.
- 124 The positive results of this drive to lower levels of fly-tipping can be seen in both the numbers of incidents and in the rate per 1,000 population.
- 125 As well as being better than target (12.88) the 12 months rate (April 2023 to March 2024) of fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population (10.66) is in line with the previous 12 months (10.63, April 2022 to March 2023).
- 126 Latest benchmarking for 2022/23 (April 2022 to March 2023) shows County Durham had a fly tipping rate per 1000 population of 10.3. An improvement on 2021/22 (10.9, April 2021 to March 2022) and significantly better than the national average (19), our statistical neighbours (19.5) and the regional average (23.8).
- 127 Following the peak during the pandemic, to over 8,000 incidents of fly-tipping (April 2020 to March 2021), the amount of fly-tipping remains low. 5,631 incidents in the last 12 months (April 2023 to March 2024), is in keeping with the previous 12 months (5,614, April 2022 to March 2023).
- 128 Fixed penalty notice fines will increase from 1 May. Increases will be in line with the maximum set by national regulations. The increases apply to fly-tipping; littering; graffiti; flyposting and household duty of care in relation to the disposal of waste. In addition, a new fine will be introduced for repeat offences for littering, graffiti; flyposting and household duty of care.

## **Cleanliness**

- 129 New cleanliness surveys which we started in April, looks at street scape areas (paths, roads and alleyways) and green scape areas (parks, open spaces and playing fields).
- 130 As a result of our ground maintenance services there is a high level of cleanliness across County Durham. In relation to litter, 95.7% of the street scape and green space areas inspected were acceptable. For dog fouling, 99% of the street scape and green space areas inspected were acceptable.
- 131 Once a longer term trend has been established using this methodology, targets will be set to assist us in driving improvement. We will also seek to benchmark against other authorities once more data are available.
- 132 We continue to encourage cleanliness across the county through initiatives such as Big Spring Clean. The 2024 event commenced in February and ran through into April. Early feedback suggests that the event has again proven very popular despite weather conditions not being favourable. Up to the 31 March:

- There have been over 60 volunteer litter picks.
- Over 700 new volunteers signed up to our volunteer litter picking programme.
- Around 1,000 pieces of equipment has been loaned out to groups and individuals.



# Data Tables

D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
				Household waste re-used, recycled or composted	Oct 22 – Sep 23	36.5%	Tracker	37.7%	April 21 – March 22	38.1%	42.5%	33.5%	Yes	Yes

D = Direction of Travel	T = compared to target	C = compared to England average	G = Gap between our performance and England average
meeting or exceeding the previous year	Meeting or better than target	meeting or better than the England average	The gap is improving
worse than the previous year but is within 2%	worse than but within 2% of target	worse than the England average but within 2%	The gap remains the same
more than 2% worse than the previous year	more than 2% behind target	worse than the England average	The gap is deteriorating

This is the overall performance assessment. Its calculation is dependent upon whether the indicator has an agreed target.

Key Target Indicator	Key Tracker Indicator
targets are set as improvements, can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the council and its partners. When setting a target, the D, C and G have already been taken into account.	no targets are set as they are long-term and / or can only be partially influenced by the council and its partners. Therefore, D, T, C and G are used to assess overall performance
better than target	Direction of Travel (D) is meeting or exceeding the previous year <b>AND</b> the gap with England (G) is improving
worse than but within 2% of target	Direction of Travel (D) is worse than the previous year <b>OR</b> the gap with England (G) is deteriorating
more than 2% behind target	Direction of Travel (D) is worse than the previous year <b>AND</b> the gap with England (G) is deteriorating

More detail is available from the Strategy Team at [performance@durham.gov.uk](mailto:performance@durham.gov.uk)

## Our Economy: summary data tables

### Cultural Offer KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					People attending cultural events ran and commissioned by CS&T	Apr-Dec 2023	260,326	Tracker	185,312 (2021 Lumiere year)					No	No
					People attending council owned cultural venues (Killhope & town halls)	Jan-Mar 2024	31,288	25,250	27,191					Yes	No
					Average % occupancy of cinema screenings (Gala, Empire & BATH)	Jan-Mar 2024	32%	37%	19%					Yes	No
					Average % yield of cinema screenings (BATH, Gala and Empire)	Jan-Mar 2024	84%	100%	78%					Yes	No
					Average % yield of theatre performances (BATH, Gala and Empire)	Jan-Mar 2024	97%	100%	92%					Yes	No
					Average % occupancy of theatre performances (Gala, Empire & BATH)	Jan-Mar 2024	65%	70%	73%					Yes	No
					Council owned/managed heritage assets classed as 'at risk'	2023	3	Tracker	3					No	No
					Heritage assets 'at risk' categorised as 'Priority A' and/or in 'very bad condition'	2023	7	Tracker	6					No	No
					Active borrowers (libraries)	Jan-Mar 2024	46,002	43,910	43,475					Yes	No
					Digital borrowers (libraries)	Jan-Mar 2024	4,468	3,856	3,818					Yes	No

## Visitor Economy KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Visitors to the county	2022	17.91m	17.085m	15.77m					No	No
					Money generated by the visitor economy	2022	£1.04b	£760.5m	£826.68m					No	No
					Jobs supported by the visitor economy	2022	11,724	10,191	10,063					No	No
					Visitor attractions served by public transport	2023	67%	Tracker	67%					Yes	No
					Tourism businesses actively engaged with Visit County Durham	2023	55%	Tracker	27.8%					No	No

## Our Environment: summary data tables

### Waste KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Household waste re-used, recycled or composted	2023	36.6%	Tracker	37.5%	Apr 22 – Mar 23	37.1%	41.7%	31.2%	Yes	Yes
					Waste diverted from landfill	2023	96.8%	90%	89.6%	Apr 22- Mar 23	90.4%	92.7%	88.5%	Yes	No
					Residual household waste (kg per household)	2023	568	Tracker	570	Apr 22- Mar 23	565	509	596	Yes	Yes
					Contamination rate	2023	33.1%	Tracker	35.2%					Yes	No
					Contamination rate (all household waste)	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	9.5%	Tracker	10.1%	Apr 22 – Mar 23	9.5%		8.4%	Yes	Yes

## Sustainable Transport and Active Travel KPIs

Page 92	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Cycling and walking levels	2022	65.6%	Tracker	67.7%	2022	65.6%	70.6%	67.5%	No	No
					Satisfaction with cycle routes & facilities ( <i>confidence intervals +/-4pp</i> )	2023	50%	Tracker	52%	2023	50%	50%		No	No
					Linear kilometres of appropriate design standards for Active Mode Routes		new		new					No	No
					Park and Ride passenger journeys	Jan-Mar 2024	131,123	Tracker	113,434					Yes	No

## Carbons Reduction and Air Quality KPIs

D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
				% reduction in County Durham carbon emissions from 1990 baseline	2021	53.7%	Tracker	56.3%					No	No
				% reduction in Council's carbon emissions from 2008/09 baseline	2022/23	61%	Tracker	57%					No	No
				NO <sub>2</sub> levels within Durham City Air Quality Management Area that are below the govt threshold of 40µg/m <sup>3</sup>	2022	96%	100%	65%					No	No
				Trees planted	2023/24	74,023	65,977	53,000					Yes	No

# Our People: summary data tables

## Physical Activity KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Visits to Leisure Centres	Jan-Mar 2024	819,644	814,219	812,455					Yes	No
					Leisure memberships	Jan-Mar 2024	20,540	19,964	19,377					Yes	No

# Our Communities: summary data tables

## Housing Standards KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Properties covered by Selective Licence Scheme that are licensed, or legal proceedings instigated	Jan-Mar 2024	48%	100% (by 2025)	30%					Yes	No
					ASB incidents per 10,000 population within the Selective Licensing Scheme	Jul 2022-Jun 2023	212.97	224.28	287.7					No	No

## Clean and Attractive Communities KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Fly-tipping resolved rate	2022/23	10.66	12.88	10.63	Apr 22 – Mar 23	10.3	19	23.8	Yes	No
					Streetscape with acceptable levels of cleanliness: litter	Jan-Mar 2024	95.72%	Tracker	new					Yes	No

Page 94				Streetscape with acceptable levels of cleanliness: dog fouling	Jan-Mar 2024	99.07%	Tracker	new					Yes	No
				Green and open space with acceptable levels of cleanliness: litter	Jan-Mar 2024	95.72%	Tracker	new					Yes	No
				Green and open space with acceptable levels of cleanliness: dog fouling	Jan-Mar 2024	99.07%	Tracker	new					Yes	No

### Transport Connectivity KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Satisfaction with ease of access ( <i>confidence intervals +/-4pp</i> )	2023	73%	Tracker	73%	2023	73%	71%		No	No
					Overall satisfaction with bus journey	2023	75%	Tracker	New	2023	75%	80%		Yes	No
					Households who can access key service locations using public transport within a 15-mile radius	2023	97.30%	97.73%	97.63%					Yes	No
					Households who can access key service locations using public transport within a 5-mile radius	2023	65.50%	67.80%	66.81%					Yes	No
					Residents who can access employment sites by public transport	2023	30.18%	32.10%	29.42%					Yes	No
					Timetabled bus services no more than 5 min late or 1 min early	Oct-Dec 2023	71.0%	Tracker	73.4%					Yes	No
					Local passenger journeys on public transport	Oct-Dec 2023	3,489,457	Tracker	4,577,008					Yes	No

## Highways and Footways Maintenance KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					A roads where maintenance is recommended	2023	2.6%	Tracker	3.7%	2023	2.6%	4.0%	3.0%	Yes	Yes
					B & C roads where maintenance is recommended	2023	2.65%	Tracker	3.4%	2023	2.65%	6.0%	3.0%	Yes	Yes
					Unclassified roads where maintenance is recommended	2023	23%	Tracker	25%	2023	23%	17%	22%	Yes	No
					'Footways' structurally unsound	2022	30.9%	Tracker	31.3%					No	No
					Bridge condition: principal roads	2020	82.0%	Tracker	81.1%					No	No
					Bridge condition: non-principal roads	2020	81.0%	Tracker	80.1%					No	No
					Category 1 highway defects repaired within 24 hours	Jan-Mar 2024	91%	90%	88%					Yes	No
					Category 2.1 highway defects repaired within 14 days	Jan-Mar 2024	98%	90%	93%					Yes	No
					Category 2.2 highway defects repaired within 3 months	Jan-Mar 2024	90%	90%	81%					Yes	No
					Highways Maintenance Backlog	awaiting data		Tracker						No	No
					Satisfaction with highways maintenance. ( <i>confidence intervals +/-4pp</i> )	2023	46%	Tracker	47%	2023	46%	43%		No	No
					Footway maintained and repaired over and above the core programme		new	Tracker	new					No	No

## Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>ACD</b>	<p><b>Automatic Call Distribution</b></p> <p>Telephone calls are received either through our Automatic Call Distribution system, which routes calls to groups of agents based on a first-in-first-answered criteria, or directly to a telephone extension (non-ACD). Only calls received via our ACD system are included in our telephone statistics.</p>
<b>AQMA</b>	<p><b>Air Quality Management Area</b></p> <p>A geographical area where air pollution levels are, or are likely to, exceed national air quality objectives at relevant locations (where the public may be exposed to harmful air pollution over a period of time e.g., residential homes, schools etc.).</p>
<b>ASB</b>	Anti-social behaviour
<b>ASCOF</b>	<p><b>Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework</b></p> <p>measures how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people (<a href="#">link</a>)</p>
<b>BATH</b>	<p><b>Bishop Auckland Town Hall</b></p> <p>A multi-purpose cultural venue situated in Bishop Auckland market place. It offers regular art exhibitions, live music, cinema screenings and theatre performances, as well as a library service.</p>
<b>BCF</b>	<p><b>Better Care Fund</b></p> <p>A national programme that supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care.</p>
<b>B2B</b>	<p><b>Business to Business</b></p> <p>B2B refers to selling products and services directly between two businesses as opposed to between businesses and customers.</p>
<b>CAP</b>	<p><b>Customer Access Point</b></p> <p>A location where residents can get face-to-face help and information about council services. There are eight CAPs across County Durham.</p>
<b>CAT</b>	<p><b>Community Action Team</b></p> <p>A project team which includes members of our community protection service, planning, neighbourhood wardens and housing teams, who work alongside police and community support officers and fire and rescue teams and residents to tackle housing and environmental issues in a specific area by identifying local priorities and making best use of resources.</p>
<b>CDP</b>	<p><b>County Durham Plan</b></p> <p>Sets out the council's vision for housing, jobs and the environment until 2035, as well as the transport, schools and healthcare to support it (<a href="#">link</a>)</p>
<b>CED</b>	<b>Community Economic Development</b>



Term	Definition
<b>CERP</b>	<p><b>Climate Emergency Response Plan</b></p> <p>A community-wide call to action to help align all sectors on the actions required to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>
<b>Changing Places toilet</b>	<p>Toilets meet the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis. These toilets provide the right equipment including a height adjustable adult-sized changing table, a tracking hoist system, adequate space for a disabled person and carer, a peninsular WC with room either side and a safe and clean environment including tear off paper to cover the bench, a large waste bin and a non-slip floor.</p>
<b>CLD</b>	<p><b>Client Level Dataset</b></p> <p>A national mandatory person-level data collection (to be introduced) that will replace the existing annual <a href="#">Short and Long Term (SALT) Support</a> data collected by councils. CLD will be added to the <a href="#">single data list</a> and will become mandatory for all local authorities.</p>
<b>CNIS</b>	<p><b>Child Not In School</b></p>
<b>CPN</b>	<p><b>Community Protection Notice</b></p> <p>Can be issued to anyone over the age of 16 to deal with a wide range of ongoing anti-social behaviour issues or nuisances which have a detrimental effect on the local community. There are three stages: the first stage is a written warning (CPW), the second a notice (CPN) the third is an FPN or further prosecution for failure to comply with the previous stages</p>
<b>CRM</b>	<p><b>Customer Relationship Management system</b></p>
<b>CS&amp;T</b>	<p><b>Culture, Sport and Tourism</b></p>
<b>CTR</b>	<p><b>Council Tax Reduction</b></p> <p>Reduces council tax bills for those on low incomes</p>
<b>DCC</b>	<p><b>Durham County Council</b></p>
<b>DEFRA</b>	<p><b>Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</b></p> <p>A ministerial department, supported by <a href="#">34 agencies and public bodies</a> responsible for improving and protecting the environment. It aims to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities. It also supports our world-leading food, farming and fishing industries (<a href="#">link</a>)</p>
<b>DHP</b>	<p><b>Discretionary Housing Payments</b></p> <p>Short term payments which can be made to tenants in receipt of the housing benefit element of Universal Credit, to help sort out housing and money problems in the longer term.</p>
<b>DHSC</b>	<p><b>Department of Health and Social Care</b></p> <p>The DHSC supports the government in leading the nation's health and care system.</p>

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>DLE</b>	<b>Daily Living Expenses</b> Available for those whose circumstances have changed unexpectedly. Payments can be made for up to seven days to help with food, travel and some clothing (restrictions apply).
<b>DoLS</b>	<b>Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards</b> A set of checks that are part of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, which applies in England and Wales. The DoLS procedure protects a person receiving care whose liberty has been limited by checking that this is appropriate and is in their best interests.
<b>EAP</b>	<b>Employee Assistance Programme</b> A confidential employee benefit designed to help staff deal with personal and professional problems that could be affecting their home or work life, health, and general wellbeing.
<b>EET</b>	<b>Employment, Education or Training</b> Most often used in relation to young people aged 16 to 24, it measures the number employed, in education or in training.
<b>EHCP</b>	<b>Education, Health Care Plan</b> A legal document which describes a child or young person's (aged up to 25) special educational needs, the support they need, and the outcomes they would like to achieve.
<b>ERDF</b>	<b>European Regional Development Fund</b> Funding that helps to create economic development and growth; it gives support to businesses, encourages new ideas and supports regeneration. Although the United Kingdom has now left the European Union, under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement, EU programmes will continue to operate in the UK until their closure in 2023-24.
<b>EHE</b>	<b>Elective Home Education</b> A term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time.
<b>ETA</b>	<b>Extension of Time Agreement</b> An agreement between the council and the customer submitting a planning application to extend the usual deadline beyond 13 weeks due to the complex nature of the application.
<b>FPN</b>	<b>Fixed Penalty Notice</b> Is a conditional offer to an alleged offender for them to have the matter dealt with in a set way without resorting to going to court.
<b>FTE</b>	<b>Full Time Equivalent</b> Total number of full-time employees working across the organisation. It is a way of adding up the hours of full-time, part-time and various other types of employees and converting into measurable 'full-time' units.
<b>GVA</b>	<b>Gross Value Added</b> <i>The measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.</i>

Term	Definition
HSF	<p><b>Household Support Fund</b></p> <p>Payments support low income households struggling with energy and food costs, or who need essential household items.</p>
ICO	<p><b>Information Commissioner’s Office</b></p> <p>The UK’s independent body’s role is to uphold information rights in the public interest (<a href="#">link</a>)</p>
IES	<p><b>Inclusive Economic Strategy</b></p> <p>Sets a clear, long-term vision for the area's economy up to 2035, with an overarching aim to create more and better jobs in an inclusive, green economy (<a href="#">link</a>)</p>
JLHWS	<p><b>Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy</b></p> <p>The Strategy (2023-28) supports the vision that County Durham is a healthy place where people live well for longer (<a href="#">link</a>)</p>
KS2	<p><b>Key Stage 2</b></p> <p>The national curriculum is organised into blocks of years called ‘key stages.’ At the end of each key stage, the teacher will formally assess each child’s performance. KS2 refers to children in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 when pupils are aged between 7 and 11.</p>
KS3	<p><b>Key Stage 3</b></p> <p>The national curriculum is organised into blocks of years called ‘key stages.’ At the end of each key stage, the teacher will formally assess each child’s performance. KS3 refers to children in year 7, 8 and 9 when pupils are aged between 11 and 14.</p>
LGA	<p><b>Local Government Association</b></p> <p>The national membership body for councils which works on behalf of its member councils to support, promote and improve local government (<a href="#">link</a>).</p>
L!NKCD	<p>A programme that brings together a number of delivery partners to support people with multiple barriers to address these underlying issues and to move them closer to or into the labour market or re-engage with education or training.</p>
LNRS	<p><b>Local Nature Recovery Strategies</b></p> <p>Propose how and where to recover nature and improve the wider environment across England.</p>
MMB	<p><b>Managing Money Better</b></p> <p>A service offered by the council which involves visiting residents’ homes to carry out a free home energy assessment. In addition to providing advice on energy bills, the service can provide financial advice through referrals to <a href="#">benefits advice or help with a benefits appeal</a> and other services for advice on benefit entitlements.</p>
MTFP	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Plan</b></p> <p>A document that sets out the council's financial strategy over a four year period</p>
MW	<p><b>MegaWatt</b> is one million watts of electricity</p>

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>NESWA</b>	<b>North East Social Work Alliance</b> A social work teaching partnership made up of 12 North East councils and six Higher Education Institutes. The Alliance is one of several teaching partnerships across the country which were created to improve the quality of practice, learning and continuous professional development amongst trainee and practicing social workers.
<b>NQSW</b>	<b>Newly Qualified Social Workers</b> a social worker who is registered with Social Work England and is in their first year of post qualifying practice.
<b>NVQ</b>	<b>National Vocational Qualification</b> The NVQ is a work-based qualification that recognises the skills and knowledge a person needs to do a job.
<b>Oflog</b>	<b>Office For Local Government</b> The vision for Oflog is for it to provide authoritative and accessible data and analysis about the performance of local government and support its improvement. Oflog is part of the <a href="#">Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities</a> .
<b>PDR</b>	<b>Performance and Development Review</b> Is an annual process which provides all staff with the valuable opportunity to reflect on their performance, potential and development needs.
<b>PRS</b>	<b>Private Rented Sector</b> This classification of housing relates to property owned by a landlord and leased to a tenant. The landlord could be an individual, a property company or an institutional investor. The tenants would either deal directly with an individual landlord, or alternatively with a management company or estate agency caring for the property on behalf of the landlord.
<b>PSPO</b>	<b>Public Space Protection Order</b> Are intended to deal with a nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community.
<b>QoL</b>	<b>Quality of Life</b>
<b>RIDDOR</b>	<b>Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations</b> A RIDDOR report is required for work-related accidents which result in a reportable injury. The definition of a reportable injury can be found <a href="#">here</a>
<b>RQF</b>	<b>Regulated Qualifications Framework</b> The RQF helps people understand all the qualifications regulated by the government and how they relate to each other. It covers general and vocational in England, and vocational in Northern Ireland. <a href="#">Link</a>
<b>SALT</b>	<b>Short and Long Term</b> Relates to the annual <a href="#">Short and Long Term (SALT) Support</a> data collected by councils. It is to be replaced by a national mandatory person-level data collection (Client Level Data).

Term	Definition
<b>SEN</b>	<p><b>Special Educational Needs</b></p> <p>The term is used to describe learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for children to learn than most children of the same age. Children with SEN are likely to need extra or different help from that given to other children their age.</p>
<b>SEND</b>	<p><b>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</b></p> <p>SEND can affect a child or young person's ability to learn and can affect their;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ behaviour or ability to socialise (e.g., they struggle to make friends)</li> <li>▪ reading and writing (e.g., because they have dyslexia),</li> <li>▪ ability to understand things,</li> <li>▪ concentration levels (e.g., because they have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)</li> <li>▪ physical ability</li> </ul>
<b>SG</b>	<p><b>Settlement Grants</b></p> <p>Help people stay in their home or move back into housing after living in supported or unsettled accommodation (such as leaving care or being homeless). They provide help towards furniture, white goods, flooring, curtains, bedding, kitchen equipment, removal costs etc.</p>
<b>SME</b>	<p><b>Small to Medium Sized Enterprise</b></p> <p>A company with no more than 500 employees.</p>
<b>Statistical nearest neighbours</b>	<p>A group of councils that are similar across a wide range of socio-economic.</p> <p>Durham County Council uses the CIPFA nearest neighbours model which compares us to Northumberland, North Tyneside, Barnsley, Rotherham, Wakefield, Doncaster, Redcar and Cleveland, Wigan, St Helens, Cornwall, Sefton, Sunderland, Wirral, Plymouth and Calderdale</p>
<b>UASC</b>	<p><b>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children</b></p> <p>Children and young people who are seeking asylum in the UK but who have been separated from their parents or carers. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a council.</p>
<b>UKSPF</b>	<p><b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b></p> <p>Part of the government's Levelling Up agenda that provides funding for local investment to March 2025. All areas of the UK receive an allocation from the Fund to enable local decision making and better target the priorities of places within the UK that will lead to tangible improvements to the places where people work and live.</p>
<b>WEEE</b>	<p><b>Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment</b></p> <p>Any electrical or electronic waste, whether whole or broken, that is destined for disposal. The definition includes household appliances such as washing machines and cookers, IT and telecommunications equipment, electrical and electronic tools, toys and leisure equipment and certain medical devices.</p>
<b>Yield</b>	<p>Proportion of potential income achieved</p>

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



**24 July 2024**

**Refresh of the Work Programme  
2024/25 for Environment and  
Sustainable Communities  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Report of Helen Bradley, Director of Legal and Democratic Services**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

None

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ESC OSC) with an updated draft work programme for 2024/25.

**Executive summary**

- 2 ESC OSC review their work programme each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035.
- 3 The proposed ESC OSC work programme has been framed around the shared County Durham Vision 2035 based on the three strategic ambitions – ‘more and better jobs’, ‘long and independent lives’ and ‘connected communities’.
- 4 Overview and Scrutiny work programmes are designed to be flexible to accommodate items which may arise throughout the year. This flexibility is particularly important as we have an extensive work programme and we must ensure we are able to accommodate issues that may arise during the term of the work programme.

**Recommendations**

- 5 The ESC OSC is recommended to:

- a) Receive and comment on the proposed draft work programme for 2024/25 (copy attached at appendix 2).
- b) Agree the ESC OSC work programme for 2024/25 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.
- c) Consider identifying a topic for future light touch review activity.

## **Background**

- 6 Scrutiny committees adapted to the change during the pandemic and some of these adaptations have become a part of business as usual for the committee such as briefing reports being used to provide information to members of the committee and the more recent addition of informal information sessions. The ESCOSC work programme is refreshed annually and takes into consideration the priorities of the Committee and areas identified by the service.
- 7 The current overview and scrutiny committees work programmes are informed by:
  - County Durham Vision 2035
  - Council Plan
  - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
  - Partnership plans and strategies
  - Performance and budgetary control data
  - Changes in government legislation
  - Key questions for improving performance
  - Local priorities
- 8 The County Durham Partnership agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035 which sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve over the next 15 years and is written around three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham:
  - More and better jobs
  - People live long and independent lives
  - Connected communities
- 9 Each ambition contains a number of objectives together with some council specific objectives. Following the refresh of the Council Plan in February 2024, it is now structured around five themes which reflect our contribution towards achieving the three ambitions within the Vision for County Durham as well as the council's own improvement agenda:



- Our Economy
- Our People
- Our Communities
- Our Environment
- Our Council

## **Council Plan 2024-2028**

- 10 The Council Plan is the primary corporate planning document for the County Council and details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Vision for County Durham 2035 together with its own change agenda. It aims to provide a readable and accessible summary for members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main programmes of work that we will undertake to help achieve these priorities. The Plan will now be refreshed each year to reflect the integration of corporate and financial planning.
- 11 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around the three ambitions for the county and our own improvement agenda. The 'our council' theme captures the corporate initiatives the council has identified and wants to undertake to achieve the ambitions within the vision:
- a) Our resources will be managed effectively
  - b) Create a workforce for the future
  - c) Design our services with service users
  - d) Use data and technology more effectively
  - e) We will build an inclusive and welcoming employee culture
- 12 The key themes which apply to the ESC OSC are 'Our Environment' and 'Our Communities' with the relevant ambitions detailed below:

### **Our Environment**

- a) A physical environment contributing to good health
- b) A carbon neutral county
- c) Reduced impact of waste and pollution on our environment
- d) A protected, restored and sustainable natural environment

### **Our Communities**

- a) Towns and villages which are vibrant, well used, clean, attractive and safe
- b) Good access to workplaces, services, retail and leisure opportunities.

## Current Work Programme

13 During 2023/24 the ESC OSC prioritised items to be considered at formal meetings of the committee due to the size of the work programme. Reports on other items were circulated via email to members. The committee has been involved and contributed at various workshops, has hosted several informal information sessions as well as undertaking budgetary and performance monitoring, visits, responded to a consultation and considered overview and progress monitoring reports and presentations. The work of the committee in 2023/24 is detailed below.:

- **Consultations**
  - Climate Emergency Response Plan 3
  
- **Workshop**
  - Tourism Offer in County Durham
  - New Place Brand for County Durham
  
- **Areas of overview and monitoring activity**
  - Woodland Management
  - Tree Management Policy
  - Highways, Footways and Bridge Maintenance
  - Ecological Emergency Action Plan
  - Local Nature Recovery Strategy
  - Strategic Leisure Framework
  - Library Transformation
  - Strategic Waste
  - Fly Tipping
  - Allotment Improvement Plan
  - Bereavement Services
  - Community Protection Services
  - Climate Emergency Response Plan 2&3
  - Energy from Mine Water Projects
  - Green Corridor Project
  - Management of DCC Land for Biodiversity
  - Environment and Climate Change Partnership Update
  - Environment Awards

- **Briefing Reports**
  - Heritage Coast
  - Community Action Team
  - Winter Maintenance
  - Capital Maintenance
  - DCC Fleet
  - Environmental Campaigns
  - Work of the Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham
  
- **Visits undertaken**
  - Hardwick Park
  - Morrison Busty
  - Heritage Coast
  
- **Informal Information sessions**
  - Fuel poverty
  - Pest Control
  - Air Quality Management Plan
  
- **Budgetary and performance monitoring:**
  - Quarterly budgetary monitoring for the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Service Grouping.
  - Quarterly corporate performance monitoring for the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Service Grouping.

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

- County Durham Visitor Economy
- Regional and Local Transport Policy and Delivery
- Destination Management Plan for County Durham

### **Areas for Consideration in the ESC OSC Work Programme**

15 Members of the ESC OSC are asked to agree the proposed draft work programme for 2024/25 that has been prepared and is attached at appendix two. The draft work programme is very comprehensive

drawing on topical areas across the remit of the committee and it should be noted that it is also flexible.

- 16 Paragraph 13 & 14 of the report identifies the activity undertaken by the committee during 2023/24. The committee is asked to consider areas for inclusion in the work programme for 2024/25 in light of the current Council Plan and the Vision for County Durham 2035. Appendix 2 of this report sets out a draft work programme for consideration.
- 17 Members are encouraged to consider identifying areas of scrutiny investigation (for light touch review) from the work programme.

## Conclusion

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

## Background papers

- [Council Plan 2024-2028](#)
- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

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<b>Authors:</b>	Ann Whitton	Tel: 03000 268143
	Diane Close	Tel: 03000 268141
	Stephen Gwilym	Tel: 03000 268140

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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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## Appendix 2

<p><b>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25</b></p> <p>Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p><b>Lead Officer: Stephen Gwilym</b>  <b>Overview and Scrutiny Officers:</b> Diane Close and Ann Whitton</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><b>Note:</b></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>Informal Information Sessions – Presentation via Teams on areas that fall within the remit of the committee</p> <p>Briefing Reports – Reports for information on areas within the remit of the work programme</p> <p>Possible Visits – Visits identified to areas to provide a better understanding of an item</p> <p>Performance/Budget – Ongoing quarterly monitoring performance reports/budgets</p>
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Item	When	Priority	Who	Outcome	Comment
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Review</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report to ESC</li> <li>• briefing report to ESC members via email</li> </ul>			

New area for focused review TBC	The committee will need to consider and determine an area for focused review	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Overview/ Progress</b>					
Waste and Recycling including Simplified Recycling	24 July 2024 And Special meeting in February 2025 (TBC)	Report to ESCOSC	Jo Blackie / Victoria Burrell  (NCC)	Members will be aware of work undertaken in relation to waste management and recycling across the county including detail of various campaigns, detail of progress in relation to the Energy from Waste facility at Teesside, levels of contamination, proposals for simplified recycling and detail of how the service is addressing various challenges including food	The Committee will have received information and provided comment in relation to current waste management, progress regarding the Energy from Waste facility at Teesside, future waste and recycling campaigns, update on development of WEEE schemes, information on vape disposal, contamination levels, proposals for simplified recycling and food waste requirements.



				waste requirements.	
New Place Brand for County Durham	Workshop with EE OSC - Date in September (TBC)	Workshop with E&E OSC	Amy Harhoff/Alison Clark/Michelle Gorman	Members have the opportunity to provide further comments on the development of Phase 2 of the Place Brand having provided comments via a workshop on feedback from the Perceptions Survey. Members will have a further opportunity to inform the development of the New Place Brand.	Members will have been involved in the development of the new Place Brand for County Durham.

Leisure Transformation Programme	11 September 2024 Special Joint Meeting with EE OSC members	Report to E&E OSC and ESC OSC	Amy Harhoff/Alison Clark	Members will receive a progress update on the delivery of the Leisure Transformation Programme, having previously fed comments into the various consultation stages.	The Committee will be aware of the current position regarding the delivery of the programme and will continue to monitor the progress and further development of the programme.
Strategic Leisure Framework	22 November 2024	Report to E&E and ESCOSC	Alison Clark/Deborah Homes	Members will receive information on the development of the Strategic Leisure Framework.	Members will be aware of the further development of the framework and will have a further opportunity to provide comments and inform its further development.
Woodland management	4 October 2024	Report to ESCOSC	Sue Mullinger (NCC)	Members will receive detail of DCC's current management of its woodland estate	The Committee will continue to monitor DCC's approach to the management of its woodland estate

Highways, Footways and Bridge Maintenance	4 October 2024	Report to ESCOSC	Mark Readman/Paul Anderson  (NCC)	Members will receive information on DCC's approach and performance in managing highways, bridge, and footpath maintenance across the County.	The Committee will continue to monitor and scrutinise the progress and performance of the authority.
Management of DCC Theatres	22 November 2024	Report to ESCOSC	Alison Clark/ Sarah Glynn	Members will receive detail of DCC's new approach to the management of its theatres.	Members will be aware of DCC's new approach to the management of its theatres including initiatives to increase attendance.
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	22 November 2024	Report to ESCOSC	Jim Cockill/ Steve Bhowmick/ Stuart Priestley  (NCC)	Members will receive information in relation to the development of the LNRS including work to promote the development of the strategy to the residents of	The committee will scrutinise the progress of the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy including any work being undertaken to promote/publicise the strategy to the

				County Durham. In addition, members will have had the opportunity to feed into the development of the strategy via the consultation process.	residents of the County Durham. In addition, the committee will have provided comments to feed into the various consultation exercises undertaken to develop the strategy.
Tourism and County Durham's Visitor Economy	Special Joint EE & ESC OSC Meeting Jan 2025 TBC	Report to EE OSC and ESCOSC	Amy Harhoff/ Michelle Gorman/Alison Clark	Members will receive detail of ongoing work undertake to promote the tourism offer, detail of performance in relation to targets, progress in relation to the delivery of actions within the Destination Management Plan and progress in the development of the	The Committee will be aware of changes as to how we promote the tourism offer, current performance and future performance targets, projects to develop the tourism offer, progress in the delivery of actions within the Destination Management Plan and progress in the delivery of the Sustainability Plan.

				Sustainability Plan.	
Ecological Emergency Update	16 January 2025	Report to ESCOSC	Stuart Priestley (NCC)	Members will be updated on progress made in relation to the actions contained in the Ecological Emergency Action Plan including those actions linked to the recommendations of the O&S Ecological Emergency Review report.	The committee will continue to monitor and comment on the progress of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.
Management of DCC land for Biodiversity	16 January 2025	Report to ESCOSC	Darryl Cox/ Geoff Knight (NCC)	Members will be made aware of further work being undertaken to manage DCC land for biodiversity throughout the County.	The Committee will receive information relating to how DCC continues to manage land for biodiversity across the county including detail of how land is identified for biodiversity,

					creating habitats for flora, fauna and wildlife within our parks and open spaces and how DCC is reducing the use of herbicides (Glyphosate).
Environment and Climate Change Partnership Update	24 March 2025	Report to ESCOSC	Jim Cokill/ Steve Bhowmick (NCC)	Members will be aware of the current work undertaken by the ECC Partnership and future priorities.	The Committee will receive an update on the work of the ECC Partnership.
Environment Awards	24 March 2025	Report to ESCOSC	Steve Bhowmick	Members will receive information on the awards scheme, the various categories for awards, award winners and future plans.	Members will be aware of the Environment Awards scheme, the various categories, award winners and future plans

Green Corridor Update	24 March 2025	Report to ESCOSC	Steve Bhowmick/Laura McIntyre-Brown	Members will be updated on the progress of the Green Corridor project.	Members will be aware of the progress on the GREEN Corridor project and future development of the project.
Air Quality Management Plan	Special Meeting (Feb 25) TBC	Report to ESCOSC	Denyse Holman/ David Gribben (NCC) Mark Jackson (REG)	Members will be updated in relation to air quality management in the county.	Members will receive information on the approach to managing air quality in County Durham.
Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP3)	Special Meeting (Feb 25) TBC	Report to ESCOSC	Stephen McDonald / Ellie Grimes (NCC)	Members will receive an update on the development of CERP3.	The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the actions contained within CERP 3.
Fly Tipping	Special Meeting (Feb 25) TBC	Report to ESCOSC	Ian Hoult/ Belinda Snow (NCC)	Members will receive information on fly-tipping in the county including: incidents of fly-tipping;	The Committee will continue to monitor the issue of fly-tipping in the county and consider how effective current

				comparative data; enforcement actions and impact of enforcement action undertaken.	schemes and enforcement are in tackling this issue.
Transport Management	Joint Special Meeting with EEOC (Mar)TBC	Report to ESC and EE OSCs	Amy Harhoff/Mark Jackson/Dave Lewin/Cathy Knight/Peter Ollivere	Members will receive information on the progress of various plans and strategies regionally and locally including progress with the BSIP, detail of public transport provision locally, plans to reduce car usage, the emerging priorities from NEMCA and the development of the ULEV charging network.	The Committee will scrutinise transport management regionally and locally including the emerging priorities from NEMCA.
<b>Informal Information Sessions</b>					



Tree Management Policy	September 2024 Date TBC	Informal Information Session	Ged Lawson (NCC)	Members will receive detail of DCC's current tree management policy.	The Committee will be updated on current tree management policy within the County.
Land Management (CPAL)	Date TBC	Informal Information Session via Teams	Laura Lodge Metcalf /Anna Willis (REG)	Members will receive detail of the work undertaken by CPaL concerning DCC Land Management.	The Committee will be aware of the work being undertaken within CPaL in relation to land management.
Allotments Update	November 2024 Date TBC	Informal Information Session	Ian Hoult/Mark Farren (NCC)	Members will be aware of the impact and success of the policy changes particularly those aligned to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny review.	The Committee will receive an update on the impact and success of the various policy changes.
<b>Briefing Reports</b>					

Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project (SLERP)	March 2025	Circulate to Members of ESCOSC via email	Mark Readman/ Paul Watson/ Paul Anderson (NCC)	Members will receive an update on the progress of the SLERP.	The committee will be able to scrutinise the performance of the SLERP and ensure that it is achieving the targets and objectives set for the project.
Heat Network Strategy	March 2025	Circulate to Members of ESCOSC via email	Stephen McDonald (NCC)  Ellie Grimes (NCC)  Chris Myers (REG)	Members will be aware of the Heat Network Strategy for County Durham.	The Committee will receive information on the development of the Heat Network Strategy for County Durham together with detail of the development and delivery of various projects.
Bereavement Services	February 2025	Briefing Report circulate via email	Ian Hoults/Graham Harrison (NCC)	Members will receive an update in relation to DCC's management of bereavement services including detail of	The Committee will continue to monitor delivery of bereavement services in the county including arrangements for the maintenance of cemeteries.

				challenges within the service.	
Heritage Coast	February/March 2025	Circulate to Members of ESC and EE OSCs	Alex Kaars Sijpesteijn (REG)	The Committee will receive information on work being undertaken to development the Heritage Coast including proposals for future development.	Members will continue to monitor work undertaken on the Heritage Coast to develop the offer.
Library Provision	January 2025	Circulate to ESCOSC	Alison Clark/ Sarah Glynn	Members will be aware of the progress of proposals/options for library provision across the county.	Members will have an opportunity to provide comment on options for library provision in the county.
CAT Team Update	Date TBC	Circulate to ESCOSC	Jennifer Jones	Members will be aware of the work of the team during the past year, actions undertaken and	Members will receive an update on the areas the CAT Team have visited during 2024, actions undertaken and plans for 2025.

				plans for the year ahead.	
Winter Maintenance programme	October 2024	Circulate to all O&S members	Mark Readman (NCC) Paul Anderson (NCC)	The Committee will receive detail of 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.
DCC Fleet	Date TBC	Circulate to ESCOSC	Alex Cummings (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.
Environmental Campaigns	March 2025	Circulate to ESCOSC	Ian Hoults/ Jonathan Seymour (NCC)	Members will receive information on various	Members will be able to monitor the various environmental

				environmental campaigns including Civic Pride together with detail of any challenges and future plans.	campaigns in the county and determine how successful they have been.
Flood Risk Management Authorities	March 2025	Circulate to ESCOSC	Brian Weatherall, Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water	Members will receive further information from the Flood Risk Management Authorities (FRMAs) for County Durham on current and future projects, funding and partnership working to mitigate flood risk in the County.	The Committee will continue to monitor the work undertaken by the FRMAs in partnership to alleviate flood risk in the County.

Business Energy Efficiency Programme	March 2025	Circulate to ESCOSC	Maggie Bosanquet Net Zero Team Leader	Members will receive detail of the further development of this project and plans for the future.	Members will be aware of how the project has been developed, its success to date and future plans.
<b>Possible Visits</b>					
To be determined					
<b>Performance/Budget</b>					
<b>Performance</b> Quarterly reporting	July 2024 Oct 2024 Mar 2025	Report to ESC OSC	Tom Gorman  (Resources)	To provide Members with progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate	Summary information to Members.

				performance framework.	
<b>Budget Outturn Report</b> Quarterly reporting -	Oct 2024 Jan 2025 Mar2025	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.

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**Meeting:** Environment & Climate Change Partnership Executive Board

**Date & Time:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 2.00pm

**Venue:** Online Via Teams



Better for everyone

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
	Jim Cokill (JC) Chair	Durham Wildlife Trust
	Alan Patrickson (AP)	Durham County Council
	Amanda Healy (AH)	Durham County Council
	Sue Parkinson (SP)	Durham County Council
	Kate Burrows (KB)	Durham Community Action
	Steve Bhowmick (SB)	Durham County Council
	Maggie Bosanquet (MB)	Durham County Council
	Chris Woodley Stewart (CWS)	NP AONB
	Stephen McDonald (SMcD)	Durham County Council
	Phil Marsh (PM)	Durham University
	Glenn Robinson (GR)	Durham County Council
	Angela Brown (ABro) <b>(Minutes)</b>	Durham County Council
<b>Apologies:</b>		
	Simone Abram	Durham university
	Cllr Mark Wilkes	Durham County Council
	Stuart Priestly	Durham County Council
	Ellie Grimes	Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<p>JC welcomed everyone to today's meeting and introduced Phil Marsh who has taken over from David Louden at Durham University</p> <p>The Board members introduced themselves to Phil.</p> <p>Apologies for the meeting were noted.</p>		
2.	<p><b>Review and Actions from Emergency Summit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="280 651 573 675">• <b>Communication</b></li> <li data-bbox="280 1241 645 1313">• <b>Northeast Combined Authority (NECA)</b></li> </ul>	<p>JC mentioned that he did not receive a lot of comments back in relation to actions from the Emergency Summit Workshop. Board confirmed they were all happy with the write up.</p> <p>CWS said his concern was that we have limited resources, and we can't put all environment concerns out in one voice, but we do need to make sure we have consistent messages. JC and AP agreed with this. All felt that getting the key shared messages out was very important, avoiding duplication and organising where interests overlap.</p> <p>KB asked if DCC had a comms lead linked to ECCP – GR replied that it is Lyndsey Waters for wider comms. JC felt we need to share ways of getting the right messages out. CWS felt this was coming together with the meeting of Comms leads that is planned for Friday. SMcD said they have a specific plan of what they are doing over next 6 months, and Adrianna will bring this to the comms meeting. GR mentioned the invite for the meeting had gone to all comms leads but JC invited Board members to attend if they wished to do so.</p> <p>JC was initially worried when he went to first Environmental, Rural and Coastal meeting, but in the end, they covered the issues that need to be addressed. Difficult to say at this point what the actions will be.</p> <p>SMcD – engaging significantly with them and other Local Authorities. Work extensively on net zero and sharing best</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>practice. Working very well, it is good to have central resource. Applied for funding but were not successful. There is a big focus on transport. Net Zero not core theme of priorities but it's a cross-cutting theme.</p> <p>CWS would hope to have better collaboration, better policy, and better resourcing. Thinks we may get the first two but struggle with resourcing. It is worth keeping eye on other portfolios as there are a lot of cross overs especially around the culture portfolio (no budget associated with the culture budget portfolio unlike the others).</p> <p>KB agreed with JC and CWS and thought this was a collaborative process, agree area of difficulty will be around resourcing.</p> <p>From a VCSE perspective she was approached to be seconder to sit at Cabinet to represent the VCSE. There is a business member on Mayors Cabinet so have lobbied for VCS member, which was agreed - Martin Brooke will be rep on Cabinet for Voluntary Sector. Once Martin is in post will make sure Voluntary Sector Voice is not lost within the structures. Robin Fry is the connector Vol rep in portfolios, so it is important that are well informed to spot opportunities for alignment. She feels positive, but we will have to be clever to make sure money is aligned appropriately focusing on benefits of that investment for Co Durham.</p> <p>MB said this is a new organisation so do not know how it is going to work, but their team do have a really good relationship with NetZero people. Positive note is that she sits on Board for Northeast and Yorkshire hub for NetZero and NELEP has more money coming than all other LEPS in region.</p> <p>Negative is that whilst we have been successful in Durham bid for electric vehicles, future bids will now come through the Combined Authority, and they didn't listen to the advice given to them, so we need to check we are not losing powers.</p> <p>AH – it's a new organisation and the 7 directors of Public Health are looking at how we can maximise reducing inequalities across the portfolios. One of the areas they are looking at is Transport.</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Finance/Investment</b></li> </ul>	<p>AP – Good to see how many references there are related to green issues. Feel like climate is part of everything, so something to be optimistic about. We now have mayor in place, and it will be interesting to see what sort of Mayor she will be and how she will put her own vision on what we do over the next 12 months. JC asked if it was worth getting someone from NECA to speak to this group? Maybe Ross Lowrie?</p> <p>SB – Aware talking people in other authorities pulling together bids for projects, so it is worth looking to see where we can develop outline areas of interest. We are in a strong position so that could be in an advantageous to us. JC asked if it was worth taking to workstreams to escalate?</p> <p>JC – 3 areas at Summit (maybe later date for discussion at future meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement to build social value.</li> <li>• Greening businesses - in the way businesses operate and the markets that they serve.</li> <li>• Green finance – rely on partners to share best practice examples.</li> </ul> <p>CWS – said there is awful lot of talking about Green Finance especially from government. They think it's easier than it is, maybe it would be useful for Paul Leadbetter from his team to present to the group on challenges for green finance. Would like to hear other people's experience.</p> <p>SMcD – presentation UKM Structure Bank happy to share with group. Have £22bn financing capacity. 5 priority sectors - clean energy, transport, waste, digital and water. Also help in development of projects looking at returns on investment. Have further meetings with finance colleagues planned.</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Over/Consumption/Waste</b></li>   <li>• <b>Local action</b></li> </ul>	<p>JC felt that we need to get thinking together on this and will discuss at future meeting.</p> <p>AP felt as things have moved on with national policy it would be good to get someone from waste to attend a future meeting to discuss.</p> <p>JC said we need to look at how we can support smaller organisations, share information better and support funding. We will bring this to future meeting.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NECA - JC to get someone from NECA to attend this group maybe Ross Lowie</b></li> <li>• <b>Finance/Investment - SMcD will send presentation to AB to share.</b></li> <li>• <b>Overconsumption/Waste - AP to suggest someone from Waste to come along to future meeting to discuss.</b></li> <li>• <b>Local action – JC will put on future agenda for discussion</b></li> </ul>	<p>JC</p> <p>SMcD</p> <p>AP</p> <p>JC</p>	
3.	<b>ECCP Workstream Updates</b>	<p><b>Place, Health, and Communities Workstream – Kate Burrows/Steve Bhowmick</b></p> <p>KB – Reached a positive point with the group. Filled in plan on page with clear focus on outputs and policy drivers (Transport, Economy, Health and Culture). Tracking impact through CERP3 and links to other priority areas e.g., HWB Strategy.</p> <p>SB – we have outline synergies as a Board. Kate has done an excellent job building different sectors. Working with Public Health on extensive ideas.</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p><b>Climate Emergency Workstream – Maggie Bosanquet</b></p> <p>MB – met recently talked about summit. Also discussed 3 areas of work we are looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigating deep geothermal solutions to create heat - early days.</li> <li>• Heat networks (Presentation from Ellie) - doing work across County to identify where heat networks would work. ongoing discussions.</li> <li>• Discussion around identifying a decarbonisation partner.</li> </ul> <p>If we continue business as usual, we will not hit net zero targets so need big step change to get there. We decided it was not a useful use of time to carryout a local area energy plan. We think what we need is a partner to provide expertise that can work alongside us to help scale up the action. The University, NHS and Council discussed carrying out a soft procurement exercise to see what the market would offer and what a programme would look like, and, in relation to match funding, how could we make this work? What social value would be included in this? Looking for something that delivers for County Durham. Partners are supportive but may need support from CDP Board.</p> <p><b>Ecological Emergency Workstream – Chris Woodley Stewart</b></p> <p>Durham LNRS Species Workshop – 18th May – 20 attendees across a range of disciplines and sectors e.g., quarry operators were represented as well as angling clubs and ecological consultants.</p> <p>Farmer and Land Manager Workshops have been held. Approx. 24 attendees at Workshops held in Lanchester, Stanhope, Seaham,</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>and Bishop Auckland.</p> <p>Thematic Sub-Groups established, and TOR agreed. The first meetings are being held, to date Coastal / Rivers and Running Waters / Woodland, Scrub, Hedgerows and Trees have met. Other meetings in the pipeline or diarised for later in the month.</p> <p>Social Media promotion planned around the results of the consultation (planned for mid-June), showing the high-level results of the consultation. Information will be placed on the LNRS Website as well as being email to those the 'Consultees List'.</p> <p>The Habitats Map (baseline map) will be going live on the website this week.</p> <p>Moving forward over the next month or so:</p> <p>Aiming to have the priorities ("the end results that the strategy is seeking to achieve") for habitats and species in draft form by the end of June.</p> <p>Consultation on the priorities via social media / Website / Consultees List over July.</p> <p>Continue to develop the priorities and work up the associated measures ("specific practical actions to achieve priorities")</p>		
4.	<b>CERP3 Governance and Actions – Stephen McDonald</b>	<p>SMcD presented on the Governance and Actions for CERP3</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>CWS – Regarding the Ecological Emergency Group proving scrutiny function for some of the actions - are you still happy for us to do this? SMcD replied that he was, and the 'Natural Environment'</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>element would sit with his group.</p> <p>SP – SMcD and SP had a meeting to discuss the actions and said the CDEP cannot deliver all of those actions on its own. The partnership is there to share information and cannot deliver any of the actions.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SMcD asked Board members to look through the CERP actions and let him know if anything needs to be amended ASAP</b></li> </ul>	All	
5.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	JC will feed back on the communications meeting that is to be held later this week.		
	<b>Date and time of Next Meeting</b>	<b>10am-12pm - 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Durham Wildlife Trust, Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve, Houghton-Le-Spring DH4 6PU</b>		



**Summary of Actions (as meeting date above)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
1	<b>Actions from Emergency Summit – NEMCA</b> - JC to get someone from NECA to attend this group maybe Ross Lowie	JC	
2	<b>Actions from Emergency Summit – Finance/Investment</b> - SMcD will send presentation to AB to share	SMcD	
3	<b>Actions from Emergency Summit – Overconsumption/Waste</b> - AP to suggest someone from Waste to come along to future meeting to discuss	AP	
4	<b>Actions from Emergency Summit – Local Action</b> - JC will put on future agenda for discussion	JC	
5	<b>CERP 3</b> - SMcD asked Board members to look through the CERP actions and let him know if anything needs to be amended ASAP	ALL	

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