



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

Date Thursday 10 April 2014
Time 9.30 am
Venue Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham

Business

Part A

Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend. Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's agreement.

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2014. (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties
6. Media Relations
Updates on press coverage.
7. Neighbourhood Services Revenue and Capital Outturn Quarter 3 2013/2014:
(Pages 7 - 12)
Report of the Neighbourhood Services Management Team.
8. Quarter 3 Performance Management Report 2013/14: (Pages 13 - 22)
Report of the Corporate Management Team.
9. Local Air Quality Management within County Durham - Overview:
(Pages 23 - 28)
 - (i) Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services.
 - (ii) Presentation by Pollution Control Manager, Neighbourhood Services.

10. Contaminated Land Strategy - Overview: (Pages 29 - 34)
Report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services – Environment Protection Manager.
11. Garden Waste - Update: (Pages 35 - 54)
Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services – Head of Projects and Business Services.
12. Refresh of the Work Programme: (Pages 55 - 70)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
13. Minutes of the meeting of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 21 November 2013 (Pages 71 - 74)
14. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
2 April 2014

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

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)
Councillor D Hall (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Adam, J Armstrong, D Bell, E Bell, J Clare, J Clark, D Freeman,
J Gray, G Holland, K Hopper, I Jewell, C Kay, P May, O Milburn, S Morrison,
J Shuttleworth, P Stradling, L Taylor and S Zair

Co-opted Members:

Mr O Graham, Mr D Kinch, Mrs P Spurrell, Mr T Bolton and Mr D Easton

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 24 January 2014 at 11.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, E Bell, J Clark, J Gray, D Hall, G Holland, K Hopper, I Jewell, P May, O Milburn, S Morrison, J Shuttleworth and L Taylor

Co-opted Members:

Mr O Graham, Mr D Kinch, Mr T Bolton and Mr D Easton

1 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, J Clare, P Stradling and Mrs P Spurrell.

2 Substitute Members.

There were no substitute Members.

3 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or interested parties.

5 Update on Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development which provided an update on the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

The Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader advised that a report on the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan had been considered by Cabinet in December where it was agreed to set the medium target (2031) target of a 55% reduction, to link in with the County Durham Plan duration. It was noted that the 40% carbon reduction target by 2020 had almost been achieved and it was proposed that for 2050 a target of 80% would be set.

With regard to consultation, the Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader advised that it was intended that public consultation would commence within the next few weeks at the end of January, 2014 with various focus groups and engagement with schools to take place. It was highlighted that the consultation would be available via the website, press releases and social media with further engagement planned with elected Members and that two members seminars were planned for February and March on the subjects of Warm Up North and Climate Change in the community.

With regard to public engagement it was reported that the consultation was the first step in engagement with Durham communities on climate change and that changes in funding and DCC reorganisations meant that involvement in communities cannot be as all-encompassing as in the past. The emphasis is much more on individuals and groups taking actions and making changes themselves. The Council cannot lead on projects in communities but will support groups that want to improve their own localities.

Details were then reported to the committee of potential ERDF funding which could be coming in to the council and would result in a significant ring fenced allocation for low-carbon projects within County Durham of £16m (2014-2020). M The following seven activity areas had been identified:

- Building retrofit – Warm Up North
- Low carbon supply chain – helping local businesses especially biomass, district heating and renewable energy
- Skills and training – Green Skills Academy, engaging with colleges and universities.
- Business energy efficiency – big switch off, changing behavioural attitudes.
- Renewable energy – encouraging community owned energy and other local schemes.
- Green infrastructure / climate change adaptation – using land to help adapt to climate change, especially flooding, including wetland creation, tree planting and peatland protection.

The funding which was expected to be available in around a year's time would have to be met with 40% match funding. In conclusion the Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader advised that she was currently leading for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership in respect of the ERDF funding for low carbon and would keep Members updated with any significant developments.

Councillor Clark raised a query regarding solar panel installations at schools and whether the ERDF funding would be able to be utilised for this type of scheme. In response the Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader advised that the council were very keen to support schools to install solar panels but she did note that there were various loopholes which would then prevent schools from being able to access feed-in tariffs and therefore the best option for schools, if they could find the capital, was to invest in renewable energy sources independently.

Further discussion took place regarding planning conditions for the inclusion of renewable energy sources and that there is a need to ensure that new development within County Durham is as sustainable as possible. It was suggested that a planning officer should be invited to attend a future meeting of the committee to discuss planning criteria and constraints.

A further query was raised by Councillor Adam regarding encouraging large business such as HITACHI to support carbon reduction by ensuring that developers build buildings with high energy standards to ensure that CO2 emissions are low and ensuring that businesses have the support needed to reduce carbon emissions. In response it was suggested that The Head of Planning and Assets be asked to provide a response on this to Councillor Adam.

It was then suggested that if there was an upturn in the economy then emissions may increase, there is a need to encourage business to invest in energy efficiency measures. In response the Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader advised that the council were absolutely committed to achieving the 2020 target.

Discussion then ensued regarding community buildings following a question from Councillor Hopper regarding how it was proposed to help improve energy efficiency in the buildings. It was noted that work was being undertaken in respect of community buildings ensuring that advice is available on the range of energy efficient and low carbon technologies available however there is only one member of staff to carry out this work although it is hoped that free online advice would be made available in the future.

Councillor Bell added that he felt that assurance was needed that the council could deliver what was trying to be achieved by 2020. The Sustainability and Climate Change Team Leader advised that the council was committed to developing suitable projects to access the funding. With regard to the LEP administering the money to County Durham it was noted that at the earliest it would be expected to be available in Autumn 2014 however it was more likely to be January 2015.

Resolved:

(i) That the content of the report and presentation be noted.

(ii) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives an update a future meeting on the development of the EU funding programme 2014-2020 in relation to low carbon projects.

6 Overview of Winter Service Plan

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services which provided an overview of the winter maintenance programme and service plan (for copy of report and slides see file of minutes).

The Policy and Asset Manager proceeded to run through the presentation highlighting the law and code of practice surrounding the obligations on the highways authority to ensure that safe passage along a highway was not endangered by snow or ice.

Durham County Council's policy and procedures on presalting carriageways, footways and cycleways were reported. It was noted that the council gritted 45% of the highways in County Durham and details were provided within the presentation as to priority 1 and 2 carriageways. Further details were reported in respect of footways and those which were treated in extreme weather conditions.

It was further reported that in the event of major snow, all work on unclassified roads was ceased and important routes were restored in priority of road hierarchy.

Moving on the Policy and Asset Manager detailed policy relating to priority 2 routes and it was noted that these routes were only treated during prolonged extreme weather and when Priority 1 routes were clear and resources were available.

The presentation then went on to detail external systems used by the council to help forecast periods of inclement weather. The Policy and Asset Manager advised that the council used an ice prediction system called Vaisala which was currently in year 1 of a 5 year contract. The system was operated in partnership with all 12 North East local authorities.

With regard to weather forecasting it was reported that the council in partnership with Darlington and Tees Valley used a company called Meteogroup, based in London. The service provided by Meteogroup included a 24 hour consultancy service, training of all winter personnel and national severe weather warning services. Both Vaisala and Meteogroup worked together to provide accurate forecasting data to DCC personnel.

The presentation gave a brief overview of the structure of the service and how decisions on winter maintenance were made within that structure. It further detailed priority 1 and 2 gritting routes within County Durham. A copy of the winter salting routes booklet was circulated to members for their information.

Moving on the Policy and Asset Manager proceeded to detail fact and figures associated with treatment of highways. It was noted that the council stocked 42,000 tonnes of salt at the start of the winter season and any salt unused at the end of the season could be utilised the next winter. It was also noted that before any routes were gritted the cost to the council was in the region of £1m (this included plant costs, forecasts, ice prediction, etc.) It was also noted that it cost in the region of £30k to grit one route. With regard to salt bins, details were provided within the slides as to the salt store locations across the County and the costs associated with building the barns which were used to house the salt. Further details were reported in respect of salt bin criteria and annual servicing costs. Partnership working was key in maintaining salt bins and various arrangements had been made with Parish and Town Council's for gritting within their areas.

In conclusion detail was reported in regard to changes to the Code of Practice. It was noted that the council may have up to 10 years to implement any changes to the code.

Councillor Adam questioned what the arrangements were for gritting roads across county boundaries as he had noticed significant differences in the quality of road treatment between County Durham and Darlington. In response the Policy and Asset Manager advised the council had cross boundary arrangements in place with every authority that the county bordered. In addition he further advised that he attended a 6 weekly meeting with neighbouring authorities who each offered each other mutual aid and assistance where required. He also pointed out that each authority worked to the same code of practice and therefore this led to greater consistency across the North East area.

Councillor Adam asked a further question regarding community engagement and the role of residents associations in assisting with gritting in their own areas. He further thanked the

team for allowing a visit to be made by a residents association to see how the service operated.

Clarification was provided regarding the controlled use of county council salt supplies and advised that residents associations were not permitted to use council supplies for spreading. Further queries were raised regarding helping those older or vulnerable people with clearing properties and the Policy and Asset Manager suggested that any groups who required assistance with this should contact him directly to discuss.

Councillor Jewell commented that in his area he had a particular issue with residents abandoning cars on roads and access could not be made estates or their properties. In response the Policy and Asset Manager advised that this was a big problem for the council as this prevented the successful treatment of highways. He further commented this was a national problem and a move to police intervention may come in to force in the future.

Councillor Milburn asked whether the presentation could be delivered to AAPs in advance of next year's winter season. The Policy and Asset Manager advised that his team would be happy to come out and deliver presentations at any time.

Councillor Clark raised a query regarding partnership working, insurance and litigation. In addition she raised a query regarding the criteria for salt bins and the difficulties she had experienced within her parish area. The Policy and Asset Manager advised that the council are strict in applying the salt bin suitability criteria, unfortunately there were no further avenues for obtaining a bin following refusal. With regards to any arrangements which had been made between Parish and Town Councils, it was noted that they were insured under the DCC umbrella.

Mr T Bolton raised a query regarding new housing developments and how they were assessed for salt bins. In response the Policy and Asset Manager advised that if the builder requests a salt bin to be placed on site then the council would take action to ensure that one was provided.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

7 Update on Flooding Review

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the progress to date of the scrutiny review of the impact of flooding on council services (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that two meetings of the group had taken place, with three further meetings scheduled to take place over the coming 2 months. In addition she advised that all members who had experienced incidents of flooding had been invited to attend a session on 18 February 2014 to share their experiences of flooding.

The Corporate Improvement Manager advised that Members were also welcome to bring residents along with them to the meeting. Flood wardens from the Lanchester area had also been invited to attend.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 April 2014



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES QUARTER 3 REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2013 / 2014

Report of Neighbourhood Services Management Team

Purpose of the report

- To set out details of the forecast outturn as at Quarter 3 for 2013/14, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services.

Neighbourhood Services Revenue 2013/2014

Executive Summary

- The Q3 forecast for the 2013/14 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget against the cash limit by £0.844m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserves, and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.

ANALYSIS BY HEAD OF SERVICE

- The summary of the revenue outturn position, is shown in the following table analysed by Head of Service:

Head of Service	Revised Base Budget 2013/14 £'000	QTR 3 Report			Cash limit Variance Over/ (Under) £'000
		Quarter 3 Forecast (Apr-Mar) £'000	Variance Over/ (Under) £'000	Reserves / outside cash limit £'000	
Central Costs	1,679	1,558	(121)	180	59
Direct Services	39,515	39,447	(68)	(203)	(271)
Env, Health & C. Prot	6,512	6,182	(330)		(330)
Proj & Business Serv	16,239	16,081	(158)		(158)
Culture & Sport	24,087	22,741	(1,346)	1,300	(46)
Technical Services	25,808	24,889	(919)	821	(98)
Total	113,840	110,898	(2,942)	2,098	(844)

- The forecast revenue outturn for 2013/14 is under budget against the cash limit by £0.844m, after taking account of the forecast use of reserves, and items outside the cash limit. This compares to the previous forecast, at Quarter 2, which was under budget by £0.955m.

- 5 Since the original budget was presented to Council in February 2013, the Neighbourhoods' revenue budget has been increased to take into account the 2013/14 Pay Award (£0.649m), appeal outcomes of the pay and reward project (£0.175m), additional funding from contingencies for flood investigations (£0.250m), the transfer of the BSF team from CAS (£0.762m) and some minor transfers from Neighbourhood Services to other Service Groupings. In addition, the budget has now been amended to reflect the forecast use of reserves, and items outside the cash limit that were agreed at Quarter 2. This has resulted in a revised revenue budget of £113.840m.
- 6 The main reasons for the forecast variances are as follows;
- Within Direct Services, there are savings of approximately £0.271m associated with early savings on the corporate fleet review, savings on premises costs in Facilities Management, and an increased surplus within Building Services.
 - There are savings of approximately £0.330m within Environment, Health and Consumer Protection associated with employees and supplies and services.
 - There is also a forecast saving of approximately £0.149m on employees and supplies and services within Business Support, and Policy, Performance and Communications.
 - Within Culture and Sport there is a projected saving of £0.130m within Libraries, where some elements of the planned 2014/15 MTFP savings have been achieved earlier than originally anticipated.
- 7 In addition to the above variances, Winter maintenance expenditure is projected to be over budget by £0.402m. Historically, winter maintenance expenditure has consistently been over budget, but this variance is considerably lower than in previous years due to the relatively mild winter experienced to date. It has been agreed by Cabinet that this variance should be treated as being outside of Neighbourhood Services' cash limit.
- 8 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the forecasted cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Neighbourhood Services is £2.660m.
- 9 At this stage of the year, there are some specific areas of the service that are over budget where it is planned to mitigate this through the use of Neighbourhood Services' cash limit reserve. These are in respect of the delayed School Crossing Patrol savings (£47k), Customer Services alterations at Clayport Customer Access Point (£34k), and also within Technical Services, where there is a projected overspend of approximately £50k associated with the engagement of Street Lighting Metering consultants. In addition, £100k from the cash limit reserve is being used to address a backlog of drainage investigations that will help to reduce the future impact of flooding.

Neighbourhood Services Capital 2013 / 2014

- 10 The following table sets out details of forecast spend in the period 1 April to 31 March analysed by individual Heads of Service areas within the Neighbourhoods capital programme against the revised budget.

Head of Service	Revised Budget £'000	Outturn £'000s	Variance £'000s
EH&CP	14	14	0
Direct Services	4,082	3,162	(920)
P & B Services	848	848	0
Culture and Sport	2,043	2,043	0
Technical Services	23,641	22,750	(891)
Total	30,628	28,817	(1,811)

The original NS Capital Programme 2013/14 was £32.533m. Re-profiling of budget from 2012/13 of £5.673m was then agreed at the Capital Member/Officer Working Group on 14 May 2013. This resulted initially in a revised budget of £38.206m.

- 11 The capital budget has subsequently been adjusted at MOWG meetings during the year as a result of additional funding sources being identified, and some schemes being re-profiled in to future years
- 12 This has now resulted in a revised 2013/14 Capital Programme of £30.628m. It is currently anticipated that £28.817m will be spent in 2013/14, resulting in a forecast underspend of £1.811m.
- 13 The main reasons for this variance are as follows;

Vehicle & Plant Replacement Programme

- A number of service reviews have been undertaken across the whole Council which has led to the delay in progressing with the previously planned procurement of new vehicles and equipment. As a result, this programme will be under budget by £0.920m

Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project

- This "Invest to Save" project is part of the council's wider Carbon Management Programme. Street lighting represents 18% of the council's total carbon emissions. Therefore, reducing street lighting energy consumption is essential if the council is to meet its target of reducing its total carbon emissions by 40% by 2015.
- This scheme is a five year project and year one of the project had a budget of £3.504m. The forecasted outturn for this budget in 2013/14 is £2.76m, meaning that it will be under budget by £0.744m. This will carry forward in to the following financial year and will not impact on the overall delivery of the scheme.

Seaham North Pier

- The original budget for this scheme was £2.15m following on from investigation works that had been completed in the previous year. This scheme is currently in the process of design. The latest risk assessment suggests there is no immediate threat of structural damage; however it is still a high risk project which must be completed. £1.9m has already been re-profiled into 2014/15 which was approved at the January MOWG. The current budget is now £0.347m, and the forecasted outturn for this budget is £0.200m, meaning that it will be under budget by £0.147m. This will be carried forward in to 2014/15 so that the scheme can be completed in that financial year.

Recommendations

14 It is recommended that:

- Overview and Scrutiny note the Quarter 3 forecast outturn position on Revenue and Capital for 2013/14.

Contact:	Terry Collins	Tel:	03000 268 080
Contact:	Phil Curran	Tel:	03000 261 967

APPENDIX 1 - Implications

Finance

To set out details of the Q3 forecast outturn, highlighting areas of over / underspend against the revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services, at each Head of Service level and for the whole of Neighbourhood Services.

Staffing

There are no implications associated with this report.

Risk

There are no implications associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.

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Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



10 April 2014

Quarter 3 2013/14 Performance Management Report

Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader

Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs) and report other significant performance issues for the third quarter of 2013/14.

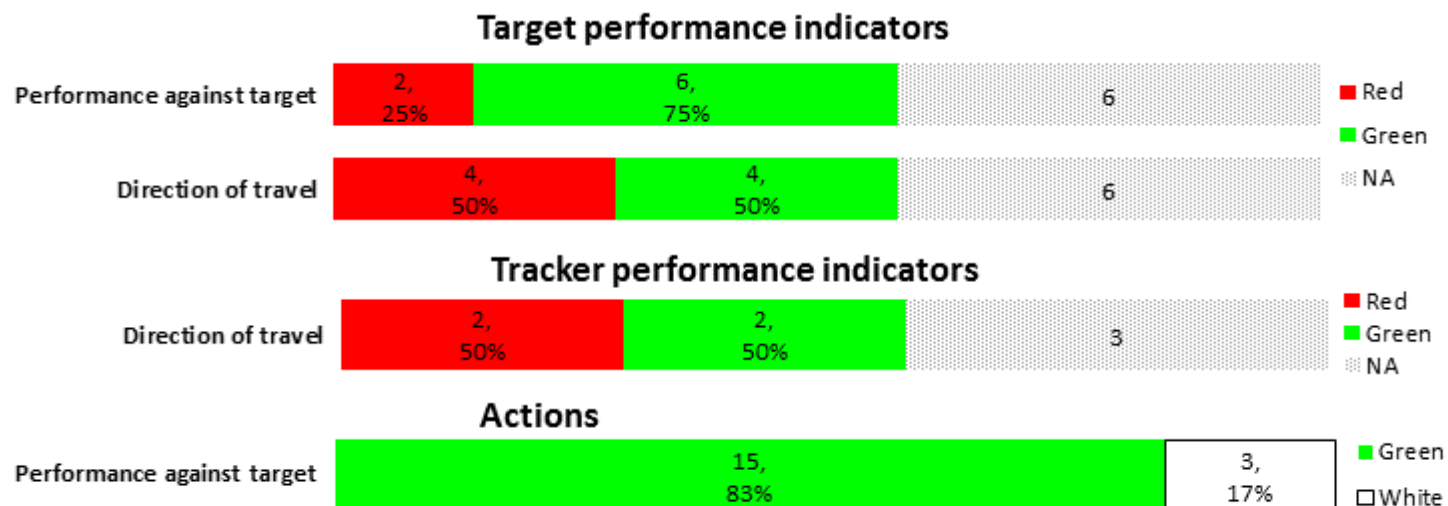
Background

2. This is the third quarterly corporate performance report of 2013/14 for the council highlighting performance for the period October to December 2013. The report contains information on key performance indicators, risks and Council Plan progress.
3. The report sets out an overview of performance and progress by Altogether priority theme. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of:
 - a. Key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
 - b. Key tracker indicators – performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence.
4. A summary of key performance indicators is provided at Appendix 3. More detailed performance information and Altogether theme analyses are available on request from performance@durham.gov.uk.

Developments since Last Quarter

5. There is a stronger focus this year on volume measures in our performance framework. This allows us to better quantify productivity and to monitor the effects of reductions in resources and changes in volume of activity. Charts detailing some of the key volume measures which form part of the council's corporate basket of performance indicators are presented in Appendix 4.

Altogether Greener: Overview



Council Performance

6. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. Street and environmental cleanliness has improved this period. The results of the second survey relate to the period August to November 2013 and indicate that of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter, 5.91% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 7% and it has improved from 8% reported at quarter 3 2012/13. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus, 7.33% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 10% but it has slightly deteriorated from 7.04% reported at quarter 3 2012/13.
- b. There were 844 feed in tariff installations registered and approved during quarter 3, including 374 solar PV installations equating to installed capacity of 1.425MW. The quarter 3 target of 800 installations was achieved. There has been an increase of 14.4% in renewable energy generation this quarter compared to the same period last year. The installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham was 205.13MW in quarter 3; 172.4MW operational and 32.729MW approved (Wind - 128.83 operational and 6.51 approved).
- c. Good progress has been made with the following Council Plan and service plan actions:
 - i. Projects for renewable energy development on council assets are progressing with the biomass boiler at Killhope performing well. The biomass boiler at Green Lane, Spennymoor has now been installed and performance data is awaited. Following a promotional campaign there has been considerable interest with regard to community energy projects.
 - ii. In relation to the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) the production of the new statutory AONB Management Plan is underway and the plan is due for completion in early January and adoption by the five local authorities by the end of March 2014.

7. The key performance improvement issue for this theme relates to fly-tipping.

There were 7,889 fly-tipping incidents reported in the 12 month rolling period from January to December 2013. There has been an increase of 8.9% compared to the previous period and 20.1% compared to 12 months earlier (see Appendix 4, chart 1).

Analysis shows that there has been an increase in the number of larger vehicles fly-tipping, typically relating to building and construction and there has been a 60% increase in fly-tipping incidents in the east, particularly around Seaham, Horden and Peterlee. The deployment of 10 CCTV cameras in the east resulted in 10 fixed penalty notices; 2 court convictions with fines and costs totalling £1,400; 4 cases pending court action; and 6 cases currently under investigation.

Actions being taken include:

- A number of stop and search operations are being carried out by neighbourhood wardens to identify any vehicles carrying waste illegally. In addition, wardens are also carrying out more duty of care checks with any firms seen carrying out building or other types of maintenance work to ensure appropriate means of disposing of waste are in place.
- An awareness and enforcement campaign has taken place during December and January to coincide with increased purchasing of household items. This campaign will focus on the householder's duty of care.
- Durham County Council (DCC) in partnership with the police and Environment Agency ran a campaign in December targeting people who dump waste illegally. Actions included:
 - Surveillance of known fly-tipping hotspots, checking companies which transport and dispose of waste to ensure they are properly registered and disposing of the waste correctly.
 - As part of the campaign residents were also encouraged to report incidents and provide information to help Durham County Council's Neighbourhood Protection Team to identify those responsible.
 - During the campaign over 100 suspected incidents of fly-tipping were reported and are under investigation. Some fixed penalty notices have already been issued and checks also been made on a number of traders. As a result of investigations by Durham County Council into incidents of fly-tipping, there are cases due to go before the courts in January/February 2014.
- A joint project with the police has commenced looking at environmental issues and part of this work will be to identify fly-tipping hot spots. Once analysis is complete, an action plan will be produced.

8. There are no Council Plan actions behind target in this theme.

9. There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Recommendations and Reasons

10. That the Environment and Sustainability Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and consider any performance issues arising there from.

Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance
Tel: 03000 268 071 **E-mail:** jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

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

Staffing

Performance against a number of relevant corporate health PIs has been included to monitor staffing levels and absence rates.

Risk

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

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

Corporate health PIs and key actions relating to equality and diversity issues are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Accommodation

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

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

Human Rights

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

Disability Issues

Corporate health PIs and key actions relating to accessibility issues and employees with a disability are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Appendix 2: Key to symbols used within the report

Where icons appear in this report, they have been applied to the most recently available information.

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel

Latest reported data have improved from comparable period



GREEN

Latest reported data remain in line with comparable period



AMBER

Latest reported data have deteriorated from comparable period



RED

Performance against target

Performance better than target

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Performance >2% behind target

Actions:



WHITE

Complete (Action achieved by deadline/achieved ahead of deadline)



GREEN

Action on track to be achieved by the deadline



RED

Action not achieved by the deadline/unlikely to be achieved by the deadline

Benchmarking:



GREEN

Performance better than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available



AMBER

Performance in line with other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available



RED

Performance worse than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Greener										
61	Reduction in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations	5.5	2012/13	9	RED	6.3	RED			
62	The number of properties within the private sector made energy efficient with the use of Green Deal loans as part of the Warm Up North consortium	5,356	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	2,500	GREEN	2,134	GREEN			
63	Number of registered and approved Feed In Tariff (FIT) installations	844	Apr - Dec 2013	800	GREEN	900	RED			
64	Value of bids to Environment Agency for Local Levy Scheme	Reported Q4	NA	0	NA	New Indicator	NA			
65	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	5.91	Aug - Nov 2013	7	GREEN	8	GREEN	11 GREEN		2011/12
66	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	7.33	Aug - Nov 2013	10	GREEN	7	RED	11 GREEN		2011/12
67	Percentage of the 378 local sites (geological and wildlife) that have an up to date management plan in place	18.3	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	18.3	GREEN	16.9	GREEN			

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
68	Area of council owned woodland brought into positive management (ha)	Reported Q4	NA	50	NA	New indicator	NA			
69	Percentage of conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal.	39	As at Dec 2013	37	GREEN	35	GREEN			
70	Number of additional heritage assets that are open for Heritage Open Days	20	As at Sept 2013	30	RED	34	RED			
71	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	43.5	Jan - Dec 2013	44.0	<u>Not comparable</u> [1]	43.4	<u>Not comparable</u> [1]	41.57 GREEN	35.89* GREEN	2012/13
72	Percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside - recycling	21.9	Jan - Dec 2013	19.0	<u>Not comparable</u> [1]	17.5	<u>Not comparable</u> [1]			
73	Percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside - composting	10.3	Jan - Dec 2013	10.1	<u>Not comparable</u> [1]	10.2	<u>Not comparable</u> [1]			
74	Percentage of municipal waste landfilled	23.1	Jan - Dec 2013	35.0	<u>Not comparable</u> [1]	40.2	<u>Not comparable</u> [1]	30.3 RED	28.33* RED	2012/13

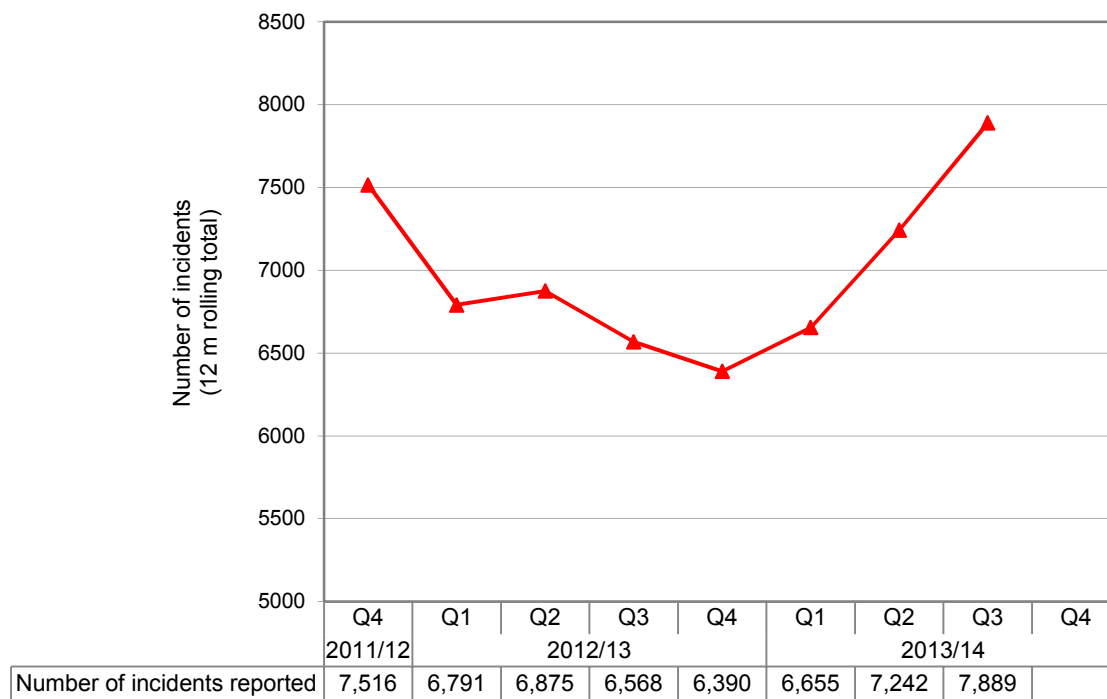
[1] Due to changes to the indicator's reporting period data is not comparable

Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Page Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Greener										
162	Reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham by 40% by 2020	41.2	As at Dec 2011	25.1	GREEN	25.1	GREEN	6 GREEN	18* GREEN	2009
163	Renewable energy generation -MwE installed or installed/ approved capacity within County Durham	205.13	As at Dec 2013	202.71	Not comparable [2]	181.97	Not comparable			
164	Number of fly-tipping incidents reported	7,889	Jan - Dec 2013	7,242	RED	6,568	RED			
165	Percentage of fly tipping incidents that have been investigated	87	Oct - Dec 2013	92	RED	New Indicator	NA			
166	Number of prosecutions by Durham County Council in response to fly tipping	2	Oct - Dec 2013	1	GREEN	New Indicator	NA			
167	Net change in the number of sites on the Heritage at Risk Register	4	2012/13	0	RED	0	RED			
168	Net change in the number of sites at 'high risk' on previous years Heritage at Risk register	-1	2012	0	GREEN	0	GREEN			

[\[2\] This data is cumulative year on year](#)

Chart 1 – Fly-tipping incidents



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



10 April 2014

**Local Air Quality Management Within
County Durham**

**Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and
Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information in advance of a presentation focusing on projects that are being undertaken across County Durham for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements of Local Air Quality Management.

Background

2. The Environment Act 1995 requires the Council to undertake review and assessment of local air quality across County Durham. This has identified areas of Durham City and Chester le Street where the assessed concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, a pollutant that occurs from vehicle emissions, are above the National Air Quality Standard.
3. The EC has formally launched infraction proceedings against the UK for breach of the nitrogen dioxide air quality limit values under the EU Air Quality Directive. The Government has discretionary power under the Localism Act 2011 to transfer all or part payment of the fine imposed following infraction proceedings on to Local Authorities that have failed to carry out responsibilities under Local Air Quality Management.
4. The Council declared an Air Quality Management Area within Durham City for nitrogen dioxide on the 9th May 2011. This currently extends across the city centre from Highgate, over Millburngate Bridge to the Hild and Bede roundabout and then along Gilesgate to the junction with Dragon Lane.
5. The Council declared an Air Quality Management Area within Chester le Street for nitrogen dioxide on the 17th May 2013. This currently covers two rows of terraced properties known as Menceforth Cottages and Glen Terrace, both of which are situated to the west of the town centre on Pelton Fell Road.
6. The review and assessment of air quality elsewhere has not identified any other areas within the County where the concentrations of air quality pollutants have exceeded the National Air Quality Standards.

What We Are Doing to Improve Air Quality within County Durham

7. Once an Air Quality Management Area has been declared the Council is required to establish an Air Quality Action Plan. The Action Plan comprises of air quality improvement measures that, when implemented, will reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations towards achieving compliance with the National Air Quality Standards.
8. An Air Quality Technical Working and a Corporate Steering Group were set up in June 2013 with the purpose, initially, to establish an Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City. The principal role of the Air Quality Technical Working Group is to identify air quality improvement measures that are then reported to the Corporate Steering Group for incorporation within the Action Plan. A list of air quality improvement options were reported to the Air Quality Corporate Steering Group in January 2014.
9. Further assessment of air quality within the Air Quality Management Area in Chester le Street is currently being carried out. This will provide information on the sources that are contributing to elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide in this area of the town. It will also quantify the reduction in concentrations of this air quality pollutant that are required to comply with the National Air Quality Standard.
10. The review and assessment of air quality is continuing across County Durham. An extensive network of non continuous monitors is now established at all locations where elevated levels of an air quality pollutant may occur. In addition, there are portable and stationary continuous monitors at selected locations within Durham City that measure concentrations of nitrogen dioxide twenty four hours a day.
11. The projected and planned development detailed within the County Durham Plan for the county will inevitably have an impact on air quality pollutant emissions. An Air Quality and Planning Guidance Note can now be used for providing advice to developers. The use of the guidance in dealing with pre-planning requests for advice and for planning applications will ensure the air quality impacts from developments will be assessed and minimised.
12. Arrangements have been made for a presentation to be provided to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will focus on the following:
 - Local Air Quality Management Legal Responsibilities.
 - Present and Future Local Air Quality Management Projects in Durham City.
 - Present and Future Local Air Quality Management Projects in Chester le Street.
 - Other Air Quality Management Projects in County Durham.

Next Steps

13. The review and assessment of air quality in areas of Durham City that are currently outside the declared Air Quality Management Area has determined concentrations of nitrogen dioxide that exceed the National Air Quality Standard. It will therefore be necessary to revise the extent of the existing Air Quality Management Area to include these other areas. The revised Air Quality Management Area covers an extension of the boundary from Highgate to follow the A690 route west through the city to include the Crossgate lights junction, the Peth, Neville's Cross to the Stonebridge roundabout. The intention is to revise the Air Quality Management Order to include these other areas in June 2014.
14. A draft Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City will be completed by March 2015. Following this it will be necessary to undertake public consultation and any feedback will be taken into consideration prior to finalising the Plan.
15. The further assessment of air quality within the Air Quality Management Area for Chester le Street will be completed in May 2014. The outcome of this will provide information to the Technical Working Group to establish possible air quality improvement options for incorporation into a draft Air Quality Action Plan.
16. The progression of options for improving the air quality incorporated within the Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City will assist in raising the profile of air quality both within and outside the Council. This will include the development of the air quality web pages and ways of engaging with Public Health, schools and businesses.

Recommendations

17. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the information provided during the presentation and make comments on any existing projects as necessary.

Background Papers

- The Durham City Air Quality Management Order and map of Air Quality Management Area.
- The Chester le Street Air Quality Management Order and map of Air Quality Management Area.

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Appendix 1: Implications-

Finance –

There are financial implications associated with the projects covered in the presentation. These include the costs for the carrying out of air quality review and assessment projects consisting of the further assessment of air quality for the areas that are outside the existing Air Quality Management Area in Durham City and for the Air Quality Management Area in Chester le Street.

In addition there are cost implications with the implementation of air quality improvement measures incorporated into an Air Quality Action Plan. However as traffic is the source of elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide emissions in both of the declared Air Quality Management Areas then it is likely that traffic improvement measures will be necessary and the capital for these should be met from the Local Transport Planning budget.

Further monitoring requirements to assess the impact of air quality improvement measures incorporated into the Air Quality Action Plan may be required. This may include the expansion of the existing non continuous monitoring network and/or the installation of further continuous monitors.

Staffing –

Corporate and Technical Working Groups have been set up to establish and develop a draft Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City and these existing groups will also be tasked with the development and implementation of an Air Quality Action Plan for Chester le Street.

The delivery of the projects will involve the Senior Air Quality Officer and other officers within the Pollution Control Team carrying out the majority of the technical work involved in maintaining and extending the monitoring network across the County.

It will be necessary however for external air quality consultants to carry out further assessment of the air quality within both the Air Quality Management Areas in Durham City and Chester le Street. The air quality consultants will also assist with the establishment and development of the draft Air Quality Action Plans.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty –

Local Air Quality Management focusses on improving or reducing the impacts of air quality. Therefore they will have a beneficial impact irrespective of the background of the residents of the properties of the areas to which the projects relate.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out prior to the reports for the designation of the Air Quality Management Areas in Durham City and Chester le Street.

Accommodation –

None

Crime and Disorder –

None

Human Rights –

None

Consultation –

A consultation involving residents and Councillors together with other interested parties was undertaken prior to the designation of the Air Quality Management Areas in Durham City and Chester le Street. Further consultation will also be required prior to the revision of the Air Quality Management Area and this will be undertaken in accordance with a Consultation Plan drawn up by the Communications Team.

Following the completion of Local Air Quality review and assessment work that includes the further assessment of air quality within the Chester le Street Air Quality Management Area and those areas to be included in the Durham City Air Quality Management Area the Council is required to undertake consultation with statutory consultees. The statutory consultees include the Environment Agency, the Highways Authority, neighbouring local authorities that adjoin the boundary of the Council together with any other organisations that may have an interest in the outcome and who were consulted prior to the designation of the Air Quality Management Area such as representatives of local businesses or trade organisations.

The Council will also be required to undertake a more detailed form of consultation exercise once a draft Air Quality Action Plan has been established and prior to it being finalised. At this stage it is uncertain as to what form this consultation will take but will need to involve public participation. For example Councils elsewhere have undertaken this consultation in the form of a series of arranged workshops and have used external air quality consultants to organise and facilitate these.

Procurement –

It may be necessary to purchase further monitoring equipment and/or consultancy services to enable the Council to complete these projects. The purchase of further monitoring equipment or consultancy services, if required, will be undertaken in accordance with the applicable Council procurement policies and procedures.

Disability Issues –

None

Risk and Legal Implications–

The legislation that covers Local Air Quality Management requires the Council to designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) where an air quality objective is unlikely to be met. The review and assessment of air quality in Durham City has determined areas outside the extent of the existing Air Quality Management Area where known and predicted concentrations of nitrogen dioxide exceed the National Air Quality Objective. Therefore the Council is legally required to revise the extent of the existing Durham City Air Quality Management Area to include these other areas by amending the Air Quality Management Order.

The Council has a further legal responsibility to carry out and report on further assessment of the air quality within the areas to which an Air Quality Management Order relates.

Once an Air Quality Management Area has been designated there is also a further legal requirement to establish an Air Quality Action Plan consisting of measures to improve the air quality towards achieving compliance with the National Air Quality Standards for pollutants within the designated Air Quality Management Area.

Failure to undertake Local Air Quality Management responsibilities may lead to judicial review proceedings being progressed against the Council. If faced by a judicial review the Council could not substantiate a case of failing to carry out its responsibilities. In addition the Government has discretionary power, under the Localism Act, to require responsible authorities to pay all or part of a fine imposed by EU infraction proceedings.

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



10 April 2014

**Contaminated Land Strategy -
Overview**

**Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director of Neighbourhood
Services**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an overview on the council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (CLIS), which will be released as a revised version in May 2014.

Background

2. In April 2000, a statutory regime for the regulation of contaminated land was implemented, under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Act imposes a statutory duty on each local authority to strategically inspect the land within its area for the purpose of identifying land which could be defined as 'contaminated land'.
3. Contaminated Land for the purposes of Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, is defined as 'any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land that: -
 - a. Significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or
 - b. Significant pollution of controlled waters is being caused, or there is a significant possibility of such pollution being caused.
4. Under the provisions of Part 2A local authorities are also obliged to produce a written CLIS outlining how they intend to fulfil their inspection duties.

Current Position

5. The Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (CLIS) 2014 version is currently under final revision and will shortly be released for consultation, probably during April 2014. It has been amended to incorporate changes arising from the 2012 Statutory Guidance document, prepared by Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Additionally, it includes changes that arose from the practical experience gained from undertaking more detailed inspection work.

6. The CLIS describes the work approach that will be taken by Durham County Council through to 2018, subject to any other corporate changes or other changes that might be introduced by the government. It enables corporate risk control for this aspect and facilitates achievement of environmental improvement and improves customer service for those enquiring on such matters.
7. The release of the contaminated land new statutory guidance, issued by DEFRA in April 2012, brought several changes to the regime. The main changes contained within the guidance and reflected in the 2014 Strategy are: -
 - a. The introduction of risk categorisation of sites inspected under Part 2A into one of four categories.
 - b. The principle that normal levels of contaminants such as those caused by common human activities as opposed to former industrial uses should not be considered to cause land to qualify as contaminated land, unless there is a particular reason to consider otherwise.
 - c. Changes to the reporting of sites assessed under Part 2A.
8. The purpose of the 2014 Strategy is to set out the proposals for identifying, inspecting and assessing contaminated land within the Durham County Council area between 2014 and 2018, taking into account the statutory guidance and the Council Plan, ensuring an attractive local living environment, and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges ('Altogether Greener'). It does not include information on the enforcement, determining liability and details of remediation of contaminated land. The priority actions are summarised in Table 2 of the Strategy which is appended to this report at Appendix 2.
9. The Strategy includes the following: -
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Principles of Contaminant Linkages and Risk Assessment
 - c. Characteristics of Durham County Council Area
 - d. Implementing the Strategy
 - e. General Communication, Liaison and Consultation
 - f. Information Management
 - g. Dealing with land contamination outside Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990
10. Part 2A will only be used as a last resort to deal with land contamination and only where no appropriate alternative solution exists. The planning regime remains the primary mechanism for dealing with sites affected by land contamination.
11. As outlined above the CLIS 2014 is currently in draft form and will be subject to consultation, and possible amendment, prior to releasing the final version.

Recommendation

12. Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note and provide comment on the information provided within the report.

Background Papers

- Defra (April 2012) Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A, Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance, HM Government.
- Durham County Council's November 2011 Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.
- Durham County Council's 2014 Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.
- Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – The Environment Protection team will consult with internal sections of the Council and external organisations, for example neighbouring local authorities and other interested parties, and any comments received during the consultation will be carefully considered and the Strategy amended accordingly, as appropriate. A list of the bodies consulted can be found in Appendix A of the Strategy.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 imposes a statutory duty on local authorities to strategically inspect land within its area for the purpose of identifying land which could legally be defined as ‘contaminated land’. The Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy 2014 provides a clear set of objectives and actions for inspecting land within the Durham County Council area.

Appendix 2

Table 2: The Work Programme for 2014-2018

	Task Description	Target Date
1.	Review high priority sites (Stage 1 Site Prioritisation)	Ongoing
2.	Continue to collate information on sites of potential land contamination as part of the strategic inspection	Ongoing
3.	Strategically inspect a minimum of 10 high priority potentially contaminated land sites each financial year	Ongoing
4.	Strategically inspect potentially contaminated land sites where sufficient information is available for a decision to be made under Part 2A	Where resources are available
5.	Continue with the Land Quality Inspection Programme undertaking a detailed inspection of 10 high priority potentially contaminated land sites each financial year	Ongoing
6.	Produce written statements / risk summaries for each site following the strategic and detailed inspections	Ongoing
7.	Review high priority sites (Stage 2 Site Prioritisation)	Where resources are available
8.	Undertake strategic and where necessary detailed inspections of sites where information comes to light to deem them as urgent	Where necessary
9.	Review the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy	End of 2018

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Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



10 April 2014

Garden Waste - Update

Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information on the review of the garden waste collection service.

Background

- 2 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 26 September 2013 a Cabinet report was considered detailing the proposals for consultation on the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste from the kerbside.
- 3 It was agreed by members at that meeting that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee would receive at a future meeting an update in relation to feedback from the consultation exercise together with details of the garden waste collection scheme to be introduced.
- 4 I attach a copy of the Cabinet Report which was considered at the meeting on the 19 March 2014. Arrangements have therefore been made for the Head of Projects and Business Services to attend the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 10 April 2014 and present the attached report to Members.

Recommendations

- 5 That the Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment upon the information provided in the attached report.

Background Papers

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Report – 26 September 2013.

Cabinet report 18 September 2013.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The financial benefits of the scheme were outlined in 18th September 2013, Review of the Garden Waste Collection Services

Staffing

There is likely to be a requirement for some temporary staffing during the set up period both operationally and administratively. It is also likely that there will be a reduction of collection vehicles and associated staff once the routes are fully designed and bedded in. It is planned that this will be achieved without the need for compulsory redundancies

Risk

A Risk Assessment has been produced and a reportable risk has been identified. Appendix 2

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment has been developed in relation to this review and is available at Appendix 3

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

None

Consultation

Consultation results are included in this report.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

Assisted collection arrangements currently associated with the service will be maintained.

Legal Implications

The Garden Waste Collection Service is a non-statutory service.

Cabinet

19th March 2014

Review of the Garden Waste Collection Service



Key Decision NS/19/13
MTFP Ref: NS17

Report of Corporate Management Team

Terry Collins, Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services

Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To report back to Cabinet on the results of the garden waste consultation.
2. To seek approval to introduce a charge for the collection of garden waste from the kerbside from 2015, in doing so achieving the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings identified from the Review of Waste Charges (£933k) in 2015/16 (deferred from 2014/15).

Background

3. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP4) has identified that the level of savings required in the period 2011 to 2017 has increased to £224m.
4. On 18th September 2013, Cabinet received a report outlining the proposals for the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste, along with a financial model to show how savings could be made. Cabinet gave approval to commence consultation regarding the scheme.
5. This consultation gave people the opportunity to have their say on proposed changes to the garden waste collection service in County Durham which includes the introduction of a fee for the service.
6. Garden waste collections are a non-statutory function, introduced by many Local Authorities as a way to meet statutory targets relating to recycling and diversion of waste from landfill. Under the Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) system recycling targets were statutory, also landfill diversion targets were incentivised by the landfill allowance trading scheme introduced in 2005 which incorporated fines of up to £150/tonne for excess biodegradable waste going to landfill from a 1995 baseline.

7. Collecting garden waste helped to meet these targets, and while this also had the effect of generating additional waste, many authorities chose to introduce a separate collection service to households, as this waste was easily recyclable.
8. Durham County Council currently provides a fortnightly garden waste collection service to 151,700 properties between spring and autumn without additional charge.
9. A further 7,500 households in the former Teesdale area continue to be served through 3rd Sector group (“Rotters”). Rotters operated the service on a charged basis until 2010 when the Teesdale service became free of charge through support from the County Council.
10. As part of the previous two tier system, a variety of schemes were introduced by the former Districts from 2003. Many parts of the County were excluded from the scheme due to ‘opt in’ or ‘opt out’ methods that were applied as part of the roll out.
11. Approximately 70,000 households received the service at LGR in 2009. This has now grown to approximately 151,700, as a result of the efforts of the County Council to harmonise collection systems. For many households, therefore, the garden waste scheme, while popular, has not been a long-standing service.
12. The service is therefore not currently available to all households; however, there remains a demand for the service from those areas not currently covered by the scheme. Under the proposals, approximately an additional 35,000 properties will be able to access the scheme.
13. A consultation on the proposals was held between Friday 20 September 2013 and Monday 28 October 2013.

Methodology

14. The purpose of the consultation was to get feedback from residents to try and gauge potential take up and preferences if the proposed changes were to be implemented.
15. An engagement plan was developed and approved by the council’s Consultation Officers’ Group. The aim of the plan was to encourage as many residents as possible to respond within the consultation period.
16. Responses were captured through the use of a consultation survey which was available online via the County Council’s website and in paper version on request.
17. The following mechanisms were used to inform the public about the proposals and encourage people to respond by completing the survey.

- **Press release** – a press release was issued encouraging people to respond to the survey.
 - **Town and parish councils** - town and parish councils were contacted with a request to encourage residents to respond. Promotional posters were also issued to town and parish councils.
 - **Area action partnerships** –area action partnerships were contacted with a request to distribute details of the consultation via their networks. A copy of the promotional poster was also issued to AAPs for distribution.
 - **Website** - the survey was promoted on the home page of the County Council's website between 16 and 25 October.
 - **Environment Partnership** – the chairs of the Environment Partnership theme groups were contacted encouraging a response to the survey.
 - **Buzz magazine** – an article was included in the DCC staff magazine 'Buzz' signposting to the survey for those staff who are also residents of County Durham.
 - **Members update magazine** – an article was included in the DCC Members Update magazine to inform local members of the consultation and signposting to the survey.
 - **Customer access points** – information was displayed on TV information screens during October to let people know about the survey and how they could take part. Posters were also issued to customer access points to display. Copies of the survey were available at customer access points for those people who preferred a paper copy of the survey.
 - **Other DCC and community venues** – posters and flyers promoting the consultation were issued to libraries, leisure centres, One Point hubs, children centres and community centres throughout the county.
18. Members of the council's citizens' panel were also surveyed for this consultation. The citizens' panel is a sample of residents from the County Durham population who agree to take part in council consultations. 2722 members of the panel were issued with this survey.
19. The citizens' panel survey included an additional question about which other areas of the waste management service could be considered for future savings.
20. A total of 2117 responses were received via the survey – 1066 (50.4%) from the general public and 1051 (49.6%) from the citizens' panel. The responses from Citizens' Panel and members of the public are kept separate in this report.
21. Additional feedback was also received from Barnard Castle Town Council, Horden Parish Council, Seaham Town Council, Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council, and Hunstanworth Parish Meeting. A separate email response was also received from a member of the public. This feedback has been summarised as follows:

Barnard Castle Town Council	Not opposed to introducing a charge, and happy to pay fee to Rotters; felt consultation was a futile exercise.
Horden Parish Council	Highlighted risk for increased fly tipping; would like to see discounted rate for residents who have fewer collections throughout the year.
Seaham Town Council	Wished to express concerns about those who were struggling financially and the risk of increased fly tipping.
Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council	Understands the need for the council to make savings however, concerns were raised over increased fly tipping.
Hunstanworth Parish Meeting	Felt boundary should be extended to include customers in the west of the county or waste would create more pollution.
Other feedback	Suggested initiating a community led project for neighbourhood composting.

Summary of key results

- **Current usage of service** - the majority of people responding to the survey currently use the garden waste collection service: citizens' panel (71.5%); general public (92.8%).
- **Reasons for not using current service** - of those respondents that don't currently use the garden waste collection service, the most common reasons for citizens' panel members are because they don't have a garden (37.8%) or because they are not within the scheme area (27.1%). The most common reasons for respondents from the general public are because they don't receive the service (26.1%) or 'other' reasons (36.2%), mainly because the service is not provided or because they compost/recycle instead.
- **Willing to pay for service** – when asked if respondents would be willing to pay for garden waste collections to allow the service to be provided in future, 31.3% of citizens' panel respondents indicated they would, 59.6% would not be willing to pay and 9.2% did not know; 29.8% of the general public would be willing to pay, 59.5% would not be willing to pay and 10.7% did not know.
- **Service offers and discounts¹** – when asked about sign up offers, 42.2% of the citizens' panel would be more likely to sign up if an early payment discount was offered; 33% would like an online discount with 27.2% selecting a three year discounted sign up. The general public's responses followed a similar trend, 40.4% would like an early payment discount; 36% would like an online discount, 23.7% selected a three year discounted sign up.
- **Number of bins required** - the majority of people would only want one garden waste bin if they signed up for the service: citizens' panel (89.9%); general public (85.5%).
- **Preferred methods of payment** – the preferred methods of payment for citizens' panel members are online using debit or credit card (44.4%) and direct debit (25.2%). A higher proportion of the general public prefer online

using debit or credit card (57.5%) and 24.1% of the general public prefer direct debit.

- **Other methods of disposing garden waste¹** – when asked how they would dispose of their garden waste if they didn't want to sign up to the service, the most common responses from citizens' panel members were to 'take it to the household waste recycling centre' (46.5%), followed by 'put it in the general rubbish bin' (32.5%), followed by 'compost it' (29.5%). The most common responses from the general public were to 'put it in the general rubbish bin' (52.3%) followed by 'take it to the household waste recycling centre' (42.5%), followed by 'compost it' (26.5%).
- **Other comments on the plans** – common comments on the plans were concerns around increased fly tipping and a belief that the service should be funded by council tax.
- **Areas for future savings** – the majority of citizens' panel members thought an increase in bulky waste charges should be considered if further savings needed to be made in the area of waste management in future (64.5%). A third of respondents (34%) felt a withdrawal of the garden waste collection service altogether should be considered and 5.6% of respondents suggested the closure of more household waste recycling centres.

Other Authorities / Benchmarking

22. More than 35% of local authorities in England currently apply a charge for garden waste collections with many more considering implementation. Benchmarking has indicated that the average service charge across local authorities in England is £39.43 per year however authorities offer schemes based over differing number of weeks per year. An estimate of a benchmarked cost per collection across English authorities is £1.61 the equivalent proposed in Durham is £1.25.
23. In addition to those authorities that have established charges, there are a number who have recently introduced charges in response to MTFP pressures; these include Wirral (£35), Chiltern (£35) and Craven (£24). Authorities that have already announced the introduction of schemes for the next season (2014) include Richmondshire (£17), Broxtowe (£30), Ryedale (£27), Derby (£40), South Bucks (£45), Swindon (£40). Authorities that are considering the possibility of introducing a charge include Gateshead, Cardiff, and North West Leicestershire.
24. Established charges within the region include Northumberland County Council charge £23 per season for their garden waste collection and Newcastle City Council charge £20. Gateshead Council is currently considering introducing a charge.

¹ Question was multiple choice and therefore may not total 100%

Risks

25. There are a number of potential risks that are involved in the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste, these include:
- Fly tipping – A common concern around the introduction of the charge is that the number of fly tipping incidents will increase. Wirral Council, who recently introduced a charge, did not see any increase in the number of fly tipping incidents. Similarly in Durham after the introduction of a charge for bulky household waste collections a 14% decrease in fly tipping incidents was recorded, and as such any increase in cost has not been included in the financial model. Fly tipping is a criminal offence and is treated seriously by the Council; as such close monitoring will take place to ensure any emerging issues are quickly addressed.
 - Recycling performance - Modelling work undertaken in preparation of the consultation identified a likely decrease in the total amount of garden waste that is collected and as such would have an impact on recycling performance. Consultation results have suggested that of those that do not use the service, waste would be disposed of either via a HWRC, composted or put in the general waste bin. These scenarios were accounted for in the original model with an anticipated reduction of 4% from the current level of 46% of waste recycled.
 - Additional traffic at HWRCs – It is likely as a result of a charge an increase in the traffic at HWRCs will be apparent as customers seek to dispose of their garden waste. These traffic increases will be closely monitored in partnership with the operating contractor to ensure any necessary steps are taken to mitigate any impact.
 - Increased residual waste – as suggested through consultation findings it is possible that customers that do not choose to subscribe to the scheme and do not use HWRCs or composting will dispose of their waste in their residual waste bins. While the financial impact was taken into account as part of the original model, this will be discouraged through communications and education campaigns. Enforcement options will be considered but an education first approach will be adopted. Alternative methods of disposal will also be encouraged through sharing of garden waste bins between neighbours and compost bins.

Summary

26. As the need to deliver financial savings increases, initiatives that deliver savings whilst mitigating impact on residents have to be considered. Taking the popularity of this non statutory service into account, steps should be taken to enable the continuation of the service within financial requirements. The trend nationally for charging continues to increase as budget pressures are felt in all authorities.

27. No charge will be introduced for the 2014 season with the scheme remaining with the current delivery model. However, it is proposed that a charge be implemented for the 2015 season.
28. For the 2015 season it is proposed that that a relatively low price of £20 is charged for collections, which benchmarks favourably nationally. For the 2015 season it is also proposed that a price of £50 is offered to households that subscribe to the service for three years. Other incentives referred to in consultation will be considered for the future.
29. By introducing a charge for the residents of Durham on an opt-in basis this popular service can continue, and be made available to approximately 35,000 more households. Alternatives will be provided to residents through HWRCs and home composting. It is recommended that a relatively low price be charged for collection which benchmarks favourably nationally.
30. The results of the consultation are broadly in line with expectations and with the experience of other councils elsewhere. The assumption had been that 40% of eligible households would be willing to pay a small charge to take up the service with 60% declining to do so. Given the limitations of a consultation process, a 31% positive result is an encouraging indicator; also, the 59% negative response reflects the 60% assumption very closely. While it is important to recognise the consultation exercise represents only a snapshot of opinion, the results are nevertheless encouraging.

Recommendations

31. That Cabinet:-
 - i. Notes the outcomes of the public consultation.
 - ii. Agrees to implement a charge for Garden Waste collections commencing 2015.
 - iii. Agrees to implement a charge for the 2015 season of £20 per year with an option for households to subscribe to the service for three years for £50.
 - iv. Agrees to delegate to the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships all actions and decisions necessary to implement a charging scheme for garden waste collections in County Durham commencing in 2015.

Background papers

Cabinet Report 18th September 2013, Review of the Garden Waste Collection Services [Key Decision NS/19/13] [MTFP Ref: NS17]

Contact: Alan Patrickson 03000 268165

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

The financial benefits of the scheme were outlined in 18th September 2013, Review of the Garden Waste Collection Services

Staffing

There is likely to be a requirement for some temporary staffing during the set up period both operationally and administratively. It is also likely that there will be a reduction of collection vehicles and associated staff once the routes are fully designed and bedded in. It is planned that this will be achieved without the need for compulsory redundancies

Risk

A Risk Assessment has been produced and a reportable risk has been identified. Appendix 2

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment has been developed in relation to this review and is available at Appendix 3

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

None

Consultation

Consultation results are included in this report.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

Assisted collection arrangements currently associated with the service will be maintained.

Legal Implications

The Garden Waste Collection Service is a non-statutory service.

Appendix 2 Reportable Risk- Introducing Garden Waste Charging.

Risk Description	Potential Impact	Measures to mitigate the risk (if not already in place, state implementation date)	Risk Owner
<p>Existing customers may choose not to opt-in to the service impacting on current service delivery arrangements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual waste tonnages may increase as a result of increased garden tonnages entering the waste stream resulting in additional cost to the Authority. • Potential of increased garden waste entering HWRC's • The Authority's reuse, recycling and composting rate may decrease and the National Target is to reuse, recycle and compost 50% by 2020. 	<p>Data and financial modelling based on benchmarked information both regionally and nationally demonstrate that despite participation in the opt-in scheme dropping as much as 60% to 40% of current users, garden waste presented would be around 60% of that currently collected. The remaining 40% garden waste not collected as part of garden waste collection rounds would be split as 16% in to residual waste bins, 12% entering Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and 12% being home composted or "disappearing".</p> <p>Based on these percentage splits and associated tonnages and costs to the authority, the financial benefits of introducing a charge, minus the additional costs associated with the above, result in an overall saving of £976,623.</p> <p>This takes in to account increased costs of disposing garden waste and additional garden waste entering HWRC's.</p> <p>Individual Authority waste targets have been removed (National Indicators and Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme) however there remains a National target to reuse, recycle and compost 50% by 2020. There are no direct penalties for an individual Authority not achieving this. Durham County Councils new range of waste treatment contracts are based on high levels of diversion and encourage high recycling rates which associated with the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collection last year mean any reduction in the reuse, recycling and composting rate will be largely mitigated by the improvements in rates resulting from new contractual arrangements.</p>	<p>Alan Patrickson</p>

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Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment

NS17.9A

Review of Garden Waste



Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments. You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.

<p>Service/team or section: Projects and Business Services</p>	<p>Start date: 1 March 2013 <u>Reviewed</u> 6/11/2013 and 4/2/14</p>
<p>Lead Officer: Head of Projects and Business Services Strategic Waste Manager Refuse and Recycling Manager (Direct Services)</p>	
<p>Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)</p>	
<p>In order to achieve agreed savings targets because of budget reductions, a review of the Garden Waste Service has taken place to enable the Council to determine the future provision of this service.</p>	
<p><u>Background</u> Currently garden waste is collected on a fortnightly basis from 151,700 households within the County free of charge. The current garden waste scheme does not cover all households (223,800 households) across the County; 68% of all properties across the County currently have access to a garden waste collection service.</p>	
<p><u>Proposal</u> The proposal involves operating the scheme based on 16 collections per year, per household and introducing a fee per household per calendar year for this service. The proposal involves offering the scheme to households within a defined geographical area of the county to ensure it is viable and economically effective.</p>	
<p>Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners / Specific audiences / Other (please specify) – Elected Members, General public – County Durham Residents, Durham County Council Employees, Partners</p>	
<p>Is a copy of the subject attached? No</p>	
<p>A copy of the subject can be obtained by contacting the Strategic Waste Manager Initial screening</p>	

The screening has focussed on the impact of introducing a charge to the service. This review incorporates the findings of the consultation exercise approved by Cabinet

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

Is there an actual/potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

Gender	N	Disability	Y	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	N	Sexual orientation	N
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What evidence do you have to support your findings?

The proposed charge for the service has been kept at a relatively low level in order to ensure the viability of the scheme whilst minimising the impact of customers having a new paid-for service.

It is considered that there may be some residents accessing this service who are disabled and older people who may be relying on others to tend their gardens but who use the service to dispose of this waste. These residents may not be able to use an alternative means of disposing of this waste and will therefore have to pay the cost of receiving this service.

In terms of implementation, the service is committed to developing a comprehensive communications plan that will ensure that the service information is accessible to all residents; including those with learning disabilities and sensory impairments.

Assisted Collection Service

Those residents requiring an 'assisted collection' service will continue to receive this service.

The assisted collection service ensures that residents who are unable to present their wheeled bin at the collection point, due to ill health, infirmity or disability, and without other occupants (16 years and over) in the household to assist them, are placed on the 'assisted collection' register. Residents who are on the 'assisted collection' register will have their garden waste wheeled bin collected by a collection operative from an agreed location, emptied into the collection vehicle and then returned to that same location. Registration is subject to an application process and approval from the Council; applications for assisted collection and bin storage/collection arrangements may be assessed by home visits and/or telephone calls.

Bulky Household Collection

The collection of garden waste is included as an item of household waste too large to be disposed of through the domestic waste collection service and as such, it can be collected through the Bulky Household Collection service. This service is available to all residents

and is a charged for service.

Mobile Household Waste Recycling Centres

This option is being considered as an alternative for rural areas where households will no longer be eligible for the garden waste service.

Composting

The council encourages the use of composters to dispose of garden waste.

Payment Mechanisms

To ensure residents can continue to access the service, the Council will offer a range of various payment mechanisms.

Consultation results

The main issue highlighted in the consultation was the cost of the scheme. There was no evidence of a particular group being affected more than another. There are differences in preference with older people and disabled people in terms of use of payment methods

The consultation has also highlighted that younger people are more price sensitive to the scheme and are encouraged by the pricing initiatives while older customers are more likely to use the scheme regardless of payment schemes.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – **Yes** **Date: 1st February 2014**

If you have answered ‘No’ you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.

	<p>Identify the impact: does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups?</p> <p>There is no evidence the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on gender.</p>	<p>Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered.</p>	<p>What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan)</p> <p>Development of the scheme includes a range of payment methods including discounts for early payment</p>															
<p>Gender</p>	<p>Consultation responses Male 895 (49%) Female 932 (51%) Total 1827</p> <p>Males are less likely to join the service than females</p>																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Don't</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>30.0%</td> <td>62.0%</td> <td>8.0%</td> <td>870</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>36.6%</td> <td>52.4%</td> <td>10.9%</td> <td>906</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Don't	Frequency	Male	30.0%	62.0%	8.0%	870	Female	36.6%	52.4%	10.9%	906		
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		<p>A higher percentage of females were undecided about whether they will use the service</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="300 562 432 1290"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Don't know</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>28.5%</td> <td>64.6%</td> <td>6.9%</td> <td>452</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>33.4%</td> <td>55.4%</td> <td>11.2%</td> <td>536</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Consultation shows females are more likely to join the scheme if a discount is made available for early payment:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="614 734 746 1290"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>13.9%</td> <td>86.1%</td> <td>288</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>22.2%</td> <td>77.8%</td> <td>315</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Don't know	Frequency	Male	28.5%	64.6%	6.9%	452	Female	33.4%	55.4%	11.2%	536		Yes	No	Frequency	Male	13.9%	86.1%	288	Female	22.2%	77.8%	315		
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<p>Age</p>	<p>There may be an impact on older residents who rely on others to tend their gardens and who may be required to take up the new scheme, as they will not have access to any other options to dispose of the waste.</p>	<p>Consultation responses Consultation responses show those below the age of 44 are less likely to use the service while those over 65 are more likely to use the service</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="930 734 1083 1290"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Frequency</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 44</td> <td>446</td> <td>24.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-64</td> <td>894</td> <td>48.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>488</td> <td>26.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Consultation shows older residents are less likely to join the scheme if a discount was offered as part of a £50 charge for three years</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1270 562 1423 1290"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Frequency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 44</td> <td>16.0%</td> <td>84.0%</td> <td>306</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-64</td> <td>7.9%</td> <td>92.1%</td> <td>190</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>3.4%</td> <td>96.6%</td> <td>89</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Likely to use online payment discounts:</p>		Frequency	Percentage	Under 44	446	24.4%	45-64	894	48.9%	65+	488	26.7%		Yes	No	Frequency	Under 44	16.0%	84.0%	306	45-64	7.9%	92.1%	190	65+	3.4%	96.6%	89	<p>The changes to the service and the 'assisted collection' service are effectively communicated to residents so they are aware of this support.</p> <p>Bulky Household collection service is available to all residents at a charge</p> <p>Possible introduction of Mobile Household Waste Recycling Centres in more rural areas</p>
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<p>Disability</p>	<p>There may be an impact on disabled residents who rely on others to tender their gardens and who may be required to take up the new scheme as they will not have access to any other options to dispose of the waste.</p> <p>There are no significant difference in responses with</p>	<p>The 2011 census shows that almost 24% of the county's population have a disability.</p> <p>Around 12% of the population have caring responsibilities for others.</p> <p>Consultation responses Disabled Yes 289 (16%) No 1517 (84%) Total 1806</p> <p>Consultation shows disabled people are more likely to use other methods and are less likely to use</p>	<p>The changes to the service and the 'assisted collection' service are effectively communicated to residents so they are aware of options open to them.</p> <p>Bulky Household collection service is available to all residents</p>																																				

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Race/Ethnicity	There is no evidence the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on race/ethnicity.	Almost 97% of the county's population is white British.	<p>Consultation responses</p> <p>99% of responses were from White British people, the remaining 1.0% reported as Other</p> <p>There were no specific consultation comments relating to race or ethnicity.</p>																
Religion or belief	There is no evidence that the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on residents' religion or belief.																		
Sexual Orientation	There is no evidence that the new collection service has any disproportionate impact on residents' religion or belief.																		
How will this promote positive relationships between different communities? N/A																			

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

The proposed charge for the service has been kept at a relatively low level in order to ensure the viability of the scheme whilst minimising the impact of introducing a charge for this service.

Potential impacts

It is considered that there may be some residents accessing this service who are disabled and older people who may be relying on others to tend their gardens but who use the service to dispose of this waste. These residents may not be able to use an alternative means of disposing of this waste and will therefore have to pay the cost of receiving this service.

Consultation responses

There are no significant differences between aggregated age groups, gender or disability status. There are differences in payment methods with older people and disabled people preferring to use methods of payments other than online.

Mitigating actions

- Bulky Household Waste Collection service available to all residents
- Effective Communication Plan to communicate changes and methods of payment
- Possible introduction of mobile facilities in rural areas
- Composting schemes

Action to be taken	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
The changes of service charges should be clearly communicated ensuring particular attention to customer needs A range of payment mechanisms should be offered as part of the new scheme	Communications and Marketing Team Leader Head of Projects and Business Services	March 2015 March 2015	Neighbourhoods Equality monitoring Neighbourhoods Equality monitoring
When will this assessment be reviewed? Date: September 2015			
Lead officer - sign off: Head Of Projects & Business Services Date: 4 February 2014 Reviewed 7 November 2013			
Service equality representative - sign off: Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager Date: 4 February 2014 Reviewed 7 November 2013 Reviewed 4 February 2014			

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



10 April 2014

**Refresh of the Work Programme
for the Environment and
Sustainable Communities
Scrutiny Committee**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide Members with information contained within the Council Plan 2014-2017 that is relevant to the work of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This allows the opportunity for Members to refresh the Committee's work programme to reflect the five objectives and subsequent outcomes identified within the Council Plan for the Council's 'Altogether Greener' priority theme.

Background

2. The current work programmes of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
3. In relation to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members will recall that its work programme was refreshed at the Committee meeting held on 21st June 2013, to ensure that areas of focus were in line with current and forthcoming priorities within the Committee's remit. Further areas of focus for the committee have been added throughout 2013-2014 at the request of members.

Council Plan 2014 – 2017

4. The Council Plan is the overarching high level plan for the County Council, which now covers a four year period in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan and is updated on an annual basis. The plan sets out how the Council will consider the corporate priorities for change and the key actions the Authority will take in delivering the longer term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy (2010 -2030) and the Council's own change agenda. Attached as Appendix 2 is the 'Altogether Greener' section of the Council Plan for Members to consider.

5. Within the Council's Altogether Greener priority theme, the focus is ensuring an attractive and 'liveable' local environment and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges.
6. To help address these issues the Council has rationalised the structure of our objectives and outcomes framework to concentrate on three objectives. The "Reduce waste" objective has been removed from the Plan. Whilst this remains an important area to monitor, as all work in this area such as the introduction of the new waste management contracts has now been implemented. The objective around Durham's built environment has also been removed from the Plan as it was felt that there are no significant Council actions for the future in this area. However, this objective has been retained by the Environment Partnership as it is a big area for change for several partner organisations. The rationalised set of objectives and outcomes are set out below:

Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment

G1 – Reduce environmental crime

G2 – A sustainable approach to waste management

G3 – Community participation in activities to improve the environment

Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment

G4 – Enhance mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

G5 – Natural assets are valued and conserved.

Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

G6 – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events

G7 - The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient

G8 - Improved infrastructure to support sustainable transport

7. Over the next four years, the Council will strive to ensure an attractive and 'liveable' local environment and will contribute to tackling global challenges, by focusing on the actions required to achieve the above objectives. The Council Plan contains a series of High Level Action Plans, detailing the work which needs to be undertaken by the Authority in order to deliver the outcomes identified above, see Appendix 2 (copy attached).

Current Work Programme

8. During 2013/2014, the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, an in depth scrutiny review, a systematic six monthly review of progress against recommendations and has received a number of overview presentations, in relation to the following areas:

***Denotes inline with Council Plan 2014-2017.**

In Depth Scrutiny Reviews

- * • Flooding – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change G6 – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events

Systematic Review

- * • Development of Renewable Energy Technologies in County Durham - Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change – G7 – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- * • Reducing the Council’s Carbon Emissions – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change – G7 - The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.

Overview Activity

- * • County Durham Climate Change Delivery Plan – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change – G7 – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- * • Waste programme Update – Deliver a cleaner, more attractive sustainable environment – G2 – A sustainable approach to waste management.
- * • Potholes – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change – G8 – Improved infrastructure to support sustainable transport.
- * • Garden Waste – Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment – G2 – A sustainable approach to waste management.
- * • Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change – G7 - The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- * • Warm Up North – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change – G7 – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- * • Environmental implications of the County Durham Plan and renewable energy standards in new homes – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change – G7 – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- Culture and Sports Services Update – (Services within the project fall under the remit of Neighbourhood Services and therefore fall to the Environment OSC for consideration).

- * • Limestone Landscapes - Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment G5 – Natural assets are valued and conserved.
- * • Local Nature Partnerships – Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment G5 – Natural assets are valued and conserved.
- * • Flooding – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change- G6 – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events.
- * • Climate Change Strategy – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change G6 – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events. G7 – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- * • Winter Maintenance Plan – Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change G6 – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events.
- * • Tyne & Wear Aquifer Protection Scheme – Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment – G5 - Natural assets are valued and conserved.
- * • Contaminated Land Strategy – Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment – G1 – Reduce environmental crime. Maximise the value and the benefits of Durham's natural environment – G5 - Natural assets are valued and conserved.
- * • Air Quality Management – Durham City – Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment – G1 Reduce environmental crime.

Budgetary and performance monitoring

- Quarterly budgetary and performance monitoring for Altogether Greener.

Areas for consideration in the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny work programme

9. In addition, the Altogether Greener Section of the Council Plan for 2014 – 17 identifies the following new high level actions which have not already been considered by committee that could be included in the 2014- 2015 work programme:

Council Plan

Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment

- Delivery of the Landscape –scale partnership plans including the AONB Management Plan – Overview of plan and role of DCC.

- Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership – Overview of the work of the Partnership.

Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment

- Environmental improvement campaign/projects – An overview of various projects undertaken together with detail of future projects/ initiatives.
- Clean and Green Team – An overview of the role of the team and the work undertaken.
- Increase community ownership and involvement in the management of allotments – Overview of the management of allotments and the process to increase community ownership and involvement.
- Through the Community Action Team (CAT) deliver a programme of targeted interventions around environment, health and consumer protection – Overview of the work of the team in relation to targeted interventions.

Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

- Deliver the Clean Bus Technology project across Durham City – Overview of the project.

Cross Cutting Themes

10. Below are areas which have cross cutting issues from other 'Altogether' themes that link into Altogether Greener.

Altogether	Objective	Outcome	Link to Altogether Greener
Wealthier	Thriving Durham City	Improved infrastructure to support economic growth. W3	G8 - Improved infrastructure to support sustainable transport.
Safer	Reduce Anti-social Behaviour	Reduce incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime. S2	G1 – Reduce environmental crime
	Protect vulnerable people from harm	Community and organisational resilience for emergency preparedness, response and recovery. S5	G6 – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events.
Healthier	Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population	Increased physical activity and participation in sports and leisure. H15	G5- Natural assets are valued and conserved.

Better for Children and Young People	Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life	A range of positive activities are available for children and young people. C7	G5 - Natural assets are valued and conserved.
Altogether Better Council	Working with our communities	Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with ABC4	G3 – Community participation in activities to improve the environment
		Effective Partnership Working ABC5	G3 - Community participation in activities to improve the environment G6 - Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events.

Next Steps

12. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the Committee work programme for 2014 - 2015, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraphs 9 and 10 above.
13. Members will receive a further report at the next Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirming/agreeing the Committee's work programme for 2014-2015 based on today's discussion and agreement.

Recommendations

14. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in Altogether Greener priority theme of the Council Plan 2014-2017, Appendix 2 (copy attached)
15. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the work programme for 2014-2015 by discussing and considering those actions identified in Appendix 2.
16. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 3 July 2014, receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2014 - 2015.

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Appendix 1: Implications (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on 19th March 2014: The Council Plan and Service Plans 2014 – 2017).

Finance

The Council Plan sets out the corporate priorities of the Council for the next 3 years. The Medium Term Financial Plan aligns revenue and capital investment to priorities within the Council Plan.

Staffing

The Council's strategies are being aligned to achievement of the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

Risk

Consideration of risk is a key element in the corporate and service planning framework with both the Council Plan and Service Plans containing sections on risk management.

Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

Individual equality impact assessments have been prepared for each savings proposal within the Medium-Term Financial Plan which also underpins the Council Plan. In addition a full impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the Council Plan. The actions in the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality and aim to improve the equality of life for those with protected characteristics.

Accommodation

The Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan is aligned to the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

Crime and disorder

The Altogether Safer section of the Council Plan sets out the Council's contributions to tackling crime and disorder.

Human rights

The priorities and actions in the Council Plan are in line with relevant articles of the Human Rights Act, for example, many of the actions support the right to family life.

Consultation

Council and partnership priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data including consultation carried out as part of the development of the interim Sustainable Community Strategy and this has been reaffirmed by subsequent consultation on the budget. Results have been taken into account in developing our resourcing decisions.

Procurement

None.

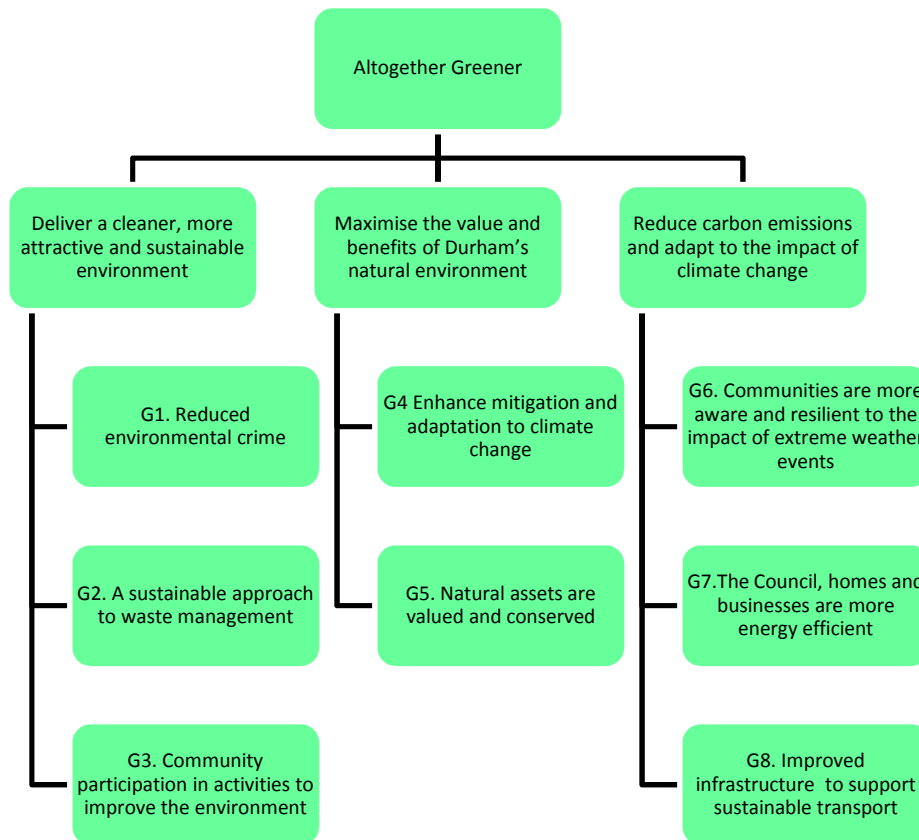
Disability Issues

See equality and diversity implications above.

Legal Implications

None.

Altogether Greener



Each objective is underpinned by a number of outcomes and we recognise there are cross-cutting issues and complex relationships across the theme. We also recognise that the Altogether Greener theme interlinks with other priority altogether themes and contributes to the wider determinants of health.

We accept that to be truly successful in this area, we must harness the contribution that everyone can make and we are committed to supporting and working in partnership with both the community and the voluntary sector, involving all in the decisions that affect them.

1. Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment

The appearance of our local communities plays an important role in many aspects of our daily lives and the quality of our public spaces, both perceived and actual. It is a major influence for residents when determining which areas they intend to use, in what capacity and when. Well maintained streets, free from litter, dog fouling, graffiti and fly-tipping, and attractive, inviting green spaces that are not blighted by dumped rubbish and abandoned vehicles, are consistently ranked as important to our residents.

However, an attractive environment is not solely about the council improving its operations. To be truly effective and sustainable we need to harness the contribution that everyone can make. For this reason, we will continue to both support and work with our communities, partner organisations and the voluntary sector to ensure our local environment is clean, attractive and shaped around community needs.

The new contracts that we have put in place in deal with the disposal of our waste have resulted in over 70% of waste calculated across the county being diverted away from landfill. We believe sending rubbish to landfill is not sustainable for a number of environmental, financial and practical reasons and we support the principle that it is better to minimise the amount of waste being produced and to recycle materials into new products before resorting to any other treatment method.

We are committed to delivering improved recycling and waste management services tailored to our local circumstances and based on principles of sustainable living. We accept that there will always be materials that can't be recycled and whenever possible we will divert these materials from landfill and instead use to generate energy.

Going well

- Delivery of successful initiatives to tackle environmental issues, including high profile campaigns and 'weeks in action'.
- The percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside and recycled has continued to increase since the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collection.
- Many local environmental improvements have been made by working with our communities including:
 - 14 of our parks and open spaces have been awarded green flag status; the highest of all local authorities in the North East. Eight of these related to our cemeteries and crematoria.
 - Durham City was awarded a gold award and Chester-le-Street a silver award in the 'large town' category of Northumbria in Bloom Awards 2013.
 - Sunderland Bridge was successful in the 'best small village' category and Brandon Village Community Association in 'best group horticultural project' category of Beautiful Durham Awards 2013.

Cause for concern

- An increase in fly-tipping incidents.
- High levels of contamination within household recyclate collected from the kerbside, primarily pet waste, nappies and food waste.
- Waste volumes have decreased year on year, partly due to the economic climate. If economic recovery is accompanied by an increase in the volume of waste then there will be pressure on service delivery.

Did you know?

- We generate enough renewable electricity from the gas produced by old landfills to power more than 2,000 homes each year.
- We have the power to ensure householders keep their gardens and yards tidy: during 2013/14 we cleared 2,500 gardens and yards that were classed as in a 'poor state'.
- We have introduced a 'Litter Awareness Programme': first time enviro-crime offenders (aged 10-17 years) will have the option of attending a 90 minute educational session and litter pick as an alternative to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).
- We can introduce a number of measures at hot-spot locations for fly-tipping. This can range from barriers to physically prevent people from entering the location to installing covert CCTV cameras to identify and prosecute offenders.
- During the 2013 Big Spring Clean, 1397 volunteers gave up a combined 2,106 hours to collect 1,086 bags of rubbish at 85 locations.

Look out for:

- The opportunity to participate in Altogether Greener Week 2014, incorporating World Environment Day (June).
- Projects and individuals nominated for an Environment Award (October 2014). Categories include volunteering (under 18, over 18 and group) as well as community participation.
- Environmental campaigns in your area including:
 - Local litter picks
 - Dog fouling campaign (February 2014).
 - Big Spring Clean (April - May 2014)
 - Litter from cars campaign (August 2014)
- The opportunity to run a community allotment, e-mail civicpride@durham.gov.uk for details.
- Your new collection calendar for garden waste which will run between 18 March and 7 November in agreed collection areas.

High Level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Produce a new Waste Management Strategy for County Durham	Head of Projects & Business Services	June 2014
Deliver the Waste Transfer Stations Capital Improvement Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annfield Plain, Stanley • Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe • Stainton Grove, Barnard Castle • Thornley (demolish and rebuild) 	Head of Projects & Business Services	December 2014 December 2014 December 2014 March 2015
Increase community ownership and involvement in the management of allotments	Head of Direct Services	December 2014
Host the 25th Environment Awards.	Head of Planning & Assets	December 2014
Through the Community Action Team (CAT), deliver a programme of targeted interventions around environment, health and consumer protection	Head of Environment, Health & Consumer Protection	March 2015
Reduce incidents of environmental crime through targeted activity delivered jointly with Social Landlords within locality 'hotspots' using high profile campaigns and organised events.	Head of Direct Services	December 2015
Develop a Waste Transfer Station Strategy and action plan to maximise their potential	Head of Projects & Business Services	March 2016
Develop and implement the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) provision plan	Head of Projects & Business Services	September 2016

2. Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment

Not only is there evidence that communities with shared natural areas demonstrate more social interaction and vibrancy but also that well managed green environments can provide significant social benefits, for example, deterring crime and anti-social behaviour (contact with nature has been shown to reduce aggressive behaviour) or aiding the recovery of hospital patients (if the patient has access to views of nature). The natural environment is an ideal place to take exercise and it has been noted that higher levels of physical activity exist within those communities that have access to natural space. For those walking outdoors, exercise becomes a secondary motivation as it is surpassed by the attraction and enjoyment of contact with nature.

By utilising the benefits of the natural environment we can increase the resilience of our communities to extreme weather events. As eco-systems absorb roughly half of all man-made carbon emissions, peatlands, wetlands, soil, forests and water all play a crucial role in adapting to and mitigating against climate change.

Going well

- We created 10 new community woodlands (covering a total area of 350 acres) in 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. (in partnership with the Woodland Trust)
- We are proposing to create three new woodlands near Castleside and improve the management of ancient woodlands near Allensford as part of the Heritage Lottery funded 'Land of Oak and Iron' project.
- We will be carrying out major thinning and management works on a number of other woodlands in the coming years, mostly conifer plantations on former colliery reclamation sites, to improve their amenity and wildlife value.
- The number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), under the control of DCC or managed by partners, in positive conservation management

Cause for concern

- Inability to influence those Local Wildlife Sites not under the our control
- Fragmentation and poor condition of parts of our woodland resource.

Did you know?

- Incidents of environmental anti-social behaviour along the coastline can be reported via a hotline.
- Every Tuesday and Wednesday, a group of volunteers (Volunteer Countryside Rangers) contribute to the protection and enhancement of our coast and countryside by picking litter, clearing gorse, keeping footpaths open, managing magnesian limestone and woodland habitats, looking after wetland areas and improving animal habitats. New recruits are always welcome (details are available on the DCC website).

- 'Country Durham', the newsletter of our Countryside Service, is available from the DCC website. It contains details of sites, events, walks and volunteering opportunities throughout the County.
- Viewing platforms have been installed at Crime Rigg, Thrislington, Old Quarrington and Coxhoe (Raisby) quarries. We have also created a fossil hunting bay at Cassop Primary school, where pupils and visitors can hunt for fossil fish in the famous marl slate.

Look out for:

- Wildflower planting on selected verges and open spaces across the county (March and September)
- Poppies along the central verge of the A691 between County Hall and the DLI Museum to commemorate World War 1
- Projects nominated for an Environment Award (October 2014) in the 'Natural Environment' category.
- The Heathland and Open Habitat Mosaics project in Derwentside (winter 2014)
- Our 'Guided Walks Programme' which details more than 130 walks, including specialist walks that incorporate art and photography, and family walks (little legs, big fun) which incorporate scavenger hunts, games and quizzes along the route (<http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=468>)
- Changes at Wharton Park. The £2.2 million refurbishment will include a visitor centre and extension, play equipment upgrade, trim track, climbing wall and improvements to the amphitheatre.
- Information panels at each quarry viewing platform (see above) and the availability of downloadable information booklets for each site. Once this work has been completed, we will organise school visits and community visits to the sites.

High Level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Establish a carbon reduction baseline and subsequent targets for 2014 onwards in relation to the new Waste Service contracts	Head of Projects and Business Services	August 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline • Targets 		June 2015
Delivery of landscape-scale partnership plans, including the AONB, Limestone, Oak and Iron, Heritage Coast and Heart of Teesdale	Head of Planning and Assets	March 2017

3. Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

One consequence of climate change is a likely increase in extreme weather events, e.g. flooding, heatwaves, storms, subsidence and water-shortage. With a changing climate and predictions of wetter winters, warmer summers and greater frequencies of extreme weather, it is important that local communities are able to interpret these headline warnings, understand the likely impacts to themselves and prepare appropriately.

One of the major contributors to climate change is carbon dioxide (CO₂) and there are many ways in which we, our communities and local businesses can reduce the amount of CO₂ produced.

Increasing the energy efficiency of our buildings will not only reduce CO₂ but will also provide a financial saving. Choice of transport is another major factor relevant to reducing CO₂ emissions. Developing and delivering practical, cost-effective initiatives that enable many more people to travel by foot, bike or public transport will positively influence our carbon footprint.

Going well

- The Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme to replace or retrofit 41,000 lamps with Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) is underway. The result will be fewer harmful emissions, a reduction of 7,500 tonnes of energy each year and a financial saving of £24 million over the next 25 years.
- We have reduced carbon emissions by 787 tonnes per year by carrying out a number of improvements at four of our most popular and high energy consuming buildings. Crook Civic Centre, Stanley Indoor Bowls Centre, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and Chester-le-Street Leisure Centre have been made more energy efficient through the installation of combined heat and power, lighting upgrades, building management systems, insulation, boiler optimisation and ventilation upgrades.

- County Durham has the highest uptake of energy efficiency installation measures in homes in the North East and between 2008 and 2013, the energy efficiency of more than 54,000 homes was improved.

Cause for concern

- Increase in severe weather events, including prolonged winter snow, heavy rain storms, high winds and the impact of these changes.
- Increased demand on service delivery due to climate changes. For example increased verge/weed maintenance, gully cleansing.

Did you know?

- Leisure centres at Teesdale and Spennymoor have been fitted with solar photovoltaic panels.
- Free energy efficiency heating improvements, including gas boiler replacements, are available to eligible households as part of the Warm Up North scheme.
- An Archimedes Screw hydroelectric power system, capable of generating about 75 per cent of the energy requirements of the 8,000 square metres of office space, is being installed at Freeman's Reach in Durham City.
- The Oakenshaw Wind Turbine, jointly managed by the landowner and Oakenshaw Community, will result in up to £800,000 being invested in the local community.

Look out for:

- Projects nominated for an Environment Award (October 2014) in the 'Climate Change category.
- The 'Warm Up North' scheme which will provide grants for households to improve the energy efficiency of their homes

High Level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Deliver the Clean Bus Technology project across Durham City	Head of Transport & Contract Services	September 2014
Deliver the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project over 6 years from 1 April 2013 to 31st March 2019	Head of Technical Services	March 2017
Prepare an Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City and identify a range of required actions to improve air quality and to meet specific air quality objectives	Head of Environment, Health & Consumer Protection	March 2015
Deliver the Warm Up North project across County Durham to improve domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency across County Durham	Head of Planning and Assets	March 2017
Implementation of the Climate Change Strategy to achieve the County Durham carbon reductions of 40% by 2020 and 55% by 2031 – March 2017	Head of Planning and Assets	March 2017



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Thursday 21st November 2013
Burlison Room, Durham Town Hall**

Apologies

- John Reed - Durham County Council
- Julie Bradbrook - Durham County Council
- Steve Hunter - Climate Change Group
- Alan Hunter - English Heritage
- Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust

Attendees:

- Chair:** Terry Collins - Durham County Council
- Julie Form - Groundwork North East
 - Julian Carrington - Environment Agency
 - Adrian Vass - Natural England
 - Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
 - Stuart Timmiss - Durham County Council
 - Steve Bhomick - Durham County Council
 - Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
 - Stephen Beresford - Durham County Council
 - Bryan Harris - Durham County Council
 - Tony Walsh - Durham County Council
 - Chris Scorer - Durham County Council
 - Vicki Burrell - Durham County Council
 - Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising Stephen Beresford provided a breakdown of the 40% reductions in carbon emissions:- Carbon Emission trends from 2005-2011 Durham emissions have reduced from 3,494,000 tonnes to 2,882,000 tonnes (a 17% reduction) whilst population has increased by about 3% During this time emissions from Commercial/Industry sector dropped by 22%; Domestic dropped by 17%; Transport dropped by 10%</p>	

	<p>The domestic and industry/commercial sectors show significant drop-off after 2008. Where other authorities have shown larger savings, the root cause has been large scale industry closure or other factors related to the economy.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Environment Awards Update</p> <p>Bryan Harris gave a presentation on The Environment Awards 2013 which took place in October. Some of the main points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 applications across 10 of the 11 categories (no applications in waste management). • Highest ever sponsorship of £7,500. • 3 Gold Sponsors. • Largest number of presentations, 32 in total. • The ceremony was successful with excellent feedback. • Durham University's science site and Seaham Harbour Marina were highlighted as outstanding projects. • 25th Anniversary/Silver Jubilee. <p>It was stated that we need to pick up on how to market the waste management category next year. Vicki Burrell proposed that the groups from Durham's Furniture Forum could be included next year.</p> <p>A discussion took place on where the venue should be for the 25th Anniversary awards with suggestions of Durham University buildings, Durham Castle and Spennymoor Town Hall.</p> <p>Bryan asked if anyone had ideas for the 25th Anniversary. Ideas put forward included :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxes of sunflower seeds, nicely presented to mark the Anniversary. • Raise the profile of the chairs of each group, maybe present an outstanding award. • Include an under 18 volunteer of the year award. • Use a winning Environment Award winning building as the venue. • Involve Parish and Towns Councils and AAP's. • Create a business type award. • Perhaps DEFRA family can provide some sponsorship. • Create a Health award. • The County Durham Foundation has funding up to £1million with links to energy. DCC will be a lead partner. • Terry volunteered DCC sponsorship money towards the prizes for next years awards but will determine what level of external funding is available first. 	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Environment Partnership Revised Structure Copies of the draft terms of reference were circulated. The idea of a joint forum between the Local Environment Partnership and the Economic partnership was suggested; it could meet perhaps twice a year with the first being held in February. Vicki Burrell to discuss this proposal with Terry. A discussion was held regarding Core Membership of the Board. Vicki to amend this paperwork in light of the discussion.</p>	<p>Vicki Burrell Vicki Burrell</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Updates from Group Chairs <u>Coastal, Heritage and Landscape</u> Members of the group attended a workshop at the end of October. Formulated that part of the role of the group will be information sharing. There is a number of groups that already exist. It would be useful to give highlights of work achieved and share good practice. Need to be more action orientated. Possible projects include :- Wildflower meadows :- provides wider benefits in terms of landscape and possible savings. Heritage skills and green jobs :- would like to do more in that regard. Heritage at Risk :- Identify buildings that need a higher profile and work on preservation. Existing partnerships – recognising there is a gap potential. The group discussed that raising the profile of the ongoing good work is essential. Raise the profile of on going good work. A revised PID is in draft and it will be available soon. The next meeting of the group is 12th December. Concerned about getting some real projects off the ground. Have another meeting on 12th December. One exciting project to take further forward is Britain in Bloom. Durham City has been nominated for Britain in Bloom and we await an announcement very soon to determine if it has been shortlisted. Looking for community involvement if nominated. Need to get Durham University and Durham Cathedral involved. <u>Environment in Your Communities</u> An initial meeting of the new group had been held on 7th November. The group is meeting again on 12th December to progress proposals in relation to key projects. <u>Climate Change</u> The Climate Change Strategy Group (CCSG) has considered the proposed structural changes as outlines at the last board meeting and welcomed the challenge of a greater emphasis on adaption to extreme weather and climate resilient communities. There is a target of 55% reduction in carbon emissions across the county by 2031 and a 80% reduction by 2050. A mid-term Renergy conference was held in Germany in October attended by</p>	

	<p>Cllr Neil Foster, officers and chair of the CCSG. The conference considered best practice highlighted by the Renergy project so far and the impact of local energy labs. The CCSG is supporting the development of proposals to draw down EDRF funds and has agreed to provide a stakeholder group and to assist in identifying potential match funding from its network. The Warm Up North scheme was launched on 19th September.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u> In the absence of Jim Cokill Julie reported that work with the LEP is ongoing.</p>	
6.	<p>Council Budget Consultation 2014-2017 Durham County Council is carrying out a public consultation exercise to find out views on how to make savings of an estimated £100 million by 2017 (about 25% of the current budget). As well as an online consultation there are a series of AAP public events being held on Saturdays across the county (with paper copies available). Also writing to partners regarding budget proposals. A Sustainable Community Strategy update was circulated.</p>	
7.	<p>Health Mapping Tool Tony Walsh and Chris Scorer gave a presentation on the health mapping tool. The tool is used to stimulate thoughts and discussions across groups. A thematic leads workshop was held in June which went on to influence the SCS refresh. It was reported that volunteering is crucial to the health network. There is a need to look at the high level strategic objectives against the wider determinants tool.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB Faith in Sustainable Communities Stephen Beresford circulated Faith in Sustainable Communities document summarising the results of their Altogether Greener workshop that have been held this year. Further engagement is planned in the New Year.</p>	