



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Thursday 3 July 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. Declarations of Interest, if any
4. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties.
5. Minutes of the Meetings held on 12 December 2013 and 10 April 2014 (Pages 1 - 16)
6. Media Relations - Updates on Press Coverage
7. Quarter 4 Performance Management Report 2013/14 (Pages 17 - 30)
Report of Corporate Management Team.
8. Development of Renewable Technologies in County Durham - Update on Recommendations (Pages 31 - 40)
Joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development.
9. Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership - Overview (Pages 41 - 46)
 - (i) Joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Partnership Manager.

10. Clean and Green Teams - Overview (Pages 47 - 50)
 - (i) Joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and the Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Head of Direct Services.
11. Refresh of the Work Programme 2014/15 for the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 51 - 62)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
12. Minutes of the meetings of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 23 January and 20 March 2014 (Pages 63 - 74)

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
25 June 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 T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

Contact: Lucy Gladders

Tel: 03000 269712

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 12 December 2013 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

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

Co-opted Members:

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

1 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Bell, D Hall, K Hopper and Mr D Kinch.

2 Substitute Members.

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes of the Meetings held on 24th October and 31st October 2013.

The minutes of the meetings held on 24th October and 31st October 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that in relation to minute A7 an update on Warm Up North arrangements had been made for a members seminar to be held on 12 February 2014 at 1.30pm and 6.30pm in No.2 committee Room, County Hall, Durham.

4 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties

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

6 Media Relations

The Committee received a presentation from the Overview and Scrutiny Officer on recent press articles relating to the remit of the Environment and Sustainable Communities.

The first article related to residents in Chilton being invited to get involved with a new body which will decide how to spend £645,000 'Green Fund' aimed at cutting energy bills. The second article related to the updated winter maintenance plan detailing how the Council will deal with snow and ice on the County's roads. There were two further slides relating to County Durham showing Europe how to go green highlighting work undertaken to reduce the County's carbon footprint and funding being awarded to DCC to cut bus pollution.

Councillor Armstrong commented that it would be useful to receive information relating to winter maintenance well in advance of the winter season next year.

7 Neighbourhood Services Revenue and Capital Outturn Quarter 2 2013/2014

The Committee considered a report of the Neighbourhood Services Management Team which set out details of the forecast outturn as at Quarter 2 from 2013/14, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services (for copy see file of minutes).

The Finance Manager (Neighbourhoods) advised that the Q2 forecast for the 2013/14 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services showed an under spend against the cash limit of £0.955m. An analysis by Head of Service was provided which highlighted those variances within the budget.

It was reported that all identified MTFP savings within Neighbourhood Services had been made in 2013/14 alongside some early achievement of savings for 2014/15.

Moving on to detail the reasons for the underspend, it was noted that the only overspend within the service was related to the delay in the development of the Culture and Leisure Management Options Appraisal, resulting in a projected overspend of £0.640m on NNDR costs, as the MTFP saving assumed that these would be saved in 2013/14. It has been agreed that £0.440m of this should be treated as being outside the cash limit, leaving a potential overspend of £0.200m. This is being partially offset by a projected underspend of £0.130m within Libraries, where some of the MTFP savings for 2014/15 have been achieved earlier than anticipated.

The Finance Manager (Neighbourhood Services) then went on to provide an update in respect of the Capital Programme. It was confirmed that the revised Capital budget was £38.206m for 2013/14 and that it was anticipated that £36.070m would be spent in 2013/14 resulting in a forecast underspend of £2.3m with the largest capital underspend in Technical Services, including highways maintenance. Further details were provided with regard to capital slippage.

Councillor Adam questioned what impact, if any, had been seen upon services as a result of the cuts and savings which had been made. In response the Finance Manager (Neighbourhood Services) advised that there had been no significant impact upon front line services as a result of savings.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

8 Quarter 2 Performance Management Report 2013/14

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of indicators (PIs) for the Altogether Greener theme and reported other significant performance issues for the second quarter of 2013/14 (for copy of report and slides of presentation see file of minutes).

The Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager provided an overview of performance in respect of direction of travel and performance against target. Details were provided in respect of performance challenges and it was noted that poor weather had impacted upon the number of registered feed in tariff installations.

Further details were reported in respect of pride in our communities including fly tipping. It was noted that the costs of fly tipping were also included for members in formation following a request for such, at the previous meeting.

The presentation went on to update on the work of the Local Nature Partnerships, mitigating the impact of and adapting to climate change and the Warm Up North scheme.

Councillor Stradling added that in his area in particular, a large percentage of fly tipping was taking place in urban areas, at empty properties/premises. He asked what work was being carried out to tackle these problems.

In response the Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager advised that the fly tipping campaign was launched on 2nd December and that the Council was working closely with the Police. In addition, Neighbourhood Wardens were also working to tackle these issues by monitoring sites and working closely with the Enforcement Teams to prosecute. She advised that details of recent campaign and enforcement action would be presented alongside the Quarter 3 performance report.

Councillor Jewell queried whether an error had been made in relation to the bid for Derwent Valley's natural environment. It was noted that this should read £3.4M not £2.4M as detailed within the slides.

Councillor Clare asked whether the dip in performance relating to street cleanliness was a result of the aggressive cuts and savings required by Service Groupings, in order to meet MTFP savings. In response the Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager responded that there had been a restructure within this service area and that a new manager had been appointed. It was suggested that the new manager should be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to explain to members the restructure and plans for the future development of the service.

Councillor May asked whether there had been an increase in fly tipping figures following the closure of HWRC's. In addition he commented that he had received complaints that some staff at the HWRC sites had been somewhat overzealous and had refused access to

the site for those members of the public using company cars, although they were tipping general household waste.

The Head of Projects and Business Services advised of the various restrictions and types of vehicles that did require permits for the HWRC's. He did however advise that this issue at the Pity Me site, would be taken up with the contractors in order to resolve any issues surrounding these restrictions. In addition, the Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager commented that she would bring as part of quarter 3 performance information detail of fly-tipping incidents prior to and following the closure of the HWRCs within the County.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

9 Culture and Sport Services Trust

The committee received a verbal update by the Head of Projects and Business Services on the establishment of a Culture and Sports Service Trust.

It was reported that since the last update had been provided the Council had sought legal advice regarding procurement issues for the Trust project, to ensure that there would be no risk of challenge from other suppliers in the future. There had also been two phases of market testing, the first phase was 'light touch' and undertaken in March/April to establish if a market existed for the delivery of the services to be included within the project. The second phase of market testing had been undertaken to gain a full understanding of the market for those services for which there is currently a contestable market which had then resulted in interviews with interested parties.

However, in relation to the current situation the Committee was informed that the Service Grouping has been required to make additional savings as part of MTFP4 therefore further work was being undertaken to establish where the required savings can be made within the Service Grouping.

In relation to the Trust project work was focusing on services to be included, facilities and rates to ensure that the Trust would be able to achieve value for money for 2015/16 onwards.

In conclusion the Head of Projects and Business Services advised that a new plan would be presented for members' consideration in the New Year which would also outline the ways in which those savings would be mitigated.

Councillor Stradling asked whether there was a timescale for this process and it was reported that it is anticipated that a report will be considered by Cabinet in February / March 2014 which would set out the plan for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. Further updates on the Trust would be presented to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in due course.

Resolved:

That the update be noted.

10 Update on Waste Programme

The Committee considered a joint report and presentation of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods which provided an update on the council's waste programme (for copy of report and slides of presentation, see file of minutes).

The Head of Projects and Business Services advised that since the implementation of the new waste contract in June 2013, services were working well and the objectives of the plan were being achieved

It was reported that the contract had an incentivised point reward system in place which would assist in continually improving performance throughout the life of the contract.

Further details were reported in respect of recycling and landfill diversion performance and it was noted that at present landfill diversion was currently at 15%, however once the new line was added to the plant this would decrease to around 2/3%.

Further details were provided in respect of joint stock landfill and the work which had been taking place to install the engines which generated electricity.

The Head of Projects and Business Services also advised that refurbishment work was to be undertaken at the following waste transfer stations; Heighington, Stainton Grove, Thornley and Annfield Plain. In addition further work was to be undertaken on the contamination campaign and procurement of new recycling outlets.

Further information was reported in respect of co-mingled collections and reference was made to the current legislative debate and ministerial letter which was appended to the report. It was noted that further information regarding co-mingled collections would be reported back to the committee once further information had been made available.

Councillor Clark raised a query regarding the impact of heavy haulage vehicles on roads, transporting waste to the processing plant at Tees Valley, and questioned whether the waste could be transported during the night to lessen the impact upon traffic conditions at peak times. In response the Head of Projects and Business Services advised that there were a number of planning issues and conditions which could prevent waste from being transferred to the site outside of peak hours, however the notion would not be completely discounted and this may be an option which could be explored in the future.

Councillor Adam raised a query regarding the capital outlay for the procurement of the diesel engines which were used to generate electricity. In responding the Head of Projects and Business Services advised that the engines had been acquired from Premier Waste and had been refurbished. Once in use the engines could yield between £120-130k per month. It was also noted that the engines used diesel to start up but then ran on converted landfill gas.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

11 Update on Local Nature Partnerships

The Committee considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided background information on the Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs).

The Director of Durham Wildlife Trust and the Director of the North Pennines AONB Partnership were in attendance to provide an update in respect of the current work that the partnership were undertaking to promote:

- Identity.
- Information.
- Co-ordinating project delivery.
- Relationship with NELEP.
- Recent successes.

The committee was informed that there are 2 LNPs wholly or partly within County Durham, the Land of the Three Rivers LNP and the Northern Upland Chain LNP and that these two bodies for their relevant geographical areas, facilitate coordinated decision making on the natural environment with members of the LNPs acting jointly to deliver integrated outcomes that provide a wide range of benefits and ecosystem services.

It was confirmed that the LNPs look at how they can support the work of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership and continue to attract funding for the various projects. In addition the LNPs are establishing relationships with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Boards and hope to work in collaboration on various projects.

Detail was then provided in relation to some of the projects currently being undertaken in collaboration which included:

- Work on woodlands – a perspective for woodland- 2 collaborative bids for woodland projects to SITA.
- Hay meadows – currently sharing information.
- Bio-diversity and carbon off setting – a lot of work currently being undertaken in this area.
- High nature value farming.

Councillor J Armstrong commented that as there was more than one LNP it would be beneficial if all the local LNP's could work together. A further query was raised regarding the Combined Authority and whether it was thought that the creation of this authority would be of any benefit to the work of the LNP. The Director of the North Pennines AONB responded that the LNPs currently work closely with LEPs building good relationships. In addition the LNPs would be happy to work with the Combined Authority.

Mr O Graham asked where nature tourism sat within the LEP agenda. In response the Director of the North Pennines AONB Partnership advised that the AONB partnership were doing a great deal and were collaborating with organisations to encourage nature tourism.

In addition reference was made to the Dark Skies Park Project in Northumberland National Park as an example of where nature tourism was working well and experience from this project could be drawn upon.

Resolved:

That the content of the report and update be noted.

That a further update on the development of the Local Nature Partnerships be considered at a future meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

12 Flooding Review

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided members of the committee with background information, policy drivers, best practice and terms of reference to review the impact of flooding on council services (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported that the Head of Technical Services had submitted some amendments to the proposed objectives of the review group, to include, reference to the role of Neighbourhood Services in dealing with Bronze command emergencies and in addition, to review building community resilience, alongside community engagement.

Councillor Armstrong commented that he felt it was important to inform all councillors of the work of this review group, as flooding issues affected many areas within the County. He also suggested that it may be useful to call upon some councillors who had experienced first-hand flooding issues, to give evidence during the course of the review.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that updates on the findings of the review would be forwarded to all members who had experienced incidents of flooding within their areas.

Resolved:

- (i) That the content of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the objectives within the terms of reference for the scrutiny review be revised to incorporate the above amendments suggested by the Head of Technical Services.
- (iii) Nominations from 10 members be sought to form the membership of the scrutiny review group.

13 Minutes of the meeting of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 12th September 2013.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 12th September be noted.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 10 April 2014 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, J Armstrong, D Bell, E Bell, J Clare, J Gray, D Hall, G Holland, K Hopper, O Milburn, S Morrison, 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

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Clark, I Jewell, P May and D Freeman.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor M Wilkes substituted for Councillor D Freeman.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2014.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

4 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties

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

6 Media Relations

The Committee received a presentation from the Overview and Scrutiny Officer on recent press articles relating to the remit of Environment and Sustainable Communities.

The first article related to the proactive approach that the council were taking in respect of issuing fixed penalty notices for those caught dropping or tipping litter or waste. The second article related to the repair of potholes across the County.

The third article reported was in relation to work which was being undertaken at Waldrige, Chester le Street to prevent future flooding. It was noted that the Flooding Scrutiny Review Group had undertaken a site visit to view the works with detail of the visit included within the Flooding Scrutiny Review Group report which would be considered by the committee at a future meeting..

The final article related to the Garden Waste scheme and the introduction of charges for 2015.

Resolved:

That the content of the presentation be noted.

7 Neighbourhood Services Revenue and Capital Outturn Quarter 3 2013/2014:

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Neighbourhood Services Management Team which set out details of the forecast outturn as at Quarter 3 for 2013/14, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services (for copy of report and slides of presentation see file of minutes).

The Finance Manager (Neighbourhoods) advised that the Q3 forecast for the 2013/14 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was an underspend of £0.844m after taking account of the forecast use of reserves and items outside the cash limit.. The presentation provided an analysis by Head of Service and reasons for the associated underspends.

The presentation then went on to detail the capital outturn position and it was reported that following various adjustments at the Capital Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) meetings during the year, as a result of additional funding sources being identified, and some schemes being re-profiled in to future years this had 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. The main reasons for the capital underspend were detailed within the slides.

Councillor Adam queried why there was such a significant underspend within technical services which would include highways and the repair of potholes. In response the Finance Manager advised that the underspend was mainly related to street lighting with the allocated budget for pothole repairs been fully utilised.

Councillor Adam further noted that in relation to street lighting the new scheme was only in the very early stages and queried as to how the significant underspend had resulted. The Finance manager advised that the project had not commenced until later than planned which had resulted in slippage in the programme. The Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services advised the committee that the service were confident that they would catch up during 2014/15 in relation to the implementation of the scheme. He added that it had been important that the scheme was solid before moving on.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

8 Quarter 3 Performance Management Report 2013/14

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of indicators (PIs) for Altogether Greener priority theme and reported other significant performance issues for the third quarter of 2013/14 (for copy of report and slides of presentation see file of minutes).

The Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager advised that all 18 actions had been delivered during the quarter. Further details of those actions were contained within the report. The presentation further provided some of the key performance messages which had come out of the quarter including the following achievements:

- Fewer CO₂ emissions across the authority area
- More properties made energy efficient using Green Deal loans (Warm Up North)
- More Feed in Tariff installations registered and approved.

Other key challenges for the quarter had been:

- Missed target to reduce CO₂ emissions from Local Authority operations
- More sites on Heritage at Risk Register
- More fly-tipping incidents and fewer investigations.

Moving on the presentation went on to detail performance in respect of the Built Environment, Carbon Emissions, Natural Environment, Clean and Attractive Environment and Fly-tipping.

Councillor Morrison asked what resources were being devoted to fly-tipping enforcement. In response the Head of Direct Services advised that fly-tipping enforcement figures were similar across the country. The council had investigated 87% of all reported incidents however in some circumstances it could be very difficult to trace the origin of waste where there was no CCTV or witnesses. Therefore securing prosecutions could be very difficult.

Councillor Holland queried whether it was in fact cheaper to allow all waste to go to HWRC or to clean up after fly tipping incidents at the kerbside and follow up with prosecution. In response the Corporate Director Neighbourhoods advised that this was a very difficult issue to determine, however the situation was monitored very closely and the service was adopting industry best practice following up with as many prosecutions as possible.

Further discussion took place regarding CO₂ emissions and Councillor Holland added that this was a function of air temperature and performance would depend upon climate and usage.

Discussion then ensued regarding Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and performance since the closure of a number of sites and why this was not included as a reason for the increase in fly tipping incidents. The Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services responded that there is a wide range of reasons as indicated on the relevant slide in the presentation including the introduction of waste permits in Sunderland which has

resulted in increased incidents of fly tipping in the East of the County and there is no correlation between the closure of the HWRCs and the location of incidents of fly tipping. It was agreed that a map would be circulated to committee members identifying fly-tipping hotspots.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

9 Local Air Quality Management within County Durham - Overview:

The Committee considered a joint report and presentation of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services which provided detail on the projects which were being undertaken in County Durham for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements of Local Air Quality Management (for copy of report and slides of presentation please see file of minutes).

The Pollution Control Manager provided some background to the work of the team and an overview of air quality management projects in Durham City which included a Technical Working Group and Corporate Steering Group which had been established to formulate an Air Quality Action Plan.

Further details and data were presented which showed diffusion tube monitoring within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) between 2009-2012. The results of monitoring had resulted in three main areas being identified for further work to be undertaken to reduce the concentration of nitrogen dioxide which occurred from vehicle emissions.

It was further reported that the existing AQMA was to be extended to include additional areas in Durham City. An 8 week period of consultation would commence on the 28 April via 1 fixed and 1 portable monitor to measure concentration levels 24 hours a day which would complement the extensive non continuous monitoring network across the city.

Councillor Bell commented that he had some concerns regarding the consultation taking place during school and college closures and whether this would impact upon the results. He further queried whether adverse weather conditions could affect readings. In response the Air Pollution Manager advised that the consultation was to run for an 8 week period from the 28th April and this would cover both quiet and peak periods. The monitoring of the air quality will take place over a 12 month period and would take into account seasonal changes.

Councillor Adam requested clarification as to whether any other pollutants were monitored and also whether by deterring people from entering the city by car was this further compounding other issues. In response it was noted that 7-8 pollutants were monitored however it is nitrogen dioxide which is causing the problem within County Durham and had resulted in the designation of Air Quality Management Areas within the County. It was highlighted that the team work very closely with planners to take into account any mitigating measures.

Councillor Wilkes commented that he was frustrated at the length of time it had taken to get to this stage with this commencing in 2011. In response it was reported that the process is

time consuming as a detailed assessment has to be undertaken which is then submitted to DEFRA for confirmation, once ratified by DEFRA a corporate steering group was then established together with a technical group this has all taken time however DEFRA has no concerns about the timescale..

Councillor Wilkes further commented that he felt that there was a need for an integrated transport system in Durham and felt that the current plans would not improve the situation in the City Centre.

The Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods added that the development of the plan was a complicated process however the infrastructure required would be put in place as quickly as possible after its implementation.

Further discussion took place regarding the measures and steps which could be taken to reduce pollutants in the City Centre and it was noted that other than providing major infrastructure changes which was the (hard options) the team would continue to raise awareness and encourage others forms of transport and methods of travel in order to reduce congestion (soft option).

Further discussion and debate took place regarding Durham Park and Ride and it was further suggested that a progress report be brought back to the committee in 6 months time.

Councillor Holland added that the data presented was not very scientific and required detailed analysis. He therefore suggested that it may be beneficial to bring on board a dedicated masters student who would be able to carry out multivariate analysis. It was noted that DEFRA were very strict on analysis and guidelines for the presentation of data. It was also noted that a consultant had been employed who was an expert in this field.

Resolved:

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

(II) That an update on the development of the Air Quality Management projects within County Durham and progress on the Air Quality Action Plan be provided to the committee as part of the refreshed work programme for 2014-2015.

10 Contaminated Land Strategy - Overview:

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director Neighbourhoods which provided an overview on the council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (CLIS), which will be released as a revised version in May 2014 following a period of consultation (for copy see file of minutes).

The release of the contaminated land statutory new guidance had led to the revision of the document to reflect the several new changes which had been made to the regime. The revised strategy set out proposals for identifying, inspecting and assessing contaminated land within the Durham County Council area between 2014 – 2018 in line with the Council Plan.

Discussion then ensued regarding associated government funding and it was noted that the amount of money allocated to the council for contaminated land has significantly reduced for forthcoming years.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

11 Garden Waste - Update:

The Committee considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director Neighbourhoods which reported upon the results of the consultation on the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste.

The Head of Projects and Business Services provided a summary of the key results of the consultation as contained within paragraph 21 of the report and advised that the level of take-up was broadly in line with initial assumptions and service modelling. The report further detailed potential risks of imposing a fee and also comparable benchmarking data for information.

It was reported that following consideration of the report and recommendations presented to Cabinet on 19 March it had been agreed that for 2015 a £20 fee would be introduced for collections. Furthermore for the 2015 season it was agreed that a price of £50 be offered to households that subscribed to the service for 3 years.

It was noted that this was an extremely challenging service for the collection team to manage as not all properties would wish to take up the scheme. It was therefore suggested that this should be included within the work programme and progress be monitored regularly.

Resolved:

- (i) That the content of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the committee receives a further update on the development of the Garden Waste scheme as part of the future work programme.

12 Refresh of the Work Programme:

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided information contained within the Council Plan 2014-2017 that is relevant to the work of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order for the Committee to review the work programme for the coming year.

It was highlighted that the council has rationalised the structure of the 'Altogether Greener' and objectives and outcomes framework to concentrate on three objectives. The committee was then provided with a summary of the current work programme focusing on in depth scrutiny reviews, systematic review of previous Scrutiny Review reports, overview activity, budgetary and performance monitoring and areas in the current work programme that would need to be revisited. In addition, new high level actions which had not featured

in the current work programme were identified as possible areas for inclusion within the work programme for 2014-2015.

Councillor Wilkes asked whether Air Quality would be revisited in the forthcoming year. In response Councillor Armstrong advised that this would be an ongoing issue which would be revisited during the year as part of the 2014-2015 work programme. In addition, Councillor Armstrong commented that it was important that there was capacity available to pick up issues which may arise throughout the course of the year and to also enable the committee to look at issues in depth.

Councillor Stradling commented that in his opinion there was only room for one major project / topic, therefore suggested that any topics or issues should be brought forward to the July meeting for consideration and approval.

Resolved:

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

(ii) That a further report be considered at the meeting on the 3rd July, 2014 detailing the committee's work programme for 2014-15 together with discussion of possible topics for in depth scrutiny review.

13 Minutes of the meeting of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 21 November 2013

Resolved:

That the minutes of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board be noted.

This page is intentionally left blank

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

3 July 2014

**Quarter 4 2013/14
Performance Management Report**



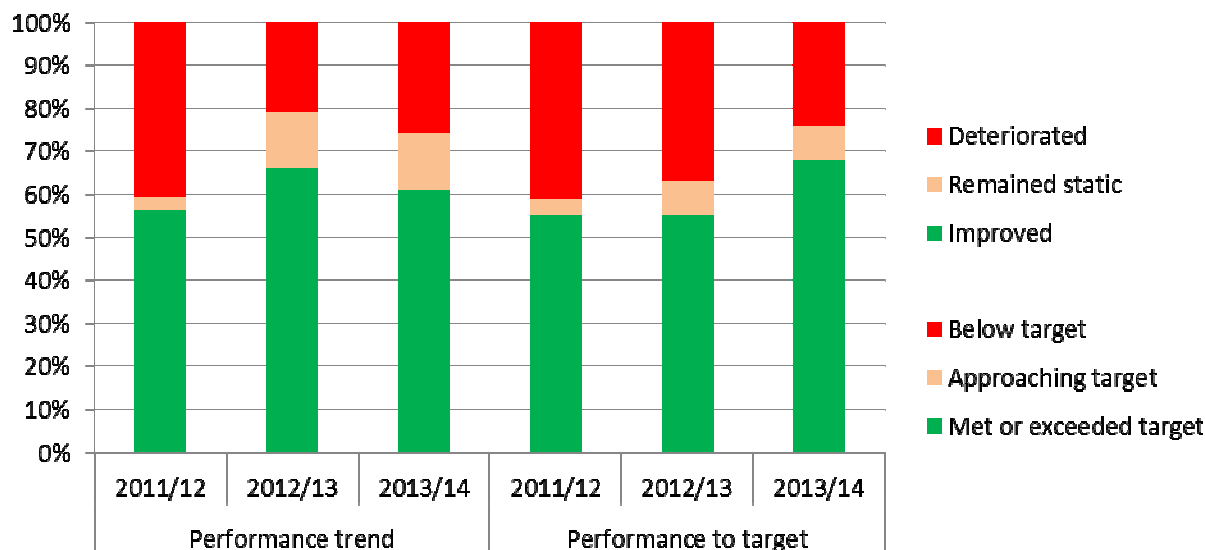
**Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader**

Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs) for the Altogether Greener theme and report other significant performance issues for the 2013/14 financial year.

Overall Council Performance

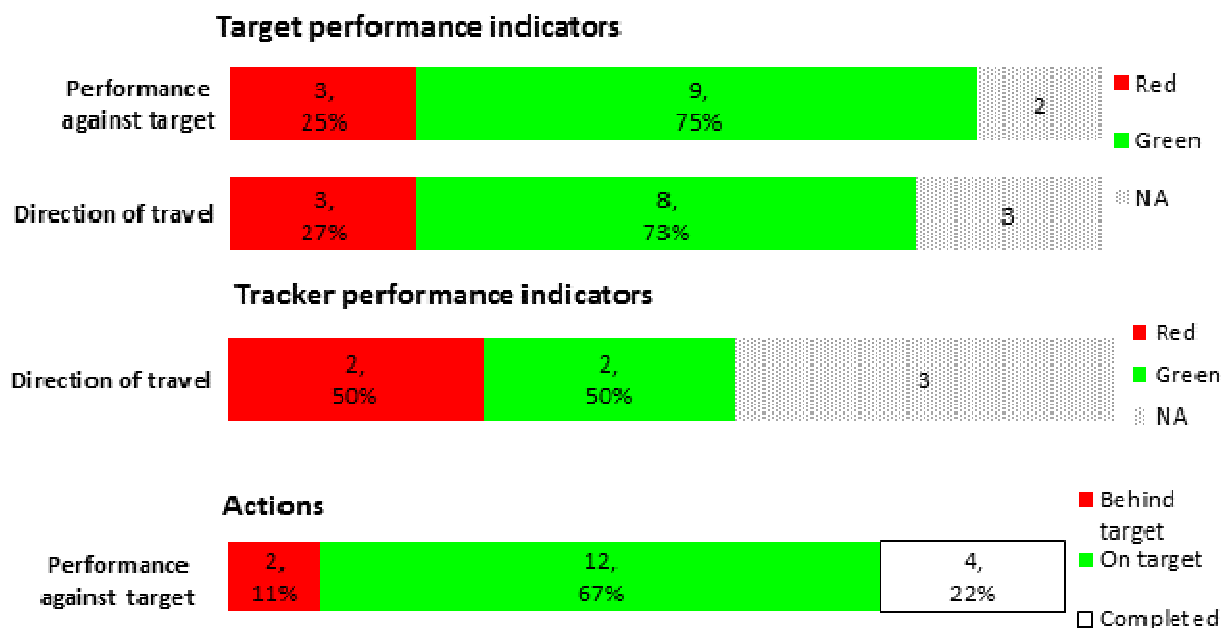
2. Since 2010, the council has been required to make significant financial savings following reductions in government grants. We have delivered just under £114million savings to date and have plans in place to make a further £23million of reductions in 2014/15.
3. At the same time, the council has also had to cope with a very changing environment over this period and manage the introduction of new legislation which has fundamentally changed the shape of public services in areas like health, policing and crime and welfare reform.
4. Demand has increased over the previous year for key services such as children in need referrals and residents using our customer access points in addition to an increase in people being rehoused through the Durham Key Options scheme.
5. It is critical that against this backdrop of reducing resources, increasing demand and level of change that we continue to actively manage performance and ensure that the difficult decisions we have had to make do not have a detrimental effect on the services that we provide and that we are focusing on what matters.
6. The following chart shows that we have improved or maintained performance in 74% of our key performance indicators over the last year. It is this strong focus on service performance that was a key factor that the judges highlighted when they awarded Durham County Council as LGC Council of the Year 2014.



Altogether Theme Performance

7. This is the end of year corporate performance report for the Altogether Greener theme for 2013/14. The report contains information on key performance indicators, risks and Council Plan progress.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Work has been carried out by officers and members on developing the proposed indicator set and targets for 2014/15 (see Appendix 5) to ensure that our performance management efforts continue to stay focused on the right areas.

Altogether Greener: Overview



Council Performance

11. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. Street and environmental cleanliness has improved this period. The results of the third survey relate to the period December 2013 to March 2014 and indicate that of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter, 5.33% fell below an acceptable level. Performance is better than the target of 7% and has improved from 10% reported at quarter 4 2012/13. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus, 8.78% fell below an acceptable level. Performance is better than the target of 10% and has improved from 12% reported at quarter 4 2012/13.
- b. The percentage of waste sent to landfill is decreasing significantly and the rate is now half what it was at the end of 2012/13. This is due to the increased diversion of waste to energy generation. The percentage of municipal waste landfilled for the 12 month period to February 2014 was estimated as 18.7% which decreased from 25.5% reported at previous quarter and from 42.3% reported 12 months earlier. Performance is better than the 35% target.
- c. There were 1,170 feed in tariff installations registered and approved, including 1,168 solar PV and 2 wind installations equating to installed capacity of 4.359MW. The year-end target of 1,000 installations was achieved. There has been an increase of 4% in renewable energy generation this quarter compared to the same period last year. The installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham was 206.33MW in quarter 4; 177.99MW operational and 28.344MW approved (Wind - 128.83 operational and 6.51 approved).

12. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. During the 12 months ending February 2014, 42.4% of household waste was re-used, recycled or composted. Performance is below the 44% target and has deteriorated from 44.9% reported 12 months earlier. The 2.5 percentage point decrease can be attributed to an increase in the amount of recyclate rejected due to contamination. Between April 2013 and March 2014, 805 additional tonnes of recyclate were rejected due to contamination, 21% more than during the same period last year. In April 2014, a new campaign (Bin it right) started and it focuses on reducing the level of contamination of recyclable materials, particularly food waste, nappies and pet waste. Leaflets, bin stickers and posters will be used to remind residents of what goes in each bin, and recycling assistants will be carrying out home visits in hotspot areas.
- b. There were 8,999 fly-tipping incidents reported in the 12 month rolling period from April 2013 to March 2014. This is an increase of 40.1% compared to 12 months earlier (see Appendix 4, chart 1). The situation surrounding fly-tipping is very complex and is influenced by many different and often changing factors.

Work continues to address this issue through a multi-agency approach which uses a range of intelligence and data to identify hot spot areas and inform targeted approaches. Currently 22 investigations are taking place in hotspot areas across the county; seven in Durham, seven in Peterlee and eight in Seaham. A range of interventions are put in place to address the issue of fly-tipping, including installing both covert and overt CCTV, warning signs and increased patrols. Neighbourhood Wardens service and the Clean and Green Teams are working together more closely to improve the collection and exchange of information.

In partnership with the Police and the Environment Agency, a three week campaign was carried out between 2 December and 20 December. Its purpose was to clamp down on those who dump waste illegally. As a result of this campaign there were 502 incidents reported, 100 suspected incidents investigated, two fixed penalty notices issued, four prosecutions and five cases are waiting for court dates. During 2013/14, 11 prosecutions have been carried out in relation to fly-tipping offences.

- c. Key Council Plan actions that have not achieved target in this theme include:
 - i. To coordinate the development and implementation of a re-charging network for electric vehicles to provide 35 electric charging points across the county by March 2014 has been delayed until March 2015. There have been delays in the review of the existing electric charging points but this has been completed and the next stage is the implementation of the findings from the plan.
 - ii. To produce a new Waste Strategy for Durham County Council by April 2014, will now be delayed until June 2014.

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

Recommendations and Reasons

14. That the Environment and Sustainable 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 268071 **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

Page 24
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	Not available	NA	95	NA [1]	5,356	NA			
63	Number of registered and approved Feed In Tariff (FIT) installations	1,170	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	1,000	GREEN	1,096	GREEN			
64	Value of bids to Environment Agency for Local Levy Scheme	520,000	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	400,000	GREEN	New Indicator	NA			
65	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	5.33	Dec 2013 - Mar 2014	7	GREEN	10.00	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	8.78	Dec 2013 - Mar 2014	10	GREEN	12.00	GREEN	11 GREEN		2011/12

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
67	Percentage of the 378 local sites (geological and wildlife) that have an up to date management plan in place	20.63	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	19.5	GREEN	18.3	GREEN			
68	Area of council owned woodland brought into positive management (ha)	Data not available	NA	50	NA [2]	New indicator	NA			
69	Percentage of conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal.	39	As at Mar 2014	37	GREEN	35	GREEN			
70	Number of additional heritage assets that are open for Heritage Open Days	20	As at Sep 2013	30	RED	34	RED			
71	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	42.4	Mar 2013 - Feb 2014	44.0	RED	44.9	RED	41.59	35.89*	2012/13
72	Percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside - recycling	21.4	Mar 2013 - Feb 2014	19.0	GREEN	21.0	GREEN			
73	Percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside - composting	10.3	Mar 2013 - Feb 2014	10.1	GREEN	10.2	GREEN			
74	Percentage of municipal waste landfilled	18.7	Mar 2013 - Feb 2014	35.0	GREEN	42.3	GREEN	30.3	28.33*	2012/13

[1] [Information has been forwarded to residents and the impact will be measured next quarter](#)

[2] [Contracts have been awarded but work has not yet commenced](#)

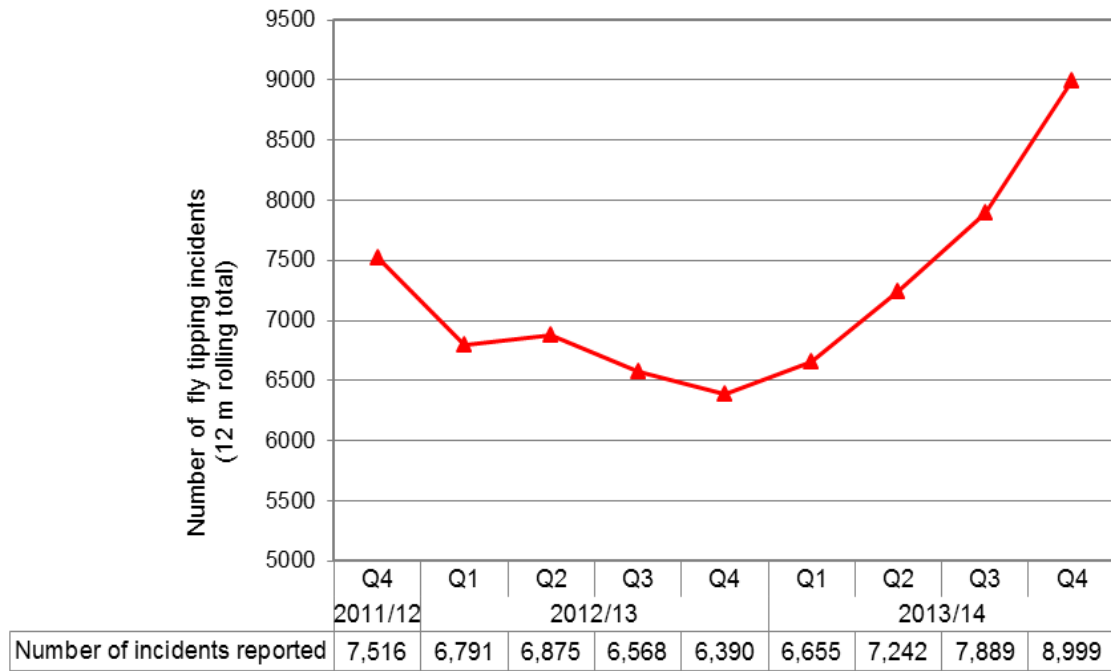
Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Page 26 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	206.33	As at Mar 2014	205.13	Not comparable [3]	198.35	Not comparable			
164	Number of fly-tipping incidents reported	8,999	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	7,889	RED	6,390	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			

[\[3\] This data is cumulative year on year](#)

Appendix 4: Volume Measures

Chart 1 – Fly-tipping incidents



Appendix 5: Proposed 2014/15 Corporate Indicator set

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Altogether Greener												
Target	NS14a	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level.	NS	3 times a year		7.26	5.91	7	7	7	7	
Target	NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level.	NS	3 times a year		8.8	7.33	10	10	10	10	
Tracker	NS14c	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	NS	3 times a year		TBC	TBC					
Tracker	NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents reported	NS	Quarterly		6,390	7,889					
Tracker	NS16	Number of fly-tipping incidents cleared	NS	Quarterly		TBC	TBC					
Tracker	NS09	Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from municipal waste sent to Sita's 'Energy from Waste' plant	NS	New indicator		New indicator	New indicator					
Target	NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	NS	Quarterly		62.5	TBC	65	85	85	86	

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Tracker	NS17a	Percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside – recycling	NS	Quarterly		21.5	TBC	19				
Tracker	NS17b	Percentage of household waste collected from the kerbside – composting	NS	Quarterly		10.4	TBC	10.1				
Target	NS19	Percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted	NS	Quarterly		44.9	TBC	44	45	46	47	
Target	REDPI53	Percentage of the conservation areas in the County that have an up to date character appraisal	RED	6 monthly Q2 and Q4		35%	39%	37%	42%	43%	45%	
Target	NS07	Average annual electricity consumption per street light (KwH)	NS	Annually		TBC New indicator	TBC New indicator	NA	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Target	NS08	Percentage reduction in CO2 emissions from the DCC fleet	NS	Annually		TBC New indicator	TBC New indicator	NA	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Tracker	REDPI46	Reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham by 40% by 2020 and 55% by 2031 – March 2017	RED	Annual Q2		25.1 (2010/11)	41.2 (2011/12)					
Tracker	REDPI47	The amount of renewable energy generation (MwE) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	RED	Quarterly		198.35	205.13					

Indicator type	PI Ref	Performance Indicator Definition	Service Grouping	Frequency	Welfare Reform	Performance		2013/14 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
						2012/13	2013/14 Q3		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	
Target	REDPI48	Reduction in CO2 emissions from local authority operations	RED	Annual Q2		6.25%	Not due	9%	5%	5%	5%	
Target	REDPI49	Number of new registered and approved Feed In Tariff (FIT) installations	RED	Quarterly		1,096	374	1,000	500	250	250	
Target	NS04	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 24 hours (CAT1)	NS	Quarterly		75	96	N/A	90	90	90	
Target	NS05	% of recorded actionable defects repaired with 14 working days (CAT2.1)	NS	Quarterly		TBC	TBC	N/A	90	90	90	

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



3 July 2014

**Update: Development of
Renewable Energy Technologies
in County Durham**

**Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and
Economic Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The attached Appendix 2 describes the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained within the 'Development of Renewable Technologies in County Durham' Scrutiny review report published in February, 2012.

Background

- 2 Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 10th June, 2011 received presentations on the regional growth opportunities in renewable energy technologies and on the development of renewable energy in County Durham. Following the presentations members agreed to include in the Committee's work programme, a scrutiny review regarding the development of renewable energy technologies in County Durham.
- 3 A report detailing the findings and recommendations of the review was submitted to Cabinet on the 29th February, 2012. At that meeting Cabinet agreed the recommendations contained within the review report which included a recommendation for a six monthly update on progress against recommendations contained in the report.
- 4 The last update on the progress against the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Review report was presented to the Committee at the meeting on the 24 October, 2013 and it is now considered timely for a further progress update to be given to the Committee.

Terms of Reference of Review

- 5 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the following terms of reference for the review:

- To review the environmental benefits to County Durham of investing in renewable energy technologies. Renewable energy generation is seen as key to achieving the Council's target of a 40% reduction (742,000 tonnes) in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020.
- To review the benefits to the economy of County Durham of investing in renewable energy. Low carbon economic growth offers major economic opportunities for County Durham. The Council is already supporting local small and medium enterprises in renewable technologies and County Durham has one of only two manufactures of photovoltaic panels in the UK.
- To review the social benefits of renewable energy. With the economic downturn and rising energy prices, fuel poverty is likely to become an even greater challenge for County Durham.

Recommendations of Review

5 The Scrutiny review report made recommendations in respect of:-

- The continued development of the role of the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Team.
- That the Council's Low Carbon Strategy and Sustainable Energy Action Plan be updated to include details of how the Council will promote and facilitate the uptake of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures.
- That developers and house builders be encouraged to attain the higher levels of nationally recognised schemes.
- That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors the benefits of the Council's investment in renewable energy technology and the progress in respect of the EU Partnership Project and community efficiency projects.
- That the Committee receives updates and responds where appropriate to consultations in relation to Tariffs for solar PV, Solar PV cost control and Tariffs for non – PV technologies and scheme administration issues.
- That a systematic review of the recommendations contained within the report be undertaken within six months after its consideration by Cabinet.

Current position

6 The attached Action Plan (Appendix 2) provides information on the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report.

Next steps

- 7 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the systematic review process will receive a further update of progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the review report at a future meeting of the Committee.

Recommendations

- 8 Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment upon the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report.
- 9 That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further report detailing progress made against the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Review report at a future meeting of the Committee.

Background Paper(s)

Development of Renewable Energy Technologies in County Durham Scrutiny Review report – February, 2012.

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Update:Development of Renewable Energy Technologies in County Durham – 24 October, 2013.

Contact: Tom Gorman

Tel: 03000 268027 E-mail: tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk

Author: Diane.Close

Tel: 03000 268141.....E-mail: diane.close@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity –An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in respect of the Scrutiny Review recommendations.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – None

Procurement - None

Disability Discrimination Act – None

Legal Implications – None

Appendix 2
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT – DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN COUNTY DURHAM
REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON: 29TH FEBRUARY, 2012

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) That the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Team continues to develop its role to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise awareness of energy efficiency measures and the opportunities to generate power from renewable energy sources, including the benefits of hydro power from rivers (for example the 7 sites identified on the River Wear). • provide advice and assistance to residents, businesses, town and parish councils and community groups/associations to enable them to benefit from Government initiatives/funding opportunities such as the Renewable heat Incentive, Feed in Tariffs, the Green Deal and the proposed Coastal Communities Fund. • assist the Council in reducing its energy costs through renewable technologies. 	<p>The Sustainability and Climate Change Team continue to raise awareness of energy efficiency measures across both housing, community and business sectors. A successful energy awareness project, the 'Big Switch Off' campaign, monitored across a small section of DCC buildings, showed a 12% improvement on energy efficiency in its duration. Hydro-power continues to be at the forefront of renewable energy development, with a 100kW system that would produce up to 500,000kWh/year of renewable electricity in Durham City at Freemans Reach now under construction</p> <p>We continue to assist individuals and Community groups and provide valuable advice and guidance on renewable energy opportunities. We are also working to establish a formal platform for engaging with businesses in partnership with the North East Chamber of Commerce (Durham & Darlington Branch) and Business Durham. This scheme will further develop our links with already pre-forged partnerships allowing a smoother transition in the uptake of energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>DCC has sought to reduce its energy costs by investing in biomass boilers, where appropriate, and paybacks can be expected of between four to six years. To date 8 installations are in use or under development.</p>	<p>Sustainability, Carbon and Climate Change Team.</p> <p>Ian Bloomfield</p> <p>Sustainability, Carbon and Climate Change Team.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>2) That the Council's Low Carbon Strategy and Sustainable Energy Action Plan be updated to include details of how the Council will promote and facilitate the uptake of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures within the Council and across the whole of County Durham.</p>	<p>The County Durham Climate Change Strategy and delivery plan now supercedes the Low Carbon Strategy. This Strategy includes plans for all sectors to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency measures and promotion of renewable energy. The Strategy is now in its draft form with a new interim carbon reduction target going to Cabinet in December. It will be out for consultation in January, 2014. The Sustainable Energy Action Plan is an EU requirement of the Covenant of Mayors agreement and is currently under review.</p>	<p>Stephen Mcdonald & Stephen Beresford</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>3) That developers and house builders be encouraged to attain the higher levels of nationally recognised schemes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code for Sustainable Homes for domestic development and • BREEAM (British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) for non domestic development. 	<p>The government is consulting at present on two key policies that will impact significantly on how local authorities can implement and encourage developers to attain higher sustainability standards.</p> <p>The Housing standards review recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Code for Sustainable Homes is scrapped ○ That local authorities will not be allowed to set higher standards for energy/carbon other than minimum building regulations (Part L) ○ There will be no requirement for any renewable energy technologies at a local level as part of development ○ Consequential improvements will not be included as part of the new building regulations (coming into force on 1 April 2014). ○ The new Part L will require development to have a 6% and 9% improvement in CO2 emissions (on 2010 standards) on domestic and non domestic building respectively. ○ No requirement for builders to use sustainable buildings. <p>Allowable Solutions is the preferred methodology to deal with emissions following the proposed uplift in building regulations due in 2016. Developers from 2016 (in order to attain the new definition of 'zero carbon homes') will be required to pay into an 'offset fund', if they do not meet the proposed standard for their building through improvements to the fabric performance and/or renewables. The current consultation on 'Allowable Solutions' makes it clear that the Government's preferred method is for a central body that developers would pay into and from where</p>	Stephen Mcdonald	Current

the fund would be distributed for carbon offsetting projects, rather than a local authority led approach which could possibly be more focused on community regeneration and renewable energy schemes.

The local authority is likely to see an influx of planning applications in the next 6 months as developers aim to submit before the 1 April deadline, where upon standards will be tightened.

The County Durham Plan does contain a set of policies on Sustainable Development (Policy 1) and Design and Sustainability (Policy 16) which sets out what developers must be investigating in order to attain a sustainable development. This currently includes a requirement for BREEAM Very Good for non domestic development.

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>4) That the Council's Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors the benefits of the Council's investment in renewable energy technology and the progress made in respect of the EU partnership Project 'REENERGY' and community energy efficiency projects/initiatives within the County.</p>	<p>The REENERGY project is now in its third year with the Final conference being held in Brussels in October 2014, when each partner will produce a Local Action Plan including best practices and energy measures that have been learned from other countries. Earlier in the year (February) Durham County Council hosted the 9 partner countries from the REENERGY project in the Town Hall, Durham. Councillor Neil Foster welcomed each partner to Durham and showcased in particular the Solar PV project (SPA) and the 100kW micro-hydro scheme currently being installed at Freemans Reach in Durham.</p>	<p>Ian Bloomfield</p>	<p>Completion December, 2014.</p>

Page	Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>5) That the Council's Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be updated and respond where appropriate, to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government response to Consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 1 – Tariffs for solar PV. • Consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 2A: Solar PV cost control. • Consultation on Comprehensive Review Phase 2B: Tariffs for non – PV technologies and scheme administration issues. 	<p>There is now a national phased programme of tariff reduction in place which is intended to match ongoing reductions in the cost of PV panels.</p>	<p>Ian Bloomfield</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

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



3 July 2014

**Heart of Teesdale Landscape
Partnership - Update**

**Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic
Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information in advance of a presentation updating Members on the progress of the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

Background

- 2 At the meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 23 February, 2012 Members received a report and presentation providing an overview of the work of the Partnership and it was agreed that a further update would be provided at a future meeting of the committee.
- 3 As part of the refresh of the work programme of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was agreed by Members at the meeting on the 21 June, 2013 that the committee would receive an update on the progress of the Partnership at the meeting on the 3 July, 2014.
- 4 Arrangements have therefore been made for Alex Sijpesteijn, Partnership Manager to attend the meeting on the 3 July, 2014 to provide a presentation focusing on the following:
 - Who we are
 - Projects completed so far
 - Our current projects
 - The future

Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership - background

- 5 In 2011 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) approved funding of £1.9 million for the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership. The area has remarkable natural features and associations with historic, cultural and wildlife sites of enduring appeal to scientists, artists and authors, and visitors from far and wide.

- 6 The partnership is one of around 50 landscape partnerships operating across the UK under a national scheme established by the HLF which supports Landscape partnerships that address four priority outcomes:
 - Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create historic landscape character;
 - Increasing community participation in local heritage;
 - Increasing access to and learning about the landscape and its heritage;
 - Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills.
- 7 Durham County Council's contribution to the project is £519,514 which together with other match funding, in kind and volunteering contributions, gives a total project value of £3, 116,300.
- 8 The activities of the Landscape Partnership over the period 2011-2016 are guided by a Landscape Conservation Action Plan, with a range of programmes and projects supported by the (HLF), Durham County Council and other organisations.
- 9 The Landscape Partnership incorporates organisations and individuals who can contribute in some way to the project through their activity in the area, ownership of land, knowledge and skills, preparedness to help, or contributions of funds or in kind assistance. This involves local authority members, public and voluntary organisations and members of local community with specific expertise.
- 10 The Partnership covers an area of nearly 140 sq km, centred on Barnard Castle and has the objectives of helping people to:
 - Re-discover the particular visual qualities of Teesdale drawing on the historic and cultural legacy of artists, scientists and others who have explored the area and foster creativity and imagination through art, crafts and other media.
 - Understand the historic value of the local landscape and how it has been shaped over time.
 - Conserve or restore the built and natural features that characterise the area.
 - Take action to protect the local environment and wildlife, and increase biodiversity.
 - Enhance the quality and amenity value of public and community spaces, key views and settings for enjoyment and learning.
 - Engage individuals and communities in learning, training, skills and new technology to understand and interpret the local landscape, traditions and heritage and improve access, especially by those who might be disadvantaged or excluded from activities.
 - Promote opportunities for cooperation, mutual support and volunteering within the community to develop strategies and action so that the benefits of partnership can be sustained long term.

- 11 The Partnership supports a number of projects ranging from community level schemes to major improvements with some schemes directly managed by the Partnership whilst others are managed by partner agencies.
- 12 The implementation phase lasts from 2011 until 2016 however, the Heritage Lottery Fund expects that the legacy of the partnership will be at least ten years and probably much longer. The partnership has consequently placed high value and emphasis not just on durable and quality capital works but also on capacity building within the local community, particularly through support for volunteering and other in kind contributions which it is hoped can be sustained once funding ceases.

Current position

- 13 We have 75 projects, of which 23 are complete and 49 are in delivery
- 14 The Partnership's Advisory Group is made up of thirteen individuals who each bring knowledge, skills and contacts to the Scheme
- 15 Evaluation has already started with the first evaluation workshop held on 4th June 2014

Next Steps

- 16 Continue building on the momentum and project delivery of the last five months
- 17 Consider the ongoing outcomes of the evaluation process and act on recommendations for improvement
- 18 The Partnership is currently exploring the legacy of the Scheme and how to ensure its future impact

Recommendations

- 19 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the comment upon the information provided during the presentation.
- 20 That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update on the development and work of the Partnership at a future meeting.

Background Papers

Report to Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 23 February, 2012.

Contact: Tom Gorman

Tel: 03000 268027

E-mail: tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk

Author: Diane Close

Tel: 03000 268141.....

E-mail: diane.close@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – A DCC contribution to the Partnership has been confirmed at £506,513 to match the HLF allocation of £1,895,700 for the period 2011-2016.

Staffing –

None

Risk – A risk register is kept as part of the project management of the programme.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – The Partnership pay particular attention to access issues and this has been integrated into both the LCAP and specific Developing Community Capacity strategies.

Accommodation –

Hosted at the Customer Service Access point, above Barnard Castle library

Crime and Disorder –

None

Human Rights –

None

Consultation – The partnership continues to deliver a wide programme of community consultation and engagement, and to involve local interests in developing and managing specific programmes and projects.

Procurement – Procurement will follow both DCC and the HLF financial regulations and guidelines.

Disability Issues – Complies with DCC general equality duty.

Legal Implications – Legal support is provided by DCC as and when required.

This page is intentionally left blank

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



3rd July 2014

**Delivering a cleaner, more attractive,
sustainable environment: the work of
our Clean and Green Teams**

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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the work of the Clean and Green Teams within Neighbourhood Services.

Background

- 2 In a previous meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following an update on performance in relation to the Performance Indicators which measure levels of litter and detritus across the County, a question was raised in relation to the impact of the MTFP savings and the work programme of the teams involved in street cleaning and litter picking.
- 3 In response to that enquiry, a presentation has been prepared by the Head of Direct Services and the Clean and Green Manager to provide an update on:
 - the current ways in which levels of street and environmental cleanliness are measured and the monitoring arrangements in place to address issues and challenges in terms of poor performance.
 - the changes in working practices of the Clean and Green Teams since service restructure, resulting in the change from a 3 area to a county wide approach to service provision.
 - the work being undertaken by the service to raise awareness of issues in relation to litter and the approach around education and enforcement activities.
- 4 The presentation will also provide an update on the work of the Environment Partnership to provide a multi – agency approach to tackling issues in relation to environmental cleanliness.

Recommendations

- 5 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment upon the information provided in the presentation.

Contact: Oliver Sherratt

Tel: 03000 269259

E-mail: oliver.sherratt@durham.gov.uk

Author: James Bennett..... E-mail: james.bennett@durham.gov.uk

Tom Gorman

E-mail: tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk

Diane Close

E-mail: diane.close@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – NA

Staffing – NA

Risk – NA

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – NA

Accommodation – NA

Crime and Disorder – NA

Human Rights – NA

Consultation – NA

Procurement – NA

Disability Issues – NA

Legal Implications – NA

This page is intentionally left blank

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



3 July 2014

**Refresh of the Committee's work
programme 2014 - 15**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide for Members' consideration an updated work programme for the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny for 2014-2015.

Background

- 2 At the meeting on the 10 April 2014, the Committee considered the actions identified within the Council Plan 2014-2017 for the Altogether Greener priority theme and agreed to refresh its work programme to include a number of these actions. In addition, topics have also been identified that are in-line with 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.

Detail

- 3 In accordance with this decision, a work programme for 2014-2015 has been prepared and attached in Appendix 2.
- 4 Members are also encouraged to identify areas for future Scrutiny investigation (in depth review) from the work programme.

Recommendation

- 5 Members of the Committee are asked to suggest topics for scrutiny investigation and agree the new work programme.

Background Paper(s)

Council Plan 2014-2017, Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee report-Refresh of the work programme-10 April, 2014.

**Contact: Tom Gorman Tel: 03000 268027
E-mail: tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk**

**Author: Diane Close Tel: 03000 268 141
E-mail: diane.close@durham.gov.uk**

Appendix 1: Implications (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on 19 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 4 years. The Medium Term Financial Plan aligns revenue and capital investment to priorities within the Council Plan.

Staffing - The Council's strategies are be 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.

Equality and Diversity - Individual equality impact assessments have been prepared for each savings proposal within the Council Plan. The cumulative impact of all savings proposals in total has also been presented to Council and will be updated as savings proposals are further developed. 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. The Plan has been influenced by consultation and monitoring to include equality issues. There is no evidence of negative impact for particular groups.

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 – None

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

Procurement – None

Disability Discrimination Act – None

Legal Implications – None

<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014 TO 2015</p> <p>Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC</p> <p>Lead Officer: Tom Gorman Overview and Scrutiny Officer: Diane Close IPG contact: Alan Patrickson</p>	<p>Note: O/S Review - A systematic 6 monthly review of progress against recommendations/Action Plan Scrutiny/Working Group – Indepth / Light Touch Reviews Overview/progress – information on an issue; opportunity to comment, shape, influence, progress with a scrutiny review Performance/Budget – ongoing monitoring (quarterly) performance reports/budgets</p>
--	--

	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
O/S Review				
Development of Renewable Energy Technologies in County Durham.	February 2012.	Maggie Bosanquet	Considered by Cabinet in February 2012. Further systematic review of recommendations provided for Env OSC on the 24 Oct, 2013 and 3 July, 2014.	Members will receive information on the progress made against the recommendations contained in the report.
Reducing the Council's Carbon Emissions.	January 2013.	Maggie Bosanquet	Considered by Cabinet in January 2013. Systematic review of recommendations scheduled for Env OSC on 24 Oct, 2013 and 2 Oct, 2014.	Members will receive information on the progress made against the recommendations contained in the report.

Scrutiny /Working Group Indepth/Light Touch Review	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Flooding	September 2014	John Reed	Considered by Cabinet in Sept, 2014. Systematic review of recommendations rescheduled for Feb, 2015.	Members will receive information on the progress made against the recommendations contained in the report and will have an understanding of the partnership working within the County between the flooding Risk Management Authorities.
Overview/Progress	Start Date	Who	Outcome	Comment
Cultural, Library and Sports Services - Update.	Update provided on 12 Dec, 2013. Further update scheduled for 20 Jan, 2015.	Alan Patrickson	Members will receive further updates on the progress of the project.	To receive regular updates on the progress of the project.
Waste Programme.	Updates provided on 21 June 2013 & 12 Dec, 2013. Further updates scheduled for 2 Oct, 2014 & 5 March, 2015.	Alan Patrickson	Members will receive updates on the development of the strategy.	Members will be aware of the development of the new waste strategy and the delivery of the new Waste Transfer Stations.

County Durham Climate Change Delivery Plan - Update.	Updates provided on 21 June 2013, 24 Jan & 1 May, 2014. Further updates scheduled for 5 March, 2015.	Maggie Bosanquet/ Stephen Beresford	Members have previously received an overview and fed comments into the consultation. Further updates will be provided to members.	Members will continue to be kept updated on the progress of the Strategy and Delivery Plan.
Management of allotments - Overview	5 March 2015.	Oliver Sherratt/ Ian Hoult.	Members will receive an overview of the policy for the management of allotments.	Members will be aware of the policy for the management of allotments.
Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project - Update.	Overview provided on 26 September 2013 followed by a site visit on 16 Jan, 2014. Further update scheduled for 20 Jan, 2015.	John Reed/Wilf Newall	Members will receive an update on the Street Lighting Energy Reduction project.	Members will be aware of the progress of the project.
Landscape Scale Projects – Overview.	2 Oct, 2014.	Oliver Sherratt/ Sue	Members will receive an overview of Landscape Scale	Members will be aware of how the projects link with each other, funding arrangements,

		Mullinger	projects within County Durham	sustainability and future development of projects within County Durham.
Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership - Update	Update to be provided on 3 July, 2014.	Alex Sijpesteijn	Update to be provided to members on the development of the Landscape Partnership.	Members will receive information on the development/progress of the project.
Local Nature Partnerships - Update.	Update provided on 12 Dec, 2013. Further update to be provided on 5 March, 2015.	Stephen Bhowmick/ Chris Woodley Stewart and Jim Cokill	Update on the further development of the Partnership.	To receive an update on the work and further development of the Local Nature Partnerships.
Tyne and Wear Aquifer Protection Scheme - Update.	Update provided on 3 March, 2014. Further update scheduled for 5 March, 2015.	Terry Collins/ Coal Authority/ Env Agency.	Update to be provided to members on the development of the Tyne and Wear Aquifer including detail of the consultation process and comments submitted by DCC.	Members will be kept updated by the Coal Authority and the Env Agency on the development of the Aquifer project and will be provided with the opportunity to comment on DCC's response.
Community Action Team (CAT) – Overview.	Overview to be provided on 10 Nov,	Joanne Waller/ Jennifer Jones.	Overview of the work of the CAT using targeted interventions.	Members will be aware of the work of the Community Action Team using various targeted interventions within County

					Durham. Members will be aware of how the project has been developed and the opportunities it provides for residents within County Durham.
Warm Up North Initiative - Update.	2014. Update provided on 8 April, 2013 and 24 October 2013. Further update to be provided on 10 Nov, 2014.	Stuart Timmiss, Stephen Bhowmick/ Maggie Bosanquet	Members to be provided with a further update on the development of the project.		
Environment Improvement campaigns/projects – Overview.	Overview to be provided on 20 Jan, 2015.	Oliver Sherratt	Overview to be provided of various environment improvement campaigns/projects	Members will receive information on various environment improvement campaigns and projects within County Durham.	
Air Quality Management Area for Chester-le-Street - Updates.	Overview provided on 10 April, 2014. Further updates to be provided on 2 Oct, 2014 and 17 April, 2015.	Joanne Waller/ Denyse Holman.	Members will continue to receive updates on the development of the Air Quality Management Strategy for County Durham.		
Flooding - Engagement with Risk Management Authorities.	Feb 2015.	DCC (John Reed)/ NWL & Env Agency.	A special meeting providing members with an update on the progress of the recommendations of the Flooding	Members will receive an update on the progress of the recommendations of the flooding review and will have the opportunity to engage with RMAs to discuss work programmes,	

				Review and the opportunity to engage with the RMAs.	future funding and details of various projects within County Durham..
Winter Maintenance - Update	Overview provided on 24 Jan, 2014. Update to be provided on 10 Nov, 2014.	Brian Kitching	An overview was provided on the winter maintenance policy to members at the meeting in January. 2014. Members will receive a further update in November.	Members will receive a further update on the winter maintenance policy during the winter period.	
Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) – Overview.	Overview to be provided at the meeting on 25 Nov, 2014.	Stuart Timmiss/ Coal Authority	Members will receive an overview of UCG and possible implications for County Durham.	Members will be aware of the process of UCG and possible implications for County Durham.	
EU Funding Programme 2014 - 2020 - Update	Overview provided at the meeting on 24 Jan, 2014. Further updates to be provided on 10 Nov 2014, 20 Jan & 17 April, 2015.	Maggie Bosanquet	Members will receive updates on the development of the EU Funding programme.	Members will be aware of the opportunities presented by the EU Funding programme and the type of projects to be developed within County Durham.	

Clean Bus Strategy - Overview	Overview to be provided on 17 April, 2015.	Adrian White	Members will receive an overview of the Clean Bus Strategy.	Members will be aware of the Clean Bus Strategy for County Durham.
Clean and Green Team – Overview.	Overview to be provided on 3 July, 2014.	Ian Hoult/ James Bennett	Members will receive an overview of the work of the Clean and Green Team.	Members will be aware of the work of the Clean and Green Team within Durham County Council.
Limestone Landscape Partnership - Update	Update will be provided on 10 Nov 2014	Tony Devos	Members will receive an update on the work of the partnership.	Members will be aware of how the partnership has developed within County Durham.
Heritage Coast and Freeman's Reach - Visit	Visit for members of the Committee to the Heritage Coast. Date to be confirmed Sept, 2014.	Steve Bhowmick	Members will have the opportunity to visit the Heritage Coast to see the work being undertaken by DCC and partners.	Members will be aware of the work undertaken by DCC and partners in relation to the Heritage Coast.
Community Woodlands - Visit	Visit for members of the Committee to visit 2/3 community woodland areas. 14 July,	Sue Mullinger	Members will have the opportunity to visit 2/3 community woodland areas within the County.	Members will be aware of the work undertaken by DCC in relation to community woodland areas within the County.

	2014.				
Performance and Budget Reporting					
Performance Report Quarter 4 Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3	July 2014 Oct 2014 Jan 2015 April 2015	Mary Readman	Update on performance.	To receive quarterly updates Performance management information to be used to inform work programme and review activity.	
Budget Outturn Report Quarter 4 and Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3	Oct 2014 Jan 2015 April 2015	Phil Curran	Update on budget.	To receive quarterly updates.	



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Thursday 23rd January 2014
Gala Theatre, Durham**

Apologies

- Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
- Alan Hunter - English Heritage
- John Reed - Durham County Council
- Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
- Julie Bradbrook - Durham County Council
- Stuart Timmiss - Durham County Council

Attendees:

- Chair:** Terry Collins - Durham County Council
- Julie Form - Groundwork North East
 - Julian Carrington - Environment Agency
 - Steve Hunter - Climate Change Group
 - Adrian Vass - Natural England
 - Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
 - Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
 - Vicki Burrell - Durham County Council
 - Debra Kitching - Durham County Council
 - Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	Welcome and Introductions The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising The group was informed that Durham City has been nominated for Britain in Bloom with sponsorship from the Durham City Bid. It was stated that the first report of the Council Budget Consultation 2014-2017 had gone through Cabinet. Adrian reported that he was impressed with the Health Mapping Tool which was presented at the last meeting. He asked for permission to pass the Health Mapping Tool to the Northumberland LNP and permission was given.	
3.	Presentations from Group Chairs & Questions <u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u> Oliver reported on the progress of the new group and pointed out examples of good work already in existence:- Heart of Teesdale, Limestone landscapes, Durham	

Hedgerow Partnership, Heritage Coast, Derwent Valley (Land of Oak and Iron), Visit County Durham, North of England Civic Trust and Local Nature Partnership. The group has held two meetings, is well attended and has wide representation. Five key partnership project areas have been agreed with a possible 6th in the pipeline. A SWOT Assessment was undertaken at the first meeting which showed a lot of individual strengths across the group. The group is sharing best practice on existing partnerships. The group needs to be action orientated and look at new projects.

It was stated that DEFRA is investing £463,000 in 7 projects to promote sustainable tourism. Oliver suggested a possible link into these funding opportunities. A discussion was held regarding promoting the Environment Partnership through this project.

Adrian added that there is £3million available from Government for agricultural projects. Concerns were expressed regarding losing SSSI's. It was stated that the farming community, CLA and NFU should be involved.

The group is looking at the Terms of Reference and a name change has been suggested by some "Natural, built and historic environment". Comments have also been made as to whether objectives and outcomes can be tweaked.

Future work programmes include:- Wildflower meadows, Heritage skills, Heritage at risk, Skerne Project and Profile and engagement.

Future ambitions and issues include pooling knowledge and information on the latest European funding, joining up the approach to volunteering and considering the implications when area based partnership funded projects cease.

Steve Bhowmick added that Councillor Eddie Tomlinson is keen on linking up with other partnerships and other economic partnerships to look at where joint issues are.

It was suggested that a future agenda item could be European Funding; maybe invite Andy Palmer to give information on this at a future meeting.

Positive feedback was given by the group on the work and project areas covered by the Coastal, Heritage and Landscape Group.

Environment in Your Community

Julie stated that the group's Vice Chair is Ian Hout. She explained the remit of the group and what the group hoped to achieve i.e. lasting effect in the community, better value for money and greater impact and sustainability by working with communities. The group has agreed that it would focus on food, waste, pride and health and underpinned by a Communications Plan.

Projects the group are championing include the Big Spring Clean, the Dog Fouling Campaign and a Community Centre Allotment idea. The Community

Centre Allotment idea will try to get community centres to adopt local allotments. There will be a labour force of volunteers and it is hoped that the produce can be shared between volunteers, local foodbanks and community centres.

The next meeting of the group is to take place on 13th February. The groups timetable activities are as follows:

Winter – Communications Plan and dog fouling.

Spring - The Big Spring Clean and Pondering Rethink Parks.

Summer – Community Centre Allotments and active engagement.

Winter – Working Woods (promotion of woodlands e.g. foraging, logs, etc) and recycling.

Terry asked Julie to give an update of her presentation to the County Durham Partnership meeting next week.

Climate Change Group

Steve Hunter reported that there is strong support for the group's 3 key outcomes:-

- Reduced carbon emissions from the domestic, commercial and transport sectors across County Durham
- Adaptation to climate change is co-ordinated, with key agencies and partners working together. Communities are more aware of and resilient to likely impacts.
- County Durham is making a transition to a low carbon economy.

Key partners comprise of Durham County Council, housing providers, Environment Agency, CCU, AAPs, Town and Parish Councils, healthcare providers/trusts, private sector bodies, Durham University and Further Education, County Durham Community Energy and schools.

Key areas of interest include:

Strategy and priority development, communication and community engagement, adaptation to a changing climate, low carbon economy, Energy Efficiency Retrofit, Community Renewable Energy, business energy efficiency and competitiveness, community hubs and action plans, young people and schools and research and best practice.

Strategy into actions:

Response to Strategy consultation/communication strategy, intelligence led priorities, delivering messages relevant to community needs, local ownership of action plans, best practice support, targeted investment, use existing channels and networks, introduction and coordination of delivery agencies, Delivery Agency Forum.

Investment Opportunities include:

ERDF low carbon economy (£16m ring-fenced) but need to find match funding, flood risk mitigation, Warm up North, ECO, feed in tariffs and renewable heat incentives, urban

Julie Form

	<p>and rural community energy initiative, schools, transport and SME's.</p> <p>Performance Measurement indicators were outlined.</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick pointed out that there are opportunities in the County Durham Plan which are instrumental in the delivery of the Council's objectives. The group needs strong buying into that. He added that he can provide assistance regarding the County Durham Plan to Steve Hunter should he need it.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u></p> <p>Steve Bhowmick reported that it is the intention for the LNPs to proceed with developing the biodiversity and carbon offsetting proposals with the support from NELEP officers and for the LNPs to put forward a proposal to NELEP. The organisations will be required to sign up to a MoU to show a commitment to partnership working.</p> <p>Funding is now in place (including contributions from Durham and other Local Authorities) to enable a new LNP Partnership Officer post to be created. It is hoped that the creation of the post will strengthen the partnership and provide opportunities for attracting resources/funding.</p> <p>In light of Government funding there is diminished opportunities for the Environment Partnership to work with the LEP. The Tees Valley LEP is very active and strong. A discussion was held regarding the recent paper on Natural Economy. Although there was issues with the paper the main message was strong within it regarding Environment and Economy working together. Julie to lobby key LEP representatives in relation to working with the Coastal, Heritage and Landscape group to promote the Environment Partnership.</p> <p>Adrian and Julie to discuss Working Woods project.</p>	<p>Julie Form</p> <p>Julie Form & Adrian Vass</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Environment Partnership Communications</p> <p>It was proposed that a representative from the Communications Team should be invited to the next board meeting as there is a need to create a positive, high profile for the group.</p> <p>It was suggested that a Partnership Newsletter should be produced.</p> <p>Group members asked to be added to the circulation list for the County Durham Partnership Newsletter.</p> <p>Vicki pointed out that Environment Week usually occurs in June and Steve Hunter added that Climate Week will be at the end of March (should anyone require more details about Climate Week speak to Stephen Beresford).</p>	<p>Vicki Burrell</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Environment Awards Update</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick stated that 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the County Durham Environment Awards. Previously the Board resolved it would be appropriate to acknowledge this landmark with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the current scheme. • It's judging process and winning criteria 	

This page is intentionally left blank



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Thursday 20th March 2014
Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies:

Alan Hunter	-	English Heritage
Adrian Vass	-	Natural England
Steve Hunter	-	Climate Change Group
Julian Carrington	-	Environment Agency

Attendees:

Chair: Terry Collins	-	Durham County Council
Julie Form	-	Groundwork North East
Jim Cokill	-	Durham Wildlife Trust
Andrew Turner	-	Environment Agency
Oliver Sherratt	-	Durham County Council
Steve Bhowmick	-	Durham County Council
John Reed	-	Durham County Council
Andy Palmer	-	Durham County Council
Gordon Elliott	-	Durham County Council
Stuart Timmiss	-	Durham County Council
Jayne Watson	-	Durham County Council
Stella Hindson	-	Durham County Council
Vicki Burrell	-	Durham County Council
Beverley Clark (Minutes)	-	Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising Consideration was given to the minutes of 23 rd January 2014.	
3.	Presentation from Economic Partnership & Questions Andy Palmer gave a presentation on the North East European Structural and Investment Fund 2014-20. The main points of the presentation being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NELEP has been allocated £473m for 2014 to 2020 and £11m rural EAFRD funding has been allocated for tourism, market towns and business 	

support. County Durham has been allocated £132m as a Transition Region. County Durham has also been allotted an additional £7.7m as part of the Youth Employment Initiative.

- Proposed investments are aligned to EU thematic objectives :- Innovation, ICT, SME, Low Carbon, Climate Change, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Transport, Employability, Social Inclusion and Skills.
- The process for the programme is different to ones in the past. This one is a single national programme with a strong role for the North East LEP. LEP strategies on spend proposals were submitted to Government in January 2014. Negotiation with Government is taking place (January to April 2014). Member State Partnership Contract to EU Commission in May 2014 followed by 6 month negotiation. Spend money in January 2015 at the earliest.
- The minimum spending levels at national level in transition regions – ERDF/ESF split is proposed at 60:40.
- A summary of proposed delivery arrangements and items still under consideration.
- Opportunities include greater flexibility over spending than non Transition areas, Durham Programme and CDEP recognised as part of Governance and the decision making process, as Durham is a Transition region there is initially Durham money for Durham and 40% match funding required.
- A list of Durham Planned Activities was outlined showing the split of ERDF/ESF funding aligned against EU Thematic Objectives.
- EU Programme 2014-2020 Planned Durham Outputs comprise of 4247 jobs created, 20 site developments, 2775 enterprises receiving support.
- Next steps of the programme include: to engage with ESIF negotiations throughout 2014; work with NELEP to determine governance and approval pathways; continue to work with partners in Durham to develop projects from April 2014 onwards; identify projects for match with Local Growth Fund; support applicants with project proposals.

Vicki Burrell to circulate the North East European Structural and Investment Fund 2014-20 presentation.

It was agreed that coordination between the groups is necessary regarding where the money is spent. Julie Form stated that the sub-groups of the Environment Partnership need to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to funding applications. Discussions to be held within the groups and Chairs/Vice-Chairs to bring back

Vicki Burrell

Chairs/Vice-Chairs

	possible projects to the Board meeting.	
4.	<p>Sustainable Communities Strategy Update/Feedback from the Partnership on Thematic Links</p> <p>Gordon Elliott gave an update on The Sustainable Community Strategy for County Durham document which went to Cabinet on 19th March. There will be a launch event with an environment focus in September.</p> <p>Gordon stated that he would like input/ideas from the Board regarding cross cutting issues e.g. alcoholism, volunteering, job creation, etc.</p> <p>Julie Form stated that she had been requested by the County Durham Partnership to lead on the issue of volunteering. Julie and Vicki to meet to discuss cross cutting issues in relation to the Environment Partnership.</p>	Vicki Burrell/Julie Form
5.	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions</p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u></p> <p>Oliver Sherratt circulated a newsletter which had been produced by the group. It is hoped that as well as summarising accomplishments and spreading best practice, the newsletter will help to raise the profile across the Partnership.</p> <p>The group has agreed the Project Initiation Document (PID).</p> <p>Key projects have been identified and work has started this week on the Wildflower Meadows project. The bid for Ushaw College was unsuccessful (Heritage at Risk category). Work is ongoing with Heritage Skills, Green Jobs, Heart of Teesdale, Limestone Landscapes and Northern Lands. The new national coastal path opens on 12th April.</p> <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u></p> <p>Julie Form reported that she had had a discussion with Tim Wright from the Public Health Team and how health can be incorporated alongside the Environment agenda.</p> <p>The group is concentrating on a two level approach:- a local level and strategic level. The group is moving forward on The Big Spring Clean and supporting this. It's also focusing on disseminating messages via coordinated joint communications plan.</p> <p>Work continues on the community food growing project. Costings have been made and it is estimated that it will cost around £85,000 per year to develop 10 community centres/hubs and gardens. This total includes employees, tools, maintenance, etc.</p> <p>Ian Hault had informed the group about the schools litter campaign.</p> <p>It was stated that the Comms strategy is very important and would it be possible to link Fresher's Week with other campaigns e.g. litter campaigns.</p> <p>Looking for volunteers for Britain in Bloom.</p>	

	<p><u>Climate Change</u> John Reed stated that there's lots of communication going on. The group is looking at promoting European funding. They're focusing on 5 projects, one of which is street lighting. Julie suggested that a meeting is needed to discuss European funding to see what others are planning. It was agreed to have a meeting. It was highlighted that a coordinated approach to funding is required. See point 3 regarding funding opportunities.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u> Jim Cokill asked what part does the LNP have regarding European funding. Is it for DCC only? The place to start is match funding. Jim attended a meeting in London recently and reported that there's no Government money going into these things. He reported that Chris Woodley-Stewart gave a good presentation. The North East Partnership chair gave a presentation to the LEP board. LEP is directly in touch with developers. The Lowland Durham post has been filled and an officer starts on 12th May. Northern Uplands – ongoing works.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Environment Partnership Communications A discussion took place as to whether any Environment Week activities had been planned for this year and the possibility of linking Britain in Bloom to Environment Day. Stella Hindson asked if it would be worthwhile to have a diary of events, which all partners can feed into. It was suggested that as there are lots of activities taking place perhaps a scheme similar to 'Caring for your Environment Awards' could be introduced to raise the profile. Volunteers are reluctant to put themselves forward for awards but would more likely accept an award if nominated. Terry asked Stella to produce a mock-up award and to look into the branding of it. Stella to speak to Gordon Elliott regarding branding. Jayne Watson suggested keeping a log centrally of good deeds.</p>	<p>Vicki Burrell/Stella Hindson/Gordon Elliott</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Environment Awards Update Steve Bhowmick circulated mock-up front covers of the commemorative booklet and gave an update on The Environment Awards, the key points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revised and refreshed format for the 25th year including a new category for creation and improvement of public open space, more recognition of role of regeneration and health benefits in schemes and more low carbon technologies as part of the Climate Change 	

	<p>category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The judging process to be streamlined and more focussed in specialist areas of Communities, Sustainability and Built and Natural Environment. New judges being sought to join the panel in a shadow capacity and Board Members asked to consider candidates. • The Environment Awards to be launched on 5th June (World Environment Day) at the Gala Theatre, to include presentations from past Outstanding winners in the key areas (Communities, Sustainability and Built and Natural Environment). The Finalists ceremony will be held on 13th November at the Radisson Hotel in Durham when the commemorative book will be launched so that 2014 winners can be included. The Board to be invited to both events. • The Comms plan has been finalised and invitations to participate have been sent to judges and prospective sponsors. • Terry Collins and Stuart Timmiss to meet with Darren Knowd to discuss sponsorship opportunities through DCC procurement arrangements. • Oliver Sherratt proposed a greater tie-up to Britain in Bloom as possible added value for eligible projects. Oliver to arrange a suitable slot at the Launch event. 	<p>All</p> <p>SB</p> <p>TC/ST</p> <p>OS</p>
8.	AOB None.	

This page is intentionally left blank