



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Monday 12 October 2015**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

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

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 8 July 2015 and 14 September 2015 (Pages 1 - 16)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties
6. Media Relations - Update on Press Coverage
7. Update on Flooding Recommendations - Report of Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services (Pages 17 - 34)
8. Performance Management Quarter 1 2015/16 - Report of Corporate Management Team (Pages 35 - 44)
9. European Structural and Investment Funding Update - Report of Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development (Pages 45 - 48)
10. Budget Outturn Quarter 4 2014/15 and Quarter 1 2015/16 Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 49 - 58)
11. Verbal Update on Light Touch Review of Parking on Council Land
12. Minutes from Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group held on 20 May 2015 (Pages 59 - 62)
13. Minutes of the Meeting of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 16 June 2015 (Pages 63 - 68)

14. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham

2 October 2015

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

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)
Councillor E Adam (Vice-Chair)

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

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

Contact: Paula Nicholson

Tel: 03000 269710

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 8 July 2015 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, J Clare, J Clark, J Gray, G Holland, I Jewell, P May, P Stradling and L Taylor

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Adam, E Bell, D Hall, K Hopper, O Milburn and S Zair.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Media Relations

The Committee received a presentation from the Overview and Scrutiny Officer on recent press articles and news stories relating to the remit of Environment and Sustainable Communities (for copy see file of minutes).

The first article was in relation to six people been fined a total of more than £900 for throwing away their rubbish in County Durham.

The second article related to Durham City going for gold as a finalist in this year's national Britain in Bloom having already won the gold award last year.

The third article was in relation to a volunteer army springing into action as part of the Big Spring Clean to help spruce up parks, walkways and other public rights of way with scores of volunteers across County Durham taking part.

The fourth article related to residents been encouraged to get composting in-line with international compost awareness week.

The fifth article was in relation to 17 fly-tipping cases investigated after the council installed 24 extra CCTV cameras at rubbish hotspots. The cameras were paid for partly by local councillors and part of Operation Stop It. The article highlighted that since the launch of Operation Stop It in November 2014 there had been a reduction in the number of fly-tipping incidents.

7 Review of the Management of the Woodlands Estate Owned by Durham County Council - Report of Assistant Chief Executive

The Committee received a report and presentation of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Review Group report on the management of the woodland estate owned by Durham County Council (for copy of report and slides of presentation see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer provided a detailed presentation which provided members with details of the approach used for the review and the key findings with regard to management, strategies & policies, timber extraction, EU funding opportunities, volunteering and biodiversity.

Following the presentation Councillor Holland sought clarification on the procurement process and documentation issues raised in the report and whether there was an appropriate recommendation.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer responded that recommendation three covered procurement and that she had been advised that the four outstanding contracts would be revisited and that arrangements had been made to advertise these contracts via an Auction Company which had expertise with this type of contract. Members would receive an update on the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained within the review report at a future meeting.

Councillor Armstrong sought clarification on the timetable for the report to be presented to Corporate Management Team and Cabinet. Members were advised that the report had already been presented to Corporate Management Team and would be presented to Cabinet on the 16 September 2015.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report of the Woodland Scrutiny Review Group be agreed.
- (ii) That the report of the Scrutiny Review Group be submitted for consideration by Cabinet at the meeting on the 16 September 2015.

8 Community Action Team - Update

The committee received a report and presentation from the Environment Protection Manager to provide members with an update on the work of the Councils Community Action Team (CAT) and the use of targeted interventions (for copy of report and slides of presentation see file of minutes).

The Environment Protection Manager gave a detailed presentation which provided members with a brief explanation of the background to the Community Action Team (CAT), summer 2014 work results, summer 2014 review findings and the next steps.

Following the presentation T Bolton asked if they would continue to work with parish councils and keep them updated as they were the members at a local level.

The Environmental Protection Manager responded that parishes were a good source of local information and their input was valuable. It was confirmed that the Community Action Team (CAT) would continue to work with parish councils and further develop the existing relationship.

Councillor Holland referred to a recent residents meeting at which discussions had focused on litter left by students at the end of term. He highlighted that residents had praised the performance of staff which had been outstanding in clearing the litter away and a letter had been sent to the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services informing him of this issue and suggesting that Durham County Council needs more powers to deal with landlords and this type of incident. Councillor Holland requested if this issue could be brought back to a future meeting.

The Environmental Protection Manager responded that they would continue to develop the city centre strategy and target landlords as they were aware of the problems particularly at the end of term and would focus interventions on these identified areas.

The Chairman indicated that an update on this issue could be brought back to committee at an appropriate time.

Councillor Jewell asked the officer if the approach of the CAT was reactive or proactive. The Environmental Protection Manager responded that it was proactive but with a reactive response, pro-active in planning but reactive in how we deal with issues using a combined approach. They concentrated on certain areas and target with a Community Action Team, it was a big problem but they tried to punch holes in the worst affected areas but there were improvements.

Councillor Clark referred to the review walkabouts dates and asked if they could be shared with residents as soon as possible as there were not many community meetings in

July/August period. She asked if some publicity could be done and she complimented the team on their work/activity undertaken to date.

The Chairman thanked the Environmental Protection Manager for his very informative presentation and the positive feedback from members.

Resolved:

(i) That the information contained within the presentation and the update report on the work of the Community Action Team and the use of targeted interventions be noted.

(ii) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update on the work of the Community Action Team at a future meeting.

9 Quarter 4 2014/15 Performance Management Report - Report of the Corporate Management Team

The committee received a report and presentation of the Corporate Management Team and the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's basket of performance indicators for the Altogether Greener theme and report other performance issues for the 2014/15 financial year (for copy of report and slides of presentation see file of minutes).

The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager provided a detailed presentation which gave an update on performance relating to the following:-

- Performance summary
- Key messages in relation to cleaner, more attractive, sustainable environment
- Refuse and recycling
- Improved environmental cleanliness
- Enforcement: fixed penalty notices (FPNs)
- Fly-tipping
- Outcomes since the launch of 'Operation: Stop It'
- Conditions of the Local Authority road network
- Highway and footway defects
- Carbon emissions across the authority area
- Carbon emissions from local authority operations
- Renewable energy generation
- Street lighting
- Maximise value and benefit of natural environment
- Projects undertaken during 2014/15

Councillor Clark referred to highway works in her ward and asked if any discussion or planning takes place in advance of such works being undertaken. Within Horden there were a number of road closures and in addition temporary lights had been placed in Horden Village which has added to the congestion in Horden.

The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that planners and programmers plan the work to co-ordinate and cause minimum disruption, she could only

assume that a risk assessment had been undertaken and it was agreed that they could go ahead at the same time but she would raise the issue with technical services.

Councillor Clark also referred to GPS systems and how their programmes are not updated resulting in drivers receiving wrong information about driving routes. The member asked as to whether there was anything Durham County Council could do to rectify this. The member was informed that currently there is nothing Durham County Council can do to update these systems.

Members then made reference to the comprehensive information contained in the quarter 4 performance report and commented that they receive an update locally from the neighbourhood protection team which used to contain post codes of where incidents involving fixed penalty notices were taking place. However the format of the update has changed with total numbers now quoted and members asked if this format could be looked at. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that she would feedback this request to the neighbourhood wardens.

Councillor Holland commended the content of the quarter 4 performance report and asked if the committee or a members seminar could be arranged to discuss the content of the report.

Councillor Armstrong referred to the work programme of the committee and commented that there was no capacity to look at the report in depth but this could be the basis of a members seminar and would need to be discussed with the Head of Planning and Performance.

Councillor Clare requested if members could receive a copy of the quarter 4 performance report due to the comprehensive detail of the information contained in the report. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager confirmed that she would circulate the report to committee members.

Councillor Stradling referred to dog fouling and asked if people were not been caught or if it had reduced. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that the reduction was due to the successful dog ownership programme which had resulted in the number of incidents reduced and the performance had improved significantly.

Councillor May indicated that when walking about there was not as much dog fouling and those walking dogs had bags. He referred to the dog bins which were not easy to obtain as he was advised that they needed to be in an area where they could be emptied. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that Neighbourhood Wardens do a survey and a walkabout to determine as to whether a bin is necessary. If it was necessary they would look at installing a bin but it was about balance.

The Chairman indicated that they had been more successful with fly-tipping prosecutions. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that the team had a solicitor on board who advised on the powers and what information would be required for a successful prosecution. Training had also been delivered by Legal Services which had helped to increase prosecutions.

Councillor Jewell referred to waste permits and how these were targeted. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that they had a dedicated team for fly-tipping and the team concentrated on areas where incidents were high. They worked closely with the police and went to sites and asked to see their licence.

Councillor Clare sought clarification on 5.33 for litter. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager responded that it was a percentage and litter and dog fouling were given a grade which was fed into a spreadsheet which gave a percentage.

Councillor Clark commented that 31% for England was shocking and that she would also like to share the information in the quarter 4 performance report with residents. The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager indicated that she was happy to share the information and would arrange to have it sent to members.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

10 Light Touch Review of Parking on Council Land - Report of Assistant Chief Executive

The committee received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided members with a scoping document in advance of a mini review of parking on council land including highway verges and council owned public open amenity space (for copy of report see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised members that they would be looking at two areas in relation to parking problems which would be Highways and Environmental. They would look at current legislation and policy opportunities and the options available to deal with parking on open space amenity land.

The expected outcomes of the review would be as follows:-

- Members fully aware of the powers and options available in relation to parking on council land.
- All enforcement and educational remedies in relation to parking on council land would be discussed together with the relevant issues/challenges identified.
- Members would have the contact details of those Durham County Council officers who could provide advice and support.

The membership of the review group would be all the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in addition to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Councillor Hopgood who raised the issues with the original motion to Council.

There would be two meetings which would be held on 14 September 2015 and 1 October 2015.

Mr T Bolton advised the Scrutiny Officer that Durham County Council had done a project that looked at footpaths and some of the issues from this project could still be valid.

Councillor May commented on the high costs involved to remove grass verges and there was no Durham County Council budget available and that some residents did not want to get rid of the grass verges.

Councillor Clark referred to the crossover of terminology in the report which needed to be clear. She also referred to housing estates which had now been transferred to various housing providers and there was a need to be mindful of who could use enforcement and would the housing associations adopt any policies.

The Chairman indicated that they were aware that Durham County Council did not own all the land. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer also indicated that they had looked at maps in relation to the areas of land transferred to the new County Durham Housing Group which showed that not all of the land had been transferred over.

Councillor Stradling indicated that enforcement was a key and would be looked at as part of the review process however there is no Durham County Council budget and the police find it difficult to enforce.

Councillor Clare asked that the planners be invited as many issues were in relation to modern estates where the roads were narrow which resulted in refuse vehicles and cars not been able to pass, which meant that people had to park on the pavement to prevent an obstruction. Planning could look at parking bays for future estates.

Councillor Armstrong responded that members would do what they could with this review topic and come up with recommendations however there are limitations to what Durham County Council can do and had recently put in parking bays in his community which had been costly.

Councillor May indicated that sometimes they were utilities underneath grass verges which added to the cost of any proposed scheme.

Councillor Armstrong indicated that new estates were required to provide one and a half parking spaces and if a buggy could get past on the footpath enforcement would not be taken.

Resolved:

That a review group with all members of the committee with the addition of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Councillor Hopgood be set up.

11 Council Plan 2015-18 - Refresh of the Work Programme - Report of Assistant Chief Executive

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided members with an updated work programme for the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny for 2015-2016 (for copy of report see file on minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented the report reminding members that this was the second report on the work programme to be considered by the committee with the first report considered at the meeting on the 17 April. That report had identified areas on which the committee had requested further updates new areas under the 'Altogether Greener' priority theme of the Council Plan, updates on previous review recommendations and the quarterly budget and performance reports. It was agreed by members at that meeting that those areas identified be included in the work programme for 2015/16. This has resulted in a busy work programme for the committee with three additional special meetings currently identified and two visits with the possibility of further special meetings having to be arranged as the work programme develops.

Members are asked to identify an area for focused scrutiny review and two areas had been identified, winter maintenance which was the topic of a previous scrutiny review considered 4-5 year ago or consideration of the allotment policy.

Councillor Armstrong advised members that there would be a report on allotments sometime in September and they could wait until that report had been completed. He also indicated that a budget announcement would be made later today which may result in budget restrictions therefore it may be timely to look at winter maintenance.

The Chairman indicated that there was a need for flexibility in relation to the future topic and that it be left to the Chair and Vice-Chair to decide.

Resolved:

- (i) That the new work programme as detailed for 2015-2016 be agreed.
- (ii) That the future topic for focused scrutiny review be determined by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee.

12 Minutes of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 12 March, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 12 March 2015 were received for information.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 14 September 2015 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, J Armstrong, D Bell, J Clare, J Gray, D Hall, G Holland, I Jewell, P May, O Milburn and P Stradling

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton

Also Present:

Councillor A Hopgood

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors C Clark, K Hopper, S Morrison, L Taylor and Mrs P Spurrell.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

5 Light Touch Review of Parking on Council Land

Members considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided members with the background and issues of parking on council land and to explore possible solutions to the problems this caused residents (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Mary Readman, Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager; Brian Buckley, Strategic Highways Manager; Ian Hault, Neighbourhood Protection Manager and Clare

Pattinson, Legal Manager – Governance and Elections provided members with a powerpoint presentation on parking on council owned land (for copy of slides see file of minutes).

Mary Readman advised members that during November 2014 and March 2015, that out of a total of 7424 of customer contacts, 555 had been received in relation to parking, and of these 105 related to parking on grass while 405 were other parking related service requests that related to parking fines, parking spaces and parked Durham County Council vehicles. Members were provided with a map which showed the hot spots for customer contact in relation to parking on grassed areas which showed that the largest issues were at Wheatley Hill, Shotton and Peterlee areas in the east of the county and Shildon area in the south of the county. Mary Readman also provided Members with a breakdown of the parking related complaints in the same period and of the 555 contacts 24 progressed to parking complaints, 3 on grassed areas, 2 in disabled bays, 8 obstructing footpaths, 7 blocking access and 4 outside or near schools.

Brian Buckley provided members with statistics based around 2011 census information which showed that county Durham has an estimated population of 513,200, with no of households 223,800, an estimated population over 18 356,000, average cars per household 2, with an estimated number of cars in the county as 450,000 and length of Highway 3,780 kms. He showed members examples of the types of parking issues his officers encounter which included parking on footways and highway verge. Members were advised that the most common parking incidence was two wheels on the road and two wheels off the road.

The possible solutions were to do nothing, enforcement using the Highway Act 1980 and other legislation, education and cooperation, provision of more parking spaces, verge hardening, bollards, vehicle crossings and a combination of all. Members were advised that the resources required to tackle such a widespread problem is enormous and beyond the scope of the existing staff at this time and in some cases the solution creates more problems than the original problem itself.

Members were provided with examples of various parking issues and the enforcement which could be used to deal with it. Problems arise when drivers do not allow sufficient room for pedestrians to pass especially those with pushchairs or wheelchairs. In those incidences where it is dangerous for pedestrians immediate action is taken and if necessary legal action is considered using section 137 of the Highways Act 1980. The next example of parking issues showed cars parked on highway verge with enough room for pedestrians to pass safely but close to a roundabout, this causes little damage to the kerb or footway but is antisocial and can be dealt with under section 161 of the Highways Act 1980 however it is difficult to prove. Members were advised that in some instances where drivers had completely parked on the verge, which was antisocial but there was no damage to the verge or footway. Enforcement could have been taken under section 161 of the Highways Act 1980 but would be difficult to prove because to park the vehicle on the highway could have caused traffic disruption on a busy road and dangerous to other road users.

Photographs were also shown of vehicle overrun which was caused by parking on the footpath which leads to an increase in highway claims which was a drain on council

finances and was expensive to rectify. In order to take to court they would need to prove that their vehicle caused the damage which was almost impossible to prove.

He advised members that a parking policy was produced in February 2010 by living streets and they may be some merit in revisiting this policy. Leaflet drops could also be done or an article placed in Durham County News or Localised campaigns to educate and ask for cooperation.

In the past, provision had been made for parking spaces in areas with significant parking issues so that vehicles did not need to park on the road. The cost of construction and maintenance of creating additional parking areas and the availability of land makes it not a viable option in the current financial climate and now there was very little or no areas provided when social housing was considered. All land was used for property purposes and not parking.

Verge hardening solutions such as grasscrete on grassed areas had been used on some social housing estates but some residents still insisted on parking on the grassed areas rather than using the harder surface. Currently there was no funding or land available to alleviate parking on estates and this would require future maintenance which would be an additional cost implication

Photographs of Langley Moor Front Street were shown to members where bollards had been installed due to extensive damage that had been caused to the flagged footpath which led to an increase in claims. The bollards had stopped all antisocial parking in the area but they had significant extra maintenance costs. Bollards would not be used in residential areas and were not the answer in most cases.

In relation to Vehicle Crossings members were advised in many instances the public did not apply for a vehicular crossing license and bumped over the kerb or constructed a crossing which was not fit for purpose such as using flagstones, tarmac or timber. A vehicular crossing licence is required to cross the footway to ensure crossings are constructed to the required standard to cause the least amount of damage to the footway. Members of the public requiring a vehicular access crossing licence are required to apply to highways for a licence at a cost of £130 which was broken down into £37 licence fee and £93 inspection fee. Following the construction, works would be inspected and the crossing would be adopted by the authority. The approximate cost for the construction of a crossing was currently in the region of £600 to £700. The service currently received approximately 1000 enquiries per year and 500 take up. The officer advised members that there were lots of unlicensed crossings in county Durham and it would take additional staff resources to address this issue.

Ian Hault, provided members with examples of parking on open space amenity areas, the first referred to the old pit site at Wingate where they had problems with off road vehicles driving on to the old pit site to go and feed horses which cut up the ground. To solve this problem they had erected a fence to stop vehicles gaining access. While this measure had stopped access in this location the problem moved to another access to the site.

The second example referred to Gray Avenue, Sherburn Village where there was extensive damage to open space areas outside of properties. The road was a bus route so residents parked on the grassed areas outside of their properties which helped to reduce congestion

as the road was so narrow you couldn't get a bus down if everyone parked on both sides of the road.

The final example showed a photograph of cars parked on open space at Bek Road, Newton Hall which was another bus route. One of the photographs indicated significant damage to the land but it was extremely difficult to prove that the extensive damage to the land was caused by that vehicle.

Members were informed that the Neighbourhood Wardens' current approach was to engage with communities and educate members of the public in relation to environmental crimes using methods such as letter drops. Neighbourhood Wardens had used enforcement action where the vehicle had been abandoned. There was no enforcement for parking on open space as this requires evidence and proportionality. It was proposed that enforcement could include the new legislation by way of ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014, using Public Space Protection Orders but it has to be demonstrated that the quality of life would be improved by this action and would require a community consultation of affect areas.

Members were provided with an APSE benchmarking of parking on grassed areas that indicated that very few authorities had policies to control parking on council land and that most made use of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

Clare Pattinson, advised members on the legislation and indicated that there was no national prohibition against on-street or 'pavement' parking except in relation to heavy commercial vehicles.

She went on to talk about tackling problem parking issues, when a vehicle was causing an obstruction or was dangerously parked i.e. people double parked or when emergency vehicles can't get through then enforcement was swift and immediate. Designating limited areas of 'no pavement parking' through a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was an option but this was not a high priority and where did you start and stop. It would also attract an additional cost with back up enforcement needed. Establish special parking areas, which some members had used their Members Initiative Fund to finance. Enforcing the offence of driving onto the pavement, whether with intention to park or not, they could spend hours enforcing but where were the vehicles going to park was this appropriate use of scarce Durham County Council resources. Physical discouragement such as tree planting, bollards and guardrails and respond to area rather than policy this would only address specific problems and consultation exercises were required. The solicitor advised members that parking issues could be addressed in one area but would then re-emerge in another and it was only moving the problem elsewhere. The fundamental issue is the number of vehicles on the road.

Local Authorities and the Police had the power to remove vehicles which were parked illegally, causing an obstruction or abandoned. A vehicle could only be illegally parked if there were parking restrictions operating in the area, in other cases one would have to show a vehicle was causing an obstruction. The police can remove vehicles which were causing an obstruction.

Peter Ollivere, advised members that previous national planning policy had restricted parking on new residential estates to a ratio of one space per dwelling but these standards

had now been relaxed to minimum standards instead of maximum standards. This means that new residential estates should have ample car parking spaces for home owners and visitor's.

In summary, there were the following issues with parking problems:-

- Access (pedestrians/service vehicles)
- Damage (paths/verge/grass)
- Aesthetics
- Associated remedial cost
- Neighbourhood Disputes
- Ability to enforce
- Priorities

Issues with tackling parking were as follows:-

- Cost
 - Target hardening (fencer/bollard)
 - Additional parking
 - Enforcement (TRO's, legal cost, proportionality)
- Displacement
 - Impact on access
 - Service vehicle access (fire/police/ambulance/bus)
 - Residents/businesses
 - Move to other areas
- Priorities

The Chairman thanked officers for their very informative presentation and asked members for questions.

Councillor May commented that no one had one and a half cars and two cars were better. He had issues in his area and they had carried out some grass hardening which had relieved some of the problems but there was no budget. Members budgets did not go very far as 100 metres of hard standing cost £20,000 and that depends on what services they found when they dig up the area. Funding needed to be from another source.

Brian Buckley responded that they looked at each one on its own merits and they kept verges where they could. They currently had a back log with highway maintenance, they maintained the current network, A-roads were kept to a good standard; B and C roads were kept to an acceptable standard but unclassified roads were the lowest priority and starting to deteriorate. They received requests for verge maintenance/hardening and if there was any damage they would replace with tarmac.

Councillor Hopgood advised members that she had asked for this issue to be considered by scrutiny. She indicated that thousands of pounds had been spent on parking spaces in the Bek road area of her ward but they were not used as residents drove over them to park outside of their property, however some of the grassed areas had covenants which

prevented cars from being parked. The continual parking on some of the grassed areas had caused significant damage to the land to which the Member had alerted Neighbourhood Wardens and they had sent letters but there was nothing the council could do. The Councillor was concerned if someone fell in the ruts; especially children who played in the area who would be responsible and estimates indicated that it would cost £20,000 to provide parking bays in half a small cul-de-sac. There were parking bays to the front of properties and parking to the rear but residents wanted to be outside their properties. This also created a problem with grounds maintenance as grass could not be cut properly because of the ruts and the Member suggested that council needed a policy to protect the grassed areas and asked if the council could charge residents to reinstate the land.

Clare Pattinson responded that a Public Space Protection Order or a Traffic Regulation Order was required but the council needed to show that there was a detriment to the quality of life. The legislation for Public space protection orders only came in last year but it would be a criminal offence if breached. The council could bring a claim towards the person responsible, provided there was evidence but would this be an effective use of resources and officers time and there was no guarantee that this would be upheld by the magistrates or that if it was the perpetrator would not appeal the decision This is new legislation and has not been tested in these circumstances.

Councillor Hopgood responded that she had been told that because Durham County Council do not have a policy they cannot carry out enforcement measures and was advised that if there was sufficient evidence Durham County Council could bring a claim to which Ian Hault indicated that there was very little done because of the lack of funding and evidence was difficult to gather and prove that one person caused the damage which is why they did not do any enforcement as they have no evidence.

Councillor Armstrong indicated that the council needed some kind of policy but there was no budget so very little could be done. He suggested that the way forward was to erect fencing on council land as a barrier. Councillor Hopgood responded that the fencing was not maintained so looked unsightly.

Councillor Jewell indicated that complaints in relation to parking on council land were not high so it was not high profile. In his area they were advised to remove double yellow lines to alleviate problems so they needed to look at the whole picture. People converted their garages into rooms and in his ward an area of land had to be reinforced to take the weight of a vehicle. How many unofficial car crossings were they and how many were up to standard. The Member asked for clarification as to how 1.5 parking spaces were determined.

Brian Buckley responded that they don't proactively look for unofficial car crossings. They received on average 1000 enquires for vehicle crossings and they usually had a take up of around 500 which were built and adopted. There was a problem in particular on council estates where residents were knocking down garden walls and creating a hardstanding, they could enforce for driving over the highway. He suggested he could have two officers working full time on enforcement and recovery for parking but does not have the resources or the capacity for this currently.

Peter Ollivere advised members that planning permission was required for a hardstanding as this had an impact on the drainage system but conversion of garages did not need planning permission and garages tended to be used for storage rather than vehicles. It was clarified that it was one and a half spaces per dwelling and the applications they received from developers related to more than one dwelling so for 10 houses there would be 15 parking spaces.

Brian Buckley commented that converting grass verges also impacted on the drainage system, which could potentially lead to flooding.

Tom Bolton referred to the hot spots and indicated that orders were appropriate in some areas but what were the costs involved, as you have to place an advert in a newspaper.

Brian Buckley responded that traffic regulation orders cost £2,000, which was cheaper than engineering works and maintenance.

Councillor Clare asked if somebody parked a vehicle on his front lawn he would ask them to remove it, this is the same principle as it is council land. Could parish councils look at neighbourhood plans and see what could be done to stop parking on council land i.e. village green areas. Fixed penalty notices are issued for dog fouling, could notices be issued for parking on council land.

Clare Pattinson responded that if a Public Space Protection Order or a Traffic Regulation Order was issued then it would turn into a criminal offence and a penalty notice could be issued. To remove vehicles from our land would require the council going to court for an injunction which is costly and breaches would add to this cost. If members wanted this to be treated as an issue then something else would have to be stopped to free up officers time, members need to prioritise issues. She suggested that maybe they looked at hot spots first.

Ian Hoult indicated that the level of complaints for this issue were low in comparison to other issues. If the council went looking for issues they would find them in every estate. If the council did enforcement, where would the vehicles park and would this impact on traffic congestion and traffic flows. There would be a cost element as consultation would be required as well as signage and someone to enforce, and then take to court.

Mary Readman commented that if there was a big campaign this would impact on customer contact centres too.

Councillor Milburn referred to cars parked on council land which were up for sale which were not individuals they were from a trader and if there was any legislation to deal with this or was it a police matter.

Clare Pattinson responded that there were a number of potential offences and could be the council or police. In the past they had issued some notices where it had been reported but again it was hard to collect the evidence and the process was slow.

Councillor Clare indicated that the vast majority of people were law abiding citizens and that harming the environment was unintentional, could an advert not be placed in the

Durham County News to give advice about parking. Clare Pattinson agreed that an article in the Durham County News was a way forward.

Councillor Hall asked if people who were trespassing could be asked to move off the council's land. Clare Pattinson responded that the response was normally 'make me', which would require going to court, which would have a cost implication.

Councillor Adam referred to the neighbourhood plans and that some estates were owned by Livin or other association and that the committee would also need to look at partners.

Peter Ollivere advised that no matter what green space was designated via Neighbourhood Plans or Village Green allocations, the fundamental problem was there were too many cars and not enough spaces to park them. Therefore, people choose to park on green spaces. Some of the County's worst problems regarding this issue have occurred in areas that were planned to include as surplus of green amenity space, for example, in the new towns of Peterlee and Newton Aycliffe.

The Chairman concluded the meeting and commented that she had issues in her own area and that she could see the problem with resources but did they want to stop enforcement of fly tipping.

6 Next Steps

The Scrutiny Officer advised members that the next meeting would be held on 1 October 2015, which would look at the key findings and conclusions.

A report detailing the key findings and recommendation of the Light Touch Review would be shared with Cabinet in November/December 2015.

**Environment & Sustainable Communities
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**



12 October 2015

Update: Flooding Scrutiny Review

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

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to give a further update on the recommendations contained within the Flooding Scrutiny Review published in September 2014.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 June 2013 members as part of the refresh of the work programme for 2013-15 identified flooding as a future scrutiny review project. It was felt by the committee that flooding was a topical issue and that as a result of flooding incidents within County Durham causing damage in local communities and impacting on service delivery there was a need to examine whether policies and plans were 'fit for purpose' and minimised the impact of flooding within County Durham.
3. A review group was established and met on eight occasions which included site visits to view various flood mitigation schemes. The Flooding scrutiny review report was considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 10 September 2014. At the meeting Cabinet agreed the recommendations contained within the review report which included a recommendation for a six monthly update on progress made against the recommendations.
4. At its meeting on 4 February 2015 the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee members received a progress update on the recommendations and requested that a further update report be brought to a future meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Current Position

5. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has received an update from the Flood Risk Management Authorities in accordance with the committee's statutory duty and received minutes from the Strategic Flood Group at regular intervals.

6. The latest update on the recommendations is attached to this report at appendix two together with the original report recommendations and previous progress update.

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.

Recommendation

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.

Contact: John Reed, Head of Technical Services, Tel: 03000 267454

Author: Ann Whitton, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 03000 268143

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk – As Lead Local Flood Authority Durham County Council has responsibility for preparing a strategy for local flood risk management.

Equality and Diversity Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications - None

This page is intentionally left blank

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT – FLOODING
 REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON: 10 SEPTEMBER, 2014
 UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS – 12 OCTOBER 2015**

Review Recommendation	Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation			Resib'ty	Timescale																																																																		
<p>1) That Durham County Council continue to maximise the funding opportunities available for flood prevention schemes through the Flood Defence Local Levy, the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid Scheme and the EU funding programme 2014-2020.</p>	<p>Durham has 18 schemes on the Environment Agency's (EA) 6 year plan up to financial year ending 2021. Estimated value of works is £2 million.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 584 1495 1357"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scheme</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Total Value £'000s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Etherley Lane Bishop Auckland</td><td>15/16</td><td>£125</td></tr> <tr><td>Greta Bridge</td><td>16/17</td><td>£69</td></tr> <tr><td>Hood St St Johns Chapel</td><td>15/16</td><td>£200</td></tr> <tr><td>Lanchester</td><td>15/16</td><td>£437</td></tr> <tr><td>Lanchester</td><td>16/17</td><td>£800</td></tr> <tr><td>New Brancepeth & Ushaw Moor</td><td>15/16</td><td>£124</td></tr> <tr><td>New Brancepeth & Ushaw Moor</td><td>16/17</td><td>£48</td></tr> <tr><td>Shotley Bridge</td><td>15/16</td><td>£5</td></tr> <tr><td>Shotley Bridge</td><td>19/20</td><td>£86</td></tr> <tr><td>Witton Gilbert</td><td>15/16</td><td>£640</td></tr> <tr><td>Witton Gilbert</td><td>17/18</td><td>£300</td></tr> <tr><td>Dene Crescent</td><td>17/18</td><td>£46</td></tr> <tr><td>Pelton</td><td>17/18</td><td>£32</td></tr> <tr><td>Craigland Villas</td><td>18/19</td><td>£46</td></tr> <tr><td>Dipton</td><td>18/19</td><td>£37</td></tr> <tr><td>Castlefields Bourm Moor</td><td>19/20</td><td>£36</td></tr> <tr><td>Cherry Bank</td><td>20/21</td><td>£5</td></tr> <tr><td>Dunelm Walk Leadgate</td><td>19/20</td><td>£32</td></tr> <tr><td>Hardwick Rd Sedgefield</td><td>19/20</td><td>£160</td></tr> <tr><td>Hillmeads Nettlesworth</td><td>19/20</td><td>£98</td></tr> <tr><td>NW Durham PLP</td><td>19/20</td><td>£7</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Scheme	Year	Total Value £'000s	Etherley Lane Bishop Auckland	15/16	£125	Greta Bridge	16/17	£69	Hood St St Johns Chapel	15/16	£200	Lanchester	15/16	£437	Lanchester	16/17	£800	New Brancepeth & Ushaw Moor	15/16	£124	New Brancepeth & Ushaw Moor	16/17	£48	Shotley Bridge	15/16	£5	Shotley Bridge	19/20	£86	Witton Gilbert	15/16	£640	Witton Gilbert	17/18	£300	Dene Crescent	17/18	£46	Pelton	17/18	£32	Craigland Villas	18/19	£46	Dipton	18/19	£37	Castlefields Bourm Moor	19/20	£36	Cherry Bank	20/21	£5	Dunelm Walk Leadgate	19/20	£32	Hardwick Rd Sedgefield	19/20	£160	Hillmeads Nettlesworth	19/20	£98	NW Durham PLP	19/20	£7	Neighbourhoods Technical Services	Ongoing
Scheme	Year	Total Value £'000s																																																																					
Etherley Lane Bishop Auckland	15/16	£125																																																																					
Greta Bridge	16/17	£69																																																																					
Hood St St Johns Chapel	15/16	£200																																																																					
Lanchester	15/16	£437																																																																					
Lanchester	16/17	£800																																																																					
New Brancepeth & Ushaw Moor	15/16	£124																																																																					
New Brancepeth & Ushaw Moor	16/17	£48																																																																					
Shotley Bridge	15/16	£5																																																																					
Shotley Bridge	19/20	£86																																																																					
Witton Gilbert	15/16	£640																																																																					
Witton Gilbert	17/18	£300																																																																					
Dene Crescent	17/18	£46																																																																					
Pelton	17/18	£32																																																																					
Craigland Villas	18/19	£46																																																																					
Dipton	18/19	£37																																																																					
Castlefields Bourm Moor	19/20	£36																																																																					
Cherry Bank	20/21	£5																																																																					
Dunelm Walk Leadgate	19/20	£32																																																																					
Hardwick Rd Sedgefield	19/20	£160																																																																					
Hillmeads Nettlesworth	19/20	£98																																																																					
NW Durham PLP	19/20	£7																																																																					

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="97 898 140 1357">Kingfisher Close Esh Winning</td> <td data-bbox="97 801 140 898">20/21</td> <td data-bbox="97 562 140 801">£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="140 801 183 1357">Total</td> <td data-bbox="140 562 183 801">£3488</td> </tr> </table> <p>Durham County Council are currently working on identifying a number of schemes for year 7+ (2021-2027). Using the Surface Water Flood Maps developed by the EA we have identified approximately 10,000 properties; value approximately £96 million, at risk from a 1:100 year event. We are now working through the list to extract viable schemes that can be put forward to the EA.</p>	Kingfisher Close Esh Winning	20/21	£155	Total		£3488	
Kingfisher Close Esh Winning	20/21	£155						
Total		£3488						
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>2) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in their role as the designated Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee formalise the process for engaging with the Flood Risk Management Authorities within County Durham by meeting on an annual basis. As part of this role the committee would receive information from Northumbrian Water Limited on sewage treatment capacity within County Durham.</p>	<p>Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>A Special meeting of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will take place in February which will receive information from the Flood Risk Management Authorities.</p>	<p>Resib'ty</p>	<p>Timescale</p>					
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>3) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the minutes of the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NRFCC) and the Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group (DSFPG) on a quarterly basis together with regular updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Approval Body (SAB). 	<p>Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>SAB: Schedule 3 of the FWMA 2010 has not been enacted, rather Government decided to make amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and as such the Planners are responsible for the overall implementation of SUDS within planning applications. The Drainage Team are statutory consultees and provide advice on all major developments (proposals that contain 10 or more properties). However, if a planning case officer feels</p>	<p>Resib'ty</p> <p>Neighbourhoods Technical Services</p>	<p>Timescale</p> <p>Ongoing</p>					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Drainage Area Studies (DAS) undertaken. • The development of the new approach to building community resilience. • Work undertaken with private land owners including detail of actions taken and any flood prevention measures implemented. • Lessons learned from flooding incidents. 	<p>that there is flood risk to lesser developments then advice is provided for those also.</p> <p>Additional drainage areas: Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL) have 478 drainage areas across the region. After a risk analysis these were whittled down to 136, of which a large proportion are within Durham County. All areas have now been modelled. The next phase of the works for NWL is to develop community action plans with a view to go back and 'tweak' the Drainage Area Models if needed. There is an anticipated 5 year refresh program.</p> <p>Work undertaken with private land owners: The Drainage Team have regular involvement with private landowners, usually work is done with good active involvement. However, sometimes we need to take more formal action. There are two recent examples where action has been taken against private land owners. Both involved damage to an existing highway drain but used different Acts for the enforcement action; Highway Act 1980 and Land Drainage Act 1991.</p> <p>One owner has eventually agreed and undertook works to repair the drain within their land, the other owner has not and DCC are carrying out the works in default, and are recovering the costs.</p> <p><u>Building Community Resilience</u> CCU have now visited:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 AAPs, plus sub groups, plus attendance at meetings • 14 schools delivering a lesson to 350 junior school children • 6 libraries • Spoke to 3724 adults at one off events 	<p>CCU (SMJ)</p>
--	--	------------------

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> handed out 2,047 general flooding leaflets and a further 258 leaflets in the Rapid Response Areas Attended 13 one off events with more to follow Produced a video regarding how to use sandbags Held breakfast sessions with Businesses in County Durham and Darlington to discuss business continuity arrangements Plus youth groups 	
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>4) That the importance of Policy 46 in the emerging County Durham Plan is highlighted in relation to managing flood risk.</p>	<p>Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>Policy 46: The Drainage Team and the Planners have been constantly working together and the policy has recently been amended and updated to incorporate the changes to the NPPF and reflect Defra’s technical standards for SUDS. Advice provided by the Drainage Team on planning applications and other drainage matters already reflects that information and advice in the policy.</p> <p>We now have a resolution which will see the inspector’s interim report quashed and a new examination held under a new inspector as soon as possible. To enable this to happen we will withdraw the plan before resubmitting an amended and refreshed version. This updated plan will proceed through a new public examination providing a further opportunity for all interested parties to have their views heard.</p>	<p>Resib’ty</p> <p>Neighbourhoods Technical Services</p> <p>RED Spatial Policy Team</p>
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>5) That Durham County Council establishes the appropriate mechanisms to enable it to collect any charges in respect of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) that have been adopted by the council.</p>	<p>Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>Durham County Council have been working to develop a SUDS adoption policy, where an option is made available to a developer for them to have DCC adopt and maintain a SUD on a development. The maintenance works are paid for by an annual payment made by the residents that are served by the SUD.</p>	<p>Resib’ty</p> <p>Neighbourhoods Technical Services</p>

	This payment is collected by DCC's finance section. A copy of the guidance document is attached for further information.		
--	--	--	--

This page is intentionally left blank

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT – FLOODING
REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON: 10 SEPTEMBER, 2014**

Review Recommendation	Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) That Durham County Council continue to maximise the funding opportunities available for flood prevention schemes through the Flood Defence Local Levy, the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid Scheme and the EU funding programme 2014-2020.</p>	<p>NWL continue to play an active role in the Flood Risk Management (FRM) Partnership meetings with Durham County Council. We are actively sharing details regarding flood risk reduction projects within our respective capital programmes to identify the potential for collaborative working, shared funding possibilities and maximised benefits</p> <p>NWL also contributed £25k to the Lead Local Flood Authority training programme to support skills development associated with preparation and submission of funding applications. A benefits assessment course based on multi-coloured manual is planned for January 2015</p> <p>In 2014 the principal drainage authorities across the north east of England (13 Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs), Environment Agency (EA) and Northumbrian Water (NWL) recognised the benefits of integrated working in balancing reactive short term needs with longer term strategic planning for the provision of sustainable drainage systems. These authorities, as the Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP), have worked together to produce and implement a regional risk based prioritisation methodology to promote a proactive approach to the delivery of their common aspirations. The actions of this group are complementary to and work in support of Strategic Flood Risk Management. As a result of this prioritisation approach we have been working with Durham CC to complete an integrated drainage study for the Durham City & Newton Hall area of the County.</p>	<p>Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL) (Les Hall)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

The key driver for the study is to facilitate growth in the area without adverse impacts on the performance of the integrated drainage system ie. Adverse impact on flood risk or water quality.

NWL are leading a “SuDS for schools and communities” project which has now delivered SuDS installations at two schools in the region and a third is scheduled for early 2015. One of these locations is Woodhouse Close Primary School at Bishop Auckland where swales, wetlands and rain gardens have been created to provide flood risk reduction benefits as well as providing a vehicle for education and engagement with the children, parents and the wider community.

At the FRM meetings we have also discussed the principle of implementing community based projects in the form of Community Action Plans) that would include aspects of engagement, education, water efficiency, flood risk reduction and flood resilience.. We have secured some funding and are in the process of identifying candidate communities; some of which will be in County Durham.

The data sharing protocol we have agreed with the council allows us to share data and in particular models which have a value which can count as a formal contributions in support of LLFA funding applications

The quarterly operational liaison meetings provide an early opportunity for the identification of integrated drainage issues.

Recently NWL supported The Wear Rivers Trust in their Heritage Lottery Funding application for Tindale Beck catchment area of Bishop Auckland.

Review Recommendation	Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>2) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in their role as the designated Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee formalise the process for engaging with the Flood Risk Management Authorities within County Durham by meeting on an annual basis. As part of this role the committee would receive information from Northumbrian Water Limited on sewage treatment capacity within County Durham.</p>	<p>DCC have secured funding from the EA for year 2014/15, in total £691k. £491.8k from FDGiA and £199.2k from the local levy fund.</p> <p>Going forward from 2015/16 to 2020/21 DCC have grant applications in to the EA for £1,344.3k FDGiA and £1,095k Local Levy.</p> <p>Northumbrian Water (NWL) has continued to work with the forward planning team at the council to identify investment requirements for sewage treatment works (STW) upgrades to support housing growth. The most positive result is that a solution has been identified and funding is in place for Tudhoe Mill STW which serves the Spennymoor area. Development which was being delayed last year is now able to proceed.</p> <p>In addition to this NWL's latest 5 year Asset Management Plan (AMP 6) which commences on 1st April 2015 includes for investment at the following STWs: Crookhall, Chilton and Windlestone, East Tanfield, Wolsingham, Barkers Haugh, University, Aycliffe, Bear Park/Aldin Grange, Witton Gilbert and Tow Law.</p> <p>This equates to a planned investment of over £28 million in STW upgrades across the county in the next five years.</p> <p>Frequent meetings between NWL, Environment Agency and officers in RED to discuss capacity issues</p>	<p>Drainage team(DCC)</p> <p>NWL (Les Hall)</p> <p>Spatial Policy team/NWL.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>3) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the minutes of the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NRFCC) and the Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group (DSFPG) on a quarterly basis together with regular updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Approval Body (SAB). • Additional Drainage Area Studies (DAS) undertaken. • The development of the new approach to building community resilience. 	<p>in relation to development sites.</p> <p>Frequent liaison meetings between DCC Drainage Team and NWL to discuss strategic and operational issues.</p> <p>DCC is currently developing an interim SuDS policy to enable developers to put forward SuDS systems for adoption by DCC along with a maintenance fund paid for by residents of the development.</p> <p>NWL have not undertaken any further DAS as the current studies cover the majority of growth across County Durham. During Asset Management Plan 6 we will enhance and verify some of these models by carrying out flow monitoring in those areas of greatest risk.</p> <p>Presentations re community resilience have been given to all AAPs, with some asking for further presentations to sub groups, Town and Parish Councils, Residents Associations and local businesses. Various communities are currently preparing community emergency plans with the CCU facilitating the writing of these plans. It is hoped that 5 plans will have been prepared by April 2015. This work will continue until April 2017.</p>	<p>Drainage Team (DCC)</p> <p>Drainage Team, legal</p> <p>NWL</p> <p>CCU (SMJ)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2015-20</p> <p>April 2017</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work undertaken with private land owners including detail of actions taken and any flood prevention measures implemented. • Lessons learned from flooding incidents. 	<p>DCC has powers to carry out works on private land, but whenever possible the preferred method of working is in agreement with landowners rather than pursuing legal enforcement.</p> <p>Flooding investigations have revealed a number of issues primarily relating to poor maintenance of systems. Examples include silting of pipework, tree root penetration causing blockages etc. It is evident from this that we need to sustain a pro-active, cyclical maintenance regime to ensure wherever possible that systems remain operational to reduce flood risks.</p>	<p>Drainage Team</p> <p>DCC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>4) That the importance of Policy 46 in the emerging County Durham Plan is highlighted in relation to managing flood risk.</p>	<p>Whilst this appears to be an action for Durham County Council, NWL would wish to comment on Policy 46.</p> <p>In responding to emerging Local Plans with other local planning authorities across the region we directly reference Policy 46 as being exemplar for the region and actively encourage other councils to consider and implement similarly worded policies.</p> <p>Newcastle and Gateshead councils' local plan which has been through the examination in public stage included such a policy and Northumberland County Council's current consultation includes policy wording which mirrors the Durham approach.</p> <p>Policy 46 of the County Durham Plan has been through the Examination in Public. The Inspectors</p>	<p>NWL (Les Hall)</p> <p>Spatial Policy, RED</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Policy 46 to be monitored</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>5) That Durham County Council establishes the appropriate mechanisms to enable it to collect any charges in respect of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) that have been adopted by the council.</p>	<p>report is due end of January. Once the County Durham Plan is adopted, Policy 46 will be monitored to ensure it is being implemented effectively.</p> <p>Money is likely to be collected as part of the planning and development process. However, there is still uncertainty around the process and what charges the developers will incur.</p> <p>Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act has not yet been enacted, news released by DEFRA on 18th December 2014 has indicated that there will be a change to the National Planning Policy Framework, to include provision for SuDS to be installed wherever possible for all major developments, i.e. all planning applications of more than 10 properties or >0.5Ha, the anticipation if for this recommendation to be implemented by April 2015.</p> <p>DCC working in partnership with a local housing developer, Keepmoat, has established a mechanism to apply a "land rent" charge for residents to contribute towards the maintenance of SuDS on sites. This "rent" will be collected by DCC and will be used exclusively for the maintenance of SuDS on that development. The possibilities of this arrangement being extended to other sites and developers is currently being explored.</p> <p>Unofficial indications from a Defra representative are suggesting that DCC is the first authority in the UK to take this action</p>	<p>Neighbourhoods and RED</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>6) That Durham County Council as part of the Customer First Strategy introduces a flooding hotline number for use during flooding emergencies.</p>	<p>The potential to introduce a flooding hotline number has been considered carefully by the Neighbourhood Services, who provide the following comments:</p> <p>The commitments in the Customer First Strategy reflect customer desire to make it easy for them to contact us, this is especially the case in times of emergency. The approach adopted in relation to telephony is to reduce, as far as possible, the number of telephone numbers that customers need to know, building on the “golden numbers” that are now established in customer services. Over the last 2 years, some considerable effort has been put into communicating these key numbers to residents to ensure they can access services easier – the main 03000 260000 is used in a range of publications including the phone book etc, along with the 03000 261000 streetscene number.</p> <p>The response provided when we receive a flooding alert is to adapt the routing on our main telephone numbers (those being 03000 260000 and 03000 261000) so that if customers are ringing about a flooding issue they should to press option “0”. By doing this the call is immediately directed to call handlers trained to take those calls. The publicised emergency number for out of hours calls is also 03000 260000 so this ensures that all calls are directed to the right place no matter when customers ring. It is recommended that this system remains in place rather than the introduction of a separate and entirely different number to those already familiar to many resident for contacting their council.</p> <p>This not only removes the need for customers to find</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

and dial a separate number exclusively for use only in times of flooding, but also allows, through the modern call centre systems, the customer services team to supply the maximum resource possible to flooding related calls when required. Additionally it removes any potential for confusion with the national flooding hotline provided and managed by the Environment Agency.

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

12 October 2015



**Quarter One 2015/16
Performance Management Report**

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

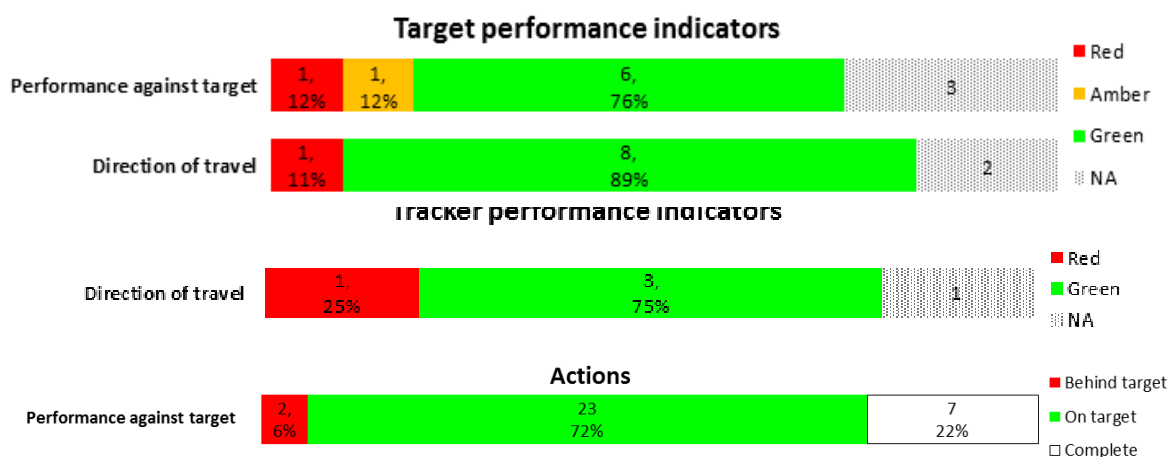
Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and report other performance issues for the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period April to June 2015.

Background

2. 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 (see Appendix 3, table 1); 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 (see Appendix 3, table 2).
3. The report continues to incorporate a stronger focus on volume measures in our performance framework. This allows us to better quantify productivity and to monitor the effects of reductions in resources and changes in volume of activity. Charts detailing some of the key volume measures which form part of the council's corporate set of performance indicators are presented in Appendix 4.
4. The corporate performance indicator guide has been updated to provide full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2015/16 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet (at Councillors useful links) or can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

5. Altogether Greener: Overview



Council Performance

6. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. During the 12 months ending May 2015, 96.7% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill. Performance exceeded the target of 95% but decreased by 2.3% from the previous quarter. During March and April the Energy from Waste plant was closed due to planned essential maintenance. Although waste was sent to alternative facilities for disposal, including the Mechanical Biological Treatment at Byker, some additional waste was sent for landfill.
- b. During the 12 months ending May 2015, 42.2% of household waste was re-used, recycled or composted, exceeding the 38% target. The national picture shows that all councils are experiencing a plateau in the area of reuse, recycling and composting and this situation is unlikely to change without government investment and expansion of recycling schemes. During 2014/15, 42.6% of the household waste we collected was reused, recycled or composted, which reflects the regional picture. At the end of May, our performance was 42.2%; this slight reduction can mainly be attributed to changes to our Garden Waste Scheme with 6,000 fewer tonnes of garden waste being collected between the start of the garden waste collections in March and 31 May compared to last year. The reduced targets for 2015/16 reflect the potential impact of these changes on this years' performance.
- c. Three times a year the condition of our local environment in relation to litter, detritus and dog fouling is assessed using a survey. The 2014/15 year-end figures indicate that:
 - i. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter, 5.3% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 7% and the national average (11%) and improved from 6% reported in 2013/14.

- ii. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus, 8.9% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 10% and the national average (31%) and improved from 9.5% reported in 2013/14.
- iii. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling, 1.1% fell below an acceptable level. Performance improved from 1.6% reported in 2013/14 and was better than the national average (8.1%).

Teams are working to ensure standards remain high. The next survey will be carried out in August/September and an update will be provided in quarter two. During July, County Durham landed a string of prestigious awards by Keep Britain Tidy. Fourteen open spaces owned by the council were awarded Green Flag status for 2015. These include six parks and two countryside sites, while six cemeteries/crematoria were also recognised, the highest number held by any local authority in the country.

- d. During quarter one 2015/16, there were 374 renewable energy feed in tariff installations registered and approved and the target of 225 installations was exceeded. There were 373 solar photovoltaic installations and one wind installation. The feed in tariff installations have contributed 215.7 megawatts of energy as at the end of June 2015.
- e. A key tracker indicator shows the multi-agency taskforce approach to dealing with fly-tipping is continuing to show significant results. There were 7,674 fly-tipping incidents during the 12 months ending June 2015, 1,105 fewer incidents compared to the previous quarter and 2,019 fewer incidents compared to quarter one 2014/15 (see Appendix 4, Chart 5).

During quarter one, CCTV cameras were deployed to a further 81 locations across the county and captured 11 fly-tipping incidents. 38 stop and search operations resulted in the issuing of 18 duty of care warning letters, 11 requests to produce driving and vehicle documentation and eight Fixed Penalty Notices. 34 people attended an interview under caution (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984), nine cases were referred for prosecution and a further 28 cases reached court. Since operation Stop It started, a total of almost £14,000 was awarded in fines, costs, compensation and surcharges and one person was given an 18 week prison sentence suspended for a year. Two illegal scrap metal dealers have become the first dealers in the county to be handed criminal behaviour orders to stop them dealing scrap metal for two years. Durham County Council continues to use the social media 'name and shame' to maximum effect following the feedback received. Local and national media have picked up on this success, with two examples to appear in BBC TV's Caught Red Handed.

- f. Progress has been made with the following Council Plan and service plan actions:
 - i. Good progress has been made in relation to the Landscape Partnership Plan. A number of bids have been submitted or have approval to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in relation to a Village Atlas Project, which looks at relationships between natural and social history and Land of Oak and Iron projects: restoration of an

historic landscape. Further work is underway on a number of other bids such as a biological recording WildWatch Project funding bid and a funding bid in relation to St Mary's Church in Barnard Castle. Through the Heritage Coast Partnership, preparations are underway for formation of a community interest company as an arms-length trading body.

- ii. Work has been undertaken in relation to further developing the Climate Change Strategy and associated delivery plan. The delivery programme will focus around three main areas: climate adaptation, community buildings energy efficiency and transport modal shift for schools and higher education. The Climate Change Strategy was approved by Cabinet in July 2015.

7. The key Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme include:

- i. The procurement and implementation of a new contract for dealing with recyclable material collected at the kerbside has been delayed from June 2015 until April 2016. On advice from our consultants and following soft market testing, tendering has been withheld until the market improves. Following the recycling market commodity crash, only a small upward trend has been seen in prices from their base position of the last few months. The intention is to tender in September for an April 2016 contract start.
- ii. The action to review operational practices around allotments, to harmonise standards and embed enforcement, has been delayed from April 2015 to April 2016. The initial scope for this work has widened to include a full review of the current policy to ensure it aligns to operational practices. The review is currently underway and due to be completed in 2015/16 following consultation. Basic enforcement values have been agreed in the interim. Staff vacancies have been filled and visit schedules are in place.

8. There are no key risks which require any mitigating action in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Recommendations and Reasons

9. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and consider any performance issues arising there with.

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 Performance Indicators (PIs) has been included to monitor staffing issues.

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 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 - 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

Nearest Neighbour Benchmarking:

The nearest neighbour model was developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), one of the professional accountancy bodies in the UK. CIPFA has produced a list of 15 local authorities which Durham is statistically close to when you look at a number of characteristics. The 15 authorities that are in the nearest statistical neighbours group for Durham using the CIPFA model are: Barnsley, Wakefield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Wigan, Kirklees, St Helens, Calderdale, Dudley, Northumberland, Tameside, Sheffield, Gateshead, Stockton-on-Tees and Stoke-on-Trent.

We also use other neighbour groups to compare our performance. More detail of these can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	PI 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											
47	NS14a	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	5.32	2014/15	7.00	GREEN	6.03	GREEN	11.00 GREEN		2013/14
48	NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	8.87	2014/15	10.00	GREEN	9.47	GREEN	31.00 GREEN		2013/14
49	NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	96.7	Jun 2014 - May 2015	95.0	GREEN	88.6	GREEN			
50	NS19	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	42.2	Jun 2014 - May 2015	38.0	GREEN	42.0	GREEN	43.5 RED	37* GREEN	2013/14
51	REDPI53	Percentage of conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal	41.00	As at Sep 2014	42.00	RED	39.00	GREEN			
52	REDPI48	Percentage change in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations	-9.00	2013/14	-5.00	GREEN	5.50	GREEN			
53	NS08	Percentage reduction in CO ₂ emissions from the DCC fleet	-0.07	2013/14	Not set	NA	1.19	RED			

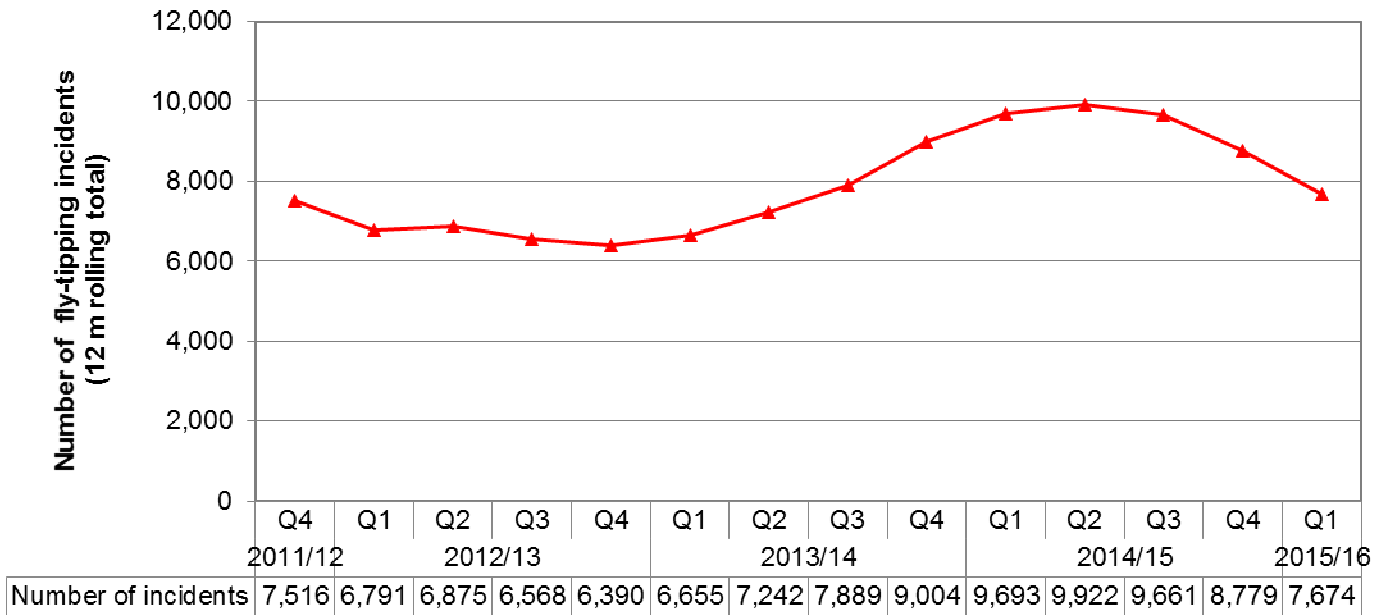
Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
54	REDPI49	Number of new registered and approved new feed in tariff installations	374	Apr - Jun 2015	225	GREEN	362	GREEN			
55	REDPI109	Number of private sector properties benefiting from an energy efficiency measure installed by British Gas through the Warm Up North Partnership	404	2014/15	Not set	NA	New indicator	NA			
56	NS04	Percentage of recorded actionable defects on carriageways and footways repaired within 24 hours (category 1)	94	Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	95	AMBER	90	GREEN			
57	NS05	Percentage of recorded actionable defects on carriageways and footways repaired within 14 working days (category 2)	New indicator	NA	NA	NA	New indicator	NA			

Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Ref	PI 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											
166	NS14c	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	1.08	2014/15	1.56	GREEN	1.56	GREEN	8.10 GREEN		2013/14
167	NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents	7,674	Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	8,779	GREEN	9,693	GREEN			
168	NS09	Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from municipal waste sent to Sita's 'Energy from Waste' plant	66,206	Jun 2014 - May 2015	67,556	RED	28,944	GREEN			
169	REDPI46	Percentage reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham	39.0	As at Dec 2012	41.2	RED	41.2	RED	14.0 GREEN	20* GREEN	2012
170	REDPI47	Amount of renewable energy generation - megawatts equivalent (MWe) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	215.72	As at Jun 2015	217.17	Not comparable [1]	207.79	Not comparable [1]			

[\[1\] Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable](#)

Chart 5 – Fly-tipping incidents



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



12 October 2015

**European Structural and
Investment Funds – Low Carbon
Economy**

**Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and
Economic Development**

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the latest developments with regard to European Structural and Investment Funds Low Carbon Economy funding and set out the opportunities that are available to County Durham.

Background

2. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the last update on the European Structural and Investment Fund at its meeting on 17 April, 2015 where it was agreed that a further update be brought back to the committee.
3. European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) represent a single growth programme combining European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). For the North East LEP area the 2014 – 2020 ESIF Programme incorporates £250 million of ERDF and £212 million of ESF including £135m for County Durham. This money must be match funded but because County Durham is a Transition area, 60% of total costs can be drawn down, with a requirement to find a minimum of 40% match. It should be noted that changes in the exchange rate will result in a reduced value for our allocation although exact details are not yet known.
4. The ESIF Growth Programme's top priorities are:
 - support for small and medium-sized businesses
 - Innovation and research and development
 - low carbon economy
 - skills
 - employment and social inclusion

Of most relevance to the Committee is the low carbon economy element which is ring fenced as 15% of County Durham's total ERDF allocation (around £18m). Low carbon economic growth has not featured in previous

rounds of ESIF and so very little experience or knowledge existed across the NELEP area to support the development of a pipeline of potential projects.

5. Consequently, Durham County Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Team contributed significantly to the NELEP low carbon submissions to Government and led the development of a portfolio of potential low carbon economy projects for the whole NELEP area. A significant amount of work has been led by this Team over the past 16 months, both in County Durham and at LEP level, to build new partnerships and identify good low carbon projects. This has put the Council in an excellent position to ensure that projects that could benefit County Durham fit well within the programme.

Current Position

6. The first Calls for Low Carbon projects were issued in July with a closing date for submissions of 25th September. They only cover two of the five Investment Priorities: 4b 'Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises' and 4f 'Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low carbon technologies'.
7. The other Investment priorities have not been included because detailed guidance has still not been provided by Government so projects related to those will not be able to submit until spring 2016. There is an indicative ERDF budget of £10m for the NELEP region for the 4b and 4f Calls.
8. We are aware of two County Durham based low carbon projects that plan to submit bids by 25th September. One of these is the Council's own Business Energy Efficiency project (BEEP) which members are already aware of. This will be closely aligned to the proposed County Durham Business hub which is also likely to submit on 25th September, under Priority Axis 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs. The second is a proposed geothermal renewable energy scheme for Auckland Castle, led by Auckland Castle Trust.
9. Members will also recall that a project has been developing to create a Water Science Hub which would be a virtual research and innovation platform on water, science and technology. This bid is being led by Durham University and the Environment Agency and will also be submitted on 25th September under Priority Axis 1: Promoting Research and innovation.

Recommendations

10. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
 - Note the content of the report.
 - Offer views as to direction of travel of the emerging programme.
 - Receive further reports as the programme progresses.

Contact: Maggie Bosanquet

Tel: 03000 265549

E-mail: Maggie.bosanquet@durham.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1 - Implications

Finance – None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications - None

This page is intentionally left blank

12 October 2015



**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES QUARTER 4
REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2014 / 2015**

Report of Neighbourhood Services Management Team

Purpose of the report

- 1 To set out details of the final outturn for 2014/15, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services.

Executive Summary

- 2 The final 2014/15 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget against the cash limit by £2.984m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserves, and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 3 The final 2014/15 Capital Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget by £5.141m

Neighbourhood Services Revenue 2014/15

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

Head of Service	Revised Base Budget 2014/15 £'000	QTR 4 Report			Cash limit Variance Over/ (Under) £'000
		Final Outturn 2014/15	Variance Over/ (Under)	Reserves / outside cash limit	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	
Central Costs	2,750	1,361	(1,389)	1,468	79
Direct Services	36,745	30,084	(6,661)	4,493	(2,168)
Env, Health & C. Prot	6,087	5,426	(661)	601	(60)
Proj & Business Serv	16,123	16,323	201	(437)	(236)
Culture & Sport	22,319	16,203	(6,116)	5,626	(490)
Technical Services	26,578	8,639	(17,939)	17,833	(106)
Total	110,602	78,036	(32,569)	29,585	(2,984)

- 5 The final revenue outturn for 2014/15 was under budget against the cash limit by £2.984m, after taking account of the forecast use of reserves, and items outside the cash limit.
- 6 The cash limit outturn position compares to the previously forecast Quarter 3 position of a cash limit underspend of £1.105m.

7 The following section outlines the main reasons for the variance against budget;

- Direct Services - an underspend of £2.200m. This was mainly due to Building Services generating an increased surplus of £1.000m, from a higher than anticipated workload throughout the year. There were also savings of £0.700m in Admin Buildings and Depot running costs, one-off VAT refunds of £0.200m relating to Catering and Trade Refuse, and an underspend of £0.440m throughout the service relating to the early delivery of 2015/16 MTFP savings.
- Highway and Design Services – the trading areas of this service generated increased surpluses of approximately £2.500m in year due to higher than anticipated workloads and increased productivity, but these surpluses were largely offset by increased policy led expenditure on highway maintenance in relation to Category 1 and Category 2 defects, along with increased general maintenance around patching, drainage and footways, increased expenditure on Bridge Inspections, and increased gully cleansing activity in year. Taking these managed overspends into account, there was an overall cash limit underspend of £0.100m within Technical Services in the year.
- Culture and Sport – the Library Service was £0.380m underspent due to savings associated with employees, as a result of a restructure linked to MTFP savings and also savings in energy costs in year.
- Projects and Business Services - an underspend of £0.250m resulted from additional income from power generation in Strategic Waste (£0.100m) and there were also managed savings in employees and supplies and services of £0.150m across the service.

8 Further to the quarter 3 forecast outturn report, the following items have been excluded from the outturn in arriving at the cash limit:

- £3.866m – relates to a net contribution to earmarked reserves and cash limits to support specific projects in 2015/16, including a £1.500m contribution to earmarked reserves to support one off expenditure in Culture and Sport; a £2.600m contribution to earmarked reserves in respect of Highways, Waste Disposal, and Environmental Health; and a £0.300m contribution from earmarked reserves in respect of Buildings and Grounds Maintenance, and Street Cleaning.
- Approximately £1.800m of the Reserves movement is due to newly identified operational issues which require addressing in 2015/16. These include essential investment in equipment, health and safety initiatives in depots, repairs to playgrounds and footpaths, and drainage inspections. In addition a reserve of £0.800m has been set up relating to funding that is held on behalf of County Durham Sport.
- The movement on Reserves also includes a contribution of £0.755m to the Winter Maintenance Reserve that was established at the end of 2013/14. This contribution represents the underspend on Winter Maintenance activities during 2014/15, and reflects the relatively mild conditions that were experienced during the last winter. In previous years, any overspends on Winter Maintenance were treated as outside the cash limit, but in future it is expected that the Winter Maintenance Reserve (now £1.755m) will be utilised

when severe winter events occur and the annual budget, which was increased by £1.300m in 2014/15, is insufficient to meet the unavoidable costs in this area.

- £1.802m net contribution to reserves in relation to ER/VR costs, Job Evaluation Settlement and Insurance recharges.
- £23.953m relates to a range of adjustments associated with capital charges, centralised repairs and maintenance and central administration recharges. In the main, this relates to capital charges (£20.251m).

9 Taking the outturn position into account, the Cash Limit Reserve to be carried forward for Neighbourhood Services is £5.076m.

Neighbourhood Services Capital 2014/2015

10 The following table sets out details of final spend for 2014/15 analysed by individual Heads of Service areas within the Neighbourhoods capital programme against the revised budget.

Head of Service	Revised Budget £'000	Outturn £'000s	Variance £'000s
Direct Services	4,464	1,949	(2,516)
P & B Services	6,639	5,503	(1,135)
Culture and Sport	823	606	(217)
Technical Services	27,193	25,919	(1,274)
Total	39,119	33,977	(5,141)

11 The 2014/15 capital spend for Neighbourhood Services was £33.977m against a revised budget of £39.119m, which is a £5.141m underspend for the year. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are as follows:

12 The underspend of £5.141m for Neighbourhood Services is mainly due to:

- **Direct Services** – Underspend £2.515m.
This is primarily due to the supplier revising the delivery date of vehicles ordered by the Authority during 2014/15 with delivery now expected in 2015/16.
- **Culture and Sport** – Underspend £0.217m.
The underspend in this area is due mainly to the following factors:
 - Wharton Park (£44k) - The demolition of Wharton Park house came in below tender and the construction programme was revised and will progress in 2015/16.
 - Newton Aycliffe CAP (£64k) - This scheme includes the demolition of an adjacent building not owned by the Council, which was delayed. It is anticipated that construction work will continue in 2015/16.

- DLI Museum Collection Restoration Scheme (£50k) - This scheme has been delayed due to the accommodation review currently being undertaken by Neighbourhood Services and has been reprofiled into 2015/16.
- **Projects and Business – Underspend £1.135m.**
Mainly due to an underspend on the Stanley CAP project, which was programmed over two years. The majority of the construction work will now be completed in 2015/16.
- **Technical Services – Underspend £1.274m**
The outturn position is due to the following factors:
 - The underspend of £0.254m relating to Bridges is due to work on a number of structures being reprogrammed into 2015/16 as a result of on-going issues with land negotiations or further investigatory work. An additional underspend of £55k is due to a number of completed schemes for which the final account will be processed in 2015/16.
 - Overall, Street Lighting schemes were underspent by £0.220m as several schemes were reliant on the Northern Grid Programme to underground their overhead network. In addition, there were savings on a number of schemes where costs were lower than projected as well as the use of trenchless technology, which reduced disruption and led to the actual charge being lower than the original estimate.
 - Highways – Final accounts for completed work are awaited and also the Speedvisor rotation costs within Traffic and Community Engagement were lower than originally planned. Work on the AAP schemes will continue into 2015/16.

Recommendations

13 It is recommended that:

- Overview and Scrutiny note the final outturn position on Revenue and Capital for 2014/15.

Contact:	Terry Collins	Tel:	03000 268080
	Phil Curran	Tel:	03000 261967

APPENDIX 1 - Implications

Finance

To set out details of the final outturn for 2014/15, highlighting areas of over / underspend against the revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services, at each Head of Service level and for the whole of Neighbourhood Services.

Staffing

There are no implications associated with this report.

Risk

There are no implications associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.

This page is intentionally left blank

12 October 2015



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES QUARTER 1 REVENUE & CAPITAL OUTTURN 2015 / 2016

Report of Neighbourhood Services Management Team

Purpose of the report

- 1 To set out details of the forecast outturn as at Quarter 1 for 2015/16, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Q1 forecast for the 2015/16 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget against the cash limit by £0.576m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from the strategic reserves, and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 3 The Q1 forecast for the 2015/16 Capital Outturn is currently estimated to be in line with the budget.

Neighbourhood Services Revenue 2015/2016

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

Head of Service	Revised Base Budget 2015/16 £'000	QTR 1 Report			Cash limit Variance Over/ (Under) £'000
		Quarter 1 Forecast (Apr-Jun) £'000	Variance Over/ (Under) £'000	Reserves / outside cash limit £'000	
Central Costs	1,350	1,356	6	0	6
Direct Services	36,776	36,984	209	(1,021)	(812)
Env, Health & C. Prot	5,399	5,339	(60)	(132)	(192)
Proj & Business Serv	15,852	17,989	2,137	(1,750)	387
Culture & Sport	18,350	18,850	500	(500)	0
Technical Services	25,779	26,074	295	(260)	35
Total	103,506	106,592	3,087	(3,613)	(576)

- 5 The forecast revenue outturn for 2015/16 is under budget against the cash limit by £0.576m, after taking account of the forecast use of reserves, and items outside the cash limit.

- 6 The forecast underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across Neighbourhoods to remain within the cash limit. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are shown below:
- Direct Services are forecast to be under budget by £0.812m. £0.481m of this relates to underspends on premises costs relating to Admin Buildings closing early as part of the office accommodation programme, which are achieving MTFP savings in 2016/17 earlier than originally planned, together with a further £0.631m of other 2016/17 MTFP savings being achieved early. These underspends are offset by a managed overspend of £0.300m relating to investment in cemetery repairs and maintenance, where Neighbourhoods are investing in improvements rather than making a bid for capital resources.
 - Technical Services is showing a balanced position in 2015/16, with a small overspend outturn position of £0.035m being reported. Within this there are savings on employee costs within Design Services and additional surplus on the trading account areas of £0.241m forecast, which have offset overspends on utility costs and increased activity in the non-trading areas, particularly relating to policy led expenditure on highways maintenance in relation to Category 1 and 2 defects.
 - Environment, Health and Consumer Protection is projected to underspend by £0.192m, largely attributable to underspends on employees, supplies and services and transport in Health Protection, Consumer Protection and Environmental Protection.
 - Projects and Business Support is forecast to overspend by a net £0.387m, primarily due to significant increases in the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) costs within the Strategic Waste (£1.2m) which are as a result of a national reduction in the market value of recycled materials and therefore outside the control of the Council, together with reduced income from power generation at Joint Stocks (£0.2m) as a result of changes to the Climate Change Levy introduced in the July Budget. These overspends are being offset by savings on the waste disposal budgets (£476k) and underspends on employee and supplies and services across all other areas of the service. The £0.2m budget pressure in relation to power generation has been treated as outside the cash limit.
- 7 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the forecasted cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Neighbourhood Services is £5.442m

Neighbourhood Services Capital 2015 / 2016

- 8 The following table sets out details of forecast spend for 2015/16 analysed by individual Heads of Service areas within the Neighbourhoods capital programme against the revised budget.

Head of Service	Revised Budget £'000	Outturn £'000s	Variance £'000s
EH&CP	0	0	0
Direct Services	4,138	4,138	0
Projects & Business Services	10,223	10,223	0
Culture and Sport	5,914	5,914	0
Technical Services	28,229	28,229	0
Total	48,504	48,504	0

As at 31 March 2015, the NS Capital Programme for 2015/16 was £39.119m. Re-profiling of budget from 2014/15 of £7.237m was then agreed at the Capital Member/Officer Working Group on 22 May 2015. This resulted initially in a revised budget of £46.356m.

- 9 The capital budget has subsequently been adjusted at MOWG meetings during the year as a result of additional funding sources being identified, and this has now resulted in a revised 2014/15 Capital Programme of £48.504m. It is currently anticipated that the full budget of £48.504m will be spent in 2015/16.

Recommendations

- 10 It is recommended that:
- Overview and Scrutiny note the Quarter 1 forecast outturn position on Revenue and Capital for 2015/16.

Contact:	Terry Collins	Tel:	03000 268080
	Phil Curran	Tel:	03000 261967

APPENDIX 1 - Implications

Finance

To set out details of the Q1 forecast outturn, highlighting areas of over / underspend against the revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services, at each Head of Service level and for the whole of Neighbourhood Services.

Staffing

There are no implications associated with this report.

Risk

There are no implications associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.



Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group

**Minutes from the Meeting held on
Wednesday, 20th May 2015, 3.00 p.m. to 4.25 p.m.,
Conference Room 4B,
Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ**

Present:

Claire Barry (CB) [Minutes], PA to the Head of Technical Services, Durham County Council
David Charlton (DC), Project Manager, Northumbrian Water Limited
Jim Cokill (JCI), Trust Director, Durham Wildlife Trust
Paul Constantine (PC), Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team Leader, Environment Agency
Councillor Jim Cordon (JCn), Durham County Council/NRFCC Member
Simon Longstaff (SL), Drainage and Coastal Defence Manager, Durham County Council
Phil Marshall (PM), Team Leader, Partnerships and Strategic Overview, Environment Agency
John Reed (JR) [Chair], Head of Technical Services, Durham County Council
Zoe Thirlaway (ZT), Senior Spatial Policy Officer, Durham County Council
Brian Weatherall (BW), Senior Drainage Engineer, Durham County Council
Chris Woodley-Stewart (CWS), Director North Pennines, AONB Partnership

Apologies:

Brian Buckley (BB), Strategic Highways Manager, Durham County Council
Les Hall (LH), Development Manager, Northumbrian Water Limited
Martin Kennedy (MK), Sustainable Sewerage Manager, Northumbrian Water Limited
Tony Ward (TW), Senior Project Manager, Durham County Council

	Subject	Assigned Officer	By When
1.	<p>LNP Support - Work of the SFRP</p> <p>JCI and CWS were in attendance to provide an update on the Local Nature Partnership and how the Partnership could contribute to this group.</p> <p>JR advised that the purpose of this group is to address the practical aspects of delivering flood prevention schemes in County Durham. It was agreed that JCI and CWS are to provide a presentation at the next meeting on funding streams and practical examples of how they can contribute to flood prevention schemes in County Durham.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>JCI/ CWS</p>	<p>-</p> <p>19.08.15</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from the Previous Meeting – 19th February 2015</p> <p><i>Update from the Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NRFCC)</i></p>		

	PM advised that the sum of £3.2 million is additional on top of the funding of £45 million.	-	-
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Seaham The claim submitted at the end of March 2015 has been agreed.</p> <p>Etherley Lane DCC have approached NWL for additional funding.</p> <p>Dashboard Reports TW is to arrange for future reports to include the name of the Project Manager for each scheme.</p>	- - TW	- - 31.07.15
4.	<p>Capital Programme – Dashboard Report</p> <p>SL presented the report. The following point was noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chester le Street: The longer term aspiration is to open this up to create a watercourse. The developer at the Cricket Ground has stated that it would be beneficial to link this with the footpath works; ZT is to liaise with the Case Officer. The N/E LEP has advised that this is one of their priorities. PM is to provide the video link of what the area could look like to JCn. PM is to arrange for a subgroup to be formulated to discuss how this will be taken forward; JCI and SL are to be invited. JR advised that when a proposal has been developed consultation is to take place with the Chester le Street Councillors. 	 ZT PM PM	 19.06.15 19.06.15 30.06.15
5.	<p>Efficiencies</p> <p>Central Government have advised that there is to be a target of 10% on efficiencies and guidance regarding how these are to be recorded is to be circulated. The group confirmed that a presentation is to take place at the next meeting if the guidance has been received.</p>	-	-
6.	<p>Update on Durham Medium Term Plan (MTP)</p> <p>The MTP document is to be refreshed in order that this is brought in line with the six-year plan; SL is meeting with PM during w/c 25th May 2015. An update is to be provided at the next meeting and, upon finalisation, the document is to be circulated to this group.</p> <p>The Coastal Strategy is to reviewed and updated; SL is to address.</p>	 SL SL	 31.07.15 31.05.16
7.	<p>Update on Flood Investigations</p> <p>Durham County Council DCC have received 256 requests for investigations from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015; 256 have been completed.</p>	-	-

	<p>A breakdown of the investigations detailed by the geographical areas is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chester le Street: 24 ▪ Derwentside: 52 ▪ Durham: 45 ▪ Easington: 47 ▪ Northumberland: 1 (this is being addressed by DCC however is outside of Durham County) ▪ Sedgefield: 30 ▪ Teesdale: 25 ▪ Wear Valley: 32 <p>A breakdown of the investigations detailed by the source of the flooding is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sewer: 16 ▪ Highway: 53 ▪ Overland: 26 ▪ River/water: 21 ▪ Non related: 140 	-	-
8.	<p>Update from the Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NRFCC)</p> <p>JR advised that Councillor Hall has resigned due to other commitments and would like to formally thank Councillor Hall for the excellent work he has undertaken for this group at the NRFCC.</p> <p>JR welcomed Councillor Cordon back to the group in the role of NRFCC Member.</p> <p>SL advised that NRFCC have authorised for the 2014/15 FDGiA funding to be carried over to this year.</p>	-	-
9.	<p>Funding - Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation</p> <p>The rules that have been approved by Government are awaited for notification of the areas that are eligible for funding. Maggie Bosanquet is to be invited to the next meeting to provide an update; CB is to action.</p>	CB	19.06.15
10.	<p>Northumbrian Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP)</p> <p>Studies are to be part-funded by DCC and NWL; SL advised that information has been submitted to NWL. Flood areas are being reviewed to determine schemes that would benefit to be taken forward.</p>	-	-
11.	<p>Plans</p> <p><i>EA Flood Risk Management Plans</i> The consultation has been completed.</p>	-	-

	<p>Infrastructure Delivery Plan This is part of the County Durham Plan and is being addressed over the course of the next month.</p> <p>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy An update on the overarching strategy is to be progressed through Cabinet over the next few months, following which, consultation is to take place with the public.</p> <p>Surface Water Management Plan DCC are to determine if the plan is to be refreshed; ZT is to address.</p> <p>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) There is a national policy framework that includes Lead Flood Authorities. DCC are now a statutory consultee and are producing a plan regarding the SuDS requirements; BW is addressing this.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>ZT</p> <p>-</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>30.06.15</p> <p>-</p>
12.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No issues were raised.</p>	-	-
	<p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, 19th August 2015, 3.00 p.m. Conference Room 4B, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ</p>		



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Tuesday 16th June 2015
Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

- Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
- Adrian Vass - Natural England
- Tara Duncan - Durham University

Attendees:

- Chair:** Terry Collins - Durham County Council
- Julie Form - Groundwork North East
- Andrew Turner - Environment Agency
- Claire Thompson - Durham Wildlife Trust
- Brad Tooze - Natural England
- Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
- Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
- Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
- Tim Wright - Durham County Council
- Kirsty Wilkinson - Durham County Council
- Jayne Watson - Durham County Council
- Victoria Burrell - Durham County Council
- Stella Hindson - Durham County Council
- Amanda Bryden - Durham County Council
- Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. Introductions were given.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising Terry Collins reported that the full programme for Lumiere had not yet been released but gave details of some of the proposed features. Details of the full programme to be presented at the next Board meeting. Gordon Elliott said that he and Claire Thompson had met to discuss the potential of AAPs being involved in health and environmental projects. They have agreed to work on some ideas and to put them to AAP members. They have also met with Chris Scorer as public health interest.</p>	Terry Collins

	<p>Tim Wright is now a member of the Environment Partnership Board as it was thought that a health representative would be beneficial.</p> <p>It was reported that World Environment Day went well and litter picks took place in Durham, Consett, Seaham and West Auckland. Press articles appeared in various newspapers.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy</p> <p>Kirsty Wilkinson stated that the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy consultation will close in 4 weeks. Because there is so much work to do the strategy will be expanded to 2020. The Altogether Greener aspect was discussed at the last Board meeting where there was some discussion on how to achieve the objective. She added that ROSPA recommendations (such as infrastructure improvements, railings, lighting, etc) need to be incorporated. If there are any comments, amendments or omissions in relation to the draft document email Kirsty by 12th July 2015.</p> <p>Oliver Sherratt proposed looking at increasing opportunities for restorative justice for criminal damage. Kirsty Wilkinson to add this proposal to the strategy.</p> <p>Kirsty Wilkinson left the meeting.</p>	<p>Kirsty Wilkinson</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Environment and Health: Joint Working & Strategies</p> <p>Claire Thompson presented the latest position on the Environment and Health: Joint Working Strategy document. Claire thanked members of the Environment Partnership for their feedback and assistance with the production of the document. The next review of the document is November 2015 and evidence is required by the end of September 2015. This document will be presented to the Directors of Public Health on 17th July 2015 where key messages in relation to the benefits of health and the environment need to be given. There is a Big Tent workshop taking place on 4th November 2015 where the key messages of the strategy will be promoted. The Environment Partnership can assist with promoting these messages and Victoria Burrell suggested general communications linked to health and the environment could be given via the Environment Partnership's communications channels.</p> <p>The AAP's healthy town initiative in Shildon is an example of a health and environment project (Gordon Elliott is working with Councillor Stevens on this project). It was agreed by the Environment Partnership that the Shildon project will be used as an example to promote the benefits of health and environment to AAP's.</p> <p>Gordon Elliott to investigate early intervention opportunities.</p> <p>Julie Form and Claire Thompson to meet to discuss the action plan.</p>	<p>Gordon Elliott</p> <p>Julie Form/Claire Thompson</p>

5. Updates from Group Chairs & Questions

Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group

Oliver Sherratt circulated copies of The Coastal, Heritage and Landscape Steering Group Newsletter (Issue 8). He provided an update of the work being carried out by the group which included:-

- The design and installation of a plaque at the former home of Norman Cornish.
- Cold blooded and spineless project.
- Limestone Landscapes.
- Village Atlases.
- Heritage Open Days.
- Wildflower Meadows – 6 more wildflower meadows, sowed with perennials and annuals (bringing the total number to 8).
- Woodlands.
- Heritage at Risk.
- Toasty in Teesdale – Energy Conservation measures.
- Bright Water.
- Durham City riverbanks – work with riverbank safety group.
- Careful Environment Awards – Oliver would like to see individuals within the groups nominate candidates rather than just the chairman of the groups.

Oliver added that the volunteers who had carried out the litter picks had done a great job.

Environment in Your Communities

Julie Form reported that the group had met in April. Work being carried out by the group included:-

- A rolling programme of Community Action Team (CAT) work – work has finished in the Horden area and now focusing in Bishop Auckland.
- Publicity.
- In terms of the Waste Group Julie Dingwall is now attending meetings. Victoria Burrell met with Julie to discuss the promotion of National Recycling Week.
- Monitoring green waste collections.
- Continuing work on Nourishing Neighbourhoods – 3 growing champions, running courses on Growing Together and getting children involved.
- Looking at allotments.
- Working with the Pride Team – The Big Spring Clean went well.
- Have given out 10 awards.
- Volunteering.

Work ongoing with the flytipping group – CCTV cameras.

A discussion about flytipping took place where it was noted that there has been a 32% reduction in flytipping

	<p>Operational Programme will be signed off in July with local calls going out in September (not confirmed). Thematic objective 5 has remained where there is £10.6million for green and blue infrastructure projects on site and upstream, which protect business from flood events - European funding match is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the sustainable development sections of European Structural Investment Fund through the Sustainable Growth Advisory Group. • 3Rivers website has been redesigned and goes live 1st July. 	
6.	<p>Environment Partnership Communications</p> <p>Stella Hindson circulated copies of the draft Summer edition Altogether Greener newsletter. She encouraged group members to spread the word regarding the Environment Awards.</p> <p>Stella is to add Heritage Open Days to the events and activities part of the newsletter. She asked that any further items to be included to be sent to her by the end of the week. Stella to send the link to the newsletter once it's completed.</p>	<p>Stella Hindson</p> <p>Stella Hindson</p>
7.	<p>Environment Awards</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick informed the group that this year's Environment Awards were launched on 5th June 2015 and the closing date is 24th July 2015. Information is available on the DCC website. There are 12 categories and there has been some good press coverage. He added that 6 entries have already been received. Judging will be the same as last year with the three group chairs assessing the entries. Sponsorship is coming in. A copy of the 2014 Winners List was circulated. The 25th year celebratory book is still in the process of being printed.</p> <p>The proposed date of the award ceremony is 5th November 2015 to be held at the Radisson, however it was suggested that the date should be rearranged and possibly the venue.</p> <p>Copies of the Environment Awards 2015 application information guide were circulated.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>None.</p>	
9.	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>10th September 2015, 9.30am to 11.30am, Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham.</p>	

This page is intentionally left blank