



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 22 January 2016**
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 9 November 2015 and 1 December 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. Big Spring Clean - Chair of Litter Free Durham.
8. Rural and Isolated Bin Collections Consultation: (Pages 17 - 22)
 - a) Joint Report of Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services.
 - b) Presentation by Oliver Sherratt, Head of Direct Services.
9. Contaminated Land and Inspection Strategy - Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services. (Pages 23 - 26)
10. Quarter 2 2015/2016: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn
Neighbourhood Services - Report of the Head of Finance. (Pages 27 - 30)
11. Quarter 2 2015/2016 Performance Management Report - Report of Corporate Management Team. (Pages 31 - 40)
12. Review of Council Plan and Service Plans - Report of Assistant Chief Executive. (Pages 41 - 48)

13. Minutes of the Meeting of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 10 September 2015. (Pages 49 - 56)
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

14 January 2016

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 **Monday 9 November 2015 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, D Bell, E Bell, J Clare, J Clark, D Freeman, D Hall, G Holland, P May, A Liversidge, O Milburn, S Morrison, P Stradling and L Taylor

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Armstrong, J Gray, I Jewell, S Zair and P Spurrell.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 1 October 2015, 6 October 2015 and 12 October 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 Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes). The articles were:-

- New Depot Ready as part of Winter Preparations.
- Jon Gluyas: UK is sleepwalking into an energy crisis, says Durham University professor.
- City of Durham leads north east regional success stories in Britain in Bloom – It was confirmed that Durham County Council received a Gold award. The Chairman and Members wished to send their congratulations.

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Committee be sent on the success in the regional Britain in Bloom awards.

7 Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan Update

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

M Bosanquet, Climate Change Team Leader and S Beresford, Senior Sustainability and Climate Change Officer were in attendance to present the report.

S Beresford advised Members that the climate change strategy and delivery plan were submitted and approved by Cabinet on the 15 July 2015.

2012 was the most up to date data that showed that County Durham emitted 2,951 tonnes of CO₂, this was an increase from 2011 but it was a colder winter in 2012. The Council were on track for the 2020 target.

The information provided for the total renewable energy capacity in County Durham also included planned installations.

Energy from Solar PV had doubled from 12MWe in 2012 to 23MWe in September 2015. This would slow down due to legislative changes. Members were advised that since the report had been written government had changed the legislation to remove the tax relief for investors in community energy schemes.

M Bosanquet advised Members that they were hosting a community energy event for earth hour in March which would be held at Coxhoe Leisure Centre which was an impressive building in terms of energy. The event would be looking at what managers of buildings could do to reduce their energy bills.

She referred to the European bids for funding that had recently been submitted for work on public buildings and in communities which were discussed at the last meeting and advised Members that they would find out next month if they had moved to the next stage.

She referred to the Solar Farm at Tanfield which would have produced £1m to £2m for the Council but due to the change in the Feed in Tariff for solar panels had meant that the land would now be leased to allow a third party to develop the site. The Councils data centre would still be able to use the power from the development.

Members were advised of a new partnership project entitled 'Activating Community Engagement', which was being developed by Northern Powergrid with Weardale AAP. The project was set up to tackle peak hours of electricity which was from 4.30 pm to 7.00 pm and was an alternative to upgrading the grid. The project would ask people to use less energy at peak times by giving a reward. Participants would be given a smart plug which would switch off certain appliances during peak times and participants would be given points which would be given to a community group of your choice as well as a £500 prize for the community group with the most points. The pilot would be running in Weardale area which began on 1 November 2015 and they were currently looking for participants to join. The Chairman was provided with a leaflet in relation to the scheme and a future report would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Councillor May referred to tumble dryers and how he was advised that if you used a longer programme it would use less energy. If this was true could an article be placed in the councils magazine to advise residents of this. Officers responded that it would depend on the model so it would be difficult to put this message in an article.

Councillor Milburn referred to the Comeleon House project at Tanfield and indicated that she was concerned that at the end of the lease the land would need to be reinstated and asked if this could be included in the lease. Officers responded that solar panels were still efficient after 20 years but they would look into incorporating the reinstatement of land into the lease.

Councillor E Bell referred to the brochure for the Activating Community Engagement and sought clarification if these had been distributed to the community. Officers responded that the leaflets were produced by the Northern Powergrid and they managed to obtain a copy at a meeting on Friday.

Councillor Holland referred to the targets for 2020 which were too low and now the government were scrapping schemes and that planning guidance should state that all new buildings should be energy neutral.

The Chairman enquired about the progress of the European Structural and Investment Fund bids. The Officer advised that the bids were currently in the first stage and not expected to hear if they had been successful until the end of November 2015. If successful at this stage further documentation would be completed and sent by early 2016; and a final decision would be taken March 2016. The Officer advised that the Committee would be kept updated.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted.

8 Winter Maintenance Policy

The Committee considered the joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods which provided members with an update on the Winter Maintenance Policy together with a presentation (for copy of report and presentation, see file of minutes).

J Reed, Head of Technical Services and B Buckley, Strategic Highways Manager were in attendance to provide Members with details of the service changes for 2015/16 and an overview of policy and operational service.

J Reed advised Members that the service changes and improvements were as follows:-

- New Depot – Wolsingham salt barn which were better facilities and would improve resilience.
- 14 new replacement Gritting vehicles.
- 1 new Snow blower which was a multi-hog and could be used for patching and digging in finer months.
- Renewed weather forecasting service.
- Annual review of routes.
- Extended season for High/Low Pennines.
- Tracking system on all vehicles.
- ICT/GIS potential 'Go Live' for public access to tracking/gritting service.

The weather stations could be viewed on the Council's website and had live updates every 10 minutes.

B Buckley circulated a leaflet on the winter maintenance service to Members and advised that the winter maintenance policy was aligned with the national code of practice 'Well-Maintained Highways'. He went on to advise members that it was not practical to treat all parts of the adopted highway and the policy prioritised adopted routes and details were provided of Carriageways Priority 1 (precautionary salting and post treatment), Carriageways Priority 2 (post treatment), Carriageways (snow Clearance), Carriageways (minimum winter network), Footways (snow clearance) and Cycleways (snow clearance).

The Council provided salt and grit bins for the public to use themselves based on a criteria, details of which were provided. Members of the public could request a salt bin assessment via Customer Services.

Members were provided with the following key facts and figures:-

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|---|---------------|
| • Total length of carriageway | 3,780 Kms |
| • Percentage of Carriageway treated (priority 1) | 45% |
| • Total winter maintenance budget | £5.4 m |
| • Total salt stocks at start of winter
(this would cover best part of a severe winter) | 42,000 tonnes |
| • Power Gritters (including contractors) | 37 |
| • Trailer Gritters (including contractors) | 33 |
| • Snowblowers | 6 |
| • Salt Bins | 2,310 |
| • Priority 1 Pre-salting routes | 38 |
| • Average cost per turn-out (Countywide) | £28,000 |
| • Average salt usage per turn-out | 250 tonnes |
| • Average salt costs | £27 per tonne |

The Council worked in partnership with several town and parish councils. The public could help by clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside their homes. There had been some concern expressed that clearing snow/ice could lead to frontagers being prosecuted in the event of an accident.

Officers confirmed that legal advice was that this was unlikely provided that their actions were reasonable and did not make the situation worse from their actions.

Following the presentation, the Chairman thanked Officers for their very informative presentation and asked Members for questions.

Councillor E Bell sought clarification if salt was degradable. Officers responded that they needed to keep salt dry but it was not degradable.

Members referred to the salt bins in particular how the salt was being taken from the bins for commercial purposes.

Officers responded to say that any activity that was observed regarding the misuse/theft of salt for commercial gain should be reported to the Police or HAL. The public should not endanger themselves by confrontation but noting vehicle registrations would be helpful.

Officers also stated that the public demand for salt bins exceeded ability. The salt bins themselves were not expensive but the costs to maintain were high. They responded to service requests and used the council's criteria to assess if a salt bin was required. They did offer a service to Members and parish councils of providing a dumpy bag of grit and salt at a cost of approximately £100 which included delivery to a location of their choice.

Councillor Holland sought clarification of the new weather forecaster and if they serviced other local authorities. He also sought clarification if there was a budget to repair damaged roads as a result of the bad weather.

Officers responded that the contract for the weather forecaster was Meteo Group which was an external service which went through the Council's tendering process which was based on 70% quality and 30% price. Other local authorities also used the Meteo Group and the Council had used them for the past six years.

In relation to the damage to roads the Council had a budget for resurfacing and reserves were available for unexpected events. In 2012 when it was severe weather they received additional funding through reserves.

Councillor Clare referred to the circulated leaflet and sought clarification on his understanding of Priority 1 and Priority 2 roads on Newton Aycliffe Industrial estate as it was important that the roads on the estate were cleared.

Officers responded that it was not realistic to treat 100% of the adopted highway but the blue roads shown on the map were priority 1 and the orange roads were priority 2. 45% of the adopted highway was treated at priority 1 which was high so they were unable to have Newton Aycliffe estate cleared as they concentrated on strategic routes.

Councillor Clark referred to the partnership working arrangements and if these were reviewed on an annual basis. Officers responded that they weren't reviewed last year but they would be reviewed to see if there were any changes.

The Council are the responsible highway authority and the Town/Parishes help deliver the policy and the Council provided the salt.

Councillor Stradling added that the Town and Parish Councils provide valuable assistance in delivering the winter service and an enhanced service where we would ordinarily be unable to provide with our own resources.

Officers recognised and acknowledged this valuable assistance.

Councillor Milburn requested that when the partnership working arrangements review had been carried out could this information be relayed to all members of the Council.

Members were advised that the Council provided salt/grit, equipment and training to parish councils who help to deliver Durham County Council Winter Maintenance Policies.

Officers advised that this information would be presented to the next Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved: (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That an update on the delivery of winter maintenance for 2015/16 and detail of winter maintenance plans for 2016/17 be provided to the committee at the July 2016 meeting.

9 Waste Programme Update

The committee considered the joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director Neighbourhoods which provided members with supporting information in advance of the update on the waste programme (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

A Patrickson, Head of Projects and Business Services provided members with a presentation which provided details of the garden waste review, waste transfer stations and the campaigns update (for copy of slides, see file of minutes).

Members were advised in relation to garden waste collections that the assumptions were that they would have a take up of 40% and 60% tonnage of previous. The outcome was that they had a 35% take up and tonnage of 71% of previous. The financial model estimated a balance of £976k but the current outturn estimates was £1.120k. Details of the major variances were provided together with a SWOT analysis.

Customer feedback indicated that 358 complaints had been received about the service since it was launched, the majority related to missed bins. 5 of the complaints were referred to the ombudsman and 155 requests had been received to extend or review the collection dates.

In conclusion, the scheme had been successful financially, the objectives had been met and negative feedback had been limited. Moving forward in 2016 they were going to

increase marketing of the 240 litre bin option, consider charities churches etc. where criteria was met, more visibility of summary of terms and conditions on letter and increase the collections to 17.

Members were provided with photographs of the waste transfer stations which were transferred back to Durham County Council following Premier Waste Management being wound up. The stations were located at Station Grove in Barnard Castle, Heighington Lane in Newton Aycliffe, Annfield Plaine and Thornley. All were in poor condition but capital money had been secured to refurbish the sites and replace the majority of the Thornley facility.

Members were updated on the Bin it right campaign, Durham City University Student Campaign and Green Move Out Campaign. The Bin it Right Campaign had been so successful engaging with over 19,000 members of the public and delivering 2,813 recycling boxes and bags. Durham City University Student Campaign and the Green Move Out had been extremely successful and had extended a reuse scheme for small appliances used by the university for student who live out. The Committee was advised that the County Council had secured £30,906 funding from the increasing recycling through local communication fund that is run in conjunction with Sainsburys Supermarkets. Durham County Council was one of eight local authorities to receive funding which aims to compliment the Bin it Right campaign and is for residents who are good recyclers.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for a very informative presentation and asked members for questions.

Councillor Holland referred to the Durham City University Student Campaign and complimented the team on their work which was outstanding. He asked if the garden waste could be taken to SETA to be used as energy.

The Officer responded that it was more financially viable to treat separately as it was £20-£22 a ton to compost or £78 a ton plus transport to send to a plant.

Councillor Stradling commented that it was good that there was going to be an extra collection but more checks of the contents of the bins needed to be carried out. He also commented that not everyone who was using the service had paid.

The Officer responded that they encouraged people to share bins but it was not an offence to put green waste into your refuse bin.

Councillor Adam referred to the complaints received and sought clarification if action had been taken. The Officer responded that the majority of complaints were in relation to missed bins, which in comparison to the number of bins was small but each complaint had been investigated.

Councillor Clare praised the service but sought clarification on the tonnage for waste which was 70% and 30% for garden waste at a cost of £70 for a bin and £20 for a green bin and was this hidden cost shown in the savings.

The Officer responded that they couldn't measure how much green waste was placed in refuse bins but this had been taken into consideration into the model but was an estimate as

they did not measure it. They had tracked where the garden waste was going, which was the recycling centres but they had not seen an increase in fly tipping or an increase in waste. It was thought that people were composting and a few were placing green waste into the refuse bin.

Councillor Clark referred to the bins which were no longer used and indicated that she had made a request for some bins to be collected but this had not been done. Some of the bins were full with rubbish from previous tenants.

The Officer responded that he would chase this up but they only removed bins when requested as there was a cost implication and as there was a cost for the service the bins needed to be in good condition.

Councillor E Bell sought clarification on the average life span of a bin and if they would replace a bin and if there was a cost.

The Officer responded that if a bin was well looked after it would last decades but if it was at the end of its life they would replace at no cost.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted.

10 Light Touch Review of Parking on Council Land

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which set out the findings, conclusion and recommendation of the light touch review which looked at parking on council land (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

Resolved: That the committee make four recommendations to the Portfolio Holder and ask that he provide a response to the committee in relation to the committee's findings, conclusion and recommendations:

- a) That Neighbourhood Services with assistance from Legal Services, investigate, monitor and review new legislation such as The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for any future options to address parking on council land issues.
- b) To increase education/ awareness to highlight to drivers the need to park considerately for the safety of pedestrians and other road users using cost effective measures such as Durham County News; DCC website and through social media
- c) That members of the Council use Customer Services as first point of contact to ensure the enquiry is allocated to the right team and members receive a unique reference number from the Customer Relationship Management system should they need to follow up their query.
- d) That each case of parking on council owned land is looked at on an individual basis.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 1 December 2015 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, D Bell, J Clare, J Clark, J Gray, D Hall, G Holland, I Jewell, A Liversidge, O Milburn, S Morrison, P Stradling and L Taylor

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton

Also Present:

Councillors R Crute, M Davinson, B Kellett, J Rowlandson and M Nicholls

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Armstrong, E Bell, S Foster, P May, S Zair and 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 Overview of Fuel Poverty within County Durham

The Committee considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development which provided members with an overview of fuel poverty within the County (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

Dianne Hedley, Housing Regeneration Manager and Cliff Duff, Housing Regeneration Project Manager provided members with a presentation on fuel poverty (for copy of slides, see file of minutes).

Dianne Hedley provided Members with information on who are the fuel poor and what is fuel poverty.

Nationally there is now a Fuel Poverty Strategy for England 2015 – 2030, which is the first strategy in 14 years. There are over 320,000 fuel poor household in England who live in properties rated below band 'E' level EPC rating who need to spend on average £1,000 a year more on energy to heat their home compared to a typical home. Through the Energy Act 2013, the government established a fuel poverty target which set out an ambition that as many fuel poor homes as reasonably practicable achieve a Band C energy efficiency standard by 2030 and this became law in December 2014. The interim milestones included as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to Band E by 2020 and as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to Band D by 2025.

Regionally there were estimated to be 134,895 fuel poor households and in County Durham there were estimated to be 26,050 fuel poor households.

In County Durham there were 226,091 domestic properties and 175,489 owner occupied and privately rented resulting in the estimated overall percentage of household in fuel poverty within the county of 11.5% and up to 35% fuel poverty in rural areas which were off gas and hard to treat properties.

Members were shown a map which provided information taken from the stock condition survey which provided details of the percentage of homes on a geographical basis in fuel poverty within the county together with detail of those areas that are off gas settlements.

Members were then provided with details of the delivery and monitoring of fuel poverty within the county via the County Durham Affordable Warmth Strategy, Housing Strategy, Poverty Action Plan and the Energy and Fuel Poverty Partnership.

Cliff Duff informed that the County Durham Warm Homes Campaign is used within the county to get the message to residents in large rural and semi-urban areas. The campaign provides the Countrywide co-ordination and promotion of local and national schemes in 900 local community venues across the County with the aim of having a venue in each settlement. The campaign raises the awareness and uptake of grants to increase energy efficiency and assist income maximisation. The information within the campaign is constantly having to be refreshed as schemes change and an e-newsletter is now used.

The Warm up North partnership comprises a total of nine local authorities including Durham County Council along with British Gas. Funding is provided by British Gas and since the partnership commenced there have been 4,000 referrals to the Warm up North scheme helping households to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The Contract was from September 2013 for a five year period with an extension period of an extra three years built into the contract terms.

Members were provided with details of Warm up North energy efficiency measures installed to date in County Durham and surrounding local authorities for comparison with County Durham in October 2015 having 1632 energy efficiency measures installed.

The committee was informed that the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) had a £25m Central Heating Fund to support local authorities to deliver the installation of 7,000 first time central heating systems in fuel poor households.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change had agreed to award £6.56m to the Warm up North partnership which comprised a total of nine local authorities including Durham County Council along with British Gas.

The main outcomes of the bid were to include:

- 1,313 new energy efficient gas boilers and central heating systems.
- 250 new energy efficiency oil boilers and central heating systems in off gas grid areas.
- 426 new Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) and central heating systems in off gas grid areas.
- Energy efficiency advice provided to all households in the project.
- Improved joint working with health providers.
- Improved targeting of fuel poor households.
- Project evaluation carried out by an independent external organisation

The project lead was Northumberland County Council and would commence December 2015 until August 2016. Durham County Council's promotional strategy would be launched on the 14 December 2015. The criteria to qualify for assistance from the project would be a total households income of less than £26,000 (including benefits) and no central heating or partial central heating or electric storage radiators in the property.

The Warm and Healthy Homes Project was launched in 2014/15 and the project aimed to address exposure to both excess winter death and decrease hospital admissions for those who have a health condition relating to living in cold damp private sector homes.

The aim of the scheme is to install domestic energy efficiency measure resulting in warmer homes, which enabled people to manage fuel debt and assist in reducing cold related illnesses. The installation of these measures also aimed to enhance the condition of private sector housing stock across County Durham.

Funding is provided via Durham County Council Public Health Service and the Department of Energy and Climate Change Fuel Poverty and Health Booster funds to the end of 2016/17.

This was the second year of the scheme and an additional £100,000 had been received for 2015/16 from the Department of Energy and Climate Change Fuel Poverty and Health Booster Fund.

The scheme was not self-referral and all referrals have to be made by a health or social care professional or key stakeholder organisations which have been approved by Public

Health. There is also a fast track installation of 5 days (where this is possible) for those without heating and hot water, normal installation would be two to three weeks.

To date 193 referrals have been processed and 82 household have received new central heating systems.

Members were provided with a case study where a lady's gas fired central heating system had been condemned and she was referred from the Occupational Therapist due to a severe health condition. Through the project she got a new gas boiler installed and free loft and cavity wall installation through the Warm up North scheme and increased income via Disability Living Allowance together with a fire safety check and smoke alarms installed via Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

Following the presentation Members were asked for their questions.

Councillor Milburn referred to pre-payment meters and how the energy tariffs for these meters were always higher and if work was taking place, looking at different ways people could pay for these metres taking away the daily charge and introducing a standard charge when using pre-payment metres.

Officers responded that pre-paid meters do have higher tariffs. Some energy suppliers are using Smart meters as part of a national roll out programme. In addition there is more competition in the energy market providing various options with individuals no longer tied to a supplier. Although there is more competition in the energy market, some fuel poor households tended to stay with their current supplier. In addition, the Managing Money Better Scheme in County Durham helps individuals to move to a different supplier.

Councillor Holland commented that within the county, we suffer from poor standards of housing including new builds and there was an absence of renewable energy provision within homes including new homes. Having to pay for utilities by meter is more expensive and hits the poorest people of the community and this should be addressed. Food poverty and fuel poverty are linked with failure to deal with fuel poverty adding to the pressure on the National Health Service (NHS).

Officers responded that Band A rated houses were virtually impossible to build due to the associated costs however government wants to eliminate Bands F and G rated properties with new regulations to be issued in 2018 which would raise private properties to Band E and government aims to eliminate completely F and G Band properties by 2030. It was highlighted that improving private sector housing stock would improve other issues.

The Chairman referred to the cost of fuel resulting in people having less money for food and therefore not eating properly which would affect their health.

Officers responded that they had direct referrals from health professionals and they could refer people to other agencies. They had a strong link with Public Health.

Councillor Jewell commented that a significant proportion of older people have a fear of the cost of heating and therefore would not put the heating on or blocked the air flow which would cause issues with condensation. He referred to cavity wall insulation and how some properties were not suitable or could only have part wall insulation.

Officers responded that some cavities were too narrow so were not suitable for cavity wall insulation. They could subject to appropriate surveys have external wall insulation installed but this was more costly. In addition, officers could refer people to the Managing Money Better Scheme providing advice on how to manage their money better and how to switch supplier to obtain the best tariff available.

They recognised that in relation to cavity wall insulation one product was not suitable for all properties but there was now a new product available which could be used on properties with a narrow cavity.

Councillor Jewell sought clarification on the costs if you had already received a grant.

Officers responded that it may be possible that you could claim again as the schemes had been running for a number of years where schemes had ended and new schemes commenced. They could offer advice to people on how to use their boiler more efficiently. Durham County Council also had portable energy monitors available which individuals could lend to monitor energy consumption and help eliminate any fears and to ensure that the meter was working properly.

Councillor Clare referred to smart meters used to monitor consumptions and highlighted the need to ensure that individuals understood the readings being given otherwise this could cause the individual to panic when they see how much electricity was been used. He also asked for clarification if the Department of Energy and Climate Change scheme was open to private landlords and who was referred the tenant or landlord.

Officers responded that Durham County Council promote to both private sector landlords and private sector tenants however would require the consent of the landlord before agreement to install any measures. The Home Heating Cost Reduction Scheme through Warm up North which includes installation of subsidised boilers will be re-launched on the 14 December and promoted to those on benefits and will also be communicated to private landlords.

Councillor Davinson referred to the scale to get out of fuel poverty by 2015 and sought clarification if fuel prices rose would the scale be altered for those properties to come out of fuel poverty. He also referred to the legislation to get properties up to Band C standard by 2030. Some houses within the county would never achieve Band C, what would happen to these properties and the Band E properties by 2020. He also referred to the Warm up North Energy Efficient Measures installed to date in comparison to other authorities and would suggest that partnerships were working well. He also sought clarification on the quota for grants and when was the cut-off point.

He also referred to the external wall installation at Craghead which had resulted in an increase in the value of homes. He had been advised by one of the residents that she had made savings on her fuel costs and he wanted to congratulate officers on this project.

Officers responded that 10% of income spent on fuel was the previous proxy for fuel poverty and that it is difficult to raise properties up to Band C however currently you would receive 47 points for a new boiler, 13 points for cavity wall insulation and 10 points for roof insulation which would raise the SAP level to help make the property more energy efficient.

Products are available on the market which would help raise the SAP standards in older properties.

Companies had developed internal and external wall insulation products but the government had set an ambitious target and some properties would never achieve it. Internal installation was expensive and intrusive and it was debatable if the Government would achieve the target set within the strategy without providing appropriate mechanisms and further financial grant support to residents.

The Officer continued that the successful external wall installation at Craghead was undertaken as part of a housing regeneration programme which also included small scale demolition, returning empty properties back into use and through leveraging in external Energy Company Obligation funding had also resulted in homes having a number of fuel poverty measures installed. It is intended that officers will also use the landlord accreditation scheme to engage with landlords over the next 2 to 3 years to promote various fuel efficiency measures available.

Councillor Davinson sought clarification on who was responsible for ensuring that homes were up to standards. Officers responded that it was national legislation but there were initiatives to help achieve a Band E.

Councillor Clark referred to the publicity for the Warm and Healthy Homes Project and the need to ensure that Social work teams in hospitals are aware of the project. She continued that if heating issues were sorted out this could produce a saving in social care and could relieve the need for a carer. There is also a need to educate on how to use heating systems. She referred to 193 referrals processed and that 82 households received new heating systems but asked how this compared with the map of areas shown earlier.

Officers responded that they had undertaken work with services and were happy to enhance the programme and hoped to connect to more groups. They had held briefing sessions with practice managers and they were looking to run sessions again with CCG's in the county. Mapping of the locations of residents who had benefitted from the project would be undertaken which would also highlight potential areas for targeting.

They were currently working with British Gas in relation to areas which were off the gas grid and Mitsubishi would be doing road shows on heat pumps.

T Bolton referred to external cladding which had made a difference but had raised concerns with regard to the technical aspects in particular damp and sought clarification on how much testing had taken place in relation to external cladding.

Officers responded that a good supplier would offer a 25 to 30 year guarantee but individuals would need to check if companies were an accredited supplier. The only feedback they had received was positive but it was down to the quality of supplier and the guarantee offered. The average cost of external cladding was £8,000 for a mid-terrace and £12,000 for a terrace with a gable from an accredited supplier. T Bolton commented that external cladding was effective however some home owners were concerned about water getting in and dampness. The officer again commented on the need to ensure a good quality product and a good supplier with detail on suppliers appearing on the Energy

Savings Trust website. In addition, home owners could always approach Planning and Building Control services for advice.

The Chairman suggested that an information leaflet be produced to advise people where to check if a supplier is accredited and the officer responded that Durham County Council could look at how this information could be provided.

T Bolton commented that in relation to off gas areas was work still ongoing to get gas into areas particularly rural areas in the county. The officer responded that Northern Gas Network is wanting to expand its network however discussions were still ongoing.

Councillor Davinson commented that a property in his area paid £4,000 for external cladding and building control had to step in as it was not done properly, even though they were an accredited company.

Councillor Hall referred to air source heat which cost a lot of electricity to run and that some boilers with these pumps had broken down and therefore it was essential that any boilers installed had warranties. He suggested that solar panels could have been an alternative however the feed in tariff had been reduced.

He also sought clarification on the money generated from wind turbines and if this could be given to fuel poverty and would smart metres make it easier for companies to disconnect utilities for non-payment of bill.

Officers were unable to provide comment regarding the money generated from wind turbines. All the products that had been installed as part of the Warm up North scheme would be provided with warranties and had been tried and tested.

The Chairman thanked Officers for a very informative presentation and members for their attendance and questions.

Resolved: (i) That the contents of the report be noted.

(ii) That the committee receive a further update report on the progress of the Warm up North scheme at a future meeting.

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



22 January 2016

Rural and Isolated Bin Collections

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Members of the Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee on proposals to harmonise the council's refuse and recycling collection policy relating to properties situated on private unadopted lanes and farm tracks across the county.

Background

2. The majority of households in County Durham have their bins collected at the kerbside adjacent to the public highway. There are around 4,000 farms and other isolated properties throughout the county served by unadopted private roads. Prior to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), refuse collection was a district council function. Each authority adopted its own policy to servicing these properties. In Teesdale and Weardale, the council would not in the majority of cases, travel down unadopted roads and established collection points at lane ends. In other areas of the county, the normal approach would be to collect from outside of the property.
3. These different policies were adopted at LGR and have remained in place. Around half the properties affected have a lane end collection. These are mainly in the west of the county. The remainder (2,000) receive a collection from outside of the property.
4. An initial assessment indicates that around 1,400 are considered suitable for a lane end collection.

Proposal

5. It is proposed that a new bin collection policy would bring into line all rural and isolated properties. This would involve those households who currently have their bins emptied from outside their properties to have their rubbish and recycling collected from the end of the lane close to the highway, unless it is not practical or safe to do so.
6. There are several reasons for this proposal:
 - a) The County Council is continually looking to make services more efficient.

- b) To bring the service received by rural and isolated properties in other parts of the county into line with the service used in Teesdale and Weardale, which has operated successfully for many years.
 - c) Reduce damage to refuse collection vehicles and damage caused to farm tracks and private roads.
 - d) Opportunities for affected properties to receive recycling collections that were previously excluded from recycling initiatives due to large recycling collection vehicles being unable to negotiate the farm tracks and private roads.
7. All residents affected by the proposals have received a letter and were invited to complete a survey. 42% of survey forms have been returned to date. A copy of the questions is enclosed in **Appendix 2**.
8. The Head of Direct Services will provide members with a PowerPoint presentation which will cover:
- Current position
 - The need for change
 - Benchmarking with other authorities
 - Headline consultation results from affected properties
 - Safeguards that would be built into the policy
 - Next steps

Recommendation

9. Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:
- a) Note the content of the report and the presentation
 - b) Comment on the proposals as a key consultee.

Contact: Oliver Sherratt, Head of Direct Services, Tel: 03000 269259
Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager Tel: 03000 268143

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Opportunities for savings contributing to £185,000 MTFP savings

Staffing - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Residents experiencing difficulties in putting out their rubbish due to age or disability may qualify for the council's assisted bin collection service

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – Safeguards need to be introduced to reduce potential fly tipping, vandalism and arson to bins

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – See **Equality and Diversity** section above

Risk and Legal Implications – Mitigation of potential insurance claims for damage to private roads and repairs to vehicles

Appendix 2: Consultation on refuse collections from farms/isolated properties

Have your say

We understand that each property is different and we will need to carefully consider which option will be most suitable at your property. By answering the following questions, you will help us to understand your circumstances, views and any concerns you may have.

By providing your address below, it will help us assess the suitability of introducing a lane ends collection policy at your property. Your answers will be confidential and we will only use the information for this consultation.

Name

Address 1

Address 2

Postcode

Please tick all those that apply:

Q1 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a standardised approach to the collection of bins from the edge of the highway where it is safe to do so?

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Tend to disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Please explain your reasons:

Q2 Would you require additional assistance if a lane ends collection policy was introduced at your property? (Please note that our refuse and recycling collection policy states that additional assistance is available to residents who are unable to transport their refuse and recycling to their collection point because of ill health, infirmity or disability and without other occupants in the household able to assist them).

Yes

No

Not sure

If yes, please tell us why:

Q3 Please describe any reasons why you feel your property is not suitable for having a refuse and recycling collection point adjacent to the highway.

Q4 Considering the two options for lane end collections, please tell us which would be your preference if the changes are introduced.

Relocate and cluster existing bin(s) at the edge of the highway.
Replace existing individual bins with a large communal bin.

Please explain your reasons:

Q5 If the option chosen for your property was to relocate and cluster existing bin(s) at the edge of the highway, would you need our help to relocate your bins to your new storage position?

Yes

No

Not sure

If yes, please tell us why:

Q6 After the consultation period is complete, we can offer you a meeting at your property to agree a suitable location for your bin storage point or discuss the lane end collection proposal further. Would you like a meeting at your property?

Yes

No

Not sure

If yes, please tell us the issues you would like to discuss:

To help us to organise a meeting or to contact you about additional assistance, please provide your contact details here.

Telephone

Email

Q7 Please tell us any other comments relating to this proposal or provide suggestions on alternative solutions for us to make our savings.

About you

We have responsibilities to ensure that certain groups are protected by equality legislation. If you could answer a few questions about yourself it will help us to monitor our performance. These questions are entirely optional. Your answers will be confidential and we will only use the information for this consultation.

Q8 Are you?

Male

Female

Q9 What is your age?

Under 16

16-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75+

Prefer not to say

Q10 Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

(This may include any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity which has a substantial effect on your day-to-day life. Long standing means it has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least a year).

Yes

No

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return by Monday, 11 January 2016.

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



22 January 2016

**Contaminated Land and
Inspection Strategy Update**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To Provide the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on Durham County Council's Contaminated Land and Inspection Strategy (CLIS).

Background

2. In April 2000, a statutory regime for the regulation of contaminated land was implemented, under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Act imposes a statutory duty on each local authority to strategically inspect the land within its area for the purpose of identifying land which could be defined as 'contaminated land'.
3. Contaminated land for the purpose of Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, is defined as 'any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under that:-
 - a). Significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or
 - b). Significant pollution of controlled waters is being caused, or there is significant possibility of such pollution being caused.
4. Under provisions of Part 2A local authorities are also obliged to produce a written CLIS outlining how they intend to fulfil their inspection duties.
5. In April 2014, members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the CLIS which set out the draft strategy and provided information in relation to a forth coming consultation.

Current Position

6. On 13th May 2015 CMT approved the draft 2015 CLIS for consultation with interested parties.
7. The review was a timely review and followed the release of new Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance by Defra in April 2012.

8. A formal public consultation took place between 6th July 2015 and 31st August 2015. Responses could be made either directly or by completing the online survey form on the Council's website. The survey was open ended and allowed respondents to answer freely on any aspect of the strategy.
9. A total of 8 interactions were made: 4 from residents and 4 from organisations. Responses were received from the following organisations: Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council; Durham Wildlife Trust; The Coal Authority and The Environment Agency (EA).
10. The consultation revealed overall strong support of the CLIS. The EA provided a detailed response relating to the controlled waters sections of the report and references to the Statutory Guidance.
11. The comments received at the end of the consultation period were collated and considered. Changes were made to the 2015 CLIS in light of the EA's feedback along with some additional alterations. None of the changes altered the original draft priority actions or aims of the CLIS.
12. The updated 2015 CLIS was approved by Cabinet on 18th November 2015.
13. The 2015 CLIS is essentially an operational plan that sets out how the Council will meet its statutory duties in respect to contaminated land in line with the guidance and the Council's Corporate Plan. It is now published on the Council's website and will be in place until 2020.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

- Defra (April 2012) Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A, Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance, HM Government.
- Durham County Council's November 2011 Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.
- Durham County Council's September 2015 Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.
- Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Contact: Sarah Clement Dawson Senior Contaminated Land Officer Tel: 260998

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder –

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Risk and Legal Implications - None

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Overview and Scrutiny

22 January 2016



**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES QUARTER 2
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 2 for 2015/16, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Q2 forecast for the 2015/16 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget against the cash limit by £1.411m. 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 Q2 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 2 Report			Cash limit Variance Over/ (Under) £'000
		Quarter 2 Forecast (Apr-Sep) £'000	Variance Over/ (Under) £'000	Reserves / outside cash limit £'000	
Central Costs	1,349	1,476	127	0	127
Direct Services	37,868	35,541	(2,326)	(46)	(2,372)
Env, Health & C. Prot	5,531	5,447	(84)	(28)	(112)
Proj & Business Serv	17,704	18,445	741	(480)	261
Culture & Sport	18,852	20,256	1,404	(500)	904
Technical Services	25,862	26,855	993	(1,212)	(219)
Total	107,166	108,020	855	(2,266)	(1,411)

- 5 The forecast revenue outturn for 2015/16 is under budget against the cash limit by £1.411m, 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:
- Within Direct Services, there is an overachievement in the surplus generated by Building Services of approximately £0.900m due to the level of turnover being significantly higher than originally anticipated. A review of the charge out rates is currently underway which will involve increasing the income budget to a more realistic level for 2016/17, and this should result in the surplus being closer to the budgeted level next year. In addition, there is £0.810m of 2016/17 MTFP savings that have been achieved early.
 - Technical Services is showing a forecast underspend of £0.219m. This is due to additional income within Design Services of £0.450m, which is being partially offset by a net overspend of approximately £0.200m within Highways Services, where the additional surplus on the trading account areas have offset additional policy led expenditure on highways maintenance in relation to Category 1 and 2 defects.
 - Environment, Health and Consumer Protection is projected to underspend by £0.112m, largely attributable to underspends on employees, supplies and services and transport in Health Protection, Consumer Protection and Environmental Protection.
 - Within Strategic Waste there have been significant increases in the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) costs of £0.900m, which is as a result of a national reduction in the market value of recycled materials and therefore outside the control of the Council, These overspends are being offset by savings of £0.340m on the waste disposal contract budgets.
- 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 £3.818m.

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
Direct Services	4,386	4,386	0
Projects & Business Services	7,682	7,682	0
Culture and Sport	5,099	5,099	0
Technical Services	28,786	28,786	0

Total	45,953	45,953	0
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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 and areas of slippage being identified, and this has now resulted in a revised 2015/16 Capital Programme of £45.953m. It is currently anticipated that the full budget of £45.953m will be spent in 2015/16.

Recommendations

- 10 It is recommended that:
- Overview and Scrutiny note the Quarter 2 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 Q2 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.

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

22 January 2016



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

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

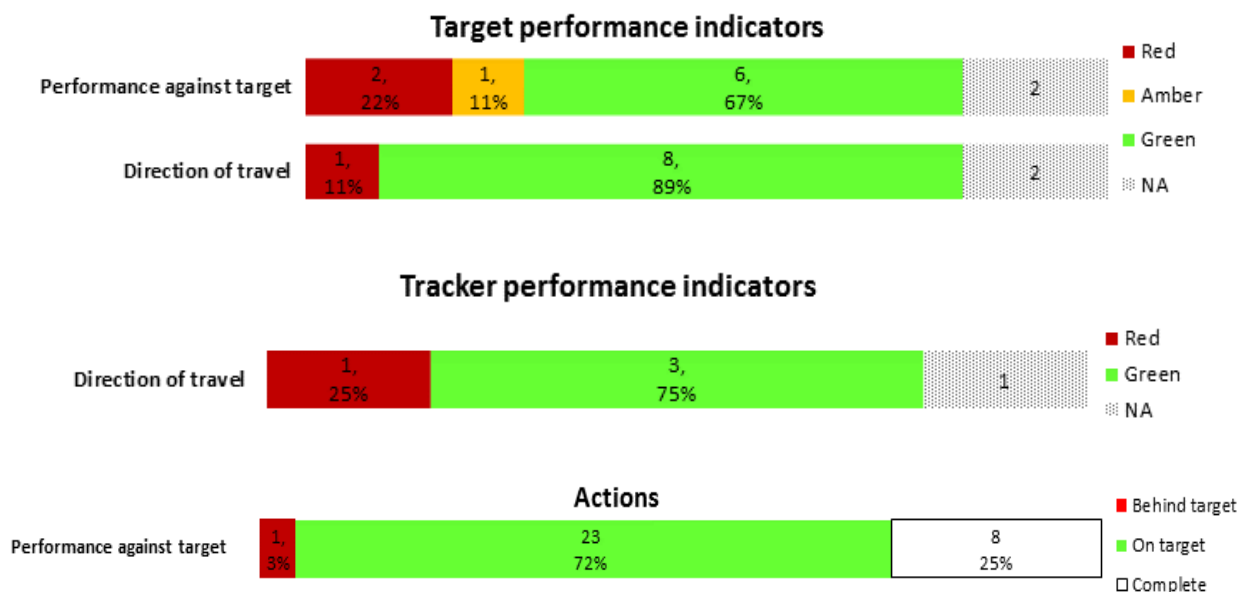
Purpose of the Report

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 second quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period July to September 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 provides 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.

Altogether Greener: Overview



Council Performance

5. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. During the 12 months ending August 2015, 96.6% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill. Performance exceeded the target of 95%, increased by 0.8% from the same period last year (95.8%) and was close to the previous quarter (96.7%). A total of 66,756 megawatt hours (MWh) of energy were generated from municipal waste sent to the SITA UK plant during the 12 months ending August 2015, an increase of 71.5% from the same period last year (38,930 MWh) and 0.8% from the previous quarter (66,206 MWh).
- b. Three times a year the condition of our local environment in relation to litter, detritus and dog fouling is assessed using a survey. The results of the first survey relate to the period April to July 2015 and indicate that:
 - i. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter, 4.9% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 7% and improved from 5.8% reported in the same period last year.
 - ii. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus, 6.6% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 10% and improved from 12.1% reported in the same period last year.
 - iii. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling, 0.8% fell below an acceptable level. Performance deteriorated from 0.3% reported in the same period last year.

There was great recognition for the quality of our environment during quarter two. In the regional Royal Horticultural Society Northumbria in Bloom

competition, Chester-le-Street won silver gilt in the large town category and Stanley scooped silver as a first time entrant in the town category. Durham City won gold in the large town category and as the overall category winner, progressed to the National Britain in Bloom awards where it won gold.

- c. During quarter two 2015/16, there were 422 renewable energy feed in tariff installations registered and approved and the target of 225 installations was exceeded. All 422 installations were solar photovoltaic. The feed in tariff installations have contributed 213.6 megawatts of energy as at the end of September 2015.
- d. A key tracker indicator on dealing with fly-tipping shows the multi-agency taskforce approach is continuing to show significant results. There were 6,911 fly-tipping incidents during the 12 months ending September 2015, 763 fewer incidents compared to the previous quarter and 3,011 fewer incidents compared to quarter two 2014/15 (see Appendix 4, Chart 1). The number of fly-tipping incidents increased by 5.6% across England and 1% across North East in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14. National fly-tipping data for 2014/15 indicate that of the 12 North East authorities, Durham County Council was one of three that showed a reduction in the number of recorded fly-tipping incidents.

During quarter two, CCTV cameras were deployed to a further 67 locations across the county and captured 23 fly-tipping incidents. 55 stop and search operations resulted in the issuing of five duty of care warning letters, 19 requests to produce driving and vehicle documentation and 16 Fixed Penalty Notices. 31 people attended an interview under caution (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) and 16 cases reached court. Since operation Stop It began in November 2014, the number of reported fly-tipping incidents has fallen by 31%. There have been 47 prosecutions and a total of £21,170 was awarded in fines, costs, compensation and surcharges. In addition, 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 Banning Orders to stop them dealing scrap metal for two years and eight waste carrier prosecutions were undertaken.

- e. Latest data (December 2013) show that carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in County Durham have reduced by 42% since 1990, being on track to achieve the Government's target of 40% reduction by 2020.
6. The key performance improvement issue for this theme is that during the 12 months ending August 2015, the percentage of household waste that was re-used, recycled or composted fell to 40.8%. This was a decrease compared to the same period last year (42.2%) and the previous quarter (42.2%), although performance exceeded the 38% target. This reduction can mainly be attributed to changes to our garden waste scheme. Between the start of the garden waste collections in March 2015 and 30 September 2015 almost 7,500 fewer tonnes of garden waste were collected compared to the same period last year.
 7. A key Council Plan action which has not achieved target in this theme is the development and improvement of three specific elements of the strategic cycle route network across County Durham. This was due to be completed by March 2016 but has been delayed until October 2016. Highways design works are

underway for Sunderland Bridge and Croxdale schemes and investigation works are being undertaken for the Riverside to Hermitage scheme. These schemes have been delayed due to additional complexities such as tree surveys and insufficient highway verge/footway to provide a suitable width of route). The phase two design for improvements to the cycle route on the A690 West Rainton is underway with works to be completed in March 2016.

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

Altogether Greener											
45	NS14a	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	4.89	Apr - Jul 2015	7.00	GREEN	5.80	GREEN	11.00		2013/14
									GREEN		
46	NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	6.58	Apr - Jul 2015	10.00	GREEN	12.14	GREEN	31.00		2013/14
									GREEN		
47	NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	96.6	Sep 2014 - Aug 2015	95.0	GREEN	95.8	GREEN			
48	NS19	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	40.8	Sep 2014 - Aug 2015	38.0	GREEN	42.2	RED	43.5	37*	2013/14
									RED	GREEN	
49	REDPI53	Percentage of conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal [3]	41.0	As at Sep 2014	42.0	RED	39.0	GREEN			
50	REDPI48	Percentage change in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations	-10.40	2014/15	-4.00	GREEN	-9.00	GREEN			
51	NS08	Percentage change in CO ₂ emissions from the DCC fleet	-14.54	2014/15	Not set	NA	0.07	GREEN			
52	REDPI49	Number of new registered and approved new feed in tariff installations	422	Jul - Sep 2015	225	GREEN	353	GREEN			

53	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			
54	NS04	Percentage of recorded actionable defects on carriageways and footways repaired within 24 hours (category 1)	94	Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	95	AMBER	93	GREEN			
55	NS05	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within target time (category 2) [4]	68	Jul - Sep 2015	95	RED	New indicator	NA			

[\[3\] Indicator deleted. Will be monitored through an action plan as approach to completing conservation area appraisal has changed to a targeted approach as and when required](#)

[\[4\] Target is for 12m rolling data. Quarterly discrete data have been reported for category 2.1 \(14 working day target\) and 2.2 \(3 month target\) however data is not available for category 2.3 \(12 month target\) this period.](#)

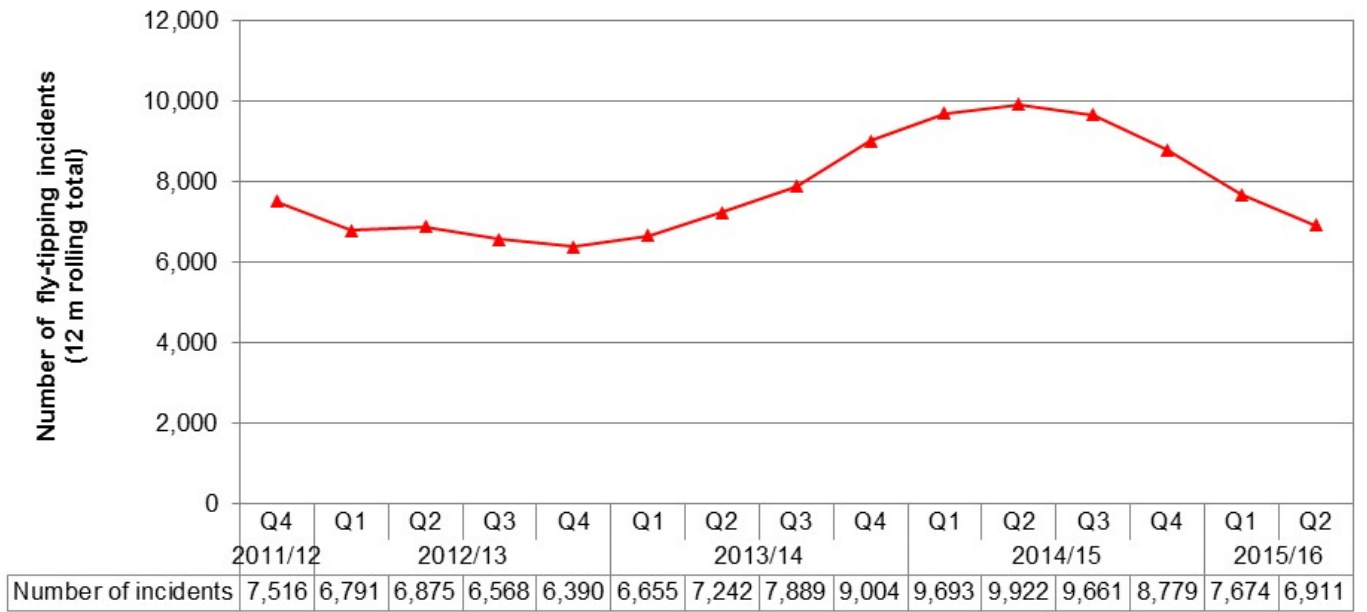
Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Altogether Greener											
167	NS14c	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	0.78	Apr - Jul 2015	0.33	RED	0.33	RED	8.10		2013/14
168	NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents	6,911	Oct 2014 - Sep 2015	7,674	GREEN	9,922	GREEN			
169	NS09	Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from municipal waste sent to Sita's 'Energy from Waste' plant	66,756	Sep 2014 - Aug 2015	66,206	GREEN	38,930	GREEN			
170	REDPI46	Percentage reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham	42.0	As at Dec 2013	39.0	GREEN	39.0	GREEN			
171	REDPI47	Amount of renewable energy generation - megawatts equivalent (MWe) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	213.6	As at Sep 2015	215.72	Not comparable [14]	213.46	Not comparable [14]			

[\[14\] Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable. Figure reduced in Q1 as an approved application at Eastgate for 5MW of Bio Energy was over 5 years old and not installed therefore was withdrawn from the statistics.](#)

Appendix 4: Volume Measures

Chart 1 – Fly-tipping incidents



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



22 January 2016

**Review of the Council Plan and Service
Plans**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Scrutiny with progress on the development of the Altogether Greener section of the Council Plan 2016-2019 including the draft aims and objectives contained within the Plan and the proposed performance indicator set to measure our success.

Background

2. The Council Plan details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), together with its own improvement agenda. The Council Plan covers a three year timeframe in line with the council's Medium Term Financial Plan and sets out how we will deliver our corporate priorities and the key actions we will take to support the longer term goals set out in the SCS.
3. This year it is proposed that the existing three year Council Plan is updated and rolled forward a year, with a more fundamental review to take place next year, in line with a refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This year it is proposed to produce a more visual and interactive version of the council plan, in addition to the word version. Early ideas are that it will be a shorter, more impactful plan with a greater use of visual material such as charts, infographics, diagrams and photographs.
4. The priorities set out in the current Council Plan reflect the results of an extensive consultation exercise carried out in 2013/14 on spending priorities and include an ongoing focus on protecting frontline services.

Draft Objectives and Outcomes

5. Overall it is proposed that the five key altogether better themes remain unchanged in line with the review of the Altogether Better Durham vision by the County Durham Partnership. It is also proposed that the altogether better council theme is retained giving six key themes.
 - I. Altogether Wealthier
 - II. Altogether better for children and young people
 - III. Altogether healthier
 - IV. Altogether safer
 - V. Altogether greener
 - VI. Altogether better council

6. Sitting beneath each of these six themes are a series of objectives setting out the key goal(s) being pursued over the medium-term. The objectives layer is shared across the SCS and Council Plan. These were agreed by Council last year and only a minor change to the wording of objective 1 is proposed. The Altogether Greener objectives are shown below:
 - I. Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment
 - II. Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment
 - III. Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

7. Whilst the SCS is a long-term plan, the Council Plan having a medium-term time horizon of three years is more detailed in nature. The Council Plan therefore contains an additional layer which is the council's outcomes. These are defined as the impacts on, or consequences for the community of the activities of the council. Outcomes reflect the intended results from our actions and provide the rationale for our interventions. These are subject to more frequent change than objectives.

8. The draft objectives and outcomes for the 2016-2019 Council Plan for the Altogether Greener theme are set out in full in **Appendix 2**.

9. Services are currently reviewing the performance indicator set which is used to measure progress against the Plan, performance manage our services and report to Members quarterly. The council also has responsibility for performance managing the County Durham Partnership so the indicator set serves the dual purpose of being used to monitor the council and the partnership. An early draft of the corporate indicator set for the Altogether Greener theme is contained in **Appendix 3**, for detailed consideration by Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10. There are four indicators proposed for removal from the Altogether Greener basket of indicators, with the reasons for removal in **Appendix 3**:
 - I. % actionable defects repaired within 24 hours (Category 1)
 - II. % actionable defects repaired within 14 working days (Category 2)
 - III. CO₂ emissions from fleet

- IV. Percentage of the conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal
11. There are two new indicators in the Altogether Greener basket of indicators that focus on the condition of the road. They are listed in **Appendix 3**:
- I. Percentage of A roads where maintenance is recommended
 - II. Percentage of B and C roads where maintenance is recommended
12. The target setting process for the proposed indicator set will begin at the end of the year once performance data is available for the full year. Targets for the current year and forthcoming two years are presented to Members in **Appendix 3** for comment. Baseline performance data will need to be established for the proposed new indicators before targets can be set.

Next steps

13. Next steps in the corporate timetable for production of the Council Plan and service plans are:

Cabinet considers Council Plan and service plans for 2016 - 2019	16 March 2016	Assistant Chief Executive
OSMB considers Cabinet report on Council Plan	22 March 2016	Assistant Chief Executive
Council approves Council Plan 2016- 2019	13 April 2016	Assistant Chief Executive

Recommendations and reasons

14. Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
- I. Note the updated position on the development of the Council Plan and the corporate performance indicator set.
 - II. Note the draft objectives and outcomes framework set out in **Appendix 2**.
 - III. Comment on the draft performance indicators proposed for 2016/17 for the Altogether Greener priority theme contained within **Appendix 3**.
 - IV. Comment on the current targets in **Appendix 3** and provide input into target setting for 2016/17 onwards.

Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance, 03000 268071

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

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

Staffing

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

Risk

Consideration of risk is a key element in the corporate and service planning framework with the Council Plan containing a section on risk.

Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

Individual equality impact assessments are prepared for all savings proposals within the Council Plan. The cumulative impact of all savings proposals will be presented to Council and will be updated as savings proposals are further developed. In addition a full impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the Council Plan. One of the outcomes within the proposed framework is that people are treated fairly and differences are respected. Actions contained within the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality.

Accommodation

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

Crime and disorder

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

Human rights

None

Consultation

Council priorities are influenced by our resource base and have been developed following extensive consultation on the council's budget. Results have been taken into account in developing our spending decisions.

Procurement

None

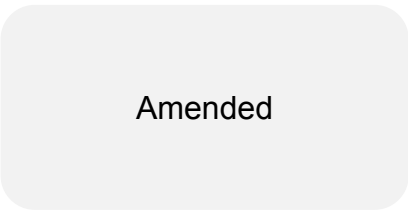
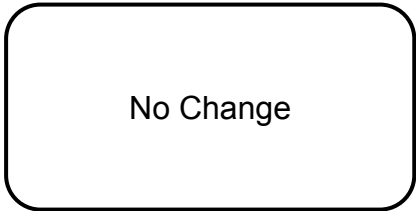
Disability Issues

None

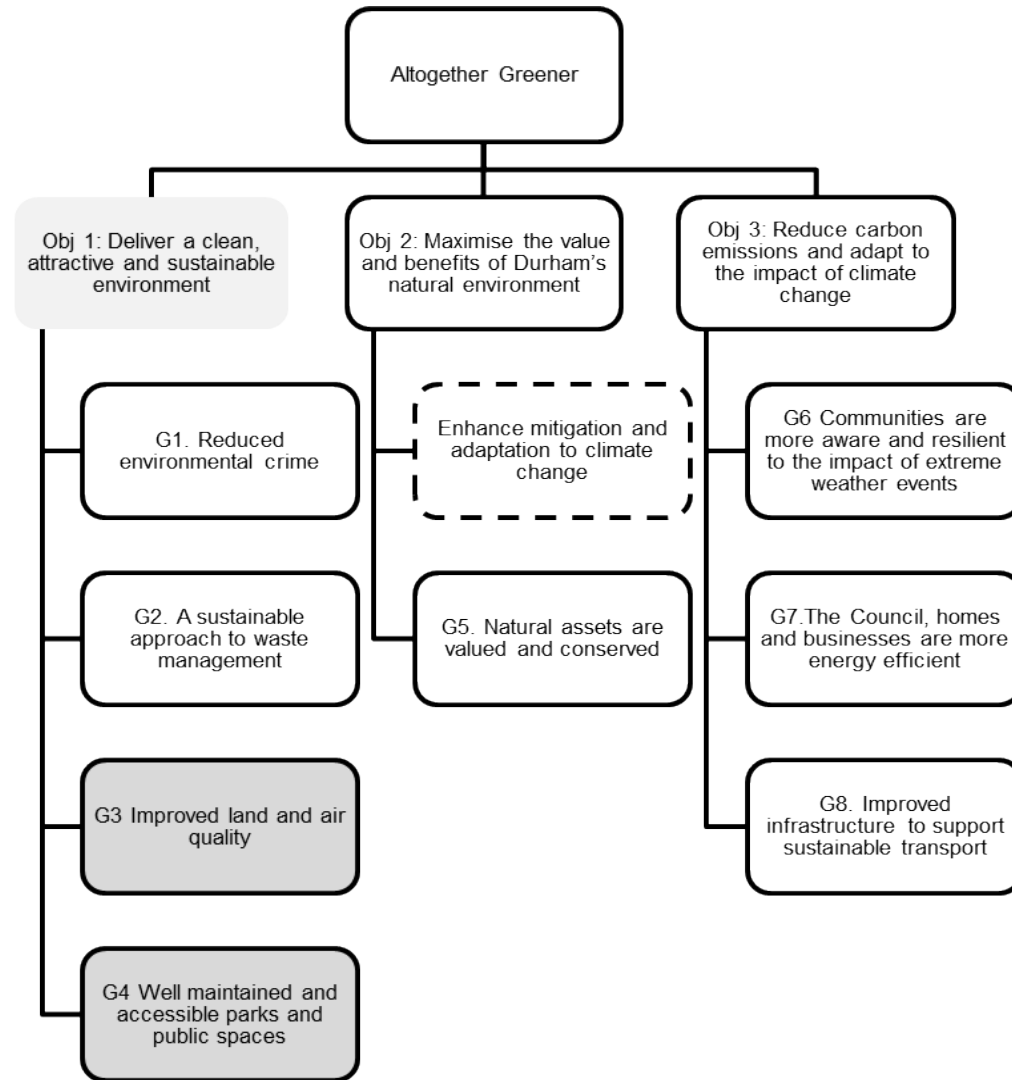
Legal Implications

None

KEY



Appendix 2: Partnership and Council Draft Objectives and Outcomes Framework



Appendix 3: Proposed Corporate Performance Indicator Set 2016/17

Indicator	Description	Current targets		
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Altogether Greener				
NS09	Megawatt hours of energy produced from municipal waste sent to Sita's 'Energy from Waste' plant	Tracker indicator		
NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	95	95	95
NS14a	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	7	7	7
NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	10	10	10
NS14c	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	Tracker indicator		
NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents	Tracker indicator		
NS19	Percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted	38	38	36
REDPI46	Reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham	Tracker indicator		
REDPI47	Amount of renewable energy generation (MwE) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	Tracker indicator		
REDPI48	Percentage change in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations	-4	-4	-4
REDPI49	Number of new registered and approved Feed In Tariff (FIT) installations	900	Not set	Not set
REDPI109	The number of private sector properties benefiting from an energy efficiency measure installed by British Gas through the Warm Up North partnership	200	200	Not set
NS06	Percentage of A roads where maintenance is recommended	Tracker indicator		
NS07	Percentage of B and C roads where maintenance is recommended	Tracker indicator		

Appendix 3: Proposed Corporate Performance Indicator Set 2016/17

Indicators proposed for Removal (4)

Indicator	Description	Reason for removal
Altogether Greener		
NS04	% actionable defects repaired within 24 hours (Category 1)	To be replaced by Scanner survey PI – detail to follow
NS05	% actionable defects repaired within 14 working days (Category 2)	
NS08	CO ₂ emissions from fleet	Forms part of REDPI48 which covers CO ₂ emissions from all local authority operations
REDPI53	Percentage of the conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal	Different approach being take in this area now



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Thursday 10th September 2015
Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

- Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
- Graeme Grieg - Durham County Council
- Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
- Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
- James Prime - Groundwork

Attendees:

- Chair:** Terry Collins - Durham County Council
- Steven Craig - Durham County Council
- Victoria Burrell - Durham County Council
- Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
- Tara Duncan - Durham University
- Grace Crawford - Groundwork
- Julie Form - Groundwork
- Jane Watson - Durham County Council
- Stella Hindson - Durham County Council
- Tim Wright - Durham County Council
- Claire Thompson - Local Nature Partnership
- Emma Barrass (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 An update on the Lumiere programme was provided by Terry Collins.</p> <p>Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Kirsty Wilkinson has collated information from the Environment Partnership – there will be a draft version by the end of September which will then need to be circulated.</p> <p>Julie and Claire have not yet managed to meet, Jo Laverick was contacted – Tara will chase this up next</p>	

	<p>week.</p> <p>Action: TD to chase up JL next week.</p> <p>The Board felt it was necessary to write to the magistrates regarding the low fines for fly-tipping. Victoria Burrell updated the group on the current position and letter which required legal sign off.</p> <p>Action: Communications/ Request for Articles.</p> <p>Stella's actions are complete – new draft newsletter brought to meeting.</p>	Tara Duncan
3.	<p><u>Twizell Burn – Presentation.</u></p> <p>A presentation was provided by Grace Crawford from Groundwork on the Twizell Burn.</p> <p>There is a low weir catchment - many are not meeting the requirements. The catchment plan was set up for this reason. By 2020 the aim is for Durham rivers to be clear and free from litter.</p> <p>Rises South of Annfield Plain – there are a number of issues going on. The catchment is rural and there is a lot of the coal mining industry. Funding streams maximise the resources to take the actions forward. This is used for a co-ordinated approach. There are a number of partners involved in the consultation.</p> <p>2012 – Anglin Cup Catchment walkover of the Twizell. A report was made and sent to the Environment Agency. Split into themes; Zinc, Ammonia, Phosphates, Fish, Matrophytes, Phytobentos. Stanley upgraded their input into the water source. Massive problem of organics entering the water source.</p> <p>There is a lack of positive connection with the environment. There is a modified watercourse; major issues with engineering structure. The area is lovely but significantly polluted. The number of footpaths is the key area impacting on the industrial history of the area. There are seven key priority areas; one of which is the group/partnership formed to bring Twizell forward.</p> <p>The Wear Group are looking at another idea to bring forward as there are issues with the water being tested at the right time. Renewable energy and Fish Passage current projects.</p> <p>There is a study on South Stanley regarding the impacts on the water course and investigating which measures are affected.</p>	

	<p>Can members of the Environment Partnership assist the Twizell partnership?</p> <p>Can Twizell Burn be included in future plans?</p> <p>Six of the most deprived areas surround Twizell Burn; the networks are there and we need to engage further with the existing partners such as the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water.</p> <p>Action – Make John Reed aware of the project.</p> <p>The EU legal requirement should improve the water quality; a sound business case needs to be provided to ensure future activities are planned in accordance with available resources e.g. flooding in Chester-Le-Street is a major issue.</p>	<p>Terry Collins / Julie Form</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Britain in Bloom – County Durham – Presentation</u></p> <p>A presentation was provided by Steven Craig, Clean and Green Manager (DCC).</p> <p>Key Objective of Britain in Bloom – Impact Design Horticulture.</p> <p>Horticulture starts with us. Planting sustainable planting. It has been a slow season; florally it has been a late season. The south of the Country receive summer weather before the North; therefore when judging as a country, Durham's flower bed displays in the North are only starting to look in bloom.</p> <p>Plants are produced at Morrison Busty Depot. Morrison Busty is the training depot for Durham County Council – all work placements and trainee staff are based here.</p> <p>There are 14 green flags. The community are heavily involved; businesses are also getting involved. There is an environmental responsibility for wild flowers across County Durham.</p> <p>There have been 2000-3000 likes on social media regarding the flowers. The public like to see natural wildlife not the average short grass. Flowers are not sold to the public.</p> <p>Lumiere is taking place this year; last year Durham was complimented on the environment as a whole. 'In Bloom' is an all year round event. Andrew Jackson is the in Bloom Judge; Sacriston has joined and become very enthusiastic over it.</p> <p>Northumbria Bloom results are on 15th September, 2015. Everything went well; more partnership and community</p>	<p>Julie Form / Stella Hindson / Vicki Burrell</p>

	<p>work has been put into this.</p> <p>Action: Investigate having our own County Durham in Bloom Competition – community awards. The public like the wild flowers.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions</p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u> Steve Bhowmick provided an update which included:</p> <p>Work together within the community to push the wildflower meadow idea into the environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HCA – Funding secured; new rail station at Horden. Bring in Committee. HLF programme to enhance help the coast. This is linked to the European Elected Site. 2) Meeting HLF Committee tomorrow. £35,000 awarded to partners. Bring in volunteers with health needs – wider objectives. Linking natural landscapes and people with health needs. Community are not seeing links- movement from the old school thinking of opportunity to look at biomass. 3) Woodland project going well. Heritage at risk – trying to find structure. Needs care assessment and resource. Used throughout the year. <p><u>Climate Change Group</u> Tara Duncan gave an update of the group’s work:</p> <p><u>Building Community Resilience for Severe Weather</u></p> <p>The project is moving on nicely. Monthly PIDs received from Su Jordon (Civil Contingency Unit) Some of the most recent developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Clayport Library engaging approx.50 adults and 10 children (interest in grab bags). • The Chester-le-Street Town Centre Emergency Plan draft has now been confirmed by partners and volunteers. Dates have been circulated for a training and exercising workshop to be held late August/ early September. • An information session with Shildon Youth Group was held on Tuesday 14th July 2015. The hour and a half long session was given to an audience of around 20 young people aged between 13-17 years old. • Regarding community emergency plans, a meeting with Kelly Presch from Communities First has been organised for Tuesday 8th September 2015 to discuss potential emergency plans for their statutory and voluntary groups in Shildon. • In addition to this, an article advertising community 	

emergency plans has been put in Shildon Town Crier asking people to contact the Civil Contingencies Unit for help with creating an emergency plan of their own.

- Two meetings were held in Lanchester on Monday 27th July 2015 and Tuesday 28th July 2015. The purpose of these meetings was to attract the business owners of Lanchester in the hope they would join the Lanchester Community Emergency Plan Writing Group. The invitation for the meetings went out via a leaflet designed within the Civil Contingencies Unit and these were delivered by hand to the 42 businesses in Lanchester by one of the flooding volunteers.
- 13 schools have signed up to look at creating a schools resilience plan.
- Filming of the sandbag instructional video took place on Wednesday 15th July 2015 in Durham (by the river) and Thursday 23rd July 2015 at Durham County Council's Depot at Meadowfield. The County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service took part in the filming on Thursday 23rd July, where they were recorded building a sandbag wall. Editing of the video took place between the 27th and 31st July 2015 and is now complete. The video will be shown to the rest of the Civil Contingencies Unit and from there it will be decided where the video is going to go on the internet.

Energy Management in Community Buildings

A small working group has been convened to scope out the Energy Management in Community Buildings Project. In addition, a SharePoint site has been created to support the development and delivery of this project and access has been arranged for steering group members. The main risk with this project is resource. The CCG will discuss the project at the next meeting.

Sustainable Travel

Young People Transition from Secondary School in South Durham

Transition from secondary school (KS4) to further education is a significant step for young people and available transport choices can significantly affect their ability to access the education and training that they need and want. Reducing the barriers to accessing education and training opportunities encourages participation and retention in education, reduces social inequalities and helps people move from welfare into work. For 2015/16, a Transition programme is being developed with older

students in sixth forms and colleges to increase awareness of available travel options when they move to further education or employment. This programme will help pupils to explore and discuss their travel options, identify any barriers and make them a more independent traveller.

The South Durham Local Motion to Work project is making it easier for people to access job and training opportunities and changing the travel behaviour of young people and those already employed.

There is now an opportunity through the Climate Change Group to add value and improve the effectiveness of the South Durham Local Motion Transition project. This includes working with the Education Development Advisor to identify and map young people leaving KS4, enabling the development and targeting of resources to identify and address the barriers to travel.

Again, the main risk to this project is resource and the gathering of available data in a practicable manner.

Additional Information:

- Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan Approved and adopted by DCC.
- Chilton Community Energy Event – Maggie Bosanquet giving talk on behalf of Climate Change Group - Running a Successful Community Energy Project. Hosted by Chilton Green Energy Foundation / DEI / DCC.
- TD has contacted Jo Laverick – Durham Community Action – for a suggestion of an extra member of the group. Awaiting response.

Environment In Your Communities Group

Julie Form gave an update on the work of the group:-

The last meeting of the group was held in July. A presentation was provided by the Community Action (CAT) Team. The results of each project had a lengthy report delivered to every household – the group feedback was that this report was too long hence a shorter two page report is now being produced and delivered to households. The Environment In Your Communities Group continues to support the work of the CAT team and promote a mutli disciplinary approach to supporting the work of environmental clean-ups across the County. The CAT team have just completed work in the Bishop Auckland & Stanley and future environmental improvements will be

	<p>made in and Eldon Lane & Coundon Grange – South of the County.</p> <p>The project continues to grow and engage with more agencies at each new location.</p> <p>The next meeting will invite the Hagrid Project to give a presentation in relation to the future of the project – i.e. where is it going next and in addition a presentation will be given by Victoria Burrell in relation to the Garden Waste charging scheme</p> <p>Within the NCS, young people are becoming more involved in the community. Projects being investigated include growing projects to produce your own food which will also cut down on food waste. The Food Bank to be invited to a future meeting to pursue partnership opportunities.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u></p> <p>Claire Thompson gave an update on behalf of the LNP, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3Rivers LNP and Northumberland Lowlands LNP are currently reviewing a plan to merge. Should the plan be acceptable to both parties the merger will be completed by November 2015. • LNP have applied for DEFRA pollinator grant to support mapping work to create corridors for pollinators focusing on Highways England works. On 12th September the funding application was successful; the project will commence on 1st Nov 2015 and will run for 12 months. More details to follow at the next EPB meeting. • Requested agreement from the Environment Partnership Board for the LNP to lead on a review of the EPB 2013/17 plan, to more clearly express the link to health and the environment. Environment Partnership Board members agreed to this and Claire Thompson will liaise with Victoria Burrell to discuss this by the end of October 2015. 	<p>Claire Thompson & Victoria Burrell</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Communications / Caring for Your Environment Award</p> <p>Stella Hindson reported that the Autumn edition of the newsletter is out next week; this will be circulated after the meeting. There are currently 66 entrants for the Environment Awards and the newsletter includes an update from each group and promotes future events.</p> <p>The Environment Partnership Board commented that the newsletter was excellent.</p> <p>Nominations for the Caring for the Environment Award are</p>	<p>Julie Form / Stella Hindson</p>

	to be sent to Stella. It was suggested that the resident at Willington with the colourful floral display of hanging baskets be nominated.	
7.	<p>Environment Awards</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick stated that The Environment Awards ceremony takes place on 25th November, 2015 at the Raddison, Durham. There are 66 entrants which are to be judged in the near future. The event is a good opportunity to celebrate the work of the Environment Partnership and the work across the communities within County Durham.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Alan Hunter has retired from his role – his replacement is Barbara Hooper.</p> <p>Action: Write Alan a thank you letter.</p>	Steve Bhowmick/ Victoria Burrell
9.	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>10th December, 2015, Durham University.</p>	