



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Monday 18 April 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 Meeting held on 22 January 2016 and 8 February 2016 (Pages 1 - 14)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties
6. Media Relations - Presentation by Media Relations Manager
7. Strategic Cycle Routes - Overview (Pages 15 - 18)
 - a) Joint Report of Corporate Director Regeneration and Economic Development and Assistant Chief Executive
 - b) Presentation by Principal Policy Officer and Sustainable Travel Officer, Regeneration and Economic Development
8. Quarter 3 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 - Report of Corporate Director Resources (Pages 19 - 22)
9. Quarter 3 2015/16 Performance Management Report - Report of Corporate Management Team (Pages 23 - 32)
10. Refresh of the Work Programme - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 33 - 46)
11. Minutes from the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 10 December 2015 (Pages 47 - 52)

12. Minutes from the Durham Strategic Flood Group held on 18 November 2015 (Pages 53 - 58)
13. 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
8 April 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, A Liversidge, P May, O Milburn, S Morrison,
J Shuttleworth, P Stradling, L Taylor and S Zair

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

Contact: 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 **Friday 22 January 2016 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, J Armstrong, D Bell, E Bell, J Clare, J Clark, J Gray, D Hall, I Jewell, P May, A Liversidge, S Morrison, J Shuttleworth, P Stradling and L Taylor

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O Milburn and P Spurrell.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 9 November 2015 and 1 December 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised Members that the mapping information in relation to the Warm and Healthy Homes project for April 2014 - December 2015 and information relating to wall insulation which was referred to in the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 1 December 2015, had been circulated to all members of the committee and those members who were also in attendance.

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 - Update on Press Coverage

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:-

- Steel and sword making past of Derwent Valley wins £2.2m award from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Work finished on £3.4 million coastal and pier defences.
- Fines for littering could rise to £150, the current fine was £50-£80.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

7 Big Spring Clean - Chair of Litter Free Durham

Councillor G Lee, a Member from Darlington Borough Council and Chairman of Litter Free Durham was in attendance to talk to Members about the Big Spring Clean.

He thanked the authority for supporting litter and asked for Members support to help with the Big Spring Clean.

He also thanked the teams for their enthusiasm and help they had provided over the years.

In 2015, 275 litter picks had taken place which involved 2,000 people and over 2,000 bags of waste had been collected. The Environment Agency had also collected 4 tonnes of waste from rivers.

The litter picks had saved the authority £31,000, so there was a financial advantage from the Big Spring Clean.

He asked Members that they help raise awareness and educate people. Litter impacted on the environment, wildlife and the image of County Durham and Darlington. Ideally he would like a constant message to be sent and fed into the general public from government but this was not going to happen.

He asked that Members considered making this part of the school curriculum so that they there was a constant message, this could be one hour per year for each year group and everyone would see the benefits.

5 out of 14 priorities were for litter and fines were issued for dog fouling and a solution would be to employ a professional company who could issue fixed penalty notices for litter. £5 million was spent in Durham on street cleaning and £1.5 million in Darlington.

Members know the hot spots and he appealed to Councillors to speak to their community and join or book a litter pick. If people pick litter up they are unlikely to drop it again. The Big Spring Clean starts on 29 February 2016 to 17 April 2016 and was supported by the Northern Echo, Environment Agency, Schools and Community Groups.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lee for his update which they would take back to Officers. She also indicated that she had held litter picks in her area and many of the Members were also school governors.

Councillor Armstrong indicated that Durham County Council already undertook 99% of what Councillor Lee was asking. He indicated that they needed to go through school governor support to get the message into schools. The area action partnerships priorities were litter and dog fouling but a professional company brought in would be at a cost when times were hard with redundancies and these jobs could be given to staff. Community teams were already doing a fantastic job.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lee and Officers for their attendance and a great job.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

8 Rural and Isolated Bin Collections Consultation

The Committee considered the joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services which provided members with 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 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

Mr O Sherratt, Head of Direct Services and Mr K Parkinson, Refuse and Recycling Manager gave a presentation that provided Members with details of the current position, the need to consider change, benchmarking with other authorities, consultation with affected properties, safeguards that would be built into policy and the next steps (for copy of slides, see file of minutes).

Councillor May sought clarification if Members had been provided with details of the properties which were part of the consultation. The Officer responded that this information had been provided to Members where requested but it was a large spreadsheet and in some areas very few properties would be affected but he was happy to supply the information.

Councillor Armstrong indicated that he had two unadopted roads in his area and asked that members be consulted in particular those in semi-rural areas and that he was pleased that measures were in place for safeguarding. The Officer responded that numbers could reduce following the consultation.

Councillor Jewell commented that bins located at lane ends could cause unofficial fly tipping. The Officer responded that they had identified vulnerable properties which had a lane but were in built up areas which meant that lane end collection was not considered suitable. Other authorities who have this policy have indicated that fly tipping was not an issue but this would be monitored.

Councillor Jewell sought clarification if there would be an increase in the number of assisted collections under the new policy. The Officer responded that the increase would only be from those properties which were accessed by lanes, a site visit would be undertaken and an assessment made if they were vulnerable then nothing would change and the collection would be made as before.

Councillor E Bell sought clarification on how this would impact of the fleet. The Officer responded that some smaller refuse vehicles would no longer be needed and any redundancies would be on a voluntary basis rather than compulsory.

Councillor Liversidge sought clarification if they would be consulting properties that were at the end of the lane. The Officer responded that they would be consulting in every instance and that they were aware that some people were not happy, but the process would be managed sensibly.

Councillor Armstrong asked what would be the next steps. The Officer responded that the outcome of the consultation would be reported to Cabinet.

The Chairman indicated that people don't like change but they needed to harmonise the service which was the reason for the consultation but all aspects appeared to be covered. She asked that members be kept informed of what was happening in their area.

Councillor Armstrong on behalf of the committee congratulated Mr O Sherratt on his recent promotion and wished the team all the best.

Resolved: That the report and presentation be noted.

9 Contaminated Land and Inspection Strategy - Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which provided members with an update on Durham County Council's Contaminated Land and Inspection Strategy (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Senior Contaminated Land Officer was in attendance to present the report.

Councillor E Bell sought clarification if the strategy included beaches which included the Durham Heritage Coast. The Officer responded that they looked at pathways that contaminated the beach but beaches were not part of the strategy.

Councillor E Bell then sought clarification if any works were being undertaken on water at the coast at Seaham as there was a risk from sewerage outflows further up the coast at Hendon. The Officer confirmed that there was no work planned.

Councillor Armstrong asked for a written answer as to what areas the Council were looking at in terms of contaminated land.

Councillor May asked if the Council held a list of land that might be contaminated. The Officer responded that they had a working list but it does change, the list contained a lot of sites for future development.

Mr T Bolton asked if it was a list or register. The Officer responded that it was a list and was not available to the public and contained approximately 7,000 sites.

Councillor Clark referred to the Environment Protection Act 1990 that states “significant pollution of controlled waters is being caused, or there is significant possibility of such pollution being caused”, and asked if this could be interpreted to beaches. The Officer responded that they needed to prioritise and nothing was coming up in the next two years but if anything was a priority and they needed to look at sooner, if Members could advise the team, they would welcome the information.

Councillor Morrison sought clarification if it excluded other forms for example the Japanese Knotweed. The Officer responded that the Ecology Team kept a record of the location of Japanese Knotweed on council land and tries to treat it. If any Member was aware of Japanese Knotweed, if they could provide the information to the Ecology Team, so that it could be followed up.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

10 Quarter 2 2015/2016: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn Neighbourhood Services - Report of the Head of Finance

The Committee considered a report of the Neighbourhood Services Management Team which set out details of the forecast outturn as at Quarter 2 for 2015/16 and highlighted variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services and the Finance Manager, Neighbourhoods, gave a presentation (for copies see file of minutes).

Councillor Armstrong sought clarification on the reasons for the underspend in Direct Services department and was this as a result of the profits made from members’ schemes and would these monies be put back into the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Officer responded that profits would go into the Medium Term Financial Plan and any surplus monies would get carried forward or used in other areas.

Members were also advised that there was a much higher level of turnover than anticipated which added to the surplus. Going forward they may consider reducing the rates but they could not reduce too far in case there was a loss, which would become a drain on the budget.

Councillor Morrison referred to the £900K overspend on culture and sport and sought clarification on this. The Officer responded that the overspend was largely due to additional items of one off expenditure for improvements to the Gala Theatre and Town Hall. There was also an overspend on premises costs, and NNDR costs.

Councillor E Bell referred to building services charges and what would be the methodology for increasing charges. Officers responded that these were likely to decrease and was not a public charge it was an internal charge. The larger than anticipated volume of work being generated for the council’s internal DLO requires changes to be made to the profit markup which will probably result in reduced charging rates.

Councillor May referred to the recent reductions in fuel costs and the introduction of the national living wage and if this had impacted on the Council. The Officer stated that lower energy costs have been built into the Medium Term Financial Plan and resulted in lower costs generally in Direct Services. The introduction of the national living wage mainly

impacts on jobs in the transport and social care sectors rather than Neighbourhood Services budgets.

Officers responded that the reduction in energy costs had been built into the reduction in budgets to reflect this. The underspend was now over and above this and there had been a review undertaken of the impact of the higher wages.

Councillor Adam indicated that he was pleased to see that building services would be reducing their charges.

Councillor Hall referred to the charges for projects and indicated that the design charges were expensive.

Councillor Armstrong responded that members needed a design service for projects and this service had overheads but the profits would be put back into the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Councillor Clare referred to the cost to have an area of land tarmacked in his area, which locals indicated was too expensive but when they saw the project complete they indicated that it was worth every penny, as it was done to a high standard. He then referred to the £900,000 extra profits and sought clarification on the original target. The Councillor was advised that the original target was £300,00 on a budgeted turnover of £12m. The actual turnover achieved was £19m resulting in an additional £900,000 profit.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

11 Quarter 2 2015/2016 Performance Management Report - Report of Corporate Management Team

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Management Team which presented progress against the Councils corporate basket of performance indicators for the Altogether Greener theme and report other significant performance issues for the second quarter of 2015/16 covering the period July to September 2015 (for copies see file of minutes).

The Performance Officer gave a presentation (for copy see file of minutes) which gave an update of the performance indicators relating to;

- Cleaner, more attractive, sustainable environment
- Refuse and recycling
- Improved environment cleanliness
- Fly-tipping key trends
- Fly-tipping actions and outcomes
- Condition of the Local Authority road network
- Reduction in carbon emissions
- Renewable energy generation
- Awards

Councillor May referred to dog fouling and the recent press articles in relation to DNA testing for dogs and sought clarification if this had been discussed.

Officer's responded that they needed to consider the cost and offence and that the maximum fine was currently £80 and they needed to consider if the cost was justified, they would also require other evidence.

Councillor Clare indicated that this issue had been discussed on his blog and that you needed to find the dog to carry out the tests.

The Chair indicated that the people who pick up after their dogs would be willing to provide a sample of their dog's DNA but those that don't pick up would not so there would be no advantage.

Councillor Hall referred to detritus and could there be an incentive for those people who reported it.

The Officer responded that they currently operated incentives for litter by giving a golden ticket and recycling have a number of schemes and this area could be looked at.

In response to a question from Councillor Hall the Officer advised that she would check if the number of defects to carriageways and footways were increasing and report back.

Councillor Adam referred to fly-tipping and levels of detritus which overall was down but incidents in the East were up by 6% but in terms of performance was good news.

The Officer responded that detritus was below an acceptable level and even though dog fouling was up it was still lower than the national average. Officers explained that in relation to fly-tipping there were hotspot areas and they had noted there had been an increase in the number of carcasses of white goods being fly-tipped. There was a need to dig down to the detail in relation to cross boarder fly-tipping.

Councillor Clark referred to the East struggling in terms of fly-tipping and asked if covert cameras could be used in relation to catching dog owners who persistently do not pick up after their dogs.

Officers responded that the cameras were hidden but a notice had to be displayed and they could not be placed in areas where there was a lot of activity. Councillor Clark responded that the incidents were on estates so would not be suitable for cameras.

Councillor Jewell sought clarification on how defects was recorded, were they all logged as separate incidents or if they had to return to a particular site would this be logged with previous incidents. He also indicated that the covert cameras were proving to be self-financing.

The Officer responded that all defects are recorded and monitored and that the cameras were more of a deterrent, but with fines they were proving to be value for money and had the capacity to monitor and record.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

12 Review of Council Plan and Service Plans - Report of Assistant Chief Executive

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which updated Members with progress on the development of the Altogether Greener section of the Council Plan 2016-19 including the draft aims and objectives contained within the Plan and the proposed performance indicator set to measure success (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager was in attendance to present the report to Members and advised that the plan would be approved at Council and was reviewed every year. There were proposed changes and the introduction of some new outcomes which could be seen at page 46 of the report.

Councillor Clare referred to Appendix 3 of the report and indicators NS04 and NS05 which were to be deleted and replaced by a scanner and asked if Members would be advised of how this new performance indicator would work before it was deleted.

Officers responded that Members would be provided with an opportunity to comment on the target and the scanning of the roads already happened every two years.

Members were advised that a special session of Chairs and Vice Chairs was being arranged to look at performance indicators and they could discuss this at the Chair and Vice-Chairs meetings then bring it back to the Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved: (i) That the updated position on the development of the Council Plan and the corporate performance indicator set be noted.

(ii) That the draft objectives and outcome framework set out in Appendix 2 of the report be noted.

(iii) That the draft performance indicators proposed for 2016/17 for the Altogether Greener priority theme contained in Appendix 3 be noted.

(iv) That the current targets in Appendix 3 of the report and the target setting for 2016/17 onwards be noted.

13 Minutes of the Meeting of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 10 September 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 10 September, 2015 were received for information.

14 Any Other Business

Councillor E Bell advised the Committee that he had met with Jude Kirton-Darling MEP for the North East Region and Emma Lewell-Buck MP for South Shields in relation to mine water and sewerage outflows at Wearmouth being pumped into the North Sea. He advised that he would provide an update to the Committee as information became available.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 8 February 2016 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

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

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

Also Present:

Councillor K Shaw

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D Hall and S Zair.

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 Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided Members with background information on the role and responsibilities of the committee as the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee for County Durham and how it engages with the Flood Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) for County Durham. The report also informed the committee that representatives from the RMAs would attend the meeting to provide members with detail of various flood mitigation projects and schemes

they had undertaken, access to funding, any future projects and any issues or challenges within the county (for copy of report and slides of presentations, see file of minutes).

Mr S Reed and Mr S Longstaff gave a presentation that provided information on the key schemes for 2015/16 and a review for 2015/16.

Going Forward there were 17 schemes in the Environment Agency 6 year programme 2015/21 for funding - £2.4m Local Levy and £1.8m Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid, they were currently reviewing schemes to put forward for 2021/27 programme selecting top 40 schemes from 4,000 properties shown at risk. The Local Flood Risk Management Plan was currently in draft and was due to go to public consultation.

Members were provided with information on the Medium Term Investment Plan 2015-2021 and an update on the progress of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The Committee was advised that schedule 3 of the Flood Water Management Act 2010 had not been enacted and this had resulted in changes to the National Planning Policy framework to cover SuDS in new developments and this had resulted in the Drainage Team receiving 361 applications to assess drainage design. In relation to going forward the SuDS adoption policy had been developed and a payment method had been established for residents of new developments containing SuDS who would pay Durham County Council for maintenance works. So far two developments had signed up to SuDS agreements.

Members were also provided with photographs of schemes which had been completed which were Seaham North Pier, Witton Gilbert, 'O' Cobbles Hall and the A167 Honest Lawyer. Members were also shown a video of the completed works at Witton Gilbert.

The Chairman thanked the Officer's for their presentation and commented that the works on the A167 Honest Lawyer had made a significant improvement. Members were also advised that arrangements had been made for Members to visit the Witton Gilbert scheme on 31 March 2016.

Councillor Armstrong referred to the scheme at Witton Gilbert and commented that the work of the team was tremendous from the design to the execution. He had visited the site over the Christmas period and it was working well.

Councillor Clare sought clarification if the gullies were automatic and congratulated the Drainage team on the response to an incident in his ward where a brick had got into the hydro however the issue was resolved very quickly. The Officer responded that the gullies at the Witton Gilbert were automatic.

Councillor May asked if there were provisions for continuous maintenance at the Witton Gilbert site. The Officer responded that it was designed to be maintenance free but it was on a three month schedule to be checked. They did receive a phone call on Christmas Day regarding the site and a cleanse was carried out. It was confirmed by Officers that if the scheme at Witton Gilbert had not been undertaken then 12 properties would have flooded in the recent flooding incidents in the County.

Ms E Furlong, Assistant Sustainable Sewerage Manager at Northumbrian Water continued by providing an update on schemes which had been completed by Northumbrian Water

within County Durham. The update included detail of: sewer flooding alleviation at Salisbury Road; Newton Hall; The Villas, Harelaw; Thirlmere Road, Ferryhill and Central Exchange, Chester-le-Street. The provision of additional storage projects at sewer pumping stations were also completed at: The Willows, Coxhoe; Jubilee Fields, Shildon; Copeland Row, Evenwood and Hummerbeck, West Auckland at a cost of £0.5m.

Members were also provided with an update on current and future schemes within County Durham.

The Asset Management Plan 6 investment within County Durham sewerage networks contained £109.5 million for sewer flooding projects across the region including:-

- Conventional sewer flooding projects
- Strategic projects
- Local flood risk management partnership opportunities
- Property level protection
- Sewer rehabilitation and tree root removal
- Enhancement and verification of models
- New DAS models will be built by exception where need identified
- Proactive risk reduction of sewer flooding before it occurs

Members were then provided with information on drainage area studies and community action plans. They were also provided with details of flood and pollution risk reduction.

Councillor Clare referred to Woodhouse Close Primary School and sought clarification if SuDS ponds had been installed at the school. The Officer responded that they had installed ponds in schools and some water play areas so that children could see how water flowed.

Councillor Clare then asked about health and safety issues with SuDS in schools. The Officer responded that before introducing a scheme into schools, Northumbrian Water would attend the school and talk to children and interact with teachers and parents explaining the purpose of SuDS and explaining that the ponds were designed so that children could safely walk in and walk out of the ponds and if required a barrier could be installed.

Councillor E Bell referred to the North of the County who have flooding issues which resulted in water going into the sea at Whitburn. He had met with the Environment Agency to discuss the amount of sewerage washed up on the beaches at Seaham. The Officer responded that she would speak to the Councillor after the meeting and obtain some further information on this issue.

Councillor Milburn referred to the Community Action Plans and sought clarification if the list would be extended. The Officer responded that the Community Action Plans are new and Northumbrian Water are still understanding how they will work. If benefits are realised through Community Action Plans the list would be extended as it would form part of the investment programme.

Mr S Merrett, Team Leader Partnership and Strategic Overview from the Environment Agency provided Members with an update on the flood alleviation schemes in County

Durham and an update on the six year Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Investment Programme aimed at identifying and reducing potential flood risk.

Members were advised that the overall capital programme for 2016/17 was £22m which consisted of £11.8m from Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid, £3.3m Local Levy, £4.2m public contributions, £2.3m private contributions and £0.4m from other sources.

In relation to completed schemes the Stanhope flood defence scheme had reduced flood risk to 98 properties with work consisting of earth embankment at the Butts, rebuilding/improving a number of existing walls and new defences around the properties at Unthank Mill.

Other completed schemes were temporary works at Chester-le-Street, computer modelling at Staindrop and West Auckland, emergency repairs and works to improve flow conveyance at the Dam at Spring Gardens and improvements to the Bayhorse culvert entrance at Wolsingham.

The Environment Agency also undertakes frequent maintenance works in relation to defence walls, land drainage pumping stations and channels. The Environment Agency's schemes for County Durham included in the six year Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management investment programme were as follows:-

- Staindrop Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Tindale Beck Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Wolsingham Culvert improvements
- Chester-le-Street scheme and flood warning for Chester Burn
- Barnard Castle
- Howden Le Wear PLP
- Pennine Peat Partnership Project
- Rural Skerne
- Lanchester

Councillor Clare referred to the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management funding for the region and that County Durham received approximately 40% but Northumbria received 50% and what were the reasons for this in view of County Durham being one of the poorest economies in the region.

The Officer responded that funding was provided on an individual project basis and was dependent on the risk, outcomes and cost of the scheme.

Councillor Clare commented that County Durham schemes did not qualify for as much funding from the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management. The Officer responded that the methodology used was the same across the country and was based on cost and how many properties would be protected by the scheme.

Councillor Adam referred to the dredging of rivers and what were the Environment Agency's thoughts on this. The Officer responded that they looked at dredging to reduce flood risk in certain places and they had gravel management in place. There were no locations in County Durham for gravel management but if it became an issue they would

investigate. He commented that dredging was considered to have a negative impact on fish breeding.

Councillor E Bell commented on work being undertaken by the Environment Agency in the North of County and further up the coast at Sunderland concerning outflows and asked if Durham County Council would be a statutory consultee.

The Officer responded that such works as identified above would be subject to consultation and went through the planning process.

Councillor Stradling indicated that Sunderland City Council would be informed as it was in their area but the beaches affected were in County Durham.

The Officer responded that he would take further detail from the Member following the meeting and would consult with colleagues and respond accordingly.

Councillor May referred to insurance policies for those properties affected by flooding and would the defence schemes have an impact on the cost of policies for these properties.

The Officer responded that they updated maps to show flood defence schemes which showed the properties which were now at reduced risk of flooding. The maps were openly available and some insurance companies did use the data to reduce premiums but not all companies used the data. The Environment Agency could supply a letter to show that they were now at a reduced risk but his advice would be to shop around insurance providers.

The Chairman thanked Officers for their presentations and asked Members to agree the recommendations outlined in the report.

Resolved: (i) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its role as the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee for County Durham note the information provided in the presentations.

(ii) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its role as the Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Committee for County Durham receive further presentations from the Risk Management Authorities at a future special meeting of the committee in February 2017.

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



18 April 2016

**Overview of Strategic Cycle
Routes within County Durham**

**Joint report of Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director
of Regeneration and Economic Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the strategic cycle routes within the County.

Background

- 2 Members will recall that when refreshing the work programme of the committee at the meeting held on 8 July 2015, it was agreed that members would receive an overview of the strategic cycle routes and also undertake a visit to see 'first hand' the development of some cycle routes within the County.
- 3 Arrangements were made for members to undertake the visit on the 4 April 2016 to strategic cycle routes at Newton Aycliffe, along the A167 and in Durham City. This provided members with the opportunity to view completed successful cycling schemes, proposals for developing new schemes and locations where conflicting demands put pressure on design and development of cycling schemes. The session included a short presentation before the site visits.
- 4 At the meeting on the 18 April, members will receive a presentation from Peter Ollivere (Principal Policy Officer) and Victoria Lloyd-Gent (Sustainable Travel Officer) focusing on the following:
 - Policy Context
 - Cycling Strategy and Action Plan
 - Cycling Network Planning process
 - Cycling infrastructure improvements
 - Issues and Challenges
 - Next steps.

Background – Strategic Cycle Routes

- 5 Cycling is a booming activity for sport, recreation and travel. This leap in interest has created a growing demand for more and better cycling infrastructure.
- 6 Spatial plans such as the North East Transport Plan, the County Durham Plan and the Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy set out the broader sustainable transport vision.
- 7 The approach to developing strategic cycling routes in County Durham is set out in the existing Cycling Strategy and Action Plan. Cycling is part of the ongoing work to encourage and enable more people to choose sustainable travel modes.
- 8 Cycling has far reaching benefits for the individual and the wider community, economy and environment.

Current position

- 9 A Cycling Network Planning Process is currently being developed to determine the status of the existing cycle route network and determine a potential network. An audit and assessment of the condition and usability of cycle route infrastructure within the 12 main towns and key routes in between is currently being undertaken by Sustainable Transport. Audit and review has been completed for six of these towns with completion planned by April 2017.
- 10 Strategic routes are continuing to be planned, designed and built. This work is funded by the Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme as well as the Local Growth Fund secured through the North East Combined Authority.
- 11 Cycle parking being installed at key destination points as part of a rolling programme of works.

Next Steps

- 12 Develop policies for the emerging NECA Transport Plan and County Durham Plan.
- 13 Update County Durham Cycling Strategy and Action Plan by Spring 2017.
- 14 Developing Cycling Super Routes within the main towns, links to key employment sites and completing the Great North Cycleway are the main cycle route infrastructure priorities.
- 15 Continue to seek funding through NECA and use LTP funding to carry out infrastructure improvements.
- 16 Produce town maps for each town audited.

- 17 Develop a system for maintenance and securing legal status of the cycling network.
- 18 Safeguard and cycle-proof routes for the future.

Recommendations

- 19 It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and comment upon the information provided within the presentation.

Background Papers

None

Contact :Victoria Lloyd-Gent	Tel: 03000 265311
Author: Diane Close	Tel: 03000 268141

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Funding for the development and construction of strategic cycle routes will continue to be secured through the Local Transport Plan and other sources.

Staffing – None

Risk – Considered as an integral part of scheme design and delivery.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – Included as an integral part of scheme design.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – Consultation with users and affected parties undertaken as part of scheme design.

Procurement – Works designed and constructed by the Council's own staff resources.

Disability Issues – Accessibility for user groups considered as part of scheme design.

Legal Implications – Considered as part of scheme development and design.

18 April 2016



**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES QUARTER 3
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 3 for 2015/16, highlighting variances against revenue and capital budgets for Neighbourhood Services.

Executive Summary

2. The Q3 forecast for the 2015/16 Revenue Outturn for Neighbourhood Services was under budget against the cash limit by £1.290million. 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 Q3 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 3 Report			Cash limit Variance Over/ (Under) £'000
		Quarter 3 Forecast (Apr-Dec) £'000	Variance Over/ (Under) £'000	Reserves / outside cash limit £'000	
Central Costs	1,349	1,478	129	0	129
Direct Services	37,906	35,010	(2,895)	479	(2,416)
Env, Health & C. Prot	5,583	5,325	(258)	21	(237)
Proj & Business Serv	18,184	18,007	(177)	1,200	1,023
Culture & Sport	19,390	19,678	288	(77)	211
Technical Services	26,845	27,028	183	(183)	0
Total	109,257	106,526	(2,730)	1,440	(1,290)

5. The forecast revenue outturn for 2015/16 is under budget against the cash limit by £1.290million, 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 £0.900million due to the level of turnover being significantly higher than originally anticipated. A review of the charge out rates has been carried out which involved 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 £0.810million of 2016/17 MTFP savings that have been achieved early in 2015/16, and also £0.540million of savings relating to premises costs of Administrative Buildings that are closing as part of the office accommodation programme.
 - Technical Services is showing a break-even position. This is due to additional income within Design Services (£0.400 million) and Strategic Highways (£0.160 million) which is being offset by a net overspend of approximately £0.560 million 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. The outturn also takes account of £0.800 million of flooding repair costs which is to be funded from Neighbourhood services cash limit (£0.400 million) and Revenue Contingency Budget (£0.400 million).
 - Environment, Health and Consumer Protection is projected to underspend by £0.237million, largely attributable to underspends on employees, supplies and services and transport in Health Protection, Consumer Protection and Environmental Protection.
 - Within Culture & Sport, there are overspends on facilities premises costs (£0.200 million), and additional development expenditure that is earmarked for the Gala and Durham Town Hall (£0.300 million), but these are offset by savings in Leisure Contracts with 3rd party providers (£0.300 million)
 - Within Strategic Waste there have been significant increases in the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) costs within the Strategic Waste Service (£1.200 million) which are 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 on the waste disposal contract budgets (£0.700 million) and underspends on employee and supplies and services (£0.400 million) across all other areas of Projects & Business Services. In addition an amount of £1 million has been transferred to the Capital Expenditure Earmarked Reserve in relation to additional costs of the capital scheme for Thornley Waste Transfer Station.
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 £3.264m.

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	4,153	4,153	0
Projects & Business Services	5,143	5,143	0
Culture and Sport	3,537	3,537	0
Technical Services	28,071	28,071	0
Total	40,904	40,904	0

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

- 9 The capital budget has subsequently been adjusted at MOWG meetings during the year as a result of additional funding sources and areas of slippage being identified, and this has now resulted in a revised 2015/16 Capital Programme of £40.904million. It is currently anticipated that the full budget of £40.904million will be spent in 2015/16.

Recommendations

- 10 It is recommended that:
- Overview and Scrutiny note the Quarter 3 forecast outturn position on Revenue and Capital for 2015/16.

Contact:	Oliver Sherratt	Tel:	03000 268080
	Phil Curran	Tel:	03000 261967

APPENDIX 1 - Implications

Finance

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

Staffing

There are no implications associated with this report.

Risk

There are no implications associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.

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

18 April 2016



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

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

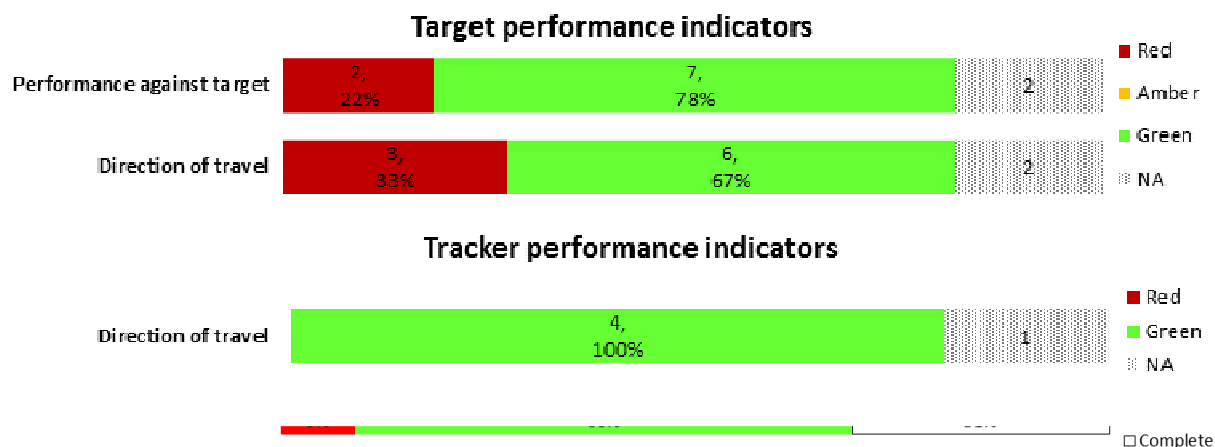
Purpose of the Report

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 third quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period October to December 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 November 2015, 95.9% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill. Performance exceeded the target of 95%, but decreased by 1.8% from the same period last year (97.7%). A total of 67,079.8 megawatt hours (MWh) of energy were generated from municipal waste sent to the SITA UK plant during the 12 months ending November 2015. This was an increase of 16.2% from the same period last year (57,742.9 MWh).
- b. Between August and November 2015 the local environment was surveyed to assess the levels of litter, detritus and dog fouling. The results indicate that:
 - i. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter, 5.5% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 7% and the national average (10% in 2014/15), and improved from 6.2% reported in the same period last year.
 - ii. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus, 8.6% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 10% and the national average (27% in 2014/15) but deteriorated slightly from 8.2% reported in the same period last year.
 - iii. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling, 1.1% fell below an acceptable level. Performance improved from 2.3% reported in the same period last year and was better than the national average (7% in 2014/15).
- c. During quarter three 2015/16, there were 567 renewable energy feed in tariff installations registered and approved, which exceeded the target of 225 installations. 566 installations were solar photovoltaic and there was one wind installation. The feed in tariff installations have contributed 215.74 megawatts of energy as at the end of December 2015.
- d. A key tracker indicator on dealing with fly-tipping shows there were 6,712 fly-tipping incidents during the 12 months ending December 2015. This was

2,949 fewer incidents compared to quarter three 2014/15 (see Appendix 4, Chart 1). The multi-agency taskforce approach is continuing to show significant results.

During quarter three, CCTV cameras were deployed to a further 52 locations across the county and captured five fly-tipping incidents. 20 stop and search operations resulted in the issuing of seven duty of care warning letters, four requests to produce driving and vehicle documentation and three Fixed Penalty Notices. 15 people attended an interview under caution (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) and 11 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 58 prosecutions and a total of £27,414 was awarded in fines, costs, compensation and surcharges.

6. During the 12 months ending November 2015, the percentage of household waste that was re-used, recycled or composted fell to 39.9%. This was a decrease compared to the same period last year (42%) and the previous quarter (40.8%), although performance exceeded the 38% target. This reduction can mainly be attributed to changes to our garden waste scheme. Almost 9,000 fewer tonnes of garden waste were collected in 2015 compared to 2014.
7. Key Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme are as follows:
 - i. Delivery of the Thornley Waste Transfer Station, as part of the Capital Improvement Programme by March 2016 has been delayed to November 2016, following a review, in line with priorities and resources as part of the annual planning process. A draft vision/plan is complete and is awaiting final production.
 - ii. Development of a countywide allotment forum has been rescheduled to March 2018. An Allotment Policy is to be developed before a forum is established. The Allotment Policy is due to be developed by April 2017.
 - iii. Developing and improving the strategic cycle route network across County Durham has been delayed from October 2016 to March 2017. Improvements to deliver the Great North Cycleway are delayed due to completing works to the Riverside to Hermitage path at Chester-le-Street for which design work is continuing following a tree survey. Design for the A690 West Rainton cycle route is ongoing but completion depends on the new traffic management system (SCOOT) in Durham City.
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

Page 28
Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Greener											
45	NS14a	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	5.50	Aug - Nov 2015	7.00	GREEN	6.17	GREEN	10.00 GREEN		2014/15
46	NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	8.55	Aug - Nov 2015	10.00	GREEN	8.21	RED	27.00 GREEN		2014/15
47	NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	95.9	Dec 2014 - Nov 2015	95.0	GREEN	97.7	RED			
48	NS19	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	39.9	Dec 2014 - Nov 2015	38.0	GREEN	42.0	RED	43.7 RED	37.58* GREEN	2014/15
49	REDPI53	Percentage of conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal [5]	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			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
52	REDPI49	Number of new registered and approved new feed in tariff installations	567	Oct - Dec 2015	225	GREEN	380	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)	95	Jan - Dec 2015	95	GREEN	93	GREEN			
55	NS05	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within target time (category 2) [6]	81	Jan - Dec 2015	95	RED	New indicator	NA			

[\[5\] 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.](#)

[\[6\] Target is for 12m rolling data, however data are not available for all defect categories this period and can only be reported as a discrete quarter therefore are not comparable](#)

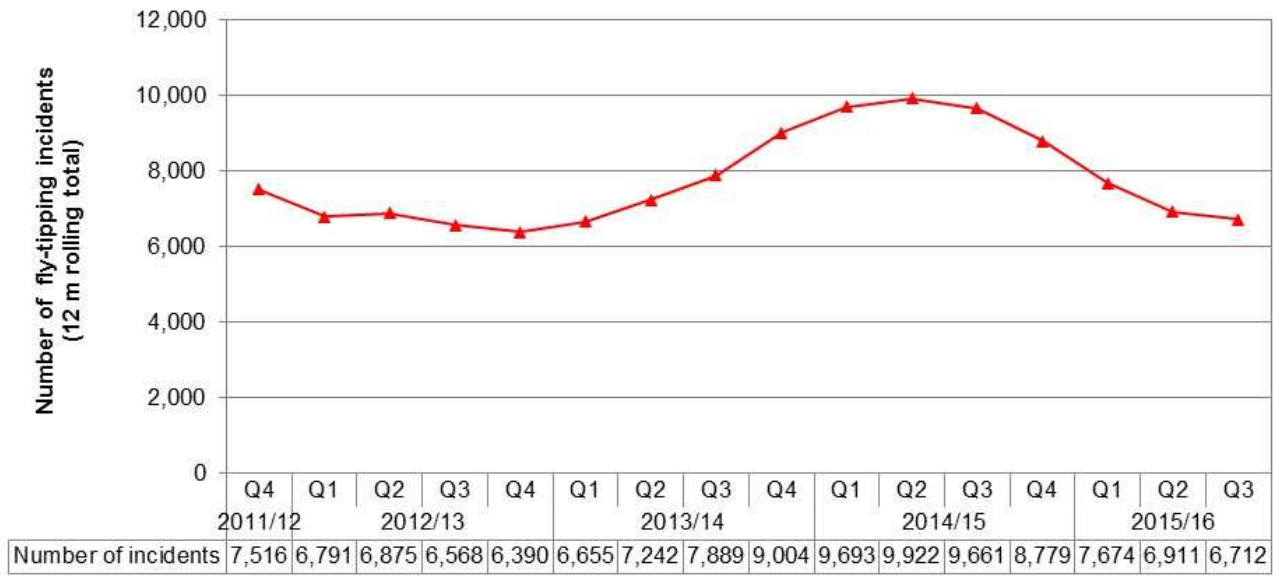
Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Page 30 Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Greener											
167	NS14c	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	1.11	Aug - Nov 2015	2.33	GREEN	2.33	GREEN	7.00		2014/15
168	NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents	6,712	Jan - Dec 2015	6,911	GREEN	9,661	GREEN			
169	NS09	Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from municipal waste sent to Sita's 'Energy from Waste' plant	67,079.9	Dec 2014 - Nov 2015	66,756.0	GREEN	57,742.8	GREEN			
170	REDPI 46	Percentage reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham	42.0	As at Dec 2013	39.0	GREEN	39.0	GREEN			
171	REDPI 47	Amount of renewable energy generation - megawatts equivalent (MWe) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	215.74	As at Dec 2015	213.6	Not comparable [14]	215.61	Not comparable [14]			

[\[14\] Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable](#)

Appendix 4: Volume Measures

Chart 1 – Fly-tipping incidents



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



18 April 2016

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

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members with information contained within the Council Plan 2016 – 2019, relevant to the work of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This allows the opportunity for members to refresh the committee work programme to reflect the three objectives and subsequent outcomes identified within the Council Plan for the 'Altogether Greener' priority theme.

Background

2. The current Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's notice of key decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in government legislation.
3. In relation to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members will recall that the work programme was refreshed at the committee meeting held on the 8 July 2015, ensuring that areas of focus were in line with current and forthcoming priorities within the committee's remit. Further areas of focus for the Committee have been added throughout 2015 to reflect changing government policy and at the request of Members.

Council Plan 2016 – 2019

4. The Council Plan is the overarching high level plan for the County Council, which covers a three year period in line with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and is updated on an annual basis. The plan sets out how the Council will consider the corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions the Authority will take in delivering the long term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's own improvement agenda. Attached at Appendix 2 is the

‘Altogether Greener’ section of the Council Plan for members’ consideration.

5. 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.
6. The ‘Altogether Greener’ priority theme is about ensuring that our communities have access to open space and neighbourhoods which are of good quality, well maintained and Clean; that we conserve our natural resources through effective energy efficiency measures and sustainable waste management in that we build resilience to extreme weather events and reduce carbon emissions. Key areas of focus include tackling the impacts of climate change; encouraging sustainability and energy efficiency; and maintaining the quality of our local environment.
7. To help address these issues the Council agreed last year to rationalise the structure of our objectives and outcomes framework to concentrate on three objectives. Council has agreed to a minor change in the wording of objective 1. In addition, two new outcomes have been added under objective 1 and the deletion of an outcome under objective 2. The set of objectives and outcomes are set out below:

Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment

- Reduced environmental crime
- A sustainable approach to waste management
- Improved land and air quality
- Well maintained and accessible parks and public spaces

Maximise the value and benefits of Durham’s natural environment

- Natural assets are valued and conserved

Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

- Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events
- The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient
- Improved infrastructure to support sustainable transport

8. Over the next three years, the Council will work with local communities, businesses and other organisations to encourage behaviour change and participation in activities to achieve our goals.
9. The Council Plan identifies a series of actions detailing the work which needs to be undertaken by the authority in order to deliver the areas identified above.

Current Work Programme

10. During 2015/16, the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken budgetary and

performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny Reviews, systematic 6 monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations in relation to the following areas:

In Depth Scrutiny Reviews

- Management of the Woodland Estate Owned by Durham County Council – **Maximise the benefits of Durham’s natural environment** – Natural assets are valued and conserved.
- Parking on Council owned land - – **Maximise the benefits of Durham’s natural environment** – Natural assets are valued and conserved.

Systematic Review

- Flooding - **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change** – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events
- Reducing the Council’s Carbon Emissions – **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change** - The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.

Overview Activity

- Contaminated Land Strategy - **Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment** – Improved land and air quality.
- Waste Programme – **Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment** – Reduce environmental crime – A sustainable approach to waste management.
- Garden Waste - **Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment** –Reduce environmental crime – A sustainable approach to waste management.
- Community Action Team use of targeted interventions – **Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment** - Reduce environmental crime.
- Winter Maintenance Plan – **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change** – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events.
- European Structural and Investment Funds – Low Carbon Economy Update – **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change** – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- Environment Improvement Campaigns – **Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment** – reduce environmental crime – A sustainable approach to waste management.
- Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham Updates – **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change** – Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events.
- Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan – **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change** - The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.

- Warm Up North - **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change** – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- Fuel poverty - **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change** – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.
- Strategic cycle routes – **Maximise the value and benefits of Durham’s natural environment** – Natural assets are valued and conserved.
- Renewable Energy – **Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change** – The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient.

Budgetary and performance monitoring

- Quarterly budgetary and performance monitoring for Neighbourhood Services Service Grouping.

Areas for consideration in the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

11. Having considered the 'Altogether Greener' section of the Council Plan for 2016 – 2019 it is suggested that the following action areas could be considered in the update of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme.

Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment

- **Well maintained and accessible parks and public spaces –** Further develop our wildflower planting scheme.

Maximise the value and benefits of Durham’s natural environment

- **Natural assets are valued and conserved** - Work in partnership to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character, including the North Pennines Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty, East Durham Limestone Plateau, Oak and Iron, Heritage Coast (Derwent valley) and Brightwater (River Skerne catchment area).

Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change

- **The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient** Relocate our fleet vehicles to align with service delivery areas to identify potential saving opportunities.

Council Plan

Cross Cutting Themes

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

Altogether	Objective	Outcome	Link to Altogether Greener
Wealthier	Thriving Durham City	Improved infrastructure to support economic growth	Improved infrastructure to support sustainable transport
Safer	Reduce Anti-social Behaviour	Reduce incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime	Reduce environmental crime
	Protect vulnerable people from harm	Community and organisational resilience for emergency preparedness, response and recovery	Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events
Healthier	Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population	Increased physical activity and participation in sports and leisure	Natural assets are valued and conserved
Better for Children and Young People	Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life	A range of positive activities are available for children and young people	Natural assets are valued and conserved
Altogether Better Council	Working with our communities	Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with	Cuts across all Greener objectives and outcomes.
		Effective Partnership Working	Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events.

Next Steps

13. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the committee's work programme for 2016 - 2017, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11 above.

14. Members will receive a further report at the next Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirming/agreeing the committee's work programme for 2016-2017 based on today's discussion and agreement.

Recommendations

15. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny note the information contained in Altogether Greener priority theme of the Council Plan 2016-2019, Appendix 2 (copy attached)
16. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the work programme for 2016-2017 by discussing and considering those actions identified under the 'Altogether Greener' priority theme of the Council Plan 2016-2019 Appendix 2 and reflected in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report.
17. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 8 July 2016, receive a further report detailing the committee's work programme for 2016-2017.

Background papers:

Council Plan 2016-19 – Cabinet report – March 2016

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Author: Diane Close Tel: 03000 268141 email: diane.close@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on the 16 March 2016, re the Council Plan and Service Plans 2016-19)

Finance

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

Staffing

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

Risk

Consideration of risk is undertaken in the preparation of the Council Plan and Service Plans.

Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

A full impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the Council Plan. The actions underpinning the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality and aim to improve the equality of life for those with protected characteristics. The Plan has been influenced by consultation and monitoring to include equality issues. There is no evidence of negative impact for particular groups.

Accommodation

The council's Accommodation programme is a key corporate programme contained within the Council Plan.

Crime and disorder

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

Human rights

None

Consultation

Council and partnership priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data including an extensive consultation programme carried out as part of the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and this has been reaffirmed by subsequent consultation on the council's budget.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

Accessibility issues are considered in the design of our planning document.

Legal Implications

None

Appendix Two

Priority Theme Altogether Greener

The Altogether Greener priority theme is about ensuring that our communities have access to open space and neighbourhoods which are of good quality, well maintained and clean; that we conserve our natural resources through effective energy efficiency measures and sustainable waste management in that we build resilience to extreme weather events and reduce carbon emissions. Key areas of focus include tackling the impacts of climate change; encouraging sustainability and energy efficiency; and maintaining the quality of our local environment.

We aim to work with local communities, businesses and other organisations to encourage behaviour change and participation in activities to achieve our goals. The need to work collaboratively with partners, residents and businesses to build collective ownership and action has never been greater.

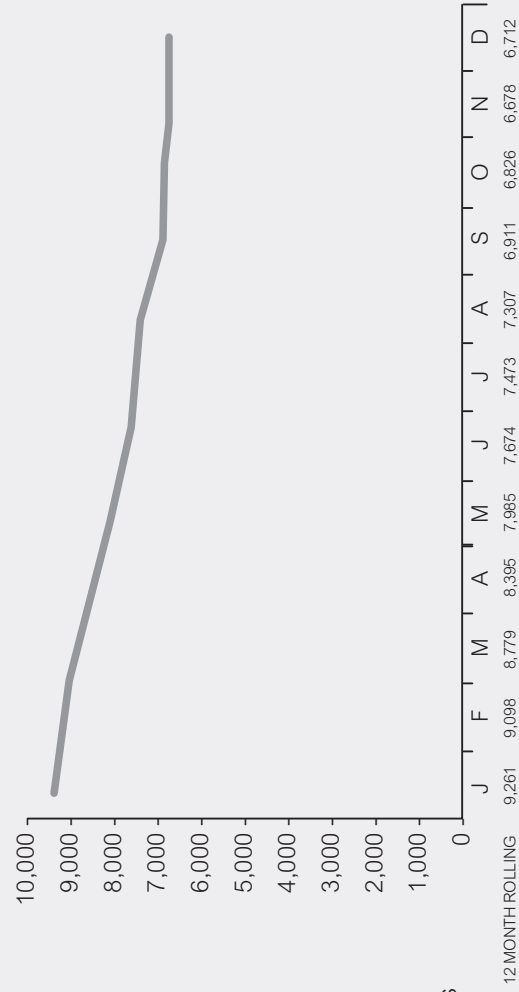
Achievements 2015-2016

- Delivered a programme of effective campaigns to tackle environmental crime, including dog-fouling, fly-tipping and litter.
- Reduced the carbon footprint of our operations through re-programming our refuse and recycling routes, reducing energy across our buildings and reducing business mileage.
- Replaced 32,000 street lights as part of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme saving energy costs to the taxpayer and reducing carbon emissions.
- Increased energy production from landfill capping where electricity is generated from landfill gas.
- Delivered a programme of waste campaigns designed to help reduce contamination in household recycling ('Bin It Right') and encourage students to recycle waste ('Green Move Out').
- Extended wildflower planting schemes to roundabouts and verges helping reverse the trend of habitat loss and creating food and homes for wildlife.

- Continuation of the work of our Community Action Teams to improve the condition of local housing and environments.
- Delivered our flood defence programme including the refurbishment of Seaham's historic North Pier and flood prevention works at Witton Gilbert.
- Development of the Air Quality Action Plan to improve air quality across Durham City.
- Refurbished three waste transfer stations giving improved recycling facilities and more scope to recycle.
- Fly Tipping incidents continue to fall following education and proactive enforcement activity (Figure G1).
- Over 96% of waste collected by the council has been diverted from landfill to recycling reuse, composting and generating energy (Figure G2).

Figure G1.

Fly-tipping incidents - County Durham 2015/16



Priority Theme Altogether Greener

Issues to address

- Further develop a low carbon culture within our organisation and reduce our carbon emissions in line with government legislation.
- Further reduce carbon emissions across the county through the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme and the council's Carbon Management Plan and reducing business mileage (Figure G3).
- Plans in place to respond to the impacts of climate change including flooding and water management.
- Balance the needs of the economy such as business development and the creation of employment, while at the same time protect the natural environment and our open spaces.
- Protect and enhance areas of natural beauty and character such as limestone landscapes, peatlands and Durham Heritage Coast, at the same time keeping a resilient and healthy ecosystem across our rural and urban landscapes.
- Monitor the effects of the actions to ensure that we are addressing our air quality improvements in Durham City.
- Build capacity within our communities and effect behaviour change within the context of reduced resources as we recognise the quality of local environment is important.
- Reduce Environmental crime through campaigns and enforcement to tackle specific issues such as illegal disposal of white fridges and further reducing incidents of fly-tipping.

Figure G2.
Diverted from landfill 2013-2015

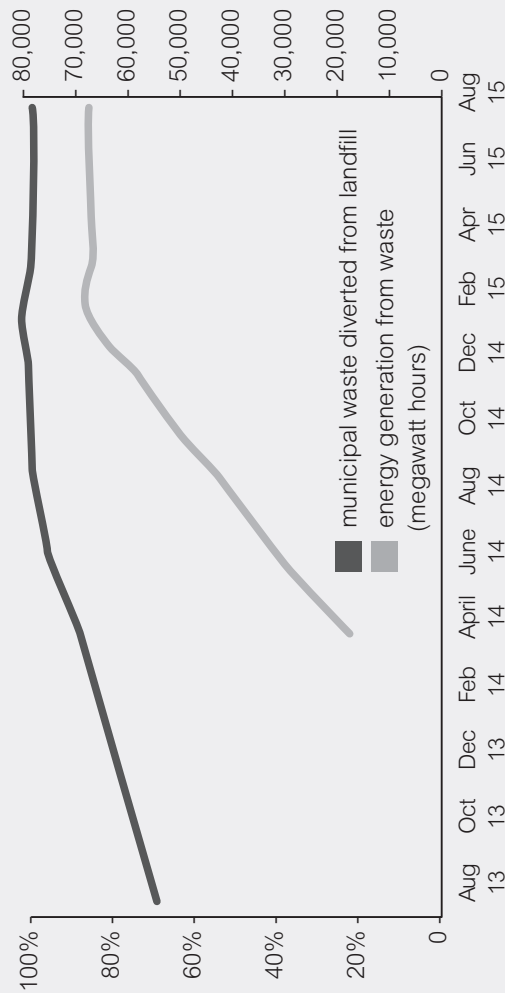
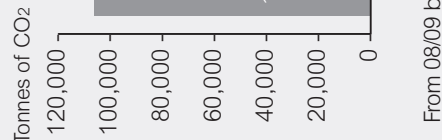


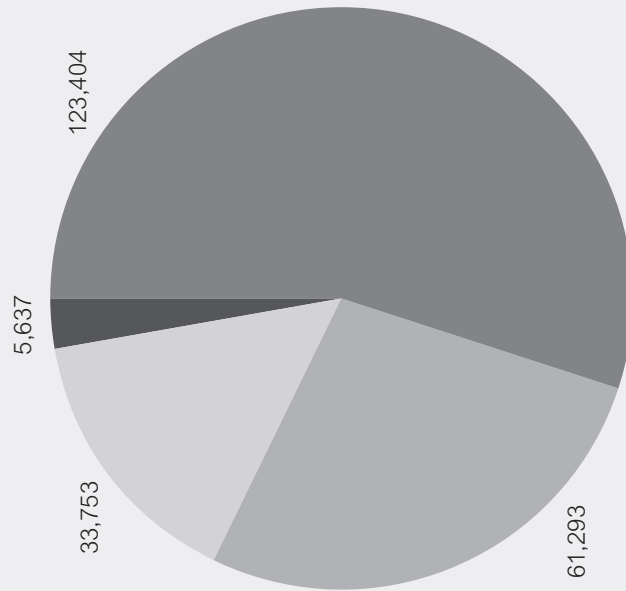
Figure G3.
Carbon emissions from local authority operations 2008/09 to 2013/14



Key Facts and Figures

Figure G4.

Household waste sent for energy, recycling, composting and landfill 2014-2015

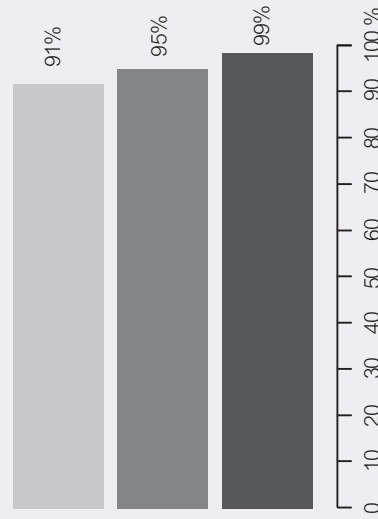


Tonnage sent:

- to energy from waste plant 123,404
- for recycling 61,293
- for composting 33,753
- sent to landfill 5,637

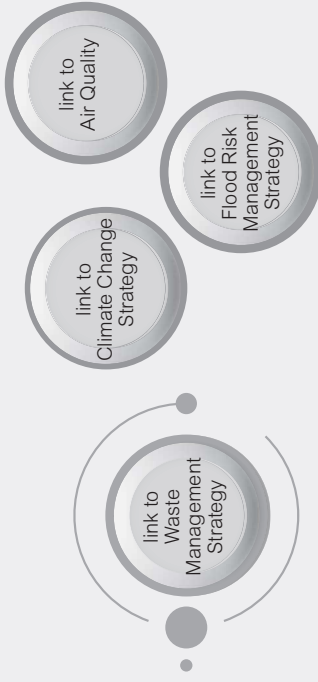
Figure G5.

DCC land and highways assessed as at or above an acceptable level of cleanliness



DCC land and highways assessed as at or above an acceptable level of cleanliness

- detritus 91%
- litter 95%
- dog fouling 99%



14

Green Flag awards across the county for parks, open spaces, countryside sites, cemeteries & crematoria

12m

Refuse and recycling collections from households each year

40%

Proportion of household waste re-used, recycled or composted

96%

Proportion of waste collected by the authority diverted from landfill

56%

Proportion of County Durham's household electricity use met by renewable energy

67,556

Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from the waste collected by the council each year enough to meet the annual energy needs of almost 3400 houses

1,443

Number of Feed in Tariff installations, registered and approved

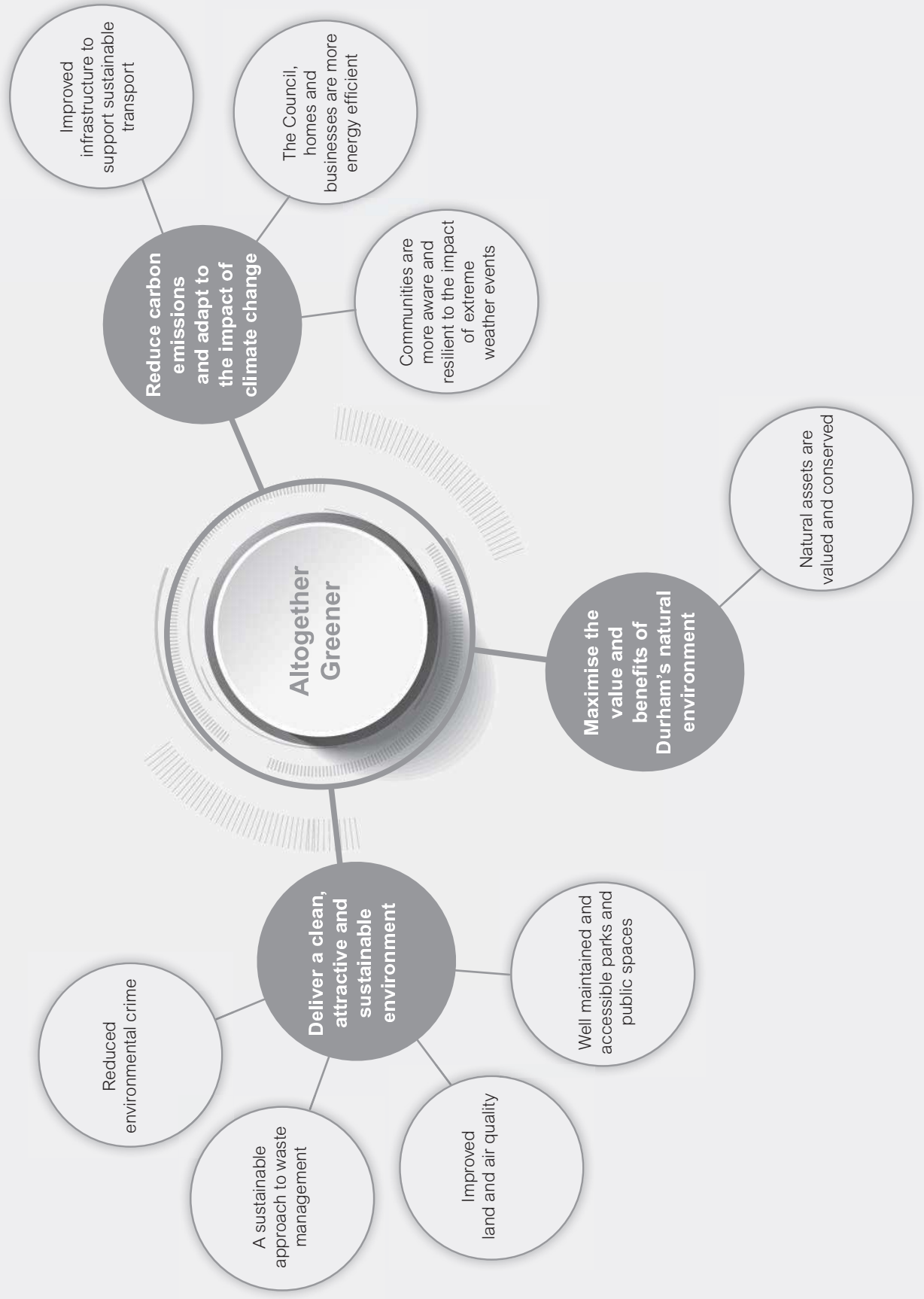
217

Megawatt equivalent (MWe) capacity of renewable energy generation across the County

7,512 tonnes

Annual reduction in carbon emissions due to street lighting upgrade

Moving Forward - Key Areas of Focus for 2016-2019



Moving Forward - Key Areas of Focus for 2016-2019

<p>Objective 1 Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment</p> <p>Reduced environmental crime We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a programme of targeted campaigns, to tackle environmental crime, including fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering. • work in partnership with other organisations to identify and tackle local concerns such as housing, environmental concerns, health and consumer protection. <p>A sustainable approach to waste management We will deliver the Waste Management Strategy which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the Household Waste Recycling Centres in the county to ensure the provision is adequate. • Completing the refurbishment and replacement of the relevant of Waste Transfer stations across the county. • Undertaking improvement work at a number of landfill sites. <p>Improved land and air quality We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement actions to improve the air quality in Chester-le-street and Durham City • Undertake detailed inspections of land which is potentially contaminated and complete remedial action as appropriate. <p>Well maintained and accessible parks and public spaces We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop our wildflower planting scheme. • Deliver improvements to Wharton Park in Durham City • Maximise the use of allotments by increasing community ownership and involvement. 	<p>Objective 2 Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment</p> <p>Natural assets are valued and conserved We will work in partnership to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character, including the North Pennines Area of Natural Outstanding Beauty, East Durham Limestone Plateau, Oak and Iron, Heritage Coast (Derwent Valley) and Brightwater (River Skerne catchment area).</p>	<p>Objective 3 Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change</p> <p>Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events We will deliver the Warm up north project across County Durham to improve the condition of housing stock in the social and private sectors, which will result in warmer homes and better health of residents.</p> <p>The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient We will reduce carbon emissions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrading of street lights across the county to the latest light emitting diode (LED) lights. • supporting delivery of the carbon management plan and • relocate our fleet vehicles to align with service delivery areas to identify potential saving opportunities. <p>Improved infrastructure to support sustainable transport We will develop and improve the strategic cycle route network across County Durham for residents and visitors.</p>
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**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Thursday 10th December 2015
Turner Room, Van Mildert College, Durham**

Apologies

- Terry Collins - Durham County Council
- Adrian Vass - Natural England
- Jayne Watson - Durham County Council
- Andrew Turner - Environment Agency

Attendees:

- Chair:** Julie Form - Groundwork North East
- Tara Duncan - Durham University
- Jim Cokill - Durham Wildlife Trust
- Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
- Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
- Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
- Tim Wright - Durham County Council
- Councillor Barbara Graham - Durham County Council
- Diane Close - Durham County Council
- Victoria Burrell - Durham County Council
- Stella Hindson - Durham County Council
- Beverley Clark (Minutes) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. Introductions were given. Julie thanked Tara for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>It is believed that Adrian Vass has a different role – need to chase this up as he hasn’t attended recent meetings.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>Tara Duncan hasn’t heard back from Jo Laverick - to chase up in January.</p> <p>Oliver Sherratt informed the group that Durham City won the Gold award in the Large Town category in the Britain in Bloom Awards. Durham City has been invited to go forward for Champion of Champions and is going to go for it. In parallel with action already taking place the</p>	TD

	<p>promotion of In Your Neighbourhood is ongoing (this is a grant scheme of up to £500, open to community groups). Stella Hindson highlighted the fact that the Beautiful Durham competition also takes place.</p> <p>Oliver Sherratt is to discuss in the New Year promoting wider Britain in Bloom.</p> <p>Victoria Burrell held a meeting with Claire Thompson to discuss the link to health and the environment. Victoria has spoken to the Corporate team and has given feedback. A refresh of the document is needed from April 2016.</p>	<p>Oliver Sherratt</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick/ Claire Thomson</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Woodlands Review Report Presentation</p> <p>Councillor Graham thanked the Board for allowing her time to present the Woodlands Review Report. The report provided the Board with the key findings and recommendations of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee review report focusing on the management of the woodland estate owned by Durham County Council.</p> <p>Durham County Council owns and manages approximately 2000 hectares of woodland. Woodlands provide a place of recreation and a habitat to flora and fauna. Woodlands create jobs and create opportunities for education and community involvement. They are also a resource for the County Council and provide an opportunity to generate income from timber extraction.</p> <p>Councillor Graham asked the Board to consider the key findings and recommendations of the report. She added that she had enjoyed the site visits to Croxdale and Hawthorn Dene. During these site visits she had noticed the need to get younger people into the industry. There are difficulties with training and health and safety certificates.</p> <p>The Board discussed the report and positive feedback was given. A need to get young people into the woodland industry was highlighted. Maybe discuss this problem with the Economic Partnership.</p> <p>Councillor Graham stated that she is interested in the work being carried out by The Wildlife Trust in Gateshead regarding the management of estates. Gordon Elliott is to provide Councillor Graham with regard to available funding. Councillor Graham added that in the longer term she's looking at biomass and the future of it.</p>	

	<p>Oliver Sherratt reported that DCC has been carrying out work on tree safety and has been proactive at looking at trees on the highway; there is the need now to look at trees elsewhere e.g. open spaces. He added that DCC gets a lot of requests for tree pruning/felling but DCC has a policy of not felling trees if they are healthy – in due course Scrutiny might want to review that.</p> <p>The Board accepted the key findings and recommendations within the report.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Environment Awards</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick gave a presentation stating that there was a good entry level this year. There were 66 applications, 38 winners in 12 categories, 2 outstanding awards, 16 awards and 22 commendations. The outstanding awards went to Wear Referrals Veterinary Hospital at Bradbury and to Dylan Etheridge (Young volunteer). There were great comments and feedback from the evening plus media coverage.</p> <p>Tara Duncan added that Durham University had won an Environment Award and had also won a national award at Bristol.</p> <p>Steve asked for ideas for next year’s awards. It was agreed that the awards had been excellent, although it was a long night. A discussion took place on how to reduce the length of the ceremony and the process of judging. Suggestions included that commendations could be highlighted and then the award winner go onto the stage; gold, silver and bronze awards; highly commended awards.</p> <p>In terms of funding it was suggested that Wear Referrals Veterinary Hospital be asked for sponsorship next year – good promotion interest.</p> <p>Ideas for next year’s Environment Awards to be sent to Steve Bhowmick.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Environment Partnership Communications</p> <p>Stella Hindson circulated copies of the Environment Partnership newsletter and asked that any comments or amendments be sent to her. Gordon Elliott suggested that Stella get in touch with Claire Marshall regarding Volunteering Opportunities (page 4 of newsletter). Julie thanked Stella and her team for all of their hard work in producing the newsletter.</p> <p>Stella asked to be informed if any Caring for your Environment Awards were given in order for them to be publicised. She reminded the Group to use the altogether greener hashtag.</p>	

	<p>It was reported that only one Caring for your Environment Award was handed out over the last quarter. Julie challenged the 3 group chairs to come up with 3 awards each by the next meeting.</p>	<p>All group chairs</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions</p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u> Oliver Sherratt gave an update of the group's work: Issue 11 of The Coastal Heritage and Landscape Steering Group Newsletter has been produced and circulated. The Brightwater Skerne Project has been successful with its bid - £225,000. Heritage at Risk – things are going well; a number of sites have been identified. Limestone Landscape Partnership is planned to finish next year but aiming to get a reapplication for The Village Atlas Project. Work on hedgerows continuing. Wildflowers – hoping for 16 sites next year as this year they have been very successful. Woodlands – work ongoing. Refresh of the Durham Tourism Plans – Steve Bhowmick to circulate to the group. The group was informed that the Land of Oak and Iron was successful in the second round of funding - £2.4m.</p> <p><u>Climate Change Group</u> Tara Duncan reported that the group is moving forward on 3 projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Community Resilience for Severe Weather – the group has decided to hold an event in a community building (Coxhoe Leisure Centre), probably in March 2016. All 40 community groups from the asset transfer process will be invited. Presentations will be given including one on how to save energy. • Working with key stage 4 children on the model shift. Looking at running an event with Thorn Lighting – inviting children to talk about climate change. • Northern Powergrid is running a project – Activating Community Engagement (ACE) which rewards individuals and groups for reducing energy/being flexible with electric usage. There are individual weekly prizes and this incentive work has been endorsed by the Climate Change Group. Tara to forward details to be circulated. <p><u>Local Nature Partnership/DEFRA</u> Jim Cokill provided an update on the work of the group: The LNP merger has gone through; the LNP now aligns more with the LEP. The LNP met with Councillor Henig</p>	<p>Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>Tara Duncan</p>

	<p>and Ian Thompson. Work being carried out on natural infrastructure. Health agenda – piloting activity in Durham; The Big Tent Event. Steve Bhowmick stated that Claire Thompson has spoken to him seeking endorsement from the Board regarding environmental issues to be included in the action plan. This was agreed by the Board.</p> <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u> Julie Form stated that the group had met with Aycliffe Town Council and it was interesting to find out the work of the Town Council.</p> <p>Aycliffe Town Council carry out areas of work on behalf of DCC, such as nature reserves, footpaths, flowerbeds, etc. and also work with local schools.</p> <p>A discussion took place and it was reported that at the time of the meeting there has been a 34% uptake of the green waste service. There hasn't been a significant increase in flytipping since the introduction of charging for the collection of garden waste. Approximately 64,000 households signed up for garden waste collections this year and it's hoped that this number of households or around 70,000 will apply for next year. Information on garden waste charges of other local authorities was given. It was noted that possibly due to restructuring within the Environment Agency it's been difficult to get a waste focused group to meet.</p> <p>Growing focus – going to link up with Durham Foodbank. A lot of community centres are trying to establish allotments. Allotment Review – how to promote self-management.</p> <p>Family Learning Courses – Groundwork has funding. Julie pointed out that their group attendance is not too good and the group has sent out a survey. Feedback suggests that most people find the group useful but the group needs to be more action focused.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>AOB As part of the Away Day the chairs have been asked 5 key questions to feed back to the County Durham Partnership. Victoria Burrell will email the key questions to the group chairs. She will collate the information and feed back to the County Durham Partnership. Responses to be sent to her by early January.</p> <p>Julie Form encouraged the group to look at a physical activity framework on altogetheractive@durham.gov.uk Julie informed the group that she is leaving her position at</p>	

	<p>Groundwork at Christmas.</p> <p>Oliver Sherratt gave praise and thanks to Julie for all of her hard work and wished her well for the future. Julie replied that it had been an absolute pleasure working with everyone. A Caring for your Environment Award was given to Julie and a photograph taken.</p> <p>Ian Hault is to take over as chair of Environment in Your Communities in the interim.</p>	
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Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group

**Minutes from the Meeting held on
Wednesday, 18th November 2015, 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.,
Conference Room 4B,
Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ**

Present:

Claire Barry (CB) [Minutes], PA to the Head of Technical Services, Durham County Council
 Brian Buckley (BB), Strategic Highways Manager, Durham County Council
 David Charlton (DC), Project Manager, Northumbrian Water Limited
 Councillor Jim Cordon (JC), Durham County Council/NRFCC Member
 Dr Jon Hargreaves (JH), Chairman, Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
 Martin Kennedy (MK), Sustainable Sewerage Manager, Northumbrian Water Limited
 Simon Longstaff (SL), Drainage and Coastal Defence Manager, Durham County Council
 Su Jordan (SJ), CCU Programme Office Manager, Durham County Council
 Phil Marshall (PM), Team Leader, Partnerships and Strategic Overview, Environment Agency
 Stephen Merrett (SM), Team Leader, Partnerships and Strategic Overview, Environment Agency
 John Reed (JR) [Chair], Head of Technical Services, Durham County Council
 Zoe Thirlaway (ZT), Senior Spatial Policy Officer, Durham County Council
 Tony Ward (TW), Senior Project Manager, Durham County Council

Apologies:

Maggie Bosanquet (MB), Sustainability & Climate Change Team Leader, Durham County Council
 Les Hall (LH), Development Manager, Northumbrian Water Limited
 Peter Ollivere (PO), Principal Planner, Durham County Council

	Subject	Assigned Officer	By When
1.	Minutes from the Previous Meeting – 19th August 2015 No issues were raised.	-	-
2.	Matters Arising <i>Chester le Street</i> PM is to arrange for the video link of what the area could look like to be provided to CB in preparation for the next meeting. <i>Seaham Seawall</i> TW has removed this from the Dashboard Report. <i>Stanhope</i> TW has removed this from the Dashboard Report.	PM - -	12.02.16 - -

	<p>Gilesgate Moor Hotel TW has removed this from the Dashboard Report.</p> <p>Herrington Close, Langley Park TW has removed this from the Dashboard Report.</p> <p>European Funding - Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Update The application form and guidance regarding the format of the bids was circulated to the group and MB has been invited to future meetings.</p>	-	-
3.	<p>Capital Programme – Dashboard Report</p> <p>TW presented the report. The following points were noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lanchester: SL advised that Suzanne Hall, EA Project Manager, is reviewing the existing model, following which, a joint meeting is to be arranged. PM is to arrange for the issues to be resolved by the next meeting along with providing timescales for the scheme. ▪ Chester le Street: There is currently no funding in the six-year programme whereby a funding programme is to be developed in the next few years in relation to de-culverting. ▪ Murton: SL advised that the hydraulic issues are being reviewed at Bowes Avenue. ▪ Hood Street: This is currently with NPAS; no issues were raised. ▪ Etherley Lane: PM provided comments to DCC regarding the cost benefit issues. 	PM	26.02.15
4.	<p>DEFRA Efficiencies Update</p> <p>Efficiencies are being identified through meetings that are taking place. TW is to provide an interim update by 4th December 2015 and a further update in early 2016 when all efficiencies have been received.</p>	TW	04.12.15
5.	<p>Update on Durham Medium Term Plan (MTP)</p> <p>SL advised that Hood Street and St John’s Chapel are currently being progressed through the grant claims process.</p> <p>The scheme for Greta Bridge is being updated in relation to design. There has been a contribution of £10,000 already received.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Year 7 is being progressed and data for 2021 is being produced. This has been amended to a ‘1 in 30 year event’ whereby has been reduced to 4,000 properties. MK is to arrange to meet with SL when the list of schemes has been provided to determine if there is an overlap; SL is to provide an update at the next meeting.</p>	- - MK SL	- - 24.12.15 26.02.15
6.	<p>Update on Flood Investigations</p>		

	<p>Durham County Council DCC have received 143 requests for investigations from 1st April 2015 to 17th November 2015; 99 have been completed and work is currently being undertaken on 44.</p> <p>A breakdown of the investigations detailed by the geographical areas is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chester le Street: 11 ▪ Derwentside: 38 ▪ Durham: 26 ▪ Easington: 15 ▪ Sedgefield: 14 ▪ Teesdale: 12 ▪ Wear Valley: 27 <p>A breakdown of the investigations detailed by the source of the flooding is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sewer: 15 ▪ Highway: 51 ▪ Overland: 11 ▪ River/water: 16 ▪ Non related: 50 <p>A181 Thornley to Coxley Bypass Roundabout An investigation is to be undertaken regarding drainage issues.</p> <p>Underpass at High Handenhold JC advised that he is receiving complaints regarding the underpass being closed; SL is to address.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>SL</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>24.12.15</p>
7.	<p>Update from the Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NRFCC)</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Local Levy claim has been produced and that the Local Levy contribution has increased by 2%.</p> <p>JC advised that he has been reappointed as the interim Member and that Councillor Tracie Smith is to be appointed as the permanent Member and will be working with JC over the course of the next few months. JR thanked JC for his outstanding contribution to the group.</p> <p>JH thanked the group for his invitation to the meeting where he has received a useful overview.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>
8.	<p>European Funding - Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation Update</p> <p>JR advised that the guidance has been issued. Funding of £2.3 million has been allocated; this could increase to £3.1 million as requested by DCC. There is no call for projects however this is likely in 2016. The</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>

	<p>funding will be provided through a match-funding principle; ERDF will fund 60% of the total cost and DCC would be required to fund 40%. Concern has been highlighted regarding the ERDF criteria as the Government are stating that the allocation must be to protect business properties from flooding; DCC's Funding & Programmes Team are currently addressing this.</p> <p>SM advised that the Cabinet Office had mixed up the targets with business properties whereby they are to review the targets and the guidance and provide an updated document. A workshop is to be arranged to determine the funding that is available through the LEP, what schemes will be covered along with how work will be carried out with Risk Management Authorities to prioritise and produce a pipeline of schemes; SM is to arrange for MB to be invited to the workshop as a key contact.</p>	SM	24.12.15
9.	<p>Northumbrian Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP)</p> <p>MK advised that joint studies are being carried out with a further four or five commencing from April 2016 onwards.</p> <p>JH advised that an issue has been raised that a number of different standards are being used; JH is to raise this at the next Chairman's meeting.</p>	- -	- -
10.	<p>Watercourses</p> <p>SM discussed the EA's 2015/16 revenue allocation and maintenance programme. SL is to provide feedback to SM regarding the proposed allocation of funds.</p> <p>SM advised that it would be beneficial to identify opportunities where it may be possible to share resources; SM is to provide details of structures inspections and grass cutting to JR for DCC to identify potential synergies. SM is to attend a future meeting to provide an update.</p>	SL SM	24.12.15 24.12.15
11.	<p>Plans</p> <p><i>Flood Risk Management Plans</i> No issues were raised.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure Delivery Plan</i> The major flood alleviation schemes are to be included in the Capital Programme Dashboard Report; ZT is to provide the list of schemes to TW.</p> <p><i>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</i> No issues were raised.</p>	- ZT -	- 24.12.15 -

	<p>Surface Water Management Plan PO is to arrange a meeting with EA and NWL to discuss how this is progressed.</p> <p>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) If DCC adopt SuDS, inspections will be carried out during the construction phase and all costs will be incorporated into the developer fees.</p>	<p>PO</p> <p>-</p>	<p>24.12.15</p> <p>-</p>
12.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>NRF Flood Plan SJ advised that the Cardena Exercise progressed satisfactorily and that the Local Resilience Forum Emergency Plan has been approved.</p> <p>RFCC Funding Meeting - 27th November 2015 SM promoted attendance at the RFCC Funding meeting that is taking place on 27th November 2015 in York.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p>
	<p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, 2nd March 2016, 9.30 a.m. Conference Room 4C, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ</p>		

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