



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 8 July 2016**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

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

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 18 April 2016 and 3 June 2016 (Pages 1 - 14)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties
6. Media Relations - Update on Press Coverage
7. Performance Management Quarter 4 2015/16 - Report of Corporate Management Team (Pages 15 - 30)
8. Air Quality in County Durham - Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services (Pages 31 - 38)
9. Refresh of the Work Programme - Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Pages 39 - 44)
10. Minutes from the County Durham Environmental Partnership Board held on 9 March 2016 (Pages 45 - 50)

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham

30 June 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, J Clare, J Clark, D Freeman, J Gray, D Hall,
G Holland, I Jewell, C Kay, B Kellett, A Liversidge, P May, O Milburn, S Morrison,
J Shuttleworth, P Stradling and L Taylor

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

Contact: Paula Nicholson

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 18 April 2016 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

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

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

Also Present:

Councillors M Plews and B Stephens

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Bell and C Kay.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 January 2016 and 8 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Clare referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2016, minute 12 and sought clarification on how the scanning of the roads would work so that indicators NS04 and NS05 could be deleted.

The Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager responded that the NHT scanner survey fed into the national survey and was completed on an annual basis.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes). The articles were:-

- Sewer collapse reveals lake of fat – Northumbrian Water have advised on the dangers of putting fat down drains.
- Environmental plan to tackle Wingate's crossing gates – the old level crossing gates and railway signal will be replaced using funding secured by the parish council and the Council's teams will spruce up the surrounding area by installing a fence around a grassed area planted with bulbs.
- Environment award for Castle Eden volunteers – award given to people or groups who are committed to protecting and improving the local surroundings.

7 Strategic Cycle Routes - Overview

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development which provided Members with an overview of the strategic cycle routes within County Durham (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

On the 4 April 2016 Members visited strategic cycle routes at Newton Aycliffe, along the A167 and in Durham City. The visit provided members with the opportunity to view completed successful cycling schemes, proposal for developing new schemes and locations where conflicting demands put pressure on design and development of cycling schemes.

Members received a presentation from the Principal Policy Officer and Sustainable Travel Officer that focused on the Policy context; Cycling Strategy and Action Plan; Cycling Network Planning process; Cycling infrastructure improvements; issues and challenges and the next steps (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

Members were advised that cycling had grown in popularity thanks to the success of the GB Olympic Cycling Team, Tour de Yorkshire and closer to home the Pear Izumi Tour Series. The benefits of cycling were highlighted too, which included reduced pollution and a healthier population.

Councillor May welcomed the cycle routes which were used by cyclists, but was also concerned for the safety of cyclists as some cycle routes were dark and enquired if there were any plans to install lighting and CCTV cameras which would deter would be thieves. During the winter months some cycling routes would not be used due to freezing weather conditions, the Member asked if the routes were included as part of the winter maintenance programme as there was a drive to get more people cycling.

The Sustainable Travel Officer responded that they had done a lot of work on clearing overgrown vegetation from cycling routes and the railway paths. People using these routes had indicated they felt safe when the routes are well maintained and well cared for and the routes had a good reputation. She advised Members that the Council would not be able to light the railway paths due to costs and there was an environmental impact too in relation to energy consumption. Cyclists chose to use well-lit routes during the winter when it is darker and the days were shorter. The Travel Planning Team were currently looking at a programme to count the usage and the survey equipment used would be cameras. They were developing winter maintenance actions within the strategy using a hierarchy of routes. In the snow people still used the cycle routes and some cyclists preferred the routes not to be gritted due to damage to the cycles.

The Chairman indicated that the Quality Network Principles covered the issues.

Councillor Armstrong commented that any works were dependent on funding, some of which was from the combined authority and were alternative arrangements in place if the combined authority was not established.

The Spatial Policy Officer agreed that getting access to the Local Growth Fund would be at a greater level of risk if Durham were not part of the Combined Authority.

Councillor Milburn referred to works which had been carried out at Stanley to improve the signage on the cycle routes and asked if they had spoken to Stanley AAP and Stanley Town Council as she would not like to see two lots of money spent on signage.

The Sustainable Travel Officer responded that they had looked at signage and cycle parking.

Councillor Stradling welcomed the work done on the cycle routes but had received some complaints in relation to motorcycles and quad bikes using the cycle routes and what plans were in place to combat inappropriate use.

The Sustainable Travel Officer responded that they were restricted in what they could do as barriers would stop other legitimate users such as mobility scooters using the cycle routes. They had put signage up along the Locomotion Way which set out who should be using the cycle route but this was ignored by some people.

Councillor Clare referred to the cycle route along the A167 where the lights had been removed and if routes needed lighting there was a clash as it was being removed as a saving initiative.

The Principal Policy Officer responded that they would consider the issue of street lighting and how its importance could be referenced in the transport policy of the County Durham Plan.

Councillor Hall suggested that solar panelled street lights which were aimed at pedestrians and lasted 25 to 30 years could be a solution and they would become the responsibility of the parish council could be considered as part of the strategy.

Councillor Liversidge referred to the cycle routes in his ward which were owned by third parties, the land was subject to flooding and a boardwalk that had been erected over twenty years ago was now in disrepair. He had also received complaints about the surface of the cycle route and the pier had collapsed the Member asked what the policy was for repairs when the land was not owned by Durham County Council.

The Sustainable Travel Officer responded that generally the railway paths were not on private land. Their team did not have revenue they only had capital monies but they were trying to establish a system to formalise the status.

Councillor Liversidge responded that the surface on some routes had not been touched in 20 years and the plants which had been planted at that time were now overgrown and looked unsightly and were encroaching onto the cycle path.

The Sustainable Travel Officer responded that it was proposed that there was a bypass around the boardwalk which would open up around 10 miles of railway path for horses.

Councillor Clare asked how they were going to maintain the cycle routes if they had no revenue and did not own some of the land.

The Sustainable Travel Officer responded that although Sustainable Transport would not maintain the cycle routes, other team carry out maintenance i.e. highways, countryside and public rights of way. In general, the strategy is to carry out works to improve existing routes and not create new routes.

Councillor Hall referred to new developments and asked if the team got involved in the creation of cycle paths at this stage rather than later.

The Principal Policy Officer responded that they were consulted on new developments via the planning process but developers weren't obliged to provide funding for new strategic cycling routes, particularly those routes outside the development site boundary. Under Section 106 rules, planning officers can only ask for funding for infrastructure required to make that development site acceptable in planning terms. Unless that individual application would be refused without the infrastructure, officers can't request developers to provide funding for it. Sometimes the paths were narrower than they would like but it had to be balanced to meet everyone's needs.

Councillor Holland referred to the conflicting agendas in separating traffic from cyclists and gave an example of the Netherlands where cycling routes were designed to make cycling safe and popular. He added that there was a dedicated cycle path along the A167 at Neville's Cross, but it stops at the roundabout at the top of South Road and was never continued. There was a need to provide safety education to cyclists to be safe and wear a helmet and appropriate footwear but cyclists too had a responsibility as they were responsible for their own safety.

The Sustainable Travel Officer responded that education was part of the strategy.

The Chairman thanked officers for a very informative presentation.

Resolved: That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

8 Quarter 3 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16

The Committee considered the report of the Neighbourhood Services Management Team which set out details of the forecast outturn as at Quarter 3 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 Clark referred to the savings made by leisure contracts with 3rd party providers and raised concerns that the standard of leisure facilities was not going to be reduced.

The Finance Manager responded that the 3rd party provider was for two or three facilities and it was up to the leisure contractor to ensure that the facilities were up to the standard of the contract. The main savings that had been achieved in this area was through rationalising facilities ran by Leisureworks at Consett where a single centre had replaced two previous buildings and formed part of the Consett Academy/Consett Leisure Centre complex.

Mr T Bolton referred to the £1m transferred from the Capital Expenditure Earmarked Reserve in relation to additional costs for Thornley Waste Transfer Station and sought clarification if the consultants had not identified the issues.

The Finance Manager responded that it was a much bigger scheme than anticipated and was not a failing of the consultants.

Councillor Freeman sought clarification on the additional development expenditure for the Gala and Town Hall.

The Finance Manager responded that the Gala were protecting their position so were developing the cinema and were engaging with Picturehouse. The costs for the Town Hall were in relation to works anticipated to improve the facilities and increase usage.

Councillor Clare referred to the £0.9 m overachievement in Direct Services and commented that a parking bay in his ward that had no services cost £27,000, and asked if the prices had been brought down.

The Finance Manager responded that the prices had been reduced but parking bay construction was within the remit of Highways. Both Highways and Direct Services were reviewing their prices.

Councillor Armstrong commented that the monies were recycled back into the council.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

9 Quarter 3 2015/16 Performance Management Report

The Committee considered the 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 third quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period October to December 2015 (for copy of report, see file of minutes)

The Customer Relations Policy and Performance Manager gave a presentation which gave an update of the performance indicators relating to:

- Refuse and Recycling
- Environmental Cleanliness
- Land and Air Quality
- Fly-tipping
- Local Authority Road Network
- Reduction in Carbon Emissions
- Renewable Energy Generation

Councillor Clare referred to the results of litter and detritus which were brilliant and in his area some response times were the same morning. He then sought clarification on the 96% of waste diverted from landfill as his understanding was that nothing went to landfill.

The Customer Relations Policy & Performance Manager responded that there was always some residual that went to landfill but some planned essential works had taken place at SITA so it had to be sent to landfill, but they still met the 95% target.

Councillor Jewell referred to the action plan for developing a countywide allotment forum which is constantly been extended.

The Customer Relations Policy & Performance Manager responded that there were different tenancies from the various authorities which were complex to harmonise.

Councillor May referred to the improvements on roundabouts in particular the impact on local residents as a roundabout in his area one road could not get onto the roundabout as it was so fast which resulted in them using an alternative route and was this taken into consideration.

The Customer Relations Policy & Performance Manager responded local consultation was carried out and the scanner transport survey would look at satisfaction levels.

Councillor Holland congratulated the team on the quality of the service and the absence of complaints would suggest that they were doing a good job. He commented that the recycling scheme was most economic, sending waste to SITA, which was a good initiative.

The Chairman commented that in view of the savings that had to be made they were still doing a really good job.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

10 Refresh of the Work Programme

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided members with information contained within the Council Plan 2016-2019, relevant to the work of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This allowed 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 which highlighted development of the wildflower planting scheme, working in partnership to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character and relocation of the fleet vehicles to align service delivery (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Members were reminded of work undertaken in the last twelve months and of the number of updates coming forward from this work.

Members discussed the work programme and commented that they already had a lot of work in the current plan and 2017 was a County Council election year so it was important to complete the work programme by March 2017.

The Chairman suggested that they leave the plan as it is for now and bring back to a future meeting.

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

(ii) That no amendments be made at this stage to the work programme for 2016-2017.

(iii) That a further report detailing the committees work programme for 2016-2017 be submitted to the meeting on the 8 July 2016.

11 Minutes from the County Durham Environment Partnership Board held on 10 December 2015

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

The Chairman drew Members attention to her attendance at the Environment Partnership to present the conclusions and recommendations of the Woodlands Review and advised Members that she was concerned at the aging workforce within the woodland industry and had mentioned the importance of recruiting younger people into the woodland industry but was advised that this was difficult as they needed specific training. The Environment Partnership Board had suggested that they would discuss with the Economic Partnership Board about how they could help to encourage young people into the industry.

Councillor Armstrong advised that the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) funding is used for apprenticeships. Houghall College works with apprenticeships in this industry and perhaps this is an area they could pursue. It was also indicated that Mr T Batson employs people in the woodland industry and takes on apprenticeships every year.

The Customer Relations Policy & Performance Manager responded that as customer services were taking on apprenticeships there was an upcoming manager meeting where she would raise this and feedback to Members at the next meeting.

12 Minutes from the Durham Strategic Flood Group held on 18 November 2015

The minutes from the Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group held on 18 November 2015 were received for information.

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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 **Friday 3 June 2016 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, J Armstrong, J Clare, G Holland, I Jewell, B Kellett, A Liversidge, P May, O Milburn, J Shuttleworth, P Stradling and L Taylor

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton

Members of Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Councillors D Boyes, J Charlton, C Hampson, S Iveson, J Maitland and J Turnbull

Co-opted Members:

Chief Fire Officer S Errington (Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service) and Mr J Welch

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D Bell, J Clark, J Gray, S Morrison, T Nearney, C Wilson and P Spurrell.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

5 Environment Improvement Campaigns and Projects - Update

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular the Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee who had been invited to the meeting for this agenda item.

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services which provided Members with an update on the development and implementation of various environmental improvement campaigns and projects undertaken within the county.

The Neighbourhood Protection Manager and Senior Civic Pride Officer were in attendance and provided Members with detail of: the general aim and approach of the campaigns with most including education, engagement and enforcement; how Durham County Council works in partnership to deliver the various campaigns; the aim and outcomes of specific campaigns delivered including Responsible Dog Ownership; Big Spring Clean 2016; Litter from Cars; Fly Tipping and Operation 'Stop It'; the RHS Northumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom; Time Limited Projects consisting of various Community Clean-Ups and education programmes; Environment Awards 2015; Beautiful Durham Awards and work undertaken in partnership with Social Housing Providers (for copy of report and presentation, see file of minutes).

The Chairman thanked Officers for their very informative presentation and commented that most members had taken part in various litter picking events and some members had also contributed funding for the wild flower planting taking place on various roundabouts and verges in the County.

Councillor Milburn asked Officers if there were any laws in relation to dog fouling in cemeteries as she had received numerous complaints. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager responded that there is currently no specific restriction in relation to cemeteries however general enforcement powers can be used. The service could provide dog fouling signs/posters for display for the cemetery and that services is currently looking at using Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to dog fouling.

Mr T Bolton commented that Staindrop Parish Council had problems with dog fouling and asked if Durham County Council had a leaflet or notice on dog fouling that they could display on the parish notice board which included contact details to report dog fouling, a separate number rather than reporting it via the CRM system. He also commented that residents were not aware that litter bins could also be used for dog waste and could stickers be provided on bins to make people aware. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager responded that he could provide information for display on the Parish Council notice board and would be circulated to all Town and Parish Councils. In relation to the stickers they had been ordered and would be placed on all rubbish bins. The new CRM system will allow dog fouling to be reported via on-line forms which will then go directly to Neighbourhood Wardens for them to respond.

Councillor Boyes commented that a lot of good work had been done with regard to dog fouling which had showed good results but dog fouling was a big problem. He continued by highlighting that the Neighbourhood Wardens areas are continuing to increase in size and that a high percentage of dog fouling takes place outside of normal working hours with a requirement that the dog fouling has to be seen by the warden before prosecution can take

place as CCTV evidence cannot be used. Are there any stronger enforcement and prosecution powers available for use by wardens.

The Neighbourhood Protection Manager responded that if staff are provided with details of dog fouling incidents they do work outside of normal office hours on a voluntary basis. He advised that they could use CCTV provided it meets the relevant criteria as evidence for a prosecution and if a member of the public provided a statement and was willing to go to court then again this could be used for prosecution purposes. In addition, the service is looking at signs which illuminate on an evening as a deterrent to reduce dog fouling however they are expensive although evidence suggests they do reduce dog fouling when displayed. It was confirmed that the service had issued 160 warning letters to individuals.

Councillor Maitland referred to litter thrown from cars in particular at temporary traffic lights and asked if mobile cameras could be used to catch offenders. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager responded that there were some areas which were targeted and included traffic lights but CCTV was governed by the information commissioner and they needed someone to review the footage from CCTV in real time making it disproportionate amount of time. This is also a challenging process particularly in relation to getting a prosecution with the legislation meaning that the person that drops the litter is the one to be prosecuted not the keeper/owner of the vehicle.

Mr Welch referred to the public's interpretation of 'no dog' signs which they often thought included guide dogs and asked that the message be clearly given that the signs do not apply to guide dogs. Officers responded that guide dogs were exempt from 'no dog' signs and that as part of educating the public when engaging with local schools Durham County Council staff reinforce with children that guide dogs and dogs supporting those with disabilities are exempt from 'no dogs' signs.

Councillor Liversidge referred to the household waste recycling centres and commented that they close at 3.30 pm during the week and asked if this could be one of the causes of fly tipping and was it possible to extend the opening hours. He also commented that his Parish Council had two hot spots and they were looking into purchasing CCTV equipment.

The Head of Projects and Business Services responded that the type of people who use the household waste recycling centres should be members of the public and in 2012 when looking at reducing the opening hours of the Household Waste Recycling Centres there was concern about the potential impact on fly-tipping within the county. A number of detailed studies were undertaken and evidence suggested that there was no correlation between fly-tipping and the current opening hours at the Household Waste Recycling Centres. Fly-tipping tended to be the result of rogue traders rather than members of the public. They were currently looking at a system for small traders where the Council would get rid of their trade waste for a fee. Members of the public also had the option of a bulky waste collection, although there was a charge for this service.

Councillor May sought clarification if litter thrown from a vehicle is reported and the registration number provided could a letter be sent reminding the individual not to through litter from a vehicle.

Officers responded that this was not something that they did on a daily basis as they would need to identify the vehicle and the driver. To have a successful prosecution they would

need a full description of the driver and vehicle and a statement would have to be produced to enable the case to be taken to court. However, in relation to warning letter, officers would look into this and if a letter could be produced then they would look into this.

Councillor Stradling asked if any feedback was given to those who reported incidents. The Neighbourhood Protection Manager responded that if there was statement required then liaison would be ongoing but the feedback to general complaints was not there. Any prosecution would be publicised and feedback given.

The Head of Projects and Business Services responded that the new CRM system had a feedback loop.

The Chairman thanked Members of the Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their attendance.

Resolved: That the wide range of environmental campaigns aimed at promoting behavioural change and greater community involvement in the local environment be noted.

6 Waste Programme - Update

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

The Head of Projects and Business Services gave a presentation which provided members with an update on Garden Waste Subscriptions and Customer Interaction; Waste Transfer Station Capital Programme update and Station Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre Capital Programme update (for copy of slides, see file of minutes).

Councillor Holland sought clarification on the income versus costs for the garden waste service, in particularly if this service was still subsidised.

The Head of Projects and Business Services responded that the service was still subsidised as the income was just under £1m but the cost of the service was £2m. The kerbside collection service for rubbish cost £76.00 per tonne and landfill was £85.00-£90.00 per tonne, recycling was up and down with the markets but currently cost £17.00 per tonne. If Durham County Council did not recycle at the kerbside then cost to the authority would be £3.5m more. Two years ago Durham County Council received an income from recycling.

Councillor May commented that the garden waste collection service had been extended as it stopped too early last year and this year collections would not stop until November. He then sought clarification on the cost of additional bins.

The Head of Projects and Business Services responded that there was no additional charge for the collection of additional bins however an additional bin would cost £25.00 then a further £20.00 for the sticker to enable the bin to be collected.

Councillor Clare congratulated the team on their response to missed bins which were dealt with quickly with a separate a visit made. He also supported the renewal of the recycling

contract and asked about the implications and what was acceptable to be placed in the recycling bin.

The Head of Projects and Business Services responded the contact was awarded to a local company who were O'Brien Waste Recycling Solutions and there would be no implications on what is currently placed in the recycling bin. The 'Bin it Right' campaign focused on educating local residents that nappies, food and dog waste should not be included in the recycling bins. Plastic bags were an issue but this had reduced as a result of the 5p charge for a bag.

The Chairman suggested a site visit by the Committee to the Energy from Waste facility at Haverton Hill. The Head of Projects and Business Services suggested that they could also visit the new recycling contactor.

Resolved: (i) That the waste programme update be noted.

(ii) That arrangements be made for Members to visit the Haverton Hill Plant and O'Brien Waste Recycling Solutions based at Washington.

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

8 July 2016



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

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

Purpose of the Report

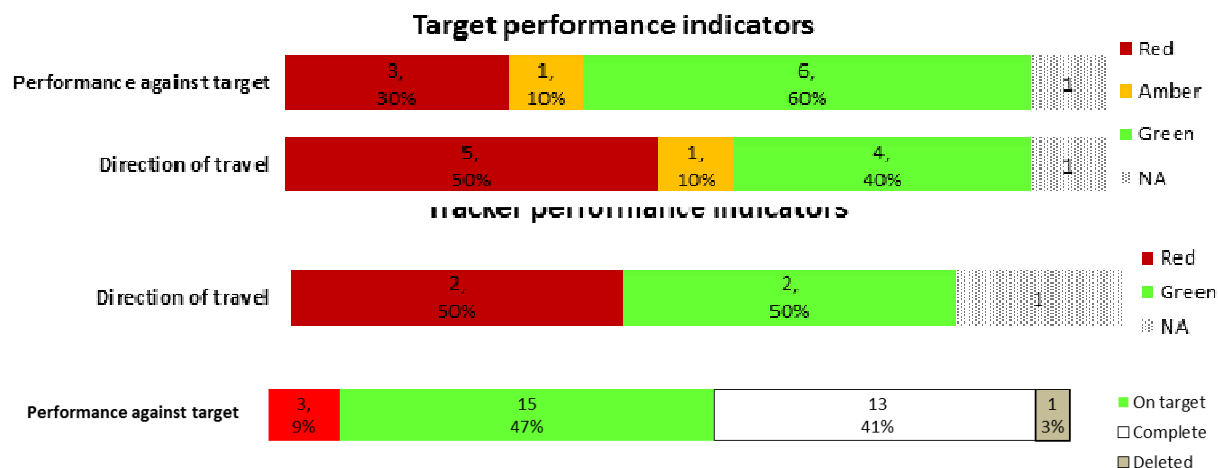
1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and report other performance issues for the 2015/16 financial year.

Background

2. The council has delivered £153.2 million of financial savings since the beginning of austerity and these savings are forecast to exceed £258 million by 2019/20. Despite this, demand for some of our key services has increased over the year such as looked after children cases, freedom of information requests received and processing of benefit change of circumstances. However, it is encouraging to note that there have been some reductions in demand placed on some of our services. The number of incidents of fly-tipping being reported has continued to reduce although more incidents were reported at quarter four. Fewer new benefit claims required processing and face-to-face customer contacts and telephone calls received are reducing as people are contacting us in other ways such as email and through the web. Other reductions have been observed with fewer people rehoused and overall planning applications have reduced.
3. Against this backdrop of reducing resources and changing demand it is critical that the council continues to actively manage performance and ensure that the impact on the public of the difficult decisions we have had to make is minimised.
4. 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).

5. 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.
6. For next year's reports work has been carried out by officers and members on developing the proposed indicator set and targets (see Appendix 5) to ensure that our performance management efforts continue to stay focused on the right areas. The suggestions raised by members of overview and scrutiny committees are appended to the report, including officer feedback and action that has been taken (see Appendix 6).
7. Members have recently raised specific issues of traffic lighting of performance indicators. We have therefore amended our traffic lighting system and introduced a 2% tolerance on direction of travel similar to that applied to variance from target. Detail of the change is outlined in Appendix 2.

Altogether Greener: Overview



Council Performance

8. Key achievements this quarter include:

- i. During the 12 months ending February 2016, 95% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill. Performance achieved the 95% target, but decreased by 4% from the same period last year (99%). A total of 64,696 megawatt hours (MWh) of energy were generated from municipal waste sent to the Energy from Waste plant during the 12 months ending February 2016. This was a decrease of 4.2% from the same period last year (67,556.1 MWh).
- ii. During the 12 months ending February 2016, 39.5% of household waste was re-used, recycled or composted. Performance exceeded the 38% target although this was a reduction compared to the same period last year (42.5%) and the previous quarter (39.9%). This reduction can mainly be attributed to changes to our garden waste scheme, with almost 8,300 fewer tonnes of garden waste collected in 2015 compared to 2014. Although there were fewer households participating in the scheme, the average amount of garden waste collected per participating household increased in 2015.
- iii. In 2015/16, there were 1,457 referrals to Warm up North from residents of County Durham. A total of 515 private sector properties benefited from an energy efficiency measure installed by British Gas through the Warm Up North Partnership which exceeded the annual target of 200 properties. There were 520 improvements made (five households had multiple measures installed) comprising of 12 cavity wall insulations, 102 external wall insulations, 65 loft insulations, 335 gas boilers, one oil boiler and five full central heating systems.
- iv. Between December 2015 and March 2016 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, 7.3% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was just outside the target of 7% for the first time in the last three years and deteriorated from 4% reported in the same period last year. However, performance was still significantly better than the national average (10% in 2014/15).

- ii. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus, 9.4% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was better than the target of 10% and the national average (27% in 2014/15) but deteriorated from 6.1% reported in the same period last year.
- iii. Of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling, 1.9% fell below an acceptable level. Performance was still significantly better than the national average (7% in 2014/15) but deteriorated from 0.6% reported in the same period last year.

During the last survey period, inclement weather, particularly winds and storms, caused accumulations of litter and detritus in certain areas. Any areas identified as below an acceptable level were highlighted to the Clean and Green Team to ensure appropriate street cleansing was carried out.

- v. Between January and March 2016, there were 329 renewable energy feed in tariff installations registered and approved, which exceeded the target of 225 installations. 328 installations were solar photovoltaic and there was one wind installation. The number of installations increased from 1,443 in 2014/15 to 1,692 in 2015/16. The feed in tariff installations have contributed 220.84 megawatts of energy as at the end of March 2016.
- vi. A key tracker indicator on dealing with fly-tipping shows there were 7,204 fly-tipping incidents during the 12 months ending March 2016, 1,575 fewer incidents compared to the previous year (see Appendix 4, Chart 1).

Since operation Stop It began in November 2014, the number of reported fly-tipping incidents has fallen by 20%. There have been 67 prosecutions and a total of £32,214 was awarded in fines, costs, compensation and surcharges (with £31,710 being awarded in 2015/16). The number of covert and overt CCTV cameras deployed in fly-tipping hot spot areas has increased countywide during the year and had a direct impact on the number of people being caught and prosecuted.

During 2015/16, the campaign focused on educating residents to check if a 'man with a van' is licenced as a waste carrier before handing over their waste. It also focused on residents disposing of their white goods legally (i.e. disposing of them via household waste recycling centres/ bulky waste collection /reuse charities). Businesses have also been reminded that they must only use licensed waste carriers to dispose of their waste.

Wardens have continued to work with the police to carry out regular stop and check operations, checking whether scrap metal dealers had the correct paperwork/ licence for the waste in their possession and prosecuting them if they did not.

- 9. The performance improvement issue for this theme shows 94% of recorded actionable category one defects on carriageways and footways were repaired within 24 hours during 2015/16, close to the 95% target for the fourth consecutive quarter. Over the same period, 83% of recorded actionable category 2.1 defects on carriageways and footways were repaired within 14 working days, below the target of 95%. Year on year increases have been observed of identified carriageways and highway defects with a further 20% increase in categories one

and 2.1 over 2015/16 compared to last year. This continuing trend, combined with other highway priorities, has impacted on target response times.

However, the latest road condition survey shows an improvement in our highways, achieved through significant investment, effective use of resources and working with neighbouring authorities to provide mutual assistance. Durham was recently, alongside Lincolnshire, named as one of the two top performing highways authorities in the country and as such will receive maximum incentive funding for 2016/17. Incentive funding is based on performance with the most efficient authorities receiving more funding.

10. Key Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme are:

- i. Implementing year one of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for Durham City by March 2016 has been delayed from March 2016 to July 2016. The AQAP for Durham City is still subject to agreement with Cabinet in June 2016. Once agreed, the plan will be implemented in practice.
- ii. Reviewing current operational practices for the collection of clinical waste and developing a clinical waste protocol that will harmonise the collection arrangements for clinical waste across the county has been rescheduled from March 2016 to March 2017. The delay has been due to other priorities. The action has rolled over into the 2016-19 service plan.
- iii. Revising and rebalancing all refuse collection routes across the county to reduce costs and improve consistency of service: due to resource implications and other priorities, this action is to adopt a phased approach. The north route is complete, the east route will be completed during 2016/17 and the south route during 2017/18. This change has been carried forward in the new service plan.
- iv. Developing a Waste Transfer Station Strategy and action plan has been deleted. A decision was taken to widen the scope and undertake a review of six inter-related projects to contribute to Medium Term Financial Plan savings, the Waste Transfer Station being one of those projects. As this action has been encompassed within the new service plan, this action is to be deleted.

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

Recommendations and Reasons

10. That the Environment & 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

Our traffic lighting system has been amended this quarter, introducing a 2% tolerance to variance from previous performance and comparator groups, similar to that applied to variance from target. Detail of the change is outlined in the table below:

Performance Indicators:

Previous traffic light system		Current (amended) traffic light system			
<i>Variation from previous performance and comparator benchmarking groups</i>		<i>Variation from previous performance and comparator benchmarking groups</i>		<i>Variation from target</i>	
Better than comparable period / comparator group	Green	Same or better than comparable period / comparator group	Green	Meeting/Exceeding target	Green
Same as comparable period / comparator group	Amber	Worse than comparable period / comparator group (within 2% tolerance)	Amber	Worse than target (within 2% tolerance)	Amber
Worse than comparable period / comparator group	Red	Worse than comparable period / comparator group (greater than 2%)	Red	Worse than target (outside of 2% tolerance)	Red

Where the traffic light system appears in this report, they have been applied to the most recently available information.

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.

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

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Page 22
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	7.28	Dec 2015 - Mar 2016	7.00	RED	4.00	RED	10.00		2014/15
46	NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	9.35	Dec 2015 - Mar 2016	10.00	GREEN	6.14	RED	27.00		2014/15
47	NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	95.0	Mar 2015 - Feb 2016	95.0	GREEN	99.0	RED			
48	NS19	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	39.5	Mar 2015 - Feb 2016	38.0	GREEN	42.5	RED	43.7	37.58*	2014/15
49	REDPI53	Percentage of conservation areas in the county that have an up to date character appraisal [1]	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	329	Jan - Mar 2016	225	GREEN	348	RED			
53	REDPI109	Number of private sector properties benefiting from an energy efficiency measure installed by British Gas through the Warm Up North Partnership	515	2015/16	200	GREEN	404	GREEN			
54	NS04	Percentage of recorded actionable defects on carriageways and footways repaired within 24 hours (category 1)	94	2015/16	95	AMBER	95	AMBER			
55	NS05	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 14 working days (category 2.1) [2]	83	2015/16	95	RED	New indicator	NA			

[1] 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.

[2] 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 (Apr 2015 - Mar 2016: 62% of recorded highway defects repaired within 3 months; Jan - Mar 2016: 80% of recorded highway defects repaired within 12 months); data are not comparable

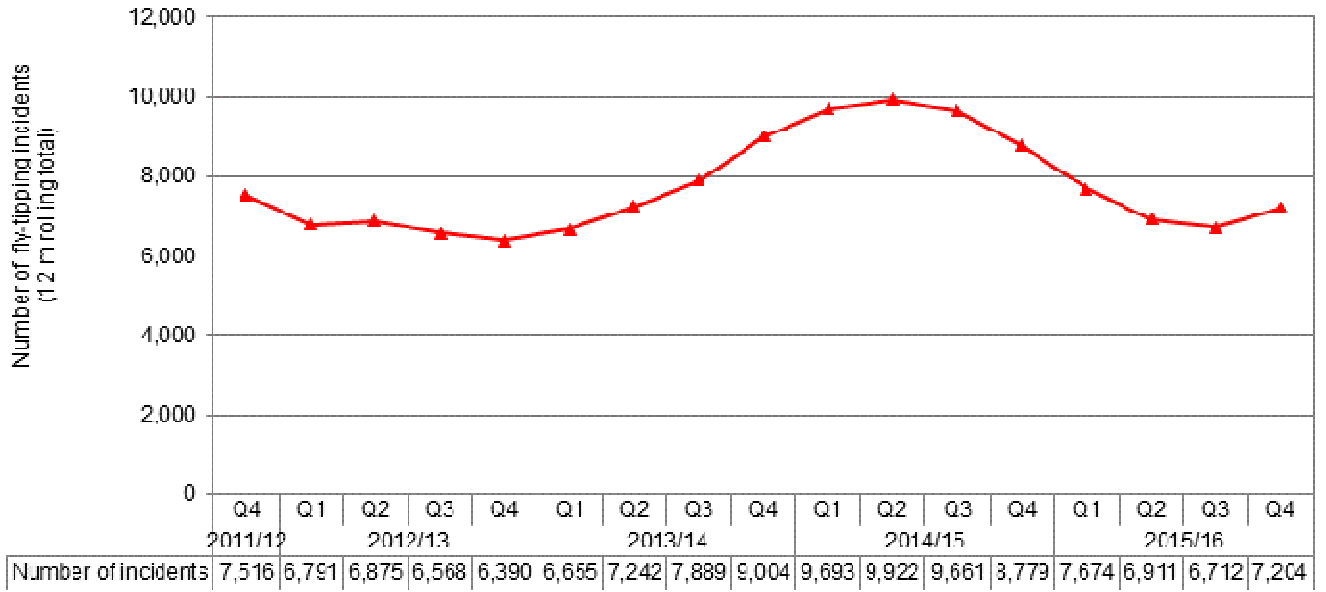
Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Page 24 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	1.89	Dec 2015 - Mar 2016	0.56	RED	0.56	RED	7.00 GREEN		2014/15
168	NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents	7,204	2015/16	6,712	RED	8,779	GREEN			
169	NS09	Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from municipal waste sent to the Energy from Waste plant	64,696.0	Mar 2015 - Feb 2016	67,079.8	RED	67,556.1	RED			
170	REDPI46	Percentage reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham	42.0	As at Dec 2013	39.0	GREEN	39.0	GREEN			
171	REDPI47	Amount of renewable energy generation - megawatts equivalent (MWe) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	220.84	As at Mar 2016	215.74	Not comparable [1]	217.17	Not comparable [1]			

[1] Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable

Appendix 4: Volume Measures

Chart 1 – Fly-tipping incidents



Appendix 5: Proposed 2016/17 Corporate Indicator set and 3 year targets

Indicator Type	PI ref	PI Description	Service	Frequency	Performance		2015/16 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
					2014/15	2015/16 Q3		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
Altogether Greener											
Tracker	NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents	NS	Quarterly	8,779	6,712					
Target	NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	NS	Quarterly	99	95.9	95	95	95	95	
Target	NS19	Percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted	NS	Quarterly	42.5	39.9	38	40	36	36	43.7 (2014/15)
Tracker	NS09	Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from municipal waste sent to the Energy from Waste plant	NS	Quarterly	67,556.1	67,079.8					
Target	NS14a	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level.	NS	3 times a year	5.32	5.5	7	7	7	7	10 (2014/15)
Target	NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level.	NS	3 times a year	8.87	8.55	10	10	10	10	27 (2014/15)
Tracker	NS14c	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an	NS	3 times a year	1.08	1.11					7 (2014/15)

Indicator Type	PI ref	PI Description	Service	Frequency	Performance		2015/16 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
					2014/15	2015/16 Q3		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
		acceptable level									
Tracker	REDPI46	Reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham (by 40% by 2020)	RED	Annual Q2	39 (2012/13)	42 (2013/14)					
Target	REDPI48	Percentage change in CO2 emissions from local authority operations	RED	Annual Q2	-9 (2013/14)	-10.4 (2014/15)	-4 (2014/15)	-4	-4	Not set	
Tracker	REDPI47	The amount of renewable energy generation - megawatt equivalent (MwE) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	RED	Quarterly	217.17	215.74					
Tracker	REDPI49	Number of new registered and approved Feed In Tariff (FIT) installations	RED	Quarterly	1,443	1,363	900				
Target	REDPI 109	The number of private sector properties benefiting from an energy efficiency measure installed by British Gas through the Warm Up North partnership	RED	Annual Q4	New indicator	501 (Q4 2015/16)	200	250	TBC	TBC	
Target	NS04	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within	NS	Quarterly	95	95	95	95	95	95	

Indicator Type	PI ref	PI Description	Service	Frequency	Performance		2015/16 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
					2014/15	2015/16 Q3		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
Page 28		24 hours (category 1)									
Target	NS05a	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 14 working days (category 2.1)	NS	Quarterly	New indicator	81	95	95	95	95	
Target	NS05b	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 3 months (category 2.2)	NS	Quarterly	New indicator	65	95	95	95	95	
Target	NS05c	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 12 months (category 2.3)	NS	Quarterly	New indicator	81	95	95	95	95	
Tracker	NS11	Percentage of A roads where maintenance is recommended (Scanner Survey)	NS	Annually	New indicator	New indicator					
Tracker	NS12	Percentage of B & C roads where maintenance is recommended (Scanner Survey)	NS	Annually	New indicator	New indicator					

Indicator	Member comment/query	Service feedback	Committee where raised
NS04 & NS05 Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 24 hours	Proposed to drop these PIs but members are concerned that performance of NS05 is well below target (68% against target of 95%) and wondered why. Also we do not have the details of how the new PIs regarding the scanner survey work. They would like details of how this will work before the existing indicators are deleted.	Indicators will remain in corporate PI set and new PIs for scanner survey will also be included	Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny

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



8 July 2016

**Air Quality Management within
County Durham – Update**

**Report of Oliver Sherratt, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood
Services**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the development of the Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City.

Background

- 2 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 17th April 2015 information was provided on the development of various air quality management projects undertaken across County Durham for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements of Local Air Quality Management.
- 3 It was agreed by members at the meeting on the 17th April 2015 that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee would receive a further update at a future meeting detailing, in particular:
 - The progress on the development of an Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City. This was identified as the most important Local Air Quality Management project that is ongoing at the current time.
- 4 Arrangements have been made for Denyse Holman, Pollution Control Manager and David Gribben, Senior Air Quality Officer, Neighbourhood Services to deliver a presentation focusing on:
 - A chronological timeline of what has been achieved in developing the Durham City Air Quality Action Plan since the previous meeting on 17th April 2015.
 - To provide a review of the consultation on the draft Durham City Air Quality Action Plan with the main emphasis on the outcome, by consideration of the feedback received.

- A summary of the amendments made to the draft Air Quality Action Plan following the consultation and the development of a Sustainable Transport Plan for Durham City.
- To outline the way in which the air quality action measures included in the draft Air Quality Action Plan are to be implemented.
- A summary of recent national changes with implications for the Council when carrying out Local Air Quality Management responsibilities.

Air Quality Management - Background

- 5 The Environment Act 1995 requires the Council to undertake review and assessment of local air quality across County Durham. This has identified areas of Durham City and Chester le Street where the assessed concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, a pollutant that occurs from vehicle emissions, are above the National Air Quality Standard.
- 6 The EC has formally launched infraction proceedings against the UK for breach of the nitrogen dioxide air quality limit values under the EU Air Quality Directive. The Government has discretionary power under the Localism Act 2011 to transfer all or part payment of the fine imposed following infraction proceedings on to Local Authorities that have failed to carry out responsibilities under Local Air Quality Management.
- 7 The Council declared an Air Quality Management Area within Durham City for nitrogen dioxide on the 9th May 2011. This extended across the city centre from Highgate, over Millburngate Bridge to the Hild and Bede roundabout and then along Gilesgate to the junction with Dragon Lane. The boundary of the Air Quality Management Area was extended in July 2014 to include the West End of the city following the route of the A690 to Neville's Cross and down to Stonebridge roundabout together with sections of Claypath and New Elvet.
- 8 The review and assessment of air quality elsewhere has not identified any other areas within the County where the concentrations of air quality pollutants have exceeded the National Air Quality Standards.
- 9 Once an Air Quality Management Area has been declared the Council is required to establish an Air Quality Action Plan. The Action Plan comprises of air quality improvement measures that, when implemented, will reduce nitrogen dioxide concentrations towards achieving compliance with the National Air Quality Standards.
- 10 The review and assessment of air quality is continuing across County Durham with the main focus on Durham City. An extensive network of non-continuous monitors is now established at all locations where elevated levels of an air quality pollutant may occur. In addition, the Council have portable and stationary continuous monitors that measure concentrations of nitrogen dioxide twenty four hours a day.

- 11 An Air Quality and Planning Guidance Note can now be used for providing advice to developers. The use of the guidance in dealing with pre-planning requests for advice and for planning applications will ensure the air quality impacts from developments will be assessed and minimised by the incorporation of mitigation measures into the design of the proposed development at an early stage.

Current position

- 12 A draft Air Quality Action Plan for Durham City was established by September 2015 following reporting and by obtaining agreement of the Air Quality Corporate Steering Group and the Management Teams of the Council. The plan included proposed action measures for improving the air quality across Durham City and therefore achieving the requirement of working towards compliance with the National Air Quality Standard.
- 13 The Council consulted on the draft Air Quality Action Plan over a twelve week period from 21st September to 14th December 2015. The consultation focussed on obtaining views on each of the proposed action measures and also invited suggestions for other actions for inclusion in the Plan by way of completion of a questionnaire and also from feedback at a workshop event.
- 14 In total 156 completed questionnaires were received and feedback obtained from group discussions during a workshop. The proposed action measures were positively supported by respondents to progress to improve air quality apart from Action 1 (Synchronising the sequencing of traffic lights on roundabouts through the centre of Durham City).
- 15 Many of the respondents expressed views that reflect the underlying traffic issues in the City contributing to air pollution. A number of suggestions were made for further action measures that included the extension and improvement of the existing Park & Ride, the improvement of the cycling infrastructure across the City, the introduction of variable charges for residential parking permits and the exclusion of specified categories of vehicle from the Air Quality Management Area.
- 16 The draft Air Quality Action Plan was amended to include three additional actions and to incorporate the outcome of the consultation. Two of these actions are to take into consideration the suggestions made in response to the consultation and cover the introduction of variable charges for residential parking permits and the extension of the Park & Ride routes together with the provision of further sites. In the first instance, an assessment will be required to determine whether it is viable or not to progress both of the actions.
- 17 A further action has also been included to take into consideration the recommendations of the Durham Sustainable Transport Strategy. This action incorporates the options for additional highway infrastructure that are identified to reduce the volume of traffic using the existing route through the city centre.

- 18 The outcome of the Consultation and the amended Air Quality Action Plan with the additional actions has been reported to the Council Management Teams. Approval for the adoption by the Council of the amended version of the Durham City Air Quality Action Plan was given by Cabinet on 15th June 2016.

Next Steps

- 19 An Implementation Plan that sets out the department and officer responsibility for delivering each of the actions together with a timescale has been established. It will be necessary for the Air Quality Corporate Steering Group to approve the Plan.
- 20 The Plan will require the reporting of progress on the implementation of the action measures at quarterly meetings of the Air Quality Technical Working Group. It is important that the Senior Air Quality Officer is kept informed of progress so that targeted monitoring of nitrogen dioxide concentrations across Durham City to determine improvements in air quality can be carried out.
- 21 In addition, for some of the actions there is also a requirement for the reporting of information that provides an indication of the progress of the implementation of the actions and also of potential improvements in air quality. For example, the EU engine specification profile of the bus fleets operating within the declared Air Quality Management Area.
- 22 The reporting requirements to DEFRA on Local Air Quality Management have recently changed as the Council have to now submit an Annual Status Report. An emphasis is now placed much more on progress of the implementation of the action measures and supported by evidence of improvement in air quality by ongoing monitoring and, if required, detailed assessment of the air quality.
- 23 The Air Quality Action Plan will be reviewed giving consideration to the results of the ongoing monitoring. This is important since it is recognised that changes including development are likely to occur within and on the periphery of Durham city that potentially will have an impact on local air quality. Where there are grounds for doing so the Air Quality Management Area and the Air Quality Action Plan will be revised.
- 24 There is a recognition from the amendments made to the way in which the review and assessment of local air quality is carried out for departments within the Council to work together to address air quality. This is highlighted by a new role that Councils now have in relation to the review and assessment of PM_{2.5} (particulates of size below 2.5 microns in diameter) and the need for air quality specialists to collaborate with Public Health in fulfilling the local air quality responsibilities.

Recommendations

- 25 That the members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note and comment upon the information provided in the attached report and presentation.
- 26 That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive as part of the refresh of the work programme for 2016-17 a further update on the development of air quality management within County Durham.

Background Papers

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Report –

Contact: Denyse Holman

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Author: Diane Close

Tel: 03000 268141

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

There are cost implications with the implementation of the air quality improvement measures incorporated within the Air Quality Action Plan. The source of the pollution is from vehicle emissions and therefore the majority of the actions are traffic improvement measures and the capital funds required for these is yet to be determined and would need to be met from the Local Transport Planning budget or other relevant external funding streams.

There are also cost implications with the ongoing requirement to carry out monitoring of air quality pollutant (nitrogen dioxide) and 'indicators' e.g. traffic volume flow rates following the implementation of the action measures. Further portable continuous monitors will be required to provide a daily profile of levels of nitrogen dioxide at locations where the implementation of the action measures is likely to have an impact. The existing portable continuous monitors have been replaced with an upgraded specification that includes the capability of measuring particulates. The cost to cover this was £10,628 and the funding for this was sourced from the budget for the implementation of the Local Transport Plan.

Staffing

Officers in the Pollution Control Team will be required to plan and then undertake monitoring within as well as in close proximity to the Air Quality Management Area.

The responsibility for the implementation of the actions will involve a number of key service areas across the Council in accordance with an agreed Implementation Plan. This will require the allocation of staff resources in these sections to ensure the actions are effectively delivered and monitored.

Meetings of the Air Quality Technical Working Group will continue and progress on the implementation of the proposed action measures will be reported to the Air Quality Corporate Steering Group on a regular basis.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

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

An Equalities and Diversity Impact Assessment was initially prepared for the draft Air Quality Action Plan to the NSMT on 25th August 2015. This has been reviewed and updated to take into consideration the outcome of the consultation that concluded on 14th December 2015. Further reviews will be undertaken as necessary.

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

None

Consultation

The Council is legally required to consult, under Schedule 11 of the Environment Act 1995, on the draft Air Quality Action Plan prior to adoption. The requirements are to consult with statutory consultees comprising of neighbouring local authorities, DEFRA, the Highways Authority, the Environment Agency and organisations/associations that represent business interests in the city.

The main purpose of the consultation was to obtain feedback on the air quality improvement actions that have been included in the draft AQAP. Some of the actions have indirect benefits on air quality and are dependent on participation by the public such as encouraging other forms of travel to private car use. The consultation will also provide an opportunity to raise the profile of air quality across the city and therefore impact on the effectiveness of these actions.

Procurement

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

Disability Issues

None

Risk and Legal Implications

The Council is legally required to implement the air quality improvement actions in an Air Quality Action Plan to demonstrate that it is pursuing compliance with the air quality objectives.

To fail to carry out this duty may lead to judicial proceedings being taken against the Council and/or intervention by the Secretary of State.

The UK Government is also required to comply with EU legislation and failure to do so can lead to infraction fines being imposed. Under the Localism Act 2011 all or a proportion of the fine maybe passed on to Local Authorities where there is failure to carry out its statutory duties in relation to air quality.

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



8 July 2016

**Refresh of the Committee's work
programme 2016 - 17**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide for Members' consideration an updated work programme for the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny for 2016-2017.

Background

- 2 At the meeting on the 18 April 2016, the Committee considered the actions identified within the Council Plan 2015-2018 for the Altogether Greener priority theme and agreed to refresh its work programme to include a number of these actions. In addition, topics have also been identified that are in-line with the Council Plan, Cabinet's notice of key decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.

Detail

- 3 In accordance with this decision, a work programme for 2016-2017 has been prepared and attached in Appendix 2.
- 4 Members are encouraged to identify areas of scrutiny investigation (in depth and light touch reviews) from the work programme.

Recommendation

- 5 Members of the Committee are asked to discuss and agree the new work programme as detailed for 2016-2017.

Background Paper(s)

Council Plan 2015-2018, Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee report-Refresh of the work programme-18 April, 2016.

Contact:	Tom Gorman	Tel:	03000 268 027
Author:	Diane Close	Tel:	03000 268 141

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)

FinanceThe 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

<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2016 TO 2017</p> <p>Environment & Sustainable Communities OSC</p> <p>Lead Officer: Tom Gorman</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Officer: Diane Close / Ann Whitton</p> <p>IPG contact: Alan Patrickson</p>	<p>Note: O/S Review - A systematic 6 monthly review of progress against recommendations/Action Plan</p> <p>Scrutiny/Working Group – Indepth Review</p> <p>Overview/progress – information on an issue; opportunity to comment, shape, influence, progress with a scrutiny review</p> <p>Performance – ongoing monitoring (quarterly) performance reports/budgets</p>
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	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
O/S Review Updates				
Flooding	Env OSC on 18 November 2016. Special meeting Feb 2017 TBC	John Reed	Members of the committee will receive an update on recommendations together with presentations from each of the Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham on current and future projects at a special meeting of the committee. .	The committee will monitor the progress made against the recommendations in the review report. Members will be aware of current and future flood mitigation projects planned for County Durham by the RMA's.
Woodlands	Env OSC 7 October 2016	Sue Mullinger (RED)	To provide members of ENV OSC with an update on progress made against the committee's recommendations.	The committee will monitor the progress made against the recommendations within the review report.
Scrutiny/Working Group				

Overview/Progress				
Air Quality Action Plan - Update	Env OSC 8 July 2016 and 6 March 2017 tbc	Denyse Holman	To provide members of the committee with an update.	Members will be aware of progress made on the action plan.
European Structural and investment Fund (ESIF) - Update	Env OSC 8 July 2016, 18 November, 2016 & 6 March 2017	Maggie Bosanquet (RED)	To provide members of the committee with updates in relation to the progress of EU funding.	Members will receive information in relation to the progress of ESIF projects.
Visit to Wild Flower Meadow and Wild Flower Planting on roundabouts	26 July 2016	Stuart Priestly/ Alan Patrickson/ Andrew Jackson	For members to see wild flower meadows and to see the planting schemes for roundabouts and road verges	Members will have an understanding of where the planting schemes are and future plans.
Waste Programme - Update	Env OSC 7 October 2016 & 24 January 2017	Alan Patrickson	To provide members of the committee with an update.	Members will receive information on the progress of the waste programme.
Winter Maintenance Policy – Update	7 October 2016	Brian Buckley/Brian Kitching	To provide members with an update on the winter maintenance programme looking back to 2015/16 and forward to 2016/17 – providing detail of proposed delivery and preparations in place.	Members will receive detail of the performance/delivery of the winter maintenance programme for 2015/16 including identifying how the programme had performed including any lessons learnt. Members will be aware of the plans for the proposed delivery of winter maintenance in 2016/17.
Visit to MRF	TBC	Alan Patrickson/	To provide members with a	Members will be able to view the material

		Jo Blackie	first-hand insight into recycling of materials in County Durham.	recycling facility at Washington which only accepts recycled waste from County Durham
Visit to Suez	TBC	Alan Patrickson/ Jo Blackie	To provide members with a first-hand view of what happens to municipal waste.	Members will be able to view the waste plant at Haverton Hill
Warm Up North - Update	Env 18 November, 2016.	Stuart Timmiss/Dianne Hedley (RED)	To provide members of the committee with an update of the project.	Members will receive information providing an update on the progress of the project together with take up.
Carbon Management Plan - Overview	Env OSC 18 November 2016	Maggie Bosanquet /Stephen Beresford (RED)	To provide members with an overview of the Carbon Management Plan.	Members will be aware of the Carbon Management Plan and current progress.
Climate Change Strategy & Delivery Plan - Update	Env OSC 24 January 2017	Maggie Bosanquet (RED)	To provide members of ENV OSC with progress made in relation to the delivery plan.	The committee will receive information relating to the climate change strategy and detail of progress made against actions identified in the delivery plan.
Community Action Team - Update	Env OSC 6 March 2016	Joanne Waller/Jennifer Jones	To provide members of the committee with an update	Members will receive an update in relation to current projects and progress made.
Environment Awards - Overview	13 April 2017	Steve Bhowmick	To provide members of the committee with information in relation to the Environment Awards	Members will receive information on criteria for the awards, successful projects in previous years, categories for the coming year and deadlines for submissions.
Schools & Environment	13 April 2017	Rich Hirst (CAS)	To provide members of the committee with information on environmental projects in schools	Members will receive an overview presentation on how schools are playing into environmental projects and schemes.
Performance Q 4 Q 1	8 July 2016 7 Oct 2016	Mary Readman		Ongoing – to provide members with information on performance of the service grouping and highlight areas of prominence

Q 2 Q 3	24 Jan 2017 13 April 2017			(those going well, and those giving cause for concern).
Budget Outturn Q 4 & Q1 Q 2 Q 3	7 Oct 2016 24 Jan 2017 13 April 2017	Phil Curran		Ongoing – highlight areas of concern. Committee to receive updates on the affects and implications of MTFP on service groupings



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Tuesday 9th March 2016
Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

Andrew Turner - Environment Agency

Attendees:

Chair: Terry Collins - Durham County Council

Jim Cokill - Natural England
 Tara Duncan - Durham University
 Oliver Sherratt - Durham County Council
 Ian Hault - Durham County Council
 Steve Bhowmick - Durham County Council
 Bryan Harris - Durham County Council
 Gordon Elliott - Durham County Council
 Tim Wright - Durham County Council
 Jayne Watson - 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 The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. Introductions were given.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising Jo Laverick has contacted Tara Duncan and has nominated Liz Charles (County Durham Community Action). Tara has made contact with her and needs to formally invite her to the next meeting of the Climate Change Group. Oliver Sherratt has circulated information on the promotion of a wider Britain in Bloom. Victoria Burrell informed the Group that a revised Environment Partnership Action Plan would align to the revised 2017 Sustainable Communities Strategy. The revised Durham Tourism Plan has been published - Steve Bhowmick to provide a link to the document. Information on Activating Community Engagement has</p>	<p>Tara Duncan Steve Bhowmick</p>

	<p>been circulated. Stella Hindson is to include an article in the Environment Partnership Newsletter regarding Julie Form's contribution to the Environment Partnership/County Durham Partnership.</p>	Stella Hindson
3.	<p>Board Structure and Governance Due to recent organisational changes both within Durham County Council and within the Board members' organisations, the Environment Partnership agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Collins will retain the role as Chair. • Expressions of interest across both the Environment Partnership and wider County Durham Partnership (including AAP's) will be sought for the role of Chair of the Environment in Your Communities Group. • The Environment Partnership would like to thank Julie Form from Groundwork for her contribution whilst acting as Vice Chair of the Environment Partnership and Chair of the Environment In Your Community Group over recent years. An article about Julie to be included in the latest edition of the Environment Partnership Newsletter. • Ian Hault will act as Interim Chair of the Environment In Your Communities Group. • Oliver Sherratt will remain the Chair of the Heritage, Coastal & Landscape Group. • Tara Duncan will remain as Chair of the Climate Change Group. • Board membership - the Board will retain representation from DCC Public Health, AAP's, Local Nature Partnership and the Environment Agency. • The structure and objectives of the Environment Partnership will be unchanged however the terms of reference are to be reviewed to ensure they remain relevant. Victoria Burrell to circulate the terms of reference. • The Environment Partnership Action Plan will be revised to align with the revised 2017 Sustainable Communities Strategy. • An independent review of the Environment Partnership is to take place over the next few months to ensure the Partnership is fit for purpose and provides added value. <p>Gordon Elliott to invite AAP coordinators to apply for the position of Chair of the Environment In Your Community Group Chair at the next AAP meeting. Gordon Elliott is to get in touch with Fred Robinson as he</p>	<p>Stella Hindson</p> <p>Victoria Burrell</p> <p>Gordon Elliott</p> <p>Gordon Elliott</p>

	<p>has carried out independent research into structures and governance arrangements. A review of the Environment Partnership will ensure added value is provided. Gordon to bring back findings to next meeting.</p> <p>It was suggested that representatives from other partnerships be invited to attend Environment Partnership meetings.</p>	
4.	<p>Future Workshop Proposal Item not discussed.</p>	
5.	<p>Environment Awards & Survey Bryan Harris gave a presentation on the participant feedback survey. Some of the main points being:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey was carried out between 3rd and 17th February 2016. • The purpose was to obtain feedback on the 2015 Environment Awards to identify any areas for improvement. • Winners, sponsors, judges, elected members award presenters and other invited guests were asked to give feedback. • The survey was issued to 70 people. Some participants shared with fellow guests. • 31 responses in total were received. <p>The aim of the survey was to ensure that the process from the application stage, judging and the awards ceremony itself is appropriate to all involved as well as being an enjoyable and rewarding experience.</p> <p>Questions in the survey covered such topics as the application process, the ceremony, categories, ceremony, venue, facilities, etc.</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick outlined the proposals contained in the presentation. A discussion followed which focussed on the resounding success of the event and potential opportunities for improvement including sponsorship opportunities. This included the possible streamlining of the ceremony with a view to reducing the length of the evening as well as refining the judging procedure and reviewing the use of the "Award" and Commendation" winning levels to "Overall category winner" and "Highly commended". The 2016 Environment Award application process will be launched on 3rd June 2016 and closely aligns with World Environment Day.</p> <p>Bryan Harris to circulate sponsorship information. Stella Hindson to produce a press release to highlight the Environment Awards and speak to her contact at The Northern Echo. Tara Duncan & Terry Collins to inform the vice-chair of Durham University of the Environment Awards.</p>	<p>Bryan Harris Stella Hindson</p> <p>Tara Duncan/Terry Collins</p>
6.	<p>Environment Partnership Communications Stella Hindson circulated copies of the latest Environment</p>	

	<p>Partnership newsletter. She gave a brief overview of the contents of the newsletter. Stella to include an expression of interest for the Vice-Chair position in the newsletter. Any enquiries regarding this position to be sent to Victoria Burrell.</p> <p>Stella has drafted two press releases for Caring for your Environment Awards – one for The Heathland Heartlands Project, the other for The Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve Volunteers. It was stated that it would be best to publicise each award individually.</p> <p>John Turner, Community Executive Chef at Durham University was also presented with a Caring for your Environment Award for his work with local suppliers. Tara will speak to him to ascertain whether a press article is to be produced and will inform Neighbourhood Services Comms Team of the outcome.</p>	<p>Stella Hindson</p> <p>Tara Duncan</p>
<p>7.</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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Limestone Landscape - a book has been produced to celebrate and promote the regions landscape following the end of this project. • Heart of Teesdale project is coming to an end. • Brightwater project is starting. • Work has commenced on the Land of Oak and Iron project- focusing on the Derwent valley through North-West Durham and Gateshead. The project is led by Groundwork, the aim is to preserve natural and industrial heritage, help people gain new skills and promote the area. The project will run till 2020. • Work continues on Wildflower Meadows, War Memorials and Durham City Riverbanks. <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u> Ian Hoult provided an update with some of the main points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Big Spring Clean - Every day from 29 February to 17 April there will be litterpicks happening throughout County Durham and Darlington. Ian Hoult to circulate information on The Big Spring Clean. • Dog microchipping - From 6 April 2016, in England and Wales, it will be law that all dogs aged 8 weeks old or over must be fitted with a microchip. DCC is providing free microchipping events. • Work with the Community Action Team (CAT) involves residents and a range of organisations to tackle environmental issues throughout the county. They are currently working in Blackhall Colliery where there is a big focus and campaign on dog fouling both in public areas and private properties. 	<p>Ian Hoult</p>

Later in the year, they will move on to Ferryhill South and Station and will then revisit Horden Central.

- Work continuing on the Growing Durham project - the group is co-ordinating promotional activities and is in the process of producing a calendar of events.
- The most recent meeting included presentations from Durham Foodbank and The Hagrid Project.
- Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions - Durham City is bidding for gardening glory in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom and Northumbria in Bloom Champion of Champions competition.

Climate Change Group

Tara Duncan gave an update of the group's work:

- Building Community Resilience for Severe Weather – working with Su Jordan (Civil Contingency Unit) and the work is going really well.
- Work ongoing regarding modal shifts – held a recent meeting looking at transport barriers. A meeting is to be held with the students and assessment of data next week in relation to this project.
- Energy Management in Community Buildings – an event is to be held on 9th June at County Hall with exhibitors from local businesses which will provide an opportunity for networking. 6 undergraduates have been recruited to carry out energy audits. Tara Duncan to email Terry Collins with the date of the above event.
- Climate Change Strategy and Business Plan – 8 promotional events to be held throughout the year.

Tara has made initial Partnership connections to Liz Charles from County Durham Community Action. It is hoped she becomes a future member of the Climate Change Group.

Oliver Sherratt pointed out that Durham County Council is looking at a review of the Eco Champions network which will include speaking to relevant partners including Durham University.

Gordon Elliott asked if there are any ideas for projects from AAP's how do we get them brought to the Board/Sub-groups attention? Project ideas to be sent to Victoria Burrell who can co-ordinate and disseminate information.

Local Nature Partnership

Jim Cokill gave an update on behalf of the LNP:

- The Local Nature Partnerships have merged and now is named the North East Local Nature Partnership.
- Looking at developing a strategic Natural Infrastructure Plan for the North East and needs

Tara Duncan

Gordon Elliott/Victoria Burrell

	<p>resources to do this. The Partnership has received some funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North East Local Nature Partnership is changing to a business constitution. 	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Earth Hour is taking place on Saturday, 19th March 2016. Durham County Council is carrying out the event on 18th March at 3.00pm, schools at 2.00pm. Durham University is holding their event on 19th March with exterior illuminating lights being turned off at Durham Castle. A joint press release between DCC and Durham University is to be produced.</p> <p>World Environment Day is Sunday 5th June. Steve Bhowmick to arrange an ideas session and will inform the Board Members of the outcome.</p> <p>It was asked whether there is a role for the Environment Partnership to circulate details of environmental grants. Does the group need to promote this more widely?</p> <p>Gordon Elliott to speak to Oliver Sherratt regarding grants. Members of the Council receive a list of grants called Funding Insight.</p>	<p>Stella Hindson/Tara Duncan</p> <p>Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>Gordon Elliott</p>
9.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Monday, 27th June 2016, 10am to 12 noon. Conference Room 4b, County Hall, Durham.</p>	