



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 18 November 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 7 October 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. Warm Up North and Fuel Poverty within County Durham - Update (Pages 15 - 20)
 - a) Joint Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services
 - b) Presentation by Cliff Duff, Housing and Regeneration Project Manager
8. Flooding Review - Update on Recommendations (Pages 21 - 38)
 - a) Joint Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services
 - b) Presentation by John Reed, Head of Technical Services and Simon Longstaff, Drainage & Coastal Protection Manager
9. Carbon Management Plan Update - Report of Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services (Pages 39 - 52)
10. European and Structural Investment Funding Update - Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services (Pages 53 - 58)

11. 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

10 November 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

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 7 October 2016** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

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

Also Present:

Councillor B Stephens

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Clare and Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 8 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

Councillor P May asked for clarification in terms of his request for letters to be sent to individuals who had thrown litter. The Head of Projects and Business Services, Alan Patrickson confirmed that such letters could be sent out, taking evidence received into account.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Diane Close noted that in relation to the Quarter 4 Performance Report (Minute 7) there was an ongoing consultation regarding the proposal to introduce a countywide Public Space Protection Order for dog control order, with the consultation closing on 5 December. Following the meeting, Members of the Committee would be provided with the link to the consultation providing an opportunity for Members to comment. An update for Members on the results of the consultation will be provided at the meeting on 24 January 2017 as part of the Quarter 2 performance presentation.

The Head of Projects and Business Services added that previous dog control orders would move over to the new legislation automatically, however, the consultation would allow people to input on aspects other than dog fouling such as enforcing having a dog on a leader, stray dogs, and other areas that Neighbourhood Wardens faced on a frequent 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 included: Pupils at Bishop Middleham School swapping learning for teaching as they educated people about responsible dog ownership, working with Durham County Council (DCC) to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs; Durham City winning a special class, Champion of Champions Award, in the Northumbria in Bloom contest; a man running an illegal dump has been jailed for 16 weeks, when waste found in Murton was traced back to the man; and Communities are working together to make positive changes to where they live as part of an environmental improvement scheme, with the 'Growing Forward Together Group' aiming to bring residents, children and businesses from Trimdon Station and Deaf hill village together to improve their community, the group has undertaken litter picks in hotspot areas, replacing seating and installing new planters.

The Chairman noted the success in terms of the Northumbria in Bloom award and thanked the department on behalf of the Committee.

Councillor C Kay noted some illegal dumping of waste at Binchester and asked if there was an update on the situation. The Head of Projects and Business Services noted he would look into the issue and get back to the Councillor accordingly.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Quarter 4 2015/16 and Quarter 1 2016/17 Revenue and Capital Outturn

The Chairman introduced the Finance Manager – Neighbourhoods, Philip Curran to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 4, 2015/16 and Quarter 1, 2016/17 Revenue and Capital Outturn (for copy see file of minutes).

The Finance Manager noted for the Quarter 4 2015/16 Revenue and Capital Outturn the areas that were reported upon were the General Fund Revenue Account and the Capital Programme for Neighbourhood Services. Members were reminded that as of this Monday, the Regeneration and Economic Development (RED) and Neighbourhood Services directorate had been merged into a new Regeneration and Local Services directorate, although in terms of reporting Quarter 2 reports would be split between RED and Neighbourhoods Services, with reporting on the new directorate from Quarter 3.

Members noted the service had reported an outturn position with a cash limit underspend of £0.860 million against a revised annual General Fund Revenue Budget of £107.819 million, in comparison to Quarter 3 with a £1.290 million cash limit underspend. Members noted the variances within the budget, with the detailed explanations as set out within the report.

As regards the Capital Programme 2015/16, the Finance Manager explained that there had been a £3.182 million underspend, relatively small in terms of the overall budget of £40.903 million, and that some projects were implemented over a number of years and would carry forward into 2016/17.

The Chairman thanked the Finance Manager and with no questions asked him to move on to the Quarter 1, 2016/17 finance report.

The Finance Manager noted for the Quarter 1 2016/17 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn the areas that were reported upon were the General Fund Revenue Account and the Capital Programme for Neighbourhood Services.

Members noted the service was forecasting a cash limit underspend of £0.699 million against a revised General Fund Revenue Budget of £106.329 million. Members noted the variances within the budget, with the detailed explanations as set out within the report, with Direct Services having an overall underspend of £0.423 million, a result of early achievement of MTFP savings.

As regards the Capital Programme 2016/17, the Finance Manager reminded Members that the usual spend profile was such that there was greater spend at the year end and therefore there would not be any expected variances at this point, though any slippages or projects brought forward would be monitored and reported.

The Chairman thanked the Finance Manager and asked if there were any questions on the Quarter 1, 2016/17 finance report.

Councillor G Holland asked as regards the Culture and Sport budget, being outside of the cash limit.

The Finance Manager explained that for 2015/16 there had been a £244,000 capital contribution in respect of the GALA theatre/cinema partner and that for 2016/17 there would be a small overspend of around £11,000. Councillor G Holland asked whether those budgets included the reserves, and it was explained that they did. Councillor G Holland asked where the remainder of the £588,000 was spent. The Finance Manager noted that the deteriorating condition at the GALA had resulted in a draw down on reserves for the refurbishment, which then ends with a slight net overspend of £11,000.

Resolved:

That the reports and presentation be noted.

8 Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Management Report

The Chairman thanked the Policy and Performance Team Leader, Debra Kitching who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 1, 2016/17 Performance Management Report (for copy see file of minutes).

The Policy and Performance Team Leader referred to the direction of travel and Members noted within this indicator set there were 4 behind target. It was noted that a Council Plan action that had been delayed related to the draft Air Quality Action Plan for Chester-le-Street, from July 2016 to December 2016.

Councillors noted that some of the key achievements in Quarter 1, representing April to June 2016, included: diversion of 96% of municipal waste from landfill; levels of litter, dog fouling and detritus remain better than the national average; Operation "Stop It" continues, with 6 prosecutions in Quarter 1; and the latest road condition survey showed improvements in A, B and C roads where maintenance should be considered.

Members noted the target for the percentage of household waste to be re-used, recycled or composted was 38% and this was regularly achieved, and there were active programmes that included: the garden waste scheme with 7,500 more properties signed up; the green move out scheme, clearing up when students finish in June/July; and the "Good to Know" campaign.

It was explained that there was a slight increase in littering and dog fouling, however, both had hit target and were better than the England average. Members noted a slight decrease in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for environmental crime, however, there would be more Community Protection Notices (CPNs) coming through regarding these issues.

The Policy and Performance Team Leader explained as regards the actions to improve environmental cleanliness including: local events/campaigns such as "Big Spring Clean"; Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for dog control; targeting of hot spots through the multi-agency partnership, including secondary fires at Peterlee; and legislation, in terms of investigating whether Community Protection Notices (CPNs) could be strengthened to include other aspects such as absentee landlords, to avoid Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and have issues resolved at court.

It was explained that fly-tipping had increased, and it was noted that there were problems in terms of tipping of: white goods; household waste; green waste via small or transit sized vans; and construction waste via small or transit sized vans. It was added that actions were being taken that included: the restructure of neighbourhood protection; rolling enforcement programmes bolstered by hotspot targeting; and research into the seizing of vehicles powers and attaching a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) if a prosecution is successful.

The Committee learned that the percentage of highways defects repaired within target had increased, though was below target. It was added that this was in the context of an increase in the number of defects, with a year-on-year increase in category 1 and 2 highways defects impacting upon the Council's ability to meet the target response times. Members noted the 3 major improvement works ongoing, namely: Leazes Bowl Roundabout; Villa Real Bridge; and Wallnook Bridge.

The Policy and Performance Team Leader reported on the reduction in carbon emissions, from Local Authority operations and from across the Authority area. It was added that activities included retrofitting of DCC buildings and also enabling school to access funding to implement energy efficiency measures. Members noted that other activities included: 276 referrals to "Warm up North"; Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) grant to investigate the potential for district heating in Durham City; and a Community Energy follow up event, building upon a previous event in June.

The Chairman thanked the Policy and Performance Team Leader and asked Members if they had any questions on the report and presentation.

Councillor P May noted the performance in terms of highways repairs and asked whether it was true that there was a £120 million shortfall in terms of being able to complete all outstanding repairs. The Highway Asset Manager, Brian Kitching noted that the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) was published annually and that this included all aspects of the highways network such as the roads, footpaths, lighting, structures and so on. It was added that the current backlog in terms of repairs was approximately £180 million and it was highlighted within the TAMP the funding required for a "steady state" of around £23 million per year, with current spending at around £18 million. The Highway Asset Manager noted that there had been several positives in terms of good capital programmes carried out in the last few years, and that the quality of A, B and C roads had been prioritised over the last 10 years, with the unclassified network being less of a priority and this may be an area to look at in the future. Councillors J Armstrong and P Stradling both noted that the improvement works at Leazes Bowl had improved the time it took to get across the city and the Chairman asked the Highway Asset Manager to thank all involved in the project.

Councillor C Kay noted that in terms of carbon emissions, he understood that Government were recording particles at PM2.5, rather than PM10 and asked whether this was correct. He then continued by commenting that he had followed an Enviro 5 Bus through Bishop Auckland and felt that he had been subjected to a high volume of emissions from the vehicle and asked for clarification as to whether major towns in the county such as Bishop Auckland met current emission requirements. The Policy and Performance Team Leader noted she would speak to the Officers involved and get back to the Member accordingly.

Councillor G Holland noted that the target in terms of household waste being re-used, recycled or composted was being met, however the energy generation from waste had fallen and asked whether this was a local glitch or was there a specific reason for this decrease.

The Head of Projects and Business Services noted the charge for garden waste collection, and that this could have impacted upon waste stream, as this may then have been composted for example. It was added that the percentage of recycling had reduced slightly, however the volume of waste had increased. Councillor G Holland asked was waste not converted to energy at the SITA sites. The Head of Projects and Business Services explained that the conversion to energy was already ahead of target and that the sites were allowed flexibility in order to manage issues such as maintenance. Councillor G Holland noted that the drop in energy output reported was huge and that the loss was significant as it represented more than the amount generated by other renewables. The Head of Projects and Business Services noted that it represented a high tonnage of waste and was a loss for all the plants, as within their contracts there was more profit for more energy produced as a means to encourage energy production from waste.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

9 Winter Maintenance - Update

The Chairman asked the Highway Asset Manager, Brian Kitching to give Members an update presentation in relation to Winter Maintenance (for copy see file of minutes).

The Highway Asset Manager noted the issue was regularly highlighted as a priority by Councillors and the public and indeed preparing for winter was a year round activity for the Council. Members noted the Authority's statutory duty in terms of maintaining the highway and that Winter 2015/16 had proved to be challenging, with many marginal nights. It was added that statistics for 2015/16 included: 5,245 pre-salt runs; 340 snow salt runs; 29,804 tonnes of salt used; 4,909 salt bin replenishments; with an overall total budget expenditure of £4 million.

Councillors noted that service changes and improvements included: a new snow blower, "multi-hog"; improvements to weather forecasting to introduce the "Roadmaster" system; the annual review of Priority 1 and Priority 2 gritting routes; extension of the "winter season" for the High/Low Pennines; a tracking system on all vehicles; and "Go Live", a system allowing the public to view gritting services via the DCC website.

Members noted images highlighting improvement works carried out at the Wolsingham Depot and the new plant purchased for 2015 and also of the weather stations that gave live updates every 10 minutes via the DCC website, highlighting road conditions and helping in terms of safe journey planning.

The Highway Asset Manager noted the updated Winter Maintenance Policy and the obligation of the Authority under Section 41 (1A) of the Highways Act 1980 that: "In particular, a Highways Authority are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonable practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice". Members noted that the Winter Maintenance Policy was aligned with the national Code of Practice "Well-Maintained Highways".

The Committee noted that it was not practical to treat all parts of the adopted highway and that the policy prioritised routes for treatment such that:

- Carriageways - Priority 1 – precautionary salting and post treatment
- Carriageways - Priority 2 – post treatment
- Carriageways - snow clearance
- Carriageways - minimum winter network
- Footways - snow clearance
- Cycleways - snow clearance

Members were shown a map setting out the Priority 1 and Priority 2 winter gritting routes and noted that in terms of the Priority 1 routes, precautionary salting and post treatment: 45% of carriageways were treated; the target treatment time was 2.5 hours; decisions were made by trained and experienced Duty Managers that were on call 24 hours, 7 days a week; specialist winter weather forecasts were received from Meteogroup; and the actual on the ground conditions were monitored via 12 roadside monitoring stations and with feedback from operational staff.

It was explained that for Priority 2 routes, post treatment, 10% of carriageways were treated and only treated during prolonged severe weather subject to available resources. Members noted these activities were undertaken mainly by local farmers under contract.

The Highway Asset Manager noted that during and after heavy snowfall more intensive resource is required to keep carriageways clear and resources are concentrated on the "Resilient Network", a smaller network of the most strategic Priority 1 routes. It was added once these had been cleared, then the remainder of the Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes would then be cleared in order.

Members were shown a table setting out the work carried out in terms of footpath clearance, highlighting that only Durham City Centre was a Category 1A area, and that in cases of severe weather then clearance would take place in terms of: Category 1A and 1 footways; public transport interchanges; hospitals; doctors surgeries/health centres; selected Category 2 footways; sheltered accommodation; and care homes.

The Committee noted the provision of salt and grit bins and associated issues and a slide setting out the key facts and figures in terms of Winter 2015/16. Members were reminded that an important aspect of winter maintenance was the partnership working, including a number of Town and Parish Councils across the County. The Highway Asset Manager noted that the public often query what is permitted in terms of clearing of snow and ice from the pavement in front of their properties and that the "Snow Code" as set out on the Met Office website provided advice in this regard.

The Highway Asset Manager reminded Members of the “Go Live” tracking system utilising “TrackYou”, developed in-house between Technical Services, IT and Communications. It was added that Durham was the only known Authority with such a live system in place, with data refreshed every 15 minutes. Members noted slides showing how the map showing Priority 1 routes would change to purple when a gritter was operating along a route and change again to green once a route had been completed. It was noted that the system was in its early stages and that the required disclaimers were included on the webpage.

The Chairman thanked the Highway Asset Manager and asked Members if they had any questions on the report and presentation.

Councillor P May noted the Go Live system and the winter weather alerts were all useful and asked who was responsible for the main arterial roads. The Highway Asset Manager noted that the A19 was maintained by Autolink and the A1(M) by A1 Plus, on behalf of Highways England, and that the Council did not grit these roads.

Councillor I Jewell asked what the optimum speed was for gritting vehicles while operating and whether there was duplication in terms of gritting.

The Highways Services Manager, Mark Readman noted that the optimum speed for gritting operations was between 20mph and 30mph and that he was not aware of any duplication on routes, however as many gritters were dual use and they would operate from our depots, some may appear to be following other vehicles when on other operations or heading in or out of the depots.

Councillor G Holland noted that the Go Live system was a good innovation and added that he felt this would be the type of ‘news item’ that the local television news, such as Look North, would be interested in and would provide far reaching coverage and promotion for our services. The Highways Services Manager noted that plans were in place as regards media coverage, with a balance in terms of not advertising too early prior to the winter period, and that the comments as regards television coverage would be taken on board.

Councillor J Armstrong asked if there was a shelf-life for gritting salt, and the Highway Asset Manager explained that the supply was stored in dry barns and that the lifespan of the salt was such it would be used before it was no longer effective.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That an update on the delivery of winter maintenance for 2016/17 and detail of winter maintenance plans for 2017/18 is included in the Environment and Sustainable Communities work programme for 2017/18.

10 Scrutiny Review of the Management of the Woodland Estate Owned by Durham County Council - Update on Recommendations

The Chairman thanked the Landscape Delivery Officer, Sue Mullinger who was in attendance to update Members in relation to the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of the Management of the Woodland Estate Owned by Durham County Council (for copy see file of minutes).

The Landscape Delivery Officer reminded Members of the 3 key areas, including the management of DCC Woodland, with the Council's Forestry Team providing professional advice on carrying out maintenance of the woodland. It was added that another area was that of the number of woodlands in positive management, in agreement with the Forestry Commission and that there was a number of issues, such as EU grants, following the EU Referendum result. It was added that part of the process involved the registration of land on the rural land register, a long winded-process, in order to then receive grants to be able to fund the production of management plans. It was explained that the application for those grants would close at the end of September.

Members noted that a private company, The Stobart Group had approached the Council in relation to managing the land and also produce the management plans at no cost to DCC. There will be a trial period during which Stobart's will take the low grade timber for use in their biomass facilities and will manage the less desirable woodland sites. It was added that the company had worked with other Local Authorities and DCC would speak to those in respect of how their arrangements were working in practice.

The Landscape Delivery Officer noted the third key area was that of working with partners to be able to stimulate private foresting companies and it was noted that the Council was working with the Woodland Trust, Northwoods and the Forestry Commission in terms of the "Woodland Return Durham". Members noted the "planting up" of existing woodland and the management of woodland with volunteers and communities, as well as private owners. It was explained that DEFRA had noted they would not use their funds to match Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), although the Woodland Trust were looking to provide some funding and therefore it was hoped that a project could be submitted at the end of November.

The Chairman thanked the Landscape Delivery Officer for the updated position and asked what opportunities there would be in terms of employment and volunteers.

The Landscape Delivery Officer explained that the Woodland Return Project included a team of people and employers, working with the Woodland Trust to look to stimulate the woodland economy to create jobs in managing the woodlands, transport and other areas.

Councillor O Millburn asked what the timescales were in terms of replanting in areas which had been logged out, and whether there were issues in terms of snow drift in these areas. The Landscape Delivery Officer noted that in terms of DCC woodlands, the operations would be such to carry out a managed thin-out of an area and not large scale felling and clearance as in the past when areas were not managed there was detriment in terms of important flora. It was added that if there was a specific site that had been clear felled, this would be a private woodland, with Councillor O Milburn noting the area she had in mind may be Coal Authority land.

Councillor I Jewell asked what the process was in terms of replanting. The Landscape Delivery Officer noted that if there are no biodiversity issues then we must replant, the same area's worth of trees.

Councillor G Holland asked if there had been any exposure in terms of operation as a result of the "Brexit" vote. The Landscape Delivery Officer noted the main impact would be on the EU grant process which not only provided funding, but also acted as a lever in terms of bringing in other funding such as HLF, however as noted some private firms were coming forward with offers to help.

Councillor G Holland noted he felt if there was an effect from Brexit then this should be an area that Overview and Scrutiny should monitor very closely. The Landscape Delivery Officer noted that in order to access grants there was a need for a woodland management plan to be in place and this required land to be registered on the rural land register. It was reiterated that private companies had come forward in terms of helping with management plans and it was hoped to move forward to some trial sites and then report back on progress with these accordingly. Councillor J Armstrong reminded Members that EU grants that had been signed off now would be secure, however, going forward this could not be guaranteed. Councillor J Armstrong added that the Government's Autumn Statement in November would set out their priorities, although their priorities may not be the same as the Council's.

The Landscape Delivery Officer explained that as Local Authorities were no longer eligible for many grants, the issue was in being able to bring together funding in order to be able to lever in additional funding.

Councillor P May asked whether the Stobart Group were carrying out a mapping exercise of all the woodland in the County and when did a group of trees become a wood. The Landscape Delivery Officer noted there was not a strict definition for woodland and that the Stobart Group would look at sites in terms of their commercial viability, and it was believed they were proactive across the UK. Councillor P May asked if members of the public came forward with offers to thin out an area of woodland for amenity would this be looked at. The Landscape Delivery Officer noted that if the scale was economically viable and landowners could be brought together it may be possible.

Councillor J Clark asked in terms of negotiations with the Stobart Group and the potential for job creation and asked if those discussions with other Local Authorities that had worked with them had given any information in this respect. Councillor J Clark suggested that it would be important to build this in, with links to our local colleges such as Houghall, in terms of employment and apprenticeship opportunities. The Landscape Delivery Officer noted this, adding that the Authority would work with partners in order to look for opportunities in this regard.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted a typographical error in the recommendations within report referring to the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which should have read Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members noted and resolved accordingly.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the update report.
- (ii) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update report at a future meeting.

11 Waste Programme - Update

The Chairman asked the Head of Projects and Business Services to speak to Members in relation to the Waste Programme and give a presentation providing an update thereon (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Projects and Business Services thanked Members for the opportunity to speak and reminded the Committee of the Council's Garden Waste Scheme for 2016, which closed for subscribers on 1 September 2016. It was added that the number of subscribing customers had gone up from 2015, from 64,314 to 70,374, and that while some customers had not signed back up this year, there was an overall net increase. It was noted that bin exchanges had increased, and that the number of complaints had significantly decreased, from 327 down to 54.

Members were shown a breakdown of which channels customers had used to sign up to the Garden Waste Scheme, with the majority via our website, and that the main sign up months were January and February 2016.

In terms of the Capital Programme associated with Waste Management, it was explained that the refurbishment programme for the Waste Transfer Stations totalling £11 million was progressing well with the works completed at Stainton Grove (Barnard Castle); Heighington Lane (Newton Aycliffe); and Annfield Plain. Councillors noted that works were ongoing at Thornley Crossings (Shotton Colliery), with two Phases, Phase 1 having been completed, Phase 2 scheduled to be completed by January 2017. The Head of Projects and Business Services referred Members to slides showing completed and ongoing works and added that planning permission would be sought for the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Stainton Grove, with plans being highlighted within the presentation. It was noted it was anticipated that construction of the HWRC would take approximately 6 months and therefore completion would be in May/June 2017. Members noted that this HWRC would include a trade waste area, and highlighted the area with a weighbridge on the plans. It was added that this would be a commercial service and separate from the household waste.

The Head of Projects and Business Services noted that collection changes were taking place in the east operational area of the County from 10 October, to improve efficiency, deliver savings and absorb the additional workload from new housing developments. It was noted that some changes would be to collection days, some to the weekly cycle in terms of waste or recycling, and for some residents both. Members were aware of the promotion of the changes and reminded of the activities used, such as: individual letters to householders; individual householder calendars; the collection calendars being available on "MyDurham"; publicity and awareness raising; customers services; and via the Members' update.

The Committee noted that there were various alternative collection regimes across the country and a lot of media coverage in this regard. The Head of Projects and Business Services explained that in terms of reduced frequency collections, this would mean a reduced capacity in terms of refuse, with an increased capacity in recycling with examples in some parts of the country being: weekly recycling; weekly food collection; three weekly refuse collection; and a garden waste scheme.

It was noted that the main drivers in this respect were Government Policy and the financial business case for changing to such a routine. Members noted the balance had to be made between the cost of food collections and recycling collections against the threat of fines from government, the grants available and the savings made from disposal. For context, it was noted that the cost of disposal per tonne for Salford, an Authority utilising such routines, was £260, with the cost for Durham being £80.

The Head of Projects and Business Services noted that accordingly the position for Durham was that we our collections would remain as alternate weeks, with the Garden Waste Scheme also in operation, on the basis that:

- Durham has relatively low refuse disposal costs through its procurement process
- No statutory recycling targets/fines in England
- Not awarded funding for food waste trials through weekly collection fund
- The cost of implementing weekly recycling and food waste collection were greater than the savings this would make in terms of reduced refuse disposal
- Not cost effective

The Chairman thanked the Head of Projects and Business Services and asked Members for their questions on the report and presentation.

Councillor C Kay asked if recycling credits were still in effect. The Head of Projects and Business Services noted that the system still existed, however, it was not applicable to DCC, as it was intended for 2-tier Local Authority areas, where there were separate collection and disposal authorities.

Councillor P May noted the success of the Garden Waste Scheme and asked as regards the extending of the scheme and in terms of cleanliness of the operation, leaving some waste behind in the streets. The Head of Projects and Business Services noted that the current scheme was 16 weeks long, and that the 2017 scheme would be 17 weeks. It was noted some Authorities operated annual schemes, however it was not thought this was appropriate for County Durham. In terms of any garden waste having led to issues of street cleanliness, the Head of Projects and Business Services noted he would reinforce this issue to the operational crews, although it can be very difficult on extremely windy days due to the nature of the waste. The Chairman asked as regards the use of camera on refuse vehicles.

The Head of Projects and Business Services noted there were cameras and that these could be used to investigate should there be complaints.

Councillor I Jewell asked if rubbish blew down the street would a vehicle need to stop and go back. The Head of Projects and Business Services noted that all vehicles had brushes and shovels on board and some could be taken care of there and then, and in the cases where this was not possible, the Council's Streetscene Teams could be deployed as necessary.

Resolved:

That the update report and presentation be noted.

12 Minutes of the County Durham Environmental Partnership Board

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Durham Environmental Partnership Board held 27 June 2016 were received by the Committee for information.

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

18 November 2016



**Update on Warm Up North and
Fuel Poverty within County
Durham**

**Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation
and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of
Regeneration and Local Services**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on Warm Up North and Fuel Poverty within the County prior to a presentation by Cliff Duff, Housing Regeneration Project Manager, Regeneration and Local Services.

Background

- 2 Members have received several updates in relation to the progress of the Warm Up North initiative together with an overview of fuel poverty in the county provided at a special meeting of the committee held in December 2015 to which members of the Economy and Enterprise OSC and the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC were invited due to the 'cross cutting' nature of fuel poverty.
- 3 It was agreed by members at the special meeting in December 2015 that the committee would receive an update detailing progress made in relation to fuel poverty within the county as part of the work programme for 2016/17.
- 4 Arrangements have been made for Cliff Duff, Housing Regeneration Project Manager, Regeneration and Local Services to attend the meeting on the 18 November and provide a presentation focusing on:
 - Regional and local overview of fuel poverty
 - Delivering and monitoring
 - County Durham Warm Homes Campaign
 - Warm Up North
 - Central Heating Fund
 - Warm and Healthy Homes Project
 - Energy Company Obligation

Background

- 5 Fuel poverty is measured using the Low Income High Cost definition and arises from a household's inability to afford the energy required to power and heat their home to a satisfactory standard necessary for good health. This standard is defined as domestic temperatures of 21°C in the primary living area (living room) and 18°C in the secondary living areas (other occupied rooms).
- 6 The Fuel Poverty Strategy for England 2015-2030 was released in March 2015. There are over 320,000 fuel poor households in England who live in properties rated below band "E" level EPC rating who need to spend on average £1,000 a year more on energy to heat their home compared to a typical home. Through the Energy Act 2013, the government established a new duty to adopt a fuel poverty target. The new fuel poverty target for England sets out an ambition that as many fuel poor homes as reasonably practicable achieve a Band "C" energy efficiency standard by 2030 and this became law in December 2014.

Warm Up North Project

- 7 The Warm Up North (WUN) partnership commenced in September 2013 in response to a range of national funding opportunities including Green Deal loans and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). WUN comprises a total of nine local authorities in the North East including Durham County Council. British Gas was procured to assist with economies of scale reduced delivery costs and to secure long term ECO funding. Other energy companies also provide assistance for fuel poor households within the energy market making it confusing and complicated for residents. Warm Up North is a one stop shop making it easier and safer for residents to improve the energy efficiency of their home when applying for ECO funded new boilers and insulation grants. In 2015/16 across County Durham a total of 2,285 WUN referrals were received with 782 households benefitting from new high efficiency gas boilers and insulation measures. For the past three years County Durham has the highest uptake of these free energy efficiency measures in the nine local authority areas.

Central Heating Fund and Warm Homes Campaign

- 8 The Central Heating Fund pilot scheme is funded by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and provides free central heating systems (gas, oil or an air source heat pumps) for low income households who do not have any central heating or have partial solid fuel heating or electric storage radiators. The scheme is open to private and private rented properties has been promoted widely across County Durham. To date 201 households in County Durham have received a free central heating system and a further 317 households are currently going through the technical assessment process.
- 9 The Warm Homes Campaign is DCC's mechanism to co-ordinate and promote all of the local and national energy efficiency and fuel poverty schemes to County Durham residents. It uses a network of over 900

local community venues, community groups, partner organisations and targeted mail outs to raise awareness and uptake of grants to increase energy efficiency and assist with reducing energy bills and maximizing income.

ECO3 Go Early

- 10 As part of the Governments Energy Company Obligation (ECO) consultation exercise, from 2017 they propose a series of reforms to allow better targeting of ECO fuel poverty schemes funded by the energy utility companies to make them simpler and more cost-effective to deliver. By staggering these proposed reforms the Government hope to allow industry time to adapt to a shift in eligibility criteria and measures leading to full roll out in 2018/22.
- 11 ECO is currently in its second obligation period called ECO2 running from 2015 to 31 March 2017. The Government Spending Review announced plans for a third energy supplier obligation period (ECO3) to run for 5 years from April 2017 to 2022 at £870m per year.
- 12 A one-year transition period called ECO3 Go Early is proposed in 2017/18 to provide time to develop, test and implement more complex targeting mechanisms for future ECO3 schemes including new data sharing and targeting opportunities from 2018 - 2022.
- 13 The Government wants to refocus the ECO3 supplier obligation towards those who need help most which include fuel poor and vulnerable households. Helping those in greatest need to heat their homes is a key Government priority. The best long-term solution to tackle fuel poverty is through energy efficiency measures such as insulation and efficient heating systems to provide warmer homes and lower energy bills.
- 14 Promotion and delivery of fuel poverty and energy efficiency schemes to improve the energy efficiency of County Durham private sector housing stock is a key priority, with actions identified within the Affordable Warmth Action Plan and Poverty Action Plan agreed by Cabinet on the 21 October 2015.

Recommendations

- 15 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.
- 16 That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update at a future meeting of the committee.

Background Papers

Report to the Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC on 10 November, 2014 - Warm Up North; Update.

Report to Cabinet on 21 October 2015 - Welfare reform and poverty issues

Contact/Author: Dianne Hedley	Tel:	03000 261076
Contact/Author: Cliff Duff	Tel:	03000 265262
Author: Diane Close	Tel:	03000 268141

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk –None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

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



18 November 2016

Update: Flooding Scrutiny Review

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director Transformation and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services

Purpose of the Report

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

Background

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

Current Position

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

6. The latest update on the recommendations is attached to this report at appendix two.

Recommendation

7. Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment upon the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Review report.

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

Author: Diane Close, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 03000 268141

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

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

Equality and Diversity Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications - None

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT – FLOODING
 REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON: 10 SEPTEMBER, 2014
 UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS – November 2016

Review Recommendation	Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale																																										
<p>1) That Durham County Council continue to maximise the funding opportunities available for flood prevention schemes through the Flood Defence Local Levy, the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid Scheme and the EU funding programme 2014-2020.</p>	<p>Durham has 11 schemes on the Environment Agency's (EA) 6 year plan up to financial year ending 2021. Estimated value of works is £2.5 million.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 618 1174 1357"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scheme</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Total Value £'000s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Greta Bridge</td> <td>16/17</td> <td>£106</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Murton</td> <td>16/17</td> <td>£250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sedgefield</td> <td>17/19</td> <td>£161</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leadgate</td> <td>18/19</td> <td>£65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dipton</td> <td>18/19</td> <td>£43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lanchester</td> <td>18/20</td> <td>£941</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shotley Bridge</td> <td>19/20</td> <td>£90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seaham</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Promenade</td> <td>19/20</td> <td>£475</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Esh Winning</td> <td>20/21</td> <td>£155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spennymoor</td> <td>20/21</td> <td>£126</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crook</td> <td>20/21</td> <td>£126</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>£2,538</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Durham County Council (DCC) has submitted 7 schemes for the year 7+ (2021-2027) programme; estimated value of works is £1.1 million. This was submitted to the EA in June for consideration, confirmation that the schemes have been accepted for the 7+ programme will be approx. Feb 2017.</p>	Scheme	Year	Total Value £'000s	Greta Bridge	16/17	£106	Murton	16/17	£250	Sedgefield	17/19	£161	Leadgate	18/19	£65	Dipton	18/19	£43	Lanchester	18/20	£941	Shotley Bridge	19/20	£90	Seaham			Promenade	19/20	£475	Esh Winning	20/21	£155	Spennymoor	20/21	£126	Crook	20/21	£126		Total	£2,538	<p>Neighbourhoods Technical Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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Scheme	Year	Total Value £'000s
Newton		
Aycliffe	21/22	£220
Haswell	21/22	£150
South Hetton	21/22	£110
Langley Park	21/22	£190
Durham	21/22	£167
Dalton le Dale	21/22	£91
Stanley	21/22	£179
	Total	£1,107

Northumbrian Water continues to play an active role in the Flood Risk Management (FRM) Partnership meetings with Durham County Council. We are actively sharing details regarding flood risk reduction projects within our respective capital programmes to identify the potential for collaborative working, shared funding possibilities and maximised benefits.

NW have agreed, through its role as a Risk Management Authority, to lead on the development of an integrated model of the Lanchester catchment. This will enable interactions between all flood sources to be identified and analysed.

In 2014 the principal drainage authorities across the north east of England (13 Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs), Environment Agency (EA) and Northumbrian Water (NWL) recognised the benefits of integrated working in balancing reactive short term needs with longer term strategic planning for the provision of sustainable drainage systems. These authorities, as the Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP), have worked together to produce and

Northumbrian
Water

Ongoing

	<p>implement a regional risk based prioritisation methodology to promote a proactive approach to the delivery of their common aspirations. The actions of this group are complementary to and work in support of Strategic Flood Risk Management.</p> <p>The data sharing protocol we have agreed with the council allows us to share data and in particular models which have a value which can count as a formal contributions in support of LLFA funding applications</p> <p>The quarterly operational liaison meetings provide an early opportunity for the identification of integrated drainage issues.</p>	
<p>Review Recommendation</p>	<p>Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation</p>	<p>Timescale</p>
<p>2) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee in their role as the designated Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee formalise the process for engaging with the Flood Risk Management Authorities within County Durham by meeting on an annual basis. As part of this role the committee would receive information from Northumbrian Water Limited on sewage treatment capacity within County Durham.</p>	<p>A Special meeting of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will take place in February which will receive information from the Flood Risk Management Authorities.</p> <p>Frequent meetings take place between Northumbrian Water, the Environment Agency and officers in Regeneration and Local Services to discuss capacity issues in relation to development sites.</p> <p>DCC commissioned AECOM to produce an updated Water Cycle Study and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as part of the evidence base for the emerging County Durham Plan. These documents include a review of the flood risk and STW capacity in relation to proposed housing sites. This information was used by DCC to carry out the 'Sequential Test' in order to avoid the development of sites that are</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The revised Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Water Cycle Study and Sequential Test will be available as part of the Preferred Options consultation.</p>

<p>inappropriate on flood risk grounds</p> <p>Northumbrian Water (NW) has continued to work with the forward planning team at the council to identify investment requirements for sewage treatment works (STW) upgrades to support housing growth.</p> <p>The most positive result is that a solution has been completed at Tudhoe Mill STW which serves the Spennymoor area. Additionally work has also been completed at Crookhall STW.</p> <p>In addition to this NWL's latest 5 year Asset Management Plan (AMP 6) which commenced on 1st April 2015 includes for investment at the following STWs:</p> <p>Chilton and Windlestone, East Tanfield, Wolsingham, University, Aycliffe, Bear Park/Aldin Grange, Witton Gilbert and Tow Law.</p> <p>Frequent meetings between NW, Environment Agency and officers have taken place to work on the refresh of the Durham Water Cycle Study.</p> <p>Additionally liaison meetings between DCC Drainage Team and NW to discuss strategic and operational issues take place.</p>	<p>Northumbrian Water</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>3) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the minutes of the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NRFCC) and the Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group (DSFPG) on a quarterly basis together with regular updates on:</p>	<p>Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>SAB: Schedule 3 of the FWMA 2010 has not been enacted, rather Government decided to make amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and as such the Planners are responsible for the overall implementation of SUDS within planning applications. This came into effect on the 6th April 2015, The Drainage and Coastal</p>	<p>Resib'ty</p> <p>Neighbourhoods Technical Services</p> <p>Timescale</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

- The development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Approval Body (SAB).
- Additional Drainage Area Studies (DAS) undertaken.
- The development of the new approach to building community resilience.
- Work undertaken with private land owners including detail of actions taken and any flood prevention measures implemented.
- Lessons learned from flooding incidents.

Protection Team are statutory consultees and provide advice on all major developments:

A major development is defined as:

- a residential development: 10 dwellings or more or residential development with a site area of 0.5 hectares or more where the number of dwellings is not yet known
- a non-residential development: provision of a building or buildings where the total floor space to be created is 1000 square metres or more or where the floor area is not yet known, a site area of 1 hectare or more.

However, if a planning case officer, following consultation of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment documents, feels that there is flood risk to minor developments then advice is provided from the Drainage and Coastal Protection Team for those also.

Additional drainage areas: Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL) have 478 drainage areas across the region. After a risk analysis these were whittled down to 136, of which a large proportion are within Durham County. All areas have now been modelled. The next phase of the works for NWL is to develop community action plans with a view to go back and 'tweak' the Drainage Area Models if needed. There is an anticipated 5 year refresh program.

Work undertaken with private land owners: The Drainage Team have regular involvement with private landowners, usually work is done with good active involvement on behalf of the landowner. However, sometimes we need to take more formal action. There are two recent examples where action has been taken

	<p>against private land owners. Both involved damage to an existing highway drain but used different Acts for the enforcement action;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Act 1980 • Land Drainage Act 1991. <p>One owner has eventually agreed and undertook works to repair the drain within their land, the other owner has not and DCC are carrying out the works in default, and are recovering the costs.</p> <p>Problems can arise on land that generates runoff during a significant storm and causes a flood, if the land has no watercourse features such as a stream or ditch or pipework, so in affect there is nothing to maintain, we then have no powers to require the landowner to make improvements.</p> <p>Further information can be found on DCC's website: http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3739/Land-drainage-and-watercourses</p> <p>A print-out of the web page is attached for information at appendix a</p> <p><u>Building Community Resilience</u></p> <p>CCU have now:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited 17 schools in 2015/16 and 22 schools in 2016/17. • 5 community emergency plans (Dipton, 	CCU (SMJ)	Ongoing
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	<p>Hurworth, Lanchester, Chester Le Street, Neasham and Wolsingham).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held 5 drop- in sessions in rapid response flood areas. • RainWorks with Shildon Youth Group. • Ran the Duke of Cornwall Community Safety Award with uniformed youth organisations, with 137 young people completing the award. • Organised and held Exercise Levantine for those that completed the community safety award. • Visited and spoken to 15 caravan site owners/managers whose caravan sites are in flood zones. <p>As the emerging County Durham Plan currently has no weight in planning terms, Spatial Policy and Development Management are utilizing the DCC SuDS Adoption document as guidance for developers and planning applications.</p> <p>NWL have not undertaken any further DAS's as the studies cover the majority of growth across County Durham. If proposed development requires areas of the models to be refined this will be carried out to give greater confidence to assumptions made in the initial models.</p> <p>NW led a "SuDS for schools and communities" project which has now delivered SuDS installations at three schools in the region. One of these locations was Woodhouse Close Primary School at Bishop Auckland where swales, wetlands and rain gardens have been created to provide flood risk reduction benefits as well as providing a vehicle for education and engagement with the children, parents and the wider community.</p>	<p>Spatial Policy</p> <p>Northumbrian Water</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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	<p>At the FRM meetings we discussed the principle of implementing community based projects in the form of Community Action Plans that would include aspects of engagement, education, water efficiency, flood risk reduction and flood resilience. We have branded these projects as “Rainwise” and projects at Seaham, Easington, Bishop Auckland and Barnard Castle have been launched.</p>	
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>4) That the importance of Policy 46 in the emerging County Durham Plan is highlighted in relation to managing flood risk.</p>	<p>Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>Policy 46: The Drainage Team and the Planners have been constantly working together and the policy has recently been amended and updated to incorporate the changes to the NPPF and reflect Defra’s technical standards for SUDS. Advice provided by the Drainage Team on planning applications and other drainage matters already reflects that information and advice in the policy.</p> <p>Whilst this appears to be an action for Durham County Council, NW would wish to comment on Policy 46.</p> <p>In responding to emerging Local Plans with other local planning authorities across the region we directly reference Policy 46 as being exemplar for the region and actively encourage other councils to consider and implement similarly worded policies.</p> <p>Newcastle and Gateshead councils’ local plan which has been through the examination in public stage included such a policy and Northumberland County Council’s and North Tyneside Council’s current consultation includes policy wording which mirrors the Durham approach.</p>	<p>Resib’ty</p> <p>Neighbourhoods Technical Services</p> <p>Northumbrian Water</p> <p>Timescale</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>The Water Management Policy (formerly Policy 46) in the emerging County Durham Plan has been updated in partnership with Northumbrian Water, the Environment Agency and DCC Drainage Team to ensure that it accords with the most up to date legislation and guidance. The policy has also been reviewed in light of comments as part of the County Durham Plan Issues and Options consultation.</p>	Spatial Policy	The policy wording will be available for comment as part of the Preferred Options consultation.
<p>Review Recommendation</p>	<p>Progress report of action taken to implement recommendation</p>	<p>Resib'ty</p>	<p>Timescale</p>
<p>5) That Durham County Council establishes the appropriate mechanisms to enable it to collect any charges in respect of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) that have been adopted by the council.</p>	<p>Durham County Council has developed a SUDS adoption policy, where an option is made available to a developer for them to have DCC adopt and maintain a SUD on a development. The maintenance works are paid for by an annual payment made by the residents that are served by the SUD. This payment is collected by DCC's finance section.</p> <p>As discussed in section 3 of this document - Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 has not been enacted and been replaced by changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Neighbourhoods Technical Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Land drainage and watercourses

We are the lead local flood authority and the 'operating authority' for all ordinary watercourses in County Durham.

We have powers to require the maintenance of watercourses to ensure they are operating efficiently and must approve any works to or in our watercourses.

Land drainage

Land drainage is the disposal of rainwater, achieved by a network of various types of watercourse. The laws relating to land drainage are not very well known and many people are unaware of their existence.

Main rivers and ordinary watercourses - the difference

Major watercourses and rivers are designated as main rivers. These are under the control of the Environment Agency who are the relevant operating authority. We can advise you which are the main rivers, but all enquiries relating to the operation of main rivers will be referred to the Environment Agency.

Almost all other watercourses, including streams, ditches (whether dry or not), ponds, culverts, drains, pipes and any other passage through which water may flow, are defined as ordinary watercourses. We are the operating authority for ordinary watercourses. Exceptions to this are:

- Public surface water sewers - these are the responsibility of the sewerage undertaker, Northumbrian Water.
- Highway drains on public highways - these are maintained by us or the Highways Agency.

If you own a riverside property you can find more information about your responsibilities on our managing the county's flood risk page.

Operation of land drainage network

There are a number of pieces of legislation to ensure that the land drainage network operates correctly.

- If a riparian owner fails to carry out his responsibilities or if anyone else causes a watercourse to become blocked or obstructed, we have powers of enforcement by serving a notice under Section 28 of the Land Drainage Act. If this is ignored, we may carry out the necessary work ourselves and then recharge the person responsible for the full cost incurred. The person responsible may also be prosecuted for nuisance under the Public Health Act 1936.
- Anyone wishing to carry out work in, over or adjacent to an ordinary watercourse must apply to us for consent. This is so we can assess the proposals for their effect on the drainage network and environment. contact us (</article/3739/Land-drainage-and-watercourses#contacts>) for advice.

Consents required for work affecting watercourses

If you wish to place, construct or alter anything such as a dam, weir, headwall or culvert which may affect the flow in a watercourse, you must get our written consent. Please contact us to discuss your proposal before submitting your application. An application fee of £50.00 is required to cover our costs for examining the proposals. Please note, these consents are in addition to any planning or building regulation approvals you may need.

Failure to apply for consent

If you carry out work without first obtaining formal written consent, we can serve a notice requiring you to stop work within a specified time. If you fail to comply with the notice then we may carry out the necessary work ourselves and recharge the person responsible for the full cost incurred, or we can take the matter to court where a fine may be imposed.

Other relevant legislation

- **Discharge:** Certain discharges to watercourses require consent. This includes outfalls from septic tanks and private sewerage treatment plants.
- **Planning:** If you propose to discharge surface water from a new building or development into an existing watercourse, you may be required to make improvements downstream (to enable the watercourse to deal with any increased flow) or to provide storage to control the rate of flow from the site.

Contact us for further advice on the above.

Roadside ditches

The riparian owner of a ditch alongside a road is normally the adjoining landowner, as the highway boundary invariably lies along the top of the bank closest to the road. Therefore, although the road may drain into the ditch, the landowner is responsible for maintaining it.

However, if we have piped the ditch, we may become responsible for its maintenance. Likewise, any pipe beneath the highway is our responsibility. When the condition of a ditch is causing flooding on a highway, we will take action under the Land Drainage Act.

Road drains and gullies (<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/1952/Road-drains-and-gullies>)

Contact us

Highways and Streetscene

 **email** Highways and Streetscene (<mailto:help@durham.gov.uk>)

 **Telephone** 03000 261 000

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



18 November 2016

Carbon Management Plan-Update

Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services

Purpose of the Report

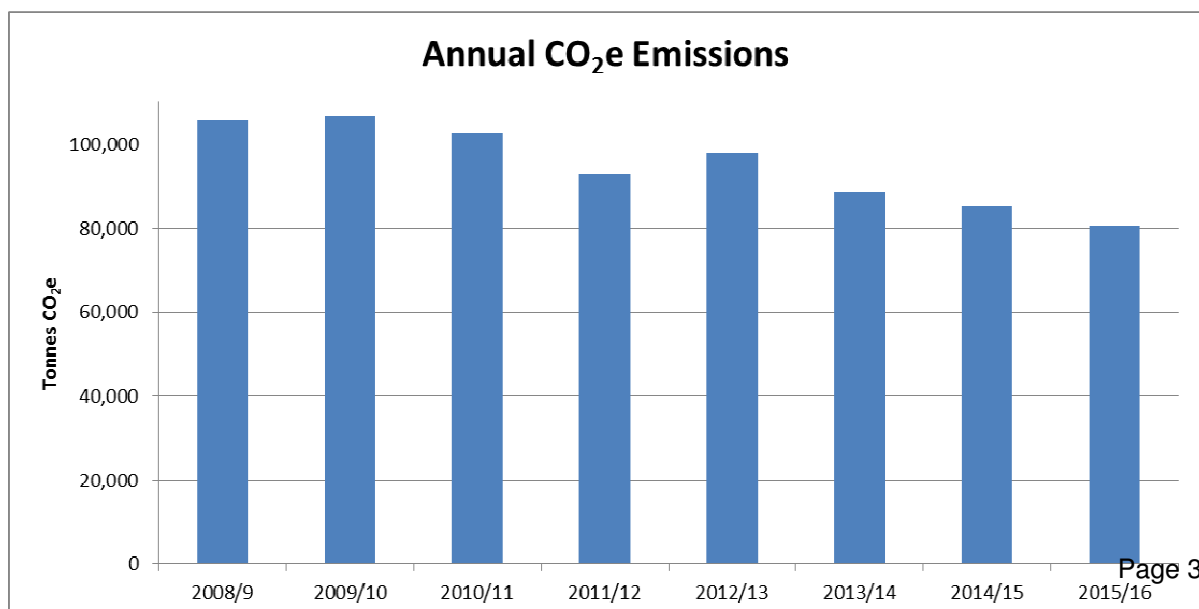
1. To provide Members of the Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Carbon Management Plan

Background

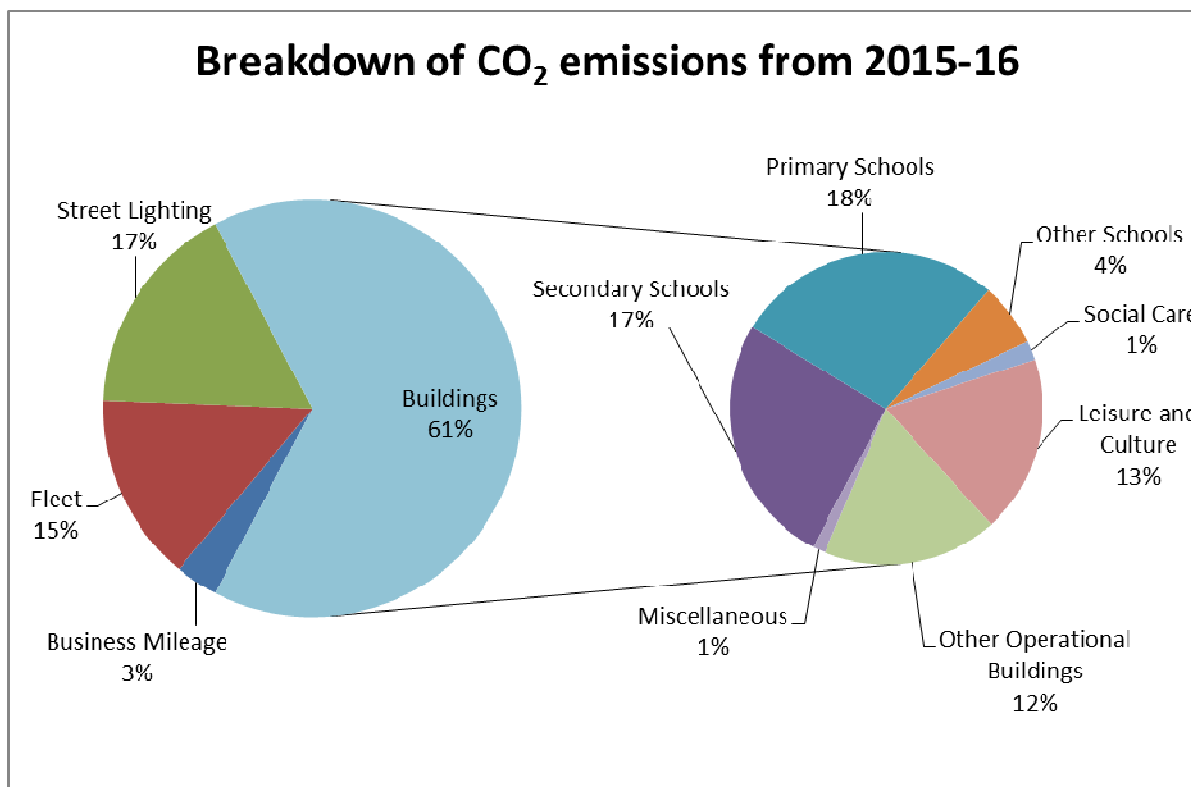
2. The County Council’s first Carbon Management Plan covered 2010-15 and it has been succeeded by a second plan covering the years to 2020. It is aspiring to a 40% saving by 2020, based on a 2008/9 baseline.

Overview

3. Members of the Committee will receive a short presentation from the Senior Carbon Management Officer regarding the CMP and projects and progress made, covering progress to date and information on campaigns and projects that have taken place since the last report.
4. The Carbon Management Plan covers emissions from the operations of the Authority and includes carbon emissions from electricity and heating from buildings and from fuel used in transporting staff as part of their duties.
5. The Carbon Programme Board has continued to direct carbon reduction activities, supported by the Revenue and Capital Boards which lead on project activities.
6. The Council is continuing to make carbon savings across its portfolio with reductions coming from behavioural changes, building improvements and a rationalising of the estate. The following charts show progress to date and a breakdown by source.



Breakdown of CO₂ emissions from 2015-16



On-going projects

7. Schools Carbon Reduction Programme. Ongoing work with schools buying into the energy management SLA. This year the programme has been successful in targeting schools that have not previously engaged
8. The third phase of the Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit (BEER) project was completed in March 2016. The works, at Chilton, Hackwork, Meadowfield and Morrison Busty depots, involved LED lighting replacements, lighting controls and heating controls. The project has cut depot electricity consumption by approximately a third.
9. We are now working on phase of four of the project with Honeywell. Buildings in the initial portfolio are Aycliffe Secure Unit, Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre, Teesdale Leisure Centre, Education Development Centre, Spectrum 8 and Gala Theatre. The installations are expected to commence May 2017.
10. Eco-champions and Big Switch Off. A review of the eco-champions is currently being undertaken, looking at how the eco champions can contribute to corporate aspirations. It is also looking at broader environmental reporting. Changes to DCC structures and reporting are being factored in. As new Service structures develop we will seek to maintain good eco champion representation across the authority.
11. Street Lighting. To date we have retrofitted over 34,000 street lights with new energy efficient LED street lights as part of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project. We are ahead of programme and generally the change has been very well received. We continue to receive a small number of complaints as residents get used to the reduced light spillage but on the whole residents are supportive of the move to LEDs.

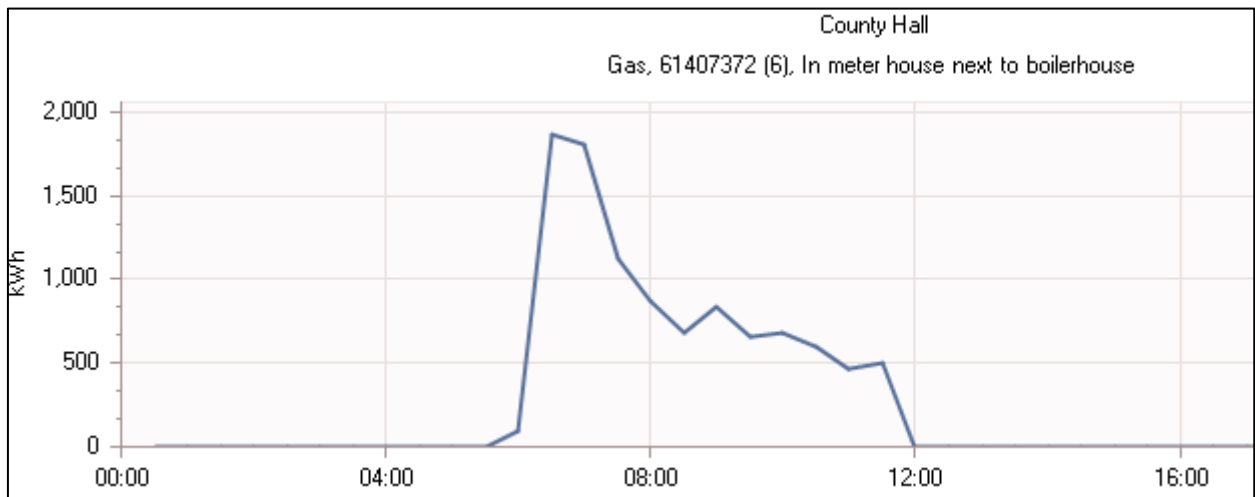
LED retrofit numbers to date are:

- Year 1 to 31st March 2014 - total 8,138 units converted
- Year 2 to 31st March 2015 – in year total 12,004 conversions so that's a grand total of 20,142 to end of Year 2
- Year 3 to 31st March 2016 – a total of 12,183 conversions were completed meaning that we are ahead of the original programme of 8000 per annum
- Year 4 target is 12,000 to 31st March 2017 and we are well on the way to achieving this with over 4,500 achieved to date.

We continue to carry out compliance tests to demonstrate to residents that the new lights meet current standards.

We also continue to remove street lighting where it is safe to do so and to date have removed over 450 street lights as well as de-illuminating over 500 traffic signs. We operate a thorough road safety risk assessment and consultation exercise process prior to any street lights being removed. We have also entered into a number of service level agreements with Parish and Town Councils whereby they take on responsibility for the cost of maintaining the lighting including the energy costs for a period of 10 years.

12. Improved data and monitoring. We continue to use modern metering and reporting technology to track building consumption. Most sites have half hourly reporting which allows identification of peak and out of hours usage. An example of gas use from a typical day at County Hall is shown below.



Future work

13. The programme has included a number of actions that were speculative in nature and not all proposed projects have progressed. We investigated the possibility of developing a solar farm adjacent to the data centre at Tanfield, however the cost of connecting to the National Grid was prohibitive. The project is currently on hold but will be periodically reviewed as prices/incentives change.

14. We are reaching a point where most of our larger buildings suitable for full retrofits have been investigated and improved. The programme is likely to move onto smaller buildings or look at thematic improvements (e.g. lighting upgrades across a number of smaller units) to continue making savings but these are likely to have longer payback periods.
15. Work programmes will also include engaging with the Inspire programme, investigating battery storage to offset peak energy costs, and working to embed energy efficiency into proposals for the new HQ and refits of core office buildings.

Financial Savings

16. Work from the CMP and other associated projects are forecasted to have saved the authority almost £750,000 by the end of 2016/17.

Recommendations

17. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to :
 - a. Note the content of the report
 - b. Offer views as to the direction of travel
 - c. Receive further reports if requested.

Background Papers

Presentation to be issued.

Stephen Beresford, Senior Carbon Management Officer
Stephen.beresford@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The Carbon Reduction Programme has made significant financial savings for the authority

Staffing –None

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT – REDUCING THE COUNCIL’S CARBON EMISSIONS
REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON: 16TH JANUARY, 2013 and subsequent reports**

Information from previous updates are in lighter shading and the most up to date information is in **bold**.

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) That Cabinet notes the importance of a corporate and co-ordinated approach in relation to reducing carbon emissions. This approach is facilitated through the Council's Carbon Management Programme Board and in order to continue to fulfil this function, Service groupings should proactively engage with the Board to ensure a joined up and planned approach.</p>	<p>The corporate Carbon Management Programme Board Continues to lead the Council's work on carbon reduction and energy savings. All service groupings are represented and quarterly reports are received by the Board on all relevant capital and revenue projects.</p> <p>The Board has continued to meet and receive reports on projects. Further details on progress and actions are included in this report and in the presentation.</p>	<p>Carbon Management Programme Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>2) That in view of the recent increases in energy prices, the Council/Cabinet continues to explore opportunities to 'invest to save' that will result in significant reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions and ultimately lead to savings and efficiencies. Consideration also needs to be given to whether schemes should be undertaken that provide the opportunity for large scale carbon reduction, but do not meet the usual financial pay back criteria.</p>	<p>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>Further projects have been initiated. These include boiler optimisation, new lighting in five leisure and office buildings and surveys have been carried out on three main depots with recommendations for new invest to save projects. These will be approached using an innovative "whole buildings" methodology which, if successful, will be rolled out across the full site of retained non-school buildings once the building review is complete. Further projects are also being looked at and are in feasibility stages.</p> <p>A new Carbon Management Plan is currently being produced. This will outline our actions for the next five years towards our target of a 40% reduction by 2020. It will initially concentrate on ensuring that our Office Accommodation Programme embeds carbon savings in its work and the good practice learnt from the first five years is carried forward.</p>	<p>Carbon Management Programme Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>Since the last report the Energy team has had three members of staff leave their posts for new jobs. This has impacted on current work planning. An internal restructure of the Sustainability, Energy and Climate Change team is being prepared and staff are currently covering essential roles but this has inevitably meant slower progress on projects than anticipated.</p> <p>The Government is currently making significant changes to the support network for renewables (Feed in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive). This is creating a very unstable environment for medium and long term planning in this field, and a number of projects have been scaled back or are at risk because of the proposals.</p> <p>The new carbon management plan was approved by CMT on 8 June 2016. The Sustainability team is now the Low Carbon Economy Team and staff are adjusting well to new roles.</p> <p>The unstable political environment at a national level has continued and work has concentrated on back to basics technologies and projects rather than rely on incentives such as the feed in tariff.</p>		
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>3) That the Council's Elected members be provided with detailed information on any trials/schemes in relation to street lighting in their area, prior to residents being notified.</p>	<p>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>The street light retrofits installed to date have been generally well received by the public. The elimination of light has taken some residents a bit of time to get used to, however when the benefits are explained to them they are more comfortable with the new lights. As reported previously, there has been extensive compliance testing across a wide range of sites demonstrating conclusively that the new lights comply comfortably with required standards.</p> <p>With over 26,000 street lights already retrofitted affecting in excess of 100,000 homes, customer complaints received so far have been relatively modest and we've also received a small</p>	<p>Resib'ty</p> <p>Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project Board.</p>	<p>Timescale</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

number of compliments as well as a welcome range of positive anecdotal feedback.

In addition, part of the programme involved removing redundant street lights and de-illuminating traffic signs. This started in April 2014 due to the need to undertake a thorough road safety risk assessment and consultation exercise prior to any street lights being removed.

In Year 2 308 street lights have been removed and 329 traffic signs have been de-illuminated. We're targeting 1,000 removals during Year 3 and 250 sign de-illuminations.

LED retrofit numbers to date are:

Year 1 to 31st March 2014 - total 8,138 units converted
Year 2 to 31st March 2015 – in year total 12,004 conversions so that's a grand total of 20,142 to end of Year 2
Year 3 target to 31st March 2016 is a further 12,000 conversions and we're currently on programme.

By the end of the current financial year (ie Year 3) we'll have completed 32,000 conversions out of the planned 41,000 and will be well ahead of the original programme.

2016- We have retrofitted over 34,000 street lights to date countywide with new energy efficient LED street lights as part of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project. We are ahead of programme and generally the change has been very well received.

We continue to receive a small number of complaints as residents get used to the reduced light spillage but on the whole residents are supportive of the move to LEDs.

LED retrofit numbers to date are:

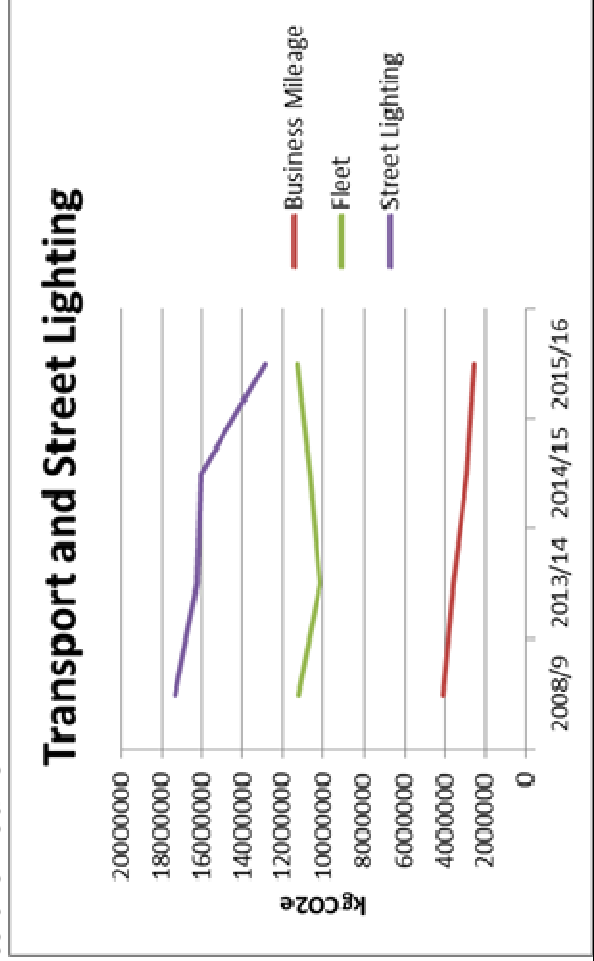
Year 1 to 31st March 2014 - total 8,138 units converted
Year 2 to 31st March 2015 – in year total 12,004 conversions so that's a grand total of 20,142 to end of Year 2

Year 3 to 31st March 2016 – a total of 12,183 conversions were completed meaning that we are ahead of the original programme of 8000 per annum
 Year 4 target is 12,000 to 31st March 2017 and we are well on the way to achieving this with over 4,500 achieved to date.

We continue to carry out compliance tests to demonstrate to residents that the new lights meet current standards.

We also continue to remove street lighting where it is safe to do so and to date have removed over 450 street lights as well as de-illuminating over 500 traffic signs. We operate a thorough road safety risk assessment and consultation exercise process prior to any street lights being removed. We have also entered into a number of service level agreements with Parish and Town Councils whereby they take on responsibility for the cost of maintaining the lighting including the energy costs for a period of 10 years.

The graph demonstrates the cumulative effect of the savings to the Council.

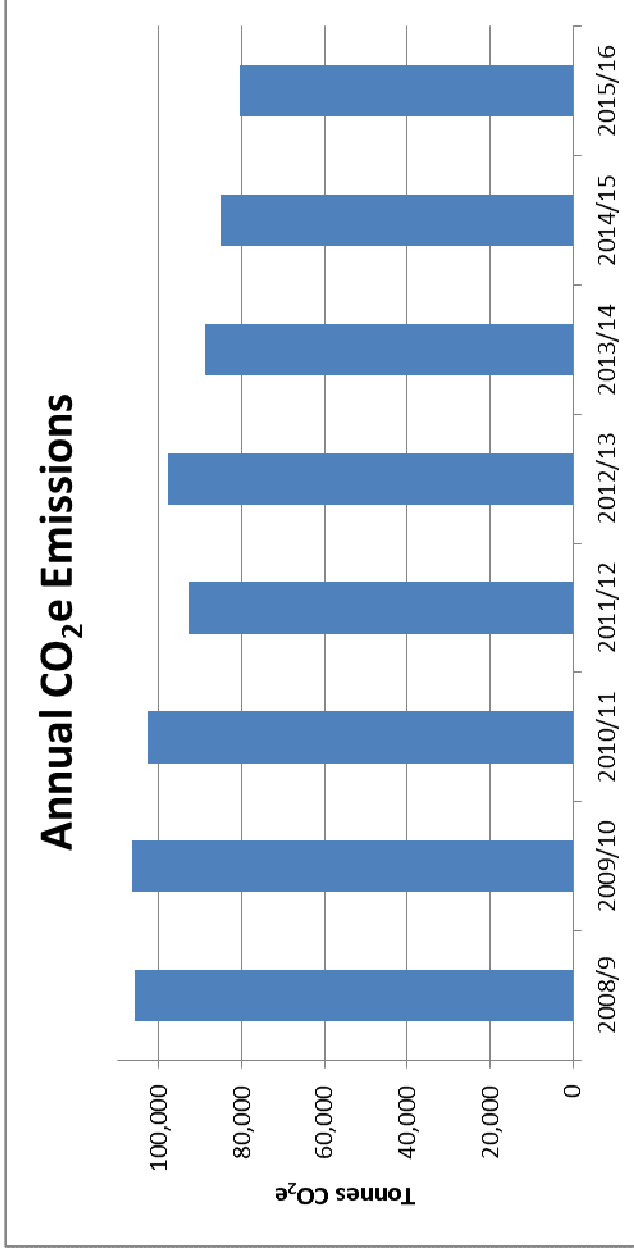


Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>4) That the drive to recruit more Eco Champions to promote simple energy saving changes continues, and that consideration be given to the possibility of providing Elected Members with information on the Council's carbon management programme, as part of the corporate induction programme and seeking volunteers from Elected Members to act as Eco Champions.</p>	<p>Surveys have shown that Durham County Council is ahead of most other councils in respect of the number of Eco Champions to staff. The programme continues to be reviewed to assess how we can increase this further and provide a support network for all the Eco Champions. Carbon Management is now part of the induction programme and is also included in staff reviews.</p> <p>To date we have not recruited elected members as Eco Champions, but we will continue to assess this option.</p> <p>Updates on key initiatives and projects have been circulated to Eco champions. This year there have been 8 articles in Buzz, including pieces on fuel efficient driving, the Big Switch Off, cycle to work and schools carbon emissions.</p> <p>Building energy use data is available to Eco-champions (and Members / staff) via: http://intranet/Pages/BuildingSpecificEnergyUse.aspx</p> <p>A review of the eco-champions is currently being undertaken, looking at how the eco champions can contribute to corporate aspirations. It is also looking at broader environmental reporting. Changes to DCC structures and reporting are being factored in. As new Service structures develop we will seek to maintain good eco champion representation.</p>	Carbon Revenue Project Board	Ongoing
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>5) That in relation to the need to reduce business travel, consideration be given to making more use of innovative technology such as</p> <p>Page 49</p>	<p>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>General awareness of the alternatives available instead of travelling has been raised through Eco Champions and the Fleet Review. This has included conference calls which have been trialled in several services for regular meetings. A new report from Myview has also been created. This is sent monthly to managers showing business mileage for all their team and a comparison to the previous year.</p> <p>New methods of working such as hot desking and tele/video conferencing are being incorporated into the Office Accommodation Programme. ICT Services can</p>	Carbon Management Board	Ongoing

<p>skype, telephone conferencing, video conferencing and promoting the availability of 'hot desks' at council offices throughout the county.</p>	<p>provide laptops/tablets with Juniper software to enable employees to work remotely.</p> <p>Regular updates on topics such as pool cars are included in Eco-champion literature and staff magazines.</p> <p>In spring, 72 staff took up an offer to take a free course on Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving led by the Local Motion project and the Road Safety Team :</p> <p>http://www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk/ways-to-travel/drive/safed-training/</p> <p>Participants improved their fuel efficiency by an average of 16%.</p> <p>Actions have continued in a similar fashion to previous years. As the Inspire programme develops, we will consider the possibility of eco champions acting as information points to facilitate the roll-out of more sustainable choices such as using skype or pool cars.</p>	<p>Timescale</p>
<p>Review Recommendation</p> <p>6) That the committee continues to monitor the progress being made to achieve the Council's carbon reduction targets through the current quarterly performance monitoring reports and receive regular updates by members of the</p>	<p>Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation</p> <p>Updates to this report will be provided and ongoing monitoring of electric, gas and water consumption and of the performance of capital and revenue projects to date can be provided on request.</p> <p>Durham County Council achieved 9.5% reduction in 2013/14 compared to 12/13. In total a 16.5% reduction from baseline 2008.</p> <p>The Council has continued to make carbon savings. In 2014/15 we reduced our emissions by a further 9,200 tonnes.</p> <p>In total the Council has reduced emissions by 25% since 2008 saving 26,330 tonnes of carbon per year. This represents financial savings of around £3 million per year against business as usual projections.</p>	<p>Resib'ty</p> <p>Maggie Bosanquet</p>

Council's Sustainability, Carbon and Climate Change Team and Carbon Management Programme Board.

We have identified a couple of errors in last years reporting which have now been corrected. Due to quarterly billing of gas a number of sites had been underestimated. Also, overall mileage had been used rather than just business travel. The graph below shows the correct data.



The Council is continuing to make carbon and financial savings. In the coming years we are still looking to reduce emissions, however industry experts are beginning to predict an increase in utility costs, and this is likely to be amplified due to the current state of the pound versus the dollar/Euro, as energy is an international commodity.

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>7) That all staff and Elected Members be made aware of the Council's carbon reduction targets, the financial impact of energy use and the savings that can be made by using energy more effectively. This could be achieved through training sessions and the Council's performance appraisal scheme – focusing on staff actions/achievements that protect the County's environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Regular articles in Buzz and Member Updates have kept staff and members up to date with projects. The Big Switch Off has continued to make impressive savings in buildings where it has taken place, demonstrating to staff the importance of making a few minor changes to their behaviour.</p> <p>There has been continued engagement with staff with a Big Switch Off event being ran in the Green Lane offices at Spennymoor. This is the biggest site so far and they achieved 5% savings in their electricity consumption and have improved on that figure since.</p> <p>In October the campaign will be at the Greencroft offices.</p> <p>Staff changes in the Energy (now Low Carbon Economy) Team, combined with staff relocations across the Council have limited the option to expand the programme further. We have maintained monitoring and reminders for sites that have been involved in the Big Switch Offs and they have continued to sustain savings. As the main civic sites are occupied through the Inspire programme we will look to engage with the new occupants.</p>	Maggie Bosanquet	Ongoing

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



18 November 2016

**European and Structural Investment
Funding Update**

**Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director Regeneration and Local
Services**

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee about progress on European and Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Low Carbon Economy funding programmes.

Background

2. Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee have received several updates on ESIF low carbon initiatives to their meetings. A detailed report was provided to members at their meeting on 10th November 2014 and a verbal report was provided to its meeting on 20th January 2015, with a further update report on 12th October 2015.
3. A planned update to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee was postponed following the UK's decision to leave the European Union in June 2016.

Areas of Activity

4. Despite the uncertainty caused by the referendum decision, we have achieved significant progress since October 2015 with the Council receiving funding for three low carbon projects during that period, as well as further project bids being submitted for possible future funding. This report will outline these various projects and then give a brief summary on what is known of the way forward in the light of the decision to leave the European Union.

Funded Projects

5. **Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP)**
This DCC led project bid was submitted in September 2015 and the Funding Agreement was signed in August 2016, making this the very first low carbon European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project in the North East LEP region and one of the very first in the UK. BEEP will

provide an intensive package of support for SMEs on energy efficiency, renewable energy and business resilience to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bottom line costs, enhancing competitiveness and supporting business growth. One to one best practice support, training and expert technical advice will be provided, backed by an interactive website and a programme of peer to peer business events and social media. A package of energy audits and financial grant support will encourage and enable businesses to take up no/low cost measures and to install appropriate technologies. The key outputs are: 240 SMEs supported and a reduction of greenhouses gases.

Intervention rate 60% grant: 40% DCC match
ERDF grant - £533,887

6. **LOCARBO** – funded 1st April 2016 until 30th September 2018

This transnational project aims to create ‘novel roles for regional and LOcal authorities in supporting energy consumers’ behaviour change towards a low CARBOn economy’. The County Durham element of the project will focus on business energy efficiency, sharing the learning from the BEEP Project and learning from the best practice of partners across Europe. The lead partner is the Province of Potenza, in Italy, with partners from Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Portugal as well as Durham.

Intervention rate 85% grant: 15% DCC match
ERDF grant €218,557

7. **Rebus** – funded 1st April 2016 until 31st March 2019

This project aims to ‘assist the public sector by providing means to undertake energy efficiency renovation works to their public building stock, thus saving energy and public resources’. It promotes international exchange between more and less developed regions in Europe to enable learning from experience and knowledge sharing. Durham County Council will use the project to focus on energy efficiency support for community buildings that have gone through the Asset Transfer process. Community Energy England, Durham Community Action, the Schools Carbon Programme and a network of community buildings in County Durham will be key partners locally.

Intervention rate 85% grant: 15% DCC match
ERDF grant €178,114

Outline Bids

8. A new Call for Low Carbon projects was issued for the NELEP area in April 2016 with a closing date of 30th September 2016. The response has been more positive than expected and thirteen bids have been received across the NELEP region. DCC submitted one outline project bid and other outline bids will also be of interest to the Committee. All of these are currently being assessed and an update is expected early in January 2017.

a. **‘Solid Wall Insulation (SWii)**

This DCC Housing project is designed to demonstrate the latest Solid Wall Insulation materials, systems and smart construction process in a domestic property innovation trial addressing the high cost of traditional domestic SWI and the market’s failure to meet regulatory planning and building regulations and standards.

ERDF grant applied for: £1.49m

b. **Auckland Castle Deep Geothermal Energy**

This project, if successful, would be the first deep geothermal heat scheme to break ground in the UK in thirty years. It would provide heat to the Castle and to the suite of both old and new buildings associated with Auckland Castle Trust and would tackle the challenge of sustainable heat which represents 50% of total carbon emissions in the North East.

ERDF grant applied for: £3.17m

c. **Re-energise North East**

This is a NELEP area project, led by Groundwork on behalf of a partnership of organisations including DCC. It will provide advice and support on energy efficiency and renewable energy to community buildings across the region, including a ring fenced support allocation for community groups in County Durham.

ERDF grant applied for (total NELEP area): £1.56m

d. **Water Science Hub**

This project bid was submitted in September 2015. It has now been approved by the ESIF Committee and the offer letter production process is ongoing. The Durham University led project will develop a North East Water Science Hub and will help the Council develop an Innovation test bed at Horden examining the opportunities to use waste mine water for heat. The Council will also undertake sustainable urban drainage works in South Moor, examining opportunities to develop new products and processes.

ERDF grant: £749,092

Way Forward

9. A Treasury announcement in August confirmed that all Structural and Investment fund projects contracted prior to the Autumn Statement (November 23rd) would be guaranteed, even if they are spending beyond the exit from the EU. A further announcement by the Chancellor on 3 October confirmed that the government will extend the guarantee for EU funding for projects signed after the Autumn Statement up to the point at which the UK departs the EU. All projects will be required to meet domestic strategic priorities and deliver value for money and the relevant Government department will have responsibility for the allocation of money to projects in line with these conditions and the wider rules on public spending.

10. It is therefore expected that a further Call for low carbon ERDF projects will be issued during 2017. Good partnership work is continuing to develop a pipeline of future projects for County Durham. In addition, the Economic Partnership has responded to the refresh of the North East Strategic Economic Plan with a paper stressing the importance of low carbon economic growth opportunities.

Recommendation

11. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of the report and comment accordingly.

Contact: Maggie Bosanquet
Tel: 03000 265549
Email: Maggie.bosanquet@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No implications

Staffing

No implications.

Risk

No implications.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No implications

Accommodation

No implications.

Crime and Disorder

No implications.

Human Rights

No implications.

Consultation

No implications

Procurement

No implications.

Disability Issues

No implications.

Legal Implications

No implications.

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