



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

**Date**        **Friday 3 June 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. Declarations of Interest, if any
4. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
5. Environment Improvement Campaigns and Projects - Update (Pages 1 - 6)
  - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services
  - (ii) Presentation by Ian Hault, Neighbourhood Protection Manager
6. Waste Programme - Update (Pages 7 - 10)
  - (i) Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services
  - (ii) Presentation by Alan Patrickson, Head of Projects and Business Services
7. 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

25 May 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**

---

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



**3 June 2016**

**Environment Improvement Campaigns and  
Projects**

---

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

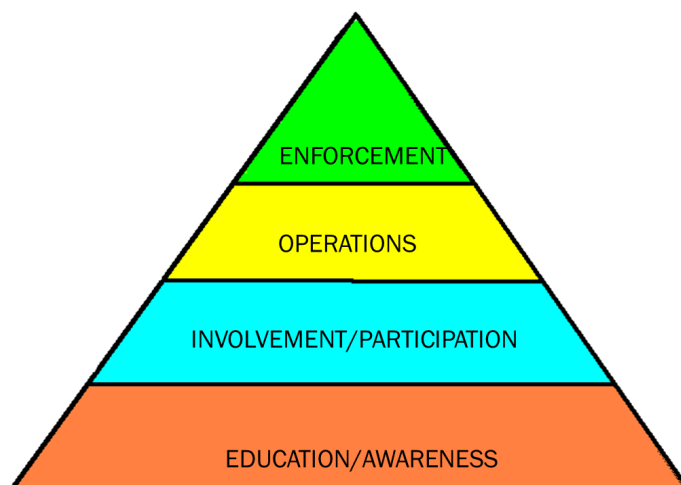
---

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Members of the Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on the development and implementation of environmental improvement campaigns and projects.

**Background**

2. The local environment is crucially important to quality of life in our communities. Residents regularly report issues and concerns to the Council, Area Action Partnerships, Town and Parish Councils and elected Members on a wide range of matters from dog fouling and littering, to graffiti and fly-tipping. Not only do these matters impact on community safety and fear of crime, but they are also recognised as forms of anti-social behaviour, which the British Crime Survey consistently identifies that residents feel is a big or fairly big problem in their area.
3. Whilst the Council does deploy considerable resources through its clean and green teams in ensuring the County is clean and attractive as possible, it is recognised that behavioural change is the key to a more sustainable environment as well as lower costs. The civic pride approach in Durham, applied since Local Government Reorganisation (diagram below) utilises programmes of education/awareness and community involvement as a key foundation to its approach to environmental services. Operations and enforcement will always have a part to play, but their role is lessened, if this more holistic approach to the local environment is taken.



4. The Environment Partnership has developed a multi-agency thematic group “Pride in Our Communities” to oversee much of this work. This group, together with the

Councils Neighbourhood Protection service considers and selects the most appropriate campaigns, and ensures their delivery is monitored and evaluated. The common theme and overarching aims of many of these campaigns are not only to promote behavioural change for the minority that spoil our environment, but also to increase opportunities for people to become more involved in making a difference in their area.

## Overview

5. Members of the Committee will receive a short presentation from the Neighbourhood Protection Manager and his team regarding some of the work that has been undertaken in the last twelve months, as well as have an opportunity to input to future priorities and issues.
6. The presentation will cover the following campaigns or projects have taken place in the past 12 months, are currently taking place or are currently being planned including:
  - a. Fly-tipping – Operation Stop It
  - b. Responsible Dog Ownership:
    - i. Green Dog Walkers Scheme.
    - ii. Mini Dog Fouling Campaigns.
    - iii. Microchipping
  - c. Litter
    - i. Big Spring Clean.
    - ii. Car Litter
  - d. Open space improvement
    - i. It's Your Neighbourhood.
    - ii. Northumbria & Britain in Bloom.
    - iii. Green Flag
    - iv. Beautiful Durham
  - e. School activities:
    - i. Education sessions.
    - ii. Junior Neighbourhood Watch.
    - iii. Tidy Ted
    - iv. Safety Carousels.

## **Flytipping - Operation Stop It**

7. Flytipping is the most environmental issue reported to the Council. In November 2014 Operation 'Stop It' was established to tackle this in a multi-agency way and includes various DCC sections, Police, Environment Agency and Crimestoppers and it has 3 main aims:
  - a. to reduce the number of incidents
  - b. to target fly-tippers and;
  - c. educate householders and businesses to understand their responsibilities in making sure their waste is disposed of properly

## **Responsible Dog Ownership**

8. **Green Dog Walkers Scheme (GDWs)** - this is a non-confrontational, friendly way for residents to change attitudes about dog fouling. To be part of the scheme, members of the general public sign a volunteer pledge to:
  - a. wear their GDWs badge as often as possible when walking their dog;
  - b. clean up after their dog and dispose of the bag in a bin at all times;
  - c. encourage other dog walkers to clean up after their dog; and
  - d. carry extra dog waste bags to distribute to other dog walkers if requested.
9. **Dog Microchipping** - A change in the law has led to it being compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016, as part of this change the Council has worked with Dogs Trust and Stray Aid to continue to provide free microchips for Durham residents throughout 2016. This has the aim to help improve responsibility and help reunite lost/stolen dogs and so reduce the number of strays.
10. **Mini Dog Fouling Campaigns** - these mini campaigns focus on smaller areas of the county that has a specific issue with dog fouling. The areas are usually selected by the Neighbourhood Wardens and tend to be areas where the problem has persisted despite routine engagement and enforcement activity.

## **Litter**

11. **Big Spring Clean** has been running since 2010, this annual month long campaign aims to get community groups and individual residents involved in cleaning up their neighbourhood. It is organised by Litter Free Durham (a regional group set up as part of the Campaign to Protect Rural England's "Stop the Drop" campaign) and is delivered jointly by the group, Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council. The three partners work together to promote the campaign and to provide support for people and groups wanting to take part in such an activity by either organising or supervising the event or by simply providing equipment and advice to groups that are capable of running their own event.

12. **Car Litter Campaign** has run every other year to tackle the litter thrown from vehicles which ends up in our towns/villages and the roads in between. The aims of the campaign was to raise awareness of the problem, encourage responsibility and reduce roadside litter.

### **Open Space Improvement**

13. **It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)** is a scheme run by the Royal Horticultural Society that aims to support and recognise community groups greening up and cleaning up their local neighbourhood. It is a non-competitive national scheme which recognises community participation, gardening achievement and environmental responsibility.
14. Groups entering their activities into the scheme are given an award based on the following achievement levels:
  - a. Level 1 – Establishing
  - b. Level 2 – Improving
  - c. Level 3 – Developing
  - d. Level 4 – Thriving
  - e. Level 5 – Outstanding
15. For 2015, Civic Pride has establish a county-wide community grant scheme that will encourage 15 new groups to undertake activities that will lead to an IYN award. The scheme will offer grants of up to £500 to groups who have not previously entered the scheme. The aims of the scheme are to:
  - a. improve green spaces with sustainable projects;
  - b. harness community spirit;
  - c. forge new links with proactive members of the community; and
  - d. provide the basis for a future entry into the national RHS In Bloom competition.
16. **Northumbria in Bloom/ Britain in Bloom** – The county has achieved considerable success in the Royal Horticultural Society led Northumbria-in-Bloom awards. Success requires a real partnership approach involving the community, business, the Council and other public bodies. Although the awards were initially focussed on horticultural achievement, there has been an increasing focussed placed on environmental responsibility and community participation.
17. The **Green Flag** award scheme is the national standard for parks and open spaces that recognises excellence and good practice in their management and development. To achieve Green flag status a site should contribute to its locality and provide facilities suited to the needs of the community. This community should look at the sites as a true asset and be actively involved in this management and development.

18. We have achieved 15 Green Flags and the delivery of these is a collective effort across Direct Services and importantly community participation.

### **School Education Activities**

19. **Education Sessions** – Neighbourhood Protection and especially Civic Pride team engage with schools, youth groups and colleges to deliver a range of educational sessions addressing the four most reported environmental crimes. Such sessions are delivered using a variety of teaching methods including:
- a. story sack session for under 5's;
  - b. Tidy Ted and Scoop the Dog sessions for junior school children; and
  - c. an interactive DVD for older children.
20. The sessions are usually organised to coincide with a campaign or problem that is highlighted in an area. In addition, where the school or youth group is interested, Civic Pride will also organise a related activity for the children to participate in (e.g. litter picking, bulb planting, fence painting, etc).
21. **Junior Neighbourhood Watch** - this scheme is organised by Durham Constabulary and aims to engage with younger children. Spread over several weeks, the programme includes a range of sessions that encourage the children to take an interest in what is happening in their neighbourhoods and to generate an interest and awareness in their personal safety, their community and crime and disorder issues. Civic Pride deliver the envirocrime modules on the programme.
22. **Safety Carousels** - also organised by Durham Constabulary, these sessions take part on a single day and are aimed at older children. Their main focus is anti-social behaviour enforcement and consequences; weapons awareness; hate crime; arson and fire setting; internet safety/cyber bullying; alcohol awareness, support and enforcement; environmental issues such as litter and graffiti; resuscitation awareness; prison life. As with the Junior Neighbourhood Watch programme, Civic Pride deliver one of the modules.

### **Recommendations**

23. Note the wide range of environmental campaigns aimed at promoting behavioural change and greater community involvement in their local environment.

### **Background Papers**

Presentation to be issued.

---

**Ian Hault, Neighbourhood Protection Manager [ian.hault@durham.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hault@durham.gov.uk)**

---

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

**Finance - None**

**Staffing – It should be noted that coordination of the campaigns and projects are run by employees although there is a large community volunteer base who contribute to their local environment.**

**Risk – None**

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None**

**Accommodation - None**

**Crime and Disorder – The campaigns contribute to the Altogether Safer agenda**

**Human Rights - None**

**Consultation - None**

**Procurement - None**

**Disability Issues - None**

**Legal Implications – None**



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



**3 June 2016**

**Waste Programme - Update**

---

**Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and  
Oliver Sherratt, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services**

---

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information in advance of the update on the waste programme.

**Background**

- 2 The work programme for Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes monitoring the delivery of the Council's waste strategy and performance. This is in relation to the objective of "Delivering a Sustainable Approach to Waste Management" within the Altogether Greener section of the Council Plan.
- 3 The work of the Waste Programme between March 2010 and June of 2013, completely transformed that Council's waste management service introducing new collection methods and procuring new contracts for recycling and disposal. This work has now developed into maintaining a sustainable approach to waste management in the face of reducing funding and challenging market conditions, along with monitoring of performance of the existing arrangements.

**Update**

- 4 An update on the progress of the waste programme will be presented by Alan Patrickson, Head of Direct Services and Projects and Business Services for the information of the committee.
- 5 The introduction of a subscription service for Garden Waste collection was a significant change to this popular service in 2015. The update will present the outcomes and learning from the first year of this new service and an update on the performance in 2016 to date.
- 6 An update will be provided on the capital programme within the waste management service regarding replacing Thornley waste transfer station and Stainton Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre. Waste transfer stations are an essential link in the chain for waste management logistics, providing a

tip off point for refuse collection vehicles where waste can be bulked into larger vehicles for efficient onward transportation.

- 7 Additionally Stainton Grove Household Waste Recycling Centre has for a number of years been highlighted for replacement due to restrictions related to size and opening hours of the existing site. A new facility has been designed to be built at the existing Teesdale Depot site and a Planning Application has recently been submitted.

### **Recommendation**

- 8 It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the waste programme update.

---

**Contact: Tom Gorman**

**Tel: 03000 268027 E-mail: tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk**

**Author: Diane Close**

**Tel: 03000 268141.....E-mail: diane.close@durham.gov.uk**

---

---

**Appendix 1: Implications**

---

**Finance** - None

**Staffing** - None

**Risk** – None

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – There are no equality and diversity issues to be considered as part of this update.

**Accommodation** – None

**Crime and Disorder** - None

**Human Rights** – None

**Consultation** – None

**Procurement** – None

**Disability Issues** – None

**Legal Implications** – None

This page is intentionally left blank