

# Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24 January 2020

## Quarter Two, 2019/20 Performance Management Report



---

### Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources

#### Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present progress towards achieving those key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework aligned to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2 The performance report which sets out progress to the council's corporate performance framework in its entirety can be found [here](#).

#### Performance Reporting

- 3 Following an extensive public consultation programme, a shared vision for the county for the next 15 years has been developed with partners. This vision, agreed by Council on 23 October and formally launched at the County Durham Partnership event on 25 October, is structured around three externally focused results-based ambitions of 'more and better jobs', 'long and independent lives' and 'connected communities' ([link](#)).
- 4 As the Council has now adopted this vision, it is appropriate to modify the format of our performance reports to align to our new ambitions. This quarter, as a first step, existing performance information has been realigned to the three new ambitions plus a fourth 'better council' theme. Over the coming months, we will review the report to ensure it captures all elements of the new vision, as well as monitoring progress in improving how the council works.

#### Executive summary

- 5 Although the quarter two performance report for this committee (attached at Appendix 2) remains structured around the same set of key questions, they have been realigned to the ambitions of our new vision.

## **Connected Communities**

- 6 The ambition of 'connected communities' centres on building welcoming, accepting and supportive communities. This includes creating town and village centres which are well-used, clean and attractive and aims to reduce carbon emissions and the impact of climate change.
- 7 Reducing the amount of contamination in waste collected for recycling remains a challenge and a range of campaigns is underway to improve both the level and the quality of recycling. Although overall environmental cleanliness levels remain good, there has been some deterioration, especially in relation to detritus although an action plan is being developed, and new replacement vehicles will shortly be introduced. Some specific enviro-crime categories (graffiti and drug paraphernalia (incl. needles)) and the number of untidy yards and gardens are increasing. However this is related to pro-active recording by wardens and joint operations. The number of reported fly-tips is continuing to decrease against a backdrop of year-on-year national increases.
- 8 Across the county, carbon emissions are reducing significantly as we generate more energy from renewable sources, supporting businesses and reducing consumption through energy efficiency measures. Having declared a climate emergency, we are now seeking views on our proposed actions to reduce emissions by 60% by 2030 for the council and exploring measures to become carbon neutral as a county by 2050.

## **Risk Management**

- 9 Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's agenda. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects.
- 10 There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

## **Recommendation**

- 11 That Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter two performance, and the actions being taken to address areas of underperformance.

---

**Contact:** Jenny Haworth, Head of Strategy

Tel: 03000 268 071

---

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Finance**

Latest performance information is being used to inform corporate, service and financial planning.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Equality measures are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

### **Climate Change**

We have declared a climate emergency and consider the implications of climate change in our reports and decision making.

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable.

### **Crime and Disorder**

A number of performance indicators and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

### **Staffing**

Performance against a number of relevant corporate health indicators has been included to monitor staffing issues.

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable.

### **Risk**

Reporting of significant risks and their interaction with performance is integrated into the quarterly performance management report.

### **Procurement**

Not applicable.



*Altogether better*



# Durham County Council Performance Management Report

## Quarter Two, 2019/20



## **Connected Communities - Sustainability**

- 1 The ambition of Connected Communities – Sustainability is linked to the following key questions:
  - (a) How clean and tidy is my local environment?
  - (b) Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?
  - (c) How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste?

### **How clean and tidy is my local environment?**

- 2 We are aware of an increasing trend in detritus (as measured by the environmental cleanliness survey).
- 3 Reports of graffiti and drug paraphernalia (including needles) continue to increase. The graffiti incidents were mainly within Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Bishop Auckland and Stanley, more than half were offensive and one in ten was racist. Drug paraphernalia was mainly concentrated within Durham City Centre, Horden and Ferryhill.
- 4 The highest levels of fly-tipping incidents reported during quarter two were within Horden, South Moor and West Auckland areas. The most common locations to fly-tip are council land (46%), back alleys (24%) and highways (11%). Incidents in relation to back alleys cause difficulties as we are unable to use CCTV cameras in these areas due to privacy issues.
- 5 We have noticed that the number of untidy yards and gardens (which the public often perceives as fly-tipping) has increased. 72% of the Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued during quarter two (126 of 176) related to non-compliance of waste in yards and gardens.
- 6 During quarter two, our Community Action Team (CAT) tackled a range of housing and environmental issues at Crook. Actions were taken on all identified issues. The CAT team will move to Eldon, Bishop Auckland over the autumn.

### **Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?**

- 7 Following our declaration of a Climate Emergency ([Climate Emergency Update Report](#)) we are now seeking views on a range of projects, measures and opportunities which will contribute to achieving a 60% reduction in emissions by 2030. Feedback will help develop the Climate Emergency Action Plan, expected to be available in early 2020.

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – SUSTAINABILITY

## (a) How clean and tidy is my local environment?

### Reported and responded to fly-tipping incidents

↓ 420  
(-6%)



During quarter two:

**11** cameras deployed

**0** incidents caught on CCTV

**9** stop and search operations

**9** duty of care warning letters

**4** producers issued\*

**403** further investigations

**3** prosecutions

**5** FPNs

\* producers are issued to scrap and waste businesses to produce their documents to show they are licensed to collect and dispose of scrap and waste materials.

### Untidy yards and gardens



82 graffiti incidents

↓ 29% compared to quarter two, 18/19

81 reports of needles & drug paraphernalia

↑ 113% compared to quarter two, 18/19



### Northumbria in Bloom

Tanfield: best overall entry & best small village

Durham: best small city

Bishop Auckland: best large town

Sedgefield: best small town

Belmont: best urban community

### Environmental Cleanliness: % of relevant land and highways assessed as falling below an acceptable standard

Litter **6.90%** ↑ +0.29pp

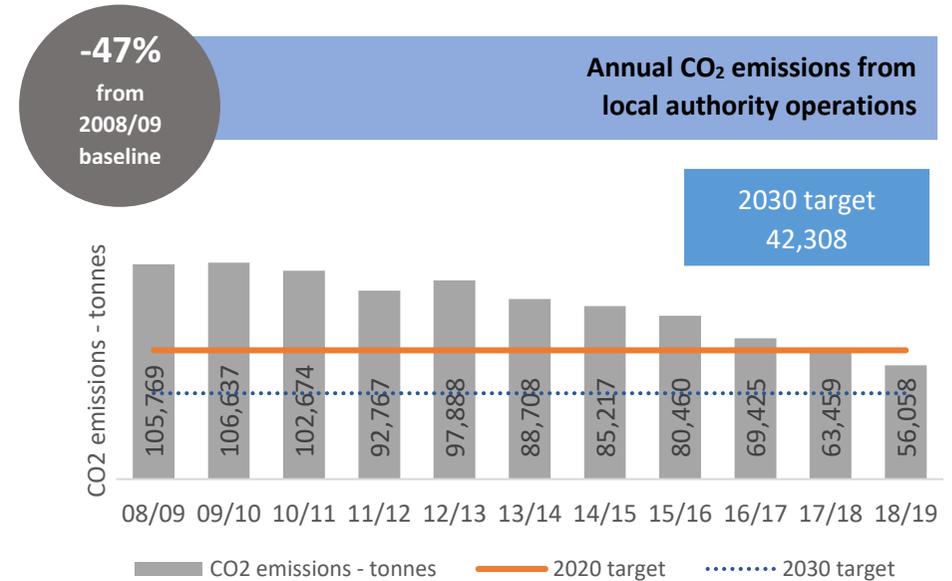
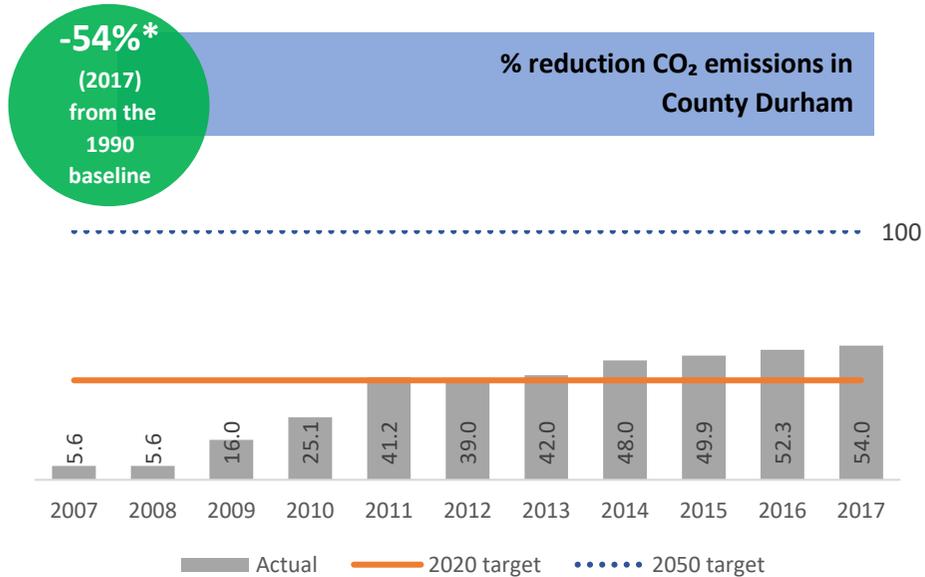
Detritus **13.36%** ↓ -0.51pp

Dog fouling **0.90%** ↓ -0.10pp



# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES - SUSTAINABILITY

## (b) Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?



### Climate Change Emergency

- Climate Emergency Update Report agreed
- Public consultation on recommendations will run from 19 September - 31 October 2019.



### Single Use Plastics (SUP)

- We received the 'Best Waste Prevention Project' award at the national Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee annual awards.



### Chester-le-Street Deculvert

- Phase 1 now complete
- Improvements made to the north end of Front Street
- Existing 'red carpet' area of the market place refurbished.



### Tanfield Solar Farm

- Will be utilised to power Comeleon House
- Expected to be operational from November
- Expected to generate **214,000 kWh** of electricity a year, saving **£25,000 per year** in electricity bills

\*Latest available figures from Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

- 8 We have secured £160,000 of funding to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) change their energy behaviour, reduce operational costs and cut carbon emissions. This builds on the success of the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) which has helped 200 local businesses to improve their energy performance and save money.
- 9 The £6.2 million project in Chester-le-Street has already seen improvements to the north end of Front Street and the existing 'red carpet' area of the Market Place. Phase two will involve opening up a 90 metre stretch of the culvert running underneath the town's Market Place. New footpaths and seating will be installed, and the area will be landscaped to provide a haven for wildlife and storage for flood water during severe storms.

### **How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste?**

- 10 The second phase of government consultation in relation to its [Resources and Waste Strategy](#) is now expected to be March 2020.
- 11 We are continuing to take action to reduce contamination. In addition to campaigns, door-knocks and sessions with community groups, recycling assistants continue to accompany bin crews on their rounds. Consequently, more contaminated bins continue to be identified with almost 16,000 contamination notices being issued during the 12 months ending 30 September.
- 12 The annual Green Move Out campaign was carried out in July. The initiative, which encourages students moving between properties or away from Durham to donate their unwanted belongings to local charities, collected more than 4.2 tonnes of waste.
- 13 During quarter two, we successfully prosecuted an unlicensed scrap-man in the Haswell area who was fined £440 and ordered to pay £304 in costs and a victim surcharge.
- 14 We have been awarded the 'Best Waste Prevention Project' at the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee annual awards for our work to reduce the use of single use plastics.

# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES - SUSTAINABILITY

## (c) How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste?

**95.5%** of municipal waste diverted from landfill (Apr 18-Mar 19)

**-1.3pp**

(same period last year)

**+7.7pp**

(National 17/18)

**No change**  
(same period last year)

**-1.8pp**

(National 17/18)

**41.4%** of household waste re-used, recycled or composted (Apr 18-Mar 19)

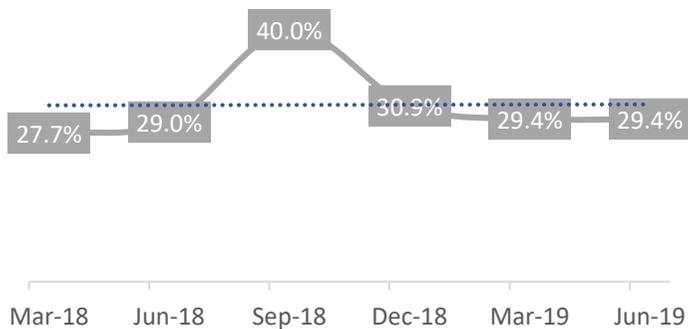
### Green Move Out 2019

- Partnership project enabling students leaving Durham City to donate unwanted items to a local charity.
- 1,769 properties in 72 streets visited
- Scheme discussed with 672 students
- 519 bags weighing 4.2 tonnes collected from student houses

### Unlicensed scrapman

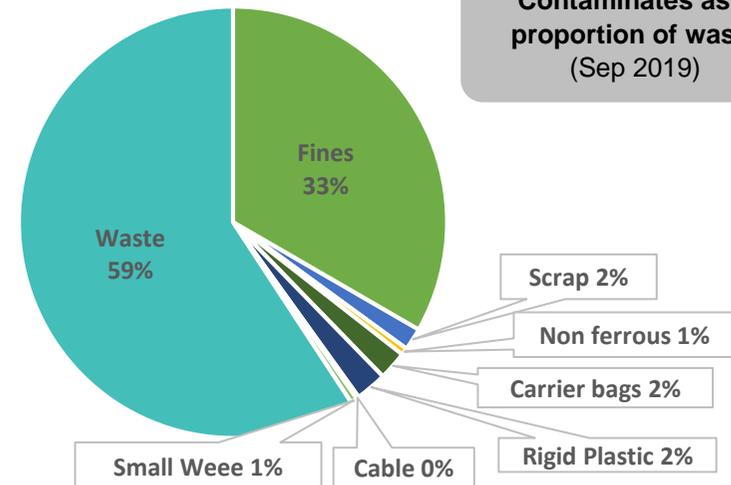
- An unlicensed scrapman successfully prosecuted
- Fined **£440**
- Ordered to pay **£260** in costs and a victim surcharge of **£44**

### Proportion of waste collected for recycling identified as contaminated (12 months ending)



Increase in enforcement action has led to a **↑ 21%** in number of households at stage one of our contamination process

### Contaminates as a proportion of waste (Sep 2019)



## Key Performance Indicators – Data Tables

There are two types of performance indicators throughout this document:

- (a) Key target indicators – targets are set as improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
- (b) Key tracker indicators – performance is tracked but no targets are set as they are long-term and/or can only be partially influenced by the council and its partners.

A guide is available which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2019/20 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet or can be requested from the Strategy Team at [performance@durham.gov.uk](mailto:performance@durham.gov.uk)

### KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Direction of travel	Benchmarking	Performance against target
GREEN	Same or better than comparable period	Same or better than comparable group	Meeting or exceeding target
AMBER	Worse than comparable period (within 2% tolerance)	Worse than comparable group (within 2% tolerance)	Performance within 2% of target
RED	Worse than comparable period (greater than 2%)	Worse than comparable group (greater than 2%)	Performance >2% behind target

### National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, for example educational attainment is compared to county and unitary councils however waste disposal is compared to district and unitary councils.

### North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e. County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland, the number of authorities also varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils.

More detail is available from the Strategy Team at [performance@durham.gov.uk](mailto:performance@durham.gov.uk)

## CONNECTED COMMUNITIES - SUSTAINABILITY

### How clean and tidy is my local environment?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Comparison to						Data updated this quarter
				Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	
95	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	6.9	Sep-Oct 2019	Tracker	6.6					Yes
				N/a	<b>AMBER</b>					
96	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	13.4	Sep-Oct 2019	Tracker	13.9					Yes
				N/a	<b>GREEN</b>					
97	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	0.9	Sep-Oct 2019	Tracker	1.0					Yes
				N/a	<b>GREEN</b>					
98	Number of fly-tipping incidents	7,073	Oct18-Sep 19	Tracker	7,493					Yes
				N/a	<b>GREEN</b>					

\*Not directly comparable

## CONNECTED COMMUNITIES - SUSTAINABILITY

### Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Comparison to						Data updated this quarter
				Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	
99	% reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions in County Durham (by 40% by 2020 and 55% by March 2031)	54	2017	Tracker	52.3					Yes
				N/a	<b>GREEN</b>					
100	% change in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from local authority operations	-7	2018/19	Tracker	-9					Yes
				N/a	<b>RED</b>					

## CONNECTED COMMUNITIES - SUSTAINABILITY

### Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Comparison to						Data updated this quarter
				Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	
101	% of municipal waste diverted from landfill	95.5	Jul 18-Jun 19	95 <b>GREEN</b>	96.8 <b>AMBER</b>	87.3 <b>GREEN</b>	92 <b>GREEN</b>		2017/18	Yes
102	% of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	41.4	Jul 18-Jun 19	Tracker N/a	40.4 <b>GREEN</b>	43.2 <b>AMBER</b>	34.5 <b>GREEN</b>		2017/18	Yes

### Other Additional Relevant Indicators

## CONNECTED COMMUNITIES - SUSTAINABILITY

### Is it easy to travel around the county?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Comparison to						Data updated this quarter
				Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	
110	% of A roads where maintenance is recommended	2.6	2018	Tracker N/a	2.6 <b>GREEN</b>	3 <b>GREEN</b>			2016/17	No
111	% of B and C roads where maintenance is recommended	4.7	2018	Tracker N/a	4.7 <b>GREEN</b>	6 <b>GREEN</b>			2016/17	No
112	% of unclassified roads where maintenance is recommended	21	2018	Tracker N/a	20 <b>AMBER</b>	17 <b>RED</b>			2016/17	No