

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

**16 July 2021**

**Neighbourhoods and Climate  
Change Service Overview**



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**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods  
and Climate Change**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the committee with an introductory overview of the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change service grouping.

**Executive summary**

- 2 Neighbourhoods and Climate Change is one of five service groupings that make up the establishment of Durham County Council. The council service groupings with the associated corporate Directors are as follows:

John Hewitt:	Chief Executive
Jane Robinson:	Adult and Health Services
John Pearce:	Children's and Young Peoples Services
Alan Patrickson:	Neighbourhoods and Climate Change
Amy Harhoff:	Regeneration, Economy and Growth
Paul Darby:	Resources

- 3 Neighbourhoods and Climate Change contains a wide range of front line services working with and for our communities. The structure of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change with the associated Heads of service is as follows:

Joanne Waller:	Head of Community Protection
Oliver Sherratt:	Head of Environment Services
Gordon Elliot:	Head of Partnerships and Community

	Engagement
Mark Readman:	Highway services Manager
Paul Watson:	Strategic Highways Manager

- 4 It is to note that Highway Services and Strategic Highways make up Technical Services, however there is currently a vacancy for the Head of Technical Services post, which will be recruited to shortly. In the interim the two Strategic Managers listed above are reporting directly to the Corporate Director.
- 5 The corporate Director will deliver a presentation at the meeting highlighting the key areas of work within the service grouping pertinent to the work of the committee and will take questions from committee members.

### **Recommendations**

- 6 That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:
  - a) note the content of the report and presentation and comment accordingly.

### **Background**

- 7 Neighbourhoods and Climate Change delivers a wide range of front line services to residents within County Durham, many of these functions contribute to their quality of life.
- 8 The team covers four key service areas of:
  - Community Protection
  - Environment Services
  - Partnership & Community Engagement
  - Technical Services
- 9 Neighbourhoods & Climate Change has a budgeted expenditure of around £195 million, which is offset by around £85m of income through fees, charges and grants to give a net budget of around £110m. In addition, the team has a capital budget of around £43m, the majority of which, around £30m is related to highways.
- 10 Services are provided by 1,500 FTE staff, almost 1,000 of whom are in the Environment Services team dealing with refuse collection, clean & green and other frontline services

## **ENVIRONMENT SERVICES**

- 11 Environment Services offers a wide range of the council's environmental services, that through direct delivery, strategic planning, education and enforcement contribute to making County Durham environment attractive and sustainable, all of which contribute to the vision of connected communities and more and better jobs.
- 12 The team has 972 (FTE) members of staff and has the responsibility for the following functions:-
  - Refuse & Recycling
  - Strategic Waste
  - Clean & Green
  - Environment & Design
  - Neighbourhood Protection
  - Fleet

## **COMMUNITY PROTECTION**

- 13 The Community Protection Team provides essential services to County Durham's residents, traders and visitors to protect their health, safety and environment including the air they breathe, the food they eat, goods they buy, their safety in the workplace and in their homes.
- 14 They offer advice and support for local businesses that are key to the local economy and promote a safe, fair and equitable environment by dealing effectively with crime and disorder and rogue traders who often take advantage of our most vulnerable people.
- 15 The team has responsibility for the following functions:
  - Food Safety and Wellbeing
  - Occupational Health and Safety
  - Environment Protection
  - Licensing
  - Trading Standards
  - Safer Communities
  - Neighbourhood Interventions

## **PARTNERSHPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- 16 The Partnerships & Community Engagement teams engage directly with our communities, building bridges and partnerships with the voluntary sector, town and parish councils, statutory partners and the business community. The team support our statutory partnerships across the safer and safeguarding themes and also provide the County's emergency response co-ordination through the civil contingencies unit.
- 17 The teams have responsibility for the following functions:
- Area Action Partnerships,
  - Community Buildings,
  - Civil Contingencies Unit,
  - County Durham Partnerships,
  - Humanitarian Support
  - the Local Safeguarding Boards for Adults and Children.

## **TECHNICAL SERVICES**

- 18 The Highways Services team and Strategic Highways work closely together creating an integrated asset management delivery model. They undertake significant amounts of work on the network including inspections, investigation of issues, scheme design, implementation of repairs and maintenance, and the completion of larger scale capital projects. In addition, they engage with several framework contractors to support the delivery of capital schemes.

## **HIGHWAYS SERVICES**

- 19 Highway Services is the operational in-house team within Technical Services who are responsible for the delivery of all civil engineering, construction, and maintenance activities.
- 20 With an in-house resource of over 300 staff and an external framework support mechanism utilising local providers wherever possible. The service delivers budgets in excess of £40 million for both capital and revenue related activities.
- 21 The service offers a one stop shop methodology for the delivery of projects from feasibility, design, estimating and construction, functions include
- Winter Maintenance
  - Street Lighting

- Major Works
- Highways

## **STRATEGIC HIGHWAYS**

22 Strategic Highways comprises of the following teams:-

- Highways Assets
- Street Lighting
- Structures
- Network Management
- Drainage and Coastal Protection
- Public Rights of Way
- Highway Adoptions

## **Conclusion**

Neighbourhoods and Climate Change contains a wide range of front line services working with and for our communities.

## **Background papers**

- None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Finance**

Not applicable.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

### **Climate Change**

Not applicable.

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable.

### **Staffing**

Not applicable.

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable.

### **Risk**

Not applicable.

### **Procurement**

Not applicable.

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