
CLIMATE CHANGE – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Matter for Consideration

1. To advise Members of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee of the work undertaken by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in relation to Climate Change.

Background Information

2. Following the Climate Change Event, which was held at the Town Hall on the 5th July, 2007, and, at the request of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee have undertaken a piece of work in relation to Climate Change.
3. At the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 10th September 2007, the Committee considered areas within its remit which it would like to undertake work into and it was agreed that one of the themes of the Special Meeting of the Committee on the 15th October 2007, be Climate Change.

Information

4. At the Special Meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 15th October 2007, Members of the Committee and 27 Primary School children received a presentation from the Sustainable Development Officer on Climate Change. The Members of the Committee and children then participated in discussion and workshops on this issue, including voting on actions that can be taken to improve the impact on climate change. The results of the voting exercise are attached in **Appendix 1**.

Legal Implications

5. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

6. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendation

7. That the contents of the report be noted.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

No Background Papers were used in the compilation of this report.

Paul Dalton: Extension 2387

CLIMATE CHANGE

Matter for Consideration

1. To advise Members of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee of the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee following the work it undertook in relation to Climate Change.

Background Information

2. Following the Climate Change Event, which was held at the Town Hall on the 5th July, 2007, and, at the request of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee, the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny have undertaken a piece of work in relation to Climate Change.
3. At an initial meeting held on the 4th September, 2007, the Committee considered areas within its remit which it could undertake work by reviewing the implementation of energy saving measures in Council Housing Stock, including insulation and waste disposal, and private housing standards by utilising existing grants and funding; promoting renewable energy to householders; and the reduction of fuel poverty by ensuring that people have access to affordable warmth through efficient housing, heating systems and appliances.
4. At that meeting, it was agreed that further work be undertaken to positively tackle the effects of fuel poverty and develop a programme of initiatives to reduce the incidence of fuel poverty and promote healthy living to the most vulnerable community groups.

Information

5. At the Scrutiny Meeting held on 30th October, 2007, the Committee received a presentation from the Housing Strategy and Renewal Manager on energy efficiency.
6. The presentation outlined the requirement for a collective and common response to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn will reduce the effects of global warming. Housing is a major contributor to increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions and, improvements in energy efficiency are regarded as a key factor in achieving reduced levels of CO2 emissions by 2008-12. The presentation further explained the Government's response to achieving reduced energy consumption, through support and financial assistance for the installation of energy efficiency measures, and more extensive use of "cleaner" and more sustainable forms of energy generation. This includes extended obligations for a national utility energy providers up to 2020 to meet the Government's aims, and a "doubling" on current levels of investment from 1st April, 2008.
7. Members discussed with the Housing Strategy and Renewal Manager the range of energy efficiency measures currently available in Darlington supported by government assisted

grants, available to both “priority” low income or vulnerable groups and those on higher incomes referred to as “able to pay”. Both community groups are eligible for some financial assistance based on a means tested “sliding scale”.

8. Imperative to the implementation of the energy efficiency measures is the need to target at least 40% of financial assistance at vulnerable low income groups and targeted marketing has been co-ordinated between this Council, utility suppliers and the Tees and District Energy Advice Centre (TADEA). This has been achieved through utilising existing information held within the Council (without disclosing personal data), and engaging with representative local groups such as “Growing Older Living in Darlington” (GOLD) who represent the interests of many older people in the local community. This follows the highly successful sub-regional energy efficiency programme commissioned with TADEA in 2006 supported by £100K of Regional Housing Board investment and £200k of private investment.
9. The future challenges faced by this Council include sustaining the momentum of current energy efficiency initiatives, the security of additional investment, development new accommodation which meets higher eco-standards, implementing innovative energy efficiency measures to those properties which exhibit inhibitive design features such as “single brick skin walls”, and promoting marketing and supporting more sustainable forms of energy generation to reduce energy consumption and waste.
10. Following the presentation, the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee agreed :-
 - (a) That this Council should continue operating in partnership with national utility energy providers to maximise the benefits of existing annual heating replacement programmes in Council owned dwellings;
 - (b) Undertake an appraisal of the energy efficiency benefits, environmental impact and potential fuel savings of a programme of double glazing;
 - (c) The Council should continue to work in partnership with national utility energy providers and the Energy Savings Trust to provide advice and assistance on a range of energy efficiency grants, promote and educate local people in respect of renewable forms of energy and ensure equitable access to services;
 - (d) To explore the use of more sustainable forms of energy generation and review current capital works specifications for council dwellings; and
 - (e) To review the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning document to reflect the “Design and Quality Standards” published by the Housing Corporation in April, 2007.

Legal Implications

11. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

12. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendations (if any)

13. That the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee, as outlined in paragraph 2 above, be included in the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Allison Carling : Extension 2291

CLIMATE CHANGE – HEALTH & WELL BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Matter for Consideration

1. To advise Members of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee of the recommendations of the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee following the work it has undertaken in relation to Climate Change.

Background Information

2. Following the Climate Change Event, which was held at the Town Hall on the 5th July, 2007, and, at the request of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee, the Health Well Being Scrutiny Committee have undertaken some work in relation to Climate Change.
3. At the meeting held on the 21st August, 2007, the Committee considered the Council's Leading Edge Energy Efficiency Project Plan and received an update from the Sustainable Development Officer. It was agreed that further brainstorming was required to allow Members of the Committee to consider areas within its remit, which it would like to undertake work into.
4. At the meeting on 16th October, 2007, Members concluded that the focus on their work would be on two areas, firstly; the food element of Eco Footprinting and secondly; raising awareness of Skin Cancer. It was agreed that the Committee be split into two Task and Finish Groups to undertake this work.

Information

5. A meeting of the Eco Footprinting Group was held on 12th November, 2007, with Ken Ross, Specialist in Public Health, Darlington PCT, the notes from the meeting are attached as **Appendix 1**.
6. A meeting of the Raising Awareness of Skin Cancer Group was held on 22nd November, 2007, with Dr Mary Carr, Specialist Dermatology Consultant, County Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust. The notes from that meeting are attached as **Appendix 2**.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendations (if any)

9. That the recommendations contained in Appendix 1 and 2 to the report, be noted and be included in the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

No Background Papers were used in the compilation of this report.

Abbie Metcalfe
AJM 2365

Eco-Footprinting Task and Finish Group
1st meeting – 12th November 2007 at 2.30pm, CR2

Present: - The Mayor; Councillors Davies, Regan and Mrs Scott.

Officers: - Ken Ross, Public Health Specialist, Darlington PCT and Abbie Metcalfe DBC.

Ken Ross reported that the PCT hadn't formally 'signed up' to any definitive action in relation to eco-footprinting and it was still to be agreed internally. An Estates Manager had been appointed and was undertaking an audit of the premises across the Darlington PCT. The audit would be considered in due course, to agree an achievable reduction in the carbon footprint.

Issues discussed included: -

Food Miles – The PCT could provide support in reducing the carbon footprint through the agenda around obesity and encouraging local food growing. This would have the effect of increasing access to fresh vegetables and fruit while reducing the amount of 'food miles' as well as increasing the physical activity of those involved in growing this food.

The Mayor reported that it was possible to source food locally as she had done for the Mayor's Ball.

Transport – It was reported that the PCT do not encourage their staff to drive smaller cars and the lease cars used were assessed against the criteria of the job, rather than economical incentives. The cars used by GP's and District Nurses, etc usually needed to be to carry two passengers and also have a spacious boot, for the necessary equipment. Ken Ross explained that there were also no incentives for staff to have anything other than motorised vehicles. Staff who travel around Darlington tend to use lease cars as they are more reliable, have breakdown cover and the cars are only used for a maximum of three years.

Waste Management – A lot of waste within the PCT has to be disposed of in a particular way, i.e. the incineration of needles and there was not much that the PCT could do about this. There was a contract for waste paper, which included Dr Piper House and GP surgeries. However, GP surgeries, being individual providers, made their own arrangements for waste management and incineration.

Procurement & Purchasing – It was reported that most of the equipment purchased by the PCT was from a prescribed list of suppliers and it was very difficult for local suppliers to be added to the list and for this reason there were no incentives for local suppliers or indeed to PCT to use local suppliers.

Recommendations: -

1. That a meeting be arranged with Steve Thompson and Mike Crawshaw to discuss the Dolphin Centre and other outlets using locally produced food.
2. That consideration be given to adding incentives within the tender process to encourage local companies and suppliers to apply.
3. That work undertaken by the PCT, in relation to eco-footprinting be continually fed back to the Committee in timely intervals.

Skin Cancer Awareness Task and Finish Group
1st meeting – 22nd November 2007 at 12.15pm, CR2

Present: - Councillors I. Haszeldine (lead), Freitag, L. Haszeldine, Nutt, Roberts and Vasey.

In attendance: Dr Mary Carr, Dermatology Consultant, County Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust and Abbie Metcalfe DBC.

Dr Mary Carr explained that she was based at University Hospital of North Durham and attended a clinic every fortnight at Dr Piper House, Darlington.

It was reported that skin cancer was not as high profile as some of the other cancers, but there had been a vast increase over the last 30 years. This was due to the change of behaviour in relation to sun exposure such as World War 2 soldiers being sent abroad and the sudden exposure to sunlight with no protection and the introduction of the package holiday.

There are two main types of skin cancer; malignant melanoma (cancer in moles), and the non-melanoma group (basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma). Dr Carr explained the difference between squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma and malignant melanoma. Basal cell carcinoma was the most common form of skin cancer in the UK, and could usually be treated, fairly easily. The malignant melanoma was the more serious form of cancer, which could go undetected for years, spread internally and could kill. The majority of melanomas are successfully treated surgically. Dr Carr reported that malignant melanomas were increasing by 7% per year and deaths were increasing by 3%. It was noted that if sun bathing and sun exposure was stopped now we would still be seeing the effect until at least 2050! Cancers could go undetected for as little as 5 years, to as long as 50 years.

The impact of children being sunburnt on holidays could potentially cause children problems in later life and Dr Carr suggested that children should be educated about the dangers of skin cancer at school. The need to educate about a safe amount of sun exposure was also highlighted as vital.

Sun cream and sun block helps to stop the skin ageing although do not completely protect from the dangerous UVA rays, an over dose of UVA exposure was increasing the risk of skin cancer. The best form of protection against UVA rays was to cover up in the hot sun, not sun bathing between the hours of 11am and 3pm, when the sun is at its most intense and wearing protective clothing and sunglasses. However, it was noted that children do need a healthy amount of sunshine as a source of Vitamin D and to prevent from the risk of developing rickets.

It was noted that there was early evidence which suggested there was a link to increase in the risk of skin cancer after the over exposure to ultraviolet lights on the sun beds.

Skin types were discussed and it was explained that there are a variety of skin types which affects how your skin will react to the sun and how likely you are to develop skin cancer. The fairer and pale skin types are more at risk than dark skin types. Skin types are determined by genes and does not depend how tanned you are.

The increase of the sudden exposure to sunlight and heat to moles during a two-week holiday was very worrying and it was thought that climate change could only make matters worse. Moles are susceptible in the sun and people should regularly check their moles after spending a prolonged amount of time in the sun. There is a checklist for warning symptoms of moles, as

melanomas tend to start in moles. If there were a change in a mole, such as a change in shape, size, colour, uncontrollable itching, irregular bleeding, crusting or larger than 0.7 cm, a visit to a GP would be advisable. Dr Carr reported that the checklist was publicised in the summer and usually there was a vast increase in patients to GP surgeries and clinics.

Dr Carr thought that the fashion of men with shaven heads would eventually see an increase of men finding melanomas, this could lead to increased problems in the future. Whether the dangers of skin cancer could be promoted in hair salons, was datable.

Members discussed how they thought that Council could help to raise awareness and promote to risks of skin cancer and healthy sun exposure. Ideas included an article in the Town Crier, asking the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to raise the issues with schools, make information more readily available and running a local campaign.

Members thanked Dr Carr for her attendance at the meeting and advised that they had heard good things about the clinic at Dr Piper House.

Recommendations: -

4. That an Action Plan be produced to raise awareness and promote to risks of skin cancer and healthy sun exposure.
5. That Darlington Borough Council works in conjunction with the NHS to promote healthy sun exposure and risk of skin cancer within Darlington Schools.
6. That an article be published in the Town Crier during the summer months to assist with raising awareness of skin cancer, while acknowledging there is also a need for health sun exposure, as a source of Vitamin D.

Further information:-

Professor Rona McKay – West Scotland

Dr Brian Diffey, Newcastle General Hospital – Research – into future trends in skin cancer, which suggests we will continue to see rising, rates for many decades. He said this was partly down to climate change through global warming and the sun worshipping culture and holidays abroad.

National Mole Weeks - Department of Health

British Association of Dermatologists - www.bad.org.uk

Northern Cancer Network

CLIMATE CHANGE

Matter for Consideration

1. To advise Members of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee of the recommendations of the Resources Scrutiny Committee following the work it undertook in relation to Climate Change.

Background Information

2. Following the Climate Change Event, which was held at the Town Hall on the 5th July, 2007, and, at the request of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee, the Resources Scrutiny Committee have undertaken a piece of work in relation to Climate Change.
3. At an initial meeting held on the 16th August, 2007, the Committee considered areas within its remit which it would like to undertake work into and, at that meeting, it was agreed that further work be undertaken into a review of Energy Management Systems in relation to Council Assets; Green Procurement, and the consideration and promotion of Eco-design in relation to the Council's new-build developments.
4. The Scrutiny Committee also agreed, at that meeting, to support the promotion of Member and Officer Energy Champions within the Council.

Information

5. A special meeting of the Resources Scrutiny Committee was therefore held on 1st October, 2007, and the Committee received a presentation from the Head of Strategic Procurement and Contract Management on efficiency in Procurement and a paper from the Planning Services Manager on work/considerations being given to the inclusion of eco-design in relation to new build development on Council-owned sites.
6. Following the presentations, the Resources Scrutiny Committee agreed :-
 - a. in relation to green procurement, that all procurement processes ensure that all effective measures are used to enable the Authority to reduce the carbon foot print and make cost-effective savings to help meet targets locally and nationally; and
 - b. in relation to the design of new developments, that this Scrutiny Committee supports the development of the Climate Change Strategy to enable a more sustainable development approach on all applications within the Borough to try to achieve the highest standard of eco-efficiency and sustainable development

within the Borough to meet local and regional targets.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendations (if any)

9. That the recommendations of the Resources Scrutiny Committee, as outlined in paragraphs 4 and 6 (a) and (b) above, be included in the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report

Shirley Burton : Extension 2233
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CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the actions arising following discussions around climate change issues.

Background

2. A Climate Change workshop day was held for all Members on 5 July 2007. Items for consideration in the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme were circulated at this meeting. Relevant actions were taken from the items and discussed in further details by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
3. The Sustainable Development Officer has attended at least one meeting of each Scrutiny Committee to introduce the Climate Change work and the outcomes of the 5 July workshop.

Information and Analysis

4. Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee have discussed Climate Change in relation to Planning, Transport and Waste. From these discussions the following potential actions have been identified for further consideration.

Planning

5. Development of a Darlington Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document:
 - c. Use principles of sustainability and eco efficiency in the design and layout of new developments.
6. Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy Policies:
 - d. Consult on planning policies to move towards carbon neutral developments.
 - e. Consult on a requirement for all new developments to meet BREEAM 'very good' or 'excellent' ratings for non residential development, and levels 1-6 in the 'Code for Sustainable Homes' for residential developments.
 - f. Ensure all new developments are resilient to climate change impacts and adaptable to climate variability.

7. Renewable Energy

- g. Help households to make use of small scale solar, wind and other appropriate on site renewable energy.
 - h. Consult on a policy target for on site renewable energy in the LDF.
 - i. Consult on a policy target for renewable energy across the Borough in the LDF.
8. Provide training to Planning Officers on issues relating to renewable technologies and climate change issues.

Transport

9. Continue, and build on the success of Local Motion, beyond current funding timescales.
10. Encourage an increase in cycling for young people and engage more with young people on transport issues.
11. New infrastructure developments should consider pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and car driver, in that order.
12. Measures to reduce carbon emissions from transport include technological developments, behavioural change measures and demand management, voluntary behaviour change measures and the Darlington Local Transport Plan.
13. Encourage the use of Eco Homes standards to help reduce the impact of travel, ie access to public transport.
14. Encourage LDF policies on reduced limits for car parking and requirements for new development to be accessible public transport.

Waste

15. Trade Waste – Monitoring of recycling rates.
16. Business Waste
- j. Encourage local business to recycle – provision of service?
17. Increase household recycling rate
- k. Offer low cost composting options to householders.
 - l. Promote home composting and recycling through road shows and high profile events.

- m. Develop waste education to promote recycling and encourage waste minimisation.
 - n. Review current waste and recycling policy to ensure compatibility with climate change targets.
18. Consider fuel type when purchasing new refuse vehicles – minimise impact of transportation.
19. Work with supermarkets to encourage a reduction in the use of carrier bags and plastic containers.

Legal Implications

20. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

21. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Richard Alty
Assistant Chief Executive Regeneration

Paul Jamieson: Extension 2631
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