

Appendix 3

Suggested items for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan

Resources Scrutiny Committee

Review of the Energy Management System in relation to Council assets

Green Procurement review - 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.

Promotion of Eco Design in relation to the Council's new build in relation to the design of new developments - 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.

Support the promotion of Member and Officer Energy Champions within the Council.

Explore gaining ISO 14001 Standard for the whole Authority and encourage other businesses to gain the award.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Encourage school children to conduct some work on climate change and publish the work in the Town Crier.

Review Sustainable Learning in the school curriculum and investigate methods of increasing Climate Change coverage in schools.

Review Inter-Generational Learning and Life Skill – engage young people with the Community with a view to promoting allotment holding and composting.

Investigate the collection of paper waste from schools.

Educate children on sustainability and climate change. Promote take up of Eco Schools.

Monitor energy efficiency audits on school buildings.

Revisit School Travel Planning.

Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee

That a meeting be arranged with Steve Thompson and Mike Crawshaw to discuss the Council's catering outlets using locally produced food.

That consideration be given to adding incentives within the tender process to encourage local companies and suppliers to apply.

That work undertaken by the PCT, in relation to eco-footprinting be continually fed back to the Committee in timely intervals.

That an Action Plan be produced to raise awareness and promote to risks of skin cancer and healthy sun exposure.

That Darlington Borough Council works in conjunction with the NHS to promote healthy sun exposure and risk of skin cancer within Darlington Schools.

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.

Raise awareness of the impact of food waste. Education in schools linking to Healthy Schools Standard.

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee

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;

Undertake an appraisal of the energy efficiency benefits, environmental impact and potential fuel savings of a programme of double glazing;

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;

To explore the use of more sustainable forms of energy generation and review current capital works specifications for council dwellings; and

To review the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning document to reflect the "Design and Quality Standards" published by the Housing Corporation in April, 2007.

Undertake a site visit to Groundwork to investigate if the Council can make use of their resources. (Steve Rose to investigate).

Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Planning

Development of a Darlington Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document:

(a) Use principles of sustainability and eco efficiency in the design and layout of new developments.

Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy Policies:

(a) Consult on planning policies to move towards carbon neutral developments.

(b) 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.

(c) Ensure all new developments are resilient to climate change impacts and adaptable to climate variability.

Renewable Energy

(a) Help households to make use of small scale solar, wind and other appropriate on site renewable energy.

(b) Consult on a policy target for on site renewable energy in the LDF.

(c) Consult on a policy target for renewable energy across the Borough in the LDF.

Provide training to Planning Officers on issues relating to renewable technologies and climate change issues.

Transport

Continue, and build on the success of Local Motion, beyond current funding timescales.

Encourage an increase in cycling for young people and engage more with young people on transport issues.

New infrastructure developments should consider pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and car driver, in that order.

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.

Encourage the use of Eco Homes standards to help reduce the impact of travel, ie access to public transport.

Encourage LDF policies on reduced limits for car parking and requirements for new development to be accessible public transport.

Waste

Trade Waste – Monitoring of recycling rates.

Business Waste

(a) Encourage local business to recycle – provision of service?

Increase household recycling rate

- (a) Offer low cost composting options to householders.
- (b) Promote home composting and recycling through road shows and high profile events.
- (c) Develop waste education to promote recycling and encourage waste minimisation.
- (d) Review current waste and recycling policy to ensure compatibility with climate change targets.

Consider fuel type when purchasing (taken out refuse, to include all vehicles) new vehicles – minimise impact of transportation.

Work with supermarkets to encourage a reduction in the use of carrier bags and plastic containers.

Investigate the introduction of litter bins for recycling.

Biodiversity

Ensure that issues effecting the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity are fully provided for in this and associated documents.

A continued commitment to delivering the principles behind the local biodiversity action plan process.

Maintaining a strategic view of the need for action towards improving biodiversity levels.

Working with partners in taking action to protect and enhance certain locally important species and habitats as identified in the plan.

Specifically, work closely with new developments to ensure these complement the green infrastructure strategy and ensure it delivers a high level of biodiversity enhancement.

Identifying opportunities to establish projects at certain key sites, especially those identified by the green infrastructure plan. These are most likely to be along green corridors and around the urban fringe.

Coordinating work to enhance biodiversity with opportunities to improve access to quality countryside, as defined in Darlington's Right of Way Improvement Plan.

Ensure that the Council responds positively to the requirement of the new Natural Environments and Rural Community Act and especially the new duty to have regard to Biodiversity in all our activities.

Work towards establishing an effective data base in order to describe the borough's current level of biodiversity that in turn enables the introduction of a robust system of monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of work carried out in the borough. Compile a report to demonstrate the effectiveness of our actions in this respect in time for the Act's revision in 2009.

Establish an increase in the availability and use of semi natural green space for educational purposes to encourage an understand of the principles of sustainability and how we are all dependent on biodiversity.

Establish an increase in the availability and use of semi natural green space for healthy exercise with the ultimate aim of improving physical and mental health through a greater sense of empathy with the natural world.