
CLIMATE CHANGE

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Veronica Copeland
Sustainable Environment and Climate Change**

**Responsible Director – Richard Alty Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration)
Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services**

Purpose of Report

1. To report the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in relation to Climate Change.

Information and Analysis

2. In September 2006, Darlington's Climate Change strategy was supported at Cabinet. The strategy, and the Darlington Declaration commit the Darlington Partnership to producing a Climate Change Action Plan.
3. Darlington is part of the Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership (TVCCP). The Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership was established for the sub region and consists of 9 funding partners. The TVCCP aims are to develop a sub regional strategy, to support local strategies and action plans, to set emissions targets, to develop an effective emissions reporting protocol and methodology.
4. The Darlington Partnership has supported the development of a Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy, which provides sub-regional co-ordination, and the Council is contributing to funding a fixed term post to develop the sub regional strategy and to provide technical expertise to the Tees Valley authorities in developing their own strategies and action plans.
5. Monitoring and Co-ordination Committee, at its meeting held on 12th February, 2007, gave approval to a Review into Climate Change. On 20th April, 2007 the former Environment Scrutiny Committee, together with Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Council's four other Scrutiny Committees, gave consideration to how the Council could take effective measures to reduce the effect of Climate Change and to the role of each Scrutiny Committee within that process.
6. On 5th July, 2007 a Work Shop Event was held to which several guest speakers were invited. The speakers included Adrian Hilton, Regional Climate Change Co-ordinator, who spoke on the topic the Need for Adaptation in Terms of Climate Change; Emma Pryke, Energy Savings Trust, who spoke on the topic What We Can and Need to do to Reduce Climate Change Impact and the Environment Agency, who gave a presentation on the topic Wear Valley Catchment Adaptation Study.

7. Following the Work Shop Event, a list of suggested items for consideration in Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes was formulated (**Appendix 1**).
8. Each individual Scrutiny Committee held meetings to give further consideration to Climate Change as follows :-
 - (a) **Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee** - 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.
 - (b) **Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee** - At its meeting held on 30th October, 2007, the Committee received a presentation from the Housing Strategy and Renewal Manager on energy efficiency which outlined the requirement for a collective and common response to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn will reduce the effects of global warming.
 - (c) **Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee** - At its meeting held 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. A meeting of the Eco Footprinting Group was therefore held on 12th November, 2007, with Ken Ross, Specialist in Public Health, Darlington PCT, with the Raising Awareness of Skin Cancer Group meeting on 22nd November, 2007, with Dr Mary Carr, Specialist Dermatology Consultant, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust.
 - (d) **Resources Scrutiny Committee** - At a meeting held on 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. It was also agreed, at that meeting, to support the promotion of Member and Officer Energy Champions within the Council. 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.
 - (e) **Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee** – On 17th August, 2007 the former Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee were advised by the Planning Services Manager that Land Use was a key area that could be affected by policies and climate change was a key factor in sustainable development which, Government Guidance stated, Planning Officers now need to take into consideration. Policy initiatives included energy consumption, energy savings and energy efficiency and the Local Development Framework was to look in depth at these issues with full public consultation being undertaken. On 6th September, 2007 Economy and Environment Scrutiny gave consideration to the impact of transport on carbon emissions and on

policy measures that are currently available, or maybe available in the future, to reduce the impact of transport on human induced climate change. The impact of Darlington's Local Motion programme on reducing carbon emissions from transport was also highlighted. On 11th October, 2007 Economy and Environment Scrutiny gave consideration to Waste Management with particular reference on the need to reduce landfill and increase recycling within the Borough.

9. On 6th December, 2007 a meeting of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee was held with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of all Scrutiny Committees, Steve Rose, Chief Executive of Darlington Partnership and all the Chairs of the Inquiry Groups being invited. The aim of the meeting was to give consideration to the findings of the Scrutiny Committees (**Appendix 2**) endorse their recommendations (**Appendix 3**) and forward them to Cabinet for consideration for inclusion in Darlington's Actions Plan on Climate Change.
10. This range of potential actions for inclusion in the Darlington Climate Change Strategy will be considered alongside other suggestions arising from various sources including the Sustainable Community Strategy consultation and Enquiry Groups, and the recent Eco-footprinting workshop event. The Action Plan will set out the issues to be tackled, the actions required, the resulting outcome expected, the responsible officers/organisations, the resource implications and the timescale for completion. The draft Action Plan will be presented to Cabinet for endorsement before it is approved by the Darlington Partnership.

Outcome of Consultation

11. In undertaking this Review various people including Darlington Borough Council staff, Darlington Partnership and Environmental and Energy Saving Organisations were consulted and their comments were taken into consideration when compiling the findings of the Scrutiny Committees (**Appendix 2**).

Resource Implications

12. The implementation of the actions suggested by the Scrutiny Committees will have funding and staff resource implications which will be identified in the Action Plan details.

Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration) Comments

13. Members' commitment to tackling the effects of climate change have been reflected in the level of interest and involvement shown by each Scrutiny Committee. This cross-scrutiny review has been a useful exercise in raising awareness of the issues facing Darlington, within the context of the wider climate change agenda, and has generated considerable debate about the Council's potential role in mitigating against and adapting to climate change challenges. A lot of work is already underway across the Council and the aim will be to build on this with our partners and in particular, raise awareness and involve the wider general public of Darlington, who have a major role to play in taking forward initiatives. Given the number and range of actions suggested, some dependent on outside agencies, it will be necessary to consult both internally and with responsible agencies on potential resourcing and implementation. It will be necessary to prioritise actions in line with available resources and likely impact. Consideration of which of the proposed actions can be taken forward will be part of the subsequent report to Cabinet on a Draft Climate Change Action Plan.

Legal Implications

14. 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

15. 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.

Council Policy Framework

16. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

17. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Recommendation

18. It is recommended that:-
- (a) The suggested actions identified by the various Scrutiny Committees, set out in **Appendix 3**, be considered for inclusion in the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan and a further report brought to Cabinet on this.
 - (b) That the comments of the Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration) be noted.

Reasons

19. The recommendations are supported to enable the range of potential actions identified to be given further consideration and, for the comments of the Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration) to be endorsed.

Richard Alty,
Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration)

Paul Wildsmith,
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report other than those referred to.

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