

**OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under my Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:
  - (a) **Waste Disposal Contract** – We considered final tenders for the contract to be awarded to delivery waste management services for eleven years from April, 2009. The contract aims to provide a service that manages the Council’s waste in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner and diverts waste from landfill to enable the Council to meet or exceed its Landfill Allowance targets. The procurement of this waste management contract is the first phase of a larger project that will also see a review of collection and recycling services (kerbside), all within a new overall Waste Strategy for Darlington. Following an outline and key information on each contract, it was agreed that the new contract be awarded to Stonegrave Aggregates as the bid represented the most economically advantageous option.
  - (b) **Climate Change** - Climate Change has emerged as one of the key issues from the consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy. An Eco Footprinting Event is being held on 30th November, where Climate Change is likely to form a large part of the discussion. A Special Scrutiny Committee meeting is being held on 6th December and each Scrutiny will report back on their findings in relation to the remit of their Committee. Each of these processes will then inform the drafting of the Action Plan, which will be ready for general consultation in January
  - (c) **Real Nappies** - A real nappy incentive scheme was launched in October 2007. Parents who spend over £50 on real nappies can claim a cashback incentive of £25. Disposable nappies contribute 4% of waste going to landfill and can take up to 500 years to decompose. Encouraging parents to use alternatives to disposable nappies can therefore reduce the amount of waste to landfill.
  - (d) **Eco Footprinting Event** - The Darlington Partnership are hosting an Eco Footprinting event on 30th November. One of the recommendations of Enquiry Group 5, as part of the Community Strategy review was that Eco Footprinting be incorporated into the new Sustainable Community Strategy. The event will introduce the concept of the Eco Footprint to inform delegates of the benefits of using it, will outline the good work being undertaken in Darlington to date, followed by break out sessions to discuss in more detail transport, housing and food, the 3 largest areas contributing to Darlington’s footprint.
  
2. I have attended the following meetings in respect of my Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:

- (a) Darlington Environmental Forum held on 8th October, 2007
- (b) Public Protection Forum held on 11th October, 2007
- (c) Briefing meetings with various Directors and Assistant Directors
- (d) Darlington Assembly on the 5th October, 2007.
- (e) Visit to Darlington Fire and Rescue Station on the 9th October, 2007.
- (f) Recycling in Action Meeting in Middlesbrough on 11th October, 2007.
- (g) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Awards Presentation on 18th October, 2007.
- (h) Event at the Education Village in connection with Local Democracy Week along with a number of colleagues on 19th October, 2007.
- (i) Darlington Transport Forum on 22nd October, 2007.
- (j) Dedication Service for the C of E Eastbourne Academy on 1st November, 2007.
- (k) Chaired the Talking Together Session held at the Education Village on 3rd November, 2007.
- (l) Children's Services Conference on 14th November, 2007.

**Councillor Veronica Copeland**  
**Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio**