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

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) **Climate Change** - Following on from the Members workshop on Climate Change in July, a Special Scrutiny Committee meeting was held on 6th December where each Scrutiny reported back on their findings in relation to the remit of their Committee. A list of suggested actions was produced from this work and has been used to inform the climate change action plan which is now in draft form. This will be circulated to all relevant officers and statutory organisations for comment. It is anticipated that the action plan will be submitted to Cabinet in March, 2008 and will go to the Darlington Partnership Board following this, as it is a Local Strategic Partnership document.

Climate Change has emerged as one of the key priorities for consideration. As a result of this, it is central to the Sustainable Community Strategy and the current Core Strategy Issues and Options document. Planning has a key role to play in both adapting to climate change and mitigating against future climate change through ensuring that all new developments consider sustainable design principles. Such policies include encouraging renewable energy generation, high energy efficiency standards, reducing the need to travel and ensuring that new development is resilient to climate change impacts and adaptable to climate change variability.

- (b) **Waste Management** - Officers continue to work with the selected contractor for the new Waste Treatment Disposal Contract in finalising contractual documents. The contractor is now working with Durham County Council on planning application and finalising details of the facility with the equipments supplier.
- (c) **Joint Waste Management Strategy for Tees Valley** – The Council have been working in partnership with Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Stockton on Tees Borough Councils in developing a joint waste management strategy. The draft headline strategy is currently being consulted on through the current round of Talking Together events, a stall as part of the market, on the website and at appropriate Council buildings. The strategy covers the period 2008 through to 2020 and has the key principles of:
- (i) To reduce waste generation
 - (ii) To be achievable and affordable
 - (iii) To work towards zero landfill
 - (iv) To minimise the impact on climate change
 - (v) To have an accountable and deliverable structure

- (vi) To contribute towards economic regeneration

Underneath the strategy, each individual local authority has its own implementation plan that is specific to that individual authority's requirements. The final strategy should be available by the end of March 2008 and will be presented to Cabinet for their consideration. The development of the strategy has been funded by Defra and produced by Entec in partnership with all five local authorities.

2. I have attended the following meetings in respect of my Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:
- (a) Darlington Environmental Forum held on 3rd December, 2007
 - (b) Public Protection Forum held on 10th January 2008
 - (c) Briefing meetings with various Directors and Assistant Directors
 - (d) Eco Footprinting event held on 30th November.
 - (e) Groundwork West Durham and Darlington on 5th December, 2007.
 - (f) Special Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 6th December, 2007.
 - (g) Tees Valley Environment Forum on 13th December, 2007.
 - (h) Northumbria Regional Flood Defence Committee on 11th January, 2008.
 - (i) Cabinet in the Community on 15th January, 2008.
 - (j) Combined Fire Authority on 28th January, 2008.
 - (k) Darlington Assembly on 31st January, 2008.

Councillor Veronica Copeland
Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio