
**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** – Cabinet received the recommendations from the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee in relation to Climate Change. All of the Council’s Scrutiny Committee’s had given consideration to the issue of Climate Change and had identified a number of areas which have been included a list of suggested items, for inclusion in the Climate Change Action Plan. This has been an important part of work, including all the Scrutiny Committees which has raised awareness of the issues facing Darlington and raised many areas to include as part of the Action Plan. The aim for the future will be to build on the work that has already been done with our partners and in particular to raise awareness and involve the wider community of Darlington, who have a major role to play in taking forward initiatives. All of the suggested actions identified by the various Scrutiny Committees will be considered for inclusion in the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan and we will be receiving a further report on this in due course.

The Darlington Climate Change Action Plan went to Cabinet on 18th March. The Action Plan was circulated to all of the officers with actions relevant to their work for agreement on timescales and resources. The Action Plan will then be circulated to the Economy and Environment and Transport Group on 24th April before going to the Darlington Partnership Board in May for endorsement.
 - (b) **Waste Management** – Stonegrave Aggregates continue to work with Durham County Council on progressing the planning application and working with equipment supplier on finalising the details of the facility. It is expected, should the planning process go smoothly, that building work will commence in July this year with the plant being available for the commencement of the contract in April, 2009.
2. I have attended the following meetings in respect of my Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:
 - (a) Briefing meetings with various Directors and Assistant Directors;
 - (b) Special Meeting of the Darlington Friends of the Earth Group which included a screening of the highly acclaimed Al Gore film ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ This was followed by a question and answer session involving cross-party Members and Officers;
 - (c) A meeting of the Darlington Rotary Club and Soroptomists, including three presentations by experts in Energy Futures and Carbon Footprinting;
 - (d) Best of Darlington Awards held on 15th February, 2008;

- (e) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority held on 19th February, 2008;
- (f) Regional Fire Authority Management Board held on 22nd February, 2008;
- (g) Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 28th February, 2008;
- (h) Economy, Environment and Transport Group of LSP held on 28th February, 2008;
- (i) Portfolio Holders and Officers Meeting at SITA held on 29th February, 2008; and
- (j) LGA Conference on Fire and Rescue Services held on 11th – 12th March, 2008.

Councillor Veronica Copeland
Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio