
OVERVIEW OF CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under my Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio:
 - (a) **Responsible Drinking**
A response has been sent to the Government's Consultation Document 'Responsible Drinking' and the Council's local 'Responsible Drinking Code of Practice' for licensees has been launched.
 - (b) **Recycling**
Kerbside Scheme continues to perform well, Lucky Box promotion scheme has been successful. The 'Time to Recycle Campaign' won Gold Award in the 'In-house' and 'Public Local Campaign' categories in the Chartered Institute of Public Relations 'Pride in our Regions' Award.
 - (c) **Community Partnerships**
 - (i) Northgate Community Partnership have secured £5k from Fair Share.
 - (ii) Has received £100k to March 2007 to employ a Community Development Worker to support Northgate and Central Wards.
 - (d) **Durham and Darlington Fire Authority**
Response prepared to draft Year 2 Improvement Plan.
 - (e) **Waste Management**
 - (i) **LATS**
Darlington's allocation for the LATS (Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme) received from Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This will restrict our use of landfill for biodegradable waste and officers are seeking alternative disposal routes.
 - (ii) **Waste Contract**
Work continues on the preparations for a Waste Disposal Contract to operate from 2008.
 - (f) **Fairtrade**
Following the Council decision to become a Fairtrade town, a Steering Group has been set up and Fairtrade beverages are available at all meetings in Council premises.
 - (g) **Climate Change**
The Council is leading on climate change in the Darlington Partnership and a draft

declaration of support for climate change has been prepared.

(h) Register Service

- (i) Registrar is attending Memorial Hospital 2 days a week to register births.
- (ii) Continuing to promote the service at Wedding Fayres.
- (iii) A new website has been launched to promote the availability of indexes for births, deaths and marriages.

(i) Service Plans

I have participated in the preparation of the Public Protection Service Plan for 2005/06.

(j) Food Safety

The Council's Food Safety service has been subject to an audit from the Food Standards Agency and received a generally satisfactory report but an Improvement Plan is required for some areas.

(k) Honeypot Lane Caravan Site

All works at Stage 2 have now been completed and there are now 30 pitches, 23 with amenity blocks and 7 for self contained static caravans. There is also a transit site for 10 caravans and a SureStart building which is being used for community use and for agencies to deliver services.

(l) New Best Value Performance Indicators

There are new indicators for:

- (i) Contaminated Land
- (ii) Pollution Control
- (iii) Abandoned Cars
- (iv) Waste Disposal and Cleanliness (fly posting, fly tipping, graffiti)

These are required to be collected for 2005/06 and officers are preparing strategies for improvements in these areas.

(m) Litter Initiative

Work continues with a programme for 2005/06 with 3 main themes:

- (i) Fast Food
- (ii) Town Centre and Access Routes
- (iii) Neighbourhoods

A 'Smokers Code' and 'Food on the Go' campaign have been launched.

2. I have attended the following meetings in respect of my Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio:

- (a) Public Protection Forum held on 13th January, 2005.
- (b) Briefing meetings with Directors and Assistant Directors
- (c) Durham and Darlington Fire Authority
- (d) Darlington Partnership

Councillor Steve Harker
Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio