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**WASTE MINIMISATION REVIEW GROUP**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Nick Wallis, Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To report the findings and recommendations of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee's Waste Minimisation Review Group which was established in order to investigate ways of reducing and reusing waste across the Borough.

**Recommendation**

2. Cabinet be requested to:-
    - (a) Endorse the following recommendations of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee :-
      - (i) Every opportunity be explored to ensure the public are made aware of the Council's current Waste Minimisation Campaign entitled Making Waste Work, which focused on the three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in that order.
      - (ii) Every effort be made to encourage supermarkets to use less packaging on goods and to encourage the use of re-useable carrier bags.
      - (iii) Businesses and trade associations be made aware of the cardboard collection scheme currently run by the Council.
      - (iv) In order to avoid food waste the message, shop often, shop local and buy local' be widely publicised across the Borough.
      - (v) The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee continue to encourage schools to educate children in food economy.
      - (vi) Borough Council employees and Members be expected to reduce paper usage and recycle waste as much as possible.
      - (vii) The work currently undertaken by the Green Champions Campaign continue to be supported by the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee.
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(viii) The Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor Waste Minimisation in the Borough of Darlington.

(b) Note the comments of the Director of Community Services.

### Reasons

3. The recommendations are supported to enable further work to be undertaken to ensure the message Re-use Reduce and Recycle is widely publicised across the Borough.

**Cliff Brown**  
**Director of Community Services**

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

### Background Papers

Notes of meetings of the Waste Minimisation Review Group

Karen Graves : Extension 2291

S17 Crime and Disorder	It is not considered that the content of this report has any effect in the context of the requirements placed on the Council in relation to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.
Health and Well Being	There is potential for improvement in the wellbeing of residents who adopt the principles of this report.
Sustainability	There is an impact to sustainability for residents through waste minimisation and increased landfill diversion.
Diversity	There are no direct implications.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally.
Groups Affected	All Groups are affected equally.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's Budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	The content of this report is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report has no particular impact on the sustainable Community Strategy.
Efficiency	There is potential for efficiency of domestic refuse collections through the reduction in waste produced by resident This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

4. The Waste Minimisation Review Group was established by the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee in order to investigate ways of reducing and reusing waste across the Borough.
5. A wide number of issues have been considered and discussed at the meetings and this report describes the outcome of the Review Group, summarises the work undertaken, the findings from the processes and the subsequent recommendations.
6. The Waste Minimisation Review Group met on several occasions and the Final Report of the Group is attached (**Appendix 1**).
7. The Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee agreed to accept and endorse the Review Group's recommendations and to forward the following to Cabinet for consideration :-
  - (a) Every opportunity be explored to ensure the public are made aware of the Council's current Waste Minimisation Campaign entitled Making Waste Work, which focused on the three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in that order.
  - (b) Every effort be made to encourage supermarkets to use less packaging on goods and to encourage the use of re-useable carrier bags.
  - (c) Businesses and trade associations be made aware of the cardboard collection scheme currently run by the Council.
  - (d) In order to avoid food waste the message, 'shop often, shop local and buy local' be widely publicised across the Borough.
  - (e) The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee continue to encourage schools to educate children in food economy.
  - (f) Borough Council employees and Members be expected to reduce paper usage and recycle waste as much as possible.
  - (g) The work currently undertaken by the Green Champions Campaign continue to be supported by the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee.
  - (h) The Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor Waste Minimisation in the Borough of Darlington.

### Director of Community Services Comments

8. The Director of Community Services fully supports the recommendations from the Task and Finish Review carried out on waste minimisation by Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee. Where appropriate, actions will be included in service plans and

### **Outcome of Consultation**

9. The Group held a meeting at the Dolphin Centre to gain the views and comments of interested parties which included Brafferton Parish Meeting, Campaign to Protect Rural England, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, Darlington Association on Disability, Darlington Branch of Alzheimers Disease, Darlington College, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Eastbourne C of E Academy, Environment Agency, Friends of the Earth, Heighington CE Primary School, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).
10. The Group also attended the AGM of the Darlington Traders Association in January in order to gain the views of businesses within the Town Centre on waste minimisation. The Group were welcomed by the Darlington Traders and there has been a good deal of progress arising from that meeting.