

**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 the Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:
  - (a) **The North East Fuel Poverty Declaration** – We have agreed to sign, on behalf of the Council, the North East Fuel Poverty Declaration. The North East Fuel Poverty Declaration was first published in 2005, by the North East Domestic Energy Forum. It has recently been re-launched by the Association of North East Councils (ANEC) in an attempt to get all of the North East Local Authorities signed up to tackling fuel poverty. Existing strategies and actions in Darlington already meet the commitments being asked in the Fuel Poverty Declaration. Signing of the Declaration will support Sustainable Community Strategy and delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan, identified as a priority area for action.
  - (b) **New Waste Treatment Facility** - Initial construction work has commenced for the new waste treatment facility at Wades Quarry following a successful Planning Application to Durham County Council.
  - (c) **National Indicators 185 and 186** – Officers attended a workshop to familiarise themselves with the North East carbon emissions modelling tool, as part of the ongoing training being provided through GONE, regarding the monitoring of NI 185 (CO2 reduction from local authority operations) and NI 186 (CO2 reduction in the local authority area).
  - (d) **Member Training** – On 5th December, two Member training sessions took place covering Renewable Energy. Colin MacDonald of the Energy Savings Trust delivered a presentation on each of the different types of renewable energy, including the advantages and disadvantages of each. The idea was to give a very generic overview of renewable energy types for Members.
2. I have attended a presentation on a FireWatch initiative in Darlington. FireWatch is a partnership initiative between the Fire Service, Darlington Neighbourhood Watch and Darlington Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. FireWatch was launched in early November and is being trialled in the Park East and Eastbourne Ward area. The purpose of FireWatch is to reduce instances of fire related anti social behaviour. FireWatch has now 67 volunteers signed up. Anyone wishing to sign up to FireWatch or wanting further information, please speak with Andy Bruce, Assistant District Manager, Darlington Fire Station on Tel. 01325 469128.

3. In preparation for the introduction of the new waste disposal contract in April 2009, I have written to parish councils and community partnerships around the Borough offering to speak at their meetings and take questions regarding the new procedures. My first meeting will be at Hurworth Parish Council on 10th February, 2009.
4. The following items relate to initiatives that are contributing to the Climate Change Agenda, details of which are covered in other Portfolio reports:
  - (a) Highway Design Schemes:
    - (i) Blackwell radial cycle route
    - (ii) Yarm Road (Morton Palms) segregated cycleway/footway.
    - (iii) Cycle route signage.
  - (b) Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity Initiatives:
    - (i) Cyclist Training Activities.
    - (ii) Pedestrian Training Activities.
  - (c) Supported Bus Service Review
  - (d) Interreg Project – Partnership Agreement/Launch Event/Website.
  - (e) School Travel Plans
  - (f) Work Place Travel Plans
  - (g) Station Travel Plan
  - (h) Cycle Demonstration Town.
5. The following meetings have been attended in respect of the Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:
  - (a) LSP Greener Darlington Theme Group on 24th November, 2008.
  - (b) Meeting of County Durham and Darlington Fire Authority on 11th December, 2008
  - (c) Meeting to discuss energy saving initiatives around Council premises on 16th January, 2009.
  - (d) Meeting of County Durham and Darlington Fire Authority's Policy and Performance Committee on 16th January, 2009.
  - (e) Meeting with local members of CDDFA and Darlington Fire Station management on 19th January, 2009.

- (f) Meeting with Wades and officers at Stonegrave Quarry in Aycliffe to discuss progress regarding the new contract on 23rd January, 2009.

**Councillor Nick Wallis**  
**Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio**