

**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) **EU Initiative on Climate Change** – We received information relating to a recently launched EU Initiative on Climate Change, the Covenant of Mayors. The Association of North East Council's are in full support of this initiative and are encouraging each local authority in the north east region to sign the Covenant of Mayors. I am pleased to advise that we have signed the Covenant of Mayors which will support the delivery of the Darlington Climate Change Strategy Action Plan and the National Policy Context and Commitment in the Climate Change Act to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 26% by 2020.
  - (b) **Delegated Powers – Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme** – Cabinet recommended approval to the amendment of the Scheme of Delegation to include new powers for the Assistant Director – Environmental Services to exercise the duties and responsibilities of the Trading Officer under the Waste Emissions and Trading Act 2003 in relation to the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. This request was made due to each waste disposal authority now determining how to use its allocation of allowances in the most effective way which could allow for trading of spare allowances to other authorities within the rules of the Scheme.
  - (c) **Household Waste Recycling Site** – Wades, the new waste management contractor will be taking over responsibility for the site from Monday, 30th March, 2009 with summer opening hours starting that week. Residents will immediately notice a difference on the site, staff are there to help and assist residents sort materials into appropriate skips to ensure that as much material as possible is recycled. There will be a new layout to the site, making segregation of waste by residents easier. General signage and information on the site will be improved, once again in an attempt to continue to improve recycling levels.

From 6th April, 2009, residual waste will be delivered to Wades with the existing recycling service continuing with material being delivered to Wades, bulked up and sent on for reprocessing. Building work on the new treatment plant continues to be on target and it is anticipated that the plant will be operational for Summer 2009. One of the plans is operational; visits to the plant will be organised for Members.
  - (d) **Fairtrade Fortnight** - Awareness of Fairtrade was raised throughout Fairtrade Fortnight which ran from the 23 February to the 8 March through the display of posters

in shops stocking Fairtrade products and the organisation and attendance at an event in Sainsbury's Victoria Road on Saturday the 7 March. As this year's theme for Fairtrade Fortnight was 'Going Bananas' the event consisted of letting customers try Sainsbury's Fairtrade bananas and giving out Fairtrade banana recipes. Information was available at the event regarding what Fairtrade is and why it is important to choose Fairtrade products. Children also had the opportunity to enter a quiz to identify all the isles in Sainsbury's where various Fairtrade products are stocked. A winner will be chosen from all the entries and will win a Fairtrade goody prize. Coverage of the event and information about Fairtrade was aired on BBC Tees and published in the Flyer, Town Crier and the Herald and Post.

- (e) **Carbon Trust** – As part of the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan, the Council has applied for support from the Carbon Trust, to join the scheme which offers free technical support to Councils in analysing and reducing their carbon emissions.

### **Climate Change Agenda**

2. The following items relate to initiatives that are contributing to the Climate Change Agenda, details of which are covered in other Portfolio reports.

Transport:

- a) Traffic Management Schemes
- b) Cycling and Pedestrian Training Activities
- c) School, Council and Station Travel Planning
- d) Arriva Teen Card
- e) Cycle Demonstration Town

Neighbourhood Services:

- a) Energy Efficiency Improvements in Private Housing
- b) Appointment of Health and Energy Advisor
- c) Street Scene

Health and Leisure:

- a) Darlington Doorstep Walks
- b) West Park Bike Track

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