

**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 the Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:
 - (a) The Council is taking part in the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. The LACM programme was identified in the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan as a key action in delivering carbon reductions from DBC. In May, I attended the national launch of the programme with officers, and subsequently the programme was launched within the Council to the Project Board and Project Team who will be developing the project over the coming months. Participation in LACM will involve a systematic analysis of the Council's carbon footprint, a calculation of the value at stake and the case for taking action, an assessment of the opportunities for managing carbon emissions and it will ensure that carbon management is embedded in the day to day operations.
 - (b) In May I attended the meeting of the LSP Greener Darlington Theme Group, which focused on the theme of adapting to climate change. The Environment Agency and the Council gave presentations outlining the variety of work being done through projects across the region and more locally, to adapt and build resilience to the likely impacts of increased flooding events. These generated an interesting discussion about what could be done locally to the build on and, learn from, such experience.
 - (c) In June I attended the LSP Greener Darlington Assembly, which was aimed at raising awareness across all sectors of the Darlington community, of what could be done to tackle climate change and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Following various presentations setting the national, regional and local context, including a video message from Secretary of State Ed Milliband, local best practice was described by community, business and school representatives. In addition, a number of exhibition stands were provided by local campaign groups, organisations, and agencies which gave delegates the opportunity to learn more about the work going on, and how they could get involved. Pages for the Greener Darlington Theme Group will be online as part of the Local Partnership website by the end of June. The web pages will provide information on environmental policies and strategies and useful web links that provide information on how we can all live a greener lifestyle.
 - (d) A European Day event was held on Saturday 6th June in Darlington Market Place. As part of the event the Sustainable Policy Officer was able to talk to over 80 people about climate change in Darlington and the commitments that Darlington has made at the European scale (Covenant of Mayors) and at the local level (Darlington's Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management Programme). The event was also an opportunity for people to find out what action they can take to help in the fight against

climate change. Quizzes were handed out so people could work out their carbon footprint and people also had the opportunity to pledge to reduce energy and find out about energy saving measures and grants from the Energy Saving Trust whom also attended. The Local Motion Team were also present to provide information about how to reduce car use and get cycling in and around Darlington. The event was very well received and it is anticipated that the event will be held again next year.

- (e) A sustainability appraisal workshop was held on the 18th June for professional social, economic and environmental stakeholders. The purpose of the workshop was to identify Darlington's sustainability issues and consider how these can be addressed by the Local Development Framework. The workshop also identified a set of sustainability objectives which will be used to appraise Darlington's planning policies against. This will help to ensure that land use planning will have a positive impact on Darlington's overall sustainability.

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) Road Safety Education, Training - Cyclist Training Activities and Pedestrian Training Activities
- (b) School Travel Planning and Bike It
- (c) Teen Cards
- (d) Workplace Travel Plans
- (e) Bank Top Station Travel Plan
- (f) Local Motion Seminar
- (g) Cycle Demonstration Town
- (h) Supported bus services

Health & Leisure:

- (i) Darlington Doorstep Walks
- (j) The Big Bikeathon
- (k) The Round 50 Cycle Ride

Neighbourhood Services:

3. The date for opening of the new waste treatment plant has now been announced as 7 September 2009. Construction is well underway entering the final phase ready for receiving waste from 7 September.
4. The kerbside recycling service will change on this date collecting paper, card and glass. Other materials such as metals, plastics, tetrapac and other recyclables will be recovered from the black sack at the treatment plant. Residents will receive information in the near future with regard to these changes and a significant amount of promotion will take place.
5. New vehicles for the collection service are now on site. These vehicles have been purchased to replace the existing recycling fleet which is at the end of its useful life. The

new vehicles are a bright green and therefore will be highly visible to residents across the Borough.

6. The new treatment plant and the changes to the kerbside recycling service will produce significant improvements in overall recycling performance, moving from the existing 25% up to 60% in coming years.

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Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio