

**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) **Social Marketing Pilot** - The Council is taking part in a Social Marketing Pilot to determine and overcome the barriers to improving energy management within schools. This project is being led by the NE Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. Schools account for 37% of the Council's carbon baseline and contribute significantly to the requirements of the Carbon Reduction Commitment.
 - (b) **Revised Darlington Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** - Consultation on the revision of the Strategy and Action Plan has begun, with presentations and subsequent discussion at the Greener Themed Group and Prosperous Themed Group. Other consultation events are scheduled for the next few months. The revision is necessary to bring the Partnership document up to date with latest government targets for CO2 reduction, to reflect the recently revised Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy, and to reflect the completion of actions in the current Plan.
 - (c) **Green Awards** - The Green Awards closed at the end of November. A number of high quality awards were submitted. Judging will take place in January with awards being made in March.
 - (d) **Climate Week** - Preparations for Climate Week 21-27 March are underway. A new climate change website is under development, due to be launched during Climate Week. All schools are being engaged with as part of Climate Week. It is hoped that an event will take place during Climate Week to celebrate the Climate activity being undertaken within the Borough.
 - (e) **Tees Valley Resilience Project** - The purpose of this project is to identify and prioritise options to improve our resilience to current and future climate impacts, to ensure that the resources needed to respond to climate hazards are targeted as effectively as possible, and that flexibility is designed into major infrastructure projects to minimise disproportionate costs and disruption in the medium term. Managed by Tees Valley Unlimited, and a multi-agency Steering Group, the project has four main components: 1) To review existing evidence and processes for dealing with current and future vulnerability to climate events so as to establish where any gaps in knowledge exist. 2) To generate additional evidence on heat stress and ecosystem functions that can be mapped onto the strategic flood risk assessments, allowing us to identify key resilience issues, 3) To develop a GIS system that contains this evidence and a plan for communicating key resilience issues – this will support planning frameworks and inward investment, for example, as a component of developing business case/plans for agreed

projects, and 4) To develop a range of climate change scenarios that can feed into emergency planning procedures

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) Safer Routes to school
- b) Hummersknott School cycleway and footway links
- c) Skerne Park, Cockerton and Corporation Road School Access Improvements
- d) Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity Initiatives – Bikeability, pedestrian training
- e) School Travel Plans
- f) Public Transport – review of bus timetables; Smart Concessionary Fare passes.
- g) Third Local Transport Plan (LTP)
- h) Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Economy

- a) Green Market Awards success
- b) Progress on Local Development Framework

Health and Leisure

- a) 4X biking
- b) Walking

3. Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended meetings of the Durham and Darlington Fire Authority, including meetings with its Officers. I also attended the Greener Darlington Theme Group on 13th January, 2011.

Councillor Nick Wallis
Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio