

**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 Adoption of the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy and What it Means to Darlington** – We have agreed to adopt the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy and associated action plan which will help us make the best use of the town’s existing green spaces in a way that will add value and interest to the adjacent built environment, keeping Darlington in step with our neighbouring authorities in the Tees Valley. The Tees Valley local authorities have developed this Strategy along with their partners – Community Forests, Natural England, Environment Agency, The Northern Way and One North East.

The vision for the Green Infrastructure Strategy is to develop by 2021 a network of green corridors and green spaces in the Tees Valley to enhance the quality of place and provide an enhanced environmental context for new development, create and extend opportunities for access, regeneration and biodiversity and provide a buffer against the effects of climate change.

- (b) **Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy** – Cabinet have agreed to adopt the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy 2008, development of which has been funded by £80,000 from DEFRA’s Direct Consultancy Support Scheme.

The 2008 Strategy updates the Tees Valley Joint Waste Strategy 2002 and Darlington’s Interim Waste Management Strategy from 2003; recognises significant success in implementing the previous strategy, increasing recycling and diversion from landfill; includes the requirement of the National Waste Strategy for England and Wales; accounts for the new targets and considerations, including climate change and the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS); formalises this Authority as an active member of the Strategy; and runs to 2020, the date when the waste disposal contract with Sita and the Council’s new waste management contract expires.

The Strategy has six agreed key principles and each of the five local authorities will have their own individual implementation plans, detailing how the policies in the Strategy will be delivered for each individual Council.

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

- (a) Success of the town centre jute bags
  - (b) Revision to the Darlington Concessionary Fare Travel Scheme 2008/09
  - (c) National Station Travel Plan Pilot Programme
  - (d) Work on the Southend Avenue Park to West Street cycle route
  - (e) Cycling England Visit
  - (f) Guided Cycle Rides
  - (g) Interreg Funding (North West European Funding)
  - (h) Local Motion Travel Advisors
  - (i) School Travel Plans
  - (j) Work Place Travel Plans
3. The first meeting of the LSP Greener Theme Group was held. Attendees were asked to agree the Group's governance arrangements. The meeting focused on the key long term outcomes and short term work strands set out in One Darlington: Perfectly Placed under Greener Darlington, and how the Group would tackle the issues they raise. A delivery plan will be produced detailing projects, resource requirements, responsibilities and timescales, to be agreed by the LSP Executive.
4. The following meetings have been attended in respect of the Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:
- (a) I met with officers from across the authority to examine in detail how the Council itself is responding to the challenge of Climate Change. We considered the actions set out in the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan, progress implementing them, and highlighted key areas of focus including raising awareness with the business community and general population, improving housing energy efficiency, and minimising waste.
  - (b) I met with members of Cycling England together with Cabinet colleagues, officers and outside partners to discuss continued support for our ground-breaking Cycling Demonstration scheme. The presentations were very favourably received.
  - (c) I have attended one ordinary meeting of County Durham and Darlington Authority and a Performance Committee too. I have attended a meeting with the Authority's auditors, and went to the LGA conference as a Fire Authority delegate.
  - (d) I attended a presentation by Sadberge Energy Saving Trust on the important initiative in that village.
  - (e) I chaired a Talking Together meeting, again in Sadberge, as a Cabinet member.

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