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**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) **Climate Week 21st to 27th March, 2010** - Many of the schools are engaged with the Climate Week poster competition. The Climate Change pages on the Darlington website have been updated and will be launched during Climate Week. The Darlington Green Network will be celebrating the progress of many voluntary organisations who are working towards the Green Charter Mark. The School Councils/Youth Forum will host a debate during Climate Week. A Climate Champions event is scheduled to take place on Saturday 26th March, linked with Street Champions to encourage Darlington's climate-aware to come forward and provide advice and support within their local community.
  - (b) **Schools Carbon Management/Eco Schools** - The Sustainable Development Officer continues to provide support to a number of the Borough's schools in progressing with their Eco Schools awards. Gurney Pease Primary and Alderman Leach Primary Schools held a celebratory event, as part of the regional Climate Change Adaptation Challenge in January. Officers are working to support a number of schools in developing Carbon Management Plans. Technical advice and awareness and behaviour change options are being included within the plans.
  - (c) **British Gas contract** - A British Gas contract to deliver energy efficiency measures/advice to private sector and owner occupied homes. This includes loft and cavity wall insulation, advice on saving energy, free energy meters, replacement heating systems for Category 1 hazards, a pilot demonstration property to market and exhibit renewable energy, and a small hardship fund to address gap funding/affordability issues. British Gas have linked with Sainsburys and will be available within stores to provide advice to residents about renewable energy technologies. As part of the contract, British Gas are keen to support community projects and are currently considering sponsoring the Green Fair.
  - (d) **Carbon Management Plan** - As part of the Corporate Landlord project, a building-specific Energy Project has been included. Savings are beginning to be identified through this project. The procurement process for the cross-regional solar panel project (including installation on the Town Hall) continues, with tenders due to be in place by mid March.

- (e) **Green Fair** - Preparations for the Green Fair are underway, which takes place on Sunday 15th May. It is hoped that there will be links made with 'Darlington It's Growing' this year, with a focus on Local Food.
2. The following items relate to initiatives that are contributing to the Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Agenda, details of which are covered in other Portfolio reports.

### **Transport**

- (a) Whinfield Road Pedestrian and Cycleway Improvement
- (b) Gurney Pease Footway Improvements
- (c) Cyclist Activities – Bikeability
- (d) Pedestrian Training
- (e) School Travel Plans
- (f) Public Transport – The Bishop Line Community Rail Partnership
- (g) Third Local transport Plan (LTP)
- (h) Local Sustainable Transport Fund

### **Neighbourhood Services**

Housing – Improvements to Windsor Court Sheltered Housing Scheme and Rosemary Curt Extra Care Scheme.

3. Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended various Member meetings and briefing meetings with officers.

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