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**OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
  - (a) **Work Programme 2008/09** – We have agreed our Work Programme for the 2008/09 Municipal Year and will continue to update and add to our Work Programme throughout the year. We also examined Cabinet’s Forward Plan for particular areas of interest and concern to be included within our Work Programme and also further areas for undertaking Task and Finish Review Groups. Scrutiny Committee have also agreed that their major review for this year will be Waste Minimisation and the Group have formally met on one occasion and agreed to focus on reduction and reuse of waste. A further meeting will be held during August.
  - (b) **Town Centre Business Plan** - Scrutiny Committee were pleased to welcome to their meeting Christine Kavanagh, Town Centre Manager, who gave a detailed analysis of the newly published Town Centre Business Plan to members. We were advised that the Plan incorporated priorities from the ‘Prosperous Darlington’ theme in the Sustainable Community Strategy which was to make Darlington a successful, competitive town centre for retailers, shoppers and office-based businesses alike. Following the presentation and Member debate, Committee have agreed to undertake a Task and Finish Review Group aimed at improving the use of Skinnergate as a Market Area.
  - (c) **Service Plan Performance 2007/08-** We examined the summary of performance against service plans for which this Scrutiny is responsible for monitoring and scrutinising, namely consultancy and development and regeneration and were advised that the overall aggregated target for the two services plans was not being achieved and performance trend compared with year end for 2006/07 was down. However we were advised that this was due to a small number of indicators having large variances.
  - (d) **Service Planning 2008/12** – Consideration was also given to the Service Plans for 2008/12, of which there are now three for this Scrutiny, namely Highways, Regeneration and Environmental Services. This Scrutiny will receive regular reports on performance targets in the Service Plans on a quarterly basis and if any areas are identified where targets are not being achieved, or are of particular concern to this Scrutiny, further investigations will be undertaken by way of Review.
  - (e) **Planning Statistics** – In order to determine whether or not to reconvene the Planning Statistics Task and Finish Review Group we received a report on progress made by Trevor Roberts Associates, Consultants in examining the Council’s Development

Control Processes together with the most recent development control performance statistics. As part of the review of the Development Control Process an on line procedure guide was to be produced to assist staff when handling planning applications and related matters.

- (f) **Policy Review – New Build at North Road Primary School – Carbon Footprint –**  
We were pleased to welcome Mr. Simon Allan of Atkins Design who gave a presentation to Members on proposals for the New Build at North Road Primary School. We were advised of the design challenges the design presented, main areas of opportunity for sustainable design, key principles for the new build which included, orientation, structure, ventilation, heating, rainwater and ecology.

2. Since the last meeting of Council, the Chair of the Committee has attended the following meetings:-

- Various briefings with Officers.
- Monitoring and Co-ordination Group

**Chair of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee**