
OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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 2007/08** – We have given consideration to the final Work Programme of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2007/08. Scrutiny has had a full and varied Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2007/08 and we look forward to our new Work Programme.
 - (b) **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.
 - (c) **Pedestrian Heart Town Centre Shop-Front Grant Scheme** – Scrutiny Committee were pleased to learn of the success of the Shop front grant scheme which had seen 23 grants totalling £67,832.00 being allocated to small local independent traders fronting the Pedestrian Heart Scheme or within the Town Centre Conservation Area. Funding had been allocated by One North East for the replacement, refurbishment or re-painting of shop fronts and private money invested amounted to £130,000.
 - (d) **Climate Change** – The Association of North East Councils (ANEC) published key findings of its Climate Change Task and Finish Group during January 2008 which set out how local governments in the North East could work collectively and collaboratively to improve performance, reduce impact on climate change and add value to current initiatives aimed at tackling climate change. It was pleasing to note that each of the themes represented in the key findings and recommendations report were mirrored in the Darlington Climate Change Action Plan.
 - (e) **Local Development Framework Core Strategy : Issues and Options 2008** – We gave consideration to the consultation process carried out on the Core Strategy : Issues and Options together with the representation that had been made in response. The Core Strategy has identified 33 key issues following the consultation exercise undertaken during the period of 7th January to 15th February, 2008.
 - (f) **Local Motion Travel Research and Monitoring Core Strategy Workshop** – Following a request by Resources Scrutiny Committee we gave consideration to the use of monitoring data to support transport policy decisions with particular reference to the Local Motion project. As only one of three sustainable travel demonstration towns in the Country great care had been taken to monitor changes in travel behaviour since

2004 with evidence gathering being obtained by various surveys including, household travel surveys, customer surveys and school travel surveys. Further travel research monitoring is programmed for 2008 and would be used as part of a wider evidence base to inform research commissioned by the Department of Transport.

- (g) **Policy Review – New Build at North Road Primary School – Carbon Footprint –**
We are to undertake a review to give consideration to the carbon footprint of the new build at North Road Primary School. As part of our Review, we hope to invite the architect to a future meeting of Scrutiny to obtain more information on the building.

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
- Local Motion Conference
- Visits to Drinkfield Waste Recycling Centre – 24th April, 2008
- Parks and Open Spaces Site Visit – 7th May, 2008
- Countryside and Green Spaces Site Visit – 13th May, 2008

Chair of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee