

---

**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 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.
  - (b) **Tees Valley Unlimited Multi Area Agreement – Work in the Tees Valley** – We received a presentation from a representative of Tees Valley Unlimited, the public, private and voluntary sector partnership charged with preparing and coordinating plans to develop the area’s economy. Tees Valley Unlimited have recently signed a “Multi Area Agreement” with Government. The Tees Valley MAA is one of only seven partnerships across England that was signed off by Government in July 2008. One key area of Tees Valley Unlimited’s activity will be in the development of physical infrastructure that is required to facilitate private sector investment in the area, which will include town centre development, business space, cultural facilities, ensuring that the housing offer meets current expectations and the provision of effective and reliable transport.

Tees Valley Unlimited will deliver a broad programme of strategic investment priorities and manage the programme against the confirmed and anticipated funding opportunities. Priorities contained within the capital programmes include within the regeneration programme, funded by One North East, the Darlington Gateway, Stockton Middlesbrough Initiative and Coastal Arc; through the housing activity Housing Market Renewal in North Central Hartlepool, Gresham, Middlesbrough, South Bank Renewal Area; and Parkfield Stockton; and the transport programme will include The Tees Valley Bus Network improvements, assessing the potential for a rail-based “metro” scheme, and work with the Highways Agency to identify the strategic highway network requirements to support the regeneration and growth that is taking place in the area.

As a local authority we play a key role in Tees Valley Unlimited, the development of the strategies and the investment plans for the area and the delivery of the strategies and investment plans. Without the agreement of this authority the plans will not progress.

- (c) **Policy Review - Minimisation Review Group** –The Group have met on a number of occasions to which the Assistant Director, Environmental Services, the Street Scene Manager and the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Officer attended. Members and

Officers have undertaken a brainstorming session to share ideas in order to see which direction the Group should take, discussed Terms of Reference for the Group and requested information to be supplied to the Group regarding paper usage within the town Hall, a list of re-useable/rechargeable items and information on how Tees Valley Authorities achieve their waste reduction targets.

Members of the Group have also received a presentation from the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Officer giving the background to waste minimisation initiatives, where the Council is now since the commencement of the Kerbside contract, examples of Best Practice, what other Authorities are doing to achieve waste reduction and the “Making Waste Work” Campaign.

The next meeting of the Group has been arranged for 8th October, 2008 to which outside organisations and groups, who have an interest in waste minimisation have been invited to attend.

**Darlington College Resident Parking Schemes** – We received an update on the introduction of the resident parking schemes following an exercise undertaken by the Task and Finish Review Group of this Scrutiny to investigate the parking problems around the College between the College opening and the schemes being introduced. The Members were especially concerned regarding parking on footways on the approach to the Rail Bridge on Haughton Road and the displacement of student parking into residential areas. We are pleased to learn that it would appear that the schemes at Hundens Lane, East Mount Road and Borough Road are operating as intended and the footway parking has been resolved. With regard to parking on Haughton Road, this will be continually monitored now the new college term has started and the Eastern Transport corridor has opened.

**Darlington Borough Art Collection** – We received an update on the progress made on the Darlington Art Collection following the identified outcomes of a recent review of the management and conservation of the collection. Recommendations were also outlined for the future management of the collection and partnership working.

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**

