
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) **Local Development Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options 2008 Consultation Responses and Next Steps** – We received a report which requested consideration of consultations carried out on the LDF Core Strategy: Preferred Options (CSPO) and the comments made in response to it. We were also advised of the key actions and next steps in preparing the Core Strategy and the new information that would need to be considered in doing so.
 - (c) **Delivery of the Second Local Transport Plan and Draft Guidance for the Third Local Transport Plan** – Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee were pleased to note the progress made in delivering the Second Local Transport Plan which was approved by Council on 23rd March, 2006 and included a longer term transport strategy and a five year implementation programme. With regard to the Third Local Transport Plan Committee were advised that the Local Transport Act 2008 retained the statutory requirement to produce and review Local Transport Plans and policies. On 18th December, 2008 the Department for Transport (DfT) issued draft Local Transport Plan Guidance which was out for consultation until 19th April, 2009 and would support local authorities in producing their Third Local Transport Plans.
 - (d) **One Darlington Perfectly Placed : Greener Darlington Theme Group – Delivery Plan** – Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee were pleased to receive the Once Darlington Perfectly Placed : Greener Darlington Themed Group – Delivery Plan 2008-2011. The Plan outlined performance against targets set for the short to long term for Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement Indicators. The Delivery Plan also highlighted priorities and work strands with the Action Plan reflecting the recently established nature of the Greener Darlington Theme Group.
 - (e) **Policy Review -**
 - (i) **Minimisation Review Group** – The Group met with Town Centre Traders on 26th January, 2009 to receive their views on Waste Minimisation in the Town Centre. The Traders were very positive and gave good feedback to the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Officer. We will shortly be submitting our final

report to Cabinet for approval.

- (ii) **Development Control Review Group** – The Group met on 5th January, 2009 and gave consideration to its findings. The final report will shortly be submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- (iii) **Tourism Action Plan** – Following a review of Tourism during 2005 a Tourism Action Plan was produced which the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee monitor. The Committee received a report on progress work against the various issues identified in the Action Plan, which involved developments to the tourism website, the production of new guides and brochures and the relocation of the TIC. They were also advised that recent restructuring of Council Departments and the need to make efficiency savings would impact on the Council's priorities for future tourism development.

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
- The LSP Greener Darlington Theme Group.
- Prosperous Darlington Themed Group

Chair of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee