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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 considered our Work Programme for the 2009/10 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) **Cycling Through the Town Centre** - As part of Scrutiny Monitoring we received an update report on Cycling Activities through the Darlington Town Centre for the period 1st January to 30th April, 2009. The data was collected by various methods including accident data compiled by the Police, telephone calls, e-mails and letters logged with the Transport Policy Team. The initial outcome is that cycling continues to increase across Darlington and through the Town Centre with no personal injury accidents recorded by the Police and no collisions between a cyclist and pedestrian reported to the Transport Policy Team. The Cycling Code of Conduct was discussed and amendments suggested. Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) and Cycling Campaign representatives attended the meeting.
  - (c) **Darlington Local Motion** – We received a detailed review of the evidence of travel behaviour of Darlington residents since 2004 following Darlington’s Sustainable Travel Town programme ‘Local Motion’. The report detailed Darlington’s programme of monitoring and stated that through Local Motion the majority of Darlington’s population had been exposed to one or more initiatives promoting sustainable travel options with strong evidence suggesting a substantial increase in cycling and walking trips and a reduction in car driver trips.
  - (d) **Service Planning** - Scrutiny Committee received reports on an introduction to the four service plans for which they have responsibility for monitoring i.e. Highways, Environmental Services (Street Scene), Regeneration and Culture and for providing challenge together with a report on the 4th Quarter 2008/09 performance. Along with the service plans this Scrutiny also has responsibility to scrutinise elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy : One Darlington : Perfectly Placed and the Local Area Agreement to note overall performance and reasons for underperformance and to undertake Task and Finish Reviews into areas of service where Committee feel it is necessary to examine more closely.
  - (e) **Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Darlington** – Committee was advised of the findings of a recently undertaken Scheduled Ancient Monuments Audit which identified the name and location of Darlington’s 20 Scheduled Monuments. An English Heritage report had recently identified those monuments considered to be at

risk. Following the audit suggestions have been made to improve their value both to residents and visitors. Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee are also going to undertake visits to several of the monuments.

- (f) **Greener Darlington Theme Group** – Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to view the Issues and Actions Log of the Greener Darlington Theme meeting held on 18th May, 2009.
  - (g) **Policy Review -**
    - (i) **Minimisation Review Group** –Scrutiny Committee was delighted that the findings of the Minimisation Review were well received by Cabinet and we look forward to seeing the Make Waste Work Campaign have a real effect on the way recycling is collected in Darlington.
    - (ii) **Development Control Review Group** – Scrutiny Committee was also pleased that the Development Control Review was also welcomed by Cabinet and we look forward to the implementation of the Action Plan and its effect on performance on BVP109 which related to the speed of processing planning applications received by this Council .
  - (h) **Climate Change Action Plan** – At a special meeting of Scrutiny we gave consideration to The Darlington Climate Change Action Plan which was developed following extensive consultation with Partners, residents and Officers. The Action Plan is now a living document with ongoing consultation to ensure it continues to deliver. Due to changes in legislation and target setting level at national level, especially in relation to NI186, changes to the Action Plan are required to reflect those changes. Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee will continue to support the delivery of the Darlington Climate Action Plan.
  - (i) **Local Authority Carbon Management Programme** – Also at the special meeting Scrutiny was advised of the Council’s inclusion in the Carbon Trust’s Local Authority Carbon Management Programme (LACM) of which 63 Local Authorities were taking part in Phase 7. The LACM will provide technical and change management support to help realise carbon emissions savings from the use and operation of the Council’s buildings and vehicle fleet.
2. Since the last meeting of Council, the Chair of the Committee has attended various briefings with Officers.

**Councillor Dorothy Long**  
**Chair of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee**