
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 2009/10** – 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 June to 31st July, 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 data collected suggests that cycling continues to increase across Darlington and at high levels through the Town Centre. It also shows that no personal injury accidents have been recorded by the Police and incidents reported to the Transport Policy Team do not show any collisions between a cyclist and a pedestrian. Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) and Cycling Campaign representatives attended the meeting to give their views.
 - (c) **Scheduled Monuments in Darlington – Site Visit and Publication of 2009 Audit** – Several Members of Scrutiny Committee undertook site visits to four of this Council’s Scheduled Monuments following the recently completed Audit. Members made several conclusions arising from the visits. Investigations have also been made on the production of a hard copy of the Audit for purchase through the Tourist Information Centre, however the information is readily available on the Council’s website and there is no allocated budget for the cost of production.
 - (d) **Cultural Services Issues** – Members gave consideration to issues around culture as this now rests within the remit of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee. Committee were advised that culture played a central role in enhancing the quality of life in Darlington and focused on the promotion of leisure and cultural development that was targeted against key delivery themes within the Sustainable Community Strategy. A comprehensive review of provision of Culture is currently being undertaken and Scrutiny look forward to receiving further reports on this.
 - (e) **Darlington Borough Arts Collection** – Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to be informed of the progress made on the Darlington Borough Art Collection following the identified outcomes of recent reviews of the management and conservation of the collection. As Members are aware the draft Acquisition, Loan and Disposal Policy has been approved by Cabinet and the majority of the collection has now been valued. Public interest has increased due to the Borough Collection featuring

in the County Durham Catalogue by Public Catalogue Foundation and an exhibition of artworks held in the Myles Meehan Gallery recently has also received very positive feedback.

- (f) **Summer Site Visit to Darlington's Green Spaces** - Following Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee's site visits to Darlington's Green Spaces on 18th May 2009 we received a report on the main issues raised. The visits were aimed at underlining the integration of both the Parks and Countryside Services in late 2007 which has enabled the skills and expertise combine to ensure that Darlington's green spaces are managed as a unified service. Members were given the opportunity to speak with Council Officers, Friends Groups and Groundwork at the various sites visited and also the various facilities available at each venue.
 - (g) **Greener Darlington Theme Group** – Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to be informed of the current work of the Greener Darlington Theme Group
 - (h) **Prosperous Theme Group** – Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to be informed of the current work of the Prosperous Theme Group.
2. Since the last meeting of Council, the Chair of the Committee has attended the following meetings :-
- (a) Various briefings with Officers.

Councillor Dorothy Long
Chair of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee