
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) **Darlington Local Development Framework Core Strategy : The Evidence Underpinning Policy Development** – A special meeting of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee was held to give consideration to the information and research undertaken to inform the development of policies for the Council’s emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and also to outline the planning policy implications of the findings. We were advised that significant work had been undertaken on development of the evidence base for policy development following comments received during consultation of the LDF Core Strategy Preferred Options last autumn and that further areas of work were currently underway.
 - (b) **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. Members have agreed to establish a Task and Finish group to explore ways forward for the cultural sector.
 - (c) **The Darlington Compact** – We scrutinised the draft Darlington Compact, an agreement between the public and third sectors on working together effectively to deliver the best possible services for Darlington, prior to its consideration by Cabinet. As a Scrutiny Committee we focused on how the Compact would impact on Economy and Environmental issues within the Borough.
 - (d) **Street Furniture and Guard Railing** – At the request of Members we received an update on the maintenance programme for the guard railing around the Town Centre and were pleased to see some sections removed and others upgraded. A further look at street furniture is planned for April, 2010.
 - (e) **Greener Darlington Theme Group** – Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to be informed of the current work of the Greener Darlington Theme Group
 - (f) **Prosperous Theme Group** – Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to be informed of the current work of the Prosperous Theme Group.
 - (g) **Policy Review - Street Lighting** – Following the concerns of a Ward Member we agreed to undertake a Joint Task and Finish with Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee. The remit of the Review is to look at the policy and criteria for the provision of additional street lighting within the Borough.

- (h) **Third Local Transport Plan** – A special meeting of the Committee was held on 19th November to which all Members of the Council and of the Local Strategic Partnership were invited. Reports were submitted on the progress on the Third Local Transport Plan, Local Motion and the Cycling Demonstration Town. Discussion then continued on Darlington’s Transport Strategy and other local priorities.
2. Since the last meeting of Council, the Chair of the Committee has attended the following meetings :-
- (a) Various briefings with Officers.
 - (b) Along with other Members of this Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Applications Committee, a site visit on 27th October to see various developments given planning permission and recently completed.

Councillor Dorothy Long
Chair of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee