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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) **Arts Task and Finish Review Group – Final Report** – We have completed our Review on provision of cultural services within the Borough and forwarded our recommendations to Cabinet for its approval. I attended the Cabinet meeting to present the findings of the Review, the recommendations of which were agreed by Cabinet.
  - (b) **Work Programme 2010/11** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Municipal Year and will continue to update and add to our Work Programme throughout the Year. We also examined Cabinet’s Forward Plan, in order to identify areas of particular interest or concern to be included within our Work Programme and gave consideration to topics/subjects that we may wish to review/scrutinise during the current Municipal Year.
  - (c) **Traffic Management Act 2004 – Network Management Plan** – At Cabinet on 3rd February, 2009 a number of Sections of the Traffic Management Plan were approved with further sections currently being developed and it was recommended that Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee monitor development of that Plan. In that regard we received a progress report which summarised various actions, performance tasks and intervention criteria which required monitoring and implementation.
  - (d) **Prosperous Theme Group** – Scrutiny Committee welcomed the opportunity to be informed of the current work of the Prosperous Theme Group. We discussed the need for the greater involvement of this Committee with the Theme Group, the role of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Darlington Partnership in driving the Private Sector, representation of the Private Sector on the Darlington Partnership, the capacity in the Private Sector to support partnership working, the funding arrangements for the LEP via the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) and the financial commitments attached to the RGF, the importance of re-establishing the manufacturing industry locally, the involvement of the University of Teesside in partnership working, the development of intelligence to inform and identify where the University of Teesside can assist the local economy, and the publication of the ‘Darlington Employment Handbook’. We agreed to hold a Special Meeting of the Committee to consider the emerging investment plans across the Tees Valley, the implications of the Coalition Government’s Economic Growth White Paper and the implications for the Darlington’s economic future.

Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended the following meetings :-

- (a) Prosperous Theme Group – 14th October, 2010;
- (b) Greener Darlington Theme Group – 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2010;
- (c) Cabinet – 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010;
- (d) Launch of Darlington It's Growing (DIG) at Clervaux Trust Café on Friday, 22nd October, 2010; and
- (e) Various briefing meeting with Officers.

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