
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 – Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document, Issues and Options Report 2010** – A special meeting was held on the Local Development Framework (LDF) Accommodating Growth Development Plan (DPD) Issues and Options Report. The consultation period with the community and stakeholders ended on 14th January, 2011. The Accommodating Growth DPD is a site allocations document structured around the themes of the Core Strategy that relate directly to the allocation of land for new development. The themes include employment, mixed-use sites, housing, gypsies and travellers and green infrastructure, sport and recreation.
 - (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 Year.
 - (c) **Public Art in the Borough of Darlington** – We welcomed a report on the provision of public art in the Borough which highlighted ongoing projects located at The Denes, Parkside, Lascelles Park and Eastbourne and Cockerbeck. We were also privileged to receive a presentation from Mr. Sean Campbell, The Arthur Wharton Foundation, on the provision of a statue of Arthur Wharton in Darlington. Arthur was the World’s first black professional footballer who lived in Darlington and played football in the late 19th Century.
 - (d) **Draft Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3)** – Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee was given the opportunity to comment on LTP3 which covers the period 2011 to 2026, in line with the Local Development Framework (LDF). Goals for the Plan were supported by Cabinet in March 2010 and the next stage is to identify challenges that Darlington face and Scrutiny gave feedback and commented on the strategic choices that had resulted in a number of policy ideas.
 - (e) **2nd Quarter Performance Report 2010/11** – We are responsible for the monitoring of four service plans i.e. Highways, Environmental Services (Waste Management), Regeneration and Culture. Along with the service plans this Scrutiny also has responsibility to scrutinise elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy : One Darlington : Perfectly Placed to note overall performance, reasons for underperformance and to undertake Task and Finish Reviews into areas of service where the Committee feel it is necessary to examine more closely. We were advised

that both the National Indicator Set (NIS) and Local Area Agreement had been abolished and that Government were to introduce a list of data to be returned by local authorities, the content of which was currently unknown.

- (f) **Greener Darlington Theme Group** - The Committee welcomed the opportunity to be informed of the current work of the Greener Darlington Theme Group.
- (g) **Arts Task and Finish Review Group – Responses of the Executive** – We were very pleased to receive the comments of Cabinet on the Final Report of the Arts Task and Finish Review Group and look forward to monitoring progress.

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

- (a) Prosperous Theme Group – 9th December, 2010; and
- (b) Various briefing meeting with Officers.

Councillor Dorothy Long
Chair of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee