
OVERVIEW OF PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Place Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
 - (a) **Tree and Woodland Strategy 2011-2020** – We gave consideration to a ‘call-in’ from Cabinet held on 13th September, 2011 in relation to its decisions in respect of Darlington Borough Council Tree and Woodland Strategy 2011-2020. Scrutiny acknowledged the concerns put forward in respect of protecting the public and private property but felt assured by Officers that the protection of the public and property was fully encompassed within the Tree and Woodland Strategy. We agreed that no further action should be taken to amend the Strategy although recommended that a briefing/members training session be arranged with the Arboricultural Officer to ascertain how trees are inspected and provide assurances of the practices in place.
 - (b) **Work Programme 2011/12** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2011/12 and possible review topics and in doing so, we have taken into account the reduced resources available within the Authority and ensured that, in recommending our work programme to Monitoring and Co-ordination Group, that any work we undertake will have demonstrable outcomes and contribute to the work of the Council and its strategic aims and objectives. We agreed Terms of Reference for the topics approved by Monitoring and Co-ordination Group and will also be involved with the Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan along with the other Scrutiny Committees.
 - (c) **Speed Management within the Borough Task and Finish Review Group** – We have begun our Review into speed management within the Borough and as part of that Review received a Presentation by the 20’s Plenty Campaign. We aim to listen to the views of Durham Constabulary and Public Transport Operators and visit Middlesbrough Council and Newcastle City Council to discuss with their Members how they tackled the introduction of 20mph speed limits.
 - (d) **Local Development Framework LDF Briefing** – Place Scrutiny took the lead on an all-Member briefing which gave consideration to the key policy choices for the emerging Making Places and Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document (DPD). Discussions were meaningful and Members contributed to the development of the Document.

2. Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended the following meetings :-
- (a) Various briefing meetings with Officers.
 - (b) On 13th October attended the Friends of the Earth Public Meeting on 20's Plenty.
 - (c) On 19th October attended a Prosperous Theme Group meeting.

Councillor Dorothy Long
Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee