
OVERVIEW OF CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under my Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio:
 - (a) **Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy** – Cabinet considered the draft Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Action plan and endorsed the Strategy subject to some amendments to the ward boundaries, before referring to Council for approval.
 - (b) **Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) for Air Monitoring Equipment** – Cabinet gave approval to release funding to purchase air monitoring equipment to support the ‘Town on the Move’ project. A successful bid had been made to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for a Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) allocation of £33,000 to purchase the equipment which will be sited at the junction at St. Cuthbert’s Way/Northgate adjacent to Marks and Spencer.
 - (c) **North East Sustainability Energy Centre** – Cabinet gave support to a bid from the North East to become a pilot region for the establishment of a Sustainable Energy Centre funded by the Energy Saving Trust. This service will provide a valuable asset to local authorities and other organisations across the region and bring together the key issue of energy efficiency.
 - (d) **Honeypot Lane Caravan Site – Improvements** – Cabinet received a report on progress made in carrying out improvements to Honeypot Lane Caravan Site and gave approval for the release of a further £110,000 from the Council’s own capital receipts, to allow the completion of the project.

2. I have attended the following meetings in respect of my Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio:
 - (a) Briefing meetings with Directors and Assistant Directors
 - (b) Darlington Environmental Forum
 - (c) Darlington Public Protection Forum
 - (d) Durham and Darlington Fire Authority
 - (e) Citizenship Ceremony
 - (f) Darlington Partnership

Councillor Steve Harker
Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio