

District Council CPA Self-assessment Pro-forma for Public Space

1. How well does the council contribute to the management of the physical environment?

INSPECTION FOCUS	COUNCIL STATEMENT
<p>Does the Council secure a high quality environment through new build and maintenance work?</p>	<p>The Council recognises the importance of integrating sustainable development within policies and an action plan has been drawn up for sustainable spaces to be promoted throughout the Authority. This addresses needs by bringing neglected and derelict land back into use. It is a staged approach including identification of potential sites and detailed consultation. Corporate priorities emphasise quality of life issues for the community also recognising national priorities. The Local Plan Framework identifies reconciliation of conflict between development and need to protect the whole environment. Consultants are presently auditing all premises to determine compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). A key member of staff is trained to undertake assessments of the DDA implications in play areas. DDA needs are integrated in planning of initiatives, and the Local Transport Plan contains a bid to finance low floor buses. All Committee reports detail environmental impacts to inform decisions. Stakeholders are involved in setting local priorities before committing resources such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of Eastcliffe estate involving residents leading to Car park lighting to reduce fear of crime and streetscape including lighting, using natural materials. • Partnership with all Northumberland authorities for emergency call-out. <p>Access is encouraged through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An out of hours response telephone helpline is provided for emergencies. • Personal visits to council premises, monthly 'housing surgeries', telephone and email. • Contact details are published regularly in council documents. • Encouraging employees to report issues, which come to their attention. • Identification of employees and vehicles in the community. • Publication of emergency plan details. • Publication of Local Agenda 21 in partnership and plans to independently environmentally audit activities and to actively investigate measures to reduce CO₂ emissions and take into account rising sea levels. • Publication of Air Quality, Pollution Control, Enforcement and Contaminated Land Strategies in line with the Good Enforcement Concordat. <p>We review housing need and demand through the following:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enabling affordable house building by local housing associations and trusts.• Analysis of the Housing Waiting List and Housing needs surveys including longer term need to ensure sustainability in rural areas. <p>The local environment is well maintained through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All planned maintenance schemes developed to account for environmentally friendly materials such as timber.• Schemes which alter the physical appearance or fixtures or fittings have regard to conservation factors. <p>The Crime Strategy addresses local and national issues through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing domestic violence by establishing a Forum and integration in the Homelessness Strategy.• A county wide supported housing scheme for women fleeing or at risk of violence and future development of a local service.
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2. Does the council help keep the locality clean?

INSPECTION FOCUS	COUNCIL STATEMENT
<p>Does the council deal effectively with household and other waste?</p> <p>How effectively is the council cleaning streets and other public places?</p>	<p><u>Waste Management</u></p> <p>We work in partnership with all Northumberland Councils and the Environment Agency to produce a 'Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Northumberland 2003'. This proposes sustainable solutions to meet European and UK Government targets. The document has been ratified and work continues.</p> <p>The policy framework guides development of waste management services up to 2020, covering partnership, education and awareness raising, waste minimisation and re-use, refuse collection, recycling, composting, disposal, end markets and purchasing, energy recovery and Landfill Directive targets and, resources and procurement.</p> <p>We seek to ensure new arrangements will reduce future exposure to rising waste management costs as doing nothing will become the most expensive option. Implementing the Strategy will secure a sustainable solution for the management of municipal solid waste arising within the county and will meet 2020 recycling targets in Northumberland.</p> <p>The Council works in partnership with Private Land-Owners and Northumberland County Council, under a Protocol between Northumbria Police and Local Authorities within Tyne Wear and Northumberland, for the efficient and speedy disposal of Abandoned Vehicles from both Public and Private land.</p> <p>Early indications, from data collected in the first quarter of 2003/04, show that the Performance Standard set for the Council for Composting and Recycling of Household Waste, of 10% by 2003/04 will be reached.</p> <p><u>Street Sweeping and Litter Collection</u></p> <p>The current specification for cleaning of streets and public spaces is based on the standards detailed in the Code of Practice issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The contract is operated by a private company on the Councils behalf. This partnership has developed during the period of the contract to ensure the public receive a rapid response to service requests. The company displays both its own and the Borough Council logo on all vehicles along with telephone contact numbers for both organisations. Liaison between the two organisations ensures that notifications are passed between seamlessly no matter what their source.</p> <p>Operations are undertaken on a rotational basis, with areas known to be problem hotspots, visited more frequently to ensure all areas are kept free of litter at times and particularly when visitor numbers are high.</p> <p>Effective communication network between contractor and Council ensures problems are quickly passed to appropriate officers for action. Information exchange supports the relationship and rapport between contractor and officers.</p> <p>Consultations with residents representatives resulted in increased awareness and expression of views concerning the local environment.</p> <p>Initiatives to improve communication include identity numbers on litter bins to allow identification of locations.</p>

	<p>Litter bins purchased are manufactured from recyclable material which is both durable and cost-effective. There is a conscious effort to maintain a uniform design for the main urban centres for a more aesthetic and visually pleasing aspect to street furniture and maintain a corporate identity.</p> <p>The contract is monitored using the Cleanliness BVPI 199 for public spaces and scores given for each ward area visited, helps to identify sites and neighbourhood areas in the greatest need of interventions.</p> <p>Graffiti is removed from Public and Private land as part of the Street Sweeping Contract Specification which is operated by a Private Contractor.</p>
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3. Does the council work with partners to improve community safety?

INSPECTION FOCUS	COUNCIL STATEMENT
<p>Does the council provide an effective contribution to the local crime and disorder reduction partnership?</p> <p>Has the council (in partnership) been able to secure impact on outcomes as a result of the local community safety work?</p>	<p>We provide an effective contribution to the local crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) by participating individuals and services delivered throughout the community.</p> <p>The Council hosts and administers all CDRP meetings invites speakers that will influence the partnership.</p> <p>Council hosts the posts two associated workers who work from Berwick and deliver Borough and county wide initiatives.</p> <p>We make a financial contribution to the post of Community Safety Officer (CSO) and provide both the CSO and Drugs Reference Group Development Worker (DDW) with office space, line management, and administrative support. The CDRP produces an Audit, Strategy and Action Plans. It carries out consultation with all stakeholders. The Council drove a recent CDRP restructure to improve effectiveness. This resulted in additional officer co-option to form closer working relations with the Northumberland County Drug Action Team.</p> <p>Since the inception of the CDRP we have developed the Strategy to a target focussed document reflecting concerns of the local community, whilst accounting for national priorities. Partnerships draw on their expertise and delivery mechanisms for the benefit of the whole community, including the local media to raise awareness of priorities. The area has low crime and disorder and fear of crime, but initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol related anti-social behaviour through school and community based education projects • Alcohol enforcement projects with the local Police. <p>The Strategy targets key areas identified from the Audit, partnership agencies and the community in tackling crime delivered through action plans. Regular meetings ensure provide information and ensure integration of DAT Plan and in turn, inclusion of both in the Community Strategy. Such overlaps extend the community safety message beyond CDRP membership and within Berwick Borough Local Strategic Partnership.</p> <p>Objectives within the strategy adopt a collective responsibility approach and we have driven reorganisation to create a two-tier structure reflecting strategic themes and delivery. The partnership addresses key strategic priorities. Furthering multi-agency working and include parish council representation in the problem solving loop under Section 17 of the 1998 Act. All strategy objectives except violent crime, are on target through the work with all partners.</p> <p>Partnership meetings are well attended and participative with a working group to deliver action plans. We have worked with GNER, Health, Education, Voluntary Groups, Victim Support and Alnwick District Council</p> <p>Plans and proposals for their implementation are the subject of committee reports which include details of implications for crime and disorder.</p> <p>The council continues to utilise its statutory powers to achieve its objectives and strategy is target based and reflected in reduced crime figures and our position in the lowest quartile of the family group.</p>

4. Does the council contribute to activities to positively engage children and young people?

INSPECTION FOCUS	COUNCIL STATEMENT
<p>Does the council have a clear idea about the needs of local children and young people?</p> <p>What is the council doing to secure a range of activities for young people and encourage their positive engagement?</p>	<p>The Sports Development Officer has developed initiatives designed to address the needs of children and young people. This forms part of the Sports Development Service Plan 2003/2004 and details of achievement to date are contained within the Sports Development Officer Annual Report 2002/2003.</p> <p>Every 3 years the Berwick CDRP, of which the Council is a statutory member, is required to undertake a comprehensive survey of crime and disorder patterns within the Borough during that period.</p> <p>The survey, or audit, involves consultation with all age groups including young people. Having considered the findings of the crime audit, the CDRP identified 6 strategic objectives for crime reduction during the period 1st April 2002 – 31st March 2005. Each of these objectives requires the CDRP to consider how different age groups are affected by specific types of crime and propose and implement action both to reduce and offset the effects of that category of crime.</p> <p>The CDRP works in partnership with statutory and non-statutory bodies and organisations to deliver action plans designed to meet the 6 strategic objectives.</p> <p>The CDRP has committed to implementing a range of measures providing diversionary activity for young people during 2003/04.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The provision of a youth shelter at Highcliffe/Eastcliffe in Spittal at a cost of £15,000 ii) A proposed skatepark facility at the same site at a cost of approx. £24,200 (£16,745 confirmed at the time of writing) iii) Formation of a skateboarders/bmx/extreme sports club involving young people in the running of these facilities iv) contribution towards the creation of a skatepark facility in Norham v) Skateboard awareness event at the Swan Centre for leisure in August 2002 attended by 600 visitors vi) Establish Youth Forum in the Borough in conjunction with local schools vii) Development of restorative justice projects in conjunction with the Northumberland Youth Offending Team viii) Creation of an outdoor equipment lending library for young people in conjunction with Berwick Youth Project and Berwick High School. <p>More generally, the Council has agreed to participate in the 2003 Local Democracy Week event organised by the Local Government Association, the theme for this year's event being "Listening to tomorrow's voter today", which will involve engaging with young people about their involvement in and perceptions of the democratic process.</p>