

## Appendix 1

### **Response from Environmental Action Teams in relation to questions raised by the February Inner North East Area Committee**

The Area Committee raised the matter that they wish to see some flexibility around the setting of service priorities and the number that are able to be set across more than one area committee.

Due to staffing levels within the East North East Environmental Action Team (ENE EAT) it is not viable to dedicate a team per committee area, although "patches" are allocated to staff who can then be associated with an area Committee area. These staff will be sensitive to issues arising from within their "patch" and enables them to build up a stronger knowledge of an area and the issues within it.

The Committee felt that whilst internally it may be of use to have a risk and impact grid, the reality was that we expected the Department to be flexible to the needs of the local area and the local hot issues, and that ward members should be used more for highlighting problems which don't seem to be addressed rather than setting the working pattern of the staff for their daily work:

The report highlights that resources are not increasing and that this dialogue is about working smarter, rather than extra working within an area - in elected members inputting local knowledge into the "intelligence mix" which informs the work of the EAT.

In order to move towards delivering more proactive work, the priority and delivery on some of the reactive work would need to be reviewed. It is believed that some reactive work is of more importance to an area than others. Members are asked to consider these issues and agree the levels of importance given to each category of work. This would then enable the EAT to have local "hot issues" which would become our high priorities but this would mean that other activities which are not so "hot" would receive a lower level of priority.

A matrix of issues and priority given to these would thus need to be agreed by the Committee if this approach is taken.