
**PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
WORK PROGRAMME**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

Summary

2. Members will recall that, at the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 5th November, 2011, a discussion was held and agreement reached on areas which this Scrutiny Committee would like to focus its work and work has been and is currently being, undertaken in relation to some of those areas and works is still due to commence on others.
3. Members are now requested to consider the current status of the work programme and suggest any further areas of work which Scrutiny would like to undertake.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme.

**Paul Wildsmith,
Director of Resources**

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Karen Graves : Extension 2291

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to the address Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington, through scrutinising the services provided by the NHS Trusts.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of local elected members contributing to the Healthy Darlington Theme Group.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

MAIN REPORT

Work Programme

5. For Members information, it has been previously agreed that a number of topics be included on the Work Programme of the Place Scrutiny Committee and Quad of Aims have previously been approved. The status of those items is detailed in the table below.

6. A key role of Scrutiny is to ensure that the programme is able to deliver the service improvement and the budget savings necessary and Members need to take this into account when considering their Work Programmes and ensure that any work focuses on delivering outcomes rather than service delivery.

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Civil Parking Enforcement	To understand the benefits and constraints of Civil Parking Enforcement followings its introduction.	Considered by Place Scrutiny Committee on 19th April, 2012.
Town Centre Fringe	To contribute to and influence the development of the Town Centre Fringe as part of the Local Development Framework.	This work is currently on going.
Local Plan	To contribute to and influence the development of the Plan including the Making Places and Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document (DPD); Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD); and Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan (AAP).	This work is currently on going and a special meeting was held on 12th November.
Economic Strategy	To contribute to the Strategy	Ongoing – Action Plans to be submitted to a future meeting of Scrutiny.

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Medium Term Financial Plan	To contribute to and challenge the Medium Term Financial Plan and assist with the implementation and development of the required savings.	Work has been completed and recommendations forwarded to Special Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 26th January, 2012
Housing Strategy	A Special Joint Meeting held with Place Scrutiny Committee to contribute to and influence the development of the Council's Housing Strategy and Action Plan.	Work Completed. Comments fed into Strategy as part of the consultation process
Refuse Collection	To contribute to and influence the implementation of a Wheeled Bin system in the Borough of Darlington.	Ongoing - A Task and Finish Review Group was established; several meetings held and a visit to a neighbouring authority operating a wheeled bin system. A list of homes where different arrangements may need to be made was circulated to members. This item also appears on today's Agenda.
Cultural Provision	<p>(a) Track the progress of DBC's application to the Arts Council;</p> <p>(b) To investigate how cultural activity will be facilitated in the intervening period between the closure of the Arts Centre and new Arts Hub;</p> <p>(c) Scrutinise potential delivery options for cultural services;</p> <p>(d) Scrutinise a range of governance models.</p>	A Review Group has been established and two meetings held. A further meeting will be held when necessary.

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Arriva	<p>(a) To explore how commercial bus services can be improved in terms of quality and reach of services;</p> <p>(b) To hear evidence about real or perceived concerns about bus services;</p> <p>(c) To hear evidence from Arriva about their current performance and their plans to improve bus patronage;</p> <p>(d) To hear evidence from Transport Officers about what is, and what can be done to improve bus services in Darlington.</p>	A Review Group has been established and a meeting held with Officers of Arriva.
Town Centre Regeneration	To contribute to and influence the development of the Town Centre Regeneration	Ongoing – A report was considered at the meeting of Scrutiny in September
Car Parking Strategy	To contribute and influence the development of the Car Parking Strategy	Ongoing – To be considered in 2013
Digital Review Group (formerly Broadband Review Group)	To identify the broadband needs of businesses and domestic users in Darlington	A Review Group was established but suspended in light of the emerging Digital Strategy.
Carbon Management	To scrutinise the Carbon Management within the Borough	Ongoing
Business Plan for the Town's Markets	To contribute and influence the business plan	A Review Group is to be established to commence in January 2013.

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Civic Amenity Site	To scrutinise the new working arrangements of the Civic Amenity Site	A report appears elsewhere on this Agenda.
Business Site and Premises Review	To contribute to and influence.	Ongoing

Quad of Aims

7. If Members wish to add any item to the Work Programme a Quad of Aims would need to be developed and submitted to Monitoring and Co-ordination Group prior to being brought to Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that it does contribute to the strategic aims of the Council.

Forward Plan

8. Members are also requested to consider Cabinet's Forward Plan, which is available on the Council's website, to assist in determining any further items which they might wish to include on their Work Programme and if so, complete the necessary documentation.