
**ADULTS AND HOUSING 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 to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme; and to develop the Terms of Reference for a number of additional topics which it has been agreed to include in the work programme.

Summary

2. Members will recall that, at previous meetings of this Scrutiny Committee, discussions have been held and agreement reached on areas where this Scrutiny Committee would like to focus its work and work has been, and is currently being, undertaken in relation to some of these areas of work is still due to commence on others.

Recommendations

3. 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.
Shirley Burton : Extension 2233

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
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 Sustainable Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the five themes.
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

Information and Analysis

4. For Members information, it has been previously agreed that a number of topics be included on the Work Programme of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee and Terms of Reference have previously been approved. The status of each of those areas is detailed in the table below :-

ITEM	PURPOSE	STATUS
Housing Benefit Reforms Review Group	To consider the reforms to the Housing Benefit scheme that have been introduced in April 2011, together with future planned reforms and their impact on affected residents.	Task and Finish Review Group established. Initial work undertaken but work now to be included as part of wider Welfare Reform Proposals. Meeting of Task and Finish Review Group to be arranged to consider revised Terms of Reference after Cabinet consider the report.
Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy	To consider the Council's Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy for Darlington.	Work Completed.
Medium-Term Financial Plan	To contribute and challenge the Medium Term Financial Plan and assist with the implementation and development of the required savings.	Work Completed. Recommendations forwarded to Cabinet.

<p>Director of Public Health's Report 2009/10 'Keeping Older People Healthy Living in County Durham and Darlington'.</p>	<p>To consider and challenge the recommendations from the audit of the Director of Public Health's report 2009/10 'Keeping Older People Healthy Living in County Durham and Darlington'.</p>	<p>Work completed. Satisfied with actions being taken to address key messages with the overall aim to help people get the most from later life.</p>
<p>The Allocation of Accommodation Guidance for Local Housing Authorities in England</p>	<p>To give Members the opportunity to examine the guidance for Local Housing Authorities in England on the Allocation of Accommodation and what the impacts will be for this Authority and also to be informed of the future changes from the Housing Allocations Review</p>	<p>Work On-Going. Report to be submitted to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 6th November, 2012</p>
<p>The Tenancy Strategy and Policy</p>	<p>To consult with Scrutiny and seek their views of the introduction of the Tenancy Strategy and Policy that has been developed as part of the Localism Bill, which sets out the considerations for individual social landlords in relation to their own policies on granting and reissuing of tenancies.</p>	<p>Work On Going. Report to be submitted to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 6th November, 2012</p>
<p>Adult Autism Strategy</p>	<p>To provide Members with the opportunity to scrutinise the Adult Autism Strategy and to consider whether this Local Authority is meeting the standard guidelines set by the Government in relation to meeting the needs of adults with autism.</p>	<p>Satisfied that the Authority is meeting its statutory requirements.</p>

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.
Residential/Nursing Care Agreements	To advise Members of the vision that is in development for how services for People in Darlington will be commissioned over the next five years.	Work On-Going. Report to be submitted to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 6 th November, 2012.
Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults	To provide Members with an overview of the Safeguarding Adults Board and its functions and to also examine the roles and responsibilities of Darlington Borough Council.	Satisfied with the arrangements in place. Some further work to be undertaken through a task and finish review.
Nutrition in Care Homes	To provide Members with an overview of nutrition in care homes and to be informed of Darlington Borough Council's responsibility in relation to service users placements.	Item elsewhere on agenda for this meeting (4 th September, 2012)
Council Tax Support	To give Members the opportunity to consider options on how the new local Council Tax Support scheme could be delivered from April 2013 and how a 10 per cent cut in funding can be managed.	To be scheduled
Telehealthcare	To explore the current benefits of telehealthcare.	Deferred at this time

Forward Plan and Additional Items

5. 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.
6. If, during the course of the year, Members wish to add any topics to the work programme, a Quad of Aims will need to be developed and submitted prior to the item being brought to Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that it does contribute to the strategic aims of the Council.