
**LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP –
FINAL REPORT**

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Andy Scott, Health and Partnerships Portfolio

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To report the findings and recommendations of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on its review of the proposed changes to Darlington Partnerships.

Summary

2. At a meeting of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 13th December 2011 Membership was agreed and Terms of Reference forwarded to the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group for the establishment of a task and Finish Review Group to consider generating proposals for how a community contribution to Darlington Partnership is developed. This would sit alongside mechanisms to deliver public, voluntary and private sector contributions.
3. A wide number of issues were discussed and considered at the meetings and are referred to in the Final Report (**Appendix 1**).
4. At its meeting held on 17th April 2012, the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee agreed the following recommendations for submission to Cabinet. The recommendations were co-produced with some of the community representatives of Darlington.

Recommendation

5.
 - (a) That the recommendations of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, as detailed in Appendix 1 (paragraph 22) be endorsed.
 - (b) That the issues identified by Members in relation to the recommendations, as detailed in Appendix 1 (paragraphs 23 – 29), be addressed.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-
- (a) Successful implementation will support greater local community engagement.
 - (b) Successful implementation will contribute to the wider partnership agenda.

Murray Rose,
Director of People

Paul Wildsmith,
Director of Resources

Background Papers

Notes of the meetings of the LSP Task and Finish Review Group

Abbie Metcalfe: extension 2365

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has implications relating to Community Safety Partnerships for the residents of Darlington.
Health and Well Being	This report has implications to address Health and Well Being for the residents of Darlington.
Sustainability	This report has implications relating to sustainability for the residents of Darlington.
Diversity	This report has implications relating to diversity for the residents of Darlington.
Wards Affected	This report does not impact on a particular Ward, but Darlington as a whole.
Groups Affected	This report does not impact on a particular Group, but Darlington residents as a whole.
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	This report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Task and Finish Review Group was established by the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to consider the proposed changes to Darlington Partnership, to have an opportunity to input into the development to increase Member involvement and to generate proposals for how a community contribution to Darlington Partnership is developed.

Outcome of Consultation

8. A wide number of issues have been considered and discussed at the meetings and this report describes the outcome of the Review Group, summarises the work undertaken, the findings from the processes and the subsequent recommendations.
9. The LSP Task and Finish Review Group met on four occasions with Officers and members from other Scrutiny Committees and a questionnaire was circulated to the Community Partnerships and Residents Associations and the Final Report of the Group is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Director of People Comments

10. I welcome the outcome from this Task and Finish Group report. The Group have devised a suitable process for addressing the long-recognised issue of ensuring community and Member involvement and feedback in the Darlington Partnership.
11. Cabinet should note that there will be some resource implications required to support the proposed quarterly sessions, as set out in Appendix 1 (paragraph 22), and that these will be met from existing budgets.
12. In addition to the proposed invitation list for the quarterly sessions, Members may consider inviting other representative bodies, such as the Tenants' Board.
13. Further, officers recognise that there are likely to be future policy changes that may include introduction of new representative groups, and the proposals outlined here could provide a framework for involvement of any new groups that become established, as well as those already in place.

Introduction

1. This is the final report of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to consider the proposed changes to Darlington Partnership, to have an opportunity to input into the development to increase Member involvement and to generate proposals for how a community contribution to Darlington Partnership is developed.

Background Information

2. Members will recall that the Assistant Director – Development and Commissioning submitted a report to the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13th December 2011 in relation to community contribution to Darlington Partnership.
3. It was suggested that a Task and Finish Review Group be established to consider generating proposals for how a community contribution to Darlington Partnership is developed. This would sit alongside mechanisms to deliver public, voluntary and private sector contributions.
4. A Task and Finish Review Group was therefore established by the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.
5. Since then, the Task and Finish Review Group have met on three occasions and this report outlines the outcome of the findings.

Membership of the Review Group

6. All Members of this Scrutiny Committee and other Members were invited to attend the meetings of this Group.

Acknowledgements

7. The Review Group acknowledges the support and assistance provided in the course of their investigation and would like to place on record their thanks to the following :-

Seth Pearson, Darlington Partnership Executive Director;
Councillor Andy Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships;
Chris Sivers, Assistant Director Development and Commissioning; and
Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer.

Methods of Investigation

8. The Review Group met on 2nd and 14th February and 8th March, 2012 and the notes are attached as **Appendix A**.

9. At the first meeting, Members agreed the Terms of Reference of the Review (attached as **Appendix B**) and decided to include community feedback into the process. Members met with the Assistant Director and the Cabinet Member and received an overview of the recent review of Darlington Partnership and the change of emphasis within the partnership to a more sector approach driven through public, private and voluntary sectors focussing on three key priorities; those being alcohol, ageing and employment opportunities for young people.
10. Two ideas were also suggested at the first meeting, as follows:-
 - (a) **Idea 1**
A formal structure of one representative per ward; the representative would be one elected Member from that ward. This would give a board of 24 representatives. The Chair could be the responsible Cabinet Member. This would provide full geographic coverage of the Borough.
 - (b) **Idea 2**
An informal structure of quarterly briefings and representatives from Community Groups would be invited to attend. The responsible Cabinet Member would brief the meeting and gather community feedback.
11. Members agreed that there is a strong need for community involvement in the Local Strategic Partnership by means of an informal arrangement but agreed to discuss the ideas above at a further meeting and also consider how this would happen and what this would look like.
12. Members also agreed to seek a 'snapshot' of opinion from the Community Partnerships and Resident's Associations within the Borough and three questions were posed to each community group. The questions were in relation to whether the group/organisations are involved or engaged with Darlington Partnership, what their experiences of Darlington Partnership are and whether they would like to receive more information about Darlington Partnership.
13. At the second meeting, Members met with the Darlington Partnership Executive Director, the Assistant Director and the Cabinet Member and gave consideration to the feedback received from three Community Partnerships and one Resident's Association. The Partnership Director also highlighted some recent successful achievements based on partners working together.
14. The Assistant Director tabled a draft proposal for consideration by the Group in relation to a quarterly briefing being held to give two-way feedback between Darlington Partnership and community representatives.
15. At the third meeting Members gave consideration to the previously tabled proposal and discussed further recommendations.

Conclusion

16. Members welcomed the opportunity to consider the proposed changes to Darlington Partnership, have an opportunity to input into the development to increase Member involvement and generate proposals for a community contribution to Darlington Partnership.
17. Members are delighted to note the positive contributions Darlington Partnership has made to communities and hoped that more publicity would be done to raise the profile of its successes locally.
18. Members understand the financial difficulty that this Council is facing and the community as a whole and are aware that no additional resources can be allocated to support community engagement and empowerment.
19. It is acknowledged that Councillors as Community Leaders are best placed to feedback to Community Groups the strategic messages from the Local Strategic Partnership.
20. Through discussions with the Cabinet Member, Members accept that there is a vast amount of good work being undertaken in the community and that the majority are unaware of and this positive work needs to be highlighted at Darlington Partnership Board.
21. From the work the Group have undertaken, we are satisfied that we have thoroughly considered options for engaging with the community and creating a mechanism for two-way dialogue between Darlington Partnership and community representatives, with no funding available we feel that we have made some realistic recommendations and that no further work is required.

Recommendations

22. That a quarterly meeting be held to provide an opportunity for two-way feedback between the Darlington Partnership and Community Representatives:-
 - (a) That a quarterly meeting be held to provide an opportunity for two-way feedback between the Darlington Partnership and Community Representatives to ensure on-going dialogue between Darlington Partnership and communities within the Borough of Darlington.
 - (b) That the purpose of the meeting be :
 - (i) To report the work of Darlington Partnership to communities and to Council Members and to provide information to the Darlington Partnership Board on the contribution to Action Priorities that is being made by Community Groups;
 - (ii) To inform Community Representatives of progress with the Darlington Partnership's Action Priorities, and identify potential of contribution to those priorities;
 - (iii) To ensure that Community Groups and Members receive the Darlington Partnership newsletters and information contained within; and
 - (iv) To provide an opportunity for the community feedback to be reported back to the Darlington Partnership Board meetings.

- (c) That quarterly meetings be attended by:-
 - (i) The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships;
 - (ii) The Assistant Director, Development and Commissioning; and
 - (iii) The Darlington Partnership Director.
 - (d) That invitations to the meetings be issued to :-
 - (i) The Chair of Darlington Partnership Board;
 - (ii) Members of the Darlington Partnership Executive Group;
 - (iii) The Head of Service for Communities; and
 - (iv) Any other relevant officers, depending upon the issues being addressed.
 - (e) Invitations to the meetings be issued to:
 - (i) All Members of Darlington Borough Council
 - (ii) Members of Community Partnerships
 - (iii) Members of Residents Associations
 - (iv) Members of Community Associations
 - (f) That feedback to the Darlington Partnership Board be via the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships, and the representatives from communities.
23. That there are a number of issues that Members feel need to be addressed, in relation to the recommendation listed above:
- (a) That given the current situation is difficult to sustain, a new mechanism/procedure of involving communities needs to be discussed at the first quarterly meeting, as ideally community representations on the Darlington Partnership Board should not be elected Members.
 - (b) That Charing arrangements for the quarterly meetings should be included on agenda of the first meeting;
 - (c) How will younger members of the community be involved?
24. That an Annual Event be held as an opportunity for all Community Groups, Community Partnerships and Residents Association to come together with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships to exchange ideas, share funding experiences, consider the potential of joint funding and build inter partnership arrangements. This would enable positive work to be showcased and highlighted and potential prospects of how Groups can work together could be explored. This event could be part funded by the Community Groups involved and invited. Part of the event could be an opportunity help set or have an input into the Action Priorities of the LSP for the forthcoming year.
25. That an evaluation be carried out in 12 months to assess to benefit of the quarterly briefings and whether community representatives feel their contribution to being heard.
26. That there needs to be more emphasis and information in respect of Darlington Partnerships and Community involvement contained within the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships report to Council.

27. That in order to promote community representation and give representatives more credibility recognition of the community as an equal partner of the LSP Board is necessary and a commitment to engage in line with good community engagement practices. This will address concerns expressed that community representatives felt marginalised at Board meetings and the negative impression that has been created.
28. That the invitation list for Darlington Assemblies be extended to include representatives from Community Partnerships, Residents Associations and Community Associations.
29. That opportunities be explored in relation to the use of technology and social media to reach out to more members of Community Groups.

Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Review Group

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

Meeting One

2nd February 2012

Present: - Councillor Newall in the Chair; Councillors Knowles, Landers, Long, Macnab, Maddison, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. Scott and H. Scott.

Officers: - Chris Sivers, Assistant Director – Development and Commissioning and Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer.

Councillor Newall welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Members to consider the draft Terms of Reference which was tabled. It was suggested that a couple of minor changes be made to the Terms of Reference including adding Community feedback into the process and the Director of the Darlington Partnership as an additional resource.

Chris Sivers, Assistant Director – Development and Commissioning provided an overview of the recent review of Darlington Partnership and the change of emphasis within the partnership to a more sector approach driven through public, private and voluntary sectors focussing on three key priorities; those being alcohol, ageing and employment opportunities for young people.

Ms Sivers advised that the purpose of the Task and Finish Review Group was to generate a proposal for how a community contribution to Darlington Partnership is developed; that it would sit alongside mechanisms to deliver public, voluntary and private sector contributions. It was acknowledged that elected Members as Community Leaders are well placed to represent community views and there is also a desire from Members to be more involved and engaged with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP); the challenge is how this could be done.

Councillor Andy Scott, Cabinet Portfolio holder for Health and Partnerships reported that he had visited a number of Community Partnerships since September 2011 and found lots of good work was being undertaken in the community. Local areas tend to concentrate of specific issues to develop initiatives, but there was no common theme, the common denominator was an elected Member being present at each meeting. It was acknowledged that each Community Partnership was unique with different structures and priorities, with varied capacity. The vision for a Community Sector arm of the LSP would re-engage Councillors and the community and be inclusive. Cllr Scott advised that defining Community Groups was quite difficult and are usually defined as general interest groups that can be identified by a geographical area. This mainly includes Community Partnerships and residents associations.

Cllr Scott suggested two ideas, advising that other options and, or ideas were welcomed from Members.

Idea 1

A formal structure of one representative per ward; the representative would be one elected Member from that ward. This would give a board of 24 representatives. The Chair could be the responsible Cabinet Member. This would provide full geographic coverage of the borough.

Idea 2

An informal structure of quarterly briefings and representatives from Community Groups would be invited to attend. The responsible Cabinet Member would brief the meeting and gather community feedback.

Both ideas would not include Parish Councils as they are already represented on the LSP Board.

Discussion ensued and the following points and issues were raised:-

- Openness and transparency of the LSP as a whole and the reasons why Board meetings are not held on public or Minutes publically circulated;
- Membership of the LSP Board – whether they are too many Local Authority representatives on the Board, the size of the Board and changing the style of the Board meeting to be more inclusive;
- Difficulties of defining Community Groups and the inclusion of Men’s and Women’s Groups;
- Better publicity of the work of Darlington Partnership is required, changing people’s perception of Darlington Partnership; exploiting the benefits of partnerships working and advertising what can be achieved through partners working together;
- Caution was expressed about repeating past mistakes, returning to the old ways of the Steering Groups of Action Plans;
- There needs to be forum where there can be an interchange of views and opinions allowing views to be shared and taken into consideration;
- There needs to be an agreed definition of what a Community Group is and how a community sector would differ from the Voluntary Sector;
- Whether a mapping exercise could be carried out to establish how many Community Groups there are in Darlington;
- Whether a meeting of all Community Groups could be held to discuss what the real issues are and how to report those issues to the LSP;
- Reporting back arrangements – there would need to be a mechanism to ensure that issues are taken seriously and reported to the Board and consequently a report of the Boards intentions of how to handle the issues. There needs to be more proactive responses from the Board, not to dishearten Community Groups;
- Maintain the three Community Representatives on the LSP Board but make them more legitimate and accountable;

- Creating job descriptions to make the Community Representatives accountable and create a better understanding of what the role entails;
- Themed Groups – were right at the time, and over time have varied in reporting mechanisms to Scrutiny Committees;
- Some Themed Groups are reinventing themselves and work will continue in a less formal way;
- Difficulties in trying to get everyone involved and encourage communities to create a forum for debate to support them to enable them to deliver priorities;
- Volunteers are crucial but making them accountable may not be appropriate and ultimately could lose their enthusiasm; and
- There needs to be a mechanism for implementing outcomes.

AGREED –

- a) That the Director of Darlington Partnership be invited to the next meeting of the Task and Finish Review Group meeting.**
- b) That feedback received from the Community Partnerships and Resident Associations be included as part of the process of the review and considered at the next meeting.**
- c) That the amended Terms of Reference be agreed.**
- d) That Members receive a list of LSP Board Members for information.**
- e) That there is a strong need for community involvement in the Local Strategic Partnership by means of an informal arrangement and that further discussion on how this would happen and look like to take place at the next meeting.**
- f) That Members of other Scrutiny Committees be thanked for their attendance and are encouraged to attend the next meeting.**
- g) That the next meeting of the Task and Finish Review Group be held on Tuesday 14th February 2012 at 11.30am (or on the rising of health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee) in Committee Room 2.**

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

Meeting two

14th February 2012

Present: - Councillor Newall in the Chair; Councillors Cossins, Harman, Knowles, Long, Macnab, Maddison, Regan, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. Scott, H. Scott, C. Taylor and J. Taylor.

Officers: - Seth Pearson, Executive Director of Darlington Partnership; Chris Sivers, Assistant Director – Development and Commissioning and Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer.

Responses were tabled that were received in respect of the questions about engagement with Darlington Partnership. Responses were received from Cockerton East Community Partnership, Central Community Partnership and Skerne Park Residents Association. Also tabled was a draft proposal of holding quarterly briefings by the Assistant Director Development and Commissioning.

Councillor Newall welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Members to consider the tabled documents. A number of Members expressed surprise that their respective Community Partnerships had not responded and conveyed their disappointment at the poor response received, but thought that was fair reflection of the perceived opinion.

At the request of the Chair, Seth Pearson, Executive Director of Darlington Partnership provided an overview of recent Partnership developments. He referred to the Sustainable Community Strategy (CSC) and the achievements that have been accomplished, for example; reducing the gap in the life expectancy and financial investment that has been made in Darlington. The CSC will continue to be driven forward by the public agencies and he hoped that visible differences would be achieved.

Mr Pearson advised that the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board want to see actions and contrary to belief the Board meetings are not the place where things happen, the majority of the work is undertaken away from Board meetings and progress and achievements are regularly reported. Mr Pearson talked about the recent success of Foundation for Jobs which since its launch has seen 15 more apprenticeship schemes be offered for young people in Darlington. Mr Pearson re irritated that the Board is changing the way things are done and challenging partners to get involved and help make a difference to achieve exciting goals for the Borough of Darlington.

Mr Pearson highlighted a recent success following the work of the dementia collaborative, which identified that in Darlington Care Homes during an emergency situation phone calls to emergency services were taking 30 minutes longer than anywhere else in the Country. This was due to Care Homes only having one phone in an office and staff running backwards and forewords to clients assessing their condition, depending on questions asked by the emergency phone operator. Following some partnership work this led to phone company Everything Everywhere purchasing mobile phones for Care Homes across Darlington to be only programmed in to call 111 or 999 to allow staff to use them in emergency situations to critical assessment the client at the same time of speaking to the operator, ensuring an efficient and

effective diagnosis and a saving on staff time.

Particular reference was made to the fact that Community Partnerships are usually only interested in area specific local issues and that it is very difficult to try to get the message to the general public that Strategic issues are important as important as local issues. Mr Pearson agreed that part of the LSP's role is to facilitate partnership working and enable cross sector working and make that connection that could really make a difference. He explained that work was underway to use Facebook as a social media to engage people in a broader sense.

Reference was made to the three key priorities of the Partnership, those being alcohol, ageing and employment opportunities for young people and how communities can be engaged to help deliver outcomes for these priorities. Mr Pearson described this as an opportunity for the community to be involved in developing communications and systems to address the chosen priorities and to really make a difference. He explained that this was all part of the Darlington Together vision to empower Councillors and communities to take responsibility for their specific issues.

Discussion ensued and the following points and issues were raised:-

- Community Partnerships Forum (that used to exist) some Members found that a useful Forum for a debate to allow the Community Representatives on the LSP Board to report issues back; others did not;
- Members noted that PACT meetings are well attended in localities, but the Community Partnerships are not;
- Developing Community Plans (similar to Parish Plans) that give a strategic direction and focus for the coming year;
- There is a lack of ownership and community vice represented on the LSP Board, that needs to be addressed;
- There is a need to regenerate Community Partnerships and not let tasks become too onerous;
- Every Community Partnerships operates differently, some informal and others formal, there is no uniform approach, should there be?;
- There is a need to share information and for communities to be thoroughly engaged as part of a two way process;
- Develop the notion that everyone has a part to play in communities; and
- More needs be made of the positive community contributions and engagement with the LSP Board, this could be done by positive promotion; describing examples of how communities can make a difference.

Draft Proposal

Chris Sivers outlined the draft proposal which detailed a quarterly briefing to be held to give two-way feedback between the Darlington Partnership and community representatives. Members made some initial comments; that 'pledges' will only be made if Community Partnership agrees with the three priorities chosen by the LSP; the briefings should not be the only way to contribute to work of the LSP and expressed about asking Community Groups to sign up to the three priorities when their own priorities may be different. Mr Pearson responded that the session could allow a dialogue to happen between community representatives and Senior LSP figures to enable the conversation be held about local priorities and how Strategic priorities could also feature in local priorities.

AGREED –

That a further meeting be held to discuss the draft proposal in more detail.

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

Meeting Three

7th March 2012,

Present: - Councillor Newall in the Chair; Councillors Donoghue, Harman, Long, Regan, E. A. Richmond and S. Richmond.

Apologies: - Councillors Cossins, Knowles, Macnab, Maddison, Nutt, H. Scott and J. Taylor.

Officer: - Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer.

Councillor Newall welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Members to consider the draft proposal (as tabled at the last meeting) in detail. Some concerns were expressed about making recommendations based on limited supporting evidence available, however, following some research it was acknowledged that there is minimal evidence available. The information from Local Authorities who have successfully engaged communities have done so with additional resources and Members recognised that this was not an option for this Council.

Members were wary about a quarterly briefings being established as they didn't like the word 'briefing' as they suspected that community representatives would feel like they were being preached to rather than it being a two way conversation. Members were keen that as many community representatives be invited to the meetings as possible, to enable a variety of contributions and not to allow one group or individual to dominate the discussion. It was accepted that the timings of the meetings needed consideration to ensure maximum attendance. Members also commented that that the meetings should be Chaired effectively, be well managed and have an agenda that can be influenced by both sides. There needs to be an opportunity to feedback any issues that have been reported to the Board from this meeting.

It was also suggested that these meetings would be a vehicle to engage the community representatives in setting the key priorities for the Local Strategic Partnership Board for the future. There would also need to be recognition of the local priorities for communities and an acceptance of their issues and what is of priority to them. Elected Members need to be encouraged to attend these meetings in the absence of community representation. Members thought that a non-elected Member community representative should Chair the meetings.

AGREED –

(a) That the following recommendations be agreed and be circulated to Members present for final consideration and amendments, as necessary:-

1. That a quarterly meeting be held to provide an opportunity for two-way feedback between the Darlington Partnership and Community Representatives:-
 - a. The aim would be to ensure on-going dialogue between Darlington Partnership and communities within the Borough of Darlington.

- b. With the purpose being:
 - i. To report the work of Darlington Partnership to communities and to Council Members and to provide information to the Darlington Partnership Board on the contribution to Action Priorities that is being made by Community Groups;
 - ii. To inform Community Representatives of progress with the Darlington Partnership's Action Priorities, and identify potential of contribution to those priorities;
 - iii. To ensure that all Community Groups and Members receive the Darlington Partnership newsletters and information contained within; and
 - iv. That the meeting provides an opportunity for the community feedback to be reported back to the Darlington Partnership Board meetings.

 - c. The quarterly meetings be attended by:-
 - The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships;
 - The Chair of Darlington Partnership Board;
 - Members of the Darlington Partnership Executive Group;
 - The Assistant Director, Development & Commissioning;
 - The Darlington Partnership Director;
 - The Head of Service for Communities; and
 - Any other relevant officers, depending upon the issues being addressed.

 - d. Invitations to the meetings would be issued to:
 - All Members of Darlington Borough Council
 - Members of Community Partnerships
 - Members of Residents Associations
 - Members of Community Associations

 - e. That feedback to the Darlington Partnership Board would be via the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships, and the representatives from communities.
2. That there are a number of issues that Members feel need to be addressed, in relation to Recommendation 1:
 - a. That given the current situation is difficult to sustain, a new mechanism/procedure of involving communities needs to be discussed at the first quarterly meeting, as ideally community representations on the Darlington Partnership Board should not be elected Members.
 - b. That Charing arrangements for the quarterly meetings should be included on agenda of the first meeting;
 - c. How will younger members of the community be involved?

 3. That an Annual Event be held as an opportunity for all Community Groups, Community Partnerships and Residents Association to come together with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships to exchange ideas, share funding experiences, consider the potential of joint funding and build inter partnership arrangements. This

would enable positive work to be showcased and highlighted and potential prospects of how Groups can work together could be explored. This event could be part funded by the Community Groups involved and invited.

4. That an evaluation be carried out in 12 months to assess to benefit of the quarterly briefings and whether community representatives feel their contribution to being heard.
5. That there needs to be more emphasis and information in respect of Darlington Partnerships and Community involvement contained within the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Partnerships report to Council.
6. That in order to promote community representation and give representatives more credibility the item on community representatives' feedback be raised on the LSP Board agenda, to enable a full discussion to be held. This would address concerns expressed that community representatives are pushed to the bottom of the agenda, creating a negative impression.
7. That the invitation list for Darlington Assemblies be extended to include representatives from Community Partnerships, Residents Associations and Community Associations.
8. That opportunities be explored in relation to the use of technology and social media to reach out to more members of Community Groups.

(b) That no further work be undertaken.

(c) That Members be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

title: Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Review Group
Start Date: 2nd February 2012 **End Date: 17th April 2012**
Scrutiny Committee: Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

PURPOSE/AIM	RESOURCE
<p>To consider the proposed changes to the Darlington Partnership; have an opportunity to input into developments to increase Member involvement and generate proposals for how a community contribution to Darlington Partnership is developed.</p>	<p>Democratic Services Assistant Director – Development and Commissioning Cabinet Member Health and Partnerships Portfolio Members from other Scrutiny Committees Director of Darlington Partnership Feedback from Community Partnerships and Residents Associations</p>
PROCESS	OUTCOME
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Involve five Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs in early discussions. 2. The Committee receive a report around the proposals and receive a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Health and Partnerships Portfolio. 3. Early discussion at a Committee meeting, in order to influence the development of proposals to have greater Member involvement in the workings of the Darlington Partnership. 4. Establish a Task and Finish Review Group. 5. Ascertain feedback from Community Partnerships and Residents Association about their relationship with the Local Strategic Partnership. 6. Provide suggestions on what process might be helpful to ensure greater Members involvement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have an increased understanding of the proposed changes to the Darlington Partnership and in relation to Member involvement. 2. To enable Members to have greater Member ownership of proposals around Member involvement in the Darlington Partnership as a result of direct input. 3. To formulate recommendations in respect of developing proposals for community contribution to Darlington Partnership.

COUNCILLOR

(TO BE SIGNED BY MEMBER OR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REQUESTING TOPIC)

CHAIR

(TO BE SIGNED BY CHAIR OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)