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**VISITS TO KINGS CHURCH AND FRADE**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To advise Members of recent visits to the Kings Church and FRADE by Members of this Scrutiny Committee.

**Summary**

2. Members will recall that this Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, agreed to undertake visits to Kings Church to look at the furniture scheme and the food bank which it operated from its premises in Whessoe Road and FRADE, which also operated a furniture scheme from its premises in Leadenhall Street, Darlington.
3. The visit to Kings Church took place on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 and Councillors Harman, Kelley, S. Richmond and Thistlethwaite attended, together with Pauline Mitchell, Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services. The same Members also visited FRADE on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

**Recommendation**

4. Members are requested to consider whether they wish to undertake any further work in relation to this arising from the visits.

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Resources**

**Background Papers**

There were no background papers other than those referred to in the report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific issues which relate to crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	There is no specific health and well being impact.
Carbon Impact	There is no specific carbon impact
Diversity	There is no specific diversity impact.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally.
Groups Affected	All groups are affected equally.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not affect the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.

One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There is no specific relevance to the strategy beyond the report comprising part of the Council's governance arrangements.
Efficiency	There is no specific efficiency impact.

## MAIN REPORT

5. Members will recall that, as part of the work which this Scrutiny has been undertaking in relation to the impact on residents of the Welfare Reforms, it was advised of the Food Store and Furniture Scheme operated by the Kings Church from its premises in Whessoe Road and the Furniture Scheme operated by FRADE from its premises in Leadenhall Street and Members subsequently agreed to undertake visits to look at the operation of both of these Schemes.
6. Councillors Harman, Kelley, S. Richmond and Thistlethwaite visited the Kings Church on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 and the same Members also visited FRADE on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2013. Pauline Mitchell, Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services accompanied Members on the visit to the Kings Church.
7. In relation to the Furniture Scheme, Members were advised how both organisations, which were charitable organisations, operated the Scheme by collecting and receiving donations of furniture, such as beds, bedding, and white goods which were then available for residents of Darlington to view and purchase from their premises. We were also advised of the discounts which were available to those on income based benefits.
8. In relation to the Food Store at the Kings Church, this is a community-wide project, which provided emergency resources for anyone in Darlington who found themselves unable to provide food for themselves or their families. We were advised that enough food for one hot meal per day for a week was normally provided and that each individual's circumstances were considered separately. Food was supplied from the HIS Food charity with the rest being individual donations of items such as UHT milk, pasta, tinned soup and baked beans.
9. The Council currently contracts with both the Kings Church and FRADE, via the new local Social Fund Service to provide food parcels for people in crisis and furniture, as part of the Community Care Support service.
10. The Councillors who visited both the Kings Church and FRADE have been contacted following the visits to ascertain if there are any further views, comments or areas they would like to have included in this report and no responses have been received.