
OVERVIEW OF PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Place Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
 - (a) **Work Programme 2011/12** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2011/12 and possible review topics and in doing so, we have taken into account the reduced resources available within the Authority and ensured that, in recommending our work programme to Monitoring and Co-ordination Group, that any work we undertake will have demonstrable outcomes and contribute to the work of the Council and its strategic aims and objectives.
 - (b) **Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)** – We requested an item on CPE so that we could understand the benefits and constraints of Civil Parking Enforcement following its implementation in Darlington on 31st December, 2010. We were given details of the numbers of penalties issued, income received, details of appeals, comparisons to the year prior to CPE and also details of lessons learnt. We were pleased to see the continuing reduction in the necessity for fines.
 - (c) **Effectiveness of CCTV Task and Finish Review Group** – As part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), Place Scrutiny Committee was requested by Efficiencies and Resources Scrutiny to undertake a Review to investigate the effectiveness of CCTV within the Borough and the potential effects of any reduction in CCTV cameras prior to any changes being implemented. The Group has met twice and sought the views of Durham Constabulary. The Review has been completed and its findings will be reported to the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group. We were pleased that funding has been found to protect the CCTV cameras considered necessary.
 - (d) **Broadband Review Group** – The findings of our meeting held on 23rd February were fed into the Economic Strategy Event held on 8th March. The next meeting of the Group will be held on 4th May, 2012.
 - (e) **Refuse Collection Call In** – Place Scrutiny Committee gave consideration to the decision of Cabinet (Minute C147(2)/Apr/12) relating to the Refuse Collection. The call in had been requested to scrutinise the proposals in relation to health and safety, financial implications, other available options and the consultation undertaken with residents. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the relevant Portfolio holder and the Assistant Director, Community Services.
 - (f) **Cultural Provision Review Group** – Following the Council's unsuccessful bid to the Arts Council for funding the Review Group met to consider the way forward for cultural provision within the Borough. We were encouraged to learn of the options available and are continuing to look at governance arrangements for cultural

provision.

- (g) **Special Joint Meeting of Adult and Housing and Place Scrutiny Committees –** Members of Place Scrutiny Committee attended the Special Joint Scrutiny to give consideration to Darlington's Draft Housing Strategy as part of the consultation process due to end on 16th May, 2012. The new Housing Strategy reflected the changes in housing over the last five years and would incorporate an action plan for the next two years explaining progress and how it would be delivered.

2. Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended the following meetings :-

- (a) Various briefing meetings with Officers.
- (b) Greener Network on 3rd April, 2012.
- (c) Town Centre Fringe Regeneration meeting at Head of Steam on 20th April, 2012.

Councillor Dorothy Long
Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee