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**OVERVIEW OF PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Place Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Work Programme 2014/15**

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15 and possible review topics. Following discussion we agreed to update the Work Programme to reflect the decisions of the Committee. We sought specific updates on on-going projects particularly the Economic Strategy, the Car Parking Strategy and the Local Plan during this Municipal Year. We have contributed to work on the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy and given consideration to the proposals which fall within the remit of Place Scrutiny Committee.

**Network Management Plan**

3. We received a progress report on the Network Management Plan approved by Cabinet on 3rd February, 2009. A number of Sections of the Traffic Management Plan were approved with further sections currently being developed and it was recommended that the former Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee monitor development of that Plan. In that regard we received a Progress Project Report which summarised various actions, performance tasks and intervention criteria from the plan which needed to be monitored and implemented.
4. The Plan set out what the Council will do to try and limit congestion on the network, one element of which is to co-ordinate work within the highway amongst all interested parties. Many contractors work on behalf of statutory undertakers laying new plant or upgrading existing equipment, therefore co-ordination is important in minimising disruption in Darlington particularly on main roads.
5. We were advised that work was currently being undertaken to provide a map-based roadworks information system which will allow the Council to produce an 'as live' roadworks map which will become accessible to the general public via the Council's website.
6. We were also pleased to learn that the Planning Officers are supported in the development of the Local Plan on transport issues and that a trips model which estimates the impact on the network enabled Officers to predict movement.

## **Litter Reduction and Grounds Maintenance Project**

7. We gave our support to the Litter Reduction and Grounds Maintenance Project which was being undertaken to explore ways of working across the Borough to involve individuals, groups, businesses and visitors in improving the appearance of the Borough by reducing the amount of litter and participating in appropriate grounds maintenance activities.
8. We were pleased to learn that the project combines litter reduction and grounds maintenance and provided clearly defined outcomes, to identify alternative ways of maintaining green and open spaces and to facilitate behaviour change within the Borough in order to realise a reduction in the volume of litter and identify alternative means of collection.
9. We accepted that an area that looks run-down will not be respected whilst an area that is looked after will have a different effect on people's perspective. In this regard it was hoped that we, as Ward Councillors, can encourage and promote participation of residents and businesses to take a pride in their surroundings and keep their particular frontages clean and litter-free.

## **Markets Review Group**

10. We considered the notes of the meeting of the Review Group held with Traders to discuss development and regeneration of the market. Scrutiny Committee agreed that one more meeting of the Review Group was required in order to draw up our findings and recommendations prior to submission to Cabinet.

## **Cultural Review Group**

11. We also considered the notes of the meeting of the Cultural Review Group and Scrutiny Committee have agreed to hold one more meeting in order to draw up findings and recommendations prior to submissions to Cabinet. We will continue to monitor Cockerton Library and Head of Steam under separate Review Groups.

**Councillor Dorothy Long**  
**Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee**