

## PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 September 2015

**PRESENT** – Councillor Carson (in the Chair); Councillors Cossins, L Hughes, KE Kelly, Lyonette, MR Nicholson and York. (7)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Baldwin, Donoghue, Grundy and Wright. (4)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – ( )

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Steve Petch, Place Strategy Manager and Lead Officer, Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

**P8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interests reported at the meeting.

**P9. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 25 June 2015.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

**P10. MATTERS ARISING** – In relation to Minute P7/Jun/15 Scrutiny was advised that this piece of work was now within the remit of the Senior Engagement Officer within the Organisational Planning Unit. A Member also informed Scrutiny that Induction training had now taken place and the toolkit was available on the Council's website.

In relation to Cockerton Library (Minute P5/Jun/15) a Member informed Scrutiny that a funding application could be made to the Tinder Foundation, which helped to focus on digital inclusion and community learning, up to a maximum of £10k. The closing date for applications was close and Councillor Hughes offered to assist with any submission.

**P11. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16** – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year.

It was also emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee prior to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

The submitted report outlined the Work Programme and requested Members to reconsider it to accommodate further issues that needed to be included.

The Lead Officer referred to the schedule in the submitted report and provided Members with an updated position in relation to each individual item.

The Chair also suggested that the Annual Car Parking Report which had recently been published could be submitted to a future meeting of Committee.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

(b) That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

**P12. MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE PROGRAMME QUARTER 1** – The Head of Organisational Planning gave a PowerPoint presentation which detailed the Change Programme Status report as at August 2015.

A schedule (circulated at the meeting) provided a brief summary of work progressing under the developing change programme which aimed to provide assurance in terms of progress as well as an indication of the future timetable of approvals.

Members were informed that the programme was based around both the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Community Strategy and that a detailed report on individual projects could be provided if necessary.

Discussion ensued on the user-friendly format of the Summary and Members requested the information be submitted to each ordinary meeting as a standard item. It was noted that some of the items were already on Place Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Head of Organisational Planning for her informative presentation.

(b) That this Scrutiny Committee receives the Schedule as a standard item at each Scrutiny Committee.

**P13. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT** – The Head of Organisational Planning gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Performance Management Framework which included statistical data around the key performance indicators that were relevant to this Scrutiny Committee.

Members were pleased to note that Darlington's overall employment rate had declined and was now under the England average. In relation to Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimants, Darlington was the same as the rest of the North East and mapped the England rate and, whilst there were still gaps between all Wards, all Wards had actually fallen.

Particular reference was made to the 125 apprenticeships for Council residents that had been achieved during 2014/15 and Darlington Partnership looking to include other service industries for 2015/16.

Discussion ensued on the indicators around the decline in Town Centre footfall which it was considered was relevant to Town Centres in general.

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**RESOLVED** – (a) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Head of Organisational Planning for her informative presentation.

(b) That the Performance Indicators be received.

**P14. CREATIVE DARLINGTON** - Submitted – The Minutes of the meeting of the Creative Darlington Board meeting held on 20 April 2015, which provided updates on organisational development of Creative Darlington, developing finance for Arts activity in Darlington 2015/16, Darlington Arts Festival 2015 and Festival of Thrift 2015.

The Creative Darlington Manager provided Scrutiny with an update on the restoration of the Civic Theatre, which will be closed from June 2016 to Autumn 2017, and Hullaballoon (children’s theatre).

Further information was also provided in relation to promoting Darlington through development of major cultural programmes and festivals and through engagement in appropriate campaigns such as the Tees Valley Capital of Culture 2025 Proposal.

Discussion ensued on the display of the Borough Art Collection, the possibility of a Festival of Music event next year and the Halle Orchestra performing in Darlington during June 2016

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be received.

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