

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 March 2014

PRESENT – Councillor Lister (in the Chair); Councillors Crudass, L. Hughes, Kelley, E.A. Richmond, C. Taylor and Wright. (7)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Crumbie, Galletley, Hutchinson and L. Vasey; and T. Fisher and M. Regan.

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None.

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Ms. Coltman and Mr. Moyes. (2)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenni Cooke, Assistant Director, Children, Families and Learning; Sharon Raine, Head of Organisational Planning and Peter Roberts, Consultant – Strategic Community Strategy.

CYP36. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interested reported at the meeting.

CYP37. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) together with Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy (also previously circulated), One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, which it was proposed to revisit and refresh in light of the changed circumstances since its approval in 2008.

The submitted report outlined the background to the approval of Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS); the need, as a result of the Council's current financial position and the significant changes to the national economic situation to review the vision and the outcomes to ensure the Council and its partners continued to be focussed on key outcomes; and the processes involved in developing and approving a revised Strategy.

The Assistant Director – Chief Executive reported that the Local Strategic Partnership had re-visited the original vision One Darlington; Perfectly Placed and that the Council had, as a result of the Money Talks Events and the Peer Review, developed a 'Vision on a Page' (also previously circulated) which showed the overall role of the Council in driving forward the vision for Darlington. It was reported that the vision, if approved by Cabinet and Council, had been developed in a way that enabled all partners to focus on the same vision, outcomes and conditions ,whilst developing a statement about their own roles and the steps they would need to take within the own organisations.

It was proposed that the detailed delivery of the overall vision would be developed through further exploration with Members, partners and staff prior to the development of a further document which would fully articulate the vision and that further work thereon would be undertaken with all of this Council's Scrutiny

Committees to develop appropriate delivery mechanisms to enable the SCS to be updated.

Members were invited to contribute to the revised SCS document and to consider how this Scrutiny Committee can contribute to the objective to reduce inequality by ensuring we have Children with the best start in life.

Discussion ensued on creating a user friendly Strategy and how it is transmitted to the public; options for school leavers and the availability of apprenticeships; building strong communities and how success is measured; and deprivation in Darlington and how to identify specific areas rather than by Ward only.

Particular reference was also made to the need to measure performance against the key objectives and priorities and how this would be achieved and it was reported that a revised performance development framework process was currently being developed and would be reported to Members in due course. It was anticipated that this new framework would assist Members in developing their work programmes over the next Municipal Year and would focus Members on ensuring any work undertaken would reflect the strategic aims of the Council.