
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.

Work Programme 2017/18

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2017/18 and possible review topics, the work programme is a rolling work programme and items can be added as necessary.

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy Update

3. Scrutiny Committee considered a report which provided an overview of progress to date against the priorities outlined in the Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2014-19 and, in doing so, noted the significant progress made over the last twelve months to improve the stock of Sport and Leisure facilities within the Borough, including the development of two new full size Artificial Pitches, with an investment of more than £1M, together with continued development of the School Sport and Community infrastructure through strong partnership working
4. The Strategy highlighted the progress made to deliver on a range of outcomes which included Darlington's School Sport Partnership continued development of the infrastructure for young people in the town to get involved in sport at all levels through more than 40 Sports Festivals during the last academic year, including the Sports Ability Festival (Disability Sports), the Primary and Secondary Athletics events, Tag Rugby, the Quadkids Athletics Festivals and the Primary Cross Country.
5. The School Sport Partnership (SSP) delivered a very successful apprenticeship programme to develop young people's life skills, employability skills and confidences through sports leadership and it was pleasing to learn that seven young apprentices passed the course and have gone onto various different forms of employment within the schools and leisure sector.
6. Successful funding applications by Darlington Borough Council's Sports Development Officers have enabled improvements to facilities and services for the benefit of a broad cross-section of residents in the Borough.

7. Physical activity programmes delivered across the town has resulted in an average of 63 per cent of participants increasing the number of days they played sport per week with an average increase of 1.2 hours. The success of the project has led to a further year's funding of £37,516 from Sport England to continue the project from April 2017 to March 2018.
8. Members also welcomed the extensive Community based activities for young people including the Move More Team forming partnerships with the YMCA offering young people the chance to access both the gym and the 3G football pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex; the Darlington Harriers Athletic Club establishing a junior athletic club for children 5 to 8 years; the #The Zone providing a Friday Night Youth Project for 11 to 16 year olds; Top Up Swimming to enable low ability/confidence children to be able to swim 25m at the end of six weeks; and the Be Active Holiday Programme 2017 offering various activities including trampolining, gymnastics, athletics and badminton.

Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 Highlight Reports 15 and 16

9. Scrutiny Committee received two brief reports outlining the progress governance, key tasks, milestones and risks in delivery of the Local Plan. As a Member of the Local Plan Members' Reference Group I was able to provide a verbal update to Committee on the reports.

Councillor Bob Carson
Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee