
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.

Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2017 to 2018

3. Scrutiny Committee received an update on performance against key performance indicators for Place Scrutiny Committee which are aligned with key priorities and the majority are used to monitor the Corporate Plan 2017/21.
4. Many of the indicators for the Committee were reported annually and data was not available, 15 indicators are reported quarterly and one indicator was reported six monthly.
5. Members were pleased to note that planning indicators (ECI 104-6) and fly-tipping indicators (ENV 021-022) were currently reaching or exceeding year-end targets, the percentage of 75 transepts inspected that pass the Litter Code of Practice was also currently exceeding year-end target and the number of street champions (ENV 002) was close to year-end target.
6. Lower performance indicators included noise complaints (REG 312) and visits to the Dolphin Centre which shows performance at Quarter 2 to be down from this time last year.
7. Eight annual indicators reported this quarter related to The National Highways and Transport annual survey of the public's perspective on highways and transportation services. These indicators (TCP, 200, 202-3, 600-3, and 900) show overall satisfaction slightly up at 60 per cent on the previous year, but slightly below the National Average of 61 per cent.
8. ECI 401 - New homes delivered against 5 year supply is reported six monthly and is showing significant improvement with anticipation that end of year target will be achieved.

9. Scrutiny has requested a further indicator relating to the percentage of seats filled in the Hippodrome and Hullabaloo.
10. Members also suggested that ECI 401 be broken down into further interest areas as it was of interest to the whole Borough.

Bank Top Masterplan

11. Scrutiny Committee received a PowerPoint Presentation on the updated position in relation to the Bank Top Masterplan, a Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Project.
12. The Masterplan ensured that Darlington was an integral part of the rail network for HS2, Network Rail and Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and a major strategic rail programme designed to transform the northern economy and meet the needs of people and business.
13. Members were provided with the elements of the vision which included relocation of the Cattle Market to provide a new residential neighbourhood next to the station; a public area connecting Victoria Road and the portico to the Town; a renovated railway station with improved traveller experience and enhanced east west connection; the Town Centre Fringe connecting the Town Centre with the Cattle Market development; Station East providing a new gateway square and regional business hub; Northern Station Approach improving travellers arrival experience; Parkgate Public Realm linking the Market Square to Bank Top Station and Central Park; and Station North Development providing a new commercial space for entrepreneurs and small businesses.
14. Members were informed that the Tees Valley Combined Authority Mayor was to meet with the Secretary of State to discuss the Masterplan with a view to securing funding.

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

15. As with all other Scrutiny Committees we have looked at Cabinet's proposals in relation to the MTFP. We were supportive of the proposals and gave particular consideration to the Schedule of Charges within the remit of Place Scrutiny Committee and the proposed allocation within the Futures Fund of one-off funding towards the three themes of maintaining an attractive street scene environment, maintaining a vibrant Town Centre and developing an attractive visitor economy.

Councillor Bob Carson
Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee