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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 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.

**Creative Darlington Board**

3. We received the Minutes of the Creative Darlington Board held 10 July, 11 September and 18 December 2017 which provided updates on various topics including the openings of Darlington Hippodrome in November and the Hullabaloo in December.
4. Scrutiny welcomed the opening of both venues which are considered great assets for Darlington with the Hullabaloo giving Darlington a more distinctive offer and being a National Centre for Excellence in term of providing an inspiring place to learn and play. As well as world-class performances for children, it will also house creative play installations and offer a wide range of creative opportunities and classes for families becoming a focal point for creative education in the region.
5. Members welcomed the need to focus on the Cultural Strategy of the Town, and its four elements of Theatre Town; Railway Heritage; Darlington's contribution to Tees Valley UK City of Culture bid in 2025; and Darlington offering an accessible, distinctive and excellent cultural offer through public festivals, events and targeted initiatives.
6. Members were pleased to note that the Culture White Paper published March 2016 made several references to the Tees Valley and its culture offer and that the TVCA had committed resources for culture.
7. Members were informed that Arts Transition Award of £60k which Creative Darlington received when it was established would all be spent at the end of this financial year and that a small Funding Team provided some support to the voluntary sector when applying for grant funding.

## **Local Plan Progress**

8. 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**