
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 3 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. Fifteen indicators for the Committee were reported annually, 15 indicators are reported quarterly and one indicator was reported six monthly at Quarters two and four.
5. Members were pleased to note that fourteen of the indicators reported at Quarter 3 have end of year targets and where comparison data is available six have achieved performance higher this year than at Quarter 3 last year and one achieved performance the same as last year. Ten are on track to achieve and three are unlikely to achieve year-end targets.
6. Members sought further information on several indicators including CUL 300, CUL 065 and CUL 071 which all relate to visits to the Dolphin Centre, the Library and Head of Steam respectively. It was noted that the loan of library books was falling nationally although there was a large scale demand for IT services and it was noted that this indicator could be included in the 2018/19 indicators if this was identified for Scrutiny as part of the review process.
7. Members also requested information on how CUL 077 Town Centre footfall was calculated and what the figures were comparative with.
8. In relation to ENV 009 Percentage of household waste collected that is either reused, recycled or composted was on target although it was confirmed that the national target had now been raised to 65 per cent.
9. Members considered that ENV 021 and ENV 022 Percentage of fly tips removed within target time, did not provide the actual size of the problem and Committee requested that consideration be given to include an indicator on the amount of

prosecutions that were undertaken for Fly tipping.

10. Committee also requested a breakdown of locations for TCP 602 and TCP 603, the number of children killed or seriously injured and the number of children slightly injured in road traffic accidents.

Town Centre Parking

11. Scrutiny received a PowerPoint Presentation relating to Town Centre Parking with particular emphasis on Feethams Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP) which was constructed based on evidence on the demand for parking in the Feethams area.
12. The MSCP is open 24/7 and provides a modern secure gated car park with controlled pedestrian access only with a ticket. There is an intelligent back office system, an abundance of CCTV cameras and payment is made on foot with both card and cash payments being accepted.
13. The MSCP has A Park Mark which is awarded to car parks that achieve the challenging standards of the Safer Parking Scheme, a national standard for UK car parks that have low crime and measures in place to ensure the safety of people and their vehicles.
14. Since opening in March 2016 the MCSP has seen a steady rise in usage and whilst £100k per annum was initially provided for running costs this has now reduced to £87k in light of experience.
15. Members noted that the Shopmobility unit was still vacant and that there were ongoing issues with litter and false alarms.
16. As the public do not always react to alarms it is proposed to install an automated Public Address Voice Alarm to give instruction to leave the building and not return to vehicles. The CCTV control room will also be able to reset the alarm off site which will reduce complaints from local residents and businesses due to lengthy alarm periods.
17. Members appraised the recent Three for Two Offer, usage of all Town Centre Car Parks and On Street Car Parks and the public reaction to the recently introduced Blue Badge Parking Charges.

Creative Darlington Board

18. We received the Minutes of the Creative Darlington Board held 23 February 2018 which provided updates on various topics including The Hullabaloo and Theatre Hullabaloo Forward Plans, Town Centre Events Programme 2018/19, Darlington Arts Festival 2018 and Small Arts Grants, Women's Suffrage Centenary, Creative FUSE Tees Valley Update and Cultural Commissioning Proposal.

Councillor Bob Carson
Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee