

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee Agenda



9.30 am Thursday, 12 September 2019
Committee Room 2, Town Hall,
Darlington, DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Council Tax Empty Property Premium –
Report of the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services
(Pages 5 - 38)
5. Work Programme –
Report of the Managing Director
(Pages 39 - 80)
6. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this
Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
7. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 4 September 2019

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Allen, Bartch, Cossins, Durham, Harker, L Hughes, Mrs D Jones, Keir, K Nicholson, Paley and Renton

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Shirley Burton, Democratic Services Manager, Resources Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays E-mail: shirley.burton@darlington.gov.uk or telephone 01325 405998

EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 11 July 2019

PRESENT – Councillors Allen, Bartch, Cossins, Durham, Harker, Mrs D Jones, Keir, K Nicholson, Paley and Renton

APOLOGIES – Councillor L Hughes

ABSENT –

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Johnson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Elizabeth Davison (Assistant Director Resources), Luke Swinhoe (Assistant Director Law and Governance), Anthony Sandys (Head of Housing and Revenues) and Shirley Burton (Democratic Manager)

ER1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

RESOLVED – That Councillor Durham be appointed Chair of this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

ER2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20

RESOLVED - That Councillor Bartch be appointed Vice-Chair of this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

ER3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED - There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

ER4 TO CONSIDER TIMES OF MEETINGS FOR THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/20, ON THE DATES AS AGREED ON THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS BY CABINET AT MINUTE C110/FEB/19

RESOLVED – (a) That, with the exception of (b) below, meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 9.30 a.m. on the dates as agreed on the calendar of meetings by Cabinet at Minute C110/Feb/19.

(b) That the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled to be held on 19 December 2019 and 6 February 2020 be held at 5.30 p.m.

ER5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 MARCH 2019

MINUTES – Submitted - The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 14 March, 2019

RESOLVED - That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

ER6 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 4 2018/19

The Head of Strategy, Performance and Communication submitted a report (previously circulated) together with information on the quarter 4 performance against those key performance indicators for 2018/19 which were within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

The submitted report outlined the background to the agreed reportable indicator set, which were aligned with the key priorities and the majority of which were used to monitor the Corporate Plan 2017/21.

The appendix to the submitted report gave detailed information and analysis of the ten indicators which were reported to the Scrutiny Committee, six of which had year-end targets and four of which a comparison was made against the same period last year.

The Assistant Director Resources gave an overview of the current position in relation to the three indicators within her remit, namely, sickness absence, reportable accidents and staff turnover.

A positive position in relation to sickness absence was reported, with the year-end outturn showing 8.34 days, which was a reduction of 0.88 days from last year. The Assistant Director outlined the positive and proactive work which had been undertaken within the Authority over the last few years in relation to the health and well-being of its staff which it was felt was helping with the reduction in sickness levels.

Following questions by Members, the Assistant Director Resources reported that a full statistical report, including the cost of sickness absence was reported to the Council's Joint Consultative Committee and was available for Members to view.

Again, a positive position in relation to the number of reportable accidents was reported with the number of reports being submitted to the Health and Safety Executive being reduced by one on the previous year. The Assistant Director Resources outlined the on-going support and commitment of senior management to raise the profile of health and safety within the organisation and confirmed that although work would always continue to improve the figures, she was happy with the current reported position. It was also confirmed that there would be other minor accidents which were not reportable.

Discussion ensued on the number of 'near miss' incidents and it was reported that there had been an increase in the numbers during 2018/19 to 206, it was particularly pleasing to see increased reporting in Children and Adult Services.

In relation to indicator FHR 019 – staff turnover, it was reported that staff turnover had reduced slightly and that levels were consistent with a healthy turnover rate. Reference was made to the proactive work done in Children's services to recruit permanent social workers to reduce the reliance on agency staff.

The Assistant Director Law and Governance gave an overview of the current position in relation to three indicators within his remit, namely the number of complaints

upheld by the ombudsman, the number of complaints upheld by the Information Commissioner's Office and contracted spend as a percentage of total non-salary spend.

It was reported that the number of complaints upheld by the Local Ombudsman had reduced with six cases being upheld, five as a result of changes in the eligibility criteria policy for Adult Social Care and one in relation to arrangements surrounding a Child Protection Conference. The Assistant Director Law and Governance reported that although the figures were relatively low, any complaints were concerning and processes and procedures were updated as a result wherever feasible.

Discussion ensued on those complaints received which were investigated internally and it was reported that a more detailed report and analysis of those was submitted to Cabinet on an annual basis. Officers confirmed that the Council always aimed to resolve any complaints locally however, there was a right to refer the issue to the Ombudsman if the complainant still remained dissatisfied with the outcome.

Following a question by a Member, it was reported that comparable information with other authorities in relation to complaints was not currently held, however, this was something which could be looked into.

In relation to Performance Indicator FHR009 – number of complaints upheld by the Information Commissioner's Office, it was reported that the number of complaints from the same period last year had reduced from three to one. Following questions by Members about why this indicator was reported as it involved fairly low numbers, the Assistant Director Law and Governance reported that although the referrals were low any breach could have considerable financial impact on the authority so it was an important indicator to monitor.

Indicator LGP008 referred to the contracted spend as a percentage of non-salary spend and it was reported that this indicator was under performing and the Assistant Director Law and Governance outlined the reasons for this and the work which was being undertaken to address those reasons.

The final four indicators referred to the amount in £'s of Council Tax arrears collected, the amount in £'s of Housing Benefits overpayments recovered, the percentage of Council tax collected in year and the percentage of business rates collected in year and the Head of Housing and Revenues gave an overview of those areas, all of which had met or exceeded the year-end target.

Following a question by a Member in relation to comparable statistics with neighbouring authorities, it was reported that it was difficult to compare as the levels of support between authorities Council Tax Support Schemes were different.

Reference was made to the impact of Universal Credit on the collection rates and it was reported that there had been an increase in housing rent arrears since the roll-out of Universal Credit, however, Council Tax arrears had not seen a particular increase. It was also reported that it was more difficult to recover arrears as the collection of Council Tax arrears was low on the Department for Works and Pensions list of priorities for recovery.

A Member requested further information in relation to the bad debt provision figure which was included in the Housing Revenue Account and it was suggested that the Assistant Director Housing and Building Services be invited to a future meeting to discuss this further.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

ER7 WORK PROGRAMME

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the proposed work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Committee and to give consideration to any additional areas Members would like to include.

It was reported that, in future, all items to be considered by Cabinet would be included on the Forward Plan and it was suggested that this could be a useful plan for this Scrutiny Committee to use in agreeing its work items going forward. Reference was also made to the Quad of Aims process which was in operation.

Members also requested that an informal session be held to enable Members to better understand the scope and remit of the Scrutiny Committee and it was also suggested that Members look at previous agenda items to gain information and understanding.

In relation to the Performance Indicator information, it was confirmed that the ten indicators which it had been agreed would be reported to this Scrutiny Committee was not an exhaustive list, additional indicators were reported and monitored by Officers and that it was useful for Members to be aware of those indicators which were performing well as well as those which were below target.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

COUNCIL TAX EMPTY PROPERTY PREMIUM

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider proposed changes to the Council Tax empty property premium following public consultation.

Summary

2. A 50% Council Tax premium (additional charge) was introduced in April 2013 for all unoccupied and unfurnished domestic properties which have been empty for 2 years or more, this being the maximum the Council was permitted to charge.
3. New legislation was introduced in November 2018 allowing Councils to:
 - (a) Increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 2 years or more to 100% (double the Council Tax normally charged)
 - (b) Increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 5 years or more to 200% (treble the Council Tax normally charged)
 - (c) Increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 10 years or more to 300% (quadruple the Council Tax normally charged).
4. Consultation has been undertaken with the owners of long-term empty properties and this report sets out the outcome of that consultation along with the options available, before recommendations by Cabinet and decision by Council.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Scrutiny Members consider the contents of this report and the implications of the changes.

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Background Papers

The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018

Anthony Sandys: Extension 6926

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no crime and disorder implications in this report
Health and Well Being	There are no health and well-being implications in this report
Carbon Impact	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	The impact of this proposed change on Diversity has been considered and is set out in the main report
Wards Affected	All wards may be affected but particularly those with high numbers of long-term empty properties
Groups Affected	Owners of long-term empty properties will be impacted upon in this report
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget or policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'Call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report has no particular implications for the Sustainable Community Strategy
Efficiency	Changes to the Council Tax empty property premium will potentially generate extra income for the Council
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Background

6. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced a new provision for the application of a Council Tax premium for long-term empty properties. In order for the empty property premium to apply, the following conditions have to be met:
 - (a) The property must have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of 2 years.
 - (b) Once the property is occupied and/or substantially furnished, the empty property premium no longer applies. If the property then becomes unoccupied and substantially unfurnished again, the empty property premium would not apply until a further period of 2 years has elapsed.
 - (c) However, periods of occupation of 6 weeks or less do not count. In these circumstances, the empty property premium would apply straight away if the property became unoccupied and substantially unfurnished again.
 - (d) Councils have the discretion to charge up to 50% extra Council Tax for the property.

7. Following consultation, the Council decided in January 2013 to implement a 50% Council Tax empty property premium from 1 April 2013. This decision was in line with most other Councils.

New Legislation

8. The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 introduced new powers for Councils to increase the Council Tax empty property premium for long-term empty properties, as follows:
 - (a) From April 2019, allowing Councils to increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 2 years or more to 100% (double the normal Council Tax charged).
 - (b) From April 2020, allowing Councils to increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 5 years or more to 200% (treble the normal Council Tax charged).
 - (c) From April 2021, allowing Councils to increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 10 years or more to 300% (quadruple the normal Council Tax charged).
9. The purpose of the new legislation is to further encourage landlords and property owners to bring their empty homes back into use as soon as possible and to penalise those owners who deliberately leave their properties empty for years.
10. The late publication of the legislation in 2018 did not allow sufficient time for the Council to undertake consultation and consider the changes in time for the Council Tax billing for 2019-20. Therefore, these changes are being considered for introduction in April 2020.

Analysis

11. As at June 2019, there were 154 domestic properties in Darlington classed as "long-term empty" where the Council Tax empty property premium applies. This represents 0.3% of all domestic properties in Darlington. Of these 154 properties, 54 have been empty for 5 years or more and 23 have been empty for 10 years or more.
12. For 2019-20 the Council Tax empty property premium will generate an additional £106k of Council Tax income.
13. The number of long-term empty properties has reduced slightly since the Council Tax empty property premium was introduced in April 2013 (200 properties), but has remained at around 150 properties since then.
14. Periodic reviews of long-term empty properties are carried out by Revenues and Benefits Inspection Officers. Based on their observations, the current situation with the 154 long-term empty properties are as follows:
 - (a) 27 are up for sale
 - (b) 6 are to let
 - (c) 24 are being refurbished
 - (d) 3 are due for demolition

- (e) 11 are 'no action'. This is where contact has been made with the owner and they have no immediate intention of refurbishing, occupying, selling or letting the property.
- (f) 83 are 'not known'. In some cases this is because the property is inaccessible (an upstairs flat or a house on a gated development). In all cases the properties do not appear to be undergoing any refurbishment or redevelopment and there are no 'for sale' or 'to let' signs on the properties. Contact cannot be made with the owners, some of whom reside outside of Darlington. Some of the properties have been boarded up and appear to have been abandoned.

15. However, out of the 154 long-term empty properties, only 25 are in arrears with their Council Tax, which means that the majority of the owners (84%) are paying the Council Tax empty property premium. This includes the majority of the properties in the 'no action' or 'not known' category (those that are not being refurbished or actively sold or let).

Impact of the new legislation

16. Table 1 below shows the estimated Council Tax charges on long-term empty properties if the Council introduced these changes from April 2020. The amounts are based on a standard band D property charge (not including any parish precept) and on the Council Tax charged for 2019-20 (and therefore not including any uplifts for future years).

Table 1: Potential Council Tax Charges for Long-Term Empty Properties

	Standard Band D charge 2019-20	With 50% premium for 2019-20	With 100% and 200% premiums for 2020-21	With 300% premium for 2021-22
Empty for 2 years or more	£1,814.38	£2,721.57	£3,628.76	£3,628.76
Empty for 5 years or more	£1,814.38	£2,721.57	£5,443.14	£5,443.14
Empty for 10 years or more	£1,814.38	£2,721.57	£5,443.14	£7,257.52

17. Table 2 shows the potential extra Council Tax income that could be generated by increasing the empty property premium from April 2020 and April 2021.

Table 2: Potential Council Tax income from increasing the empty property premium

Year	Total income from the empty property premium	Additional income from increasing the empty property premium
2019-20	£105,939	£0
2020-21	£286,471	£180,532
2021-22	£316,711	£210,772

18. The existing legislation allows Councils to consider any types of property where the Council Tax empty property premium would not apply. In addition to the proposals for increasing the premium from April 2020, consideration is also being recommended for the following protection to be applied (where the Council Tax empty property premium would not apply):
 - (a) Properties being marketed for sale or rent. The Council would need to see evidence that the property is actively being marketed for sale or rent (for example through an estate or letting agent) and that the sale/rental price is reasonable taking into account the size, location and condition of the property.
 - (b) Properties being renovated. The Council would need to see evidence that the property requires major renovation work and that this work is currently being carried out with a view to bringing the property back into use.
 - (c) Properties where there is a legal or other reason preventing the property from being occupied, sold or rented. The Council would need to see evidence of this, for example from a solicitor.
19. It is important that we introduce these exemptions as part of the package of changes we are considering, as it will be difficult, for example for an owner to sell a long-term empty property in need of renovation, where a Council Tax empty property premium will apply straight away to the new owner.
20. Advice and assistance is available to owners of long-term empty properties from the Council's Private Sector Housing team and details are available on our website at: www.darlington.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing/empty-properties/
21. Other Council Tax exemptions already exist in certain cases, where Council Tax is not charged (and therefore the empty property premium would not apply). These include:
 - (a) Empty properties where the owner has died and the executors of the estate are awaiting grant of probate.
 - (b) Empty properties where the occupier is in detention.
 - (c) Empty properties where the occupier is resident in a hospital, care home or nursing home.
 - (d) Empty properties where the occupier is receiving other care away from their home.
 - (e) Empty properties where the occupier is providing care to someone else away from their home.
 - (f) Empty properties where occupation is prohibited by law.
 - (g) Empty properties repossessed by a mortgage lender.
22. In addition, where the property is derelict and uninhabitable, the owner can request the Valuation Office Agency to take the property out of the Council Tax list.

Outcome of consultation

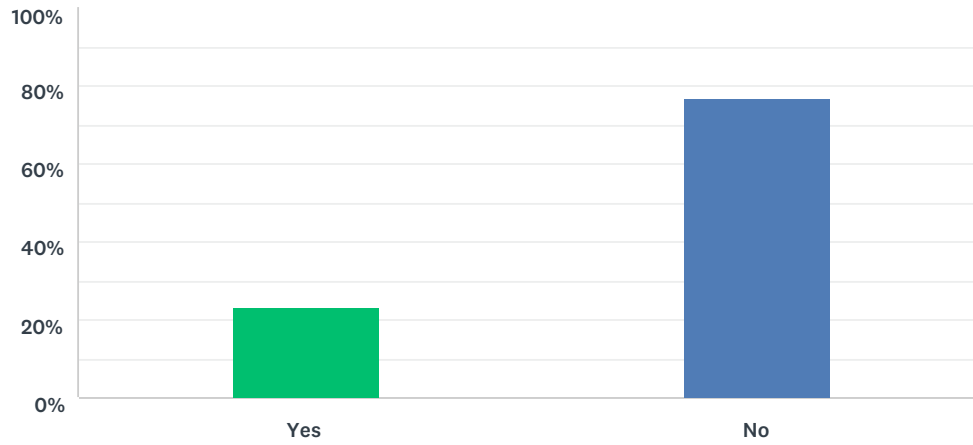
23. In May 2019, the Revenues and Benefits service undertook a public consultation exercise about the proposed changes. 160 letters were sent to the owners of long-term empty properties. The letters explained the details of the proposed changes and the financial impact on their properties. The owners were invited to complete a paper survey or log on to an on-line survey for their views. In addition, the on-line survey was also available on the Darlington Borough Council website for anyone to complete.
24. At the end of the consultation exercise, 26 responses were received in total, 19 of these from owners of long-term empty properties (a 12% response rate). The results of the consultation exercise are given at **Appendix 1**, with a summary as follows.
25. Respondents were asked if they supported the proposed increases in the Council Tax empty property premium and not surprisingly 20 people (77%) did not support the proposals.
26. Respondents were asked if the proposed increases would affect them and 17 out of the 19 property owners (89%) stated that the proposed increases would affect them. Some of the concerns raised by respondents included:
 - (a) Owners on a low income
 - (b) Properties that require renovation
 - (c) Owners being unable to afford the mortgage
 - (d) Difficulties in selling the properties
 - (e) Properties that are prohibited from being let.
27. Respondents were asked about their current plans for their properties:
 - (a) 7 respondents (37%) were selling the property
 - (b) 6 respondents (32%) were letting the property
 - (c) 2 respondents (11%) were refurbishing the property
 - (d) 1 respondent (5%) was keeping the property empty
 - (e) 3 respondents (16%) had no plans or did not know.
28. Respondents were asked if the proposed increases would change their future intentions for the property and 9 respondents (47%) said they would.
29. Respondents were also asked to give their comments about the proposals, and these are included in Appendix 1. In addition, an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in relation to these proposals, and this is given at **Appendix 2**.

Conclusion

30. It is recommended that the changes to the Council Tax empty property premium should be implemented in April 2020, but to provide protection for those owners who are making genuine efforts to bring their long-term empty properties back into use.

Q1 Overall do you support the proposals to increase Council Tax for long term empty properties?

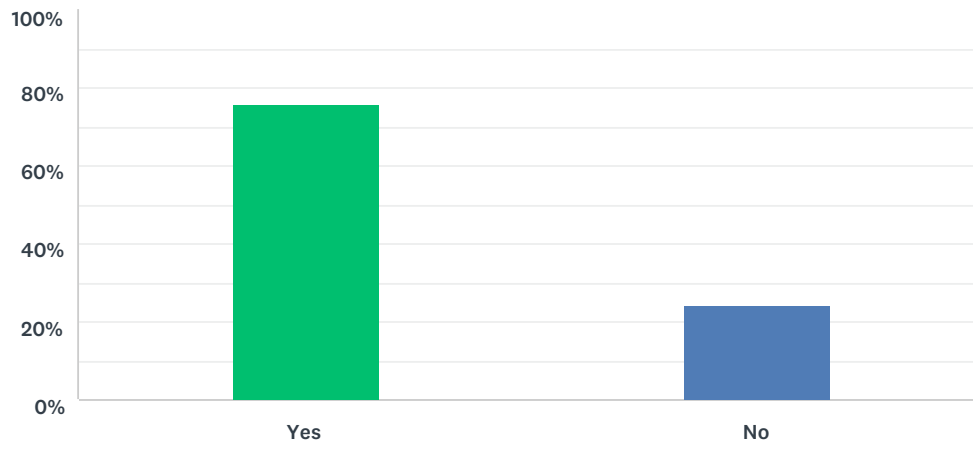
Answered: 26 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	23.08%	6
No	76.92%	20
TOTAL		26

Q2 Do you own a second property that is subject to the current premium charge?

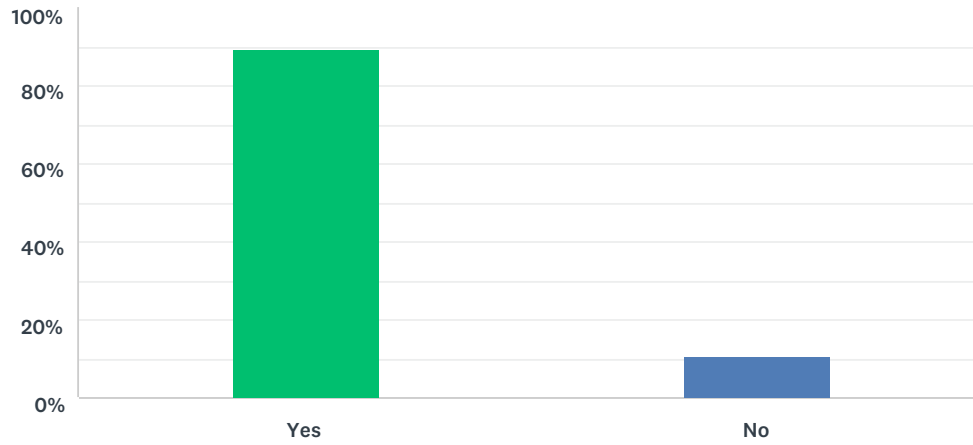
Answered: 25 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	76.00%	19
No	24.00%	6
TOTAL		25

Q3 Will the changes to increase Council Tax for long term empty properties affect you?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	89.47% 17
No	10.53% 2
TOTAL	19

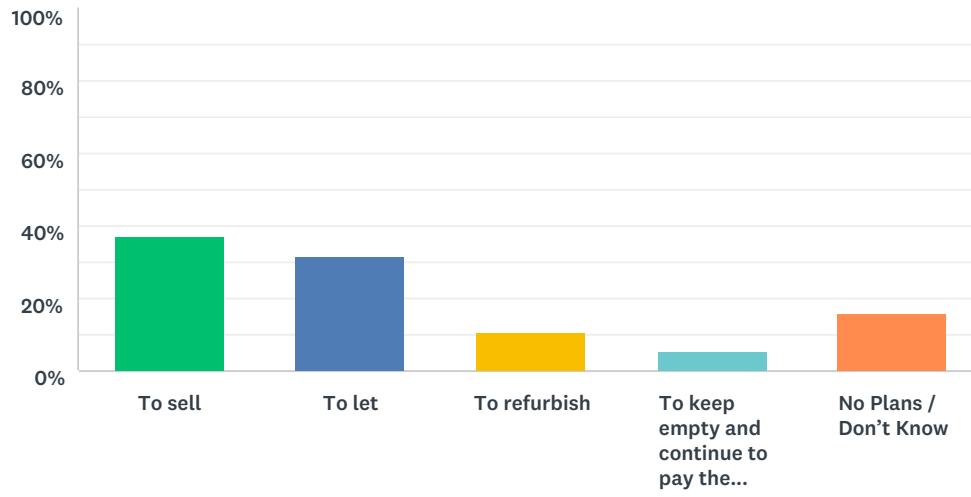
Q4 Please tell us how these changes will affect you.

Answered: 14 Skipped: 12

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No Comment.	7/16/2019 4:38 PM
2	one executor is 84 years old and just lost her husband and will find it difficult to pay the bills in any case. The other executor has lost his father in april and was his carer and acquires no allowance now unless he can receive allowance for his mother.	7/16/2019 2:57 PM
3	The last tenant did not take care of the property. I've spent around £40,000 renevating it however only at weekends thats why its taken so long it should be finished in 3 months	7/16/2019 2:53 PM
4	i will be forced to surrender the properties to the lender	7/16/2019 2:48 PM
5	Obviously because it will directly cost me more monthly when I am already struggling to find the time and funds to bring the property back into a habitable state after being left in excess of £5000 of debt and expenses by the last tenant!	7/16/2019 2:46 PM
6	rented house under refurbishment following poor tenancy	7/16/2019 2:40 PM
7	I have been trying to sell the property for a few years and the price has been dropped from £420k to £320k and still not sold	7/16/2019 2:38 PM
8	we have plans for building but it is currently uninhabitable	7/16/2019 2:35 PM
9	The property is within a military establishment and cannot be used for commercial lettings. MOD are currently not recruiting caretakes, so we are unable to avoid the premium charges.	7/16/2019 2:30 PM
10	no comment	7/16/2019 2:05 PM
11	No Comment	7/16/2019 12:15 PM
12	The properties are derelict and not habitable. Unless a major amount of money is invested in to them (which we cannot afford) then the properties will remain in this way. They are previous farmhouses.	7/16/2019 11:29 AM
13	I am a single woman who can't afford these proposals. The property is empty because I have been trying to sell for the last 10 years without success. Building work since September 2017 has rendered the property uninhabitable and a court case is pending with builder.	7/10/2019 12:35 PM
14	Increased renovation costs	6/18/2019 10:41 PM

Q5 What are your current plans for your property?

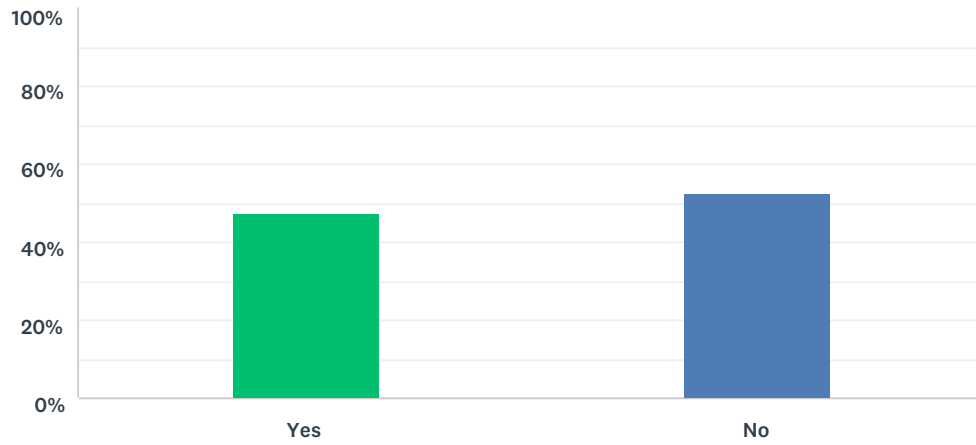
Answered: 19 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To sell	36.84%	7
To let	31.58%	6
To refurbish	10.53%	2
To keep empty and continue to pay the increased Council Tax	5.26%	1
No Plans / Don't Know	15.79%	3
TOTAL		19

Q6 Would the proposals change your future intentions for the property?

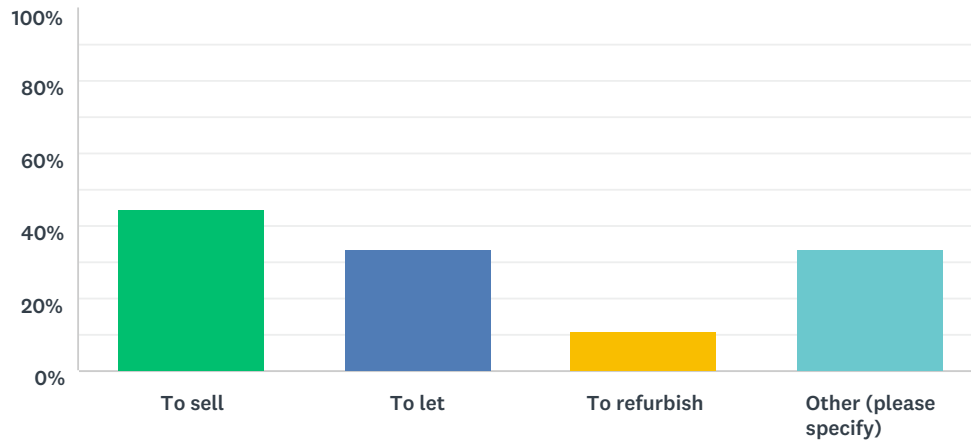
Answered: 19 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.37%	9
No	52.63%	10
TOTAL		19

Q7 What would be your future intentions for the property?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
To sell	44.44% 4
To let	33.33% 3
To refurbish	11.11% 1
Other (please specify)	33.33% 3
Total Respondents: 9	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	unsure. it feels like the ONLY protection available or help is ONLY aimed at tenants and while there are many good there are increasing numbers of bad	7/16/2019 2:47 PM
2	due to the extra costs i would be forced to lose even more on the property	7/16/2019 2:39 PM
3	The land is currently under an option agreement with a developer - so we cannot do anything with them on the basis that the developer is likely to purchase the full site including the properties in the next 18 months. The developer is likely to demolish the properties due to the current condition that they are in.	7/16/2019 11:31 AM

Q8 If you have any comments about the introduction of Empty Property Premium please add them here.

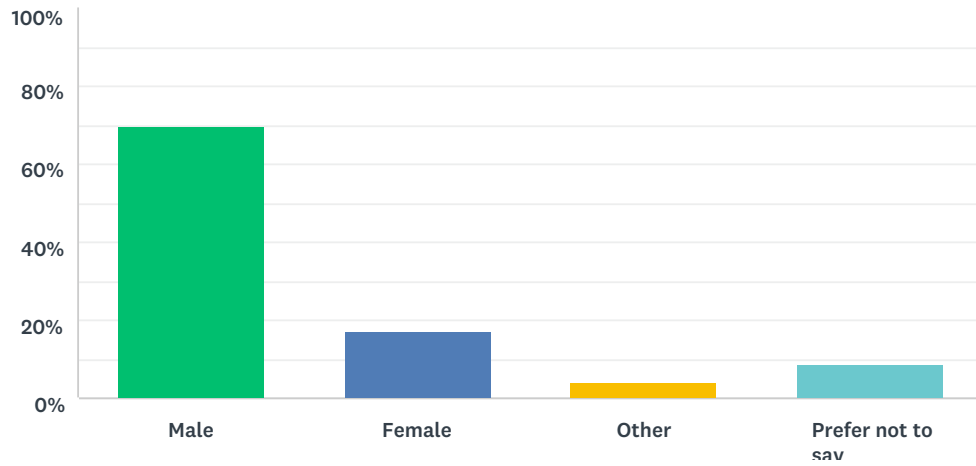
Answered: 15 Skipped: 11

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I am a single parent looking after 2 Children. Recieving support of Housing Benefit. I am disabled and have a blue badge. I am awaiting treatment to remove part of my bowl. I am finding it very difficult to mange due to having a recent ankle operation and a replacement left ankle. I have problems with my bowls leading to water infections and accidents with bowl controll.. Hoping you understand my situation more now. Thank you [REDACTED]	7/16/2019 4:44 PM
2	we cannot reduce the value of the property any further because in our opinion it is worth more than the asking price. The property is in a good residential area and the position and size of the flat is of a very high standard. Is it possible to make an appointment to discuss matters with you, because we cannot continue in this way.	7/16/2019 3:00 PM
3	My property has been kept for my son. The plan was that after his studies he could live there. However, over the years he had gone on to achieve an MA. Now his work commitments have taken him south and I cannot see him working in the north east in the near future. Should his situation change, I will not sell, however, in view of the proposed changes to council tax I plan to sell in 2020.	7/16/2019 2:54 PM
4	I tried to apply for discretionary discount online for a further 3 months until I get the yard cleaned up and done finishing touches but found it very difficult to submit. I intended to rent the property again as I would not get a good price for it at today's market value especially after what ive spent on the repair (around £40,000) it has had extensive work, re-wire, cellar tanked central heating, windows etc...	7/16/2019 2:53 PM
5	Unfortunately we ended up with a bad tenant who just left and left the house in a state, then my father fell ill with cancer and I had to nurse him until his death which affected me and the house just got forgot about. I have now come out of the dark times and are feeling better so we are going to get stuck into this house and bring it back to the rental market, unfortunately the extra I have been paying you has left things very tight money wise, I hope to have the house ready in approx. 12 weeks and need to get central heating fitted, also need to get the electric and gas supply reinstated as the metres have been removed so the house is not habitable but I'm still paying council tax.	7/16/2019 2:50 PM
6	I live in Northern Ireland and I was depending on a Darlington Letting Agent [REDACTED] managing these properties. Over a period of 2-3 years they had tenants in and out and never mentioned any issues to me until one day they called me and said we can't let these properties until you have refurbished them. I asked how much it would cost and they said 'they are bad, real bad, you would need to get over here and view them.' I flew to Newcastle and got the train to Darlington and when I got there, I couldn't believe my eyes, the properties were wrecked. When I asked how the properties got into that state they more or less told me to get lost but not before quoting me a huge figure to refurbish the properties. I think it was in the region of £45,000 - £50,000, money I don't have. For example, during the first inspection there were no interior doors, I was informed that the 'druggies' sell them for £5.00 each to reclamation yards to buy drugs. I started to make enquiries and found out that [REDACTED] had been putting people just out of prison into the properties along with drug addicts and other down and outs and then leaving them to their own devices. I don't have the money to fix them up so raising the council tax is not going to force me into taking action, it just makes a bad situation worse. My choice would be to have them tenanted and getting an income rather than them costing me money month in and month out. The only reason I still have them is in the hope that some sort of council or government scheme will appear that will help me bring them back up to standard. I can't afford to pay a higher rate of council tax so when that kicks in I will have to surrender the properties to the lender. I understand your position but as you can see it is not as black and white as the three conditions you outline in your letter.	7/16/2019 2:49 PM

7	If there is a shortage of housing then perhaps it is time for local authorities to go back to actually building some – After all it's because so many council properties were sold they are now so low rent! Quite frankly I am outraged and disgusted far from increasing charges when a property is empty by direct result it means less pull on public services – no one to empty bins for, no one to make use of those other services provided via council tax – police, emergency services, leisure centres, arts – whatever. Services not being used are still being charged for. Anywhere else and you would be in front of a judge for theft.	7/16/2019 2:47 PM
8	I have owned a property since January 2000. It was home for myself and my wife until her death in July 2007. I remained at the residence until August 2009 when I became a Council Approved Landlord renting the flat to two different occupants for a subsequent 18 months, returning to live there in early 2012 to commence refurbishment for sale. I remarried in June moving to live with my new wife while we steadily invested in full renewal, decoration, carpeting, etc... to enhance sale potential. 4 estate agents were consulted. One advised a sale value of £135,000 and the other three £100,000. It was placed on the market in early 2018 for £99,750 but has been faced with competition of an apparent glut of other flats for sale, including significant numbers of more recent build developments. Viewings have sadly been limited in number and we have changed agents and recently agreed a second reduction in asking price to £87,500 but still have received no offers. I have frustratingly then been faced with the imposition of empty property premium despite every effort to achieve a sale. I am reluctant to again pursue the landlord/rental option, but would request that you respect my efforts to dispose of the property with related consideration of reviewing/removing the imposition of the premium.	7/16/2019 2:44 PM
9	I think the premium is high and buildings should be addressed individual not an overall blanket cover for the "empty properties"	7/16/2019 2:36 PM
10	I am a local district councillor in Surrey. So I am aware of the financial problems councils face and the need for empty properties to be used.	7/16/2019 2:34 PM
11	I would welcome your consideration of adding vacant property within a military establishment to your list of local exemptions.	7/16/2019 2:31 PM
12	no comment	7/16/2019 2:05 PM
13	There are some situations such as where a property is derelict and not water tight where the premium (or council tax) is not payable.	7/16/2019 11:32 AM
14	The empty property premium is an unfair tax on people trying to sell in a difficult economic climate. It causes me great financial hardship and these proposals will make that hardship so difficult that I may be forced to sell my current home. The increase in new builds is also having a massive impact on the sale of older properties.	7/10/2019 12:38 PM
15	Difficult when properties are bought as a renovation project that may take over 12 months. Already paying a 50% premium, up to a 300% premium would stop properties from being refurbished in the area and cause areas to become run down and increase the amount of anti social behaviour in the town	6/18/2019 10:43 PM

Q9 What is your sex?

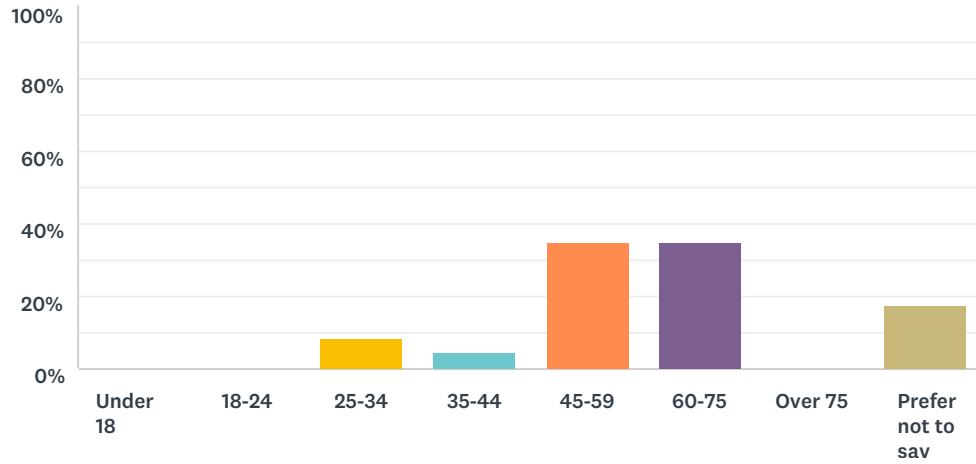
Answered: 23 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	69.57%	16
Female	17.39%	4
Other	4.35%	1
Prefer not to say	8.70%	2
TOTAL		23

Q10 What was your age on your last birthday?

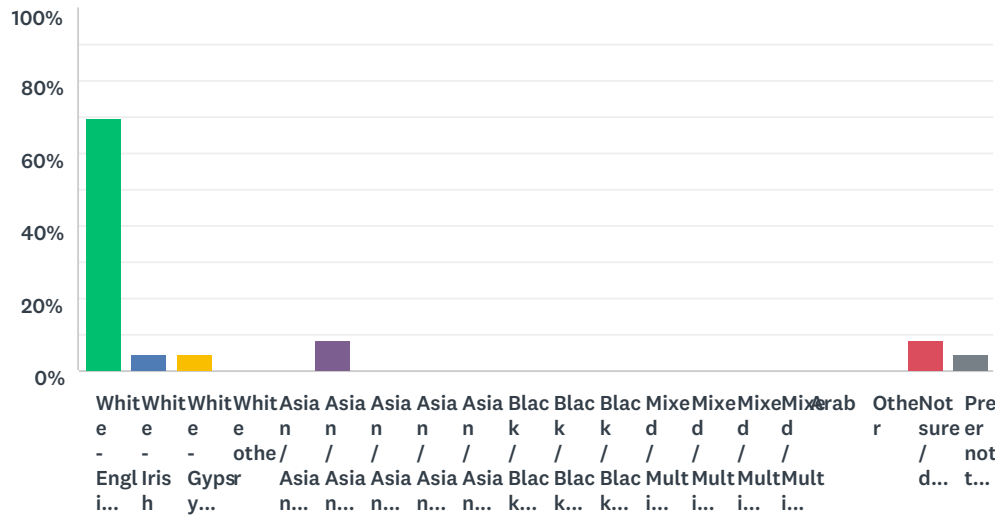
Answered: 23 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	0.00%	0
25-34	8.70%	2
35-44	4.35%	1
45-59	34.78%	8
60-75	34.78%	8
Over 75	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	17.39%	4
TOTAL		23

Q11 Which ethnic group do you belong to?

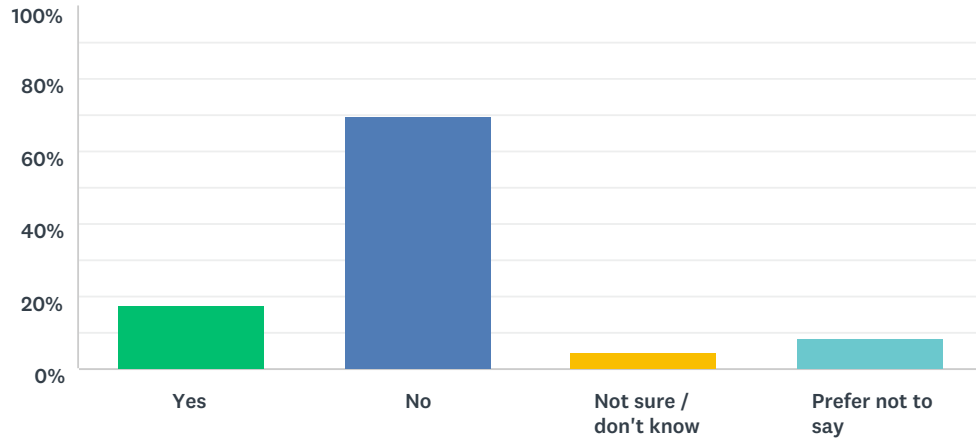
Answered: 23 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	69.57%	16
White - Irish	4.35%	1
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	4.35%	1
White other	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Pakistani	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Indian	8.70%	2
Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Chinese	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Other	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - African	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - Caribbean	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - Other	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Black African	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Black Caribbean	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - Other	0.00%	0
Arab	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
Not sure / don't know	8.70%	2
Prefer not to say	4.35%	1
TOTAL		23

Q12 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	17.39%	4
No	69.57%	16
Not sure / don't know	4.35%	1
Prefer not to say	8.70%	2
TOTAL		23

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APPENDIX 2

Initial equality impact assessment screening form

This form is an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to an activity, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.

Directorate:	Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services
Service Area:	Revenues and Benefits
Activity being screened:	Proposed increases to the Council Tax empty property premium from April 2020
Officer(s) carrying out the screening:	Anthony Sandys – Head of Housing and Revenues Services
What are you proposing to do?	Increase the Council Tax empty property premium in line with the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	The purpose of the proposals is to further encourage landlords and property owners to bring their empty homes back into use as soon as possible and to penalise those owners who deliberately leave their properties empty for years.
Does the activity involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details	No

Is there likely to be an adverse impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or any other socially excluded groups?

As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:

- **To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?**
- **Does the activity relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?**
- **Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the activity relates to?**

If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be a significant adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate.

Protected characteristic	Yes	No	Don't know/ Info not available
Age		✓	
Disability			✓
Sex (gender)		✓	
Race		✓	
Sexual Orientation		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
Other			
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		✓	
Low Income			✓
Rural Location		✓	
Does the activity relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	The activity relates to the ability of owners to bring their long-term empty properties back into use		
Will the activity have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	None expected		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:		Continue to full EIA: ✓
Reason for Decision	To consider the impacts of the proposals on disabled people and those on low incomes who could find it difficult to renovate, sell or rent long-term empty properties		
Signed (Assistant Director)	<i>P. Mitchell</i>		
Date	30/07/19		



Equality Impact Assessment Record Form

This form is to be used for recording the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of Council activities. It should be used in conjunction with the guidance on carrying out EIA in **Annex 2** of the Equality Scheme. The activities that may be subject to EIA are set out in the guidance.

EIA is particularly important in supporting the Council to make fair decisions. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Using this form will help Council officers to carry out EIA in an effective and transparent way and provide decision-makers with full information on the potential impact of their decisions. EIAs are public documents, accompany reports going to Councillors for decisions and are published with committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting.

Title of activity:	Council Tax empty property premium
Name of Directorate and Service Area:	Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services Revenues and Benefits
Lead Officer and contact details	Anthony Sandys – Head of Housing and Revenues Services x6926
Assistant Director accountable for this EIA	Pauline Mitchell – Assistant Director - Housing and Building Services
Who else will be involved in carrying out the EIA:	N/a

When did the EIA process start?	July 2019	
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Section 2 – The Activity and Supporting Information

<p>Details of the activity (describe briefly - including the main purpose and aims) (e.g. are you starting a new service, changing how you do something, stopping doing something?)</p>
<p>Proposed increases to the Council Tax empty property premium, which is the charging of additional Council Tax to owners of long-term empty properties (those that have been empty and unfurnished for 2 years or more). If agreed, these changes will be implemented from April 2020.</p>
<p>Why is this being proposed? What are the aims? What does the Council hope to achieve by it? (e.g. to save money, meet increased demand, do things more efficiently)</p>
<p>The purpose of the proposals is to further encourage landlords and property owners to bring their empty properties back into use as soon as possible and to penalise those owners who deliberately leave their properties empty for years. Exemptions from the Council Tax empty property premium are also being proposed for owners actively renovating, selling or renting long-term empty properties.</p>
<p>What will change? What will be different for service users/ customers and/ or staff?</p>
<p>A 50% Council Tax empty property premium already exists for properties empty for 2 years or more. These proposals will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 2 years or more to 100% (double the Council Tax normally charged) (b) Increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 5 years or more to 200% (treble the Council Tax normally charged) (c) Increase the Council Tax premium for properties empty for 10 years or more to 300% (quadruple the Council Tax normally charged).
<p>What data, research and other evidence or information is available which is relevant to the EIA?</p>
<p>There are currently 154 long-term empty properties in Darlington. A mapping exercise has already been undertaken to identify the location of these properties in relation to deprivation data already held. Whilst the location of long-term empty properties are spread across Darlington, higher concentrations of these properties exist in areas of deprivation (see appendix 1 to this EIA).</p>
<p>Engagement and consultation (What engagement and consultation has been done regarding the proposal and what are the results? What consultation will be needed and how will it be done?)</p>
<p>A public consultation exercise has been undertaken in May to June 2019 in the form of an on-line survey. In addition, we wrote to all 160 owners (at that time) of long-term empty properties and invited them to complete a paper or on-line survey. The results are attached on a separate document.</p>
<p>What impact will this activity have on the Council's budget? (e.g. cost neutral, increased costs or reduced costs? If so, by how much? Explain briefly why this is the case)</p>
<p>These proposals will potentially generate more Council Tax income.</p>

Section 3: Assessment

How will the activity affect people with protected characteristics?	No Impact	Positive impact	Negative impact	Why will it have this effect? (refer to evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information, etc)
Age	✓			Consultation identified that most respondents were aged between 45 and 75 (70%), although there were no specific impacts identified relating to age.
Disability (Mobility Impairment, Visual impairment, Hearing impairment, Learning Disability, Mental Health, Long Term Limiting Illness, Multiple Impairments, Other – Specify)	✓			<p>4 out of the 23 respondents (17%) to the consultation indicated that they considered themselves to have a disability. However, none of the comments indicated that disability would be a barrier for an owner to renovate, sell or rent their long-term empty property.</p> <p>Advice and assistance is available to empty property owners from the Council's Private Sector Housing Team.</p> <p>The Council Tax discretionary discount scheme is available to Council Tax payers who are experiencing severe financial hardship or other crisis or event. Whilst applications are looked at on their own individual circumstances, disability would be a factor in determining an award.</p>
Sex (Gender)	✓			Consultation identified that most respondents were male (70%), although there were no specific impacts identified relating to gender.
Race	✓			No impacts identified
Gender Reassignment	✓			No impacts identified
Sexual Orientation	✓			No impacts identified

Religion or belief	✓			No impacts identified
Pregnancy or maternity	✓			No impacts identified
Marriage or civil partnership	✓			No impacts identified
How will the activity affect people who:	No impact	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Why will it have this effect? (Refer to evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information, etc)
Live in a rural location?	✓			No impacts identified
Are carers?	✓			No impacts identified
Are on a low income?			✓	<p>Consultation indicated that owners of long-term empty properties on a low income would not be able to afford the increases in Council Tax. They may also experience difficulties in refurbishment work for the same reason (properties being renovated would be exempt from the proposals).</p> <p>Free advice and assistance is available to empty property owners from the Council's Private Sector Housing Team.</p> <p>The Council Tax discretionary discount scheme is available to Council Tax payers who are experiencing severe financial hardship or other crisis or event. Whilst applications are looked at on their own individual circumstances, people on low incomes would be a factor in determining an award.</p> <p>Whilst Council Tax Support (CTS) is only available for occupied properties, owners of long-term empty properties receiving CTS for their own home would be considered for assistance from the discretionary scheme, providing it was</p>

			<p>specifically to assist the owner to renovate, sell or rent their empty property and bring it back into use.</p>
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Section 4: Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative Impacts – will the activity affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g. older women or young gay men – state what you think the effect might be and why, providing evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information, etc)

Are there any other activities of which you are aware which might also impact on the same protected characteristics?

None

Section 5: Analysis

a) How will the activity help to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation?

Initial research into the location of long-term empty properties has indicated that higher numbers of these properties exist in areas of deprivation. These areas will include higher numbers of people with protected characteristics.

The specific aim of these proposals is to further encourage the owners of these properties to bring them back into use by renovating, selling or renting the properties. This is expected to have an overall positive impact on these areas, providing additional affordable housing, improving the overall quality of neighbourhoods and reducing homelessness.

Whilst some negative impacts have been identified for owners of long-term empty properties, exemptions from these proposals, along with advice, assistance and financial support is available.

b) How will the activity help to advance equality of opportunity?

As above



c) How will the activity help to foster good relations?

As above

During the engagement/ consultation process were there any suggestions on how to avoid, minimise or mitigate any negative impacts? If so, please give details.

Respondents indicated that consideration should be given to owners who are trying to renovate, sell or rent their properties and these are covered by the proposed exemptions to the empty property premium.

Section 6 - Sign-off when assessment is completed

Officer Completing the Form:		
Signed 	Name:	Anthony Sandys
	Date:	24/07/19
	Job Title:	Head of Housing and Revenues Services
Assistant Director:		
Signed 	Name:	Pauline Mitchell
	Date:	30/07/19
	Service:	Housing and Building Services

Section 7 – Reporting of Findings and Recommendations to Decision Makers

<p>Next Steps to address the anticipated impact (Select one of the following options and explain why this has been chosen – remember we have a duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us)</p>
<p>b) Negative impact identified – recommend continuing with the activity (Clearly specify the people affected and the impacts, and providing reasons and supporting evidence for the decision to continue. The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. Officers will advise to change the proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, or the Council will achieve its aim in another way which will not make things worse for people. There must be compelling reasons for continuing with the proposal which will have the most adverse impacts.)</p>
<p>Explanation of why the option above has been chosen (Including any advice given by legal services)</p> <p>Potential negative impacts identified relating to owners of long-term empty properties on low incomes. However, sufficient available advice, assistance and financial support has already been identified in this EIA to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p>Positive impacts have also been identified in encouraging owners of long-term empty properties to bring these back into use in areas of high deprivation.</p> <p>There are no impacts identified which should prevent the proposals from continuing.</p>
<p>If the activity is to be implemented how will you find out how it is affecting people once it is in place? (How will you monitor and review the changes?)</p>
<p>If the proposals are approved by Council Members, we will contact all the owners of long-term empty properties to explain the additional charges and the exemptions, advice, assistance and financial support available. This will take place before the Council Tax annual billing for 2020-21.</p>

After April 2020, if an owner of a long-term empty property falls into Council Tax arrears, again we will attempt to contact them to offer support.

We will also monitor the numbers of long-term empty properties in Darlington to measure the effectiveness of these proposals, and in particular the impacts in areas of higher deprivation.

Section 8 – Action Plan and Performance Management

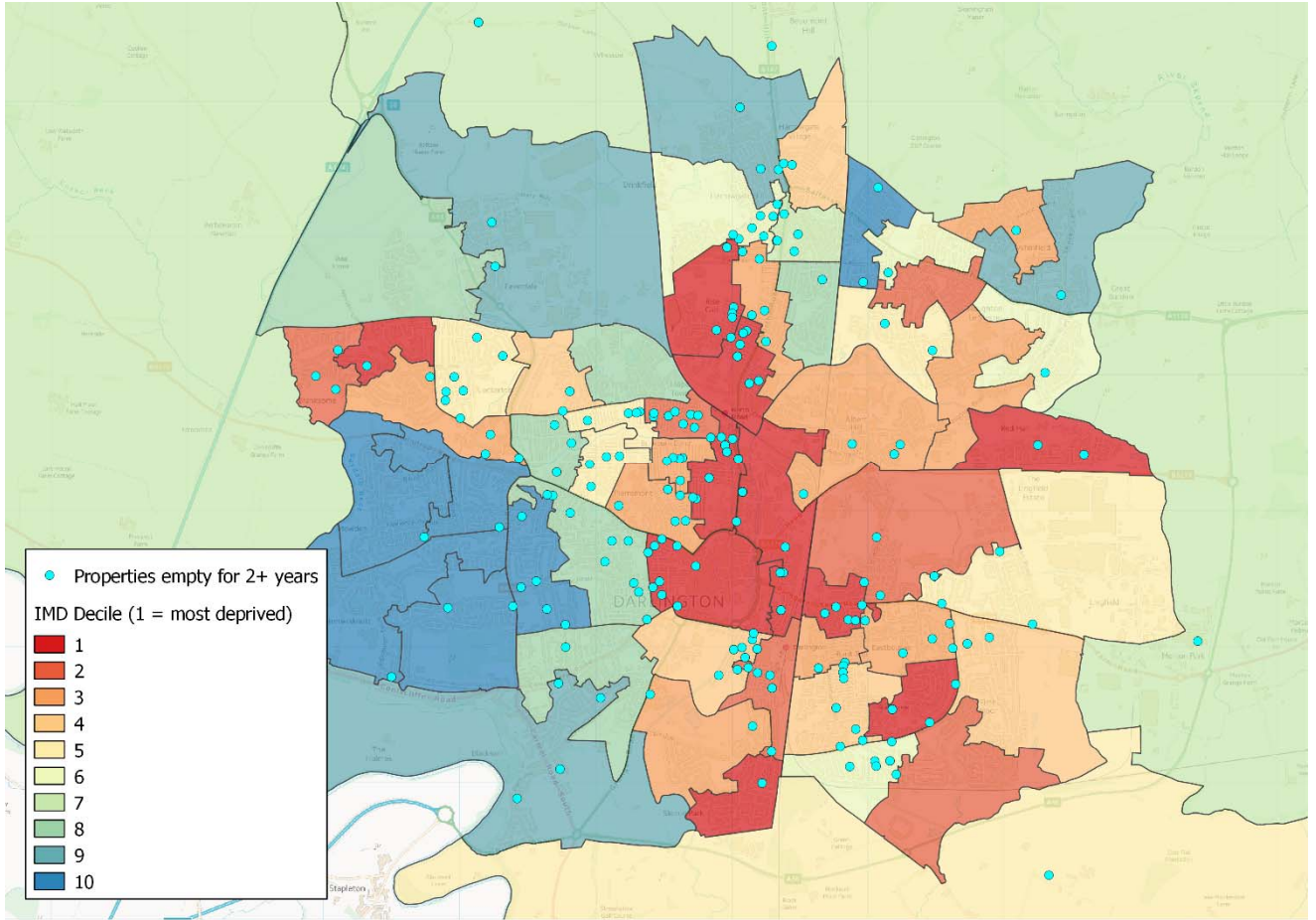
List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA, including post implementation reviews to find out how the outcomes have been achieved in practice and what impacts there have actually been on people with protected characteristics

What is the negative impact?	Actions required to reduce/eliminate the negative impact (if applicable)	Who will lead on action	Target completion date
Owners of long-term empty properties on low incomes	Contact owners to offer advice, assistance and financial support	Head of Housing and Revenues Services	March 2020

Performance Management	
Date of the next review of the EIA	July 2020
How often will the EIA action plan be reviewed?	Annually
Who will carry out this review?	Head of Housing and Revenues Services

Appendix 1

The numbers of long-term empty properties mapped against deprivation data



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EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 September 2019

EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2019/20 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the next Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee in the last Municipal Year.
3. Following the last meeting of this Scrutiny Committee, a number of informal sessions will be arranged with Members over the next couple of months to provide an overview of the remit covered by the Committee and to identify areas for further scrutiny.
4. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure.

Recommendation

5. Members are requested to consider and approve the attached draft work programme as the agreed work programme for the Municipal year 2019/20 and consider any additional items which they might wish to include.

Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Shirley Burton : Extension 5998

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the five themes.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
7. Each topic links to the outcomes and the conditions in the Sustainable Community Strategy – One Darlington Perfectly Placed :-

SCS Outcomes :	Three Conditions :
Children with the Best Start in Life More Businesses more jobs	Build Strong Communities
A safe and caring community More people caring for our environment	Grow the Economy
More people active and involved Enough support for People when needed More people health and independent A place designed to thrive	Spend Every Pound Wisely

8. In addition, each topic links to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework (PMF) to provide robust and accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

9. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims. A revised process for adding an item to a previously approved work programme, has been agreed by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.
10. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 2** for information.

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EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME – 2019/20

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (Metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management Framework	Six monthly reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee.	Relevant Assistant Directors	One Darlington Perfectly Placed	Spend Every Pound Wisely	FHR 001 FHR 003 FHR 008 FHR 009 FHR 019 HBS 002 HBS 003 HBS 009 HBS 010 LGP 008	To provide Members with an update regarding the Performance Management Framework.
Sickness Absence Year-end out-turn	July 2020	Helen Whiting	One Darlington Perfectly Placed	Spend Every Pound Wisely	FHR 001	To consider the year-end figures
Health and Safety Year end out-turn	July 2020	Joanne Skelton	One Darlington Perfectly Placed	Spend Every Pound Wisely	FHR 003	To consider the year-end figures
Medium-Term Financial Plan	Quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee 20 December 2019 (Quarter 2) 7 th February, 2020 (Quarter 3)	Elizabeth Davison	One Darlington Perfectly Placed	Spend Every Pound Wisely		To contribute and challenge the Medium Term Financial Plan and assist with the implementation and development of the required savings

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (Metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Capital Programme and project Position Statement	Quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee. 20 December 2019 (Quarter 2) 7 th February, 2020 (Quarter 3)	Brian Robson	One Darlington Perfectly Placed	Spend Every Pound Wisely	LGP 008	To look at the position
Council Tax Support Scheme 2020/21	12 th September, 2019	Anthony Sandys	One Darlington Perfectly Placed	Spend Every Pound Wisely		To look at the proposed Scheme

FHR 001	DBC number of FTE working days lost due to sickness (excluding schools)
FHR 003	Number of reportable employee accidents / ill health
FHR 008	Number of complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman/Housing Ombudsman
FHR 009	Number of complaints upheld by the Information Commissioner's Office
FHR 019	Staff turnover - Voluntary Leavers
HBS 002	Amount in £'s of Council Tax arrears collected
HBS 003	Amount in £'s of Housing Benefit overpayments recovered
HBS 009	% of Council Tax collected in year
HBS 010	% of Business Rates collected in-year
LGP 008	Contracted spend as a % of total non-salary spend

ECI 108	S.106 - Number entered into within current financial year
ECI 114	Total amount of S106 funding secured since 2010
ECI 115	S106 - Amount received [affordable housing/infrastructure/green space etc] since 2010
ECI 116	S106 - Total Amount outstanding [affordable housing/infrastructure/green space etc.] since 2010
ECI 117	S106 - Amount spent since 2010
ECI 130	% of Section 106 agreements signed within target time.

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FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD: 7 AUGUST 2019 - 31 DECEMBER 2019



What is a Forward Plan?

The Forward Plan is a list of all of the decisions, which are due to be taken by Cabinet, including key decisions taken by Cabinet a Member of the Cabinet or a designated Officer in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulation 2012. It also gives notice of the decisions that are likely to be taken in private. These decisions need to be published on the Forward Plan at least 28 clear days before the decision is to be taken. The Plan is updated on an ad hoc basis, but at least once a month. It can be accessed on the Council website www.darlington.gov.uk.

What is a Key Decision?

A key decision in the Council's constitution is defined as to:

1. result in the Borough Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
2. be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the Borough.

What are the reasons that a report can be held in private?

Whilst the majority of the Executive decisions listed in this Forward Plan will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will inevitably be some decisions to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially or personal information.

The Forward Plan is a formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that some of the decisions listed in this Forward Plan will be held in private because the report will contain exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (set out below) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:–
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

- (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Council's constitution, key decisions are taken by Cabinet.

Are only Key Decisions listed in the Forward Plan?

The Council only has a statutory obligation to publish key decisions and decisions that are to be heard at a private meeting, however, all decisions to be taken by Cabinet are included on the plan to give Scrutiny Committees and the public an early indication of decisions to be made.

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The Plan gives information about:

- What decisions are coming up
- What key decisions are coming up
- When those decisions are likely to be made
- Which decisions will be held in private
- Who will make those decisions
- The relevant Scrutiny Committee that the decision relates to
- What consultation will be undertaken
- Whether the decision will be an open or closed report (and the reason why) (public and press are not allowed to access closed reports and will not be able to stay in the Cabinet meeting when a closed report is being considered)
- Who you can contact for further information

How to make representations

Members of the public have a right to make representations to the Council, including whether they think that any items we are proposing to consider in private should be dealt with in public. The Council will consider any representations before a decision is taken.

Anyone who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a particular matter should do so in writing, at least a week before it is due to be considered, either by letter or email to Lynne Wood using the contact details set out below.

How and who do I contact?

Each entry in the Plan indicates the names of all the relevant people to contact about that particular item.

For general information about the decision-making process and for copies of any documents outlined in the Forward Plan please contact Lynne Wood, Elections Manager, Democratic Services, Resources Group, Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QT. Tel: 01325 405803. Email: lynne.wood@darlington.gov.uk.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

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FORWARD PLAN**

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Haughton Children's Centre

Brief Description

To consider the proposed lease arrangement of the Haughton Children's Centre to the Education Village Academy Trust to provide Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) placements at Beaumont Hill Academy.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

Yes

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Children and Young People Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Tony Murphy, Head of Education and Inclusion
Tony.Murphy@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Childrens and Adults

Wards Affected

Haughton and Springfield

Consultation Process

Meetings and communications.

Document to be submitted

Report

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

In2 Project

Brief Description

To support young people in their transition from Yr6 primary school to Yr7/8 secondary school from some of the deprived Wards within the Borough

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee**Relevant Cabinet Member(s)**

Economy and Regeneration Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Ian Thompson, Assistant Director Community Services
Ian.Thompson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

Bank Top and Lascelles; Eastbourne; Harrowgate Hill; North Road; Northgate; Stephenson

Consultation Process

Meetings and communications

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2018/19

Brief Description

Report providing information on the regulation and management of the Council's borrowing, investments and cash-flow and requesting approval of the Prudential Indicators.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Peter Carrick, Finance Manager Central/Treasury Management
peter.carrick@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Replacement of Dog Control Orders with Public Space Protection Orders

Brief Description

To request approval to commence consultation with the public regarding converting the existing Dog Control Orders into Public Space Protection Orders.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy and Regeneration Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Ian Thompson, Assistant Director Community Services
ian.thompson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

8 week public consultation - Police, Crime and Victim Commissioner and Police will also be consulted

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Release of Capital Allocation in the Medium Term Financial Plan

Brief Description

Release of capital for the Town Hall Toilet Refurbishment in Block D and Access Points in Customer Contact Centre.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Kelvin McDade

kelvin.mcdade@dalington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

Park East

Consultation Process

Internal communication

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)

Brief Description

To inform and update Members about issues relevant to the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and developments and recent developments

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Amy Wennington, Principal Lawyer (Litigation)
amy.wennington@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Monitoring Report

Brief Description

To update Members on the actions taken with regard to the recently introduced PSPO for the town centre.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Community Safety Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Ian Thompson, Assistant Director Community Services
Ian.Thompson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

College; Northgate; Park East; Park West

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Annual Review of the Investment Fund

Brief Description

To provide an update on the schemes and projects agreed by Cabinet to be being funded from the £50m investment fund.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Elizabeth Davison, Assistant Director Resources
elizabeth.davison@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Review of Complaints to the Ombudsman

Brief Description

To provide Members with an update of the outcome of cases which have been determined by the Local Government, Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Housing Ombudsman (HO)

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Leader of the Council

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lee Downey, Complaints and Information Governance Manager
lee.downey@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2017/18

Brief Description

To consider the annual complaints, compliments and comments annual reports for Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Corporate, Housing and Public Health.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lee Downey, Complaints and Information Governance Manager
lee.downey@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report and complaints reports.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Special Education Needs & Disability Capital Project Release of Funds

Brief Description

Request for authorisation for the release of Capital Funds for two new Special Educational Needs and Disability Units.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Children and Young People Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Paul Richardson, Head of Skills and Employability
paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Childrens and Adults

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Follow up from consultation on SEND Strategy

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Sale of Four Riggs Car Park, off Bondgate, Darlington

Brief Description

To seek Cabinet approval for the sale of land at Four Riggs Car Park.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Fully exempt 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Richard Adamson, Estates Officer
Richard.Adamson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

Northgate

Consultation Process

Internal communication.
External consultation as part of normal planning process.

Document to be submitted

Report

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Schedule of Transactions

Brief Description

To consider the Schedule of Transactions and seek approval of the terms negotiated. (NOTE - this report is included on the agenda for each meeting of Cabinet but there are not always transactions to consider)

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Fully exempt 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Sep 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Guy Metcalfe, Head of Service for Asset Management and Investment
Guy.Metcalfe@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report and Schedule of Transactions.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Fairer, Richer Darlington

Brief Description

Tackling poverty and inequalities in Darlington by supporting local wealth creation that benefits all residents.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

8 Oct 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Seth Pearson, Partnership Director
seth.pearson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Methods

Document to be submitted

Report

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Permit System to Manage and Co-ordinate Roadworks

Brief Description

An update on work to develop a permit scheme for roadworks coordination that Councils across the country are being required to consider by the Department for Transport.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

8 Oct 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Dave Winstanley, Assistant Director Capital Projects, Transport and Highways Planning
dave.winstanley@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Meetings and correspondence.

Document to be submitted

Cabinet Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Contract

Brief Description

To approve the outline business case for Waste Management post 2025 and the associated inter-authority agreement.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

8 Oct 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Ian Thompson, Assistant Director Community Services
ian.thompson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Darlington Crematorium Refurbishment

Brief Description

To present the options to Members to consider regarding refurbishment of the existing Crematorium in West Cemetery.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

8 Oct 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Ian Thompson, Assistant Director Community Services
Ian.Thompson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Meetings and survey.

Document to be submitted

Cabinet Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Rail Heritage Quarter

Brief Description

To present the outcome of work to date on the Rail Heritage Quarter, timeline for implementation and funding strategy.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

8 Oct 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Ian Thompson, Assistant Director Community Services
ian.thompson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Various

Document to be submitted

Report and Master Planning Documents.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Joint Venture Proposal with Esh Homes

Brief Description

Proposal for New Sites outside the Darlington Boundaries.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

8 Oct 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Elizabeth Davison, Assistant Director Resources
elizabeth.davison@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Housing Allocation Policy

Brief Description

Changes are being made to the Tees Valley Allocation Policy to both reflect the legislative requirements around the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and ensure the policy is clear and transparent for applicants.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

8 Oct 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Housing, Health and Partnerships Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Janette McMain

Janette.McMain@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Public consultation has been undertaken via a press release and survey around the Common Allocations Policy, with website links to the survey on the Compass and DBC's websites. The survey has been widely circulated to staff in Housing and Housing Providers/Housing related providers asking they encourage their staff and customers to complete the survey.

Document to be submitted

Report and Housing Allocation Policy.

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Library Service Update

Brief Description

To present proposals to Members for the refurbishment of Crown Street Library and proposed service.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Nov 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Ian Thompson, Assistant Director Community Services
ian.thompson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Meetings / discussions.

Document to be submitted

Cabinet Report and Library Plan

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Council Tax Empty Property Premium

Brief Description

To consider and approve changes to the Council Tax Empty Property Premium from April 2020.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Nov 2019

Council

5 Dec 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Anthony Sandys, Head of Housing and Revenues
anthony.sandys@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Letter and e-mail.

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Council Tax Support - Scheme Approval 2019.20

Brief Description

To consider and approve a draft Council Tax Support Scheme.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Nov 2019

Council

5 Dec 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Anthony Sandys, Head of Housing and Revenues
anthony.sandys@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report and Council Tax Support Scheme.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2

Brief Description

To provide an up to date forecast of the revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Nov 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Peter Carrick, Finance Manager Central/Treasury Management
peter.carrick@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Title

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 2

Brief Description

To provide information on the delivery of the Council's Capital Programme, the financial outturn position, financing of Capital expenditure and an update on the current status of all construction projects currently being undertaken.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Nov 2019

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Peter Carrick, Finance Manager Central/Treasury Management, Brian Robson, Head of Capital Projects
peter.carrick@darlington.gov.uk, brian.robson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Items Due for Consideration with no agreed Cabinet date

Title

Darlington Borough Local Plan 2016/36 - Proposed Submission

Brief Description

To agree the final draft of the Local Plan to advertise for representations and ultimately submit for examination.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

Item Deferred

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

Council

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy and Regeneration Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

David Hand, Head of Service for Planning Policy, Economic Strategy and Environment

David.Hand@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Legal duty to seek representations prior to submission to Government for examination. Email and Letter and use of the Council's consultation portal.

Document to be submitted

Report and draft Local Plan

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Faverdale Masterplan Report

Brief Description

Approval of supporting documents for Local Plan Submission Draft.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

Item Deferred

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

Council

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy and Regeneration Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

David Nelson, Planning Officer
David.Nelson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

Harrowgate Hill

Consultation Process

Document to be made available on the Council's website.

Document to be submitted

Report and Masterplan Documents for Faverdale.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Skerningham Masterplan Report

Brief Description

Approval of supporting document for Local Plan Submission Draft

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

Item Deferred

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

Council

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Place Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy and Regeneration Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

David Nelson, Planning Officer
David.Nelson@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

Harrowgate Hill; Haughton and Springfield; Sadberge and Middleton St. George;
Whinfield

Consultation Process

Document to be made available on the Council's website

Document to be submitted

Report and Masterplan Document for Skerningham.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Proposed Sale of Land at High Faverdale

Brief Description

To seek Cabinet approval of a proposed sale of land at High Faverdale.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

Item Deferred

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Efficiency and Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Guy Metcalfe, Head of Service for Asset Management and Investment
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Department

Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Wards Affected

Brinkburn and Faverdale

Consultation Process

None.

Document to be submitted

Cabinet Report.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**