

# Council Agenda



**6.00 pm Thursday, 18 July 2019**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall,**  
**Darlington. DL1 5QT**

**Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.**

1. Introductions / Attendance at Meeting.
2. Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the Meetings of this Council held on 25 April 2019 and 23 May 2019 (Pages 1 - 10)
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Sealing.
5. Announcements.
6. Questions - To answer questions (where appropriate notice has been given from):-
  - (a) The Public;
  - (b) Members to Cabinet/Chairs;
  - (c) Members to the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington.
7. Council Reports.
  - (a) Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen – Report of the Managing Director (Pages 11 - 14)
8. Cabinet Reports.
  - (a) Overview Report of the Leader of the Council; (Pages 15 - 18)

- (b) Overview Report of the Adult Social Care Portfolio; (Pages 19 - 20)
  - (c) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 21 - 24)
  - (d) Overview Report of the Community Safety Portfolio; (Pages 25 - 28)
  - (e) Overview Report of the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio; (Pages 29 - 32)
  - (f) Overview Report of the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio; (Pages 33 - 36)
  - (g) Overview Report of the Housing, Health and Partnerships Portfolio; and (Pages 37 - 40)
  - (h) Overview Report of the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio. (Pages 41 - 46)
9. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-
- (a) Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 47 - 48)
  - (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 49 - 50)
  - (c) Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 51 - 52)
  - (d) Place Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 53 - 54)
10. Notice of Motion - To consider a Motion to be moved by Councillor Howarth, and seconded by Councillor Snedker –

### **Climate Emergency**

This Council notes that many Darlington residents are demanding action on climate change.

Council accepts that in order to limit the effects of global warming it is necessary for the world population to reduce its annual carbon emissions from the current 6.5 tonnes per person to less than 2 tonnes, as soon as possible.

Council recognises that individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own.

All governments nationally and locally have a duty to limit the negative impacts of global warming. This Council has already acknowledged the importance of addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, having signed up to the Global Covenant of Mayors. Darlington Borough Council also supports the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy 2010-2020<sup>1</sup>, which notes that a 'business as usual' approach to reducing carbon emissions will not deliver anywhere near the savings needed to meet local and national targets.

The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050<sup>2</sup>. Local councils should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.

Council therefore resolves to:

- a) Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- b) Sign up to a science-based carbon reduction target that is consistent with achieving the Paris Agreement of no more than 1.5°C global temperature increase;
- c) Work with nurseries, schools and colleges to include age appropriate learning about climate change while calling for the national curriculum to be reformed to include "the ecological crisis as an educational priority";
- d) Work to make the borough of Darlington carbon neutral by 2030 and call on central government to provide the funding and powers to make this possible;
- e) Work with other organisations and governments within the UK and internationally to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
- f) Work with partners to run a conversation with residents, Trade Unions, public sector organisations, businesses and the third sector on developing a plan with the actions and milestones required to reach this target;
- g) Report the progress to Full Council every 6 months.

<sup>1</sup> Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy:  
<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/1537/tvccpreport.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C:  
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

11. Membership Changes - To consider any membership changes to Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies.



**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Wednesday, 10 July 2019**

## **Town Hall Darlington.**

### **Membership**

The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Baldwin, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Holroyd, Howarth, Howell, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lister, Lucas, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Paley, Preston, Renton, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Tait, Tostevin and Wright

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Elections Officer, 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 Email: [paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk) or Telephone 01325 405805

## COUNCIL

Thursday, 25 April 2019

**PRESENT** – The Mayor, Councillors Carson, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumby, Curry, Dixon, Galletley, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, Kane, Kelly, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Lyonette, McEwan, Newall, M Nicholson, S Richmond, E A Richmond, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Storr, C Taylor, J Taylor, Tostevin and Wallis

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Grundy, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Lister, Marshall, Mills, K Nicholson, Nutt, Wright and York

**ABSENT** – Councillors Baldwin, Cartwright, Kelley and Rahman

### 57 **MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2019 AND 21 FEBRUARY 2019**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council, held on 31 January 2019 and 21 February 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

### 58 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

### 59 **SEALING.**

Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

### 60 **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**Acknowledgement of Service** – The Mayor announced that the following Councillors would not be standing as candidates in the Local Government Elections on 2 May 2019:-

Councillor Lyonette, with 43 years' service on Darlington Borough Council between 1973 and 1976, and 1979 and 2019;

Councillor Tony Richmond, with 42 and a half years' service on Darlington Borough Council between May 1976 and May 1979, and December 1979 and 2019;

Councillor Dixon, with 40 years' service on Darlington Borough Council between 1979 and 2019;

Councillor Crichlow, with 32 years' service on Darlington Borough Council between 1987 and 2019;

Councillor Copeland, with 20 years' service;

Councillor Nutt, with 16 years' service;

Councillor Jan Taylor, with 16 years' service between May 1987 and May 1995, and May 2011 and 2019;

Councillor Lawton, with 14 years and eight months service;

Councillor York, with 12 years' service;

Councillor Cartwright, with 11 years and one months' service between May 2007 and May 2011, and April 2012 and May 2019;

Councillor Joe Kelley, with eight years' service;

Councillor Carson, with eight years' service;

Councillor Wright, with eight years' service;

Councillor Chris Taylor, with eight years' service;

Councillor Grundy, with eight years' service;

Councillor Knowles, with eight years' service;

Councillor Katie Kelly, with four years' service; and

Councillor Rahman, with one and a half years' service.

A total of 292 years and nine months service.

RESOLVED – That the cordial thanks of the Council be extended to these Councillors for the valuable service they have rendered to the Borough during their terms of office.

**Retirement of the Head of Democratic Services** – The Mayor announced that Linda Todd, Head of Democratic Services, was attending her last meeting of the Council, ahead of her retirement following the Local Government (Borough) Elections. The Mayor highlighted that Linda had worked for the Council for 34 years, serving Members on all sides of the Council Chamber, and had provided impartial and professional guidance and support.

RESOLVED – That the cordial thanks of the Council be extended to Linda Todd for the valuable support provided to Members during her time with the Council.

**61 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN FROM):-**

**(1) THE PUBLIC;**

There was one question, with notice, from a member of the public, who received an answer thereon.

**(2) MEMBERS TO CABINET/CHAIRS;**

There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

**(3) MEMBERS TO THE POLICE, CRIME AND VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM AND DARLINGTON.**

The Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington, had submitted his apologies for the meeting.

**63 COUNCIL REPORTS.**

**(1) LICENSING PRINCIPLES FOR GAMBLING ACT 2005**

The submitted report requested approval of the three-yearly statutory revision of the Council's revised Gambling Policy, produced in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

The submitted report stated that the policy had been the subject of extensive consultation, and two responses had been received, and that minor changes had been made to reflect revised guidance to local authorities from key stakeholders since it was last approved on 19 November 2015.

RESOLVED – That the revised Licensing Principles for the Gambling Act 2005, be approved.

REASONS – (a) To enable the Council to formally adopt and publish a statement of licensing principles in compliance with the Gambling Act 2005 requirements.

(b) To clarify the way that the Council will consider applications for licences.

**64 CABINET REPORTS.**

The Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings. Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

**(1) CABINET URGENT DECISIONS**

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing decisions taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

RESOLVED – That the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet be noted.

REASON – To comply with the Council's Constitution.

**65 SCRUTINY REPORTS - TO CONSIDER SCRUTINY OVERVIEW REPORTS:-**

The five Scrutiny Committee Chairs each submitted a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings

**66 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER BODIES.**

There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.



**ANNUAL COUNCIL**  
Thursday, 23 May 2019

**PRESENT** – The Mayor; Councillors Ali, Allen, Baldwin, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Copeland, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Galletley, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Holroyd, Howarth, Howell, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lister, Lucas, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, Newall, M Nicholson, K Nicholson, Paley, Preston, Renton, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Tait, Tostevin, Wallis and Wright

**1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**2 TO ELECT A MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/2020.**

Consideration was given to the election of a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Nicholas Wallis be elected Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

Following his election, the Mayor made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and:-

- (i) Signed the 'Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Record Book';
- (ii) Was invested with the Chain of Office;
- (iii) Tendered his thanks to the Members of the Council for having elected him;
- (iv) Announced his decision to support the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Darlington's food banks; and
- (v) Announced that his Mayoress for the Mayoral Year would be his wife, Mrs. Sandra Thorne-Wallis.

**3 RETIRING MAYOR - VOTE OF THANKS**

- A vote of thanks was proposed to the retiring Mayor and Escort.

**RESOLVED** – That the cordial thanks of the Council are due, and hereby tendered, to Veronica Copeland and David Copeland, for the exemplary manner in which they have discharged the duties of the high office of Mayor and Escort of this Borough during the past Municipal Year.

In recognition of their services, the Mayor presented the retiring Mayor and Escort with a medallion and badge respectively.

**4 TO APPOINT A DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019/2020**

- Consideration was given to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

RESOLVED - That Councillor McEwan be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

**5 TO RECEIVE A RETURN OF COUNCILLORS ELECTED ON 2 MAY 2019**

- Received – A schedule (previously circulated) of the Returning Officer that the under-mentioned persons had been elected Members of the Council and had made and subscribed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, namely:-

<b>WARD</b>	<b>NAME</b>
BANK TOP AND LASCELLES	Helen Crumbie
	Wendy Newall
	Darrien Wright
BRINKBURN AND FAVERDALE	Scott Durham
	Rachel Mills
	Lisa Preston
COCKERTON	Paul Baldwin
	Jan Cossins
	Eddie Heslop
COLLEGE	Bryony Holroyd PhD
	Matthew Snedker
EASTBOURNE	Jonathan Dulston
	Kevin Nicholson
	Steven Tait
HARROWGATE HILL	Ian Bell
	Jon Clarke
	Lynn Paley

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD	Chris McEwan Andrew Scott Nick Wallis
HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE	Paul Crudass Gerald Lee
HUMMERSKNOTT	Paul Howell Charles Johnson
HURWORTH	Dr. Christy Chou Lorraine Tostevin
MOWDEN	Pauline Culley Alan Marshall
NORTH ROAD	Hilary Allen Nigel Boddy LLB Anne-Marie Curry
NORTHGATE	Sajna Ali Eleanor Lister
PARK EAST	Cyndi Hughes Libby McCollom Michael Nicholson
PARK WEST	Bob Donoghue Heather Scott
PIERREMONT	Steve Harker Linda Hughes Mary Layton
RED HALL AND LINGFIELD	Sam Howarth Hilary Lucas

SADBERGE AND  
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE

Brian Jones

Doris Jones

Deborah Laing

STEPHENSON

Ian Haszeldine

Mike Renton

WHINFIELD

Jamie Barch, BA,  
MA

Andy Keir

NOTE: The Mayor informed Members that the newly-elected Members had drawn lots to determine their order of seniority on the Council immediately prior to this Annual Meeting of the Council. The Order of Seniority for official purposes was listed as follows:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
1.	Mrs. Scott
2.	Mrs. Jones
3.	Lister
4.	Wallis
5.	Baldwin
6.	Harker
7.	Haszeldine
8.	Johnson
9.	McEwan
10.	Newall
11.	Lee
12.	B. Jones
13.	A. J. Scott
14.	C. Hughes
15.	Curry
16.	Cossins
17.	Crudass
18.	Donoghue
19.	L. Hughes
20.	Crumbie
21.	Mrs. Culley
22.	Tostevin
23.	Mills
24.	K. Nicholson
25.	M. Nicholson
26.	Marshall
27.	Heslop
28.	Renton

29.	Holroyd
30.	Howarth
31.	Ali
32.	Clarke
33.	Paley
34.	Snedker
35.	Tait
36.	Dulston
37.	Bell
38.	Lucas
39.	Allen
40.	Laing
41.	Wright
42.	Boddy
43.	Bartch
44.	Layton
45.	Keir
46.	McCollom
47.	Dr. Chou
48.	Howell
49.	Durham
50.	Preston

**6 THE MAYOR OR MANAGING DIRECTOR TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY.**

There were no announcements made.

**7 TO APPOINT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM OF OFFICE.**

Consideration was given to the appointment of a Leader for the Council for a four year term of office.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, a request was made by five Members for a named vote on the Substantive Motion. A named vote was taken of those Members present at the meeting and there appeared:-

For the Motion – Councillors Allen, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Crudass, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Howell, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Keir, Laing, Lee, Marshall, Mills, K. Nicholson, Preston, Renton, Mrs. H. Scott, Tait, Tostevin and Wright (28)

Against the Motion – Councillors Ali, Baldwin, Cossins, Crumbie, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Howarth, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Layton, Lister, Lucas, McCollom, McEwan, Newall, M. Nicholson, Paley and A. J. Scott (19)

Abstentions – The Mayor; Councillors Holroyd and Snedker (3)

Motion Carried.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Mrs. H. Scott be appointed Leader of the Council for a four year term of office.

**8 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES 2019/2020**

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the membership of the various Committees for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – (a) That the appointment of Members to the various Committees, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, with the addition of Councillor Kevin Nicholson to the vacancy on the Appraisal Sub-Group, be approved.

(b) That the appointment of Cabinet Members by the Leader and their respective Portfolios, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, be noted.

(c) That any consequential changes be made to the Council's Constitution.

REASON – To comply with the nominations received.

**9 REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2019/20**

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to representation on other bodies for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the nominations to the other bodies, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASON - To comply with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

**10 TO APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2019/2020 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

- Submitted – A programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the programme of ordinary meetings be approved.

**COUNCIL**  
**18 JULY 2019**

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## **HONORARY FREEMAN AND HONORARY ALDERMEN**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Heather Scott, Leader**

**Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Managing Director**

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### **SUMMARY REPORT**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To recommend that the long service of former Councillors who did not stand for re-election in the 2019 Local Government Election be recognised by admitting Bill Dixon as a 'Honorary Freeman' and bestowing the title of 'Honorary Alderman' on David Lyonette and Tony Richmond.

#### **Summary**

2. The Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to admit 'persons of distinction' and persons who have 'rendered eminent service' to the borough as an 'Honorary Freeman' or 'Honorary Freewoman' of Darlington. The title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman is the highest civic honour that the Council is able to bestow.
3. It is proposed that former Councillor and Leader of the Council, Bill Dixon is admitted to the title of 'Honorary Freeman of Darlington'.
4. The Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' to former members of Council who have 'rendered eminent service' to the Council.
5. It is proposed that the title of 'Honorary Alderman' is conferred to David Lyonette and Tony Richmond.
6. In order to admit a person as an 'Honorary Freeman' or to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' a special meeting of Council will need to be convened for this purpose. At this meeting two-thirds of members present must vote in favour of the resolution.

#### **Recommendations**

7. To agree the proposals that Bill Dixon be admitted to the title of 'Honorary Freeman of Darlington' and that David Lyonette and Tony Richmond be conferred the title of 'Honorary Alderman' are a fitting way to recognise and honour the service of those past members of Council.

8. To agree to a Special Council to be convened as soon as can practicably be arranged to enable Members to formally vote (with a two-thirds majority) on a resolution that Bill Dixon be admitted to the title of 'Honorary Freeman of Darlington' and that David Lyonette and Tony Richmond be conferred the title of 'Honorary Alderman'.
9. To authorise the Assistant Director, Law and Governance to finalise the arrangements for Special Council, the conferment the award and titles, and an appropriate event to follow on from that meeting.

### Reasons

10. To recognise the long and eminent service of former Members of the Council by the conferment of the titles of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen.
11. For decisions to be made in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Paul Wildsmith  
Managing Director**

### Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Shirley Burton: Extension 5998  
PB

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues in relation to Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	There are no issues in relation to Health and Well Being
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Diversity	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	There are no wards affected
Groups Affected	There is no impact on any specific group
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to Council policy
Key Decision	This is not an Executive decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an Executive decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Efficiency	This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency
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

#### Honorary Freeman of Darlington – Bill Dixon

12. The Honorary Freeman of Darlington is the highest distinction a local authority can bestow on an individual. The Local Government Act 1972 (section 249) allows Councils to admit as Honorary Freeman or Freewoman 'persons of distinction' and any person who has 'rendered eminent services' to the Borough.
13. It is an honour that is sparingly awarded. The last recipients were the late John Williams and Alisdair MacConachie in November 2011.
14. The Honorary Freeman or Freewomen are purely honorary positions, although they can play a part in Civic and Ceremonial events in the Borough.
15. The proposal is to confer the award on Bill Dixon, former Leader of the Council for the eminent service he has rendered to the Borough of Darlington.
16. Bill Dixon served for 40 years as a member of the Council having been first elected as a Councillor in 1979 aged 26 and served continuously thereafter until standing down in May this year. Bill Dixon served as the Mayor of Darlington in the year 1999/2000. He became a Cabinet Member in 2001 and served continuously on Cabinet following then and became the Leader of the Council in 2011 (he was elected Deputy Leader in 1991). He was at the forefront of many local and regional issues, including the formation of the Tees Valley Combined Authority and the devolution of funding. During his Leadership the Council had to deal with unprecedented reductions in central government funding which required very difficult decisions and a more innovative use of resources in order to balance the budget, which was achieved. A greater focus was given during his tenure as Leader to economic growth, jobs and housebuilding.
17. In order to admit a person as an 'Honorary Freeman', a special meeting of Council will need to be convened for this purpose. At this meeting two-thirds of members present must vote in favour of the resolution.

#### Honorary Alderman - David Lyonette and Tony Richmond

18. The Local Government Act 1972 (section 249) enables the Council to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' to former members of Council who have 'rendered eminent service' to the Council. Unlike the conferment of 'Honorary Freeman' the conferment as an 'Honorary Alderman' can only be made to a former member of the Council.
19. Should the Council wish to consider bestowing the title of 'Honorary Alderman' on recently retired Members with long service, it would be appropriate to bestow such an honour on former Councillors David Lyonette and Tony Richmond.
20. David Lyonette and Tony Richmond have 43 and 42 and a half years' service respectively on the Council. The next longest serving member who retired in May

2019 had 32 years' service. David Lyonette served as Mayor in the year 1992/1993 and also served as a member of Cabinet for a number of years. Tony Richmond served as Mayor in the year 1993/1994 and was for a number of years the Leader of the Opposition and the Conservative Group.

21. An Honorary Alderman is encouraged to attend all civic and ceremonial events when invited, promote civic pride in the Borough and attend Council meetings (without voting rights).
22. In order to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' a special meeting of Council will need to be convened for this purpose. At this meeting two-thirds of members present must vote in favour of the resolution.

### **Conclusion**

23. Should the Council agree to confer honours the formal resolutions and ceremony would take place at a Special Council meeting, (possibly in September or October 2019). It is requested that delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director, Law and Governance to make the necessary detailed arrangements in consultation with the individuals concerned.
24. It is proposed that after the formal Special Council meeting has concluded that those honoured, their guests and Members could attend a buffet in Central Hall (Dolphin Centre). It is estimated that the costs would be in the region of £3,000.

### **Consultation**

25. Consultation has been undertaken with the relevant Group Leaders who are in favour of the proposals.

**COUNCIL  
18 JULY 2019**

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**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW**

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**A New Council**

1. I am very proud to have been elected as the first female Leader of Darlington Borough Council at Annual Council and I plan to do my best to serve the public of Darlington. I have stated on numerous occasions that I want to lead a collaborative and inclusive Council and all Councillors are elected to do the best they can to improve the lives of Darlington residents and, I want to ensure all Councillors have the ability to contribute to decisions that the Council and Cabinet make and I have set out in my report how I intend this to happen.
2. Local authorities must operate within a nationally set framework and do their best to achieve good outcomes for the public they serve. I intend to build on the work previously done and improve where it is possible. We are intending to take Cabinet meetings out of the Town Hall into the community. The first one will be at Firth Moor Community Centre on 10 September, and also encouraging Cabinet members to be more visible in the community.

**Growing the Economy to Help All Residents**

3. Darlington's economy is improving but there is much more to be done. I intend to place economic growth at the top of the Council's priorities as good sustainable employment is the key to improving life changes for all residents. I want to see growth that benefits all, helping build resilient communities that helps reduce the gaps in life opportunities within the borough, ultimately leading to reduced public sector service demands.
4. The recent Cabinet meeting highlighted just some of the good work the Council is doing to create the conditions for growth. The Town Centre Strategy which is being consulted upon, will take us forward, and enable us to utilise the £10m secured from TVCA for the Town Centre to be invested wisely having taken on board the views of key stakeholders. The opportunities offered by the improvements to the covered market are key to the strategy. I also look forward to seeing the plans become to reality as is the case with the new office block in Feethams.
5. I attended the Town Centre Reference Group on 19 June which is chaired by Councillor Alan Marshall. It was pleasing to see so many of our local businesses being passionately supportive of our Town Centre Strategy and the work we are planning to do to make our Town Centre an attractive and vibrant place.

**Darlington Partnerships and Darlington Cares**

6. Work continues on the Fairer Richer Darlington Charter at the Partnership, updates on progress were presented to the last Board which showed steady progress is being made. A report on how the Council will change its procurement approach will be coming to Cabinet shortly, with the aim of spending more of our money, and that

of partners, in the local economy to stimulate economic growth.

7. I had a recent update of the work of Darlington Cares which is a partnership of businesses and the Council to bring together businesses to help improve outcomes for residents of Darlington by harnessing the skills and resources of businesses. Many Councillors will be aware of the work Cares do in the environment such as the 'Pick, Pie and Pint' initiative but perhaps less aware of other less publicised general work they do. I have asked that a briefing on the work of Cares be prepared for Members after the recess.

### **The Corporate Plan**

8. I will be working with officers over the coming months to review priorities and will be bringing a revised Corporate Plan forward for consultation. Although undoubtedly, there will be some new approaches and initiatives, I am not anticipating a whole scale change; the existing direction of growing the economy in an inclusive way whilst supporting the most vulnerable in our society will continue to be the backbone of our Corporate Plan, in-line with the Borough's Community Strategy One Darlington Perfectly Placed.

### **A New Approach to Inclusive Decision Making**

9. Members will have received my letter on a new approach to ensuring all Members have the opportunity to be involved in Cabinet decision making by increasing visibility of future decisions and increasing the opportunity for pre-involvement by Scrutiny Committees. I trust Members appreciate this change and will use it appropriately, as we all understand that officer time is at a premium, so we need to ensure we use their time wisely. We will be reviewing Cabinet portfolios and dealing with overlap and balance the responsibility more equally with relevant Cabinet members.

### **Strategic Transport**

10. As part of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet I will be responsible for the Transport Portfolio and I will Chair the Transport Committee. Our Transport Network and Infrastructure is incredibly important and vital to support our growing economy. Over the summer the Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan will be launched for consultation. The focus of this plan is on improving the transport system for local people and businesses. This means improving our walking and cycling networks and making sure that the public transport network, particularly buses, works for people now and in the future. However, very often improving local journeys requires action on a larger scale. For example, the frequency and service patterns on our local rail network are determined by the interaction of local trains at the national rail gateways of Darlington and Middlesbrough. Congestion and incidents on the main highway network, particularly the A19 and the A66, have a major impact on the operation of more local roads. I will be pressing for investment by National Infrastructure Agencies and Government to fund major infrastructure investments in Darlington and the Tees Valley to improve our transport and will be working with Mayor Houchen as his deputy on the Board of Transport for the North to secure investment.
11. Darlington hosted the Rail Future Conference in June and I spoke to the conference on the Rebirth of the Railways. Our rail heritage is something that we

are rightly proud of and something that we plan to celebrate moving forward towards the 200th anniversary of the Stockton to Darlington Railway in 2025. We will be bringing a report to Council before the end of the year on progress to date. We want to celebrate our past but also see investment and the creation of modern railway that strengthens Darlington's excellent connectivity.

**Councillor Mrs Heather Scott OBE**  
**Leader of the Council Portfolio**

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**COUNCIL  
18 JULY**

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**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Social Care since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Social Care.

**Adult Social Care –Strategic Commissioning**

2. Carers Week took place between 10 and 16 June 2019, with a number of activities and events taking place across Darlington, including drop in sessions at Sainsburys and EE. These sessions were aimed at working carers, with information and support being made available on the day. On 12 June, a Carers Well Being Event was held at King William Street Community Centre where information was made available about the variety of relaxation techniques that are available to carers living in Darlington.
3. 'Caring Matters', the regular newsletter published by the Council's contracted Carer Support provider (Darlington Carers Support) coincided with Carers Week and contained information regarding not only the events taking place in Carers Week but also events, services and support available to carers throughout the year.
4. In addition, Officers continue to participate in the ADASS North East Regional Carers Strategic Network, where the current work plan is focussing on assistive technology which can be used to support carers in their caring roles. The group is also focussing on how to identify and support working carers, including those who are employed by Darlington Borough Council.

**Adult Social Care – Operational Developments**

5. Adult Social Care continues to achieve good performance in key areas relating to the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). In particular, we continue to reduce reliance on permanent residential placements, and are supporting more people to live independently at home. In 2018/19, 43 per cent of people who needed adult social care received a direct payment. This performance compares favourably with our statistical neighbours, 27 per cent, our North East neighbours at 25 per cent, and England average at 28 per cent. This demonstrates that we are supporting people to remain at home and enabling them to have more choice and control with regards to how their care needs are met.
6. Adult Social Care continues to deliver good performance in delayed transfers of care (DTC), which means that people do not remain in hospital beds for longer than they need to. Throughout 2018/19 we have consistently achieved our national target of no more than 155 delayed day per month. As a local authority area we have remained within the top ten performers nationally and as a system we are currently ranked four out of 151 areas. This shows our ongoing

commitment to working in partnership with NHS colleagues to ensure that people are discharged from hospital in a timely manner.

### **Darlington Safeguard Adult Partnership Board**

7. The Board met on 30 April 2019. This was the last meeting of the Safeguarding Adults Board, as future meetings will be joint with members of the Safeguarding Children's Board in preparation for the new safeguarding arrangements. A joined up approach will allow the best use of resources and will enable the partnership to deliver consistent standards. The new partnership will be known as Darlington Safeguarding Partnership.
8. The structure for the new arrangements will consist of a wider multi-agency partnership group and Ann Baxter has been appointed as Independent Scrutineer/Chair. Ann will provide robust scrutiny and challenge across the partnership. There will be two standing sub groups, the Learning and Review Sub Group, whose remit will be to identify multi-agency safeguarding learning and practice needs and to oversee Safeguarding Adult Reviews and the Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group which will use data intelligence and audit activity to ensure safeguarding arrangements in Darlington are robust and effective. Working groups will also be established, dependent on focus and priorities to support key pieces of work. There will also be opportunities to establish safeguarding links with forums and wider groups
9. Full details of the arrangements are available in the plan which was published on the [Safeguarding Boards website](#) on 24 May 2019. The arrangements will be in place from 1 July 2019. A flexible approach is being taken as arrangements are likely to evolve over the coming months.

**Councillor Rachel Mills**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care**



**COUNCIL**  
**18 JULY 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Children and Young People Portfolio.

**Corporate Parenting Panel**

2. The Panel met on 11 June 2019. This meeting focused on the progress that has been made in developing the new 'promises' for Children in Care. The Panel members were in support of the direction of travel and agreed for the work that is underway to continue.

**Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**

3. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 requires changes in moving from existing Local Safeguarding Boards to create new multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements by September 2019. The new arrangements are to be led collaboratively by three statutory organisations, comprising; Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and Police.
4. Although Statutory Guidance is applicable only to children's safeguarding arrangements, Darlington Safeguarding Partners decided to amalgamate both Child and Adult Safeguarding arrangements. The new partnership will be known as 'Darlington Safeguarding Partnership' and will be a joined up approach allowing the best use of resources, enabling the partnership to deliver consistent standards. A shadow Safeguarding Partnership arrangement has been in place since February 2019 and has been driving the transitioning arrangements at pace.
5. The last meeting of the Local Safeguarding Children Board was held on the 2 April 2019, which provided an opportunity for organisations to highlight what they felt had worked well and identify what could be taken forward into the new arrangements. This work enabled focus on the draft plan outlining the new safeguarding arrangements for Darlington.
6. The first meeting of the combined 'Adults and Children Working Partnership Group' was held in 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019. An Independent Scrutineer/Chair Ann Baxter was appointed and chairs this newly formed group. Ann will also provide robust scrutiny and challenge across the partnership.
7. This new group is to be supported by four main subgroups designed to take forward the Safeguarding agenda :-
  - Learning and Review Sub Group whose remit will be to identify multi-agency safeguarding learning and practice needs and to oversee Local Learning Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

- Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group will use data intelligence and audit activity to ensure safeguarding arrangements in Darlington are robust and effective.
  - Child Death Overview Panel
  - Child Exploitation sub group
8. Full details of the arrangements are available in the plan which was published on the [Safeguarding Boards website](#) on 24 May 2019. The arrangements were made live from 1 July 2019. A flexible approach is being taken as arrangements are likely to evolve over the coming months.

### **School Forum**

9. The School Forum met on 17 June. Regular papers were received regarding the budget position.

### **Education**

10. Two maintained schools have been inspected by Ofsted this year. George Dent Nursery School was judged to continue to be an outstanding school. On 3 April Red Hall Primary School was judged to be a 'good' school with 'outstanding' personal development, behaviour and welfare and Early Years provision.
11. On 10 June, Darlington Borough Council hosted a successful Education Conference for all schools and colleges in Darlington. The focus of the conference was inclusion and the value of education to the local economy. Initial feedback from conference participants has been extremely positive.

### **Early Help**

12. The week commencing 3 June 2019 celebrated National Bookstart week across all of the Children Centres, delivering fun and exciting activities to promote speech and language. The main focus was the importance of parents spending quality with their child before bedtime reading stories. Over 100+ families have joined us to celebrate all receiving a copy of 'Car Car Truck Jeep'. Parental feedback was excellent.
13. In June, the Darlington Troubled Families Programme received a spot check on the progress of its work by the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The programme initially identified 933 families who would benefit from services under this umbrella and to date over 50 per cent of the families have successfully completed the programme. The spot check noted the positive attitude of staff as to the fidelity of the programme and Darlington's commitment to work in partnership with a strong focus on preparing people for work and successfully securing them into employment. There was identification of some innovative work and identified two areas which they wish to share as good practice.

### **DFE visit Care Leavers**

14. On 20 May, during a follow up visit, the DFE National Implementation Advisor for Care Leavers Mark Ridell, heard about the rapid progress Darlington has made

on the offer to care leavers since his previous visit in September 2018. A number of good progress outcomes were noted; housing options to care leavers and opportunities within the business sector. He spoke at length with care leavers who were very encouraged by the offer in place.

### **Child Protection/Looked After Children Statistics**

15. As at 31 May 2019 the following figure were reported:

- (a) 132 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan; and
- (b) 282 children were in care

### **Children's Commissioning and Contracts**

16. A new service commenced in early July, which will diversify and modernise the way in which the Voice of Child is obtained. This new service is an app that helps young people communicate their views in a way that suits them. Young people can use the app to say how they are feeling, what support they need and directly influence their support plan with things that are important to them. This will be very a positive development in ensuring that the services are designed and developed around the needs and priorities of young people.
17. Work continues amongst the sub region with regard to the future commissioning arrangements for the delivery of children's residential care post the end of the current Tees Valley residential contract in March 2020.
18. Following joint work between a service provider and the children's commissioning team, remodelled units of self-contained accommodation became available in April for vulnerable young people aged 16 – 24 years who are at risk of homelessness and loneliness and require support in order to live independently. These units of accommodation are now fully occupied, and the shared communal kitchens have been a very successful feature in developing peer support mechanisms. The positive impact of this remodelling is being closely monitored.
19. The Quality Assurance Framework for children's residential care is well embedded with a rigorous system in place for the receipt and screening of Regulation 44 reports. The framework has been further enhanced for the next quarter to focus upon and monitor emerging themes and trends. Information gathered will be used to inform future commissioning intentions.

### **Activities**

20. Since the last council I've been briefed by the Director of Adults and Children's Services and all the senior members of the Children and Young Peoples team. I've subsequently been following a planned set of engagements with our council run facilities which so far have included The One Stop Shop, Learning and Skills, Children's access point, all children's homes, the Looked after Children's Through Care team, Education Partnerships and the Darlington partnership team.
21. The CYP Scrutiny, Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Board and SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) meeting have also been attended in Darlington.

22. Externally I've taken my seat at the NE Lead Members Network with whom I attended a meeting with the Children and Families minister to press for better funding. I also attended the annual report presentation at Adoption Tees Valley.
23. Other events attended were the Best of Darlington Awards, the Polish Schools Celebration Day, Darlington Young Peoples Conference, and Darlington Dance Schools Association Concert.

**Councillor Paul Crudass**  
**Children and Young People Portfolio**

**COUNCIL**  
**26 JULY 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Community Safety Portfolio.

**Crime and Disorder**

2. There has been no change in the number of reported crimes in Darlington during the period 1 April to 31 May 2018 compared with the same period in 2019. This equates to a total of 2173 crimes. Crimes showing an increase include violence without injury (disorder) and sexual offences. Crimes showing a decrease include theft, burglary, vehicle crime and shoplifting.
3. During the same period there has been a four per cent reduction in the number of reported crimes in Darlington Town Centre. This equates to a total of 313 crimes. Crimes showing an increase include violence without injury (disorder), sexual offences and a slight increase in burglary (low numbers).
4. Darlington has also experienced a 14 per cent decrease in all reported incidents to the police during the same period and anti-social behaviour is currently 20 per cent lower than last year.
5. Exceptions relating to increases in anti-social behaviour include Faverdale, Haughton East, Whessoe and Lingfield.
6. Darlington Community Partnership and the Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group are currently working together to tackle these issues and have developed and completed a number of operations, initiatives and time limited work to reduce crime and disorder in the areas of exception.

**Serious and Organised Crime Presentations**

7. Fifty members of Community Safety, Youth Offending and Early Help recently attended a presentation in relation to serious and organised crime. Topics covered included local threat and risk, current developments and trends and future opportunities for working together.

**Operation Helium**

8. Operation Helium was a joint police and council operation focused on the unlawful supply of Class A drugs in Darlington. The operation was completed on 10 April 2019 and resulted in 16 arrests and the closure of premises used in connection with crime related activity. Due to the complexity of the case the investigation continues and a file will be submitted for consideration by the Crown Prosecution Service regarding future charges.

## **Public Protection Partnership**

9. On 5 June 2019, members of Durham Constabulary, British Transport Police and Darlington Borough Council Community Safety met to develop a partnership designed to tackle the problems associated with safeguarding and vulnerability around the railway network. This work was initially commissioned by Darlington Children's Board and the meeting concluded with a series of actions including improved intelligence sharing, submission of referrals, provision of specialist training (for BTP) and membership of the Darlington Multi-Agency Problem-Solving Group.

## **Community Safety Team Launch**

10. The official launch of the Community Safety team was held on 25 June 2019 in the Dolphin Centre. It was attended by over 60 guests, including DBC councillors and representatives from our partners in the emergency services, voluntary sector and other councils. During the event the Civic Enforcement Officers were bestowed powers normally reserved for the police by Chief Constable Jo Farrell. Speeches were given by Graham Hall, Jo Farrell, Councillor Jonathan Dulston and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Heather Scott.
11. The public launch event for the Community Safety team was held on 30 June 2019 in the Market Place and the Dolphin Centre. Billed as a 'Celebrate our Services Day' the public had the chance to see vehicles from fire and rescue, police, NEAS and the Blood Bikes as well as our own civic enforcement team. There were also 'stalls' where the public could view displays and talk to Trading Standards, Licensing and Private Sector Housing. A highlight for many of the attendees was the chance to 'tour' the CCTV control room and find out about the many things the CCTV team do, other than just monitor CCTV screens.
12. Both events gained good coverage in the local press and featured prominently in social media over the following days.

## **Trading Standards**

### **Tenants Fees Act 2019**

13. The main provisions of the Tenants Fees Act 2019 came into force on 1 June 2019. Landlords or agents cannot require tenants in the private rented sector in England, or any persons acting on behalf of a tenant or guaranteeing the rent, to make certain payments in connection with a tenancy. Trading Standards enforces this Act in respect to prohibitions applying to landlords and letting agents and the treatment of holding deposits.
14. Trading Standards issued a warning, via social media, to local residents to be aware of rogue traders offering gardening and tree cutting services, following a report made to a Civic Enforcement Officer by a local resident. The team will continue to make best use of social media to deliver early warnings to our community with the aim of preventing people from becoming victims of predatory rogue traders.

## **Private Sector Housing**

### **EPC regulation for private landlords**

15. The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property, England and Wales) Regulations 2015, establish a minimum level of energy efficiency for privately rented property in England and Wales of a Band E. The regulations are intended to ensure that tenants who most need more efficient homes, particularly vulnerable people, are able to enjoy a better living environment and lower energy bills. From 1 April 2020, all domestic private rental properties must be at a minimum of EPC band E, whether a new lease is being signed or not.

## **CONTEST**

### **Counter Terrorism Local Profile**

16. In response to Operation Dovetail (which is a government initiative designed to transfer some responsibilities of counter-terrorism from Police to local authorities) Durham Constabulary has recently produced a Counter Terrorism Local Profile, which can be cascaded to a wider audience than previously. The profile is currently in consultation and it is expected to be available to Members in the next reporting period.

## **Licensing**

### **Management of Licensed Premises**

17. Licensing have been working with Police and other responsible authorities to identify and address issues of poor management.
18. Two town centre night time venues have been identified as creating increased demand on Police resources and where serious assaults have occurred. This has resulted in formal agreements made at senior management level with each of the venues. Licensing are in the process of monitoring these agreements and if there are no improvements, applications will be made to review their licences at the Licensing Committee.

### **Licensing Responsible Authorities Forum**

19. Bi-monthly Responsible Authorities meetings have been established to identify problem premises and those that are emerging as problems. A problem-solving approach is adopted to deal with the issues identified, with an escalation process to the Darlington Multi-Agency Problem-Solving Group for appropriate action if necessary.

### **Licensing Awareness Week**

20. Council Licensing, Police and Security Industry Authority (SIA) will be launching a campaign to coincide with Licensing Awareness Week to raise awareness of safety issues with door staff. Five security companies have been identified to work with and information will be cascaded to teams around the town over the next twelve-months.

## **Purple Flag**

21. Purple Flag aims to raise the standard and broaden the appeal of town and city centres at night. It is the benchmark for good night time destinations. Town and city centres that achieve a Purple Flag will be those that are safe, diverse, vibrant, appealing, well-managed and offer a positive experience to consumers. Darlington Borough Council Community Safety are currently working and actively engaged with a range of partners to secure accreditation, which will be considered in autumn 2019.

## **Community Engagement**

### **Community Cohesion**

22. The 'Celebrating Our Communities' event was held on 19 May 2019 at Central House Annexe, Darlington. A diverse audience attended the two-hour celebration and as well as networking, visitors had the opportunity to listen to talks delivered by the Police, Community Cohesion, Civic Enforcement and the Community Resilience Officer. The event which was attended by 50-60 guests helped to reinforce the positive links between Darlington Borough Council, Councillors, partners and communities.

**Councillor Jonathan Dulston  
Community Safety Portfolio**



**COUNCIL**  
**18 JULY 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under by Officers within the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio.

**Local Plan**

2. Following a recommendation made by Place Scrutiny, Cabinet made the decision to defer the Local Plan report to allow for additional evidenced based traffic modelling to be carried out with regard to the proposed access through Springfield Park.
3. It is important that Cabinet receive all the evidence, listen to feedback, taking into account all views and options before committing to a local plan for Darlington.
4. I would like to remind Members that the Local Plan is a plan for growth and prosperity and aims to ensure that Darlington becomes an even more attractive and sustainable location in which people increasingly choose to live, work and visit. The Plan will play a major part in delivering our economic strategy while providing the new homes needed to support the increase in the number of working people as we take the opportunities of a modern, vibrant economy.

**Town Centre Strategy**

5. The Town Centre Strategy was presented to Cabinet in July, and a full consultation and engagement exercise with the community of Darlington, partners and stakeholders will commence in the very near future. This strategy clearly sets out an overarching vision and by working with our local partners we will:
  - (a) Develop and enhance Darlington's unique selling points.
  - (b) Establish a richer understanding of the current and future demographic demands upon the town centre.
  - (c) Create an accessible town centre for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.
  - (d) Establish new anchors within the town such as a revitalised, refurbished and refreshed Victorian Indoor Market.
  - (e) Invests in our heritage assets, utilising their charm and attractiveness by holding regular events and activities.
  - (f) Reduce the retail footprint of the town replacing empty shops and derelict pieces of land with appropriate, sustainable and high-quality residential accommodation and employment space.
  - (g) Ensure any future developments of the town centre strategically fits and complements forthcoming investments into the Bank Top Train Station and the Darlington 2025 programme of projects.

6. As part of the Town Centre Strategy, Cabinet has authorised the acquisition of 12 Skinnergate. The purchase and subsequent work on the property will ensure a general improvement in appearance of the Grade II listed building and will improve the general amenity of the Skinnergate area.

### **Development Management**

7. Our development management team continues to work with residents and developers. Over the last few months permissions have been granted for the development of Stag House and various section 106 agreements have been completed which means that the commencement of certain developments is imminent.

### **Environmental Health**

8. Officers within the Environmental Health Section continue to ensure the communities within the Borough are protected through various interventions, guidance and enforcement and have responded to 831 requests for service in Quarter 4. The main categories of these requests are:

- (a) Food (113)
- (b) Licensing (81)
- (c) Noise (120)
- (d) Planning Consultations (87)
- (e) Refuse (75)
- (f) Pest (116)

9. Additionally, the Commercial Team carried out the following proactive Food Inspections:

- (a) Food Safety (194)
- (b) Food Standards (116)

### **Business Investment**

10. There has been further interest in the Faverdale area, with two local companies expressing an interest in land for expansion. Negotiations are ongoing.
11. Further investment opportunities in Darlington continue to present themselves with discussions with a regional company ongoing, which will see approximately 44 staff working from a new Darlington site.
12. From the latest figures produced in April 2019, there are currently 2,770 Darlington residents claiming out-of-work benefits. This equates to 4.3 per cent of all residents which is the same level as the North East figure. Great Britain's figure is 2.7 per cent. This shows an increase of 25 claimants in Darlington since March 2019 (0.1 per cent increase). Both in the North-East and nationally there has been a 0.1 per cent increase too.

13. Of those claiming out-of-work benefits, 575 are aged 18-24 (7.6 per cent), which is an increase of 5 claimants since March 2019, and 355 (8.6per cent) are aged 18-21, which is an increase of 15 claimants in the same period (0.4 per cent). These two age groups are those which are most notable in variance compared to Great Britain as a whole at 3.6 per cent and the North East at 6.1 per cent for the 18-24 age range, which equates to a 0.2 per cent increase; and 3.9 per cent and 6.5 per cent respectively for the 18-21 age range, which is a 0.3 per cent increase.
14. Planning for Business Week, which will take place week commencing 7 October, has commenced. There is a large amount of interest already for partners and organisations wanting to be involved.

**Councillor Alan Marshall**  
**Economy and Regeneration Portfolio**

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**COUNCIL  
18 JULY 2019**

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## **OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio.

### **Release of Capital Allocation**

2. Cabinet has released £200,000 of funding allocated within the Capital MTFP – 2019/20 – 2222/23 to undertake capitalised repairs in corporate buildings, which the Council has a responsibility to maintain in accordance with its statutory obligations.
3. The allocation will be used to meet urgent identified repairs which include replacement boilers at Harewood House, Heighington Village Hall, West Cemetery Chapel, and the replacement of louvre panels to the spire dormers on the Town Clock.

### **Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2018/19**

4. Cabinet has received information on the delivery of the Council's Capital Programme, together with the financial outturn position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, and the proposed financing of the 2018/19 capital expenditure.
5. The Council has a substantial annual construction programme of work, with the current project position statement showing that there are currently 29 live projects currently being managed with an overall project outturn of £67.937 million. The majority of projects are running to time, cost and quality expectations with no foreseeable issues.

### **Revenue Outturn 2018/19**

6. The Council's draft revenue position at the end of 2018/19 is £18,310 million, which is £0.131 million better than the initial 2019-20 MTFP position.
7. An additional £0.249 million has been requested to be carried forward into 2019/20 to meet future commitments on top of the £2.592 million already approved. Whilst this improved position is helpful it does not change the financial context in which the Council is currently planning.

## **Council Tax Empty Property Premium**

8. I am currently consulting residents over proposals to increase the Council Tax premium on long-term empty properties.
9. Currently, a property which has been left empty for more than two years is charged an extra 50 per cent Council Tax (making a band D charge on such a property £2,722 for 2019/20). Under new legislation introduced by the Government, the Council can increase such a charge to:
  - (a) 100 per cent of the Council Tax (making a band D charge on such a property £3,629).
  - (b) 200 per cent additional Council Tax can be charged for properties left empty for five years (£5,443 for a band D), and
  - (c) From 2021, an additional 300 per cent for properties left empty for ten years (£7,258 for a band D).
10. There will be protection for those owners making genuine attempts to refurbish empty homes and bringing them back into use.
11. Whilst Darlington does not have a significant problem with long-term empty properties, I recognise the blight that these sorts of properties can have on our residents. In addition, I am determined to use all the powers at our disposal to bring these much-needed properties back into use, ensuring we have the housing we need for Darlington residents.

## **Customer Services Digital Strategy**

12. We are currently developing a new Customer Services Digital Strategy for Darlington, which sets out our plans to modernise the way in which we deliver services to our residents.
13. I recognise the need to invest in new technology to improve customer services, reduce costs over time and get things right first time.
14. Most residents want to self-serve using on-line applications to access Council services and where customers can self-serve, we will expect them to do so. We will make digital the first option for all of our high volume, low complexity services (such as ordering a new bin or reporting a pothole). This means we can use more of our valuable staffing resources to support those residents who need the most help in accessing our services and getting on-line

## **Council Tax Recovery**

15. I can report to Members that staff in our Revenues and Benefits services have recently taken possession of a privately-owned property in the Cockerton area of Darlington, in order to recover outstanding arrears of Council Tax.
16. The owner of the property owes the Council over £7,700 in Council Tax and over £2,200 in costs and interest but had taken no action to make payment. High court enforcement agents have now taken possession of the property, which will be sold to recover the amounts owed to the Council. In addition, it was discovered the property was being used as a cannabis farm, which has now been shut down and

is being investigated by Police.

17. I am reporting this to assure Members that I will take whatever action that is necessary against those individuals who wilfully refuse to pay their Council Tax, including repossessing their homes if appropriate.

### **Local Government Elections and European Parliamentary Elections 2019**

18. The Local Government Elections took place on 2 May 2019, with Officers from the Elections Team co-ordinating the arrangements for the election.
19. The European Parliamentary Election was held on 23 May 2019. Given the short notice period provided in terms of calling this election, and the subsequent overlap of work in the lead in to the Local Government Elections, the Elections Team successfully worked within incredibly tight timescales to ensure that appropriate arrangements were in place in terms of staffing, securing venues as Polling Stations and liaising with our printers to produce the required paperwork.

### **Annual Canvass 2019 (Electoral Registration)**

20. This year's Annual Canvass commenced on 1 July 2019, and Household Enquiry Forms (HEFs) were delivered to every property in the Borough. Residents were provided with a number of different options as to how they could respond, including on-line, by telephone, by text, or by completion and return of the form itself.
21. A Press Release encouraging completion of the HEF was released on 1 July 2019, alongside a proactive social media campaign.
22. Where appropriate, reminders will be issued to those electors who do not respond, with the initial set of reminders due to be issued at the end of July, and Visiting Officers will be visiting properties throughout August, September and October to encourage the completion of outstanding forms.

### **Members Induction 2019**

23. Since the local elections in May, Officers have undertaken a number of induction and training sessions for new Members to assist them in their early days and it is pleasing to be able to report that positive feedback on the quality of these sessions has been received and that attendances have been good. The Members' training programme will continue throughout the year as and when sessions are identified, however, if there are any particular training needs which any Member feels would be beneficial to them, please contact Democratic Services.

**Councillor Charles Johnson**  
**Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio**

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**COUNCIL  
18 JULY 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF HOUSING, HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the main areas of work under my Housing, Health and Partnerships Portfolio were as follows:-

**Public Health**

2. The Public Health team have initiated a re-procurement exercise for the Substance Misuse Service and public consultation is underway. Feedback is being gathered from service users, stakeholders and members of the public until mid-August and comments will be used to inform the new service specification. This will then be used to test the market with potential providers.

**Health and Well Being Board**

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board held on 4 July 2019 focussed on 'Starting Well: Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life', with a presentation given on 'Healthy Lifestyle Survey'. A number of updates were also provided including Darlington Child Health Profile and the Children and Young People's Plan 2017/2022.
4. Other issues considered at the meeting included a verbal update by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group on the Integrated Care Systems and an update on the governance arrangements.

**Darlington Partnership**

5. The Best of Darlington 2019 awards were the most successful to date. 260 nominations were made this year, far more than any previous year. In addition 440 people attended at the Awards ceremony of 14 June, again larger than any previous year.
6. The Festival of Ingenuity of Friday was held on 12 and Saturday 13 July. 600 school children participated on the school focused Science Technology Engineering and Maths activities on the Friday and the event was well attended by on the Saturday. Again the event was well supported by local businesses this year who have committed significant staff time and resources.
7. Activity is being progressed towards the Fairer Richer Darlington programme. The work of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, which has been exploring how public sector bodies in Darlington can spend more locally and maximise the benefit of that spend, is due to report in July.

## **Housing Services**

### **Universal Credit**

8. We are closely monitoring the impact the roll-out of Universal Credit is having since the full service started in Darlington in June 2018, and in particular the impact on rent arrears for our own Council Tenants.
9. As expected, rent arrears have increased, but is mainly in line with our projections and compares similarly to other housing providers. On average, Council Tenants receiving Universal Credit are 6.5 weeks in arrears with their rent, compared to 5 weeks in arrears for those on Housing Benefit. One of the main reasons for the increase is in the way Universal Credit is paid; Housing Benefit is paid weekly in advance whilst Universal Credit is paid monthly in arrears.
10. The majority of Council Tenants receiving Universal Credit are paying their rent, once they receive their monthly Universal Credit payment. However, we should not underestimate the challenge Universal Credit brings. Approximately 27 per cent of our working age tenants on low incomes are receiving Universal Credit and 84 per cent of these are in rent arrears.
11. We have recruited additional rent collection staff for our Housing Income Team and we have arranged for our Tenancy Sustainment Officers to offer an appointment for assistance and support to every tenant who claims Universal Credit.
12. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular updates on progress.

### **Star Survey**

13. An independent organisation, The Leadership Foundation (TLF), has been appointed to carry out a satisfaction survey of Council Housing services. This will provide information on how tenants and leaseholders view the Council's performance on a range of services.
14. The survey will be telephone based and will run through July. TLF will conduct a sample survey intended to obtain responses from 1000 Council tenants and leaseholders. This is about 18 per cent of all tenancies and will ensure dependable results. The survey will take between 10 and 15 minutes. A telephone based survey was chosen because it provides better quality responses, as the contractor can seek clarification of responses. It is also a more efficient method. The survey results will be analysed and anonymised by TFL with a final report provided in September 2019.
15. To support the survey and encourage participation the Council will provide information about the survey through a number of media channels including social media, the tenant's newsletter, Housing Connect and the Council Website.

## **Local Authority Data Review**

16. We are participating in the trial of a new information gathering system that is being set up to support the work of the Social Housing Regulator (SHR). The SHR was established when the Government established Homes England as the replacement agency for the Homes and Communities Agency. They separated the regulator function from the investment function of Homes England to establish an independent regulator. The Government has signalled that it intends to increase the role of the regulator in relation to Council Housing. At the moment only the Customer Standard of the Regulatory Framework applies to Councils. However, the Government intend to extend this to the Rent Standard and in preparation for this are trialling a new data gathering system with the intention of the system going "live" in 2020. They have also issued a consultation document on rent setting standards that will form the new standard for rents. This includes confirmation that the year on year rent reduction will come to an end. From 2020 rent increases will be CPI plus 1 per cent.

## **Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy**

17. A new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy has recently been approved by Cabinet. The strategy is a statutory document that sets out how the Council will address homelessness and rough sleeping. The Strategy builds upon the robust systems and procedures already in place, in addition to, the strong partnerships we have in place with both the statutory and voluntary sector. It is heavily influenced by the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and the national Rough Sleeping Strategy, the key aim of which is prevention.
18. A new multi-agency monitoring group has been set up to help with the delivery and monitoring of the strategy and action plan. We will be closely monitoring progress to ensure we continue to provide a comprehensive and good quality range of services and support for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

## **Municipal Journal Award Winners: Best Social Housing Initiative**

19. We have recently won the Best Social Housing Initiative in The MJ Local Government Achievement Awards which is a great recognition for the Council and in particular for our in-house teams in Housing, Building Services and Capital Projects.
20. Our new-build programme has already seen more than 250 affordable homes, including both houses and apartments, designed and built in-house and there are plans for 100 more properties each year for the next ten years.
21. I am keen to build more affordable homes for rent to meet the needs of local people and continue with our vision to build strong and balanced communities, making sure properties are available for working families as well as older people and those most in need. Demand for all the developments is extremely high. The MJ particularly commended us for being a small authority with big ambitions when it comes to delivering housing and a great example of what can be achieved

22. Work is currently underway on three more sites at McMullen Road, Fenby Avenue and Wordsworth Road where a range of properties, including apartments and three and four-bedroom houses, should be ready for tenants to move in later this year.

**Councillor Lorraine Tostevin**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Housing, Health and Partnerships**

**COUNCIL  
18 JULY 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF LEISURE AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio.

**Highway Maintenance Programme**

2. Highway Maintenance Schemes ongoing:
  - (a) Denmark Street and Wales Street Back Lane – resurfacing.
3. Highway Maintenance Scheme due to start:
  - (a) Micro-Asphalt Programme: Carriageway surfacing - 103 sites.
  - (b) C38 Elstob Lane. Viewley Hill Farm to Carr House: Carriageway reconstruction and resurfacing.
  - (c) C52 Yarm Road (Oak Tree Roundabout) Middleton St George: Carriageway resurfacing.
  - (d) A167 North Road. Whessoe Road to Westmoreland Street: Carriageway retexturing.
  - (e) C39 School Aycliffe Lane. The Chestnuts to boundary (DCC): Carriageway reconstruction and resurfacing.
  - (f) A167 Grange Road (Commercial Area - Victoria Road to Coniscliffe Road). Carriageway reconstruction and resurfacing.

**Highway Improvement Schemes**

4. Yarm Road/McMullen Road roundabout – works complete. Additional lane designation signs were erected in June 2019 to assist drivers in choosing the correct lanes.
5. Lingfield Way/Yarm Road traffic signalled controlled junction and construction is programmed to start in July 2019 and will be complete by the end of November 2019.
6. Works on an improvement scheme to change the B6279 Tornado Way throughabout to a conventional roundabout will commence in September 2019.
7. Highways England completed a scheme to provide a third lane approach to the A66 Morton Palms in April 2019. This has significantly improved access onto and across the A66.

**Car Parking Charges**

8. I have been reviewing charges and car parking statistics alongside officers and will be presenting my findings to Cabinet in due course.

## **Sports Development**

### **In2 Project**

9. The project has now started and is targeted initially at Corporation Road and Longfield Schools working with a small cohort of pupils. The aim of the project is to raise aspirations for the young people, improve their confidence, self-esteem, mental health and gain important life skills. So far activities have included; theatre productions, trips to Hamsterley Forest, Junior Kitchen and in school activities. It is hoped if successful the project will be rolled out to other Wards and schools in the town.

### **Events Management**

#### **All Square Event: 19-20 April**

10. The All Square Festival returned for the second year, moving from the first Bank Holiday Monday in May to April. The music event ran over three days offering a different concept on each day, music Bongo Bingo related night on Thursday, Friday was a Club land organised event, Tribute acts on the Saturday and a dance music feel on the Sunday. For its second outing the event was a success, the group plan to do it again next year, possibly moving back to the May Bank Holiday.

#### **Award Winning Food and Drink Festival and Jazz Festival: 3–6 May**

11. Thousands flocked to the second Food and Drink Festival over the May Bank Holiday weekend which included the Jazz Festival, enhancing the entertainment offer for the weekend. Food demonstrations were complement with food and drink stalls, children's entertainment, street theatre and Jazz performance during the daytime and evening. The event was heralded a success and will be repeated on the same weekend in 2020.

#### **Mass Dance – Sunday 19 May**

12. Over 600 participants from local schools, dance schools and community groups took part in this year's Mass Dance themed 'This is me' challenging inequality. The dance was choreographed for the first time by the Seniors from Red Hall Dance Group. Professional entertainers performed during the event entertaining the dancers and the public.

### **June/July Events**

13. The following events took place in June and July:
  - (a) Round 50 Cycle Ride: 2 June
  - (b) Pease Pudding Market: 6 June and 4 July. This is a recurring event which is held on the first Thursday of the month through to October.
  - (c) VIP Event for the older generation: 7 June
  - (d) Race for Life, South Park: 9 June
  - (e) The Great Get Together, South Park: 23 June
  - (f) Armed Forces Day: 25 June
  - (g) Proms in the Park: 30 June
  - (h) Day Time Pride: 6 July

- (i) Darlington 70 mile cycle Ride: 7 July

### **Darlington Hippodrome**

14. Archive week took place at Darlington Hippodrome week commencing 3 June with a special open day for the public on 6 June. Members of the public had the opportunity to engage with artefacts and ephemera from the theatre's archive collection. The Heritage Learning and Engagement Officer (HLEO) was available to talk members of the public through the artefacts and to answer questions, 125 people attended on the day. Darlington for Culture archive volunteers worked with the HLEO throughout the week to select items for the open day and to further develop the cataloguing of theatre posters.
15. The Hippodrome ran a series of events in May and June inviting audiences to participate in and experience a different offer from the main theatre show programme. From Quiz Nights to Gin and Jazz, to a Murder Mystery Night and a Family Open Day, all proved to be extremely successful with feedback from attendees that they would like more of this type of event in the future.
16. The Hippodrome had a successful week of performances when 'Joseph' ran from 21 May to 25 May. 4,953 people attended ten performances of the much-loved musical. There was a peak in secondary spend in the bars and cafes and a lot of positive feedback was received from audience members.

### **Visual Art**

17. 1,576 visits were made to The Unseen Beautiful exhibition which ran from 18 May 2019 to 29 May 2019. The exhibition followed a call out for people to submit an image of Darlington which they felt captured the beauty of the place in April 2019. Over 700 images were received before the deadline and 695 exhibited in the exhibition, alongside commissioned photographs of Darlington by Lens Think professional photographer, Joanne Coates. People were asked to vote for their favourite image and 358 votes in total were received. Luke Piper's photograph won the public vote and he has been offered a workshop with Joanne followed by a solo exhibition at Darlington Town Hall in spring 2020.
18. 3,120 visits were made to the 'Beyond Graduation' exhibition which ran from Saturday 6 April 2019 to Wednesday 15 May 2019 in the gallery at Darlington Library and brought together work from graduates of the BA and MA Fine Art courses from Teesside University from 2007 to 2018.

### **Creative Darlington – Outreach and Arts Development Activity**

19. The Trace Lines printmaking programme exploring local heritage and encouraging community engagement in Darlington, led by Adrian Moule and supported by Darlington Borough Council and Arts Council England, included activity during Darlington Libraries Local History Month in May 2019. Sessions have also taken place in Darlington Markets, Darlington Town Centre and Cockerton, in addition to a number of Darlington primary schools.
20. A free historical walking tour of part of the Stockton and Darlington Railway Line, organised by the Heritage on Track programme led by Darlington Borough Council, took place on the afternoon of Thursday 21 May 2019, setting off from the Head of

Steam Railway museum with a train ride to Dinsdale Station and a walk back, it was fully booked and well received. The event has been documented by film as part of the project.

### **Head of Steam**

21. In May the museum had 332 school users, up more than 100 on the same time last year. At the time of writing, 372 are booked for June with 35 booked so far for July.
22. In May, volunteers gave 146 hours of their time to help with events, collections and public engagement at the museum.
23. The museum is currently holding two new exhibitions; Play and Display: Paper and Card Toys from 8 June until 1 September and The Moon exhibition from 15 June to 26 August.
24. The museum held its annual Vintage Vehicle Rally on 19 May, which was the most successful to date with 183 vehicles and 2124 visitors.

### **Libraries**

25. We are going to take time to review proposals for Crown Street Library and the Library Service and will be presenting information and reports to Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council later this year.
26. Darlington Library is working alongside schools as part of a new programme from the National Literacy Trust. The programme is targeting children due to start school and aims to help improve parental engagement and literacy development. Everyone Ready for School is currently being trialled in Darlington with ten settings currently signed up and a further seven settings joining the project in 2020.
27. The Library has started a monthly Lego Club for children who are home educated. This is in addition to the well-attended weekly Lego Clubs at Crown Street and Cockerton Libraries.
28. May was Local History Month in the Centre for Local Studies. A wide-ranging programme was put together to promote the Centre, engage local people and encouraging them to be inspired by local history. Over 600 people visited the Centre during May, with another 350 attending a series of talks and special events. Local History Month talks included the Rememorial WW1 talk and workshop by Dr Ben Roberts of Teesside University, The Pease Family's Industrial Empire by Dr Dorothy Hamilton and Patons and Baldwins: Wonder Factory by Chris Lloyd of the Northern Echo.

### **Garden Waste**

29. Members will be aware that the Council introduced a new Garden Waste collection service in April of this year. At the time of writing, approximately 4,250 residents have taken up the option of subscribing to the service. Very few issues have been experienced and the implementation went smoothly.



### **Grounds Maintenance**

30. All planned works, pruning shrubs, etc., were successfully completed during the winter period. Grass cutting teams have now commenced regular cycles and aim to get around the Borough within 15 working days.
31. Summer judging for Northumbria in Bloom has taken place for the 'Best Town Centre' category, as well for a number of 'Special' awards; The Buddhist Centre, Tapas Bar, and Hash in the town centre, and Eastbourne Park and the Head of Steam Railway Museum.
32. During the summer, as part of an ongoing programme to carry out a range of improvements, up to 40 trees will be placed around the town centre.

### **Winter Maintenance**

33. The 2018/19 winter period concluded at the end of April, although the winter did not provide any extreme, inclement weather. The Council gritted the roads on 189 occasions throughout the period using a total of 3,155 tonnes of rock salt.

**Councillor Paul Howell**  
**Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio**

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**COUNCIL**  
**18 July 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Performance Indicators Q4 2018/19**

2. We received a report which provided performance information in line with an indicator set previously agreed by the Monitoring and Coordination Group, and subsequently by Scrutiny Committee Chairs. The indicators contained within the report are aligned to key priorities, and the majority of the indicators are used to monitor the Corporate Plan 2017/21.
3. Eighteen indicators are reported to our Scrutiny Committee – twelve Adult Social Care indicators, and six Housing Service indicators. Two of the Adult Social Care indicators are reported on an annual basis, and therefore data for these two (ASC 054 and ASC 055) was not included within the submitted report.
4. Seven of the ten Adult Social Care indicators have targets, and it was pleasing to note that five of these indicators have achieved their year-end target. Two indicators (ASC 050 and ASC 019) were below year-end target. It was acknowledged that these indicators encompassed residents with the most complex needs, and Members were informed of the work being conducted to enable residents to remain at home for longer, and to support themselves.
5. Four of the six Housing Service indicators have targets, and two have achieved their target this quarter (HBS 034 and HBS 072). It was particularly pleasing to learn of the performance in terms of the average number of days that it took to re-let dwellings, which reflected strongly against regional and national comparators.
6. Two indicators, HBS 013 (Rent Arrears) and HBS 016 (Rent Collected), had not achieved the target this quarter, and the Committee heard how this reflected that the number of Universal Credit claims had exceeded preliminary expectations, with almost 25% of tenants in receipt of welfare benefits now in receipt of Universal Credit. We discussed the support provided in terms of income and budget management, in order to get tenants into a position whereby they are in a position to meet their rental commitments.
7. The Committee were also pleased to learn that the Preventing Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 had adopted an aspirational aim of “No First Night Out”, and the Committee hope to receive a briefing on Homelessness Prevention at a future date.

## **Work Programme**

8. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

**Councillor Anne-Marie Curry**  
**Chair of Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee**

**COUNCIL  
18 JULY 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Work Programme**

2. We continue to give consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled for this Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

**Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2018/19**

3. Members examined performance data for Quarter 4 (January to March 2019) for those areas under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.
4. Areas that were performing well are :
  - referrals screened and completed within one day which was performing above the target of 90 percent at 98.2 per cent
  - 17.5 per cent of re-referrals were repeated within twelve months which was positive and below the target of 18 per cent
  - 100 per cent of children with a Child Protection Plan and 100 per cent of Children Looked After had an allocated social worker
  - 92.1 per cent of children looked after who had a dental health assessment due, received their assessment within the required timescale
  - 25 per cent of Care Leavers who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) exceeded the target set of 33 percent.
5. Areas where there is a need for continued improvement are :
  - timeliness of assessments 81.5 per cent which was below the target of 90 per cent
  - 95.7 per cent of statutory child protection visits were completed within 15 working days
  - 82.6 per cent statutory looked after children visits were completed within timescales. The reasons for delays in timeliness and any visit that takes place outside the specified set days are closely monitored by the Head of Service.
6. The rate of looked after children has continued to increase and is 110.6 per 10,000 population which was above statistical regional and national benchmarks. This increase is currently being scrutinised to determine if there are any areas that could be strengthened to safely reduce this number.

7. We also discussed in particular the:
- increase in Section 47 enquiries, which was a significant increase from the previous year and the work being undertaken to reduce the number of enquires
  - improvements to the missing from home interviews and work being undertaken to engage parents in this process
  - clarification on re-referrals which was currently better than the target but remains below statistical numbers, national and north east benchmarks
  - current caseloads for social workers
  - improvement on the percentage of children who had moved placement three or more times

### **Learning and Skills Annual Report 2017/18**

8. We received an annual report on the performance of the Learning and Skills Service for the academic year 2017/18 which was performing well with a 'Good' Ofsted grade for supporting some of the most vulnerable adults, young people and families in Darlington. Members recognised some of the challenges to be faced in 2019/20 with the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the Tees Valley Combined Authority. In addition a discussion was held in relation to the ongoing challenges of apprenticeship funding.
9. Members agreed that they will monitor the budget and also wished to meet with a representative of the Education and Skills Funding Agency regarding funding for apprenticeships.

**Councillor Jamie Bartch**  
**Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

**COUNCIL  
18 JULY 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Work Programme 2019/20**

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included. The work programme is a rolling work programme and items can be added as necessary.
3. We discussed the proposal to merge Tees Valley and Durham Clinical Commissioning Groups and requested an update be provided to this Committee.

**Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2018/19**

4. We received an update on performance against key performance indicators for 2018/19 at Quarter 4.
5. Of the 30 indicators that are reported to our Scrutiny Committee, five are Culture indicators and 25 are Public Health indicators.
6. The majority of the indicators are reported annually and all the Public Health indicators are reported in line with the Public Health Framework National reporting schedule which means the data is at least one year in arrears or related to aggregate periods.
7. We particularly discussed performance indicators CUL 063 – number of school pupils participating in the sports development programme which had shown a significant increase in performance as a result of strong partnership working between the Council and schools; and CUL 064 – number of individuals participating in the community sports development programme which had showing a reduction in performance as a result of a reduced funding.
8. We gave particular consideration to PBH 020 and PBH 021 Excess weight in primary school children in Reception and Year 6 and were pleased to note that these indicators had shown an improvement in performance and that Darlington was statistically similar to the national average.
9. Members had a valuable discussion in respect of smoking in Darlington, including smoking cessation services and initiatives and were pleased to note that Darlington has seen the biggest proportional reduction in smokers but acknowledged that the figure for Darlington was higher than the national average.

10. We discussed the methodology used to capture non accidental injuries and hospital admissions for alcohol and agreed to investigate if there was another indicator that was specific to alcohol related attendances at Accident and Emergency.

**Councillor Ian Bell**  
**Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**



**COUNCIL  
18 JULY 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Place Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Local Plan Task and Finish Review Group Progress Report**

2. Members will be aware that this Scrutiny Committee received an update on the work undertaken by a Task and Finish Review Group which met to look at the proposed draft Local Plan 2016-36.
3. In considering the report, we also agreed to make a recommendation to Cabinet in relation to the removal of the Springfield Park access road.

**Performance Indicators Quarter 4 – 2018/19**

4. Scrutiny Committee received an update on Quarter 4 performance against key performance indicators for 2018/19 which are within the remit of our Scrutiny Committee and the Officers present gave an overview of the current position in respect of their individual areas.
5. Members were advised that the performance indicators were aligned with key priorities and the majority were used to monitor the Corporate Plan 2017/21. Of the 39 indicators reported to our Scrutiny Committee 17 were reported annually, 21 reported quarterly and one reported six-monthly at Quarters 2 and 4.
6. We scrutinised the 39 indicators for which Quarter 4 data was available, of which 25 had year-end targets with 11 achieving and 12 not achieving their targets. Of the 14 indicators with no targets six had exceeded or achieved performance, five showed performance worse than Quarter 4 performance last year and three indicators did not have any previous year's data to compare with.
7. We have asked for further information on several indicators including CUL 065 visits to the Library and CUL 080 Town centre footfall trend from the previous year, which had both seen a decline from the previous year and that this was not just specific to Darlington but was a national issue. We were assured that work was ongoing to increase footfall and an update in respect of library services and the Darlington Town Centre Strategy (2019-2030) would be provided at a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.
8. We also had a discussion in respect of ECI 329 average annual income - Darlington residents, which had seen a decline and that this trend reflected across the Tees Valley. This decline is being addressed by the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

9. Members also had a useful discussion in respect of REG 308 percentage of premises broadly compliant for food hygiene and the prevalence of online food establishments and delivery services.
10. We did raise concern in respect of the 12 indicators that did not achieve their year-end targets and it was confirmed that work was being undertaken to include tolerance levels into the performance reporting and that this would provide context to Members when reviewing the performance indicators.

### **Work Programme**

11. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included. The work programme is a rolling work programme and items can be added as necessary.

**Councillor Brian Jones**  
**Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee**