

Council Agenda



**6.00 pm Thursday, 26 March 2020
Meeting Cancelled**

This Meeting has been CANCELLED in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The reports are being published for information not decision.

Members may submit questions or views to the relevant Chief Officer, Cabinet Member or Scrutiny Chair on the items drafted for consideration. Questions or views should be submitted to:

Shirley Wright (shirley.wright@darlington.gov.uk) or Paul Dalton (paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk).

These were the main Agenda items that were scheduled to be considered.

1. Council Reports.
 - (a) Managing Director's Appraisal –
Report of the Assistant Director - Resources
(Pages 1 - 4)
2. Cabinet Reports.
 - (a) Overview Report of the Leader of the Council; (Pages 5 - 6)
 - (b) Overview Report of the Adults Portfolio; (Pages 7 - 8)
 - (c) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 9 - 12)
 - (d) Overview Report of the Economy Portfolio; (Pages 13 - 16)
 - (e) Overview Report of the Health and Housing Portfolio; (Pages 17 - 20)
 - (f) Overview Report of the Local Services Portfolio; (Pages 21 - 26)

- (g) Overview Report of the Resources Portfolio; and (Pages 27 - 28)
 - (h) Overview Report of the Stronger Communities Portfolio; (Pages 29 - 36)
 - (i) The Council Plan 2020-2023 –
Report of the Chief Officers Executive
(Pages 37 - 74)
3. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-
- (a) Adults Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 75 - 76)
 - (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 77 - 78)
 - (c) Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 79 - 80)
 - (d) Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 81 - 82)
 - (e) Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 83 - 86)



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

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 or Telephone 01325 405805

COUNCIL
26 MARCH, 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

ITEM NO.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S APPRAISAL

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Heather Scott, Leader of the Council

Responsible Assistant Director – Elizabeth Davison

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To endorse the recommendation of the Appraisal Sub-Group in respect of the Managing Director's Performance Appraisal.

Summary

2. The Appraisal Sub-Group met on 9 March, 2020 to consider the Managing Director's Performance Appraisal in accordance with the previously agreed process.
3. In considering the documentation, the Sub-Group noted that as this was the first appraisal for the new post, no targets had been set for review.
4. This report outlines the recommendation of the Appraisal Sub-Group.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that the following recommendation of the Appraisal Sub-Group be endorsed by the Council :-

That in respect of the Managing Director's Appraisal, it is recommended that Council note that the Appraisal Sub-Group has met to consider the Managing Director's Appraisal for 2020/21 and has agreed that the Managing Director will undertake a 360 degree review of his performance and that a further meeting of this Sub-Group be held in six months' time to share that review information.

Reason

6. The recommendation is supported by the following reason :-
 - (a) To enable the appraisal to be confirmed.

Elizabeth Davison

Assistant Director Resources

Background Papers

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

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 Wellbeing.
Sustainability	There are no issues in relation to Sustainability
Diversity	There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	None.
Groups Affected	None.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not affect the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report does not adversely impact on the Strategy.
Efficiency	This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency.
Impact on Looked After Children	This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. The Appraisal Sub-Group (a subsidiary body of the Human Resources Committee) undertakes an annual appraisal with the Managing Director and reports its recommendations to the Council.
8. The Sub-Group met on 9 March 2020, to undertake the appraisal. It reviewed the Managing Director's self-assessment and agreed the objectives for 2020/21.
9. The Sub-Group made the following recommendation to Council :-

That in respect of the Managing Director's Appraisal, it is recommended that Council note that the Appraisal Sub-Group has met to consider the Managing Director's Appraisal for 2020/21 and has agreed that the Managing Director will undertake a 360 degree review of his performance and that a further meeting of this Sub-Group be held in six months' time to share that review information.

Conclusion

10. The Managing Director's appraisal has been undertaken by the Appraisal Sub-Group of the Human Resources Committee. As this is a Committee constituted by Council, Council is required to endorse the recommendation of the Sub-Group.

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COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Strategic Context

1. The Council's overall strategic context has seen a number of revisions over the recent past. The MTFP has been agreed and I am pleased we were able to approve a 4 year balanced budget at the last Council. However, as we are all aware local government funding is to be reviewed in the coming year and this has the potential to change the overall MTFP. I, together with our MP's and other politicians across the North East, will be lobbying hard to influence the outcome of the review to gain a positive result for Darlington.
2. The local plan was also agreed at our last Council meeting and I acknowledge there were differences of opinion in respect of some issues. However, I feel that all Councillors did agree the need for a local plan, so it is pleasing that it was agreed. As we all know the approval at this stage is not the end of the journey as further approvals are required from the Planning Inspectorate. Growing the economy is central to delivering success for Darlington and the local plan is a key framework for growth, so it leads us into the final strategic plan we have been reviewing, the Council Plan, which is to be considered at Council this evening.

Save our Loco campaign

3. The 'Save our Loco' campaign to retain Locomotion No1 in Darlington has received full 'All Party' support and continues to build momentum. The campaign has its own brand identity, has been launched publicly in the media and a campaign group is being assembled. I met with representatives of the National Railway Museum, Locomotion and Peter Gibson MP on Friday March 6. After agreement was not reached on the location of Locomotion No1 I will continue to lobby for it to remain in Darlington. Having received the support of the Prime Minister this is very encouraging.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

4. Members will have had the latest briefing prior to Council and that will be more up-to-date information than I can provide at the time of writing this report. From a Council perspective we are fully engaging with Public Health England and taking their lead. We are reviewing our business continuity plans to consider them against potential implications of the virus, in particular how we would continue to provide services to the public, especially to the most vulnerable. As you can imagine responding to issues will require the Council prioritising its resources and being flexible to respond to changing circumstances. Communications about what we do in terms of services to the public will be key.

Strategic Transport

5. The Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan has been adopted. TVCA Cabinet agreed a further £39.4m of investment for a number of projects from the £256.7m Integrated Transport Programme Budget.
 - (a) Hartlepool Station Capacity (development work)
 - (b) Billingham Station Access
 - (c) Urban Traffic Management & Control (Tees Valley wide)
 - (d) Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (Tees Valley wide)
 - (e) Bus Improvement Corridors (Tees Valley wide)
 - (f) Electric Vehicles (Tees Valley wide)
 - (g) Wheels 2 Work (Tees Valley wide)
 - (h) A689 Wynyard Corridor Improvements
 - (i) Eaglescliffe Station Western Gateway
 - (j) Teesside International Airport Station redevelopment
 - (k) Bus Partnership (Tees Valley wide)
 - (l) Development funding
6. An Outline Business Case for Darlington Station improvements has been submitted to the DfT to secure commitment to the development of the project. Cabinet has agreed to progress with development and delivery of the early phases of the scheme with funding allocated from TVCA.
7. I launched the new Tees Valley flex service which is a demand responsive bus service for the Tees Valley. I would encourage Ward Councillors where this service operates to promote its use within your communities.
8. Darlington was the venue for a Northern Powerhouse Partnership's roundtable with local businesses and senior politicians where we collectively agreed to press for improved rail connections, HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and the improvements needed at Darlington Station.

Councillor Mrs Heather Scott OBE
Leader of the Council Portfolio

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS PORTFOLIO

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 Adults.

Strategic Commissioning

2. The annual Quality Standards monitoring visits to the 19 Older Persons Care Homes will be conducted from April – June 2020.
3. There is currently one home under Executive Strategy process due to concerns. Contract officers are working with operational officers, along with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Provider to ensure that positive and sustainable improvements are made.
4. Following the publication of 'Smiling Matters' by CQC, commissioners have been working in partnership with Public Health to support the providers of residential care to ensure that they are able to comply with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance – "Oral Health for adults in Care homes". Following a presentation by the Oral Health Promotion Team and the Consultant in Dental Public Health at the Residential Care Provider Forum, care home providers completed a baseline self-assessment and questionnaire. Analysis of the responses has led to the delivery of two training sessions for care homes as well as bespoke support delivered in individual care homes where required.
5. A well-attended 'Supporting Carers in the Workplace' event took place jointly with Durham County Council. The focus of the event was to enable employers to support their staff who are juggling paid employment with providing unpaid care to a family member or friend. The main speaker was Katherine Wilson from Employers for Carers, and there was also a speaker from County Durham and Darlington Carers Support, and presentations on Workplace Mental Health and from a working carer.

Operational Services

6. Our reablement service continues to support individuals to maximise their independence. This is evidenced by the increase in the number of individuals benefitting from the service. For example, in the last quarter, 325 individuals have completed a reablement package, resulting in 221 individuals having no on-going care needs. In the recently published regional figures for 2018-19, Darlington continues to be one of the top performing areas in reducing numbers of both younger and older adults, admitted on a permanent basis to residential or nursing care. Maximising independence and supporting people at home, where possible, remains our priority.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

7. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group met on Monday 13 January 2020. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners continue to develop relationships and are meeting quickly and flexibly to address and discuss issues and make prompt decisions. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners continue to focus on finalising our multi-agency data-set.
8. Police provided an update in respect of the Whorlton Hall criminal investigation and are working alongside the Crown Prosecution Service to decide what charges should be brought. Whorlton Hall will no longer be used as a care facility. A safeguarding Adult Review is underway in the Durham partnership, and lessons will be shared with wider partners.

Councillor Rachel Mills
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

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

The Children's Trust

2. The Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board met on 26 March 2020. The agenda included the Darlington NHS Clinical Commissioning (CCG) Group Annual Accounts report and an update on the Integrated Care System. The Board reviewed the Health and Wellbeing priorities and re-confirmed a work plan for the next three meetings. The next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2020 will have a focus on children and starting well to maximise their potential

Corporate Parenting Panel

3. The formal Panel met on 18 February 2020 and the following reports/presentations were received and discussed:
 - The Looked After Children Annual Health Report
 - Therapeutic Social Work Service for Children in Care
 - The Promises Tree action plan and measures of success – (Corporate Parenting commitment to our children and young people in care)

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

4. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group met on 13 January 2020 where a number of areas specific to children were discussed.
5. The CCG is undertaking a review of inpatient bed provision for children in the local area. The CCG do not anticipate reopening West Lane Hospital ahead of the completion of this review.
6. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) 2018/19 Annual Report has been published. The joint Darlington/Durham panel reviewed 39 deaths in the year, with modifiable factors being identified in four of the deaths. Key issues and learning were highlighted across a number of areas, which will be taken forward throughout the relevant organisations.

Education

7. The Schools Forum met on 14 January and agreed the School Funding Formula, Growth Fund and central budgets for schools and early years for 2020/21.
8. St Aidan's Church of England Academy was recently inspected and achieved a Good rating. The school's previous grading was Requires Improvement. Inspectors

recognised the 'unswerving commitment' of leaders, governors and staff during the inspection.

9. Heathfield School was also recently inspected and achieved a Good rating. The school's previous grading was Requires Improvement. Inspectors found that leaders have "transformed the school since the previous inspection." The inspection recognised that pupils achieve well and are happy and feel safe in school.
10. Heighington Church of England School has also been inspected in this period and achieved an Ofsted grading of Good. Inspectors found that a recently instigated curriculum review "is bringing about rapid improvements" and that arrangements for safeguarding are effective.
11. Borough Road Nursery School, which is an LA maintained provision, was recently inspected by Ofsted and has achieved a Good grading. The nursery was previously graded as Requires Improvement. Inspectors found the nursery "has been transformed since the last inspection" and noted "school leaders and staff have created a family-friendly atmosphere. This a place where precious moments are captured and built on." Inspectors particularly praised the teaching of phonics at the school.

Locality Teams

12. At the end of February, Early Help Services were working with 384 children aged 0-18, from a total of 166 Families. During January, 14 targeted groups were delivered each week including parenting, Being Me self-esteem and confidence for teenagers, as well as pre and post birth baby programmes.
13. The Box staff have delivered internet safety, Cyber Squad to 571 pupils, in addition to a further 171 sessions that have been delivered from The Box with 73 pieces of direct work being completed with children open to Social Care and Early help Services.

Child Protection/Looked After Children Statistics/Care Leavers

14. As at the end of February there were:
 - 373 children in need
 - 89 children subject to child protection plans
 - 267 children in care
 - 36 eligible care leavers (children in care aged 16 – 17yrs)
 - 8 relevant care leavers (children who have left care aged 16 – 17yrs)
 - 68 former relevant care leavers (young person who is over 18yrs)
 - 16 former relevant care leavers over the age of 21

Children's Commissioning and Contracts

15. Over the last quarter, contract monitoring has been undertaken with private residential homes operating in Darlington. Out of the eight private residential homes, seven homes are Ofsted graded Good or Outstanding and one home is currently Requires Improvement (RI). The home graded RI is due to be inspected

imminently. Officers from the Council have been monitoring progress against the home's Ofsted Improvement Plan, of which all actions are complete.

16. No matters of contractual compliance were identified and positive outcomes for children and young people were evidenced around self-development and holistic wellbeing.
17. The new Community Short Breaks contract for children and young people with Special Educational needs and disabilities (SEND) went live on 1 February 2020. Plans are being progressed for an engagement session with the 3 providers appointed onto this Contract (DAD, Barnardos and Daisy Chain) and the Parent/Carer forum to raise awareness of the new service provision as well as the broader support available in the community. The contract will be reopened in May 2020 to allow new providers to join the contractual arrangements and have periodic openings in the future

Councillor Jon Clarke
Children and Young People Portfolio

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COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY PORTFOLIO

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

Darlington Station Improvements and Growth Zone

2. The Council is to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) for the proposed Darlington Station Improvements Project and the wider economic growth opportunities in the surrounding area, including Central Park, the Cattle Market and Victoria Road.
3. In partnership with the TVCA a wider vision has been developed for the area to influence the proposals and to provide a rail gateway into the Tees Valley fit for the 21st Century that can accommodate future demands for national, regional and local passenger rail services as well as freight.
4. A substantial element of the project is funded by TVCA with a sum of £25m allocated to enable and deliver elements of the project. The land acquisition and enabling stages in the form of transport interchanges and parking provision will be delivered by TVCA and the Council with the latter rail and station development delivered in partnership with Network Rail.

Business Investment

10. The Verve Group have moved into their new premises in the Whessoe Building at Morton Park. They have 42 staff currently and are planning to take on a further 10 staff in the next 6-12 months.
11. Work has commenced to support Amazon with their recruitment plans for the new fulfilment centre in Darlington. Amazon is planning to commence recruitment from April and open early Summer.
12. Deep Ocean have formalised their agreement for the top floor of Feethams House and there has been new interest by a potential new company to the region for a further full floor. The proximity to the Railway Station and advantages this provides being the main driver for locating here.
13. There has been a noticeable increase in pre-start enquiries coming through to the team, which are being referred to TEDCO for initial support.

Planning Development Management and Environmental Health

17. One of the large housing sites at Burtree Lane has moved closer to commencement as they have signed their 106 legal agreement. Development on the early phases of the West Park including the link road are underway.
18. Negotiations are also underway regarding the proposed multi storey car park at Bank Top Railway Station. Significant improvements have been secured in its appearance and impact within the site.
19. Further work is being undertaken relating to the Development Management Charter, which sets out the reasonable expectations of both developers and objectors within the Development Management System. This is an important document which sets out how the development process operates in an open and transparent manner. In addition, a report is being finalised which will form a new planning enforcement protocol. This will demonstrate how we deal with planning matters when things go wrong within the planning process. A report will be brought to Members of the Planning Committee for consideration when complete.
20. A planning application has been approved for the refurbishment of the crematorium with associated chapel and facilities.
21. Officers from the Environmental Health team visited a premise called Jimmy's Lounge, 4 High Northgate, which is a Shish Bar and found that smoking was taking place within areas of the premises where it is prohibited under the Health Act 2006. This resulted in a Prohibition Notice being served upon the owner under the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Following information received from other enforcement partners that smoking was again taking place within areas of the premises where it is prohibited, witness statements have been obtained and officers are writing a Prosecution File with a view to taking legal proceedings.
22. Officers of the Environmental Health team have been dealing with a person allegedly living in a caravan or van at White Hart Crescent, Red Hall and who is causing anti-social behaviour. Having previously obtained a Court Order to allow caravans to be removed from White Hart Crescent, officers currently have no evidence of habitation, but the person's continued anti-social behaviour has resulted in a Community Protection Notice being served upon him in an attempt to control his behaviour. This is an example of Environmental Health Officers working proactively with the Police, Civic Enforcement and our own Housing team to monitor the situation and gather evidence with a view to taking legal proceedings if necessary.
23. Environmental Health also continue to carry out air quality monitoring in the Borough through the use of diffusion tubes measuring nitrogen dioxide associated with road traffic. Currently there are 17 diffusion tube locations around the Borough which provide monthly data and allow an annual mean to be calculated for comparison with the national air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide. A new monitor in Sadberge is now in place and the first month's result shows the level is well below the objective. The relevant Ward Councillor has been informed.

24. In general, the results of monitoring to date show compliance with the national air quality objective (annual mean) for nitrogen dioxide in areas of relevant exposure. There has been no need to declare any Air Quality Management Areas. Environmental Health will be preparing the Air Quality Annual Status Report 2020 which will be submitted to Defra in June this year which will include the results of the monitoring carried out in 2019 (15 No locations). Previous Status reports are available on the following Council webpage:
<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/pollution/air-quality/>

Local Plan

25. Approval was given by Council on 20 February 2020 for the publication of the Proposed Submission Local Plan, incorporating agreed changes as a result of consultation on the Draft Plan in Summer 2018 and a revised timetable. The new Local Plan will cover the period 2016 to 2036. This approval will enable the plan to progress to the next stage (Regulation 19) which will incorporate a 6-week period for representations due to commence April/May 2020. The ambition is to submit the plan for inspection by the end of August 2020 (with adoption anticipated April 2021).

Town Centre / Estates and Property

26. As part of the ambitions set out in the Town Centre Strategy, the Council have acquired Trinity Church which is located between Commercial Street and North Road. The building has been derelict for a number of years and has been an ongoing location that has attracted anti-social behaviour. The Council is currently completing the statutory requirements to commence the demolishing of the building.
27. Officers are continuing negotiations with the owners of the derelict night club located on Commercial Street car park for acquisition and subsequent action to enhance the general area.

Climate Change

28. The Council is continuing to work towards increasing its energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint. Actions already completed include:-
- (a) Switching to a zero-carbon electricity tariff
 - (b) Installation of new LED streetlighting
 - (c) Installation of LED lighting in office buildings
 - (d) Addition of nine electric vehicles to the Council fleet

Cross Party Working Group

29. Five meetings of the cross-party working group have taken place. Much of the business has been fact finding, including:-
- (a) an overview of local authority housing and current building standards
 - (b) the benefits of a 20mph speed limit for the urban area
 - (c) an update in respect of tree coverage in the Borough and ongoing tree planting schemes
 - (d) Durham County Council's approach to achieving its carbon target.

District Heating System

30. A bid has been submitted for grant funding to carry out a Techno-economic Feasibility Study for a potential District Heating System in the Borough. If the results are positive the next stage would be to prepare a detailed project submission.

Climate Change Champions

31. Several staff have volunteered to be Climate Change Champions for their work areas.

Climate Change Officer

32. The Sustainability and Climate Change Lead Officer is supporting the group in preparing the Action Plan to guide the Council's climate change ambitions. The Officer is gathering information and understanding what data is available within the Council to enable an assessment to be made on the impact of actions already undertaken and establish a baseline against which to measure progress. A draft Climate Change Action Plan will be presented to Cabinet as early as possible.

**Councillor Alan Marshall
Economy Portfolio**

COUNCIL

26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

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

Getting to Know the Team

2. Over the last few weeks I've been meeting with teams across our Health and Housing areas to better understand the work being undertaken. I've visited the Dolphin Centre, Eastbourne Sports Complex, Contact Centre and our Housing Options and Lifeline Services Team. It's clear to me that we have many dedicated and motivated colleagues who are helping to deliver success for Darlington each and every day and this is to be celebrated.
3. I'm also in the process of setting up meetings with our external health partners to better understand and explore what we can all do better for people across Darlington.

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

4. Members have been provided with updates relating to COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus), when any situation or advice changes, further updates will follow accordingly. An all members' briefing is scheduled to take place on 26th March prior to full Council.
5. Leaders of groups on the Council have been invited to a weekly conference call involving cabinet, chief officers and partners. This call is focused on sharing factual information about the council's current position.
6. Members are community leaders and part of our role is to share factual and proportionate information relating to COVID-19. This information can support our residents and vulnerable people when making decisions.
7. The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) leads are involved in the response and management of COVID-19, (Novel Coronavirus). As members are aware this is an evolving situation which is being closely monitored by Public Health England.
8. As a council, we are following the national Coronavirus action plan.
9. The Council has robust continuity plans right across our service areas, and these are being reviewed regularly. The Council's Cabinet is being updated daily with any developments which may require a change in our approach.

10. The National Health Service (NHS) has a dedicated online website with lots of generic and specific information which is being updated in real time and we would recommend people regularly visit the NHS website.
11. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) publishes updated data and Public Health England (PHE) publish the latest information and advice for the public. The Council website and social media platforms also offers links to the above sites, which are best placed to inform the public about the evolving situation.

Public Health

12. The breastfeeding rate in Darlington has continued to improve and is now better than the regional average. Darlington has historically had relatively low numbers of children who are breastfed in comparison to England.
13. Supported by midwives and Health Visitors locally, the number of women who are choosing to breastfeed their babies has increased. Breastfeeding provides significant and long-term benefits to both mother and baby which has a long-term impact. We will continue to promote and share the benefits of breastfeeding in Darlington.
14. The Council has robust continuity plans right across our service areas, and these are being reviewed regularly. The Council's Cabinet is also meeting weekly and is being updated with any developments which may require a change in our approach
15. This Council has the duty to commission Sexual Health services including the provision of Emergency Oral Hormonal Contraception free of charge to those who require it. The Sexual Health Service has contracts with 12 of the 19 pharmacies in Darlington to provide Emergency Oral Hormonal Contraception (EOHC).

It is the pharmacy's responsibility as an employer to ensure that their staff are trained to dispense EOHC. Individual pharmacists have a professional duty to maintain their competence as well. There are numerous accredited training packages available with most provided for free by the industry.

Pharmacies that don't provide EOHC have a duty to signpost to a pharmacy who does provide contraception and/or provide people with a phone number of the local specialist contraception clinic.

Lifeline Services

16. Lifeline Services, working with the Alzheimer's Society have successfully introduced 'Games for the Brain' into the Council's sheltered housing schemes by training our scheme managers to deliver a programme of brain training games in several of our community centres. These games which challenge people on reasoning and problem solving have been found to improve cognitive function and help older people to get on better with their daily lives. We are now in a position to deliver the sessions across all sheltered schemes.
17. Lifeline Services play a key role in supporting local residents to remain independent in their own homes and enjoy a good quality of life. In the past year Lifeline Response Officers physically attended to over 10,000 calls. The highest number of

calls (2845) required an urgent response where two-way telephone contact was not possible, followed by 2311 calls where someone had fallen or was unable to move. Other reasons are varied but include support and assistance for a medical/health issue, individual locked themselves out of their homes or for the maintenance of assistive technology.

Customer Engagement

18. Members of our Tenants Board and a Housing Officer attended the initial North East Tenant Voice meeting at Durham recently. The purpose of NETV is to act as a vehicle for social housing tenants from across the region to come together, to have a voice, to learn from each other and to shape policies, working collectively on issues that impact upon them. It will provide one voice for tenants to highlight regional challenges and opportunities and be heard by the regional and national decision makers. Membership is be open to all social housing tenants.
19. Our Tenants Board members are keen to actively participate in this regional organisation and see it as a great opportunity to further develop their role. They will be supported by our Housing Officers, in particular a new Community Engagement Co-ordinator whose role is to assist with the delivery of the Tenant involvement and empowerment standard, supporting the effective management of activities and meetings relating to engagement and consultation with Council tenants and leaseholders.

Dolphin Centre Ten Pin Bowling

20. Following the Cabinet approval to install a 5-lane bowling alley into the Dolphin Centre, companies have now been invited to tender for the work on both the bowling alley and the soft play.
21. It is expected that work will commence in Spring and the bowling alley will open October 2020. Members' will be kept up to date with developments and will key stakeholders in this exciting project. We're keen to involve young people in the development of the bowling alley and further details will be communicated in the coming months.

Children and Young Peoples Activities

22. A range of activities have taken place during the half term holidays that encouraged over 200 young children from Darlington to get active and positively engage at the Dolphin Centre. Activities included diving camps, trampolining, mini fencing, multi games, battle wars and science workshops.
23. In addition, a new 18 metre pool float was launched to attract families and young people in Darlington.
24. In March 'Fit Fridays' launched at the Dolphin Centre. It is designed to target 11 to 16-year olds on Friday evenings to participate in fitness activities such as swimming, going to the gym, bootcamp classes and table tennis.

Councillor Kevin Nicholson
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Housing

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COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF LOCAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

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

Highway Improvement Schemes

2. Works on an improvement scheme to change the B6279 Tornado Way throughabout to a conventional roundabout is nearing completion. Resurfacing works are proposed in April. The whole of the section towards the Haughton Road East Coast Mainline bridge will be resurfaced as part of the scheme in order to avoid future roadworks.
3. Lingfield Way/Yarm Road traffic signalled controlled junction is also nearing completion.
4. Highways England have commenced work on a scheme to provide a third lane on the northern approach to A66 Little Burdon Roundabout. This will involve the creation of a dedicated left filter lane onto the A1150 west bound carriageway, which will significantly reduce queuing, particularly in the evening peak hour.
5. Works have also commenced on the new roundabout on A68 at Humbleton Farm, to provide access to the new Darlington Farmers Auction Mart site. The scheme is expected to be complete in May as the new facility is programmed to open then.
6. A scheme to improve access to Darlington Station is due to commence towards the end of March. The scheme will improve footway and cycle connections between the town centre and the station.
7. A Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund bid was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) on 30 October 2019. The scheme 'A68 Growth Zone Maintenance Programme' would tackle maintenance issues on the rural sections between A6072 Swan House roundabout to the borough boundary and in the urban section that links the town centre to A1(M) Junction 58 (Woodland Road and West Auckland Road). The bid is for £2.26m DfT funding with a local contribution of £603k from the 2020/21 maintenance programme. An announcement expected.
8. An Expression of Interest (EOI) has been completed for the Department for Transport's Local Pinch Point Fund. This has been developed by Officers but was submitted by TVCA, in line with Government guidance, on 31 January 2020. The estimated scheme cost is £4.5m and we are successful with the EOI we would be likely to submit a full business case to Department for Transport in the summer 2020.

Highway Maintenance Schemes

9. Highway Maintenance schemes due to start:
 - (a) Patching prior to Micro-asphalt (Various – 31 locations).

Transport

10. The Tees Flex on-demand bus service was launched on 24 February. Funded by TVCA and delivered by Stagecoach, the service uses state-of-the-art mobile app technology to enable residents to book and pay for their journeys. The service is available in three areas of the Tees Valley, including Bishopton, Brafferton, Great Stainton, Little Stainton, Low Dinsdale, Neasham and Sadberge in the Darlington area.

Capital Works Required at Crown Street Library

11. In order to enable the refurbishment and restoration of the Crown Street Library, Cabinet has approved, subject to Council confirming the allocation of £2.9 million for the refurbishment of Crown Street Library in the Capital Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24, that the funds be released.
12. Cabinet also agreed that procurement be delegated to the Council Procurement Board and updates on contract awards be reported to Members in the Procurement Annual Plan Report.

Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter

13. Cabinet welcomed an update on the Master Plan and gave consideration to the proposals for Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter. The release of £20m allocation was approved from the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA). The changes to the phased approach to delivery will be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services who will liaise with myself as portfolio holder.
14. It was also agreed that officers work with representatives of the Darlington Railway Preservation Society (DRPS) to relocate to a suitable location to enable the priority works to the Goods Shed to be carried out with a view to returning to DRHQ once the whole site was refurbished and that once reopened, entry to the Museum be free with a paid for immersive experience.

Permit System to Manage and Coordinate Roadworks

15. Cabinet has approved the introduction of a Permit Scheme and the schedule of Fees and Charges to improve the management and coordination of roadworks and to ensure the duties under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) and the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA) are fulfilled.
16. The Council has worked collaboratively with North East and Tees Valley Authorities to develop a common scheme that will be managed by the individual authorities and the fees and charges are based on Department for Transport information and will cover the administration costs associated with the permit scheme.

Darlington Hippodrome

17. On 17 February, the Hippodrome held a sold-out family open day during half term. The day was a 'pay what you decide' event running between 10.30am and 3.00pm. The day included professional workshops from dance company BalletLorent, craft workshops and a theatre tour which offered a backstage look at the technical workings on stage.
18. On 10 February, the Hippodrome held its second event for teachers and people working in education after the first event sold out in January. These free events offered an overview of the Theatre's education offer and included a backstage tour, networking and a demonstration of classroom activities and workshops. The event has increased the theatre's school network and has already increased engagement numbers with schools.

Head of Steam

19. The museum held its popular Toddler Takeover Day on 14 February. The event, aimed at children aged five and under, encouraged them to take over the jobs at the museum, such as a gallery attendant, a collections packer or a cleaner.
20. February half term activities at the museum included a transport workshop, Lego workshop and crafts activities where children were encouraged to develop their paper engineering skills to build a glider or paper plane.
21. The exhibition 'Street Wise: What's in a Name?' opened on 14 March and runs until 28 June. Darlington's streets are named after mayors, industrialists, landmarks and many more surprising people and places. The exhibition discovers Darlington's history through its street names in an exhibition curated by Robin Coulthard.

Crown Street Library

22. To celebrate 150 years of The Northern Echo, there was a display of photographs, publications and newspapers in Centre for Local Studies during January, which was very well received. Chris Lloyd, Deputy Editor of The Northern Echo gave a talk on the former editor of the newspaper, WT Stead and Darlington's links with the Titanic, which was fully booked.
23. The Library was filled with witches and wizards on 6 February for the annual Harry Potter celebrations. The event was a sell-out; 80 people attended to see magic from award winning magician, Graeme Shaw and learn about the owls from the 'Harry Potter' series with a visiting falconry group.
24. On 14 February, Elly Griffiths, the bestselling crime novelist, spoke about her latest novel 'The Lantern Men' and signed copies of the book.
25. For February Half Term, the Library partnered up with TIN ARTS and Creative Darlington to offer a more inclusive programme of events aimed at children who may benefit from smaller group sessions. Over 100 children attended the programme of creative arts.

26. BookFest; the book festival for children and families in Darlington, is now in its second year and celebrated the wide-ranging activities offered through libraries with a week of performance and puppetry, children's theatre, family workshops, gaming, stop animation and storytelling, which commenced on 29 February, with the aim of inspiring and enthralling children to encourage them to spend time reading, writing and enjoying stories. Approximately 900 people accessed events at Darlington Library with a further 450 accessing the schools programme, comprising of author and illustrator visits, and writing and performance workshops that were enthusiastically taken up by 11 schools.
27. To launch this year's Bookfest, the Library employed the expertise of Darlington Academy of Performing Arts (DAPA) to work with pupils from Corporation Road School and Springfield Academy to create a show using popular song and dance routines for a showstopper to launch the Libraries' annual celebration of reading. Following the show, pupils and their families were treated to a celebratory concert featuring the Hootones.

Creative Darlington

28. Blimey! is a female led Darlington based artist collective who work across a diverse range of creative practices. They secured Arts Council England project funding alongside Darlington Borough Council support and have utilised this to take forward the Blimey! Lucretia programme. This included two February 2020 participatory sessions in the gallery at Darlington Library, followed by a short film screening and artists discussion at Darlington Library on 14 March 2020, alongside a Blimey! Lucretia exhibition at The Bowes Museum from 7 March to 10 May 2020.
29. A performance of 'Rose and Robin' by Mad Alice Theatre Company at Darlington Library on 15 February 2020 was fully booked, with 40 tickets sold. Darlington Borough Council allocated budget support to Mad Alice Theatre Company who secured Arts Council England project funding that supported the tour of Rose and Robin, which was aimed at ages 7 to 70.
30. Creative Darlington allocated budget to support the development of an accessible February 2020 half term programme at Darlington Children's Library working with TIN Arts.
31. Creative Darlington has supported ODDMANOUT in delivering a programme in 2019/20, which offered opportunities to explore theatre and was also supported by Darlington Hippodrome. The programme has secured Arts Council England project funding and explored routes for local actors to develop their practice.
32. A new exhibition by Darlington based artist, Jonny Lancaster opened in the gallery at Darlington Library, on 7 March 2020.

Events

33. More than 20 venues signed up to #Love Darlo restaurant week which was held from 23 February to 1 March. Diners were able to enjoy a range of offers including two courses for £10 or less and the chance of other discounts at town centre restaurants and eateries across the week. Discount diners were able to choose from Italian, Indian, pub food, café selections and much more.

Environmental Services

Ground Maintenance

34. The annual pruning of bushes and shrubs, which takes place during the winter months is ongoing and is scheduled to be complete in good time in readiness for the forthcoming grass cutting season.
35. In November last year, the North-East experienced sustained rainfall making the ground saturated and therefore not suitable for grass cutting operations. As a result, the grass has been slightly longer during the winter period and therefore grass cutting operations for the forthcoming growing season are to commence slightly earlier in an attempt to ensure satisfactory levels of cut.
36. The second year of garden waste collections will commence the first week in April. At the end of January all those people who subscribed last year were contacted advising that subscriptions for this coming summer season were now available and these have been taken up accordingly.

Councillor Andy Keir
Cabinet Member with Local Services Portfolio

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COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main area of work undertaken under the Resources Portfolio.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers

2. Cabinet has received an update on issues and developments in relation to the use of the Regulatory of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). Members will be aware that the RIPA Act enables local authorities to carry out certain types of surveillance activity, as long as specified procedures have been followed. Any information obtained as a result of surveillance operations can be relied upon in Court proceedings, provided RIPA has been complied with.

Capital Projects and Design Services Management

3. The Quarter 3 position on the Capital Programme was reported to Cabinet in February 2020 and was also considered by the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. The programme is being delivered to programme. Work is continuing to replace the current system with a more effective system to assist officers manage projects and provide improved reporting and information reports.

Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3

4. The Quarter 3 position on the predicted revenue budget management outturn was reported to Cabinet in February and was also considered by the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. An overall positive position was presented with projected revenue reserves at the end of 2019/20 at £17.267 million, £0.545 million better than budget and £0.670 million higher than the quarter 2 reported position.
5. The positive changes are due to improvements in Adult Social Care income along with additional income from the Council's Joint Venture Investment returns. There has, however, been a further decline in the Children's and Education budgets due to increased staffing requirements and higher demand for school transport.

Estates and Property and Business Investment

6. **Feethams House** - As recently announced in the press, terms have been agreed with Darlington-based Deep Ocean to take a lease of the whole of the fourth floor of the soon to be completed Feethams House office building. Enquiries from other potential occupiers are also being progressed.
7. Construction works are now entering their final stages and completion of the building is programmed for mid-April 2020.

8. **Faverdale** – Cabinet have agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Homes England in connection with the Council's land at High Faverdale, where Homes England are proposing to construct an access road across Council land to open up the Burtree Garden Village development, subject to planning permission.
9. The Council's land will also be serviced by the proposed access road enabling land to be brought forward and sold for residential development, generating Capital receipts and new homes bonuses.
10. Cabinet agreed to try and acquire approximately 29.9 ha (74 acres) of land situated to the east of Faverdale East Business Park (FEBP) which has become available. If successful the acquisition will provide the Council with much needed expansion land for new and existing business, potential Capital receipts and employment opportunities.

Councillor Charles Johnson
Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF STRONGER COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

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

Equalities

2. Councillor Darrien Wright has been appointed as the Council's Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Ambassador (LGBT).
3. Training continues to be held for all staff on equality, diversity, dignity and respect. Over 450 members of staff have now been trained and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
4. In relation to Member training, the session has been split into two sessions, 23 Members have attended session 1, with 25 Members attending session 2. Further sessions will be arranged and I would encourage those Members who have not yet been able to attend to do so once the dates have been confirmed.

Purple Flag

5. The aim of Purple Flag is 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.
6. The Disability Sub-Group met for the third time on 3 December 2019 prior to the Purple Flag assessment in Darlington on 6 December 2019. The discussion focused again on the idea of an award scheme for shops, restaurants, bars and other service providers that met a minimum standard set out by the scheme and a draft charter was circulated for comment.
7. The charter is currently being modified and will be taken back to the group for approval before being circulated to other groups and partners (including businesses) for their comments.
8. The LGBT Group also met before Christmas to discuss the night-time economy and the results of a survey that Darlington ARQ had sent out. Some themes emerged that were in common with the Disability Group - staff training, information, public attitudes, etc. Work on this strand has stalled temporarily following Darlington ARQ closing in early January 2020.
9. Darlington and its partners were assessed for accreditation on Friday 6 December 2019 and were subsequently awarded 'Purple Flag' in recognition of the high standards and offer in Darlington. Indeed, Darlington has now been nominated for the Jim Ratchford Award for outstanding contribution to safety and diversity in the night-time economy. The work of the Council in relation to the two groups detailed above and Purple Flag was commented upon very favourably in the Purple Flag

assessment report.

COVID-19

10. I am aware there is a lot of concern in our communities and amongst our staff in relation to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Officers have been reviewing the Council's Business Continuity Plans to ensure they are fit for purpose should they be required. There is a daily meeting of officers including the Managing Director, Public Health colleagues, as well as other senior representatives, to plan and react to the fast-changing environment. The Council is also working closely with its partners in the Local Resilience Forum, which includes all of the statutory agencies such as police, fire, health, local authorities, voluntary sector and others, again, working together to plan for a response to any emergency.
11. Additional cleaning arrangements have been put in place in our public buildings and Council offices.
12. We will continue to follow the Government's lead, and should the public need any further advice or information, the appropriate links to the NHS website are available on the Council's website.

Community Safety

Closure Notice

13. A Premises Closure Notice was granted for 88 Surtees Street, Darlington at Peterlee Magistrates Court on Friday 20 December 2019 for a period of three months. These premises were involved in the supply of controlled drugs for some time, impacting on the quality of life of residents in the area.

Re-Deployable CCTV

14. Following a successful trial of deployable cameras in Darlington, a decision has been made to purchase an additional five cameras for use throughout the Borough.
15. In order to prepare for the extended use of re-deployable cameras, a policy has been drafted to ensure compliance with relevant legislation. It is expected that the additional cameras will be delivered and deployed in the next two months.

Covert CCTV

16. The Community Safety Partnership have recently sponsored the purchase of two covert camera kits to tackle the problems associated with environmental crime (fly-tipping) in Darlington.

Road Safety Scheme for Schools

17. Working alongside the Highways Division and the Police, the Community Resilience Officer has now visited six schools in a pilot programme, and all have given a positive response to the enhanced scheme proposal. An official launch was planned for 24 February 2020 but it has been problematical arranging meetings with all of the schools so this official launch date has been put back. Firthmoor Primary School has decided not to take part in the scheme due to concerns that staff or pupils may be subject to abuse if they try to monitor parking

near the school. Some schools have already commenced activity and 35 vehicle registrations have been reported to be illegally parked and are being processed and sent warning notices from the Police and Darlington Borough Council. A database has been set up to record incidents and identify repeat offenders.

18. £7000 funding has also been awarded to the scheme from the Police Crime and Victim Commissioner to support the pilot.

Community Engagement

19. A meeting was recently held with the Jewish community in the Darlington Synagogue to discuss their concerns over security and antisemitic groups. Further guidance was provided in terms of personal and building security with the help of Special Branch. A Prevent talk was delivered to the group on 29 February 2020.
20. The Community Resilience Officer met with an Indian community in Mowden, following a burglary at one of their properties, which was the second such offence within six months. A meeting has been arranged with the Police to resolve communication issues, and resources have been put in place to alleviate immediate security concerns.
21. The Community Resilience Officer attended the meeting of the Darlington Unity Group chaired by Chief Inspector Steve Ball on 29 January 2020 at Kings Church, Darlington. A representative of Gypsy, Roma and Travellers attended for the first time together with the Head of Corporation School and new members from the West Indian Association and Sikh community who are keen to be involved in the group.
22. The group have agreed four key strands of work, in addition to looking at any emerging issues.
 - (a) Educating the Unity Group membership - a short presentation delivered by a group member at each meeting (15 mins) on their community/religion to provide a better understanding for the rest of the group.
 - (b) Communities to provide/facilitate opportunities for organisations to educate their staff - visits to Mosque/Church, meetings with key members of the community, formalised training, etc. Corporation School have already agreed to organise meetings with their students to discuss their issues in Darlington as a young person. The Sikh representative offered visits to the Gurdwara and GRT has offered visits to local sites.
 - (c) Police to work with communities to increase their knowledge about careers in the Police service. This has already had some success with a PCSO being recruited. This may be expanded to include County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue, Darlington Borough Council and other public sector organisations.
 - (d) Attract a younger/new membership to the Unity Group and look at opportunities for activities for younger people.

PREVENT

23. The Community Resilience Officer has completed the Prevent self-assessment toolkit and worked closely with partners to develop a Silver Board document, which is now effective in County Durham and Darlington.
24. In support of the plan two Education Prevent Seminars will be hosted by Darlington College on 4 and 5 May 2020. 3.5 hours of training on Prevent (locally and nationally) will be delivered by Special Branch and the Community Resilience Officer to safeguarding professionals and heads.

Trading Standards

25. Following an investigation by Trading Standards, a trader who operates on Darlington's outdoor market, pleaded guilty at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court to 8 toy safety offences in relation to the possession for supply of dangerous squishy toys and for applying his own stickers, bearing fake CE marks, to those types of toys.
26. The trader was sentenced to a fine and costs of £1134.00 and an application for forfeiture of all the items seized was granted.
27. Trading Standards has collaborated with Durham Police, Durham Agency Against Crime and Public Health to deliver a campaign which aims to raise awareness of the problems caused by the sale of illegal tobacco products, particularly to under-age children and encourages the public to report any issues to Trading Standards. Darlington College art and design students were given a brief to create a series of posters for the campaign. A panel of judges representing the partners in the campaign chose the winning designs, which will be displayed in bus shelters at key sites in the town. The winning and runner-up designs will be used to promote the campaign through social media.

Private Sector Housing

Warm Homes Project

28. Approval was given by Cabinet in early December 2019 to participate in a Tees Valley Partnership to deliver Warm Homes Fund Project. Participation in the project will deliver energy efficiency improvements for qualifying residents in the Borough. The funding will:
 - (a) Install 1000 boilers and provide gas connections across the area.
 - (b) Install 200 air source heat pumps - renewable heating provision in rural areas.
 - (c) Assist 10,000 households with fuel poverty issues.
29. This will provide over £5,500,000 in funding across the partnership area.
30. Fuel poverty levels and associated problems in the Borough will be reduced. Fuel poverty levels when last recorded in 2015, showed that 14.1 per cent of residents were in fuel poverty representing 6,663 households.
31. Work is currently being undertaken in conjunction with the Citizens Advice Bureau to identify vulnerable households who will qualify for the scheme and how this project will be communicated.

32. The programme will run from contract date December 2019 to December 2021 (24-month programme), to be finalised February 2022. The first letters to targeted properties were sent out in February 2020.

Private Rented Sector Innovation and Enforcement Grant

33. A bid was submitted on 1 December 2019, to apply for funds under the Private Rented Sector Innovation and Enforcement Grant. This application was granted on 31 December 2019 for £59,300. The fund is to support projects which take effective and targeted action against criminal landlords, support good landlords in fulfilling their responsibilities and empower tenants to make good use of their rights.
34. The purpose of the bid is to:
- (a) Understand local housing conditions and how this affects health across populations. Enabling improved enforcement to secure health improvements and reduce health inequalities in areas of deprivation.
 - (b) Improve local knowledge of the communities and housing standards in the private sector.
 - (c) Enable intelligent targeting and proactive inspections to tackle unsafe and poor quality housing, by utilising data sets and through the development of housing stock modelling and tenant modelling.
 - (d) Provide an intelligence led approach to identify the worst landlords who will be challenged through effective and robust enforcement. This will provide improved and healthier living conditions for the most vulnerable across Darlington. Following the introduction of a Civil Penalty policy, all financial penalties will be reinvested in improving housing conditions for all residents of Darlington.
35. This will assist in the first stage of the Northgate Initiative in gathering, analysing and presenting baseline data to support and direct the project.

The Northgate Initiative

36. The introduction of an initiative in the Northgate Ward, will comprise a multi-agency programme to pilot a range of interventions, from support to advice to enforcement activities where required in order to improve outcomes for residents in all areas of wellbeing, including economy, education and childhood, health, environment and social relationships.
37. Northgate Ward has one of the highest concentrations of private rented property in the Borough. As part of this initiative the Private Sector Housing team will be focusing on:
- (a) Making residents and landlords aware of what constitutes a decent and safe home and are aware of the what remedies are available to them should their home not meet these standards.
 - (b) Assisting in the reduction of long empty properties in the area.

Data Analysis

Crime and Disorder

38. There has been a six per cent increase in the number of reported crimes during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 January 2020 compared to the same period in 2018/19. This equates to an increase of 604 crimes. Crimes showing an increase include: violence against the person and sexual offences. Crimes showing a significant decrease include Theft of a Pedal Cycle and Arson.

Anti-Social Behaviour

39. There has been a one per cent decrease in the number of reported Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents in Darlington during this period compared to the same period in 2018/19. This equates to a reduction 32 incidents.

Licensing

Taxi Licensing Policy

40. Work has commenced on writing the new policy for implementation on 1 January 2021. A draft will be ready for the Licensing Committee in May to approve its release for consultation. Although there will be no radical changes, one of the main issues will be around emissions. By 1 April 2023 all taxi and private hire vehicles must be no older than 8 years of age and comply with Euro VI engine specifications. Most of the current fleet are already Euro VI compliant and there will be incentives for those who have vehicles that produce zero emissions.
41. All drivers will be required to sign up to the DBS Update Service and checks will be made annually (they are currently every three years). Future applicants will see an increase in the length of time a criminal conviction will prohibit the granting of a licence in line with guidance from the Institute of Licensing. The policy will also see some relaxation of conditions where appropriate to assist the trade.

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

42. A draft of this strategy has been produced and was discussed at a stakeholder workshop on the 19 February 2020, before completion and launch in early Spring. There will be three key themes; Prevention; Control; Treatment. An action plan will be developed around these themes in line with priorities linked to Corporate Plans for Darlington. It is intended that a lead individual will be identified for each element of the action plan who will report directly to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Licensing Act Policy Review

43. This review will be commenced in Spring and is for implementation in January 2021. A draft policy will be ready for the Licensing Committee in May to approve its release for consultation. Any changes will be made in line with the release of the Government's Section 182 Guidance published in 2018. There have been no major changes other than the Immigration Act 2016 giving Home Office Enforcement Officers greater influence in dealing with licenced premises.

Floods and Water Management Act

44. Council staff worked in partnership with other agencies and communities to respond to the impact of Storm Ciara. The River Tees rose rapidly to the highest recorded levels and this had impacts at a number of locations. The Council worked to warn and inform those who may have been affected and assisted with deployment of sandbags to help to protect property.
45. From a preventative perspective the Council is working in partnership with Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency on a study to identify the impact of flooding on Darlington; this will inform the management and response to flood events and inform any investment that may be needed. In addition, the Council has commissioned further work to understand the impact of various scenarios on the culverts and bridges that exist across the Borough and how they would cope under various scenarios in terms of flood intensity and their capacity. This will also assist in the management of flood events and prioritisation of investment and response.

Councillor Jonathan Dulston
STRONGER COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

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COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

THE COUNCIL PLAN 2020 - 2023

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Heather Scott
Leader and all Cabinet Members**

Responsible Director - Chief Officers Executive

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider consultation feedback and recommend Full Council approves the Council Plan 2020-2023.

Summary

2. Cabinet agreed the draft Council Plan for consultation on 7 January 2020. All Scrutiny Committees have considered the plan and supported it. Videos about the plan were viewed 18,500 times and displayed on up to 42,000 people's Facebook news feed. 63 detailed surveys were received.
3. There are no changes proposed to the draft plan.
4. Following the consultation, the draft plan was considered by Cabinet on 3 March 2020 and the recommendation to seek Full Council approval of the plan was agreed.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Council :-
 - (a) Note the consultation responses (**Appendix 1**).
 - (b) Approve the Council Plan (**Appendix 2**)

Reasons

6. The recommendation is to seek approval of the Council Plan.

Chief Officers Executive

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

Paul Wildsmith : Extension 5828

S17 Crime and Disorder	The Council Plan outlines the council's priorities and objectives in respect of community safety.
Health and Well Being	The Council Plan outlines the council's priorities and objectives in respect of improving the health and wellbeing of residents.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	The Council Plan outlines the council's priorities and objectives in respect of improving the local environment, including carbon emissions.
Diversity	The Council Plan outlines the council's priorities and objectives in respect of building stronger communities and reducing inequalities across the borough.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Whole population
Budget and Policy Framework	The Council Plan will form part of the council's policy framework
Key Decision	This is a key decision because following consultation, agreement to the recommendations will result in the Local Authority adopting a plan which will have an effect on the communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the area of the local authority.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision for Cabinet as it will require adoption by full Council.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Council Plan is directly aligned to the One Darlington Perfectly Placed priorities and outcomes.
Efficiency	The Council Plan outlines the council's organisational objectives, including improving efficiency.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	The Council Plan outlines the council's commitment to ensuring the best outcomes for Looked After Children, and contains a number of objectives and planned actions relating to this target.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

- Cabinet approved the draft Council Plan for consultation at its meeting on 7 January 2020 and on 3 March 2020 supported the recommendation to seek full council approval for the plan.

8. All Scrutiny Committees have considered the plan at special meetings in January and the Committees are supportive of the plan.
9. Consultation took place with the public and to raise awareness and gather views. This was supported by a communications plan containing numerous and varied actions to reach as many local people as possible:-
 - (a) A one-page article in the January edition of One Darlington magazine which was delivered to the majority of residential properties across the Borough, signposting residents to the consultation and how to take part.
 - (b) A press briefing with senior councillors and officers which led to coverage in the Northern Echo.
 - (c) Individual videos of Cabinet members discussing their portfolio areas and how they fit in with the Council Plan.
 - (d) A dedicated webpage – www.darlington.gov.uk/councilplan - was set up and has been viewed at least 178 times since it was published.
 - (e) A longer-form video was also created, featuring a cross section of the public encouraging people to engage with the consultation.
10. Collectively, these videos were viewed almost 18,500 times, displayed on the Facebook news feed of up to 42,000 people, shared 60 times and commented on 63 times. The overall reach of the consultation was pleasing but the overall responses disappointing.
11. As a result, 63 survey responses were received, and the full results and analysis are available in Appendix 1.
12. Consultation respondents were asked to provide their views on the Council Plan as a whole using a five-point scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'. 37 respondents provided their views on this question, of which:
 - (a) 21 (57%) agreed or strongly agreed with the Council Plan
 - (b) 6 (16%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the Council Plan
 - (c) 9 (24%) neither agreed or disagreed with the Council Plan
 - (d) 1 (3%) didn't know
13. Respondents were also asked whether they agreed with each of the four proposed themes. The most popular response for each theme was 'Agree' with the number and proportion of respondents agreeing with each as follows:
 - (a) Growing Darlington's Economy: 41 (65%) respondents agreed
 - (b) Maximising the potential of our young people: 37 (59%) respondents agreed
 - (c) Supporting the most vulnerable in the borough: 35 (56%) respondents agreed

- (d) Working with communities to maximise their potential: 49 (78%) respondents agreed

14. Respondents were also asked to give their views on the draft vision outlined in the Plan:

“Darlington is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the Borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential”.

Of the 63 people who responded to the Council Plan consultation:

- (a) 27 (43%) respondents agreed with the proposed vision,
- (b) 21 (33%) disagreed with the proposed vision,
- (c) 10 (16%) of respondents neither agreed or disagreed with the proposed vision,
- (d) 5 (8%) respondents didn't give a view

There were also 19 (30%) free text comments suggesting additions to the proposed vision received in response to this question, which are available in Appendix 1, page 3.

15. Respondents were also asked to state which key actions they felt should not be a priority, and the responses are available in Appendix 1. Respondents were also asked if any other key actions should be made, to which 15 (24%) responded 'Yes'.
16. Given the general support for the plan and low level of responses, despite high visibility with the public, the plan as drafted for consultation at Appendix 2 is recommended for Full Council consideration and approval.

Council Plan 2020-23 Public Consultation Feedback Report

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Overview

Public consultation sought views from local residents, businesses and wider stakeholders about the draft council Plan 2020-2023 between 7th January 2020 and 7th February 2020.

The consultation comprised of an online survey, with paper copies and alternative accessible formats available on request, and was widely publicised through social media and communications with the public. Feedback was sought on the Plan as a whole, along with specific questions relating to the proposed themes and key actions, including suggestions for additional commitments the council should include.

This report describes the methodology and presents the findings of the Plan consultation, including quantitative data and analysis of survey responses received including free text comments.

This report will be considered by Cabinet and Full Council in making their decisions about the Council Plan.

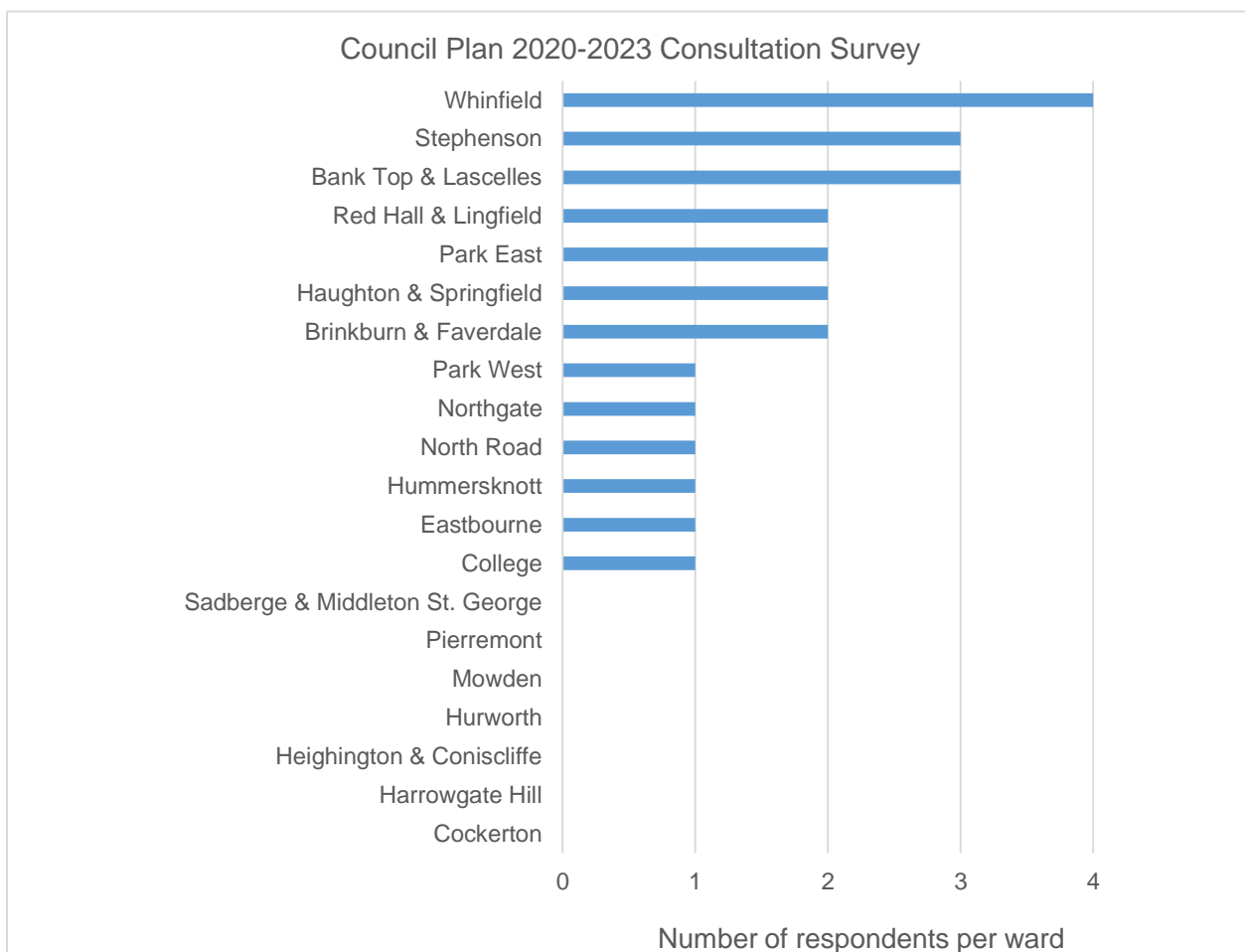
Key Findings

63 responses were received to the Council Plan survey, with 100% of respondents completing the survey online.

Characteristics of respondents

Geographic distribution

26 (41%) of survey respondents gave their postcode. Of these, at least one response was received from residents living in thirteen wards as shown in the below graph.



Protected Characteristics

32 (51%) respondents answered one or more of the equalities monitoring questions. The findings of this section should therefore be treated with caution as they only reflect the characteristics of just over half the total number of respondents.

Sex

Of the 32 (51%) respondents who gave their sex, 66% were female and 34% were male, suggesting females may have been overrepresented and males underrepresented in the survey responses.

Age

Of the 32 respondents (51%) who gave their age:

- 0 were aged under 18 years
- 2 (6%) were aged 18-24 years
- 4 (12%) were aged 25-34 years
- 7 (22%) were aged 35-44 years
- 11 (34%) were aged 45-59 years
- 8 (25%) were aged 60-75 years
- 0 were aged over 75 years

These findings suggest residents aged under 18s and over 75s may have been underrepresented in the survey responses. The proportion of survey responses from residents aged 35 to 75 was higher than these age groups' collective share of the Darlington population, suggesting this groups views may have been overrepresented. Responses from people aged 18-34 closely matched these age groups' proportion of the borough population.

Disability

Of the 32 (51%) respondents who answered this question, 1 (3%) considered themselves to have a disability. This is a smaller proportion than the proportion of Darlington residents who are estimated to have a disability (17%), suggesting residents with disabilities may have been underrepresented in survey responses.

Race

Of the 32 (51%) of respondents who answered this question, 31 (97%) identified themselves as White – UK, higher than the 94% of the borough population estimated to belong to this ethnic group suggesting this group may have been overrepresented in survey responses.

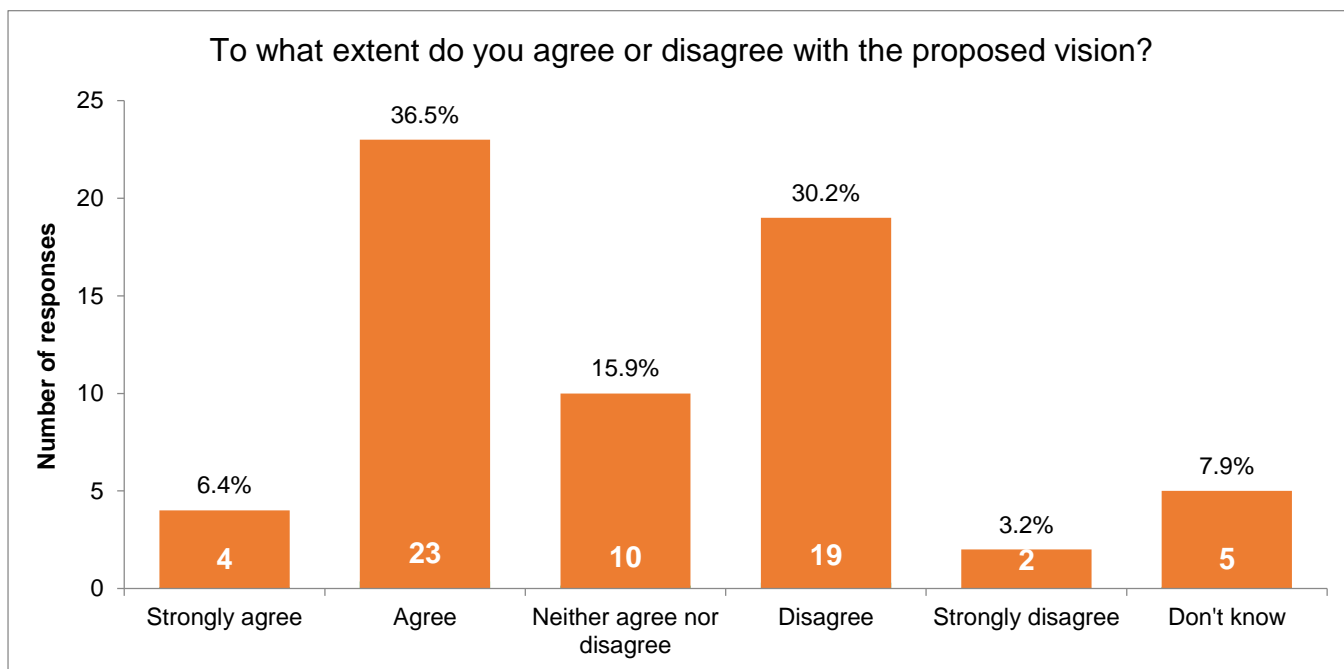
Vision

Survey respondents were asked to give their views on the draft vision outlined in the Plan:

“Darlington is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the Borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential”.

Of the 63 people who responded to the Council Plan consultation:

- 27 (43%) respondents agreed with the proposed vision,
- 21 (33%) disagreed with the proposed vision,
- 10 (16%) of respondents neither agreed or disagreed with the proposed vision,
- 5 (8%) respondents didn't give a view



There were also 22 free text responses to this question (35% of respondents) which are categorised below¹:

Issues to include

There were 19 comments suggesting additions to the vision, including:

- protecting the environment (5)
- proportionate housebuilding (4)
- the quality of the public realm, including the town centre (3)
- better highways (2)
- more venues for children and young people (1)
- inclusion, support, equality and diversity, including acknowledging more vulnerable groups (1)
- residents' quality of life (1)
- local radio (1)
- supporting and improving communities (1)

Agreement

There were 3 comments in support of the proposed vision:

¹ The number of categorised comments is more than the number of free text responses because some responses included multiple points

- things feel positive (2)
- anything is better than nothing and ideas add up (1)

Disagreement

There were 4 comments against the proposed vision:

- not rooted in fact (1)
- vague (1)
- just the council trying to justify itself (1)
- rarely come to fruition (1)

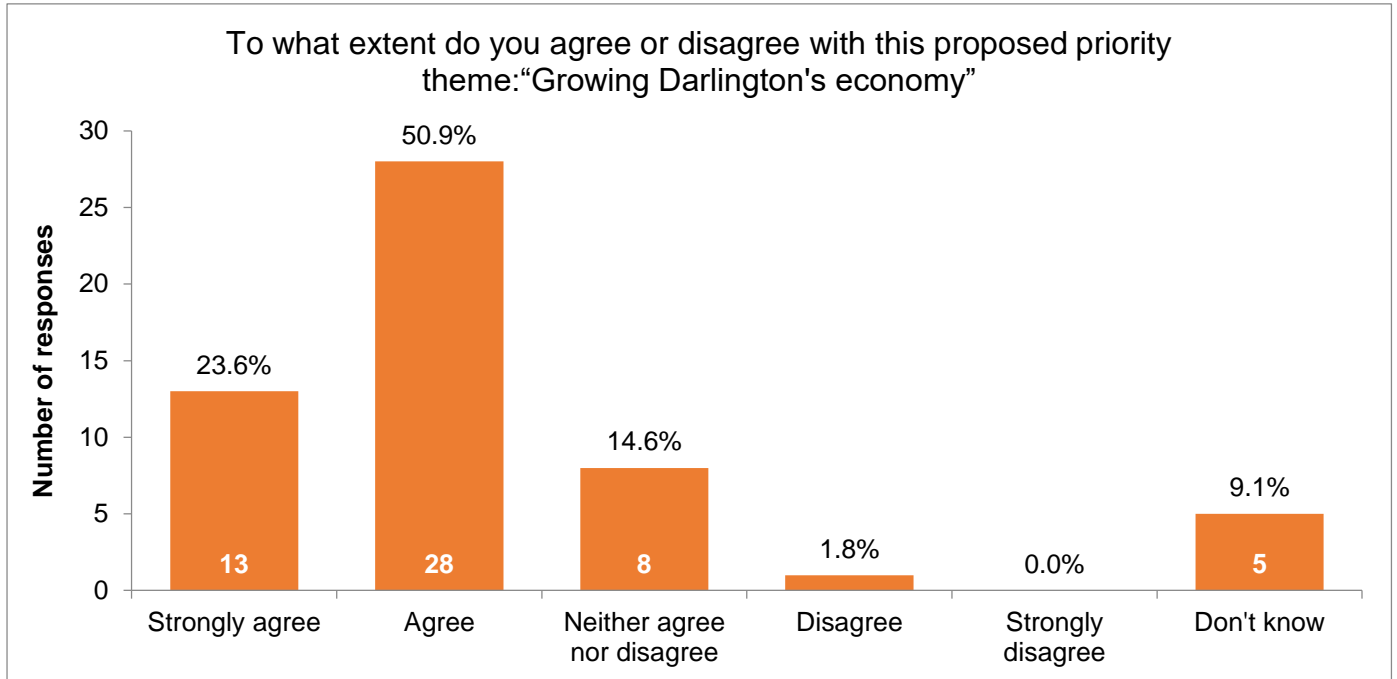
Priority Themes

Growing Darlington's Economy

Survey respondents were asked their views on the proposed priority theme: 'Growing Darlington's economy' using a five point scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'.

Of the 63 people who responded to the Council Plan consultation, 55 (87%) gave a view on this theme. Of those:

- 41 (75%) agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed theme
- 1 (2%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposed theme
- 8 (15%) neither agreed or disagreed with the proposed theme
- 5 (9%) didn't know



There were also 16 free text responses to this question (25% of respondents) which are categorised below:

For/Against

- agree (4)

Suggestions

- Need to attract people to Darlington (2)
- Need more / diverse businesses (2)
- Need good employment opportunities (1)
- Prioritise tourism and rail heritage (1)
- Lower business rates for retailers (1)

Qualifiers

- Must be in conjunction with the environment (2)
- Need to balance the needs of the whole community (1)
- Must be managed and sustainable (1)
- Only in ways that benefit everyone (1)

Other

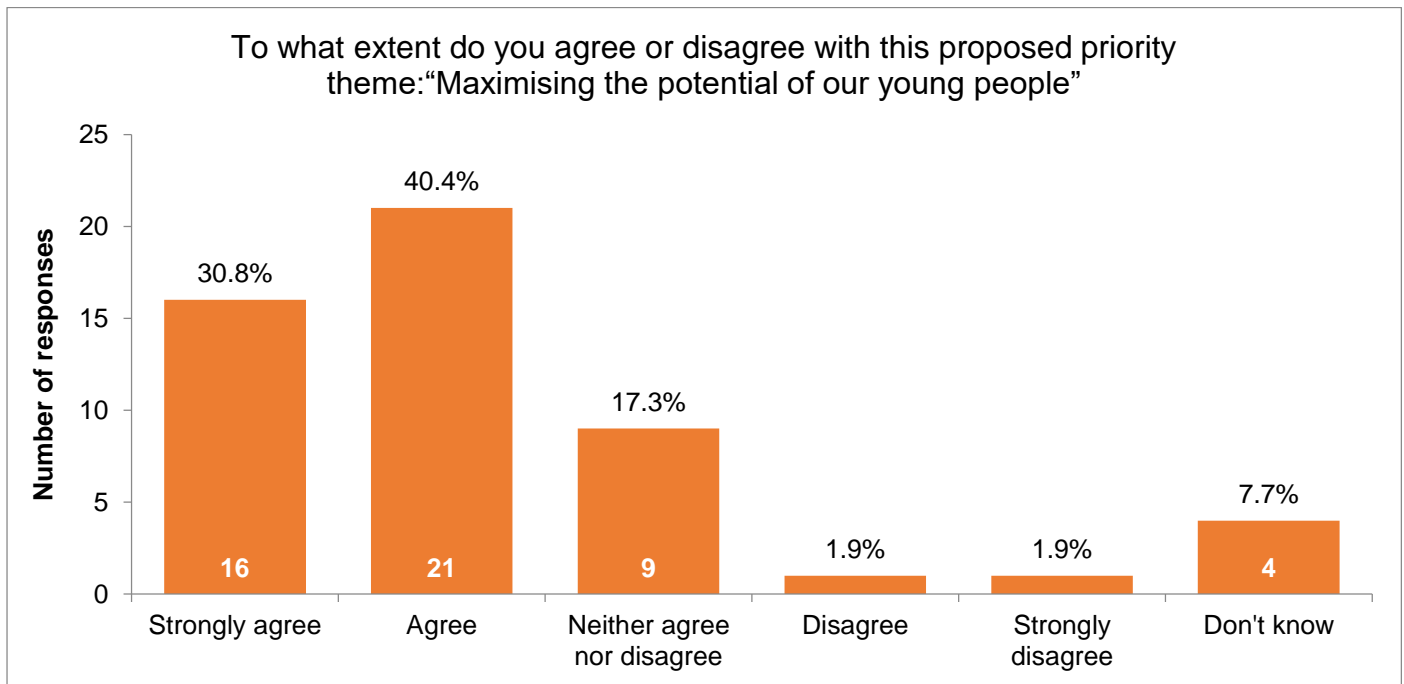
- Doubt the council has the required skills (1)
- Darlington is not the third leading retail centre in the north east (1)

Maximising the potential of our young people

Survey respondents were asked their views on the proposed priority theme: ‘Maximising the potential of our young people’ using a five point scale from ‘strongly agree’ to ‘strongly disagree’.

Of the 63 people who responded to the Council Plan consultation, 52 (83%) gave a view on this theme. Of those:

- 37 (71%) agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed theme
- 2 (4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposed theme
- 9 (17%) neither agreed or disagreed with the proposed theme
- 4 (8%) didn’t know



There were also 15 free text responses to this question (24% of respondents) which are categorised below:

For/Against

- Agree (5)

Suggestions

- Provide the education, skills and opportunities to succeed (5)
- Improve schools (2)
- Provide suitable leisure offer to keep children and young people occupied (2)
- Provide a central resource listing all groups/events etc. across the borough (1)
- Listen to young people including hard to reach groups (1)
- Motivate young people (1)
- Provide more for 25-35 year olds (1)
- Ensure young people feel well served by their community (1)
- Encourage young people to stay and contribute to Darlington (1)
- Encourage young people to be eco-friendly (1)
- Provide affordable housing for young people (1)
- Ensure young people have a safe place to grow up in (1)

Other

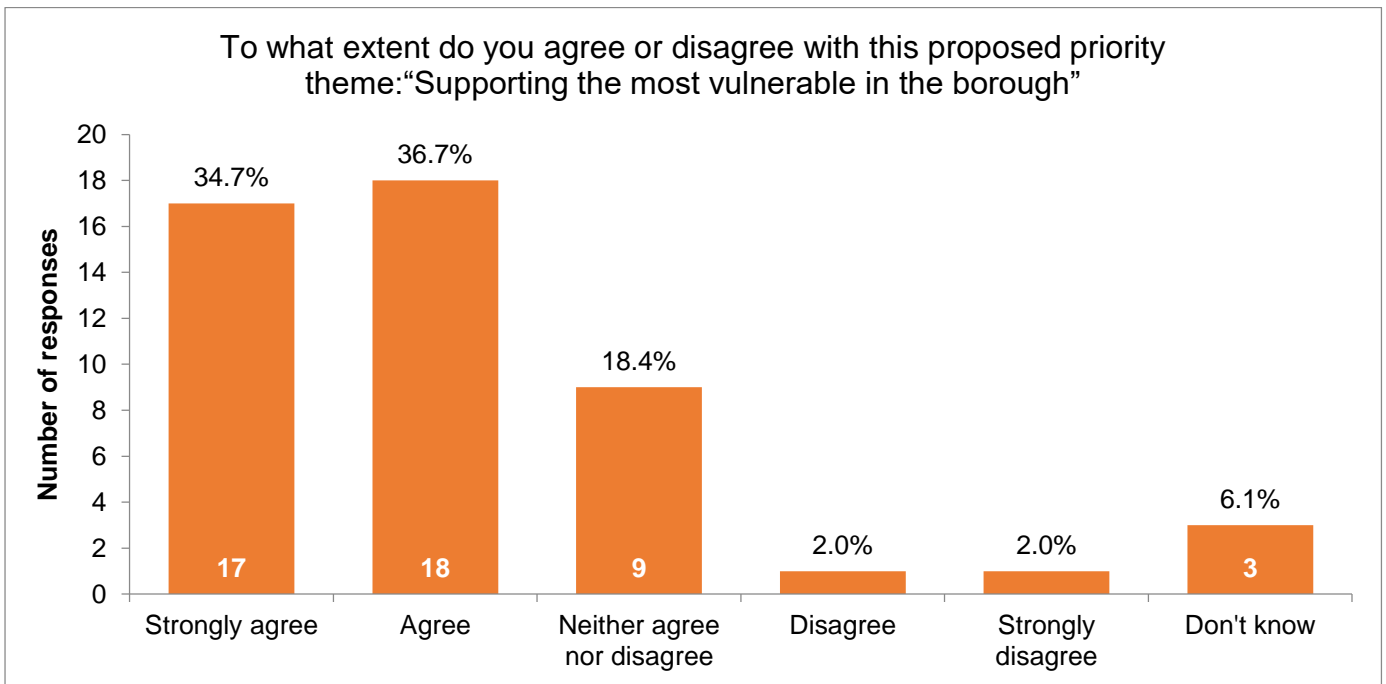
- Doubt the council will achieve anything (1)

Supporting the most vulnerable in the borough

Survey respondents were asked their views on the proposed priority theme: ‘Supporting the most vulnerable in the borough’ using a five point scale from ‘strongly agree’ to ‘strongly disagree’.

Of the 63 people who responded to the Council Plan consultation, 49 (78%) gave a view on this theme. Of those:

- 35 (71%) agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed theme
- 2 (4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposed theme
- 9 (18%) neither agreed or disagreed with the proposed theme
- 3 (6%) didn’t know



There were also 11 free text responses to this question (17% of respondents) which are categorised below:

For/Against

- Agree (6)
- Disagree (1)

Suggestions

- Don’t leave anyone behind (1)
- Support older people, offenders and homeless people (1)
- Liaise with support services (1)
- More affordable housing (1)
- Raise living standards and health and wellbeing (1)
- Encourage people into employment and to be independent (1)

Other

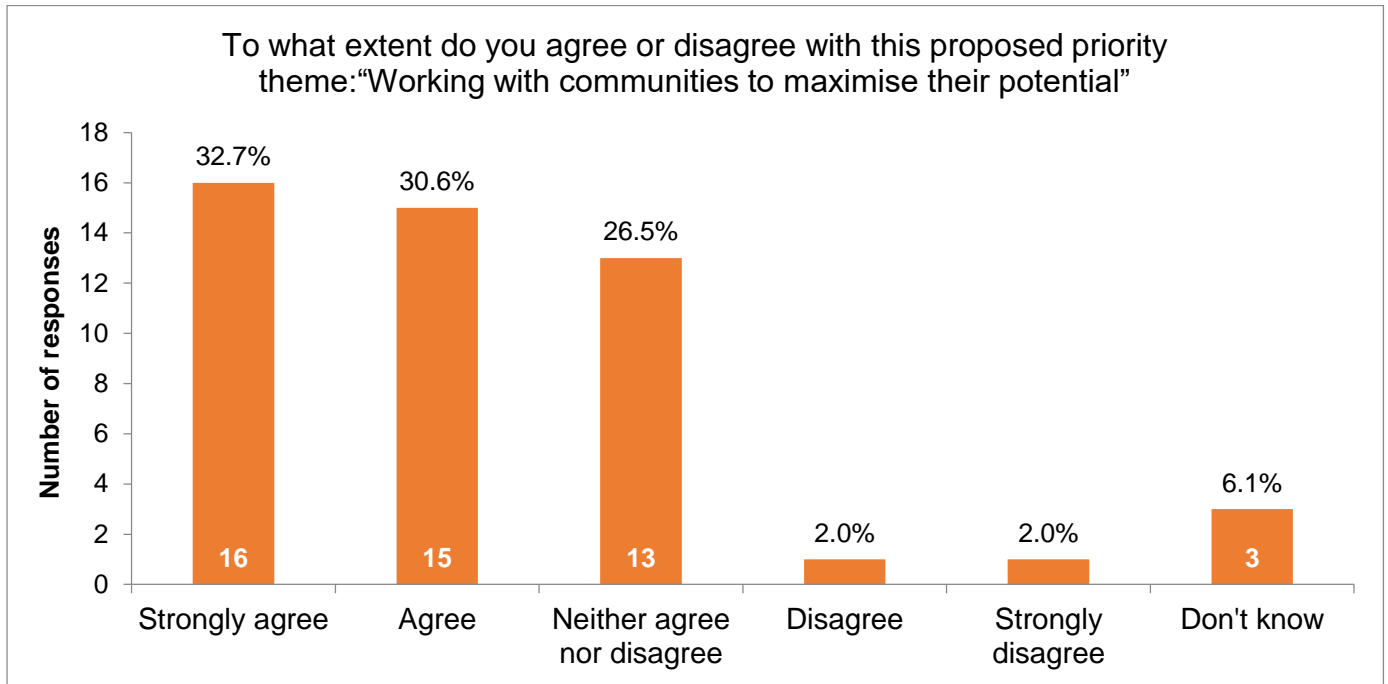
- The way the council go about this is absurd and not helpful (1)
- I have a disabled relative who gets little support (1)
- Do not trust the council to define who the most vulnerable are (1)
- Will likely only be meeting cost pressures in adult social care (1)

Working with communities to maximise their potential

Survey respondents were asked their views on the proposed priority theme: 'Working with communities to maximise their potential' using a five point scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'.

Of the 63 people who responded to the Council Plan consultation, 49 (78%) gave a view on this theme. Of those:

- 31 (63%) agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed theme
- 2 (4%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposed theme
- 13 (27%) neither agreed or disagreed with the proposed theme
- 3 (6%) didn't know



There were also 4 free text responses to this question (6% of respondents) which are categorised below:

For/Against

- Agree (1)
- Disagree (1)

Suggestions

- Improve frontline services (1)
- Protect green spaces (1)

Other

- The only community who ever benefits is the West end (1)

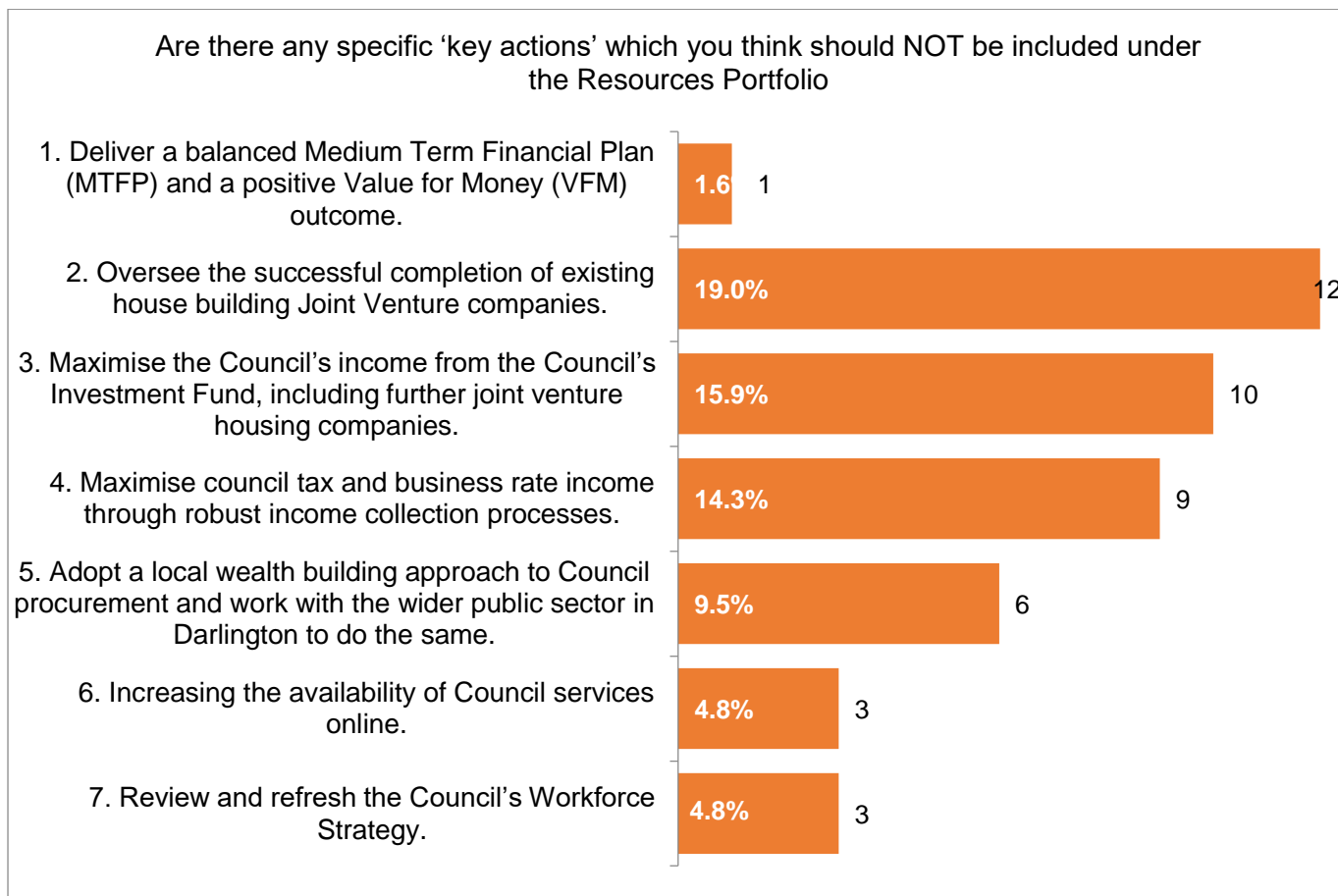
Key Actions

Key actions which respondents think should not be priorities

The survey asked respondents to identify any key commitments which they think should NOT be among the council's highest priorities. Responses are categorised by cabinet portfolio areas below:

Resources

23 (37%) of survey respondents identified one or more of the proposed Resources key actions which they thought should not be corporate commitments, as follows:



There were also 9 free text responses to this question (14% of respondents) which are categorised by commitment number below:

Action 1

- Is an ambition all councils have rather than an action (1)

Action 2

- Insufficient in-house skills (1)
- Joint venture companies should not be mentioned (1)
- Not a necessity and needs more consultation (1)

Action 3

- Insufficient in-house skills (1)
- Do not need more new housing (1)
- Don't want more council income invested in more houses (1)
- Not a necessity and needs more consultation (1)

Action 4

- Can lead to excessive handling of vulnerable people (1)
- Should be picked up through operational improvements rather than a Council Plan priority (1)

- Don't want taxes increased (1)
- Not thinking innovatively how to increase income (1)

Action 5

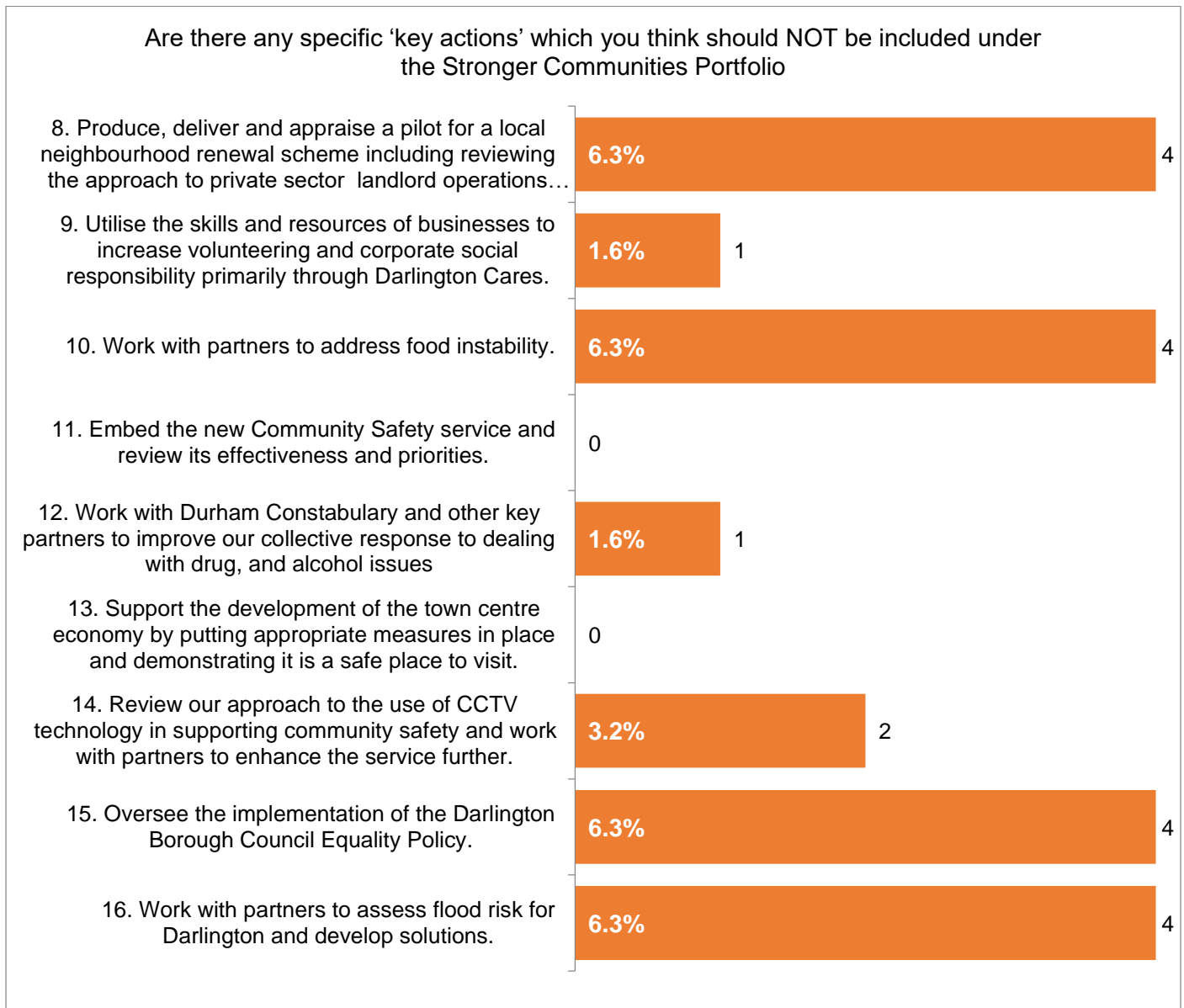
- Not the business the council should be in (1)

Action 6

- Not everyone can or wants to access online services (1)

Stronger Communities

11 (17%) of survey respondents identified one or more of the proposed Stronger Communities key actions which they thought should not be corporate commitments, as follows:



There were also 3 free text responses to this question (5% of respondents) which are categorised by commitment number below:

Action 8

- Waste of time and money (1)

Action 10

- Not something the council should be involved in (1)

Action 14

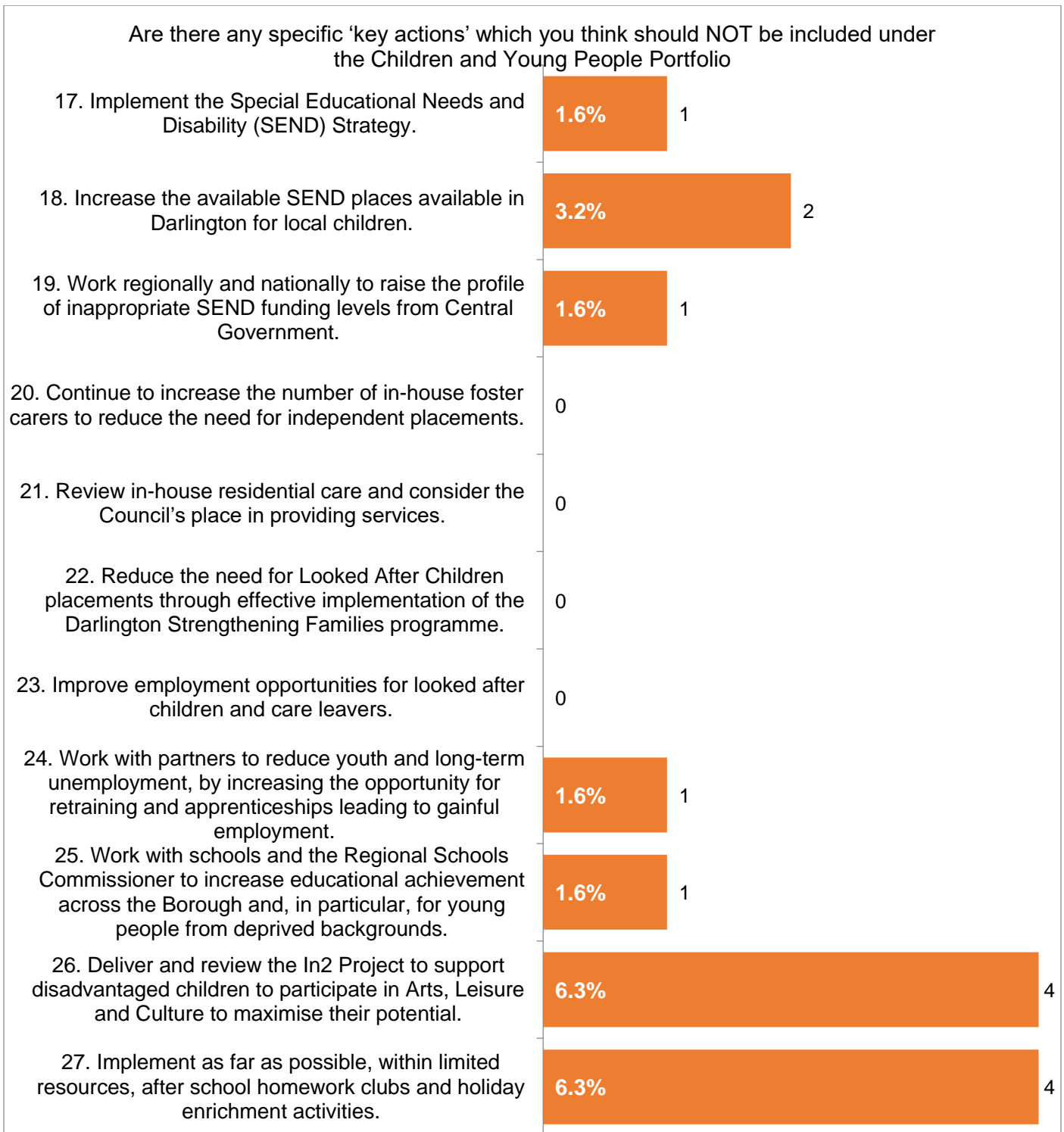
- Needs to be clear any enhancements would not infringe on personal liberty or privacy (1)

Action 16

- Does not fit in (1)

Children and Young People

10 (16%) of survey respondents identified one or more of the proposed Children and Young People Portfolio key actions which they thought should not be corporate commitments, as follows:



There were also 4 free text responses to this question (6% of respondents) which are categorised by commitment number below:

Action 24

- Apprenticeships need to offer a living wage (1)

Action 25

- Emphasis on educational success is based too much on grades and puts too much pressure on students (1)

Action 26

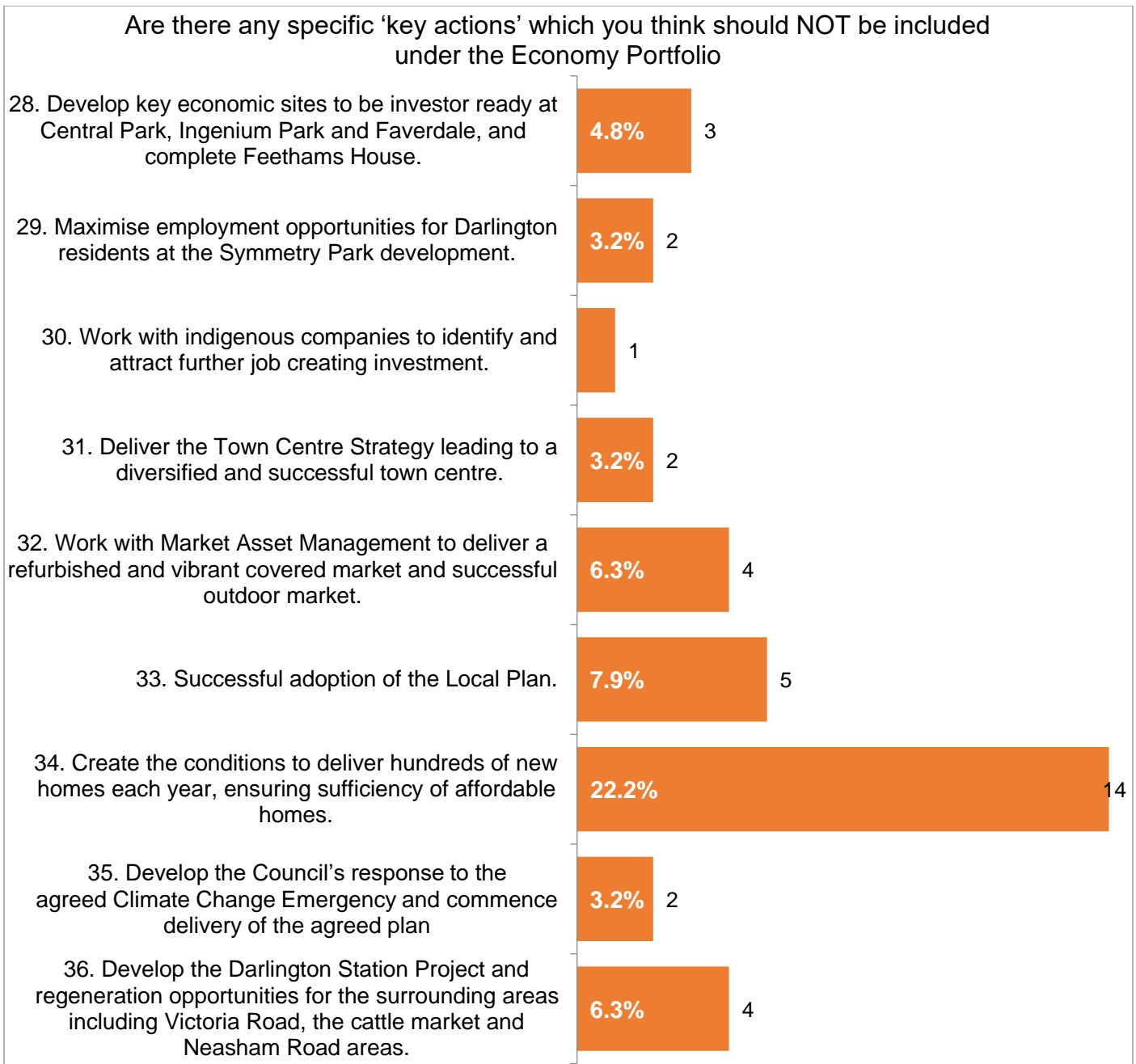
- Parent/caregivers should do more (1)
- SEND is more important (1)

Action 27

- Parent/caregivers should do more (1)
- Children should do homework at home (1)
- Holiday enrichment activities is a good thing (1)
- Environmental opportunities should be created (1)

Economy

18 (29%) of survey respondents identified one or more of the proposed Economy Portfolio key actions which they thought should not be corporate commitments, as follows:



There were also 12 free text responses to this question (19% of respondents) which are categorised by commitment number below:

Action 28

- More should be done to make existing derelict sites good again (1)

Action 29

- Not sure how achievable it is to prioritise Darlington residents (1)
- The road systems need reviewing when developments happen (1)

Action 31

- The Town Centre Strategy is inadequate (1)

Action 32

- The market has had enough money spent on it (1)

Action 33

- The Local Plan is inadequate and does not address the right priorities (1)
- Need to ask residents for their views (2)
- Don't know what it is (1)

Action 34

- We don't need hundreds of new houses each year (3)
- More council homes and less affordable (1)
- Too much building on green field sites (1)
- More needs to be done to improve existing stock, repurpose commercial stock and replace low quality housing with sustainable homes (1)
- Makes Darlington a more unpleasant place to live (1)
- Are these needed? (1)
- Finish current housing developments before starting new ones (1)
- A full housing plan review should take place (1)

Action 35

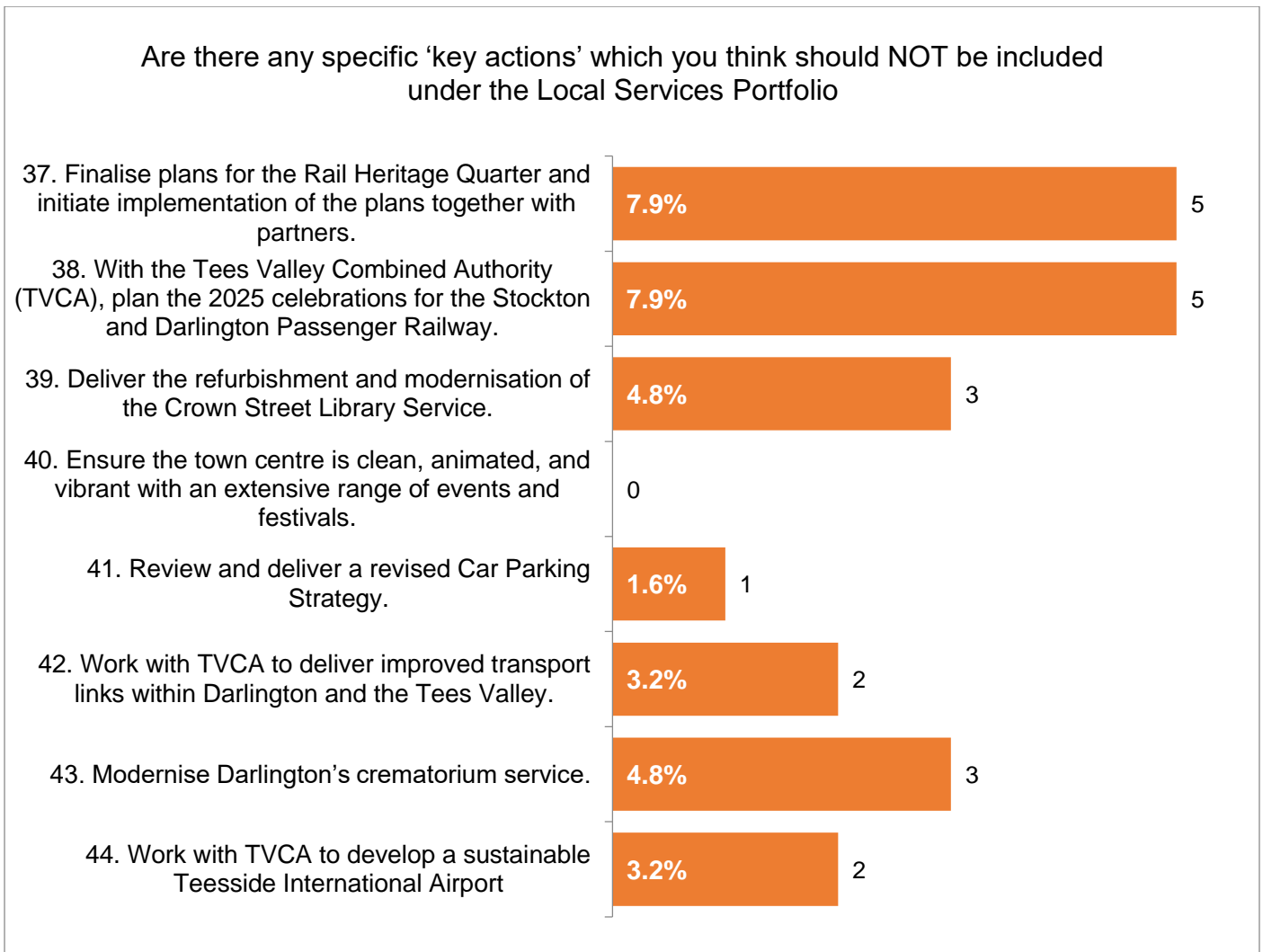
- Stop jumping on bandwagons (1)

Action 36

- Cleaning the back lanes would be better (1)

Local Services

11 (17%) of survey respondents identified one or more of the proposed Local Services Portfolio key actions which they thought should not be corporate commitments, as follows:



There were also 6 free text responses to this question (9% of respondents) which are categorised by commitment number below:

Action 37

- Should be under the Economy portfolio (1)

Action 40

- Should be revised to say all borough (1)

Action 41

- Work towards a car free town centre unless disabled (1)

Action 42

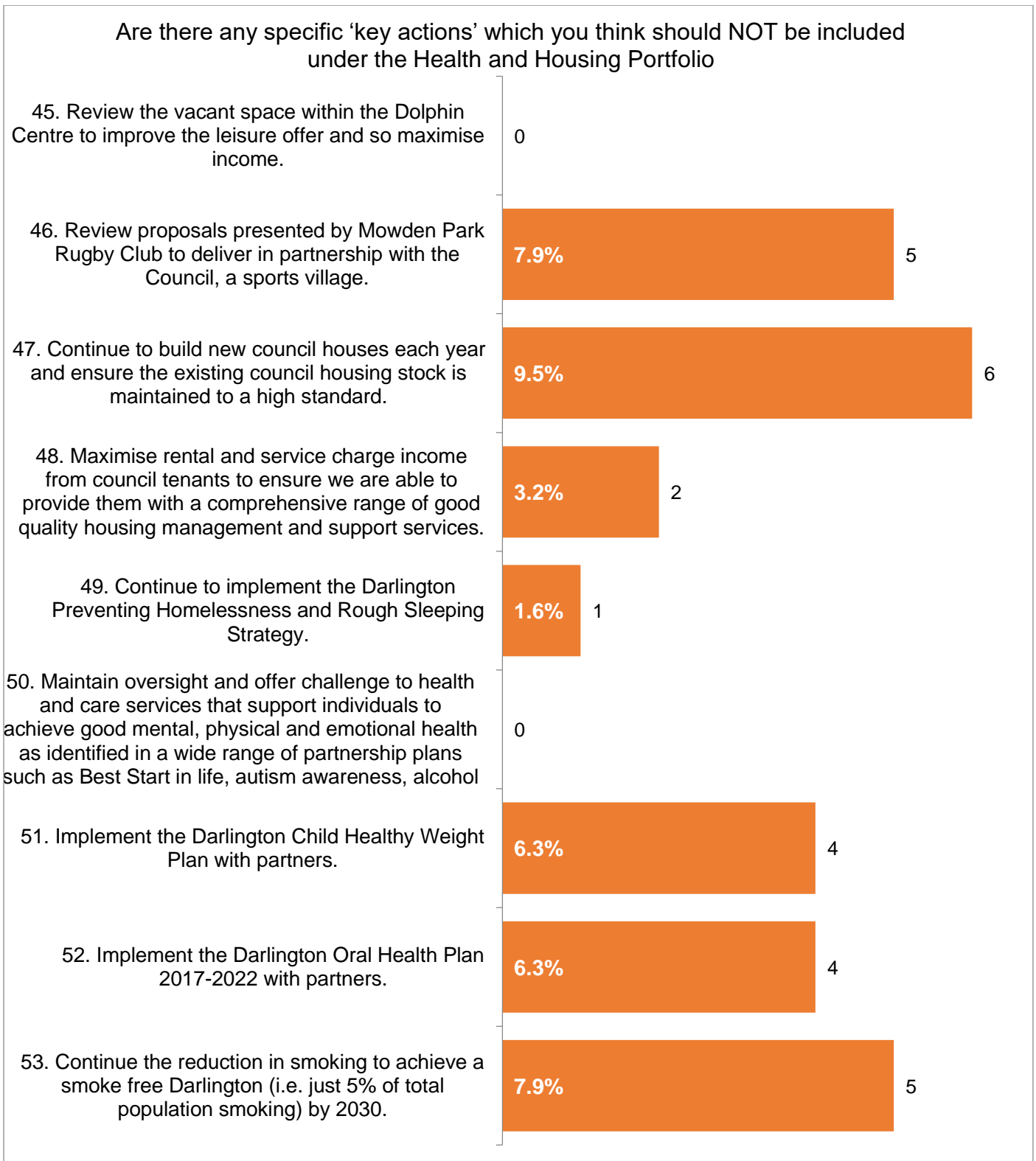
- Should reduce traffic not encourage more (1)
- Not at the expense of residents’ quality of life (1)

Action 44

- Has reduced the amount of money for other schemes to support local economy (1)

Health and Housing

15 (24%) of survey respondents identified one or more of the proposed Health and Housing Portfolio key actions which they thought should not be corporate commitments, as follows:



There were also 9 free text responses to this question (14% of respondents) which are categorised by commitment number below:

Action 46

- Not a priority(1)
- Need to see the plans first (1)

Action 47

- Focus on empty properties first (1)
- Too many houses are being built (1)

Action 49

- Need more information (1)
- Shouldn't tell people not to give money to homeless people (1)

Action 51

- It's the parents' responsibility (1)
- What will the council's input be as delivered by partners (1)

Action 52

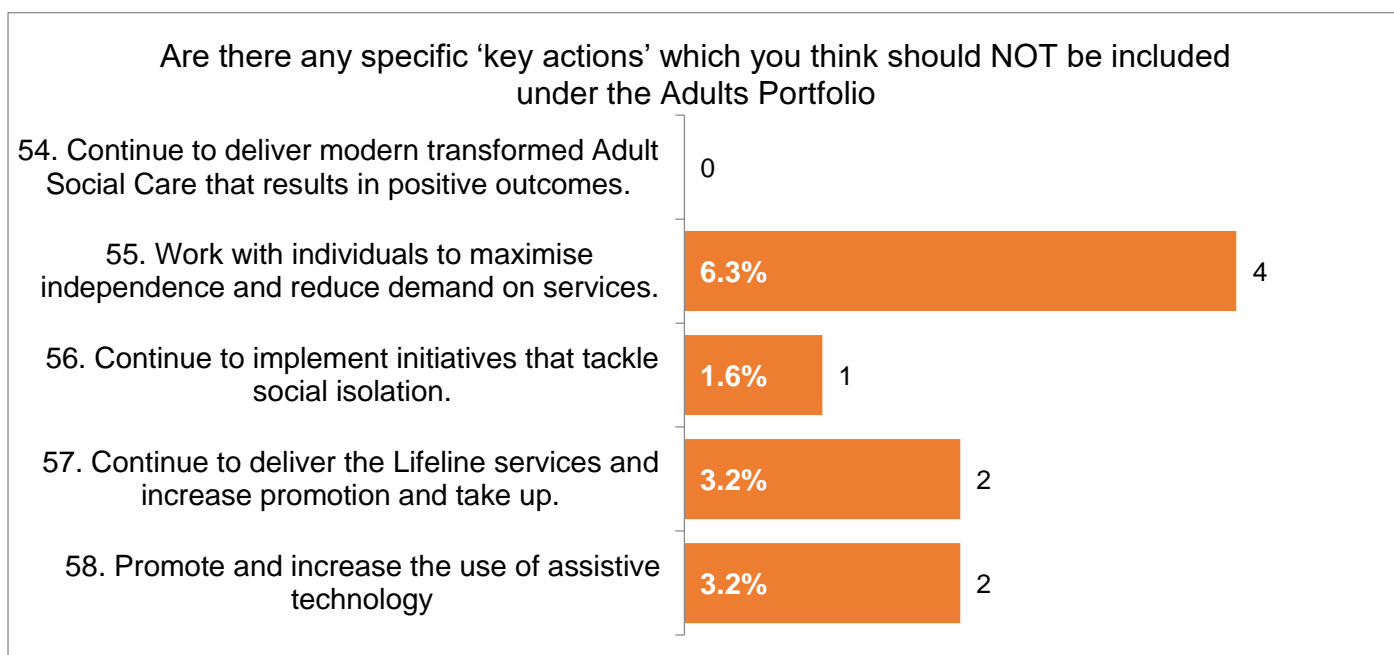
- What will the council's input be as delivered by partners (1)

Action 53

- People should have the choice (1)
- Waste of council time and money (1)
- What will the council's input be as delivered by partners (1)

Adults

8 (13%) of survey respondents identified one or more of the proposed Adults Portfolio key actions which they thought should not be corporate commitments, as follows:



There were also 6 free text responses to this question (9% of respondents) which are categorised by commitment number below:

Action 55

- Within reason and without creating hardship (1)
- Would like to see how the council thinks demand will change in the future (1)
- An innovative approach is required (1)
- Not the best way to phrase it (1)
- Third sector services should increase to support this (1)
- Is this to save money? (1)

Action 57

- Should this be delivered by the Director of Economic Growth? (1)

Other key actions the council should include

Respondents were asked if they think there are other key actions the council should include in the Council Plan 2020-2023. 25 (40%) of respondents gave a view on this question, of which:

- 15 (60%) thought additional key actions are needed;
- 10 (40%) thought no key additional key actions are needed.

The 15 (24%) respondents who felt additional key actions are needed specified these in free text responses which are categorised below:

Resources

There were 3 suggested key actions received relating to Resources:

- More robust oversight of external service providers (1)
- Improve council staff productivity (1)
- Improve and protect frontline services (1)

Stronger Communities

There were 3 suggested key actions received relating to stronger communities:

- Support events that build strong communities (1)
- Work with services that support offenders (1)
- Tackle antisocial behaviour (1)

Local Services

There were 16 suggested key actions received relating to Local Services:

- Protect, maintain and promote green spaces (4)
- Improve traffic management / reduce congestion (3)
- Repair and improve roads (2)
- An integrated public and private transport system (1)
- Tackle speeding (1)
- Introduce cycle lanes and park and ride (1)
- Replace residents' stolen recycling bins (1)
- Improve street cleaning (1)
- Invest in the Head of Steam (1)
- Use neighbourhood venues to promote arts and culture across Darlington (1)

Economy

There were 8 suggested key actions received relating to Economy:

- Ensure oversight of and consult on major projects (2)
- Review housebuilding plans (2)
- Airport development (1)
- Make cattle market relocation a success (1)
- Broadband for all (1)
- Rural economic development options (1)

Miscellaneous

There was 1 suggested key action received which didn't relate to a specific portfolio area:

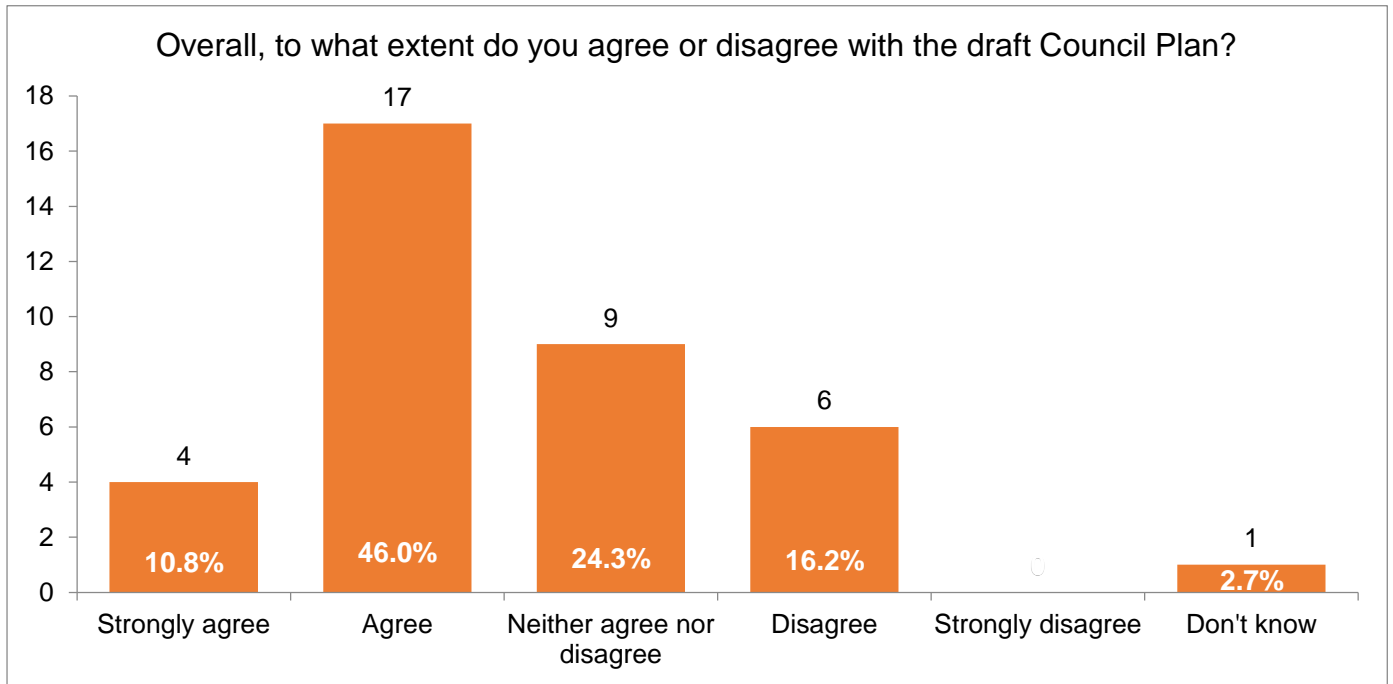
- Include a local radio station (1)

Council Plan

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the Council Plan 2020-2023 as whole, using a five point scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'.

Of the 63 people who responded to the Council Plan consultation, 37 (59%) gave a view on this question. Of those:

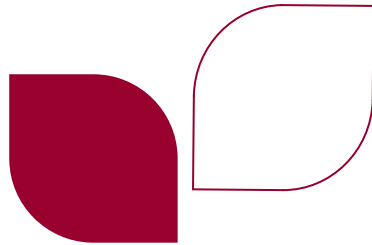
- 21 (57%) agreed or strongly agreed with the Council Plan
- 6 (16%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the Council Plan
- 9 (24%) neither agreed or disagreed with the Council Plan
- 1 (3%) didn't know



There were also 9 free text responses to this question (14% of respondents) which are summarised below:

- Agree (2)
- Listen to the feedback (2)
- It was produced by the previous administration and should not proceed (1)
- Look forward to seeing progress reports (1)
- Appreciate being consulted(1)
- More detail needed (1)
- Needs more emphasis on safety (1)
- Just a wish list (1)
- Could be good (1)
- Like the design and presentation (1)
- Would be useful to have a plan on a page (1)

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Darlington Borough Council

Delivering success for Darlington



Council Plan 2020-2023





Foreword by the Leader of the Council Councillor Heather Scott OBE

Welcome to the Council Plan which sets out our vision for the period between now and May 2023. The council's focus over this time will be:

DELIVERING SUCCESS FOR DARLINGTON

And our vision for the borough is:

Darlington is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.



Darlington is a borough of opportunity with much to celebrate and to be proud of. As a borough we outperform many of our North East neighbours, but we want more for Darlington and its residents. We know we cannot rest on our laurels and we must strive for continuous improvement, otherwise we will go backwards. Darlington's economy performs well in terms of attracting private sector investment and delivering economic growth and whilst town centres are facing many challenges Darlington was seen as the third major retail centre in the region after Newcastle and the Metro Centre, according to the North East Chamber of Commerce.

Economic growth is the key lever we have at our disposal to be able to deliver our long-term vision for the borough, and therefore growing Darlington's economy is our top priority.

Duncan Selbie, the Chief Executive of Public Health England, on a visit to Darlington stated "the best thing to improve people's health and wellbeing is a good job and a good home."

By growing the economy we are striving to provide the opportunity for everyone to access a good job and a good home, so they can maximise their potential and play their part in Darlington's success.

You will see from our plan on a page that whilst growing the economy is crucial to delivering our vision, that other key priorities are included; we want to maximise people's potential and support those who need our help.

To **DELIVER SUCCESS FOR DARLINGTON**, the council will create the conditions and opportunities for growth, but it is the private sector from which much of the investment required to deliver growth will come. Our key partner in growing the economy is the Tees Valley Combined Authority, from which much of the funding required to deliver growth will come and be invested in Darlington and the Tees Valley. A thriving Tees Valley economy is important for Darlington's success and so we will continue to work with and support our neighbouring Tees Valley councils.

The plan on a page shows our vision and top priorities with the following pages detailing actions we intend to take between now and May 2023 to deliver our vision and priorities. The plan will be reviewed annually alongside the council's Medium Term Financial Plan, to take account of changing circumstances and to ensure our plans are affordable. The progress against the plan will be reviewed twice a year, along with other key performance indicators by Cabinet and the various scrutiny committees.

The borough's biggest asset is its residents, they make the place what it is and I hope everyone will get behind our plans to make it an even better place. We should all be proud and emphasise the positive benefits of living and working in a great borough.

Councillor Heather Scott OBE
Leader of Darlington Borough Council

Delivering Success for Darlington

THE VISION - Darlington is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.

OUR PRIORITIES

Growing Darlington's Economy

By delivering:

- More sustainable well-paid jobs
- More businesses
- More homes

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough:

- Clean
- Safe
- Healthy
- Sustainable
- Well-planned
- On the move

Whilst

- Valuing our heritage and culture

MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE BY:

- Working with partners to maximise educational achievement
- Working to remove barriers to young people reaching their potential
- Working at a Tees Valley level to match jobs with skills and training.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO MAXIMISE THEIR POTENTIAL BY:

- Maximising the benefits of a growing economy for all communities
- Targeting services where they are most needed
- Working with partners
- Working with communities.

SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN THE BOROUGH BY:

- Providing care and support when needed
- Working with people to build on their strengths to maximise their potential
- Working with partners.



SUPPORTED BY: A dedicated workforce who are proud to serve the borough and an accessible, effective and engaged council.



Resources Portfolio - Councillor Charles Johnson

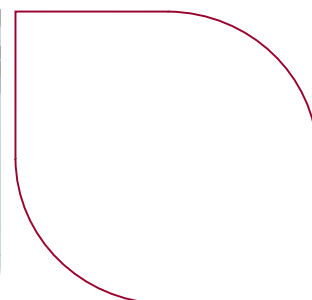
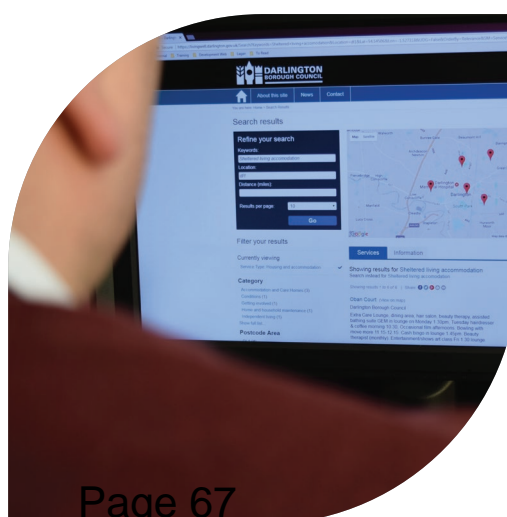


“I have a vision for a council that is financially stable and delivering much needed services and support for the borough.”

This portfolio focuses on ensuring the council is running efficiently, effectively, and is well governed in order to ensure a balanced budget. It has oversight of activities that generate income for the council which in turn is used to enhance the services available to residents. It also encourages local public and private organisations to spend locally to enhance the local economy.



Key Actions	Lead Director	Lead Officer
Deliver a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and a positive Value for Money (VFM) outcome	Managing Director	Assistant Director - Resources
Oversee the successful completion of existing house building joint venture companies	Managing Director	Assistant Director - Resources
Maximise the council's income from the council's Investment Fund, including further joint venture housing companies	Managing Director	Assistant Director - Resources
Maximise council tax and business rate income through robust income collection processes	Managing Director	Assistant Director - Housing & Building Services
Adopt a local wealth building approach to council procurement and work with the wider public sector in Darlington to do the same	Managing Director	Director of Darlington Partnership/ Head of Procurement and Principal Lawyer
Increasing the availability of council services online	Managing Director	Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications
Review and refresh the council's workforce strategy	Managing Director	Assistant Director - Resources



Stronger Communities Portfolio - Councillor Jonathan Dulston



“My vision is a borough where the fear of crime and crime is reducing, and where community resilience increases.”

This portfolio focuses on creating the conditions for safe and strong communities, often working in partnership with residents and other agencies to identify and address localised and borough-wide issues. The portfolio holder has responsibility for ensuring the council meets its equality and diversity obligations and is the cabinet champion for tackling inequalities in the borough.



Key Actions	Lead Director	Lead Officer
Produce, deliver and appraise a pilot for a local neighbourhood renewal scheme including reviewing the approach to private sector landlord operations to ensure residents are best supported and protected	Director of Economic Growth	Director of Darlington Partnership
Utilise the skills and resources of businesses to increase volunteering and corporate social responsibility primarily through Darlington Cares	Managing Director	Director of Darlington Partnership
Work with partners to address food instability	Managing Director	Director of Darlington Partnership
Embed the new Community Safety service and review its effectiveness and priorities	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
Work with Durham Constabulary and other key partners to improve our collective response to dealing with drug and alcohol issues	Managing Director	Director of Public Health
Support the development of the town centre economy by putting appropriate measures in place and demonstrating it is a safe place to visit	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
Review our approach to the use of CCTV in supporting community safety and work with partners to enhance the service further	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
Oversee the implementation of the council's equality policy	Managing Director	Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications
Work with partners to assess flood risk for Darlington and develop solutions	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Transport and Capital Projects



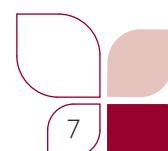
Children and Young People Portfolio - Councillor Jon Clarke



“My vision is a borough where young people get the best start in life, can maximise their potential and are safe.”

This portfolio focuses on ensuring that every child in Darlington has the best start in life so that our children and young people can grow and flourish. There are some groups of children who require enhanced and targeted support to achieve their full potential.

Key Actions	Lead Director	Lead Officer
Provide excellent services for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) - implement a new SEND strategy, increase the number of SEND places in schools and work to raise SEND funding levels from central government	Director of Children and Adult Services	Head of Education and Inclusion
Continue to increase the number of in-house foster carers to reduce the need for independent placements	Director of Children and Adult Services	Assistant Director - Children's Services
Review in-house residential care and consider the council's place in providing services	Director of Children and Adult Services	Assistant Director - Commissioning Performance and Transformation/Assistant Director - Children's Services
Reduce the need for looked after children placements through effective implementation of the Darlington Strengthening Families programme	Director of Children and Adult Services	Assistant Director - Children's Services
Improve employment opportunities for looked after children and care leavers	Chief Officers Executive/ Director of Children and Adult Services	Chief Officers Board
Work with partners to reduce youth and long-term unemployment, by increasing the opportunity for retraining and apprenticeships leading to gainful employment	Director of Children and Adult Services/Director of Economic Growth	Head of Education and Inclusion/Assistant Director - Children's Services/Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Work with schools and the Regional Schools Commissioner to increase educational achievement across the borough and, in particular, for young people from deprived backgrounds	Director of Children and Adult Services	Head of Education and Inclusion
Deliver and review the In2 Project to support disadvantaged children to participate in Arts, Leisure and Culture to maximise their potential	Director of Economic Growth/ Director of Children and Adult Services	Assistant Director - Community Services/ Assistant Director - Children's Services/ Head of Education and Inclusion
Implement as far as possible, within limited resources, after school homework clubs and holiday enrichment activities	Managing Director	Director of Darlington Partnership



Economy Portfolio - Councillor Alan Marshall

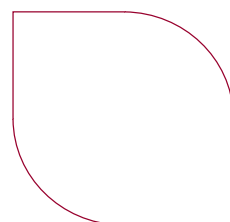


“My vision is a borough where economic growth is high and the benefits are enjoyed by all residents.”

This portfolio focuses on growing the local economy and the implementation of a long term plan (known as the Local Plan) for the development of the borough. There is a focus on creating the conditions to attract new businesses and to help our indigenous businesses grow in order to maximise employment opportunities for Darlington residents.



Key Actions	Lead Director	Lead Officer
Develop key economic sites to be investor ready at Central Park, Ingenium Park and Faverdale, and complete Feethams House	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth/ Assistant Director - Transport and Capital Projects
Maximise employment opportunities for Darlington residents at the Symmetry Park development	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Work with indigenous companies to identify and attract further job creating investment	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Deliver the Town Centre Strategy leading to a diversified and successful town centre	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Work with Market Asset Management to deliver a refurbished and vibrant covered market and successful outdoor market	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Successful adoption of the Local Plan	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Create the conditions to deliver hundreds of new homes each year, ensuring sufficiency of affordable homes	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Develop the council's response to the agreed Climate Change Emergency and begin delivery of the agreed plan	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Develop the Darlington Station project and regeneration opportunities for the surrounding areas including Victoria Road, the cattle market and Neasham Road areas	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Transport and Capital Projects



Local Services Portfolio - Councillor Heather Scott



“My vision is a borough that is attractive, green and clean, with a wide variety of activities to be enjoyed and a transport offer that facilitates efficient movement and develops options to reduce carbon emissions in the borough.”

This portfolio focuses on ensuring we have the right balance of high quality services and events to meet the needs and expectations of a wide range of local people. This involves modernising a number of our key public buildings, creating the conditions for a thriving and vibrant town centre, planning and celebrating our rail heritage, regeneration of Darlington station and the surrounding area, and working with partners improve transport links.



Key Actions	Lead Director	Lead Officer
Finalise plans for the Rail Heritage Quarter and initiate implementation of the plans together with partners	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
With the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), plan the 2025 celebrations for the Stockton and Darlington Passenger Railway	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
Deliver the refurbishment and modernisation of the Crown Street Library service	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
Ensure the town centre is clean, animated, and vibrant with an extensive range of events and festivals	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
Review and deliver a revised car parking strategy	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Transport and Capital Projects
Work with TVCA to deliver improved transport links within Darlington and the Tees Valley	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Transport and Capital Projects
Modernise Darlington's crematorium service	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
Work with TVCA to develop a sustainable Teesside International Airport	Director of Economic Growth/ Managing Director	Assistant Director - Economic Growth



Health and Housing Portfolio - Councillor Kevin Nicholson



“My vision is a borough where people enjoy productive, healthy lives. They will have access to excellent leisure facilities and recognising the importance of having a home, there will be access to quality social housing.”

This portfolio focuses on helping people across the borough to live long and healthy lives. It looks at the facilities available to help people keep fit and healthy, services that help people to be physically and mentally well, the provision of high quality council housing and the prevention of homelessness.



Key Actions	Lead Director	Lead Officer
Review the vacant space within the Dolphin Centre to improve the leisure offer and so maximise income	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Community Services
Review proposals presented by Mowden Park Rugby Club to deliver in partnership with the Council, a sports village	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Economic Growth
Continue to build new council houses each year and ensure the existing council housing stock is maintained to a high standard	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Housing and Building Services
Maximise rental and service charge income from council tenants to ensure we are able to provide them with a comprehensive range of good quality housing management and support services	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Housing and Building Services
Continue to implement the Darlington Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Housing and Building Services
Maintain oversight and offer challenge to health and care services that support individuals to achieve good mental, physical and emotional health as identified in a wide range of partnership plans such as Best Start in life, autism awareness, alcohol plan, suicide prevention, healthy workforce, and ageing well	Director of Children and Adult Services	Director of Public Health
Implement the Darlington Child Healthy Weight Plan with partners	Director of Children and Adult Services	Director of Public Health
Implement the Darlington Oral Health Plan 2017-2022 with partners	Director of Children and Adult Services	Director of Public Health
Continue the reduction in smoking to achieve a smoke free Darlington (i.e. just 5% of total population smoking) by 2030	Director of Children and Adult Services	Director of Public Health



Adults Portfolio - Councillor Rachel Mills

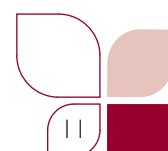


“My vision is a borough where vulnerable adults can be helped and supported to maximise their independence and enjoy life to the full, and where care services are available to those in need.”

This portfolio focuses on supporting the most vulnerable adults in our society and helping them remain in their own homes by maximising their independence. Adult services will continue find creative and innovative ways to deliver good outcomes for our most vulnerable residents.



Key Actions	Lead Director	Lead Officer
Continue to deliver modern transformed Adult Social Care that results in positive outcomes	Director of Children and Adult Services	Assistant Director - Adult Social Care/ Assistant Director - Commissioning Performance and Transformation
Work with individuals to maximise independence and reduce demand on services	Director of Children and Adult Services	Assistant Director - Adult Social Care
Continue to implement initiatives that tackle social isolation	Director of Children and Adult Services	Assistant Director - Commissioning Performance and Transformation
Continue to deliver the Lifeline services and increase promotion and take up	Director of Economic Growth	Assistant Director - Housing and Building Services
Promote and increase the use of assistive technology	Director of Children and Adult Services	Assistant Director - Housing and Building Services





COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

‘Living Well with Dementia’ – Dementia Task and Finish Review Group Update

2. We received a report which enabled Members to give consideration to the work of the Dementia Task and Finish Review Group and receive an update on the progress made in terms of the recommendations, and to determine whether the recommendations remained relevant and viable.
3. Members entered into discussion on how we could understand how well services were working from the perspective of an individual living with dementia, and we were informed about the reporting process. Members were also informed about schemes and good practice, and of other services which were accessible to those living with dementia.
4. We were keen to recognise and acknowledge that an enormous amount of work had previously been undertaken, however many of the recommendations from the original review required refreshing, and that there was still much work to be done. Members were keen to see further work undertaken in relation to care for those living with dementia in care homes, domiciliary care, the Dementia Action Alliance, and the Good Friends Scheme, and Members have been encouraged to give further consideration to any areas of work that they wish to bring forward, with topics proposed in the appropriate manner.

Support to Carers

5. The Committee received a report which provided information about support to carers in Darlington, and which gave an update on Darlington’s Carer’s Action Plan 2018-20. Members were advised that the 2011 census identified 11,048 carers in Darlington and stated that 2758 (25 per cent) of whom provided over 50 hours of care per week. The submitted report provided a breakdown of the numbers of carers per age group and highlighted that 197 carers in Darlington were aged between 0-15, with the largest group of carers (37 per cent) being aged 50-64.
6. Members were informed that the Darlington Carers’ Strategy Steering Group (CSSG) had developed a Darlington Carers’ Action Plan in response to the national Carers Action Plan, which was published in June 2018.
7. Members expressed concern that the figures provided identifying the numbers of carers were based on data that was nearly ten years old, however Members were informed that carers were also identified through other means, such as through schools and those registered with Adult Carers Support, and it was acknowledged that there might be a difference between the actual number of carers and the figures provided via the census data. It was explained that many individuals may

not identify themselves as carers, and discussion ensued on the definition of 'a carer'.

8. Discussion ensued on the roles of 'primary carers' and 'secondary carers', the support available to young carers, and the support available to carers where there may be cross boundary issues. The work currently being undertaken to support carers was highlighted, with reference made to potential future work with the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, and further information being published in Members' newsletters and the 'One Darlington' magazine. Members were pleased to learn of the Carers Support Service being rolled out by GPs surgeries.

Work Programme

9. 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.
10. The Committee noted a number of updates to the Work Programme, the recent visits to Extra Care, Care and Nursing homes, and that the initial meeting of the Loneliness and Connected Communities Task and Finish Group had met for the first time.

Councillor Anne-Marie Curry
Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Work Programme

2. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 and possible review topics. The work programme is a rolling programme and items can be added as necessary.
3. Members gave consideration to a request received from Councillor Mills that an item in relation to Autism provision be added to our Work Programme and Members agreed to nominate Councillors Barch and Renton to represent this Scrutiny Committee on this Joint Review Group.

Childhood Healthy Weight Plan

4. Members received an overview on the progress of the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan, aimed at ensuring that more children leave primary school with a healthy weight. The plan sets out a whole system approach to tackling obesity and recognises the complex relationship between the social, economic and physical environment, along with individual factors that underpin obesity.
5. The meeting considered the overall objectives of the Healthy Weight Plan and the actions proposed in achieving a whole population approach to tackling the issue. It was acknowledged that childhood obesity in Darlington is above the national average at both reception and year 6 age groups. The percentage of year 6 children categorised as obese is 21.2 per cent.
6. Members noted the need for legislation to minimise the number of fast food outlets near schools, and discussed working with developers and planning officers to ensure that new housing developments incorporate green spaces and play areas to encourage healthier lifestyles.
7. Members are keen to promote the plan, to bring about some positive changes to the health of our children and young people and requested regular updates.

Voluntary and Community Sector Funding: Update on Community Based Initiatives

8. Members received an update on the seven pilot community based initiatives, from the Voluntary Sector Development Fund monies.
9. The pilot initiatives were agreed at a series of workshops comprising representatives from the Council, Police, Health, Education, Fire Brigade and a wide range of both small and large community and voluntary sector organisations.

10. The initiatives identified aims to reduce isolation and loneliness in adults, improve health and wellbeing, provide early intervention support to vulnerable families, support children and young people to remain in education and live at home.
11. £142,000 was initially allocated with an additional £21,000 made available from the Community Facilities Fund, ring fenced to benefit the Skerne Park area of the borough.
12. The methodology of engagement used during the consultation process in seeking the views of those not involved in Community Groups, and of young people was discussed. Agreement was given to utilise Members' Newsletters to maximise public awareness of the initiatives.
13. Members questioned how the success of the various initiatives will be collected and measured and were assured as to the development of methods to capture the outcomes.
14. Scrutiny will continue to receive briefings at a future date.

Home to School Transport

15. Following the special meeting of Scrutiny in January, when Members considered the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020-21 to 2023-24, we requested a further update on the current position with Home to School Transport.
16. The Head of Education attended the Scrutiny Meeting on 3 February and outlined the various challenges faced by the authority and secondary schools with the introduction of the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR). The regulations came into force on 1 January 2020, requiring that all public service vehicles are accessible for everybody.
17. We were advised that the introduction of the regulations will impact on fares currently being charged on transport routes operated by schools leading to an increase from £3.00 per day to £4.00 per day, during the current academic year.
18. Members were also advised that there had been a reduction in the number of fare paying parents which had led to a shortfall in funding to operate those routes, however the authority will continue to purchase seats at the new fare price and have committed further funds to maintain routes to the end of the 2019/20 school year.
19. The Local Authority continues to work closely with schools on the arrangements for September 2020.

Councillor Jamie Bartch
Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

COUNCIL

26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Community Safety - Update

2. We received a presentation from the Head of Community Safety updating Scrutiny on the development of Community Safety, key achievements in respect of the priority actions for 2019 and performance updates.
3. The presentation covered the service priorities for 2020-21 which will support the development of the town centre economy by putting appropriate measure in place and demonstrating it is a safe place to visit.
4. We received a breakdown of crime and incident figures for Darlington and the Town Centre, noting the increase in all crime in Darlington and the Town Centre and overall decrease in antisocial behaviour when compared to the previous year. Particular concern was raised in respect on antisocial behaviour relating to motorcycles and quad bikes, which had seen an increase over the Christmas period. We were assured that more targeted activity would be undertaken to address this issue.
5. Members were assured of the measures in place to address the increase in crime rates in the town centre, noting that five additional mobile CCTV units would be placed in key areas in a bid to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and that police resources have been put in place to address violence. Work was also being undertaken with licensing and pub watch to tackle alcohol related incidents and a multi-agency problem solving group was in place to address anti-social behaviour.
6. We were informed of the success of Whatsapp groups which have been trialled as a mechanism to share intelligence. Crime solved rates were discussed and it was confirmed that Durham Constabulary were 98 per cent compliant with reporting procedures.
7. Particular reference was made to the neighbourhood boundaries used by Durham Constabulary to report crime and antisocial performance data. As these do not correlate with the ward boundaries in Darlington we have requested that discussions be held with Durham Constabulary to review and update their crime reporting system.
8. We have agreed to undertake a visit to CCTV and welcomed regular updates from CCTV in the form of newsletters and performance reports.

Local Transport Plan

9. Scrutiny Committee received a report seeking Members' views on the outline Local Implementation Plan for Transport in Darlington, prior to its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 3 March 2020.
10. The statutory responsibility for the Local Transport Plan now sits with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and a Strategic Transport Plan was approved by TVCA Cabinet at its meeting on 31 January 2020. The Local Implementation Plan will be developed to meet the requirements at a local authority level.
11. We considered the four ambitions of the Local Implementation Plan as set out in the draft policy framework and noted the recommended approach of Darlington's third Local Transport Plan which was to maintain, manage and improve the transport system.
12. Members were in agreement that Cabinet be advised of Scrutiny's view that the draft ambitions for the Local Implementation Plan be endorsed and of the recommendation for a section of the new plan relating to town centre and how the transport policy links to delivering the Town Centre Strategy.
13. Scrutiny Members also agreed that Cabinet be advised of our intention to input individually to the consultation plans.
14. In light of concerns raised in respect of bus services, in particular, routes available, service reliability, passenger facilities and fares, Members felt that this should be an area of focus for this Scrutiny as the plan develops and that consideration be given to a specific piece of work within the work programme.

Work Programme 2019/20

15. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 and possible review topics. Members have agreed that additional reports be submitted to future meetings in relation to the Bank Top Masterplan and Grass Verge Management.

Councillor Brian Jones
Chair of Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

COUNCIL

26 March 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Climate Change Cross Party Working Group

2. At our request, Councillor Lee, the Chair of the Cross Party Working Group on Climate Change attended our meeting to advise us of the work, to date, of the Group which, as Members will recall, was established by Council to identify ways to reduce carbon emissions and achieve a carbon neutral status for the Borough.
3. The majority of the work to date has been fact finding, however, the Group have recognised that one of the first areas to look at was the Council's operations and behavioural change and it is pleasing to report that several members of staff within the Authority have volunteered to be climate change champions to try and identify ways to reduce carbon emissions across their own work areas.
4. There is a further update elsewhere on this agenda this evening giving more detail on the work of the Group, however, as a Scrutiny Committee we are interested in receiving further information on the Council's existing vehicle fleet and replacement programme and the move to electric vehicles as part of that programme.

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 3

5. We have received an update on the delivery of the Council's Capital Programme.
6. The Council has a substantial annual construction programme of work which is delivering a wide range of improvements to the Council's assets and more critically to Council services. The current project position statement shows that there are currently 35 live projects currently being managed by the Council, with the majority of those projects running to time, cost and quality with no foreseeable issues.
7. Following questions by Members, Officers provided further information on the slight slippage in the drainage element of the Ingenium Park Masterplan and Infrastructure project due to ecological reasons and the removal of the through-road across the allotment site to Pondfield Close as part of the West Cemetery Project.
8. We were also advised that the new project management system 'Project in a Box' would be implemented during 2020.

Darlington Town Centre - Update

9. The Assistant Director Economic Growth gave a presentation on the Town Centre Strategy 2019-30 which aimed to create a choice of high quality town centre residential accommodation which would improve the look and feel of the Town Centre and which would contribute to housing provision, economic growth and the evening economy.
10. The presentation outlined how the Council is working with its partners to deliver positive change to the Town Centre; the challenges faced and the positives to build on and updates were given on the acquisition of the former Argos and Cash Convertors buildings in Skinnergate, the replacement of the current buildings with a residential scheme, the Council's Shop Front and Business Support Scheme, which is initially being focussed on Post House Wynd and the acquisition of land in Commercial Street, East Street and Crown Street.
11. We did discuss the current performance indicators which were being reported and we were advised that those indicators were being reviewed to enable more pertinent issues to be recorded such as shop turnover and footfall numbers when events were being held in the Town Centre. We will, as a Scrutiny Committee, continue to monitor these indicators.

Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 3

12. In relation to the quarter 3 revenue budget outturn, it was reported that that the projected revenue reserves at the end of 2019/20 were £17.267 million, £0.545 million better than budget and £0.670 million higher than the quarter 2 reported position and that, of the £17.267 million, there was a risk reserve balance of £4.350 million and a commitment to use £11.212 million to support the 2019-23, leaving £1.705 million one-off funding to support the general fund moving forward.
13. The positive changes are mainly as a result of improvements in Adult Social Care, due to managing demand, increased contributions for Health partners towards the provision of joint health care packages and additional income from the Council's Joint Venture Investment returns. There has, however, been a further decline in the Children's and education budgets due to staffing requirements and school transport requirements.

Department for Education Strengthening Families Programme - Update

14. A briefing was held between our Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 10 February 2020 to receive information on a project currently being undertaken with Leeds City Council and the DfE to reduce the numbers of children coming into care, following a successful innovative project in Leeds. This work should impact positively on associated budgets.

Councillor Scott Durham
Chair Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Housing 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 possible review topics. The work programme is a rolling programme and items can be added as necessary.

Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan

3. Scrutiny welcomed an update on the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan, the partnership launch event and next steps in taking the work forward.
4. The Public Health Portfolio Lead provided details of the overall objectives of the plan and the key themes identified from the discussions at the partnership launch event, which emphasised that obesity cannot be seen or tackled as a single issue.
5. We noted the actions set out in the report to implement a whole systems approach to tackling obesity and discussed in particular the responsibility of Members in promoting physical activity in the community.

Performance Indicators – Quarter 2 2019/20

6. We received an update on performance against key performance indicators for Quarter 2 2019/20.
7. Members were advised that of the 36 indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, six are Housing indicators, six are Culture indicators and twenty four are Public Health indicators.
8. Members noted that of nine Housing and Culture indicators reported quarterly, three indicators demonstrated an improved performance compared to the same point in the previous year whilst six indicators, which included the three Culture indicators, showed a performance not as good as that recorded at the same time in the previous year.
9. In relation to the Public Health indicators Members were pleased to note that of the three Public Health indicators reported to Scrutiny this quarter relating to Alcohol related admissions to hospital, the NHS Health Check programme and antibiotic prescribing by the NHS which all showed performance better than the previous year.

Community Eye Care - Briefing

10. Scrutiny received a briefing paper on the CCG's intention to commission a high quality, safe and sustainable community eye care service to deliver virtual glaucoma monitoring and post-op cataract care in the community.
11. County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust have been working collaboratively with CCG for a number of years to reduce activity to the ophthalmology department, which attracts high numbers of review out-patient appointments.
12. We noted that approximately 2,000 suitable patients could be transferred to a community virtual glaucoma monitoring service and 2,300 patients were identified as suitable to transfer to a post-op cataract service. The proposed change would alleviate pressures on the already stretched hospital eye services, enabling Ophthalmologist and team to manage those patients with more complex conditions.
13. Patient engagement undertaken has identified that most patients are in support of the community service and Members noted that patients would find it easier to attend a community service in the high street and this would reduce reliance on ambulance transport to hospitals.
14. Members welcomed the community eye care service and were reassured that the service would be available across multiple sites in County Durham and Darlington.

Autism Provision – Quad of Aims

15. We gave consideration to a request received from Councillor Mills that an item in relation to Autism provision be added to our Work Programme, and the Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to establish a Joint Review Group with Adults and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees to look at this area.

Quality Accounts – County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)

16. Members met with the Trust to give consideration to the Trust's Quality Accounts to enable Members to have a better understanding and knowledge of performance when submitting a final commentary on the Quality Accounts at the end of each Municipal Year.
17. Members noted the progress against the agreed priorities during the period of April 2019 to September 2019.

Quality Accounts – Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)

18. Members met with the Trust to give consideration to the Trust's Quality Accounts to enable Members to have a better understanding and knowledge of performance when submitting a final commentary on the Quality Accounts at the end of each Municipal Year.
19. We received the Quarter 2 Performance Report which provided an update on progress against the five key quality priorities for 2019/20 as well as performance against the agreed quality metrics.

Councillor Ian Bell
Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

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