

Adults Scrutiny Committee Agenda



**10.00 am Tuesday, 2 March 2021
via Microsoft Teams**

In accordance with Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held on a virtual basis. Members of the Public can view a live stream of the meeting at:

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/livemeetings>

Members of the Public wanting to make representations at the meeting can do so by e-mailing paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk no later than 10am, Monday, 1st March 2021.

Members of the Public may also approach their Ward Councillors (who are allowed to attend the meeting) and request that they put their views to Committee.

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 5 January 2021 (Pages 3 - 8)
4. Covid Response - Verbal Update –
Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation

(**NOTE:** The Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation will also be joined by a Care Home Manager).
5. Work Programme –
Report of the Managing Director
(Pages 9 - 22)
6. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
7. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Monday, 22 February 2021

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Bell, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Holroyd, Laing, Layton, M Nicholson, Preston, Renton and A J Scott

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, on 01325 405805, or via e-mail at paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk, 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

ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 5 January 2021

PRESENT – Councillors Curry (Chair), Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Holroyd, Laing, Layton, M Nicholson, Renton and A J Scott.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Bell and Preston.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Elizabeth Davison (Assistant Director – Resources), Christine Shields (Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation), Linda Thirkeld (Acting Assistant Director - Adults Services), Jeanette Crompton (Strategic Commissioning Manager), Ann Baxter (Independent Chair, Darlington Safeguarding Partnership) and Paul Dalton (Elections Officer).

AD19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AD20 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 2020

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 27 October 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 27 October 2020, be approved as a correct record.

AD21 COVID RESPONSE - VERBAL UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation provided a verbal update on the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically in relation to care providers.

It was reported that since 28 September 2020 to 4 January 2021, 219 care home staff had been diagnosed with Covid-19, with 213 care home residents receiving a positive diagnosis. During the same period, it was reported that 45 staff in domiciliary care had been positively diagnosed with Covid-19, and that 18 service users had contracted the virus.

The Committee was informed that there were ten ongoing outbreaks of Covid-19 within care home settings, and that the Outbreak Control Team were working closely with the managers of those homes to bring the outbreaks under control.

Members were informed that Covid vaccinations were being rolled out to larger care homes (those homes with more than 50 beds) by the South Tees Foundation Trust, and that since the start of the vaccination programme, 217 care home staff had received their initial vaccination, with 36 of those staff also receiving their second vaccination. This was across 31 care home settings in Darlington.

The Committee was advised that the Primary Care Network had mobilised three teams to roll out vaccinations for all remaining care home staff, and care home

residents, and that this would be done as soon as the vaccine was received within the Borough, which was anticipated to be no later than 11 or 12 January 2021.

Members entered into discussion on the timescales for the roll out of the Covid vaccination programme, the work of the Outbreak Control Team, Infection Control staff and Care Home staff in terms of outbreaks and the recently received second tranche of Infection Control funding.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the update be noted.

AD22 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Chief Officers Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) which proposed a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2021/22 to 2024/25, and which also included setting a budget and council tax increase for 2021/22, for consultation.

The submitted report stated that the Council had faced significant challenges over the last decade following the economic downturn and reduction in public sector spending, and highlighted that the Council had been successful in responding to these challenges to date, however noted that the challenges were becoming increasing difficult, particularly in respect of a growing elderly population, the pressure in the children's social care sector, and the major economic impact of Covid-19, which had had a direct impact on the Council's finances.

It was reported that in his 2020 Spending Review, delivered on 25 November 2020, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had referenced a number of funding streams, which included Social Care Grant, Covid-19 support, the continuation of Revenue Support Grant and an Adult Social Care precept, and that, as the Local Government Finance Settlement had not been received at that point, a number of assumptions in relation to Government funding had been made in the preparation of the submitted report.

The submitted report outlined details of the Core Offer budget, which had been agreed following a significant consultation exercise in 2016, and which had reduced expenditure and services to a risk based minimum level, with a small investment fund of £2.5m per annum for services which the Council was not required to provide, but which it was felt added great value to Darlington, and its residents (Futures Fund).

It was also highlighted that subsequent good progress made on achieving savings, strong cost management, and innovative treasury initiatives had allowed the Council to add to the Futures Fund, and that unallocated balances of £6.5m were invested in key five areas which held great value to the community, namely Community Safety; Maintaining an attractive street scene environment; Maintaining a vibrant town centre; Developing an attractive visitor economy; and Neighbourhood renewal.

The submitted report further detailed some of the significant pressures on the Core Offer budget, in particular the pressures arising in social care and the ongoing impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the Council's expenditure and income budgets, however it was determined that, should the expected funding streams identified above be received, and through tight financial management, innovative financial investments and increased income from economic growth successes, the Council could still deliver the agreed balanced plan, finance the MTFP a further year to 2024/25, whilst

retaining usable balances of £3.504m.

Members entered into discussion on the sustainability of Adult Social Care funding, the budget reductions in reablement, and the increasing costs associated with inflation and the increased National Living Wage costs associated with service providers, both of which it was highlighted were outside of the Council's control. Members also heard about the budget pressures associated with service provision for those with learning disabilities, and the increased costs associated with an ageing population.

Discussion ensued on the potential of using the Futures Fund to contribute to the cost of Adult Social Care, the use of discretionary spending, and the likelihood of further Government funding to assist with the costs of the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED –That this Scrutiny Committee

- (a) Supports the Council Tax increase of 1.99 per cent plus the 3.00 per cent Adult Social Care Precept to help fund social care for 2021/22, totalling a 4.99 per cent increase;
- (b) Has no comment to make on the proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for those services within its remit; and
- (c) Supports the continuation of the Futures Fund into 2024/25.

AD23 DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT - 2019/2020

The Acting Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated), together with the Annual Report 2019/20 of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) (also previously circulated).

The submitted report outlined the requirement for the DSP to produce an Annual Report to account for the Partnerships achievements over the previous year and to make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area, and the Independent Chair, Ann Baxter, attended the meeting and provided an overview of the key messages and challenges faced.

Members were informed that the Annual Report was the first produced by the Partnership under the new safeguarding arrangements, and outlined what the Partnership had done over the period 2019/20.

Members entered into discussion on how the Partnership monitored the effectiveness of training and personal development, how the Partnership's Learning and Development Group identified best practice and how it worked in partnership with other organisations, the recognition of partners to the importance of embedded and effective multiagency working, the management of large volumes of enquiries and referrals, and the potential for increased domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic, however it was highlighted that there was no evidence that this was the case in Darlington.

Further discussion ensued on the locations of abuse and the areas of risk. Members

felt that it would be useful to see the number of cases being dealt with, rather than percentages, in future reports, and the Independent Chair agreed to take this forward.

Members expressed disappointment that volunteer support had been vastly reduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, which potentially reduced sight on vulnerable residents, and discussed providing the appropriate environment for safeguarding.

RESOLVED – That the DSP Annual Report for 2019/20 be noted.

AD24 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QTR 2 2020/21

The Acting Assistant Director – Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) which provided Members with performance information against key performance indicators for 2020/21 at Quarter 2.

The submitted report provided performance information in line with an indicator set and Scrutiny Committee distribution agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 4 June 2018, and subsequently by Scrutiny Committee Chairs. The indicators scrutinised by this Scrutiny Committee are aligned with key priorities, the majority of which are used to monitor the Corporate Plan.

The submitted report highlighted that twelve indicators are reported to this Committee, ten on a six-monthly basis, and two annually. Of the ten indicators reported on a six-monthly basis, four indicators showed performance better or the same compared to this point last year (ASC002, ASC003, ASC049 and ASC050); three indicators showed a performance not as good as that recorded at this time last year (ASC019, ASC045 and ASC046), and will continue to be monitored and managed; and three indicators were not comparable and were reviewed at a point in time (ASC208, ASC209 and ASC211).

Whilst acknowledging that the figure was gradually increasing once again, Members were keen to determine the reasons for the decrease in the number of people who had no on-going care needs following completion of provision of a reablement package (ASC19).

Members were also interested in the immediate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the reablement packages available, and what impact ‘Long Covid’ may have on reablement packages going forward.

Discussion ensued on the family engagement and advocacy arrangements in place for those patients hospitalised with Covid-19, and their role in arranging ongoing support to meet patient needs.

RESOLVED – That the performance information provided in the submitted report be noted.

AD25 COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE

The Acting Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the Community Equipment Service available to residents, and provide information as to how the service worked and plans for future

re-procurement.

The submitted report stated that the contract for the provision of Community Equipment had been held by Medequip since 2015, following a procurement exercise carried out in 2014 by North East Commissioning Services (NECS), and that during the term of the contract a number of developments had taken place to improve service delivery to residents. The submitted report advised that the current contract was now coming to an end, and that plans were underway to re procure the contract.

Members were pleased to learn of an amnesty on equipment distributed, which has led to the reuse and recycling of equipment. Members were also pleased to hear that a review of buffer stores had taken place; that a Clinical Advisor had been appointed to advise on specialist equipment; and that an Equipment Review Group had been established to ensure that stock held was as cost effective as possible.

RESOLVED – (a) That the development of the Community Equipment Service during the contract term be noted.

(b) That the plans for re-procurement be noted.

AD26 WORK PROGRAMME

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2020/21, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

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ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 MARCH 2021

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2020/21 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the Municipal Year, which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee in the last Municipal Year.
3. Any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a Quad of Aims, in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme and consider any additional areas of work they would like to include.
5. Members' views are requested.

**Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director**

Background Papers

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

Author: Paul Dalton

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

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

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

SCS Outcomes:

- a) Children with the best start in life
- b) More businesses more jobs
- c) A safe and caring community
- d) More people caring for our environment
- e) More people active and involved
- f) Enough support for people when needed
- g) More people healthy and independent
- h) A place designed to thrive

Three Conditions:

- a) Build strong communities
- b) Grow the economy
- c) Spend every pound wisely

8. In addition, each topic links to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework (PMF) to provide robust and accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake. There are some topics where appropriate PMF indicators have not yet been identified however; these can be added as the work programme for each topic is developed.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

9. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a Quad of Aims.
10. A copy of the index of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

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ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	SCS Outcome	Darlington Conditions	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Covid Response – Verbal Update	2 nd March 2021	Christine Shields	A safe and caring community Enough support for people when needed	Build strong communities		To maintain an overview of the Covid Response. To be advised of the key issues.
Covid Response – Verbal Update	20 th April 2021	Christine Shields	A safe and caring community Enough support for people when needed	Build strong communities		To maintain an overview of the Covid Response. To be advised of the key issues.
Adult Social Care Transformation Programme	20 th April 2021	Christine Shields/ James Stroyan	A safe and caring community Enough support for people when needed	Building strong communities		Update on progress of all work streams
Darlington Care Collective	20th April 2021	Martin Webster	Enough support for people when needed	Building strong communities		

<p>Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2020/2021</p> <p>End of Year Performance (including Compliments, Comments and Complaints)</p>	<p>22 June 2021</p>	<p>Sharon Raine / James Stroyan</p>	<p>A place designed to thrive</p> <p>More people healthy and independent</p> <p>A safe and caring community</p> <p>Enough support for people when needed</p>	<p>Build strong communities</p> <p>Spend every pound wisely</p>	<p>ASC 002 ASC 003 ASC 019 ASC 045 ASC 046 ASC 049 ASC 050 ASC 208 ASC 209 ASC 211</p>	<p>To monitor Key Performance Indicators.</p> <p>To receive six-monthly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.</p>
<p>Covid Response – Verbal Update</p>	<p>22 June 2021</p>	<p>Christine Shields</p>	<p>A safe and caring community</p> <p>Enough support for people when needed</p>	<p>Build strong communities</p>		<p>To maintain an overview of the Covid Response.</p> <p>To be advised of the key issues.</p>
<p>Quality Assessment – Annual Monitoring of local care homes for older people</p>	<p>24 August 2021</p>	<p>Christine Shields</p>	<p>Enough support for people when needed</p>	<p>Spend every pound wisely</p>		<p>To look at the outcome of the assessment and undertake any further work if necessary.</p>

<p>Adult Social Care Transformation Programme</p>	<p>24 August 2021</p>	<p>Christine Shields/ Linda Thirkeld</p>	<p>A safe and caring community</p> <p>Enough support for people when needed</p>	<p>Building strong communities</p>		<p>Update on progress of all work streams</p>
<p>Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2021/2022</p>	<p>22 February 2022</p>	<p>Sharon Raine / James Stroyan / Linda Thirkeld</p>	<p>A place designed to thrive</p> <p>More people healthy and independent</p> <p>A safe and caring community</p> <p>Enough support for people when needed</p>	<p>Build strong communities</p> <p>Spend every pound wisely</p>	<p>ASC 002 ASC 003 ASC 019 ASC 045 ASC 046 ASC 049 ASC 050 ASC 208 ASC 209 ASC 211</p>	<p>To monitor Key Performance Indicators.</p> <p>To receive six-monthly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.</p>

<p>Darlington Safeguarding Partnership - Annual Report</p>	<p>22 February 2022</p>	<p>Ann Baxter / Amanda Hugill</p>	<p>A safe and caring community</p>	<p>Build strong communities</p>	<p>ASC 028 ASC 029 ASC 059 ASC 061 ASC 062 ASC 199 ASC 200 ASC 201 ASC 202 ASC 203 ASC 204 ASC 205 ASC 206 ASC 207 ASC 209 ASC 210 ASC 213 ASC 214</p>	<p>To consider the Annual Report on the work of the Board and to receive reassurance that adult safeguarding is being addressed and an effective approach is in place.</p> <p>To be advised of the key issues for the Board and funding.</p>
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Task and Finish Review Group(s)

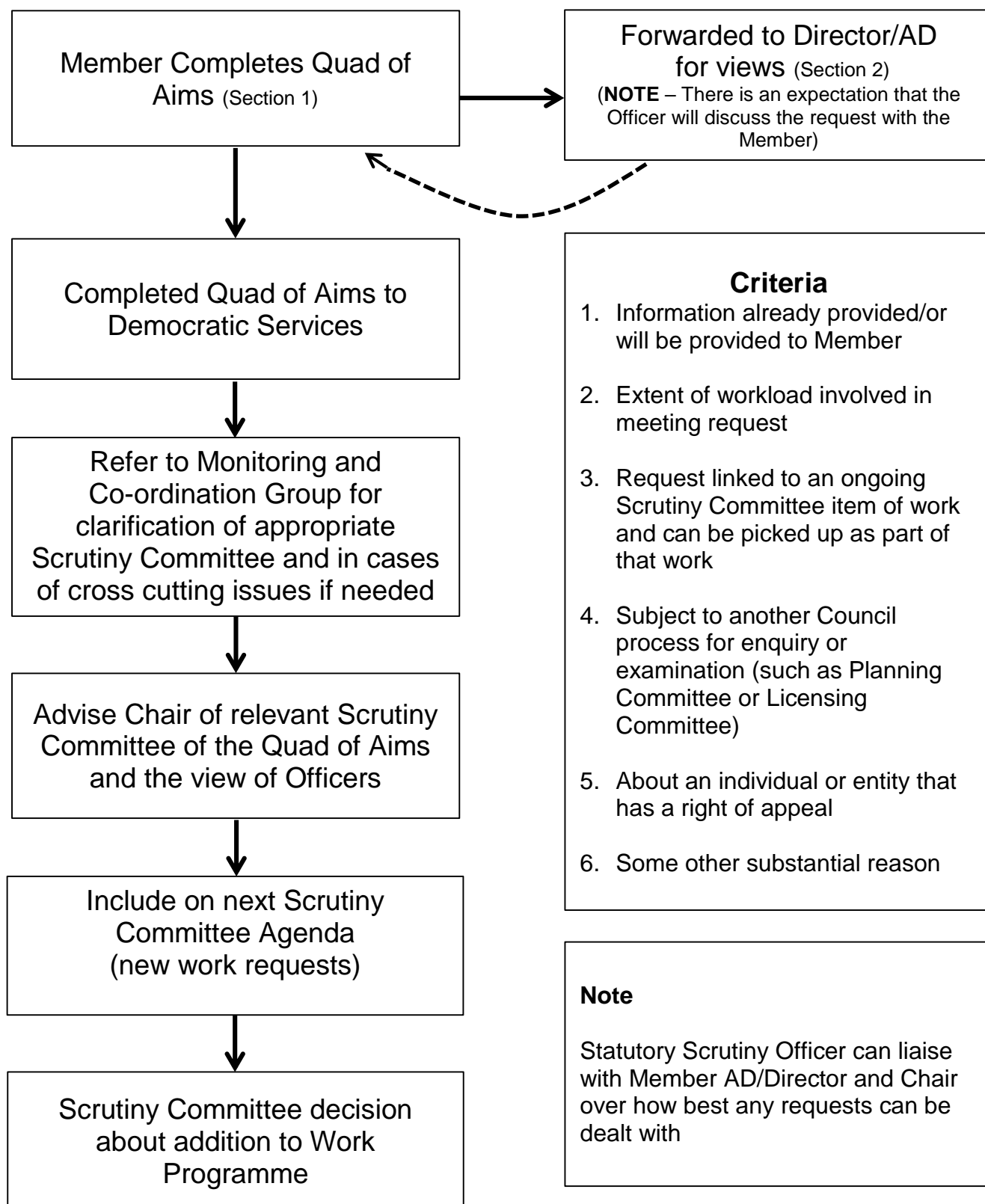
‘Loneliness and Connected Communities’ Task and Finish Review Group – commenced Tuesday, 28th January 2020;
‘CQC Ratings in the Borough of Darlington’ Task and Finish Review Group (Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee lead with invitation to Chair and Vice Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee to attend/participate) – commenced Monday, 18th November 2019.

Additional Work:

Visits to Extra Care, Care and Nursing Homes (Quality Assessment – Annual Monitoring of Local Care Homes for Older People):

- North Park Care Home, l'anson Street, Darlington, DL3 0SW – TBC **(Suspended due to Covid pandemic)**
- Oak Lodge, Stockton Road, Haughton-le-Skerne, Darlington, DL1 2RY – TBC **(Suspended due to Covid pandemic)**

PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

NOTE – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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Signed Councillor

Date

SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)

	Criteria
1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes No If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services)	1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member
(b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so?	2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request
2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff?	3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that?	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway?	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal?	6. Some other substantial reason
6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme?	

Signed **Position** **Date**

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Annual Audit Letter	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings 2021/22	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Darlington Capital Strategy including Capital Programme	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Housing Revenue Account	Council 18 Feb 2021 Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Medium Term Financial Plan	Council 18 Feb 2021 Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Schools Admissions 2021/22	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators	Council 18 Feb 2021 Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Acquisition of Land at Snipe Lane, Darlington	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Schedule of Transactions	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Climate Change - Update	Cabinet 9 Mar 2021
Local Transport Plan	Cabinet 9 Mar 2021
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 9 Feb 2021
Annual Procurement Plan 2021/22	Cabinet 13 Apr 2021
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Projects	Cabinet 13 Apr 2021
Customer Engagement Strategy 2021/24	Cabinet 4 May 2021

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