

Cabinet Agenda



**5.00 pm Tuesday, 8 December 2020
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, Members will join the meeting remotely rather than by attending a venue. Members of the public can view a live stream of the meeting at:

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

Members of the public may make representations on items on this agenda and these will be taken into account when making the decisions. Representations should be submitted to Lynne Wood by e-mail to Lynne.Wood@darlington.gov.uk by 5.00 p.m. on Monday 7 December 2020

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. To hear relevant representation (from Members and the General Public) on items on this Cabinet agenda.
4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 10 November 2020 (Pages 1 - 8)
5. Matters Referred to Cabinet –
There are no matters referred back for reconsideration to this meeting

6. Issues Arising from Scrutiny Committee –
There are no issues referred back from the Scrutiny Committees to this Meeting, other than where they have been specifically consulted on an issue and their comments are included in the contents of the relevant report on this agenda
7. Key Decisions:-
 - (a) School Term Dates 2022/23 –
Report of the Interim Director of Children and Adults Services.
(Pages 9 - 20)
 - (b) Town Centre Car Parking –
Report of the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services.
(Pages 21 - 32)
 - (c) Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021/31 –
Report of the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services.
(Pages 33 - 148)
 - (d) Housing Revenue Account - MTFP 2021/22 to 2024/25 –
Report of the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services.
(Pages 149 - 164)
 - (e) Medium Term Financial Plan – Report of the Chief Officers Executive.
(Pages 165 - 226)
8. Review of Outcome of Complaints Made to Ombudsman –
Report of the Managing Director, Interim Director of Children and Adults Services and Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services.
(Pages 227 - 230)
9. Mid Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2020/21 – Report of the Managing Director.
(Pages 231 - 246)
10. Darlington Towns Fund –
Report of the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services.
(Pages 247 - 250)
11. Schedule of Transactions –
Report of the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services.
(Pages 251 - 254)
12. Membership Changes - To consider any Membership Changes to Other Bodies to which Cabinet appoints.
13. 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.
14. Questions.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

15. To consider the exclusion of the Public and Press :- –

RESOLVED - That, pursuant to Sections 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in exclusion paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Monday, 30 November 2020

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Clarke, Dulston, Johnson, Keir, Marshall, Mills, K Nicholson and Mrs H Scott

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Lynne Wood, Elections Manager, Resources Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays (e-mail Lynne.Wood@darlington.gov.uk or telephone 01325 405803).

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DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2020

CABINET

Tuesday, 10 November 2020

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs H Scott (Chair), Clarke, Dulston, Johnson, Keir, Marshall, Mills and K Nicholson

INVITEES – Councillors Curry, Harker, Snedker and Tait

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor C L B Hughes

C50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

C51 TO HEAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (FROM MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) ON ITEMS ON THIS CABINET AGENDA.

In respect of Minute C55(2) below, a Member in attendance at the meeting made representations in respect of that item.

C52 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS CABINET HELD ON TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2020.

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the Meeting of this Cabinet held on 13 October 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be agreed.

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

C53 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET

There were no matters referred back for re-consideration to this meeting.

C54 ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no issues arising from Scrutiny considered at this meeting.

C55 KEY DECISIONS:-

(1) DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT POLICY AND REGULATORY REFORM ORDER POLICY (2020/23)

The Cabinet Member with the Adults Portfolio introduced the report of the Acting Director Children and Adults (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the updated Disabled Facilities Grant Policy and Regulatory Reform Order Policy 2020/23 (both also previously circulated); advising of the capital resources

available for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's); and requesting that consideration be given to releasing those resources.

The submitted report stated that the DFG was a means tested statutory grant provided by the Government to undertake adaptations to homes for disabled adults or children to enable them to live independently in their own homes; DFG's were governed by housing legislation and therefore had set guidance and eligibility criteria which governed how funding could be allocated; historically those conditions had restricted the way in which funding could be released which resulted in year on year underspends on the budget; the Government had increased the DFG grant paid to local authorities nationally from £220m in 2016/17 to an estimated £500m in 2019/20; in February 2020 an additional £505m was made available for the DFG; and that the increase in allocated Government funding together with carry forward amounts had resulted in a DFG budget for 2020/21 of approximately £2.5M.

It was reported that the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order gave local authorities permission to broaden the scope of how DFG's were used to support housing renewal and assist with improving housing conditions and that the proposed updated Darlington DFG policy had been developed in a way which would enable the Council to make use of the powers provided under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order and use the funding in an appropriate way, to the benefit of residents.

In welcoming the report and the greater flexibility that it gave to keep people in their own homes, reference was made, at the meeting, to the possibility of re-assessing those people who had previously been refused grants and requesting that consideration be given to providing additional drop kerbing, to support people when leaving their home. The Cabinet Member with the Adults Portfolio and the Acting Director of Children and Adults responded thereon.

RECOMMENDED – (a) That the Disabled Facilities Grant Policy (2020/23) and the associated Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order (2002), both as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the capital funds, as detailed in the submitted report, be released, and be utilised in accordance with the Darlington Borough Council Disabled Facilities Grant Policy (2020/23) and the associated Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order (2002), both as appended to the submitted report.

REASONS - (a) To enable the adaptations for those individuals who are eligible to receive a Disabled Facilities Grant for 2020/23 to proceed.

(b) The updated Disabled Facilities Grant Policy and Regulatory Reform Order Policy 2020/23, will allow the Council to create an environment of greater innovation and flexibility to maximise the benefit of DFG funding.

(2) THE COUNCIL PLAN 2020/23

The Leader introduced the report of the Chief Officers Executive (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Council Plan 2020/23 (also previously circulated).

The submitted report stated that the Council Plan set out the proposed vision for the Council together with key actions to achieve that vision; the draft plan was originally presented to and approved by Cabinet on 7 January 2020 (Minute C94(4)Jan/20 refers); following a period of public consultation, a further report on the outcome of the consultation was presented to Cabinet on 3 March 2020 (Minute C118(1)/Mar/20 refers) when it was agreed the draft plan be presented to Full Council to seek approval; the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown had prevented the Plan from being submitted to Full Council; and that nine months had passed since the Plan was originally given Cabinet approval, and that while the plan remained largely unchanged, it had been updated to reflect the impacts of COVID-19, progress against some of the original key actions, and a change to one of the portfolio holders.

A Member in attendance at the meeting addressed Cabinet in respect of the plan particularly in relation to children and young people and highlighted the need to improve relations with all of Darlington's education bodies from nurseries through to sixth form colleges; youth employment, which was significantly higher than the national average; and the number of children that were living in poverty in Darlington. Reference was also made to the importance of receiving a fair and stable funding forecast / formula to enable the Council to plan and achieve its vision.

The Leader and Cabinet Members with the Health and Housing, Children and Young People and Economy Portfolios responded thereon.

RECOMMENDED – That it be recommended to Council that the Council Plan 2020/23, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

REASON – To seek approval of the Council Plan.

(3) **ANNUAL PROCUREMENT PLAN - UPDATE**

Pursuant to Minute the Cabinet C7(5)/Jul/20, the Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Managing Director (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the updated Annual Procurement Plan (also previously circulated); the additional contracting intentions that have developed; the assessment of contracts that are considered to be strategic; and the decisions taken by the Procurement Board to waive the Contract Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED – (a) That the assessment of strategic and non-strategic contracts as presented in Appendix 1, be approved, and it be agreed that:

- (i) further reports / updates on the procurement process for those contracts designated as strategic (including decisions made by the Procurement Board) be brought to Cabinet;
- (ii) the contract award decisions for the contracts designated as non-strategic be delegated to the appropriate Director as listed in the plan at Appendix 1 of the submitted report; and
- (iii) the contract award decisions for the contracts designated as strategic, as listed in the plan at Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be delegated to

the Procurement Board to approve and be reported back to Cabinet.

(b) That the Procurement Board waiver decisions, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

Reasons – (a) In respect of strategic/non-strategic contracts, the recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

- (i) the Contract Procedure Rules require Cabinet to approve the designation of contracts as strategic and non- strategic;
- (ii) contracts designated strategic are of high value and high significance in respect of the impact on residents, Health and Safety and public safety; and
- (iii) the contracts designated non-strategic are of a lower value and lower significance in respect of the impact on residents and public safety.

(b) In respect of Procurement Board waiver decisions, the recommendations are supported by the following reasons: -

- (i) in order to comply with the Contract Procedure Rules;
- (ii) to provide Cabinet with information about the decisions made by the Procurement Board; and
- (iii) to supplement the reports that are taken to Cabinet about proposed spend over £100,000, that are set out in the Annual Procurement Plan and the in year update to that report.

C56 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT - SCHEME APPROVAL 2021/22

The Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Managing Director (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the draft Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme (also previously circulated) for 2021/22.

The submitted report stated that the Council was required to set a Council Tax Support scheme each year and that no changes were proposed to the existing scheme.

RESOLVED - That it be recommended to Council that the draft Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22, as appended to the submitted report, be approved and adopted, including:-

- (a) continuing to provide up to 100 per cent Council Tax Support for care leavers under the age of 25; and
- (b) continuing to provide up to 80 per cent Council Tax Support for all other working people.

REASONS - (a) The Council is required to publish a local Council Tax Support scheme for 2020/21 by 11 March 2021.

(b) The Council Tax Support schemes since 2013 have all been implemented successfully without any major challenges.

(c) The continued application of a reduced entitlement for working aged people is still appropriate, given the current financial position of the Council.

C57 STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTE

The Cabinet Member with the Local Services Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the proposed alignment of the Stockton and Darlington Railway Walking and Cycling route as a continuous public right of way through the Borough; that funding be sought from as many sources as possible so that it can be delivered for the bicentenary in September 2025; and that the Council works with the other partners on the Rail Heritage Board to jointly promote the route as part of the tourism strategy.

The submitted report stated that the Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone was established in 2018 and covered the 26 mile route of the railway from Witton Park in Durham to Stockton via Darlington; it linked together heritage assets along its length including key tourism sites at Locomotion in Shildon, Head of Steam Museum in Darlington and Preston Park in Stockton; and that aim of the scheme was to create a 26 mile route as close to the original alignment as possible, so that people could walk and cycle its full length.

It was reported that some sections already existed but there were significant gaps that needed completing so that there was a temporary or permanent continuous route in place for the bicentenary celebrations in 2025; a steering group consisting of representatives from the three local authorities and other organisations including the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway had already commissioned an audit and feasibility study for the route which had been presented to the Railway Heritage Board; the major redevelopment of the Head of Steam site as the Rail Heritage Quarter provided an opportunity to integrate the route into this site and kickstart the work to build the rest of the route; and that the next stage was to design up sections of the route and identify the most appropriate ways of delivering them, including the creation of Public Rights of Way, negotiating with landowners and developers and securing funding.

In welcoming the report, Members requested assurance that should the route not be completed for the 2025 celebrations, that it would be completed at a later date; the route would be accessible to all, for both walking and cycling; that it complied with Local Transport Note 120; and that it would be highlighted in the Council's heritage and tourism plans. The Cabinet Member with the Local Services Portfolio responded thereon.

RESOLVED – (a) That the work completed on the audit and feasibility study, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted, and the alignment of the Stockton and Darlington Railway Walking and Cycling Route, be agreed.

(b) That the work to create the Public Rights of Way and design each section be started.

(c) That funding be sought as opportunities become available including through development and section 106 monies, third parties including public and private sector organisations, Government funding and the Tees Valley Combined Authority, and that any funding secured, be subsequently released.

(d) That a joint branding strategy be developed with the other partners so that the route can be waymarked consistently.

(e) That the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the Local Services Portfolio, be authorised to negotiate and agree terms for the acquisition or compensation of third-party interests relating to the route in line with the submitted report.

REASONS – (a) To enable discussion with land owners and other interested parties so that the route is designed into ongoing land use and planning decisions.

(b) To ensure that a publicly accessible route which is inspected, maintained and managed is in place for the bicentenary celebrations in 2025.

(c) To fund the work to provide the physical infrastructure so that the route is accessible to as many people as possible.

(d) To provide a recognisable route that can be promoted as part of the Tees Valley tourism strategy to walkers and cyclists as well as those interested in railways and history.

(e) To ensure third party interests can be acquired or compensated where appropriate to achieve the proposed route.

C58 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21 - QUARTER 2

The Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Managing Director (previously circulated) providing an up-to-date forecast of the 2020/21 revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management process and informing Members of the budget rebasing exercise carried out following the 2019/20 outturn results.

The submitted report stated that it was the second revenue budget management report to Cabinet for 2020/21; the impact of Covid-19 on both expenditure and income levels was projected to be significant; to date the Government had provided a grant of £7.174m to assist with pressures with a further £1.508m expected; on 2 July 2020 the Government announced a further package of support to help reimburse lost income and this additional funding was anticipated to be £4.095m this financial year; and that should all funding come to fruition it was estimated that the Covid-19 pressure for 2020/21 would be £0.875, which was significantly lower than anticipated in Quarter 1.

Reference was also made to the budget rebasing exercise that had been undertaken

following the outturn position which had returned £0.897m into general reserves; the year-end projection, taking into the Covid-19 pressures, anticipated grants, the rebasing exercise and savings, showed an overall improvement in 2020/21 of £1.43M; and to concerns for future years.

RESOLVED - (a) That the forecast revenue outturn for 2019/20, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the Covid-19 pressures and government grants received to date, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(c) That further regular reports be made to monitor progress and take prompt action if necessary.

(d) That the proposed carry forward requests, as detailed in the submitted report, be agreed.

(e) That the transfer of £0.143m to the ICT earmarked reserve, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS - (a) To continue effective management of resources.

(b) To continue to deliver services to agreed levels.

C59 PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - QUARTER TWO 2020/21

The Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Managing Director and Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services (previously circulated) providing a summary of the latest Capital resource and commitment position, to inform monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme; an update on the current status of all construction projects currently being undertaken by the Council; and requesting that consideration be given to a number of changes to the programme.

The submitted report stated that the projected outturn of the current Capital Programme was £254.530m against an approved programme of £254.545m; the investment was delivering a wide range of improvements to the Council's assets and services; the programme, including commitments, remained affordable; the Council had 39 live projects, with an overall project outturn value of £126.126m, the majority of which were running to time; and that the projects were managed either by the Council's in-house management team, a Framework Partner or by Consultants source via an open/OJEU tender process.

A request was made at the meeting for information on the impact of Covid-19, on the capital projects, in respect of finances and timeliness of those projects moving forward.

RESOLVED - (a) That the status position on construction projects, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(b) That the projected capital expenditure and resources, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

(c) That the adjustments to resources, as detailed in paragraph 22 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASONS - (a) To inform Cabinet of the current status of construction projects.

(b) To make Cabinet aware of the latest financial position of the Council.

(c) To maintain effective management of resources.

C60 SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS

The Cabinet Member with the Resources Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Schedule of Transactions (also previously circulated).

RESOLVED – That the Schedule of Transactions, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved, and the transactions be completed on the terms and conditions detailed therein.

REASONS – The terms negotiated require approval by Cabinet before binding itself contractually to a transaction.

C61 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO OTHER BODIES TO WHICH CABINET APPOINTS.

There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

C62 TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS :-

DECISIONS DATED – FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2020

**CABINET
8 DECEMBER 2020**

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2022-23

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Jon Clarke,
Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - James Stroyan,
Interim Director of Children and Adults Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider and set school term date arrangements for Darlington maintained schools for the academic years 2022-2023 and to publish these by the end of December 2020.

Summary

2. Proposals to set term dates for academic years 2022-23 are presented for Cabinet's approval. This will assist schools, parents and the authority in their planning processes.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended Members consider and agree to the publication of the proposed school term dates for Darlington maintained schools for academic year 2022-23.

Reason

4. The recommendation is supported as the draft dates are the ones preferred by the majority of schools and Governing Bodies that responded to the consultation which ended on 16 October 2020.

**James Stroyan
Interim Director of Children and Adults Services**

Background Papers

School Term Dates Planning – Consultation Papers for 2022-2023 made up as follows:

- School Term Dates Covering Letter to Schools
- School Term Dates Guidance Note
- Appendix 1 – School Term Dates 2022-23
- Appendix 2 – School Term Dates Response Form

Paul Richardson : 0794 724 7224

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues arising directly from this report that relate directly to crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues arising directly from this report that relate directly to health and wellbeing.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	The content of this report impacts equally across all groups.
Wards Affected	All wards equally affected.
Groups Affected	Parents, pupils, schools, neighbouring authorities equally affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no change to the Budget and Policy framework
Key Decision	This is a key decision and has been included in the Forward Plan
Urgent Decision	This not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Contributes to: Children with a best start in life
Efficiency	This report enables all affected to make long term plans.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. Following the circulation of the consultation papers (**Appendix 1**) to schools and governors on this subject on 4 September 2020 and consultation with officers from Local Authorities across the North East and Yorkshire regions, a preferred term date model for academic years 2022-23 was drafted and consulted with schools and Governing Bodies. The detailed 2022-23 term dates are at Appendix 1 of the consultation document.
6. The tenet of the process has been to take into account:
 - (a) The 190 day academic year envelope for pupils, which allows schools to set their own professional development days for teaching staff when pupils will not attend.
 - (b) Equalisation of term lengths as far as possible and the start and end of term weeks to be Mondays and Fridays as far as possible. Starting and ending terms on days other than Mondays and Fridays has historically had an adverse impact on pupil attendance levels.
7. Local Authorities set the term dates for maintained schools and nurseries. There are only six schools, out of the 42 in Darlington, that are still maintained by the Local Authority. Academy and Free School funding agreements state that the setting of the duration of the school year, term and holiday dates are the responsibility of the Academy Trust. In Foundation and Voluntary Aided (VA) maintained schools, Governing Bodies are required to set term and holiday dates in conjunction with the Local Authority.
8. The majority of Academies and VA schools in Darlington have continued to follow the LA published dates despite having the freedom to set their own dates. The 2020 consultation exercise also requested that Academy schools send in their own arranged dates for 2022-23 for inclusion in any future publication of term dates if they chose not to express a preference for the model calendar presented.
9. Consultation has been undertaken with schools (including Academies and Free Schools), Governing Bodies and neighbouring authorities. Other Local Authorities are still consulting, some have proposed the same dates as those contained in Appendix 1 for 2022-23. However, some local authorities proposals include a slightly later Christmas break finishing on 23rd December and returning on 9th January.
10. Nationally, the Department for Education have recommended (and Darlington Head Teachers have agreed) that the term dates for future years will be set by Governing Bodies with Local Authorities suggesting a calendar, coordinating the consultation exercise and publishing the agreed results. Therefore, details of term dates for the 2022-23 academic year will continue to be published on the Darlington Council website and elsewhere from December 2020.

Outcome of the Consultation for the 2022-23 Academic Year Term Dates

11. Officers have consulted with 42 schools in Darlington as well as with their relevant Governing Bodies. 34 responses from Governing Bodies and Headteachers were received as follows:-

(a) 33 Schools/Governing Bodies (78.6%) out of 42 schools expressed their preference for the dates in the model calendar;

(b) Additional comments have been received as follows:

(i) Polam Hall (Woodard Academies Trust) will set their own dates.

(ii) Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust (five Darlington schools) are still to confirm their dates but they are likely to be similar to the proposed dates.

12. Responses were received as follows:

School Name	2022-23
Beaumont Hill Academy	Yes
Polam Hall School	No
Borough Road Nursery School**	Yes
George Dent Nursery School**	Yes
Abbey Infants' School	Yes
Abbey Junior School	Yes
Bishopton Redmarshall CofE Primary School	Yes
Corporation Road Community Primary School	Yes
Firthmoor Primary School	Yes
Gurney Pease Academy	Yes
Harrowgate Hill Primary School**	Yes
Heathfield Primary School	Yes
Heighington Church of England Primary School	No response
High Coniscliffe CofE Primary School	Yes
Holy Family RC Primary School	Bishop Hogarth Trust tbc
Hurworth Primary School	Yes
Marchbank Free School	Yes
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Yes
Mowden Infants' School	Yes
Mowden Junior School	Yes
Northwood Primary School	Yes
Red Hall Primary School**	Yes
Reid Street Primary School	Yes
Skerne Park Academy	Yes
Springfield Academy	Yes
St Augustine's RC Primary School	Bishop Hogarth Trust tbc
St Bede's RC Primary School	Bishop Hogarth Trust tbc
St John's Church of England Academy	No response
St Mary's Cockerton Church of England Primary School	Yes
St Teresa's RC Primary School	Bishop Hogarth Trust tbc
St. George's Church of England Academy	Yes
The Rydal Academy	Yes
West Park Academy	Yes
Whinfield Primary**	Yes
Carmel College	Bishop Hogarth Trust tbc
Haughton Academy	Yes
Hummersknott Academy	Yes
Hurworth School	Yes (1 day difference due to PD days)
Longfield Academy of Sport	Yes
St Aidan's Church of England Academy	No response
Wyvern Academy	Yes
Rise Carr College**	Yes

** LA Maintained Schools

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DARLINGTON LA School Holiday and Term Dates 2022 - 2023

Appendix 1

	AUGUST 2022	SEPTEMBER 2022	OCTOBER 2022	NOVEMBER 2022	DECEMBER 2022	JANUARY 2023
Monday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Wednesday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Thursday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Friday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Saturday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Sunday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
			37		37	

	FEBRUARY 2023	MARCH 2023	APRIL 2023	MAY 2023	JUNE 2023	JULY 2023
Monday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Wednesday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Thursday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Friday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Saturday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Sunday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
	33		25	29		34

Bank Holiday	Red
School Holiday	Blue
PD Days	Yellow

37
37
33
25
29
34
195

The number of term days shown is 195. Up to five of these will be used as professional development days for teaching staff, pupils will not attend these days. Each school determines when these take place and will inform parents.

SCHOOL TERM DATES PLANNING – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2022-2023

The Governing Body of
School/Academy will adopt the following term date models

2022-2023 Model (local authority proposed option)

**School's own dates (please attach dates to your reply)
(Applicable to Academies, Voluntary Aided and Free
Schools only)**

Signed (Headteacher / Chair of Governors): _____

Date: _____

Please complete this form and return it to paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk by **Friday 16th October 2020.**

In the event that the dates proposed in the enclosed model are rejected by more than half of Darlington Schools expressing a preference, the revised dates with the most preferences from those returned by the deadline date will be presented to the Council's Cabinet for approval as Darlington's preferred term dates for 2022-2023. Once ratified by Cabinet, these dates will be published on the LA website for parental guidance.



CHILDREN & ADULT SERVICES

Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT
DX 69280 Darlington 6
Web site: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk>

FAO The Chair of Governors and Headteachers
ALL Schools in Darlington

Date: 4th September 2020
Please ask for: Paul Richardson
Direct line: 01325 406015
E-mail address: paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk

Dear Chair and Headteacher

Proposed School Term Dates for 2022-2023

Please find enclosed the proposed school term dates for Darlington schools for the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

The paper contains the detailed proposals of the consultation, plus an option for those schools that currently have the powers (and wish to) set their own alternative dates. Appendix 1 of the paper contains the detailed calendar of dates proposed and Appendix 2 contains the proforma that Headteachers and/or Chairs should complete to record their preference and return to me by close of business by **Friday 16th October 2020**.

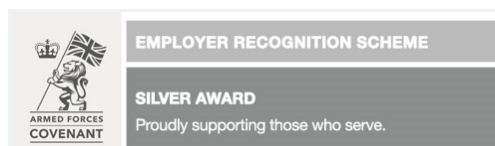
Governing bodies of Voluntary Aided, Free Schools and Academies have the power to set their own term dates, but are encouraged to follow, as far as possible those agreed by the community schools. This will provide continuity for parents and carers, other schools and Colleges, Local Authority staff and schools in other Local Authorities and the term dates in the consultation are therefore proposed for your consideration.

In the event that your school wishes to adopt different term dates in 2022-2023 from those detailed in the consultation, please append your preferred dates to the proforma in Appendix 2.

The term dates model with the most preferences from those returned by the deadline date will be submitted for approval by Cabinet and once approved the Darlington term dates for 2022-2023 will then be published on the Council's website for use by parents, the public and interested parties alike (<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-years/school-holiday-dates/>).

I am aware that not all Governing Bodies will hold a meeting prior to the closure of the consultation period and would therefore request that this matter be considered separately by the Chair and Headteacher and a return then made from each School by the deadline date.

In the event of any queries around this consultation, please contact me by return e-mail at paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk.



I look forward to hearing from you in due course and in any event by **Friday 16th October 2020**.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Richardson', written in a cursive style.

Paul Richardson
Head of Skills and Employability



SCHOOL TERM DATES PLANNING – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2022-2023

1. REASON FOR THIS ITEM

To bring to Governors and Headteacher's attention the proposed term dates for the 2022-2023 Academic Year and the possible impact this may have on:

- a) the education of children,
- b) staffing in schools including the 195 day envelope for teachers,
- c) the organisation of school support arrangements,
- d) families with children at more than one school and
- e) the wider region.

2. ACTION REQUIRED

Governors and Headteachers of Academy, Voluntary Aided and Free Schools are reminded that they are responsible for setting the term dates for their school and must consult with stakeholders when so doing. Local Authorities are required to consult with maintained schools when setting school terms dates.

Governors and Headteachers are therefore asked to:

- a) Consider the proposed model term dates for 2022-2023 at Appendix 1 to this consultation.
- b) Decide whether they would wish to adopt the model of proposed dates for the 2022-23 academic year. Alternatively, Academies, Voluntary Aided and Free Schools are requested to send in their own arranged dates for 2022-2023 for inclusion in any future publication of term dates for schools in Darlington
- c) Return the attached proforma at Appendix 2 detailing your school's preferred term dates for 2022-2023 (either adopting the model or setting your own dates if an Academy, Voluntary Aided or Free School) to paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk by **Friday 16th October 2020**.

3. KEY QUESTIONS

Governors and Headteachers may wish to discuss the following in relation to their own school:

- a) What is the likely impact of the school opting for term dates outside the proposed models?
- b) How would the Governing Body consult with stakeholders around any proposed changes to term dates?

Contact Officer:

Name: Paul Richardson

Position: Head of Skills and Employability

Tel no: 01325 406015/0794 724 7224

E-mail address: paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk

SCHOOL TERM DATES PLANNING – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2022-2023

1. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Officers from Darlington have drafted a preferred term date model for the 2022-2023 academic year and are now consulting with stakeholders, including Schools and Governing Bodies, to ascertain their preferences.

The tenet of the process in drawing up the proposed calendars has been to take into account:

- The 190 / 195 school day envelope
- The equalizing of term lengths as far as possible
- The fact that Easter dates vary year-on-year.
- Minimising the number of part-weeks by ensuring, as far as possible, that schools open for full weeks (Monday to Friday).

Academy and Free School funding agreements state that the duration of the school year, term and holiday dates are the responsibility of the Academy Trust. Governing Bodies are required to set term and holiday dates in Foundation and Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, in conjunction with the Local Authority. The majority of Darlington Academies and VA Schools have continued to follow published dates despite having the freedom to set their own dates.

In the event that a Governing Body of an Academy or Free School wishes to set its own term dates for 2022-2023, it would be free to do so but would have to carry out consultation with likely affected parties beforehand, including the Local Authority. Governors should be aware that Local Authority services provided on a term-time basis (such as school crossing patrols, transport for swimming etc.) may not be available if their school is open during a week when the majority of Darlington schools are closed. Governors should also consider the impact on families with children at more than one school (one or more of which may also be outside Darlington) in terms of coordinating family holidays or transport to school if they choose to set different term dates to the majority of Darlington schools.

If schools, governors or other interested parties wish to make enquiries or representation about this matter, please contact Paul Richardson, Head of Skills and Employability at Darlington Borough Council by e-mail at paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk in the first instance.

2. **NEXT STEPS**

Headteachers and Governing Bodies are requested to consider the contents of this paper and the model academic year calendar attached to decide their preferred option. Complete the enclosed form and return it to paul.richardson@darlington.gov.uk by **Friday 16th October 2020**. Alternatively, for those schools that already have the power conferred on them to do so and who do not wish to adopt the model, they should draw up their own calendar of term dates and consult with their stakeholders (including Darlington Borough Council) accordingly.

**CABINET
8 DECEMBER 2020**

TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKING

**Responsible Cabinet Members –
Councillor Andy Keir, Local Services Portfolio
Councillor Alan Marshall, Economy Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides an update on Town Centre Car Parking charges and seeks approval to continue a range of parking offers for a further two years supported by funding from Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Summary

2. Parking offers have been in place to support the town centre since June 2018 and in September 2020 Members agreed to extend parking offers to continue to support the town centre, specifically on the approach to the Christmas period.
3. In that report it was noted that the Tees Valley Combined Authority was considering initiatives to support town centre economies and such support included provision for parking offers. At the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet of 27 November 2020 funding was approved to support parking offers across the Tees Valley for a two year period.
4. For Darlington the funding enables a long-term parking offer to be put in place. A free two hour parking offer is proposed in Council operated car parks and pay and display parking areas in the town centre area to support the town centre economy.
5. More detailed information on the offers, charges and locations is included at **Appendix 1**.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the proposed charges and offers in Appendix 1 that will be funded by Tees Valley Combined Authority until the end of December 2022.

Reasons

7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:

- (a) To approve the amendment to charges;
- (b) To support the recovery of the town centre.

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Background Papers

Town Centre Car Parking Cabinet Report June 2018
 Town Centre Car Parking Cabinet Report October 2019
 Town Centre Car Parking Cabinet Report September 2020

Dave Winstanley: Extension 6618

S17 Crime and Disorder	Whilst anti-social behaviour and crime does on occasions take place in car parks, there is no impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report.
Health and Well Being	Users of car parking facilities will be encouraged to pay by contactless methods and follow public health hygiene guidance in terms of hand cleansing following use of any machines.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There may be an impact on carbon emissions as a result of encouraging more car journeys into the town centre.
Diversity	An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken on the offer introduced in June 2018 and this has been updated to consider the proposals in the report.
Wards Affected	Car parks are located in Park East and Northgate, however residents from across the Borough and beyond will utilise them.
Groups Affected	No group is affected any differently to any other.
Budget and Policy Framework	The extension of the parking offers will have a financial impact on the MTFP with the funding for the offer being provided by Tees Valley Combined Authority.
Key Decision	This a key decision as the proposals result in financial implications which are significant.
Urgent Decision	This is an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The proposals contained in this report have an impact on the Perfectly Placed element of the strategy; encouraging more people to utilise the town centre for business, retail, social and leisure.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's Efficiency agenda as a result of this report.
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

8. The Council has funded a variety of Town Centre Parking initiatives to support the Town Centre Economy since June 2018 most recently approving offers to continue until January 2021.
9. In the report to Cabinet in September 2020, it was noted that the Tees Valley Combined Authority was considering initiatives to support Town Centre recovery and such support included provision for parking offers. At the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet of 27 November 2020 funding was approved to support parking offers across the Tees Valley for a two year period.
10. Members will be aware of the challenging trading environment facing Darlington town centre retailers in recent years. This has been further compounded this year by enforced retail closure because of coronavirus lockdown rules.
11. For Darlington town centre the funding enables a long-term parking offer to be put in place on the car parks and parking areas in the town centre to encourage shoppers and support the recovery town centre recovery until the end of December 2022.
12. More detailed information on the offers and locations is included at Appendix 1, but in summary:
 - (a) Council operated parking areas within the town centre and within a defined cordon generally within the inner ring road will continue to have a two hour free offer.
 - (i) Drivers will be expected to check details of the charges at machines.
 - (ii) In pay and display bays tickets will be issued for the free offer and must be displayed. Drivers will need to pay for time above the initial two hour free period where available.
 - (iii) In the MSCP there will be two hours free, but drivers will need to pay for time above the initial two hours.
 - (b) Where there is an offer on a parking area it is recommended the same charging structure is in place every day. This will mean Sundays would have a two hour free offer, then drivers will need to pay for time above the initial two hours where available.
 - (c) Market Square – this area was a 30 minute max stay. The free for two hours was introduced in September to provide consistency across the town centre and this is proposed to continue.
 - (d) The parking areas outside the inner ring road are specified in more detail in Appendix 1 and will revert to their pre-offer charging rates.
13. While the Tees Valley Combined Authority funding support permits the current offers to continue, the free parking offers will also have impact on private sector car

parking operators (there are three). Details of the locations of all the car parks are set out in the map attached at **Appendix 2**.

Financial Implications

14. Tees Valley Combined Authority have approved funding to cover the parking offers identified in this report based on pre-Covid parking levels.

Legal Implications

15. Members must take into consideration that the parking offers for Council operated car parks are likely to have adverse impacts on providers of private car parks. The proposals set out in the report have been reviewed from the perspective of state aid and anti-competition law and it is considered that the proposals are lawful.
16. The necessary legal notices are being progressed and operational arrangements being put in place for implementation of these measures, subject to approval by Cabinet. It is anticipated the new offers could be operational from around 11 January 2021. The current offers would continue until that date is confirmed and publicised.

Equalities Considerations

17. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out for the parking offer introduced in June 2018 and has been subsequently reviewed as parking offers have changed. The fact that the spaces closest to main town centre facilities have an offer and control on time is in place should assist individuals who find the walk difficult to access parking. In addition, on-street car parking for Blue Badge Holders is not affected and there is also a car park exclusively for Blue Badge Holders at the town hall.
18. The numbers of Blue Badge parking bays in the town centre car parks will remain the same; on street car parking for Blue Badge Holders is not affected, but controls will create more turnover of spaces and prevent blocking.

Proposed Charging Structure January 2021 to December 2022 (inclusive)

APPENDIX 1

Off Street Car Parks – Town Centre within Inner Ring road included in the Parking offer

Parking Location	Spaces	Charges Prior to Offers <i>(any offers introduced highlighted in italics)</i>		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
		Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am – 6pm	Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am – 6pm
Abbotts Yard	80	1 hour £1 2 hours £2	£1 all day	First 2 hours FREE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE)	First 2 hours FREE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE)
Commercial Street East	117	3 hours £3 4 hours £4 5 hours £5		£1 for each subsequent hour 3 hours £1	£1 for each subsequent hour 3 hours £1
Commercial Street West	156	6 hours £6 7 hours £7 8 hours £8		4 hours £2 5 hours £3 6 hours £4	4 hours £2 5 hours £3 6 hours £4
Winston Street North	25	9 hours £9 10 hours £10		7 hours £5 8 hours £6	7 hours £5 8 hours £6
Winston Street South	36				
Town Hall	8			No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.
Feethams MSCP	650				
East Street MSCP has traditionally been under-utilised as a short stay car park. It has been converted to include a low cost long stay parking offer within the town centre.					
East Street	338	£1 per hour £4 per day <i>£2 per day introduced June 2018.</i>	£1 per day	First 2 hours FREE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) £2 per day No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	First 2 hours FREE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) £1 per day No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.

Off Street Car Parks – Town Centre outside the inner ring road excluded from the Parking offer

Car Park	Spaces	Charges Prior to Offers <i>(any offers introduced highlighted in italics)</i>		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
		Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am to 6pm	Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am to 6pm
Archer Street	62				
Kendrew Street East	76				
Kendrew Street West	85	£1 per hour -up to 3 hours		<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i>	
Park Place East	95	More than 3 hours - £4 per day		£1 per hour -up to 3 hours	
Park Place West	115	2 days - £8 3 days - £12	£1 per day	More than 3 hours - £4 per day	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i>
Garden Street	72	Weekly ticket (up to 7 days) £16		2 days - £8 3 days - £12	
Hird Street	14			Weekly ticket (up to 7 days) £16	
St. Hilda's Tannery Yard Parkgate	15				£1 per day

Off Street Car Parks with specific purpose and charging structure excluded from the parking offer.

Car Park	Spaces	Charges Prior to Offers		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
		Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am to 6pm	Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am to 6pm
Chesnut Street	109	£2 per day HGVs and coaches free Weekly ticket (cars only, up to 7 days) £8 per week HGVs and coaches 6pm-8am every night £4 per night	£1 per day, HGVs and coaches free	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> £2 per day HGVs and coaches free Weekly ticket (cars only, up to 7 days) £8 per week HGVs and coaches 6pm-8am every night £4 per night	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> £1 per day, HGVs and coaches free

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Park Lane (Station)

Park Lane is predominantly linked to Rail Station usage and as such there are no planned changes associated with this car park.

Car Park	Spaces	Charges Prior to Offers <i>(any offers introduced highlighted in italics)</i>		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
		Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 9.30am to 5pm	Mon-Sat 8am to 6pm including bank holidays	Sunday 8am – 6pm
Park Lane	108	£5 all day	£1 all day	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> £5 all day	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> £1 all day

On Street Parking Bays

Parking Location	Charges Prior to Offers		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
	Mon – Sat 8am – 6pm	Sunday	Mon – Sat 8am – 6pm	Sunday 8am – 6pm
Areas included in the Parking offer				
East Row Horsemarket	Max Stay 30 mins 50p for maximum 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max Stay 30 mins 50p for maximum 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket. NOTE: this retains the maximum stay from 30 minutes in these bays to 2 hours	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket. NOTE: this retains the maximum stay from 30 minutes in these bays to 2 hours
Grange Road, Town centre Northumberland Street (Imperial Quarter)	Max Stay 3 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max Stay 3 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour_	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) 2½ hours - 50p 3 hours - £1 A max stay of 3 hours exists 50p for each 30 mins above the or part thereof to a Max of 3 hours total No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) 2½ hours - 50p 3 hours - £1 A max stay of 3 hours exists 50p for each 30 mins above the or part thereof to a Max of 3 hours total No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.
Barnard Street Barnard East Back Street Beaumont Street Beaumont Street West Duke Street South Arden Street	Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket	First 2 hours NO CHARGE (NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE) A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket

Winston Street		FREE ON SUNDAY OFFER <i>Introduced October 2019</i>	No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.
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Areas excluded from the Parking offer

Gladstone Street Kendrew Street North Lodge Terrace Victoria Road	Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> Max Stay 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour
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	Charges Prior to Offers <i>(any offers introduced highlighted in italics)</i>		PROPOSED Jan 2021 to Dec 2022 inclusive	
Parking Location	Mon – Sat 9am – 5pm	Sunday <i>(Introduced – Oct 19)</i>	Mon – Sat 9am – 5pm	Sunday 9am – 5pm

Areas included in the Parking offer

East Raby Street Larchfield Street Napier Street Powlett Street Primrose Street Raby Street West Powlett Street	Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	First 2 hours NO CHARGE <i>(NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE)</i> A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.	First 2 hours NO CHARGE <i>(NO CHARGE BUT MUST DISPLAY TICKET FROM MACHINE)</i> A max stay of 2 hours exists Free 2 hours and must display a ticket No return for 1 hour on expiry of initial ticket.
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Areas excluded from the Parking offer				
Hargreave Terrace Park Place Swan Street Victoria Embankment	Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour	<i>Charges revert to pre-offer rates</i> Max 2 hours 50p for each 30 mins or part thereof No return within 1 hour



Key - Parking offers to be introduced within the blue line/cordon

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**CABINET
8 DECEMBER 2020**

TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Andy Keir,
Local Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To present to Cabinet the outcome of the consultation carried out for the Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy.

Summary

2. Following Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy (**Appendix 1**) on 27 August 2020, public consultation took place from 1 September to 18 October 2020. 145 responses were received to the online survey from either individuals or organisations.
3. The outcome of the consultation is presented in this report with a number of proposed changes to the strategy following feedback.
4. In addition to the protection provided to trees through the Tree and Woodland Strategy, there are also a number of policies within relevant Planning documents that afford the appropriate level of protection to trees and woodlands. It should also be noted that where on balance it is appropriate to remove trees for development, it will always be a requirement to achieve net biodiversity gain.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members note the outcome of the consultation on the Tree and Woodland Strategy;
 - (b) Members approve/adopt the Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021/2031 and proposed amendments in paragraph 30.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reason :-

- (a) To provide a framework for the management and maintenance of trees and woodland within the Borough of Darlington

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Background Papers

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

Ian Thompson : Extension 6628
 CD

S17 Crime and Disorder	There is no impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report.
Health and Well Being	Trees can have a generally positive impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	Trees have a positive impact on climate change capturing carbon.
Diversity	There is no impact on diversity as a result of this report.
Wards Affected	All Wards are affected.
Groups Affected	No group is affected differently to any other group.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no impact on the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	Yes
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Trees have a positive impact on Darlington as a place.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's efficiency agenda.
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

7. It is thanks to our Victorian forebears that Darlington has a living legacy of urban street trees, historic parks and wooded cemeteries that is the envy of many other towns. Darlington Borough Council has had in place a Tree Strategy for the past 20 years, which was initially developed with due regard to protecting the tree heritage in Darlington. The updated revised versions of the strategy have continued with that theme at the core.
8. Since the initial strategy in 2000, the understanding and awareness of the impact humans are having on the environment has resulted in central and local government starting to address the balance. To this end, Darlington Borough Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and is committed to working with partners, residents, trade unions, public sector organisations, businesses and the third sector on developing plans to achieve the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.
9. Trees do play an important role in carbon capture and The Woodland Trust estimates that a young mixed woodland can store 400+ tonnes of carbon per hectare, approximately 1,000 trees. As part of this strategy, the Council is committed to make funds available to work with community groups and Friends of groups to plant at least 10,000 trees in the first three years of this strategy and thereafter at least the same level going forward.
10. The aim of the Tree and Woodland Strategy is:
 - (a) To proactively manage and enlarge the tree population of the Borough of Darlington in order to protect our historical heritage of trees and provide a valued environmental amenity for future generations.
11. The strategy covers the following aspects:
 - (a) How the Council manage trees that they own;
 - (b) How the Council protect trees on private land;
 - (c) An action plan setting out what needs to be done over the next five years.
12. The policies within the strategy cover:
 - (a) **Street Trees** – these are trees planted in pavements and road verges;
 - (b) **Woodlands** – approximately 3% of the Borough is woodland;
 - (c) **Trees in Parks and Open Spaces** – generally these trees are the most significant and have a positive impact on use of these spaces;
 - (d) **Trees in Cemeteries and Disused Churchyards** – some of cemeteries and disused churchyards have significant tree cover, particularly West Cemetery;

- (e) **Housing Area Trees** – generally found in communal areas or residents’ gardens;
- (f) **Privately Owned Trees** – there are a significant number of trees on private land and in private gardens.

Consultation

- 13. Public consultation on the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy took place from 1 September to 18 October 2020. This was via an online survey form asking those completing the survey if they agreed with the range of policies and any comments they may have. In addition, the Strategy was considered by the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee on 27 August 2020.
- 14. The public consultation was advertised in local press, social media, One Darlington magazine and the Council’s website. There were 145 responses received through the online survey, in addition a written submission was received from the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway.

Outcome of Consultation

- 15. The outcome of the consultation from the online survey is attached as **Appendix 2**. A summary of results, comments and the Council’s officers response is below.
- 16. **Question 1**

Do you agree with the Draft Council Tree and Woodland Strategy?

YES 37.93%	NO 37.93%	DON'T KNOW 24.14%
145 answered out of 145		

(a) **Summary of Comments**

- (i) Overall, for Question 1 there were 125 comments. Whilst there are those agreeing and disagreeing with the strategy, a significant number of the comments reflect the view that the strategy does not go far enough to protect trees. There is also a feeling that it has been watered down from the previous strategy.
- (ii) An alternative view expressed is that the Council does not do enough to maintain the existing tree stock and support residents when trees are impacting on their property or quality of life.
- (iii) There were a number of comments/suggestions to include hedgerows within the strategy.
- (iv) The final group of comments generally feel the Council has got the strategy about right on the whole.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) Overall, it is believed, on balance, the strategy is about right and while there is a desire from a significant number of those responding to go further, the Council through this strategy is committed to the protection of public and privately owned trees. It is not believed the strategy is weaker than the previous one as there is very little difference between the two.
- (ii) There are a number of policies included in Planning documents that also afford protection to trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the Local Plan as amended 2001, Darlington Core Strategy (2011) proposed submission, Local Plan (2016-2036) August 2020.
- (iii) It is not intended to include hedgerows in the strategy as they will be covered through the Planning process for any new development. However, there is limited protection under law for hedgerows but through the Planning process the Council will do all it can to ensure where they are removed for development, there is a net gain in overall biodiversity either on or off site.

17. Question 2

Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the Strategy on Trees on Streets?

YES 52.73%	NO 25.45%	DON'T KNOW 21.82%
110 answered out of 145		

(a) Summary of Comments

- (i) There were 75 comments for this question with the majority in support of the policy for street trees with only a few comments not agreeing with the policy. One theme that came through the comments was a need to include street trees in new developments.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) It is clear that the majority of those that responded to this question are in agreement with the policy therefore it is not proposed to make any changes with regard to street trees. For new developments, where appropriate, developers will be encouraged to include a street tree scheme within the development.

18. Question 3

Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the Strategy on Trees in Woodlands?

YES 53%	NO 30%	DON'T KNOW 17%
100 answered out of 145		

(a) Summary of Comments

- (i) There were 67 comments for this question with a significant number stating the policy does not go far enough and concern with regard to loss of Woodland. A number of comments refer to understanding the level of canopy cover, which can then be monitored over the duration of the strategy.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) Whilst there is concern raised in a significant number of the responses to the level of protection offered to Woodlands, on balance it is believed the policy is appropriate. It is proposed to add an additional action into the strategy in the first year to map Woodlands and quantify canopy cover allowing over time monitoring to take place.

19. Question 4

Do you agree with the draft Council policy in the Strategy on Trees in Parks and Open Spaces?

YES 58.51%	NO 27.66%	DON'T KNOW 13.83%
94 answered out of 145		

(a) Summary of Comments

- (i) There were 66 responses to this question, some expressing concern that the development of orchards in Parks and Open Spaces had been removed from the strategy. There were a number of comments regarding the need for management plans for a specific area, not a generic plan and also concern that maximising safety had been removed. A number of responses were generally in favour of the policies for Parks and Open Spaces.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) With regard to development of orchards, it is proposed to add this back into the strategy and where appropriate we would look to introduce areas of fruit trees in Parks and Open Spaces. It is proposed to have a general management plan for Parks and Open Spaces, however taking on board

the comments, there will be specific sections for some of the more significant Parks and Open Spaces.

20. Question 5

Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the Strategy on Trees in Disused Churchyards and Cemeteries?

YES 64.89%	NO 17.02%	DON'T KNOW 18.09%
94 answered out of 145		

(a) Summary of Comments

- (i) There were 58 comments to this question. Generally, there is agreement with the overall policy for Trees in Cemeteries and Closed Churchyards. A number of comments about the need to be able to plant memorial trees for loved ones.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) There is a recognition of the importance of Trees in Cemeteries and Closed Churchyards with general approval for the policy. With regard to memorial trees, it is proposed to include a wide range of options for memorials as part of the development of the new chapel and refurbished crematorium in West Cemetery.

21. Question 6

Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the Strategy on Trees in Council Housing areas?

YES 60%	NO 20%	DON'T KNOW 20%
90 answered out of 145		

(a) Summary of Comments

- (i) There were 90 comments with regard to the draft policy for Trees in Council Housing Areas that are generally positive, supporting the approach. There is clearly a significant number of comments with regard to more tree planting on Council housing land open spaces.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) As part of the commitment to plant at least 10,000 trees over the next three years, there will be the opportunity to look at areas of open space within Council housing estates.

22. Question 7

Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the strategy for Trees on Privately Owned Land?

YES 42.22%	NO 31.11%	DON'T KNOW 26.67%
90 answered out of 145		

(a) Summary of Comments

- (i) There were 60 comments in response to the policy for Trees on Privately Owned Land. A significant number showing support, however concern that it does not go far enough. Concern was also expressed with regard to the felling of trees to enable housing developments to go ahead.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) Where trees are important and of a quality and form that protecting them through legislation is appropriate, the Council will always do so. The removal of trees for development is considered during the Planning process.
- (ii) Where through the Planning process on balance it is believed the removal of trees is acceptable to enable development, there will always be a requirement for net gain in biodiversity on or off site.

23. Question 8

Do you agree with the Council commitment in the Strategy to plant 10,000 trees in the next 3 years?

YES 56.67%	NO 36.67%	DON'T KNOW 6.67%
90 answered out of 145		

(a) Summary of Comments

- (i) There were 72 comments and the majority agree with planting more trees. The main issues raised are that the target is not ambitious enough and should not include those trees planted by community groups. Concern is also expressed with regard to loss of mature trees and the commitment to replace every tree lost with one new tree. Generally the feed back is this should be more.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) It is encouraging to see the level of support for tree planting and the Council has committed to planting 10,000 trees on its land in partnership with Friends of and community groups. The planting of trees on Council

land would not happen without the support of Council staff. The benefit comes from the trees planted not who plants them. It is proposed to change the target to a commitment to plant at least 10,000 trees on Council land in partnership with Friends of and community groups, however the ambition over the next 3 years is to double this target.

- (ii) To help achieve this, it will be necessary to have a group of key individuals from interested groups, officers and the Council's Portfolio Lead. The role of this group will be to have a clear plan for delivering the ambition, identifying location for tree planting, sourcing the trees and ensuring they are planted.
- (iii) Where trees are removed to enable development to take place, we will require a minimum of two trees to be planted as replacement on or off site. In addition, where a significant tree is removed for legitimate reasons the replacement will be specified to be a heavy standard.

24. Question 9

Please add any further comments you have.

(a) Summary of Comments

- (i) There were 56 comments, a significant number concerned that the strategy does not go far enough to protect trees. Others expressed concern that the existing tree stock is not managed, and the Council don't respond to residents' requests to carry out work to trees, with other commenting the strategy is going in the right direction.

(b) Officer Response

- (i) It has always been a difficult balance between protecting trees, not carrying out unnecessary work to trees and meeting residents' expectations. In some ways this difficult balance can be seen in the comments across all questions with a significant number believing the strategy does not go far enough and others; view that the Council does not maintain the existing tree stock well enough and is not responsive to their requests.
- (ii) As referenced a number of times through the report, additional policies are in place through the Planning process to provide protection for trees where this is appropriate. Alongside this the proposed changes to the strategy will also address some of the concerns.

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee (27 August 2020)

25. As part of the consultation process, Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy and after much debate they:

Resolved that as part of the consultation process, Cabinet be advised of this Scrutiny's view that:

- (a) Consideration should be given to the additional impact on quality of life as a factor when considering tree maintenance and removal;
- (b) Clarification be sought in respect of the special circumstances that would prevent the replacement of a tree following removal;
- (c) Clarification be sought as to whether trees removed are replaced by the same number of trees;
- (d) Consideration should be given to the inclusion of hedgerows, including their replacement when removed, in the Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021-2031.

Officer Response

26. The response to the issues raised by the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee is:

- (a) It is not recommended to move away from existing policy with regard to the maintenance or removal of trees. The proposed policy in the strategy: *“We will not carry out felling or potentially disfiguring forms of tree work in order to improve the reception of television signals, solar panels, wind turbines, CCTV or the alleviation of bird mess, honeydew, leaf fall or fruit fall.”*

If the Council were to move away from this policy and carry out unnecessary works to trees or removal at the request of residents that was not required, in line with good arboriculture management and British Standards, would impact on the quality of trees and tree cover. In addition, resources within the Tree Team would have to be increased to deliver the demand a move away from this policy would create.

Darlington Borough Council is not any different to most Councils with regard to the management and maintenance of trees. Attached at **Appendix 3** is a comparison of Tree Strategies/Policies of our neighbouring Councils and a few further afield. This benchmarking exercise was carried out in late 2019.

Within the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy under the Section headed Equalities Impact Assessment Statement provides the opportunity where issues relating to access or mobility needs of disabled people, the presumption in favour of tree protection will be weighted against those needs through Equalities Impact Assessment on a case by case basis. The overall approach will be to seek to find a solution that avoids the removal of healthy trees. If this is not possible and the removal of trees is necessary, agreement will be sort on appropriate planting.

- (b) The only circumstance where a tree would not be replaced following removal is if a tree was proven to cause structural damage to property.
- (c) Within the strategy it states each tree that is removed will be replaced by one tree. It is proposed to change the strategy to plant a minimum of two trees and where a significant tree is removed it will be replaced with a heavy standard.

- (d) It is not intended to include hedgerows in the strategy as they will be covered through the Planning process for any new development. However, there is limited protection under law for hedgerows but through the Planning process the Council will do all it can to ensure where they are removed for development, there is a net gain in overall biodiversity either on or off site.

Trees in the Stockton and Darlington Rail Corridor

- 27. Attached at **Appendix 4** is a submission from the Planning Officer and Trustee of Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

Officer Response

- 28. The Stockton and Darlington Railway is of significant importance and as stated in the submission, is recognised in a number of strategies and policy documents. Alongside these documents, the programme of work and variety of projects in the Stockton and Darlington Heritage Action Zone and the 200 Year Anniversary will also increase awareness and value of this historic asset. In addition, the work being undertaken along the full 26 miles as part of the walking and cycling project will improve the overall experience and biodiversity.
- 29. The range of existing policies within the Tree and Woodland Strategy, while not specifically referencing the Stockton and Darlington Railway do cover the range of spaces and types of trees therefore it is not felt appropriate to have a separate section for the Stockton and Darlington Railway in the strategy.

Proposed Change to Draft Strategy

- 30. Following the consultation, it is proposed to include the following changes to the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy.
 - (a) **Street Trees**
 - (i) For new developments, where appropriate, developers will be encouraged to include a street tree scheme within the development.
 - (b) **Trees in Woodland**
 - (i) In the first year of the strategy to include an action to quantify canopy cover in the Borough.
 - (c) **Trees in Parks and Open Spaces**
 - (i) We will look to introduce fruit trees into parks and open spaces where appropriate.
 - (ii) Within the management plan for parks and open spaces there will be a specific section for significant parks and open spaces.
 - (d) **Tree Planting**
 - (i) To plant at least 10,000 trees on Council land in the next three years in partnership with community groups with an ambition to double the target

over the same period. Funding will be sought from external bodies as well as the use of existing resources.

- (ii) To establish an overarching group to develop a plan for tree planting across the Borough.
- (iii) Where trees are removed to enable development to take place, a minimum of two trees will be planted per tree lost on or off site.
- (iv) Where a significant tree is removed for legitimate reasons, the replacement will be specified as a heavy standard.

Conclusion

31. It is clear from the responses to the consultation from the public, Scrutiny and interested organisations and groups that there are strong views on both sides of the debate to provide greater protection for trees or to lean more to those that want a more responsive approach to tree management and maintenance. This is the difficult balance officers and Members have had to juggle over the years, however it is believed the balance in the strategy is right.
32. There is a limited amount of protection in law for hedgerows and through the Planning process the Council will do all it can to ensure where they are removed for development, there is a net gain in overall biodiversity either on site or off site where appropriate.
33. Through the Planning process, appropriate safeguards are in place to provide teeth to the Tree and Woodland Strategy, however there is always a balance of trees protection, individuals' needs and development need. The main aim is any loss of tree cover as a result of development must always be a net overall gain in biodiversity.
34. For tree planting, there is a strong desire through the consultation to go further and be more ambitious and this, subject to Cabinet approval, will be achieved by setting the target at least 10,000 with an ambition to double that target in the next three years, working in partnership with a range of community groups. This ambition will be driven forward and overseen by a group of key individuals, organisations, officers and Portfolio Lead.
35. On balance it is believed the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy is the right one for Darlington with the proposed changes discussed in this report.



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TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

2021-2031

GRAPHICS TO DO FRONT COVER

- To include montage of tree pictures (street trees, housing estate trees, park trees)

FOREWORD

Councillor Andy Keir, Local Services Portfolio Holder

We know that people want to live in a pleasant environment that is clean, green and safe and this is why it is part of our vision for the future of Darlington. Trees and woodland areas play a vital and integral part in achieving this by cleaning the air we breathe, providing a habitat for plants and animal species and creating an attractive environment for people to live in and to visit.

Trees are a unique component of the landscape, unlike man-made structures; they are living organisms subject to change, which are vulnerable to damage by vandalism, development, pest and diseases. Many trees are long-lived, offering enjoyment and a diversity of benefits to residents both today and in the future.

Trees provide us with important services such as reducing air pollution and helping reduce flooding by intercepting rainfall and therefore allowing it to disperse into the ground at a reduced rate to be absorbed by the soil.

Trees also contribute significantly to the reduction of carbon dioxide and are therefore integral to the well being of the planet and link with the Council's Climate Change Declaration

To ensure the huge contribution of both Council owned and privately owned trees to our landscape continues, it is essential that their needs and requirements are understood and planned for and this strategy sets out how we will do this.

Finding Out More

For more information on the Tree Strategy, please contact:



www.darlington.gov.uk



enquiries@darlington.gov.uk



Senior Arboricultural Officer, Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services,
Darlington Borough Council, 17 Allington Way, Darlington, DL1 4QB.



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LOGO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND FORMAT

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Introduction

Darlington Borough Council adopted the first Tree Strategy for Darlington in 2000. However, since 2000 things have moved on. People are beginning to place a higher priority on the environment in which they live, which in turn has increased public awareness of the benefits provided by trees.

It is therefore essential that a framework is created through which the trees of Darlington can be both protected and enhanced for future generations. This strategy is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors, officers and professionally interested people to enable informed discussion and to establish a clearer, consistent and more structured approach to the issues affecting trees in our Borough.

The aim of this strategy is:

‘To proactively manage and enlarge the tree population of the Borough of Darlington in order to protect our historical heritage of trees and provide a valued environmental amenity for future generations.’

The Borough of Darlington

The Borough of Darlington covers an area of almost 200 square kilometres and has a population 106,000 of which approximately 90% live within the town of Darlington. The area outside the town is dominated by a rural landscape, with agriculture being both the historic and current primary industry. The town however, became one of the focal points of the industrial revolution, being the ‘birthplace of the modern passenger railway’. This brought to Darlington both prosperity and a sudden growth in development within the structure of the town that is characteristic of Victorian landscapes.

It is thanks to these Victorian forebears that Darlington has a living legacy of urban street trees, historic parks and wooded cemeteries that is the envy of many other towns. This includes South Park, established in 1849 when farmland was bequeathed to the town. The park is now included in English Heritage’s Register of ‘Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest’ and is referred to within the register as “a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century public park”. This Tree Strategy has been developed with due regard to protecting the tree heritage we have in Darlington.

What Residents Have Told Us

Residents have identified a number of common sources of complaint about trees, including overhanging branches, shade, leaf/fruit fall, sticky deposits, obstructing and physical damage. Many of these problems can be dealt with by careful pruning once the tree is established. However, sometimes the problem is a result of inappropriate species selection in the past and may be difficult or impossible to resolve in all parties’ favour.

Also, a common theme from complaints is the potential for structural damage caused through soil moisture extraction by tree roots.

This type of damage only occurs in areas where the soil type is heavy, shrinkable clay, which is prone to fluctuations in volume caused by changing soil moisture levels. There has been a relatively low amount of concern regarding tree roots and foundations in recent years. Much of this is unsubstantiated and the incidence of proven tree root related claims against the Council remains low despite the level of tree cover and proportion of our Borough having soils with a partial clay content. There are however occasions when removal/replacement of a tree or group of trees is required to halt a serious or a worsening case of subsidence damage.

Policy Framework

Context

Residents have told us that they want to live in a pleasant environment that is clean, green and safe and this is why it is part of our vision for the future of Darlington. This vision is being brought alive by working closely with our partners through the Darlington Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership). The Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy, 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed', is built around a vision of Darlington in 2026. It sets out the priorities for people (One Darlington) and place (Perfectly Placed) that need to be addressed if the vision is to be achieved. This strategy can contribute to the vision by helping to ensure that Darlington provides an attractive, green environment that supports people's quality of life and by recognising the part that trees can play in counter-balancing CO₂ emissions and contributing to action on climate change.

Climate declaration

Darlington Borough Council in July 2019 declared a climate emergency. In this regard, the Council has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050 and will work with partners including residents, trade unions, public sector organisations, businesses and the third sector on developing a plan to reach this target. The planting of 10,000 trees between 2021-2024 will be included within this plan. The Woodland Trust estimates a young mixed woodland can store 400+ tonnes of carbon per hectare, and whilst we will be doing everything we can do to reduce the Council's carbon emissions, there will inevitably be a residual amount that needs to be offset. This tree planting policy forms one part of that solution.

How To Use This Strategy

This strategy covers the following aspects:

- How we manage trees we, the Council, own
- How we protect trees the public own on private land
- Action plan setting out what needs to be done over the next five years to achieve our aim

It is important to clarify the trees the Council owns, these are:

- **Street Trees** - These are the trees planted in pavements or road verges along the Council's highway network. They help to filter traffic pollution, provide shade for car parking and pedestrians and improve the overall appearance of the street scene.
- **Woodlands** - We maintain woodlands, which is approximately 3% of the Borough. The number of parks and open spaces also contains a proportion of woodland.
- **Trees in Parks and Open Space** - These are commonly the most significant trees in the area and have profound effect on its appearance and consequently, upon the leisure experience of users of the open space as well as for visual amenity for our residents and visitors alike.
- **Trees within Cemeteries and Disused Cemeteries** – Historic England has bequeathed parts of West Cemetery a site of special interest and is regarded as having one of the finest tree collections in the North of England.
- **Housing Area Trees** - These are found in and around communal or residential type gardens maintained by the Housing Department. These trees help to improve the landscape especially around communal housing areas and provide shade during hot weather and wildlife.

The above categories are by no means an exhaustive list, as we also maintain trees in allotments and other parcels of land.

Process To Review The Tree Strategy

The Tree Strategy Action Plan will be monitored on an annual basis to ensure that the actions are being delivered according to the timescales set out. The Tree Strategy will be subject to a review every ten years.

How We Will Manage All Council Owned Trees

The existing tree population is a valuable resource that requires more than just maintenance if it is to continue to provide the range of benefits that we expect. Management will include a long-term view of the tree resource, providing for the future as well as for today.

Planting Species

The different species for planting reflect, in most cases, what is already in situ. Different species will only be used if the originals are unavailable on the market, are unsuitable for the location, are prone to pest and disease attack or are part of a road containing mixed types.

Aftercare

All newly planted trees need aftercare, which includes:

- Watering in dry weather
- Checking and adjusting stakes/ties

Protective Measures

- High profile areas where there is a risk of vandalism should be planted using guards
- Areas covered by CCTV also require consultation with the operator before planting new trees

Pruning Work

All pruning work will be carried out to modern safety and technical standards and to standards set within BS 3998 2010 and subsequent revisions. Precautions are to be taken to avoid disturbance of nesting birds (between March to September) and Bat roosts. Advice will be sought if Bat roosts are believed to be present.

The type of pruning used will vary according to the tree species, age, condition, past works and the nature of any complaint associated with the tree.

In cases where trees are colonised by ivy, this can be left undisturbed unless the tree is becoming visibly suppressed or is likely to be vulnerable to wind damage or for a visible inspection of trees. Ivy provides valuable habitat and should not be removed during the bird-nesting season.

Pruning is usually found to be necessary because of the following reasons:

- To maintain the health and safety of the tree
- Obstruction to users of the highway, pathways and/or private property
- To abate actionable nuisance

Intervals for pruning will vary between species and locations i.e. visual restrictions on the Highway. Minor works e.g. the removal of basal growth will need annual attention in some cases. Pruning can take place at most times of the year but ideally leaf flushing and Autumn should be avoided as well as flowering periods. Certain species have more specific times because of disease and the risk of bleeding. Trees, which are adjacent to pathways, will be lifted so that passage is unhindered at a reasonable level within their canopies.

Tree Removal

It is sometimes necessary to remove trees for the following reasons:

- When they are dead, dying or dangerous
- To allow space for development of nearby trees that may be more desirable for retention
- To allow light and room for new planting
- To make way for any approved engineering or building works
- To abate actionable nuisance
- If Bats are found roosting in a tree scheduled for removal then the Council has to obtain advice from qualified persons before starting work

Cyclical Tree Work

Work should be carried out to all trees on a regular basis according to their needs. Therefore, we will adopt biannual inspections of Highway trees and a 5 yearly inspection regime for other trees. A cyclical tree work regime brings the following benefits:

- Discovering dead or dying trees sooner and officer time can be targeted more effectively
- All trees receive attention so that few will become excessively overgrown before the next pruning cycle
- Fewer complaints
- Maintain improved appearance of roads
- Reduce insurance claims

Responsive Tree Work

There will always be a need to carry out responsive work even when cyclical work is established. The quantity of this work should reduce in proportion as cyclical work increases.

Residents' Concerns

Trees have the potential to cause damage to buildings and structures, consequently many homeowners are concerned about tree roots and foundation damage. Normally, this type of damage occurs where the soil type is shrinkable, usually clay, which is susceptible to soil movement from moisture extraction. Fortunately in the Borough of Darlington, although pockets of clay do exist, the majority of soils are of a non-shrinkable nature. It should also be noted that where buildings are damaged, trees are rarely the sole cause. Much of the concern surrounding trees and building damage is unsubstantiated and claims against the Council for tree root damage remain low, especially in view of the huge number of trees under its care.

However, there is clearly a case for providing clear, concise and simple information on this subject and for promoting appropriate research where possible. We will endeavour to investigate residents concerns and will take every appropriate action to prevent any further difficulties.

We have a policy only to remove trees that are dead, diseased, dangerous or can be proven to be linked to damage caused to buildings. This approach fully addresses the Council's duty of care in accordance with current industry best practice and ensures that all possible investigations are carried out.

Our Policy for the Management of All Council Trees:

1. We will ensure that the tree population continues to be developed and expanded with new planting where appropriate. Any trees removed shall be replaced unless there are special circumstances preventing this.
2. We will provide a sustainable, high quality tree population. Where appropriate, native species will be planted to maximise habitats for wildlife.
3. We will encourage and enable better understanding of the management of trees in order to promote greater community ownership and awareness.
4. We will maintain the highest possible standards of tree care and management by:
 - i) Working to standards set within BS 3998 2010.
 - ii) Adopting best practise according to all relevant legislation and research.
5. We will fulfil our obligation to ensure the safety of people and property.
6. We will endeavour to avoid any work to trees that result in the loss of valuable wildlife habitat.
7. We will resist the removal of trees unless there are sound arboricultural or other reasons e.g. disease or structural damage.
8. We will not carry out felling or potentially disfiguring forms of tree work in order to improve the reception of television signals, solar panels and wind turbines or for CCTV operations, or the alleviation of bird mess, honey dew, leaf or fruit fall.
9. We will support the process of natural regeneration on appropriate sites.
10. We will maximise the recycling of tree related 'waste' created by the Council's own tree management.
11. We will require more active protection of Council tree stock from avoidable damage caused by agencies responsible for engineering works near trees, such as highway maintenance contractors and the utility companies.
12. We will endeavour where possible to keep tree cover

Street Trees

Street trees are trees located next to or within a public road. Trees planted in the highway help to reduce vehicle speeds (Department for Transport, 2007). They assist in improving road safety, as they can provide and maintain a buffer between pedestrians and vehicles. Street trees can assist in reducing traffic speed by giving the impression that the road narrower and this may encourage slower driving.

The roadside environment is a tough place for a tree to survive. There is often intense pressure for space from underground cables and pipes, traffic, buildings, street lights, road signs, etc. This limited space is often polluted by car emissions, road salt, oil and other pollutants that challenge the tree's survival. There is also an increasing trend by car users to park their vehicles on verges, causing rutting and soil compaction, which seriously damages tree roots as well as leaving the verge in an unsightly and unsafe condition. This coincides with an increasing requirement for off street parking and subsequent construction of new vehicle crossovers. Despite all of this, trees can and do survive, albeit with a more limited life expectancy and with varying degrees of success.

Many of our most notable tree lined streets have tree populations that are over-mature. Such trees are vulnerable to climatic variations (such as drought), disease and damage. An over-mature population of street trees tends to erode gradually over a number of years as individual trees decline and have to be removed. This generally affects the older areas of the Borough. In these areas new trees should be introduced between the mature trees to ensure that there will be continuous tree cover in future years.

In planning for the replacement of older forest-type trees, it is tempting to consider using small short-lived ornamental species that do not have the same scale and habit, thereby reducing maintenance costs. However, the massive contribution that large trees make to the character of the environment must be maintained and safeguarded, and be supported by new planting of similar species where applicable. This will help to ensure that the balance of a dominant 'treescape' is retained within the Borough.

Our Policy For Street Trees:

1. We will maintain our presumption against the removal of trees that are healthy but subject to complaint, unless the basis of the complaint has an overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.
2. We will place a priority on the replacement of aging street tree populations, particularly where these adjoin major traffic routes, planting large-growing trees where appropriate.
3. We will seek to plant new street trees in appropriate sites with priority given to sites where street trees are currently or have in the past been located.
4. We will aim to use the same type of tree species for new and/or replacement planting in roads that reflect the type in use locally, maintaining single species avenues where appropriate.

5. We will endeavour to protect street trees and the growing environment from threats such as: loss of and damage to verges, the activities of statutory undertakers and others excavating near trees and damage from the over-use of road de-icing salt.
6. We will not support the removal of trees for vehicle crossovers unless the tree is of limited life expectancy or can be relocated elsewhere. All trees removed will be replaced and all costs will be borne by the crossover applicant.
7. We will support measures that discourage verge parking by road vehicles and damage to verge caused by adjoining building works.
8. We will give advanced notice to all interested parties of proposed major tree work programmes, such as large scale felling.
9. We will maintain the highway trees.

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Trees In Woodlands

The majority of the Borough's woodland is made up of Oak, Beech, Hornbeam, Ash, Birch, Hazel, Maple, Sycamore, Elm, Willow, Poplar, Thorn, Walnut, Chestnut, Pine, Cherry and Holly. Most of the woodlands in the Borough will be managed with nature conservation objectives as a priority; some are managed by our in-house team. The future management of woodlands needs to address the continued problem of neglect. Woodland management will need to take into account the multi-purpose objectives, which woodlands today fulfil, when appropriate dead trees will be left in situ to provide habitat for wildlife.

Our Policy For Trees In Woodlands

1. We will ensure woodlands have an up-to-date management plan in place.
2. We will ensure that woodlands are managed as a long-term sustainable resource for the public, for education and for nature conservation.
3. We will support the natural regeneration on appropriate sites.
4. We will, where appropriate, ensure dead and fallen trees and wood are left on site and dead trees are left standing to encourage species diversity, unless there are sound conservation and safety reasons for removal.
5. We will manage woodland to fulfil its obligation to ensure safety of people and property whilst remembering that woodlands are natural places and the level of acceptable risk must reflect this.

Trees In Parks And Open Spaces

The Victorian legacy of fine specimen planting is more apparent within the parks and open spaces of Darlington than in any other area. Tree planting within the parks mirrored the popular interests of the time in botany and horticulture, hence the planting of various exotic specimen trees.

The tree coverage within these sites has for a long time provided a stunning amenity that can only be created and maintained through the presence of large mature specimens that were chosen for both their aesthetic qualities and contribution to the site as a whole.

This situation however is precariously placed at present. Little or no under planting has occurred within many areas; leading to the possibility of extensive loss of continuous tree-canopy coverage should mature trees require removal. Where under planting and replanting has been undertaken, the trees that have been planted often will never be of the same amenity value as the trees they are to replace, due to the use of smaller, less expensive species. This use of inappropriate trees has the potential to devalue this resource forever.

Our Policy For Trees in Parks and Open Spaces

1. Sensory arboretums aim to open parks to a wider range of people including people with learning difficulties and physical impairments. Trees will be selected for their attractive fragrance, interesting bark, flowers, leaves, sounds and form.
2. We will create a varied and sustained tree population in Council parks and open spaces.
3. We will develop a long-term management plan for trees in parks and open spaces to identify the areas of risk.
4. We will continue, where appropriate, to plant native trees of native species from local provenance.

Trees In Disused Churchyards And Cemeteries

We maintain three large cemeteries within the Borough: these are North Cemetery, East Cemetery and West Cemetery. English Heritage has bequeathed parts of West Cemetery, a site of special interest. Some of the oldest trees in Darlington are within West Cemetery, as historically people would plant a tree as a monument to their loved ones. We will continue this practice within West Cemetery should residents require it.

Our Policy for Disused Churchyard And Cemetery Trees

1. We will create a varied and sustained tree population in Council disused churchyards and cemeteries.
2. We will develop long term management plans for trees in disused churchyards and cemeteries to identify areas of risk and to prevent decline.
3. We will continue, where appropriate, to plant amenity trees and native species of local provenance.

Trees in Council Housing Areas

Many of the public housing areas within the Borough have a good number and selection of trees, many of which are large old hedgerow trees, which are now over maturing. If evergreen hedges are not maintained to an acceptable level, then it may be necessary to remove them.

A large proportion of the trees within Council house gardens have been planted by tenants or by natural regeneration from seed. A number of trees have been inappropriately planted in the past on housing open spaced land and within some communal gardens.

Our Policy For Trees in Council Housing Areas

1. Housing trees are to be maintained and managed by the Authority.
2. We will manage trees in communal gardens on a more proactive basis to ensure they fulfil health and safety requirements and do not pose a risk to structures or the public.

Trees On Private Land

The greatest proportion of both the urban and rural tree population is privately owned. Therefore, this part of the strategy sets out our approach to the protection of privately owned trees in the area.

As the Local Planning Authority, we have a statutory duty to take steps to protect trees that we believe make an important contribution to the amenity of the areas. The quality of private tree care is very variable and ranges from owners who are indifferent, through motivated but poorly advised owners, to those who take great pride in their trees and are anxious to seek the best advice and engage quality contractors to carry out required work.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, we have powers to make and enforce Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) and designate Conservation Areas (CA's) within which all established trees are protected. It is usually only in cases of potential threat that a local authority will protect trees by use of a TPO.

Protection has not only been achieved through the statutory process, a substantial number of trees have been saved from inappropriate pruning or premature felling by the offer of tree advice from Council's officers. Recommendation is given to use reputable contractors/consultant who can give more detailed advice on site.

Advice can be given to the owners of protected trees and other tree owners; this advice is offered free and is seen as a valuable part of tree protection. The Council is however unable to give detailed advice regarding the safety of privately-owned trees.

Statutory Protection Of Trees

The current Town and Country Planning Act 1990 makes it a duty of the Local Planning Authority to "ensure whenever it is appropriate that, in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made by the imposition of conditions for the preservation of planting of trees" and to "make Tree Preservation Orders, under Section 198, as appear to the authority to be necessary in connection with the granting of such permission, whether for giving effect to such conditions or otherwise."

As part of the Council's duty as set out in the 1990 Act, it will incorporate improved policies relating to Trees and Woodlands within its Local Plan through the review process.

More generally:

- Significant healthy trees and other landscape features such as hedgerows, ponds and watercourses shall be retained.

- Planning applications on sites with significant existing landscaping shall be supported by a full tree survey indicating all landscape features, tree species, canopy spreads, trunk diameter and levels at the base of each tree.
- Trees shall not normally be severely topped or lopped, or endangered by construction work or underground services. In addition, buildings shall not be sited so that sunlight and daylight is reduced to an extent that would lead to a request for a tree surgery.
- The Council will make Tree Preservation Orders and/or attach appropriate conditions to planning permissions to safeguard existing trees and ensure that new planting is established and protected.
- Where appropriate, adequate space for planting must be allowed within developments. In particular, screen planting including large trees will normally be required at the edge of settlements.
- Detailed landscaping schemes will normally be required as part of full planning applications. Amongst other things they must indicate existing trees and shrubs to be retained; trees to be felled; the planting of new trees, shrubs and grass; and screening and paving. Preference should be given to the use of native trees. Wildlife corridors shall be established wherever opportunities occur.

We are also guided by the Department of the Environment Circular 36/78 "Trees and Forestry" and Department of the Environment "*Good Practice Guide for Tree Preservation Orders 2000*" (and as amended).

While the most commonly known form of the statutory tree protection is the Tree Preservation Order (TPO), equally important are Conservation Areas within which nearly all established trees are protected. New TPO's are being made all the time in line with its statutory duties.

The title "Tree Preservation Order" suggests that the tree or trees are "preserved" for all time. This is not the case and is, of course, impossible. Trees have a finite life and will require attention at some time in their life, especially in urban areas near properties etc. The TPO ensures that the local authority, as an independent party, has a measure of control over the fate of the tree to ensure that only appropriate works are carried out and that, where appropriate, the tree is replaced at the end of its life. Any tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order or Conservation Area that is rendered dangerous e.g. by storm damage or disease can be made safe without formal consent from the local planning authority. Tree owners or contractors are however encouraged to write to the Council to put any exempted work on record.

Trees on Development Sites

One of the most common threats against trees (and therefore a common reason for making a TPO) is the proposed development of land upon which trees are growing. It is common for plans to be submitted showing a relationship between trees and buildings that is unsuitable.

Schemes are frequently amended to ensure that significant trees are properly retained often through a process of working within the applicant to reach mutually acceptable solutions to the conflicts that can arise.

Some developers assume that all trees on a site will have to be retained and consequently often view trees as a problem rather than an asset. Unfortunately, this can occasionally result in trees being removed from development sites before a planning application is made.

It is common for planning applications to fail to provide sufficient information to assess the likely impact upon trees on a proposed development site. This usually means that Council Officers have to spend time making detailed assessment of trees and other factors, which can delay the application process. This is easily addressed by developers and other professionals accessing the pre-application advice and guidance that the Council gives.

It is usual for us to impose tree protection and/or planting conditions as part of any planning permission. For the trees to be retained successfully within a development site, it is vital that their root system is properly protected from direct and indirect damage such as ground compaction. The protected areas should be large enough to ensure that no disturbance occurs within the crown spread of the tree as a minimum, the distance can vary accordingly to local ground conditions, tree species and health. Guidance for tree protection within development sites can be found within BS 5837 (2012).

Protection Through Advice

The advice we give is seen as an important area of work contributing to the general protection of the tree population.

Land owners have a Common Law right to remove (abate) the nuisance associated with tree encroaching onto your property.

They can only consider removing those parts of the tree from the point where they cross the boundary of your property. Land owners have no legal right to cut or remove any part of a tree that does not overhang your property;

Land owners are strongly advised to consult a professional tree surgeon for guidance on how best to prune back encroaching trees, they may be liable if the tree is heavily pruned in such a way as render it unstable. If the works are trivial meaning you could do the works with hand secateurs or similar; then such advice may not be necessary.

Before considering doing any works to a tree or trees you should find out if they are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are within a Conservation Area. If the trees are protected, the land owner will need to gain consent by making an application give notice to the Council's Planning Department. To find out if the trees are protected and guidance on how to apply for works if they are protected contact:

- write to the Planning Department, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT
- send a fax to 01325 388616
- email planning@darlington.gov.uk

Land owners are strongly advised to discuss with your neighbour your intention to prune encroaching branches.

Legally you do not own the encroaching branches and you should offer these to your neighbour but they are not obliged to accept them, you should consider disposing of the arisings yourself. If the encroachment relates to a Council owned tree, any cuttings must be disposed of appropriately and not returned to Council land.

There are a variety of potential seasonal nuisances associated with trees, most of which are minor and considered to be problems associated with living near trees.

Falling leaves, honeydew, fruit, nuts, bird droppings or blossom, leaves falling into gutters, drains or onto flat roofs. Darlington Borough Council will not fell or prune Council owned trees solely to alleviate problems caused by such natural phenomena.

The maintenance of gutters is the responsibility of the landowner and the Council is not obliged to remove leaves that may have fallen from Council owned trees. Where gutters are regularly blocked by fallen leaves, gutter guards may be fitted to provide a low maintenance solution. Honeydew is caused by greenfly (aphids) feeding on the tree, and then excreting a sugary sap. Often the honeydew is colonised by a mould, which causes it to go black. There is little that can be done to remove the aphid which causes the problem and pruning the tree may only offer temporary relief and any re-growth is often more likely to be colonised by greenfly thereby potentially increasing the problem. Some trees, such as limes, are more prone to attack by greenfly and in some years greenfly are more common, especially following a mild winter.

Honeydew is a natural and seasonal problem as are nesting birds which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, where bird droppings and honeydew affects cars, warm soapy water will remove the substance, particularly if you wash the car as soon as possible.

Our Policies For The Protection Of Privately Owned Trees

1. We will seek to protect trees of amenity (and environmental) value.
2. We will promote good standards of tree care and woodland management.
3. We will give consent for works to a tree or woodland protected by a Tree Preservation Order provided it is satisfied that:
 - i) The long term health and appearance of the tree or woodland will not be impaired.
 - ii) The work will not unjustifiably inhibit or prevent the full and natural development of the tree.
 - iii) The work is necessary to its continued retention and consistent with good arboricultural practice.

- iv) In the case of a woodland, the proposed work is consistent with the principles of sound woodland management.
 - v) There are sound arboricultural and/or safety reasons for the work.
4. We may impose planning conditions to protect trees according to BS 5837 (2012).
 5. There will be a presumption against the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree protected by the Tree Preservation Order, Conservation Area or planning condition.
 6. We will not give consent to fell a tree or protect by a TPO unless it is satisfied that this is necessary and justified. Generally, any such consent will be conditional upon appropriate replacement of the tree. Any unauthorised works to protected trees will be investigated and enforcement action taken where appropriate.
 7. We will resist development, which it is considered makes inadequate provision for the retention of trees and other woody plants and natural features, particularly wildlife habitats such as woodlands.
 8. We will continue to protect significant trees by the use of Tree Preservation Orders and will review all such Orders periodically to ensure they contain accurate information.
 9. Applicants for the development of land with existing trees shall provide a tree survey with their application showing accurate positions of both trees to be retained and removed, including their dimensions and condition.
 10. We will usually expect a new site development to contribute to the overall tree population either through on-site planting through planning conditions or through the donation of funds via 'Section 106 Agreement' dedicated to the planting of trees by the Council in the locality.
 11. We will encourage all major tree-owning organisations to adopt best practice in the care of their trees, especially where those trees contribute to the character of the Borough.
 12. The Senior Arboricultural Officer will develop closer links with the Planning Section to keep up-to-date with planning applications that have been authorised or refused.
 13. If any land is to be adopted by the Council from a development, that the relevant officers inspect the site before the land is handed over, if trees are within this area, a tree survey should be carried out for health and safety purposes and that the developer would carry out any works which are necessary at their own expense. Any trees which require removal, should be replaced with heavy standard trees with a five-year maintenance plan, so that the Council do not adopt costly works.

Tree Planting

The Council has made a commitment to plant 10,000 trees in the three year period of 2021-2024. This target of 10,000 trees will be planted on public land in partnership with various 'Friends of' and community groups across the Borough. The ambition is to continue tree planting at this level past 2024 and sites will be identified that can meet the Council's target.

Further to this, the Council will also plant a tree for every tree that has been removed due to the conditions set out in this policy. Where appropriate we will ensure that trees lost as part of any new development are replaced within 5 years by the developer.

We will work with local communities to identify suitable sites for the planting of trees to deliver our aspirations. We will also work with communities to ensure we plant appropriate species of trees in the various locations identified.

Equalities Impact Assessment Statement

This tree strategy provides a framework for the Council to manage trees, woodlands and hedgerows in the Borough in ways that enhance life and well being for people and wildlife.

Whilst the overriding aim of the strategy is to safeguard trees as an important part of Darlington's environmental quality, the Council recognises that in certain circumstances there may be conflict between tree protection and people's requirements for access or other needs. Where such circumstances arise, normally there will be a presumption in favour of protecting trees.

However, where issues arise relating to the access or mobility needs of disabled people, the presumption in favour of tree protection will be weighed against those needs through Equalities Impact Assessment on a case-by-case basis. This recognises that the protection of trees must be balanced with the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to advance equality of opportunity for disabled people, as well as other people with protected characteristics specified in the act.

This shift in the balance of consideration will only be applied where a disabled person's needs are specifically related to their impairment or disability, as distinct from general views or preferences that might be shared by any citizen.

Where such circumstances arise in relation to development proposals, the needs of disabled people and the desirability of protecting trees will be balanced within the planning application process. Policies CS2 and CS19 within the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework promote the access needs of disabled people, whilst CS15 provides the policy framework for tree protection.

In circumstances not related to development proposals, such as the maintenance and management of trees in the highway, this policy statement within the Tree Strategy provides the trigger for considering the needs of disabled people and of tree protection by means of Equality Impact Assessment. The overall approach will be to seek to find solutions that avoid the removal of healthy trees. If this is not possible, and the removal of trees is necessary, agreement will be sought on appropriate replanting.

In practice, the most frequent concerns tend to be related to problems with raised roots or low hanging branches on footways or in public open spaces. In most cases these can be easily rectified by routine management.

In cases of raised roots it will be important to seek to find solutions that do not cause medium to long term damage to trees.

Resolving problems arising from trees is often dependant on the ways in which maintenance work is carried out by front-line staff.

The Council will seek to ensure through appropriate training that staff are aware of the needs of disabled people in dealing on a routine basis with problems such as overhanging branches and raised roots.

Tree Strategy Action Plan

Action <u>2020</u>	Lead Officer	Time for completion
Assure safety of Borough's tree stock. This will be primarily concerned with the removal of diseased street trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Begin rolling survey of the Borough's tree stock.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Biannual inspections of Highways trees will take place.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Investigate trees required for West Cemetery and also present stock quality and quantity.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue replanting of street trees removed due to decay.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue compiling database of future potential planting schemes.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Reassessment of TPO trees.	Phil Haynes/ Dave Coates	Ongoing
Tree planting scheme for Darlington, including Parks, open spaces road and potential sites on major routes entering the Borough.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Monitor tree strategy.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

Action <u>2021</u>	Lead Officer	Time for completion
Re-planting of street trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Re-assessment of TPO trees.	Phil Haynes/ Dave Coates	Ongoing
Continue rolling survey of the Borough's tree stock.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Begin parks assessments, with plans formulated for re-planting and under planting.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Locate positions and pursue planting within access routes into town.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

Action 2021	Lead Officer	Time for completion
Inventory and management proposals of Borough's rural woodlands.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Inspections and monitoring of high risk trees.	Phil Haynes	Within the specified time scale.
Inspection of high risk (subsidence related) trees as outlined on Housing tree survey.	Phil Haynes	Within the specified time scale.
Replanting of removed trees with more suitable species.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Monitor tree strategy.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

Action 2022	Lead Officer	Time for completion
Continue biannual inspections of Highways trees will take place.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Parks replanting and under planting. Following park by park prescription to assure continuous tree coverage and perpetuation of each park's character.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue individual woodland assessments.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue rolling survey of the Borough's tree stock.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue reassessment of TPO trees.	Phil Haynes/ Dave Coates	Ongoing
Continue re-planting of removed trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue re-inspection and monitoring programme of high risk trees.	Phil Haynes	Within the specified time scale.
Monitor tree strategy.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

Action 2023	Lead Officer	Time for completion
Continue to link areas of extended woodland with green corridors, to create corridors of continuous cover from within the town out into rural woodlands.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue biannual inspections of Highways trees will take place.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue Parks replanting and under planting.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue reassessment of TPO trees.	Phil Haynes/ Dave Coates	Ongoing
Continue re-planting of removed trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue re-inspection and monitoring programme of high-risk trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

Action <u>2023</u>	Lead Officer	Time for completion
Continue woodland assessments.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue utilisation of prospective planting areas as outlined on database.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Monitor tree strategy.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

Action <u>2024</u>	Lead Officer	Time for completion
Biannual inspections of Highways trees will take place.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue Parks replanting and under planting.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue reassessment of TPO trees.	Phil Haynes/ Dave Coates	Ongoing
Continue re-planting of removed trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Re-planting of street trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue re-inspection and monitoring programme of high-risk trees.	Phil Haynes	Within the specified time scale.
Continue woodland assessments.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue utilisation of prospective planting areas as outlined on database.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Review and reassessment of Tree Strategy	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Monitor tree strategy.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

Action <u>2025</u>	Lead Officer	Time for completion
Biannual inspections of Highways trees will take place.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue rolling survey of the Borough's tree stock.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue reassessment of TPO trees.	Phil Haynes/ Dave Coates	Ongoing
Continue re-planting of removed trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Continue re-inspection and monitoring programme of high-risk trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Assure safety of Borough's tree stock. This will be primarily concerned with the removal of diseased street trees.	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

Monitor tree strategy	Phil Haynes	Ongoing
Review Next Five Years' Action Plan	Phil Haynes	Ongoing

'Trees are the longest living organisms on earth, they are beautiful and a precious part of our natural heritage, without them our landscape would be desolate, but a treeless landscape means the loss of far more than just beauty.'

The Tree Council (2000)

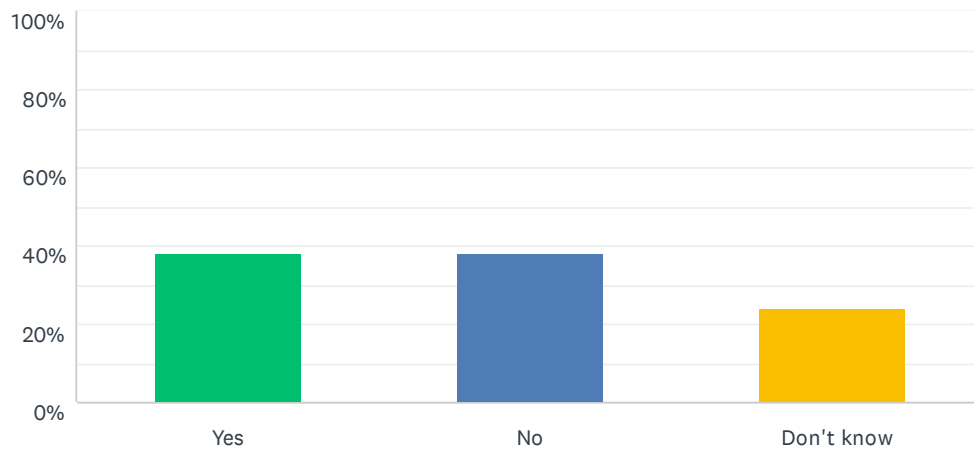
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APPENDIX 2

Q1 Do you agree with the draft Council Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021-23?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	37.93%	55
No	37.93%	55
Don't know	24.14%	35
TOTAL		145

Q2 Please give details as to why you chose the option you did to the question about the draft strategy in the box below.

Answered: 125 Skipped: 20

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	<p>There are issues that require further thought and consideration. Q2 General. Darlington Borough Council adopted the first Tree Strategy for Darlington in 2000. Twenty years have passed, The Climate Change Act 2008 has become law, requiring Co2 emissions to reduce to zero by 2050 to prevent catastrophic changes to the stability of our planet. In 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency. Planting trees is an effective and essential part of the strategy to cut carbon pollution. Trees are highly valued in our communities, public awareness of the benefits provided by trees has increased dramatically due to the known benefits in personal wellbeing and the well documented contribution trees and hedgerows make to sound mental health. In the 'Introduction to the Trees and Woodland Strategy' Darlington Borough Council, DBC, states it is " essential that a framework is created through which the trees of Darlington can be both protected and enhanced for future generations." We suggest that this should include the ambition to increase tree cover and to include hedgerow habitat (defined as being 3 metres wide to include the hedgerows and the land adjacent to it). Protection is needed to protect vital wildlife corridors which are an important and vital part of navigation for many wildlife including the protected bat species which navigate using hedgerows. The importance of hedgerows was mentioned by the CCC, The Climate Change Committee in its May 2019 report 'Net Zero'. We suggest that it is "essential that a framework is created through which the trees and hedgerows of Darlington be significantly increased, protected and enhanced for future generations." You mention the desire to create a 'frame work' which suggests a structured approach. Does this include maps and descriptions of all existing Green Spaces, Nature Reserves and Site of Special Interest. It would also ideally include new, mature, and veteran trees as well as trees with TPO protection. Individual and rare trees such as the locations of the rare Black Poplars could be celebrated. It is known that York City Council have a computerised trees management system, recording the species, history and maintenance of individual trees. We would like to see a similar programme adopted that could be viewed on the DBC website. I note that a recent tree survey of Council-owned tree stock has shown that the mature tree coverage within Darlington is under threat and wonder what that threat is from? Also the introduction mentions that " in several areas the tree stock has now become significantly depleted." This statement and the strategy in general lacks details, detailed plans, lists, and maps. Ambitious initiatives and significant investment is required with a significant investment in tree planting and mapping of the current tree stock. A yearly updating of the % of tree cover in the Borough is essential to understand how the tree stocks are changing over time . The aim of this strategy is vague and wooly. This strategy does not mention the number of trees to be plant per year or at 5 year intervals or the % of tree cover required to cut Carbon emissions within the Borough and to mitigate for the effects of climate change. Assessed audited carbon accounts will be required to analyse the Boroughs CO2 emissions in line with The Climate Act 2008. Data needs to be available. What does 'proactively manage' actually mean? please can you define? We welcome a list of special trees and groups of trees that have strong community links and those of historical heritage and we want a public commitment of protection for these trees. The aim of the strategy promises 'to provide a valued environmental amenity for future generations.' The importance of biodiversity is an essential part of this environmental experience. A rich and thriving natural world is essential for wellbeing and for life itself to thrive. Uk biodiversity is plummeting, directly affected by loss of habitat. The National Planning Framework guidance section 15, Conserving and enhancing the natural environment, no170 a/b/d/e/f and 174a/b/ should be included in this strategies aims. Pruning Work The protection offered to nesting birds is not good enough to 'avoid the bird nesting season is not clear . Only essential work should be carried out during the bird nesting period as defined in the Countryside and Wildlife act 1981. What Residents Have Told Us. In the last few years many more people are aware of the value of trees within the Borough and it is noted that only a small % of people have a reason to complain. If a survey were to be undertaken, a more interesting dialogue would emerge as to the value place on trees within our communities and their unique contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change. The Open Space Strategy need more tangible targets with dates. The vision for a cleaner, greener, safer environment is shared but what is the next 'one step' ? Again more clarification is necessary 'working in partnerships we are committed to providing, protecting and enhancing a variety of high quality, accessible open and green spaces throughout the Borough to meet the needs of residents.' Who , where, what, how, and when? National and Regional Context how is it possible to 'development of the Tees Valley in terms of protecting its environment whilst promoting economic growth', all future development especially those upon green fields and countryside will need to be carbon audited for the loss of hedges and trees must be taken into account for carbon auditing. The original wording "We will impose planning conditions to protect trees... ' should stand as it is stronger and clearer.</p>	10/19/2020 12:02 AM

2

This document is weaker than the one it is replacing. There is no mention of hedgerows in the strategy, for which there should be protection, especially ancient and traditionally laid hedges: these are very important to provide habitat for birds, mammals and invertebrates, visual appeal, but also to reduce problems caused by wind: erosion of farmland and urban canyon effects between homes, especially in exposed locations. There is no mention of increasing species or habitat diversity. Maintaining diversity is ok, but there should be an emphasis on filling gaps in native tree species, and also identify and address the probable effects that climate change will have on the types of species we should be planting and where, so as to survive an increasingly more disrupted climate with more extreme weather. Droughts, excess and intense rain, extreme cold and heat, and more storms will all affect trees and how they interact with humans who need to live near them. As some examples: There should be a policy to plant more fruit trees in parks and public open/green spaces, especially in the more deprived areas of the town, to provide some free food to assist those who need it. A mixture of types of fruit tree should be provided to give a long season of free fruit throughout the summer and autumn. Types of trees planted should also aim to improve the stock of those native British trees whose numbers are low or in decline. Woodland and trees planted in parks should be mixed rather than monoculture for both visual appeal and to reduce risk of disease transmission, and obviously always suitable for the soil type present. However, when introducing street trees in streets which have not previously had them, it may be decided that uniformity may weigh out to bring the street together visually. There is no mention of ancient / veteran trees: there should be adequate policy to manage such trees to retain their contribution to the community. Trees with TPOs should not be considered for felling unless there is an issue with the health of the tree which cannot be rectified by pruning or other management. In addition, there should be a policy – as in other local authorities – where trees which are determined to be of landscape value A and B (in tree reports as part of planning applications) should be built-around as a matter of course in new developments, only being felled as a matter of exception, where an adequate case must be made that a certain piece of infrastructure cannot be placed elsewhere for logistical reasons. In such exceptional cases where these trees must be removed, they should be replaced elsewhere in the development with a “heavy standard” tree as soon as possible. Work on trees and hedgerows during the nesting season is mentioned, stating that this should be avoided, however there should be a presumption that work should not be undertaken during the nesting season - so as to avoid potential for unintended disturbance - unless specific reasons are provided as to why this must occur during the nesting season. All applications for tree work should state that this is the case, detailing clearly the time period during which the works can be carried out, and explain the law around wildlife crime as it applies to nesting birds, to ensure residents are aware of it and very strongly guided to comply. This policy weakens protections for existing trees as regards planning applications: the previous policy stated that DBC WILL impose planning conditions to protect trees, whereas the new policy states that DBC MAY impose conditions to protect trees. Where trees are to remain in a development - and as stated in the paragraph about veteran trees above I know that many feel there is currently inadequate protection for existing trees - then they MUST ALWAYS be protected by planning conditions re. development design and root protection areas to ensure that those trees are not damaged accidentally or by intent. The policy must strengthen protection not reduce it. Record keeping about Darlington Borough's trees is not accessible to the public, hence is not transparent or accountable (as per the loss of 200+ trees, many with TPOs) at Blackwell. This policy should require the creation of a computer and map-based (GIS) tree management system which records position, species, maintenance and inspection history which is accessible to the public. Trees to combat climate change and its impacts: Trees' services to provide cooling (reducing the “urban heat island effect”) by shading on tarmac, paving and house roofs which would otherwise absorb the heat of the sun must be built in. Trees should be expected to be planted on the south side of buildings in to provide shade from excess sun, to reduce the risk of overheating in new developments, and also look to add these in existing developments which suffer a lack of urban trees and especially developments which are being retrofitted to be highly insulated so that summer overheating may become more of a problem. Trees to combat extreme rainfall & flooding: the council must also look at the wider area, and learn from Pickering in North Yorkshire – to contribute both physically and financially to planting trees (as well as other flood-reduction measures such as creating wetland, slowing and damming small streams and rivers) high in the catchment of both the Skerne and Tees - as well as within the borough - to help delay and reduce their in-flood flow and where flooding does occur to direct it into safe areas which will not endanger life, and hence reduce the risk of flooding to those residents who are currently at high and/or increasing risk of it in the Borough. This could perhaps work as local carbon-offsetting with a selfish end of also improving the safety of Darlington residents from flood (Note that I do not think that providing funding to plant trees within the Borough

10/18/2020 11:50 PM

should count as offsetting, only funding the planting trees elsewhere, where Darlington residents are not likely to benefit from their presence directly. Also note that offsetting is an extremely contentious issue – whether it should occur at all as it is better to prevent the emissions that are intended to be offset completely, and if it does occur, what the deemed survival rate and carbon value of each tree planted should be – so it would be recommended to run any scheme via a well-reputed provider.) Trees for visual appeal: There needs to be a policy to add street trees to as many of the main motor vehicle thoroughfares into and around the town centre as possible, for example the centre margin of St Cuthbert's Way, North Road / Northgate, Coniscliffe Rd, and I know trees are already to be planted along Tornado Way. This may need the roadways of these roads to be narrowed and the making of designated parking bays between the trees, but this would create a more pleasant, greener approach to the town, more sheltered for pedestrians, and cooler for everyone. Carbon and nature accounting: Whilst planting new trees helps mitigate any essential existing tree loss, the emphasis should ALWAYS be to reduce the loss of existing trees as much as possible. In terms of biodiversity, carbon emissions and their other benefits, one existing tree has been shown to be worth the equivalent of 3 newly planted trees, and only with a significant amount of time delay - so any trees which are removed must be replaced by triple the number of new trees, and these should be as large as possible (standards or heavy standards for trees, with smaller saplings or whips only used for new hedging) so as to reduce the delay time to regain what was lost. In terms of counting / accounting for numbers of trees, the above equivalence should be accounted for, so each mature tree lost should count as "minus 3" i.e. 3 new trees must be planted to regain a zero net loss - the 10,000 new trees planned for must be over and above this otherwise the target for the increase is meaningless. It would therefore be more worthwhile to measure tree-covered area, since this naturally accounts for the smaller size and nature benefits of saplings vs. the vast canopy of a mature tree. Trees for safety: This policy must ensure that street tree locations for planting should be designed in a way which protects vulnerable road users i.e. narrowing streets at crossing points and junctions to provide natural traffic calming, denoting ends of parking bays, and providing a protective dividing line (and pollution filtering) between road and cycle lane and pavement beyond. This may involve trees or hedging plants. Finally, it should be ensured that the street tree policy does not continue to contribute to worsening allergies by planting large numbers of male trees, which produce vast amounts of pollen. There should be a policy to increase the proportion of female trees (for those where separate sexes exist) and reduce the proportion of male trees to reduce this problem.

3	Agree generally - would like some minor changes and improvements.	10/18/2020 9:13 PM
4	I disagree with the overall principles laid out in the strategy. They do not marry the climate emergency agreed by Darlington Borough Council and they are not aspirational in any form, in fact they water down the previous tree strategy. Trees and Woodland have been identified as key to combatting Climate Change as well as improving air quality and improving mental well being. The strategy does not factor this in at all, does not recognise the importance of trees and has set a very low bar. The strategy does not comply to British Standards, omitting key elements of BS5837. It is a lacklustre attempt at the development of our Keen Infrastructure throughout Darlington	10/18/2020 6:48 PM
5	The Forward should mention the positive impact that nature has on mental health. In the Introduction, I would like to see all green spaces listed here. I would like to see detail of what tree cover in Darlington is now and how this compares to other boroughs. Hedgerows are a glaring omission from this strategy. Hedgerows can be just as important as trees and woodland and provide homes and food for biodiversity. The consideration of wildlife corridors is also sadly missing from this strategy and needs to be included. Under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997, it is against the law to remove most countryside hedges without first getting the permission of your local council, so this fact should be included in this strategy with detail of how this will be enforced. Wirral Borough Council's (WBC) strategy states, "The Climate Change Committee (CCC) advocates increasing hedgerows alongside other methods of carbon capture in its May 2019 report, Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming," therefore including hedgerows in Darlington Borough Council's strategy would link with our Council's Climate Change Declaration. There are several instances in Darlington's Green Infrastructure Guide (2013-2026) where planting of additional hedgerows is promoted - Red Hall Wetland Local Nature Reserve, Skerningham Countryside Park, South Park-Hurworth being a few examples. The overall aim is very vague. Without specific objectives it's very easy not to achieve this aim, eg increase the tree cover by x amount with a timescale. We would like to see yearly published percentages of tree cover in the Darlington Borough. A good software to use would be i-canopy which is well known and respected tool to calculate tree cover. Also, the UK is failing on its long-term biodiversity targets and seeing "relentless" declines in wildlife,	10/18/2020 6:06 PM

according to government data that shows public sector investment in conservation falling in real terms by 33% in five years. Out of 24 biodiversity indicators, 14 showed long-term decline, including continued deterioration of UK habitats and species of European importance, as well as a decline in priority species, according to the 2020 UK biodiversity indicators. I cannot see that this strategy will reverse this decline. I would like to see some real specific and measurable aims put into place to improve the biodiversity across Darlington in line with the Biodiversity Duty for Public Authorities enshrined in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. In the section 'What Residents Have Told Us', this only focuses on the complaints from residents. However, recently, more and more people are becoming aware of the climate emergency and the growing awareness of the benefits of planting trees and I feel this should be recognised. In the Climate Declaration section, it is quoted that a young woodland can store 400+ tonnes of carbon per hectare. A timescale should be included here. Also, it would also be good to identify how much this example woodland would store of the Council's carbon emissions to give some perspective. In the Council Trees section, When the council is selecting new species they should not automatically look to plant the same. Climate is changing and getting warmer. There may be a need to consider species more suitable to extremes of weather. Another factor should be which species are most suited to help with climate change and with wildlife in mind. Aftercare of new trees should also include mulching/weeding. I would also like to see 'actionable nuisance' defined. Veteran trees are also not included in this strategy. Stroud Council's tree strategy states that veteran trees will be managed in a way that preserves their unique characteristics. I'd like a similar protection commitment added with regards to the veteran trees of Darlington. Nesting birds are protected by the Countryside and Wildlife Act. This strategy says that precautions are to be taken to avoid disturbance of nesting birds (between March to September). I don't think this is strong enough. Stroud Council's tree strategy states that only essential tree works will be carried out during the bird nesting season, and I think that Darlington's strategy should say the same. The draft strategy states that 'We may impose planning conditions to protect trees...'. This has been watered down from the previous strategy which stated 'We will impose planning conditions to protect trees...'. I think the original wording should stand. York Council maintain a computer based tree management and mapping system that records position, species, and maintenance and inspection history. The current system is provided by Ezytree. York's public tree survey is an ongoing process as new trees are planted and others removed. Information such as location, species and service department of public trees will be made available via the Council's website. I'd like to see Darlington put plans to have a similar system in place and when this would be achieved by.

6	It does not go far enough to plant more trees to help alleviate climate change.	10/18/2020 2:50 PM
7	Don't know enough about it	10/18/2020 1:11 PM
8	It does not offer ambition. The aim should be to explain benefits of trees more, protect trees better, ensure that hedgerows are given greater importance and increase tree planting. There is no mention of increasing species diversity. maintaining diversity is important but the policy should address gaps in the native tree species and the effect that Climate change will have on the types of species we should be planting now to survive the climatic chaos around in 30 years. There should be mention of ancient and veteran trees and the policy must ensure the management of these trees and trees approaching this status are managed and retained, thus maintaining their unique contribution to the community. The policy weakens protection for existing trees when considering planning applications and should keep the statement from the previous version 'Darlington Council will impose planning conditions to protect trees...' The record keeping of trees is not readily accessible to the public. The policy should require the creation of a computer based tree management system, including an internet accessible map visible by the public. the system would allow any one to find the species, maintenance and inspection history of trees with TPOs.	10/18/2020 12:40 PM
9	Darlington Borough Council have failed to include hedgerows in their Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy. Hedgerows are a vital resource for the growth and survival of many of our wildlife species especially birds, providing food and shelter throughout the year. Hedgerows also help with carbon capture so are vital in the fight against climate breakdown. I would also like to see a pledge to "only carry out essential work during bird nesting season" rather than Darlington Borough Council's pledge to "Take care to avoid nesting birds" Darlington Borough Council Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy is too weak on the wording with regards to planning conditions and only state that they "May" impose planning conditions to protect trees. This is ambiguous and subject to manipulation should the situation arise and, therefore does not fully protect the trees.	10/18/2020 11:30 AM

10	<p>Feel it really needs tightening up - some parts are far too 'casual/ 'one size fits all'. It must be much BOLDER. It says DBC will work with local communities, yet that has diminished to virtual non existence. Tree Team are renowned for making themselves unavailable by phone, email, meetings and Information requests remain unaddressed. Understandably their tree work comes first, but not ever being available risks alienating the residents. Residents get to know when highways are being worked on, planning notices are put up re applications, so can notices be put up when trees must be felled, or after the event? Or could Inspection results with disease/action/no action be put online? 2 for 1 Replacement with half standard/semi mature trees is the minimum requirement since we are already behind with replacements as well as trees diminishing in some areas. Decline in numbers has not been prevented - what is in place to stop this and reverse it ? 1 for 1 replacement has not been carried out for some time, so it's unbelievable that it will be achieved in the coming years. Re climate change strategy - 10,000 trees that MAY be planted have already been grown from seed - so the replanting in Darlington does not increase overall tree cover of england. Also these small saplings will not all mature, many will die. In 20 years they will not achieve what you claim/expect. In contrast, past plantings, eg West Park, have been planted too closely, they then have to be dug out and moved elsewhere [if there is a suitable place & if staff is available] and if not they crowd each other unhealthily>a great waste! Developers need their bad behaviour clamping down on regarding tree and hedge losses/damage -can a by-law be made to stop them 'misbehaving'? Hedges need to be brought into the strategy. Hedge Trees are often lost due to flailing without due attention. Sites for planting should be approved by communities prior to planning to plant if the site has community use presently. XX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p>	10/17/2020 11:51 PM
11	<p>- The Strategy commits to valuing, protecting and enhancing Darlington's trees for historic, climate change, environment and amenity value. It is pleasing to see the commitment to plant 10,000 trees in the next few years and especially to work with Friends Groups to review tree cover in Parks. And also pleasing to see a commitment to promotion of increased public awareness of the wide value of trees and how they are managed. I am also pleased to note the acknowledgement of the precariousness of our over mature trees and the need for underplanting.</p>	10/17/2020 7:11 PM
12	<p>I have not read it all yet.</p>	10/17/2020 6:31 PM
13	<p>Some of the policy points, I do not agree with at all, particularly cutting down mature woodland to make room for a golf course.</p>	10/17/2020 5:53 PM
14	<p>I don't think it goes far enough or is ambitious enough.</p>	10/17/2020 2:44 PM
15	<p>Hedgerows are not included in this. they should be, as they are just as important, particularly for nesting birds, providing autumn fruit and shelter for all wildlife .They are also an important source of carbon capture and help to prevent topsoil erosion by breaking up the wind action. There should be a pledge included to increase species diversity. Extremely old trees should be managed to retain their uniqueness. Only absolute essential works should take place during bird nesting season, not just 'taking care to avoid nesting birds', this is too vague and too weak a directive. The previous strategy, imposing planning conditions to protect trees should be kept ; not the newly worded 'we MAY impose planning conditions to protect trees'. I would like to see a computer system for mapping and management of trees, recording position and species and inspection history. This should be available to the public.</p>	10/17/2020 7:39 AM
16	<p>Darlington's Tree and Woodland Strategy makes no mention of hedgerows. Hedgerows should be included! There are several instances in Darlington's Green Infrastructure Guide (2013-2026) where planting of additional hedgerows is being promoted, for example Red Hall Wetland Local Nature Reserve, Skerningham Countryside Park, South Park-Hurworth. This strategy should sit alongside any green-infrastructure policies. The Wirral's Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy 2020-2030 has been warmly welcomed by environmental and conservation groups from all over the country. It recognises the importance of hedgerows for biodiversity (they offer refuge, food and shelter for wildlife) and for the range of benefits they provide to people (filtering out of pollutants, lessening noise). Wirral Borough Council's strategy states, "The Climate Change Committee (CCC) advocates increasing hedgerows alongside other methods of carbon capture in its May 2019 report, Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming," therefore including hedgerows in Darlington Borough Council's strategy would link with our Council's Climate Change Declaration. In areas where the planting of large trees isn't suitable, a hedgerow could be a good alternative. "Hedges can be valuable where height or width is restricted so larger trees are inappropriate." This strategy only looks to take</p>	10/17/2020 6:48 AM

precautions to “avoid disturbance of nesting birds (between March to September)”. Why not champion the town’s feathered residents and let work on any trees wait until nesting season is over? The exception being if a tree is unsafe. The strategy fails to mention the existence of the UK’s most endangered native timber tree - the black poplar! Hundreds of saplings were planted near South Burdon and in Skerningham Community Woodland. Darlington was meant to become a focal point “for the resurgence of these magnificent trees”. The location of these trees should be mapped and the health of them monitored to make sure they aren’t suffering from black-poplar scab which can lead to the loss of these rare and prized trees. Several black poplars are at risk of falling into the River Skerne in Skerningham Community Woodland because of bank erosion. The seven black poplars around the natural graves in Skerningham Community Woodland do not have TPOs on them. In Worcester, for example, “some of the most important sites where black poplars occur, such as Castlemoreton Common, are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)”. Skerningham Community Woodland should be considered for this status. The strategy should include an Action Plan for the black poplars to cover such points and to ensure these trees receive the attention and care they deserve.

17	I would like to know why the council are including the numbers of trees they are planning to plant in the next 3 years has taken into account the numbers which will be planted by community groups, and, after all 10,000 trees in 3 years is not a huge number.	10/16/2020 10:59 PM
18	Not as good as the tree strategy its due to replace because of climate change one would of thought it stricter and more robust to protect healthy trees in and around Darlington.	10/16/2020 8:19 PM
19	Its a watered down version compared to the current one this tree strategy its due to replace in fact reading it would seem to favour land developers & new home builders rather than the Residents of Darlington. No mention of established hedgerows that are protected under the Hedgerow Regulations Act 1997 and under section 97 of the Environmental Act 1995 Established Hedgerows are virtually important to the local biodiversity of Darlington. Trees & Hedgerows help address climate change so as a town we cannot afford to allow land developers and new home builders to continue just ripping them out. Work on Trees and Hedgerows should not be allowed during bird nesting season no mention of this in your new draft tree strategy this would indication that DBC are happy with trees and hedgerows being worked on or removed during bird nesting season. The current DBC strategy states DBC Will impose planning conditions to protect Trees whereas this new (developer/Builder Friendly) watered down version states “ We May” at total disgrace and an insult to the residents of Darlington.	10/16/2020 7:07 PM
20	It is weaker than the document it is replacing. There is no mention at all of hedgerows in the strategy. Hedgerows are very important for nesting birds, mammals and invertebrates and also carbon capture. There is no mention of increasing species diversity. Maintaining diversity is good but the policy should address gaps in native tree species and specifically address the effect that Climate Change will have on the types of species we should be planting now to survive a more chaotic climate in the next 50 years. There is no mention of ancient of veteran trees. This policy would demonstrate an intention to manage and retain their unique contribution to the community. Work on trees and hedgerows during nesting season (between March to September). This policy only states that disturbance should be avoided. The policy should be strengthened to make it a presumption that works are not carried out during nesting season unless there are compelling reasons to do so. This policy weakens protection for existing tress when considering planning applications. The previous policy stated; 'Darlington Council will impose planning conditions to protect trees...'. The draft policy proposes; 'We MAY impose planning conditions to protect trees...'. The policy should reverse this change, to retain the stronger protection. The record keeping of trees is not transparent, accessible or accountable. This policy should require the creation of a computer based tree management and mapping system that records position, species, and maintenance and inspection history which available to the public.	10/16/2020 5:20 PM
21	I've not had a full copy to read yet	10/16/2020 3:56 PM
22	More trees more green spaces less concrete better air less pollution more wildlife better biodiversity better health wellbeing no brainer just ask david attenborough...	10/16/2020 3:48 PM
23	The strategy fails to mention the existence of the UK’s most endangered native timber tree - the black poplar! Hundreds of saplings were planted near South Burdon and in Skerningham Community Woodland. Darlington was meant to become a focal point “for the resurgence of these magnificent trees”. The location of these trees should be mapped and the health of them monitored to make sure they aren’t suffering from black-poplar scab which can lead to the loss	10/16/2020 2:34 PM

of these rare and prized trees. Several black poplars are at risk of falling into the River Skerne in Skerningham Community Woodland because of bank erosion. The seven black poplars around the natural graves in Skerningham Community Woodland do not have TPOs on them. In Worcester, for example, "some of the most important sites where black poplars occur, such as Castlemoreton Common, are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)". Skerningham Community Woodland should be considered for such a status. The strategy should include an Action Plan for the black poplars to cover such points above and to ensure these trees receive the attention and care they deserve.

24	Darlington Council is to be congratulated for developing a tree and woodland strategy, which the Woodland Trust encourages all councils to do as part of a local Emergency Tree Plan. We do, however, think that this strategy is insufficiently ambitious.	10/16/2020 10:41 AM
25	The draft strategy has omitted very important points from old strategy which should be put back in	10/15/2020 8:49 PM
26	Trees are good for storing carbon, producing oxygen, cooling the planet, preventing soil erosion, sheltering wildlife, providing food and improving human well-being. So planting more has got to be a good thing.	10/14/2020 8:35 PM
27	generally agree that Trees are an important part of the environment, providing they are maintained!	10/14/2020 1:49 PM
28	Old tress should never be cut down -destroyed. Every 1 tree taken off the planet 2 should be planted including oak trees.Black poplar tress should be protected. Hedge rows must be protected and woodland space ahoukd be managed so wild garlic can be halted preventing the demise of bluebells.	10/13/2020 11:51 PM
29	Perhaps the survey should be started more with questions around peoples feelings around trees, nature and climate change rather than asking people to go back and fully read a document and then ask them if they agree or more importantly understand the document.	10/13/2020 3:17 PM
30	We have a huge oak tree at the front and it is getting bigger it has never been trimmed and it blocks the sun and at the moment it drops acorns all over which are dangerous underfoot,we have a huge sycamore out the back which blocks all the sun and the roots are lifting the the paving stones causing yet another hazard for the residents not to mention the LEAVES	10/13/2020 9:36 AM
31	It does not go far enough to protect what we already have in the Borough and to increase the variety of species and habitat of the in the future.	10/12/2020 9:17 PM
32	Inadequate in terms of care of trees along bridleways & public footpaths. Council did not replace the nursery off Salutation Road which is now private housing. The facilty should be replaced to grow the new trees needed to fulfill the replacement strategy, probably at a lower cost while generating local jobs and /or apprenticeships even linked to post16 educational institutions like Teesside Uni or Houghall college.	10/12/2020 9:47 AM
33	Thes Policy covers all aspects of the management of trees in the borough, however do the council operate within the policy. DBC has history of removing perfevly healthy trees to allow housing development to take place and are planning to do the same again should DBC gain approval of the 'Loal Plan'	10/11/2020 7:34 PM
34	I don't know enough about it.	10/11/2020 10:44 AM
35	Need to plant more tree and not cut down any trees	10/10/2020 8:13 PM
36	Not aware there is one	10/10/2020 10:51 AM
37	Ruining the countryside	10/10/2020 10:19 AM
38	I would like to see the word 'may' replaced with 'will'.	10/10/2020 10:01 AM
39	Too many trees will be felled round the northern area of Darlington to make way for unnecessary housing	10/10/2020 9:47 AM
40	animal habitat	10/9/2020 8:49 PM
41	The new strategy showed much of the previous administration's commitment to protect Darlington Trees, woodlands, green spaces and wildlife dependent areas has been omitted and in my view is criminal Page 3-: item omitted - Introduction A recent tree survey of Council-owned tree stock has shown that the mature tree coverage within Darlington has become under	10/9/2020 8:48 PM

threat and in several areas the tree stock has now become significantly depleted. This situation is about to determinate further through management works made unavoidable by the age, condition and history of the trees. The acknowledgment that Darlington's trees are significantly depleted has been removed. This strategy paves the way for development of which Darlington residents DO NOT WANT OR NEED.

42	It's important for the climate	10/9/2020 8:36 PM
43	Don't know enough about it	10/9/2020 8:09 PM
44	There has been too much omitted from the draft strategy which removes the previous comment to protect our trees and woodlands from development	10/9/2020 8:07 PM
45	Unsure	10/9/2020 7:39 PM
46	The oxygen we breath is exhaled by trees, and the carbon dioxide we exhale is breathed by the trees, and a great balance of the world we live in.	10/9/2020 7:35 PM
47	Just because it makes sense	10/9/2020 7:23 PM
48	It doesn't go far enough	10/9/2020 7:16 PM
49	Appears to align with the Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent Parish Neighbourhood Plan's Woodland and Nature Reserve Proposal	10/9/2020 12:16 PM
50	After letting mature trees on Carmel Road be chopped down for new bill houses I don't trust the council anymore	10/8/2020 5:18 PM
51	The DBC Tree and Woodland Strategy does touch a little on the value of trees for our wellbeing, in particular the Climate Crisis the world is experiencing. Due to the social times in which we are living because of the pandemic, it may be useful to include some addition information to the strategy regarding our trees and green spaces: "Trees go hand-in-hand with our 'Green Spaces': parks, woodland and other spaces, and their benefits are hard to separate and usually compliment eachother. There has never been a better time to appreciate the value of our Parks and Green Spaces. To put into practice what we know about the benefits of the natural environment in terms of our mental, physical health, and emotional wellbeing. The Land Trust (www.thelandtrust.org.uk) has this to say in its recent studies and reports on the value of our Green Spaces. "People using green spaces have higher levels of satisfaction and wellbeing and lower levels of anxiety compared to the national averages." "Well-managed Green Spaces encourage community cohesion and reduce social isolation. They contribute significantly to maintaining a resilient economy, society and environment. They alleviate costs to businesses and the public purse, and in turn, generate significant benefits, keeping people healthy, happy and productive." "The value of green spaces, is not just as an amenity for recreation, but the many services delivered by soil, grass, flowers, trees and water, providing society and our economy with significant benefits."	10/8/2020 12:00 PM
52	There is no protection of trees when erasing a whole woodland to create a garden village, with housing plans which are so many more than the government instructions	10/6/2020 4:26 PM
53	Cutting too many trees down for housing	10/5/2020 10:18 PM
54	Looks a comprehensive document	10/5/2020 8:30 PM
55	Increasing the number of trees is critically important as is properly caring for what we have	10/5/2020 6:58 PM
56	EPICH is concerned with the promotion of biodiversity and encouraging the greatest range of wildlife in the Hurworth area. In terms of the management approach described we are particularly supportive, therefore, of the needs of birds and bats being taken into account in timing the pruning of hedgerows and trees, and that the approach to replacement planting takes into account the whole treescape, using native species with local provenance.	10/5/2020 4:53 PM
57	There are a number of pockets of trees dotted throughout Mowden and Hummersknott that nobody seems to be responsible for, a good number of which have a TPO on them. My view is that if the Council have the right to put a TPO on them then they should assume full responsibility for their continued upkeep. If the Council are so keen that a TPO will protect a tree and ensure it is properly maintained then it is their full responsibility to follow that through and also be responsible for any damage caused by those trees. Whilst I also appreciate the concept of a TPO the fairly recent totally unnecessary felling on a large scale of numerous trees to make way for the development of the Willows totally contradicts the Councils strategy of	10/5/2020 4:38 PM

protecting these trees! It is a case of we will protect them while it suits us! Who will be responsible for those whose owner cannot be traced?

58	Because you continue to let developers destroy healthy mature trees and shrubs	10/5/2020 4:09 PM
59	Not sure how clear it is on specifics	10/5/2020 3:46 PM
60	Saplings planted near me have all been destroyed by teenagers , needs more mature trees and shrubs that can't be ripped out	10/5/2020 2:05 PM
61	Council does not have the resources to monitor the whole borough adequately and private owners should not be free to maintain their property freely where no TPOs are in place.	10/5/2020 1:28 PM
62	They don't maintain the trees that already there	10/5/2020 1:24 PM
63	I am not sure what it entails	10/5/2020 12:53 PM
64	Trees are an integral part of our lives in Darlington, I think they give our town beauty as well as bring excellent for the environment	10/5/2020 9:10 AM
65	Sensible nuanced approach. However in absence of clear integration with approach to climate environmental and economic strategies it's impossible to give meaningful comment. For example a tree and woodland strategy for air quality purposes is mere tinkering without addressing other factors.	10/4/2020 7:28 PM
66	I would like to see trees that Have to be removed, replaced by trees of similar species - thus does not appear to have been the case in Carmel Road	10/4/2020 6:03 PM
67	As long as it is carried out as stated .A number of trees have recently been removed between Waylands Terrace and Bellburn Lane on the old Honey Pot Lane path. None looked diseased or about to fall over so how come they were cut down. Also how do you know about people who just get trees cut down and do not bother asking permission to do it. There appears to be a lot more garden/tree businesses now cutting down and shredding residential trees on the spot. Have they all applied for permission ?	10/4/2020 3:06 PM
68	I do not have any confidence that DBC has sufficient knowledge or understanding amongst its work-force to deliver what is set out in the draft policy document.	10/4/2020 2:29 PM
69	The draft strategy broadly reflects my views.	10/3/2020 4:24 PM
70	It's a basic policy but could be enhanced	10/3/2020 1:39 PM
71	Over all it seems to be a sensible strategy, providing, of course, it happens.	10/3/2020 1:13 PM
72	There are elements of the strategy that we agree with in particular creating and maintaining a pleasant green, healthy environment for Darlington. However, we disagree on the basis that there is a lack of maintenance plans to address the inappropriate species selection from the past. The strategy merely mentions that the problems could prove difficult or impossible which seems both short sighted and inflexible.	10/3/2020 9:47 AM
73	On paper the strategy looks good, particularly the commitment to plant 10,000 trees in the next five years. I also like the commitment to try to retain existing trees wherever possible and also the preference for large native trees over small short-lived ornamental species (which the council have planted in the past). I am concerned however, about the conflict between this strategy and the apparent eagerness of this council to aggressively pursue house-building schemes on farmland across the borough, which I consider totally unnecessary and driven primarily by greedy developers. The U.K. has one of the lowest percentages of tree cover in Europe and we need to actively work to increase tree planting as much as possible to avert the coming environmental crisis.	10/2/2020 5:24 PM
74	We have been in our house for over 10 years and the tree out the front has never been maintained once. So you do not maintain the highway trees. The tree in question is so large you would struggle to bring it back to a reasonable state, it causes huge mess from sap and leaves and is also starting to affect people's drains.	10/2/2020 2:00 PM
75	The document seems far too timid in it's tone, given the stark differences in appearance between Darlington and some other towns in the UK where tree cover is far greater. For example, consider the new Town Centre ring road re-modelling which is a perfect example of a soulless concrete jungle - how it could have been softened by trees on the block paved central	9/25/2020 2:23 PM

reservation in a similar manner to those planted alongside Bonomi Way in the town. Why were no trees planted to soften the appearance of the central reservation?

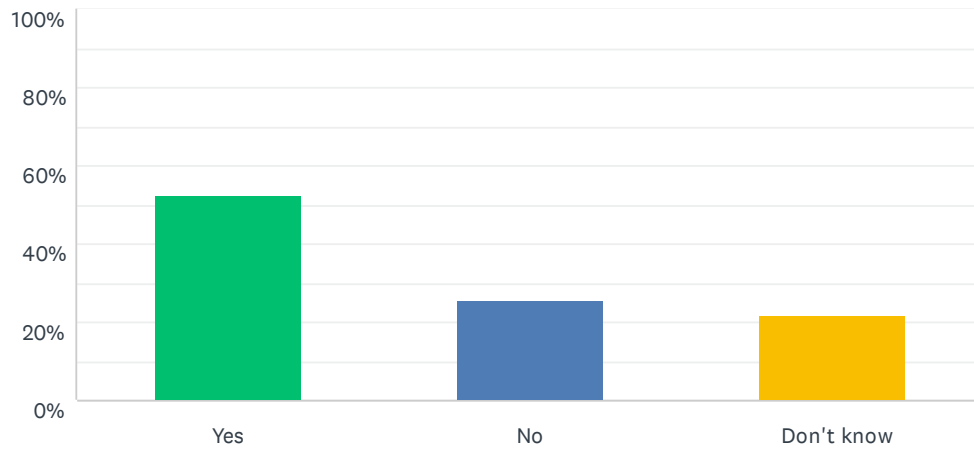
76	I am very confused as this strategy talks about maintains wood land, yet at this moment there are proposals to destroy Skerningham woods with new housing and a by pass. Trees and wooded areas need to protected and maintained not built on. This town has destroyed to much green and wood areas building houses	9/23/2020 2:45 PM
77	I believe the strategy hides the councils true intentions of a programme of mature tree removal along roadsides and verges in order to cut costs of tree management. Mature trees are more costly to maintain and, although the council promise to replace these trees with similar plants, these trees will take decades to mature and provide the same environment, looks, cover and benefit to the town, therefore the programme of mature tree removal will be of significant detriment to the town for the following decades. It will in fact make a negative carbon impact.	9/23/2020 1:49 PM
78	They want to destroy woodland at Skerningham a natural beauty spot take down hundreds of trees destroy our local nature . There are plenty of open fields to build on , save our Woodlands.	9/23/2020 10:33 AM
79	I dont trust anything the council says. Too many trees have been destroyed for unaffordable housing	9/23/2020 7:49 AM
80	Followed this link to read and be informed about it, bit silly asking this question at the start.	9/22/2020 6:41 PM
81	I believe trees are of vital importance to our eco systems.	9/22/2020 8:24 AM
82	I agree with the aim of the strategy and the introduction page to the strategy about the benefits of trees. Particularly about how we need to ensure sustainability for future generations. I believe however that the strategy is completely misplaced. Why spend time and public finances on planting new trees when we can save thousands from being felled at the North of town with the Skerningham Village? This is a forest an old beautiful nature reserve with mature trees, woodland and nature that do exactly the wonderful things that your 'tree strategy' aims for. The timing of this strategy only emphasises the need to save this area from destruction. As a resident of Darlington this needs to be consideration as this is an insult to those fighting to save precious woodland.	9/21/2020 8:43 PM
83	The strategy deals well with existing trees but more needs to be said about new planting and the context with the Darlington Green Infrastructure Strategy	9/21/2020 4:19 PM
84	I agree providing the council stick to their agreement to provide additional trees in accordance with their acceptance to the Low Coniscliffe & Merrybent local plan in which there is a commitment to the Coniscliffe & Merrybent Forrest and Nature Reserve proposal highlighted & accepted by DBC in the Low Coniscliffe & Merrybent Neighbourhood Plan.	9/21/2020 3:37 PM
85	It all seems appropriate.	9/21/2020 10:24 AM
86	Trees are an important ecosystem which needs to be maintained.	9/21/2020 3:50 AM
87	It sounds a positive approach to maintaining our green spaces/trees. Encouraging where trees are taken down, other trees will be planted within 5 years??	9/20/2020 11:13 PM
88	I agree that something has to be documented but I'm not sure if this is striking enough on protection.	9/20/2020 11:07 PM
89	It is a very one-dimensional strategy, worded to favour the Council and not its residents. It seems as if the Council is determined to retain trees wherever they are located, disregarding property owners' views and wishes. Which residents' views have been canvassed in order to support the Council's views about "unsubstantiated" claims. The Council has already formed its views and anything us residents say will be dismissed.	9/20/2020 10:20 PM
90	Need to protect the trees	9/20/2020 4:26 PM
91	all talk alot of residents in my street of waverley terrace have complained for years about the trees needing cutting back no one has done it been here 10 years now	9/20/2020 3:58 PM
92	The council strategy is to preserve and maintain trees in the long run and I agree with that. I only hope the strategy will turn into action when it comes to the maintenance of trees	9/20/2020 10:47 AM
93	The importance of trees is acknowledged in the strategy	9/20/2020 9:10 AM

94	I agree with this: To proactively manage and enlarge the tree population of the Borough of Darlington in order to protect our historical heritage of trees and provide a valued environmental amenity for future generations.	9/20/2020 8:58 AM
95	I have no information upon which to base any judgement. Where is the former one? Where is the draft of the forthcoming one?	9/18/2020 7:20 PM
96	It does not adequately address the loss of tree acreage from the proposed housebuilding drive in Darlington	9/17/2020 6:49 PM
97	1. The proposed initiatives are good for the environment, and the Council has our support and we would like to help with the proposed initiatives whenever time permits. It is fair to say that we need more than the proposed tree strategy to lessen the damages to the environment. 2. We would like proposal focus to be extended or additional environmental proposals to address the following: - raising awareness of what individuals could do to further reduce damages to the environment. - reviewing how the built-up areas in Darlington could be revitalised to reduce the expansions into the green spaces around Darlington. As this is not only decreasing the these spaces for the residents, and increasing carbon emission, it also destroys habitats for the wildlife. Best regards, Ms Chow - Environmental activities can be time consuming and costly. The Council could call on volunteers to implement any of the sound environmental related initiatives to control costs involved. We care about the environment, and many residents will be more than willing to assist where appropriate!	9/17/2020 6:18 PM
98	It sounds good I principal but I'm concerned about proposed removal of trees at Middleton One Row, which goes beyond necessary woodland management.	9/17/2020 4:56 PM
99	Overall I agree with the strategy	9/17/2020 8:46 AM
100	Trees are life and Darlington does have some beautiful trees in private and public areas. Like many I was shocked when the council allowed the felling of old well established trees in Blackwell. If it is ESSENTIAL to tell trees new trees must be replanted to replace them. This way Darlington will remain a beautiful town that is admired and enjoyed by many!	9/17/2020 8:39 AM
101	good for darlington	9/16/2020 7:32 PM
102	Difficult to understand the application for some locations. In addition previous development has not aided my trust in the councils tree conservation strategies	9/16/2020 2:25 PM
103	Mainly because its important to manage and protect trees for future generations.	9/15/2020 10:46 AM
104	Action to preserve and add to trees in Darlington is to be applauded.	9/14/2020 9:26 PM
105	I am in the difficult position of having trees next to my property which are overhanging and threatening the structure of my roof and building. This is gradually becoming worse to the point where I am majorly concerned.	9/13/2020 8:35 PM
106	Please check tree at end of Sutton Close. Shows autumn changes from late August, and is probable diseased.	9/13/2020 10:59 AM
107	Not enough consideration is given to the residents opinion when applying for works to be performed on neighbouring trees On private land which are under TPOs. If a neighbours tree canopy covers 50% of a residents window and a request is made for permission to cut back it should not be down to someone sitting at a desk to say no. They should get off their desks and come see and speak to the residents. Not look at dated footage from google street maps as this does not show full size of overbearing trees. Also living on Staindrop Road surrounded by Lime trees that have never been subject to proper care and are not regularly maintained because housing company has to apply for permission even to remove epicormic growth which is a waste of time and resources. Auto approve of care on these trees with rules such as no maintenance between mar-sep would reduce the fight between the neighbouring residents and the housing company and reduce costs.	9/12/2020 11:00 AM
108	I support the policy of increasing the tree cover, mostly with native species, but with some latitude for ornamental, scented, or special purpose trees from elsewhere.	9/10/2020 9:31 PM
109	i dont know enough about the strategy as yet	9/9/2020 4:46 PM
110	Especially when strategy needs to be spelled correctly on number 1. However, trees are needed to feed the air with oxygen.	9/9/2020 1:10 PM
111	I think there needs to be greater consideration given to the effects that very large trees located	9/9/2020 12:20 PM

	in e.g. a person's garden close to the house have on the property.	
112	A bit short on specifics, but otherwise a good start.	9/9/2020 10:06 AM
113	I'm not sure that it address the areas of land where no owner has been identified	9/8/2020 12:32 PM
114	seems pretty comprehensive	9/8/2020 11:29 AM
115	Not seen it yet how do i get access?	9/8/2020 10:43 AM
116	Agree with general thrust in open spaces, but disagree with lack of weight to residents affected by trees that were inappropriately planted or had houses built too close to them.	9/8/2020 10:24 AM
117	Agreed trees need to be looked after for the environment. Green land is better than housing.	9/8/2020 10:21 AM
118	The footpath trees/hedges between Parkland Drive and Edgcombe Drive in Mowden not Council owned require maintenance.	9/8/2020 10:03 AM
119	Some council trees, or trees growing on land that does not appear to belong to anyone, grow too big and cause misery for the people living next to them who have fruit, sap, branches and other debris falling on their property. It is a constant battle for them to maintain their own land and prevent trip/slip hazards or flooding from blocked drains and gutters. The policy should allow for the council to take proper ownership and stop the trees from encroaching on private property.	9/8/2020 8:41 AM
120	The strategy is 2021-31. There is no strategy for 21-23 only Action Plans	9/4/2020 10:07 AM
121	It is a laudable document and one that will be quoted as the basis of an objection to the Local Plan in relation to the Skerningham development	9/3/2020 9:48 PM
122	Looks reasonably comprehensive.	9/3/2020 9:08 AM
123	It misses out important areas.	9/3/2020 1:44 AM
124	Comprehensive approach, with realism concerning arboreal management.	9/2/2020 6:16 PM
125	..	9/2/2020 3:06 PM

Q3 Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the strategy on trees on streets?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	52.73%	58
No	25.45%	28
Don't know	21.82%	24
TOTAL		110

Q4 Please give details as to why you chose the option you did to the question about the draft policy on trees on streets in the box below.

Answered: 79 Skipped: 66

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Especially like the commitment to plant more street trees, all verges please and especially in the Town Centre. planting new avenues of trees would enhance local streets and provide traffic calming measures. Declaring the pruning of and felling of significant tree trees on the councils web site would be appreciated prior to the work being carried out.	10/19/2020 12:23 AM
2	This policy does not mention street trees in new developments - this is part of the new Planning White Paper so is clearly central government expectation that it should be demanded of developers. The many benefits of street trees are highlighted in the policy document be it housing, industrial, commercial retail, or commercial entertainment/hospitality. I would suggest the following standard design measures: 3 trees per residential dwelling; 2 trees per 100m2 of commercial floor space (retail / entertainment / hospitality); 1.25 trees per 100m2 floor space for industrial land use. Also, point 7 of the policy is too weak: proactive work must be undertaken to ensure that drivers do not damage verges and street trees, prosecuting those who commit criminal damage i.e. forcing perpetrators to pay the time and financial costs to make good that damage.	10/19/2020 12:00 AM
3	Generally agree	10/18/2020 10:43 PM
4	As most of our street trees are over-mature, really like the idea of new trees being introduced between the mature trees.	10/18/2020 6:07 PM
5	Street trees need to be actively protected with work to prevent drivers damaging verges and prosecution of those who commit criminal damage. There is no mention of street trees in new developments. Street trees must be included in all new developments, including housing, industrial, commercial, retail developments. Trees planted should exceed the following planting density:- 3 trees per residential dwelling 2 trees per 100sqm of retail floor space 1 tree per 100sqm of industrial floor space.	10/18/2020 12:47 PM
6	DBC pledge to preserve street trees	10/18/2020 12:00 PM
7	see previous	10/17/2020 11:51 PM
8	I agree with the policy especially the presumption of non removal of healthy trees, replacement when necessary with trees of the same species. Darlington is known for its tree cover and we should maintain this as part of the character of the town.	10/17/2020 7:16 PM
9	The value of street trees is recognized in the strategy but there needs to be a requirement that these are incorporated in any new development, housing or commercial, wherever possible.	10/17/2020 2:46 PM
10	13,p9. This is too vague and implies the mandatory removal and replacement of mature specimens to make way for cars.	10/17/2020 7:58 AM
11	I would like to see more details on this	10/16/2020 11:01 PM
12	More street trees some be planted they help with polluting car fumes and it reduces the temperature in towns	10/16/2020 8:21 PM
13	Street Trees should be awarded the same protection and Trees growing in the Green fields and Countryside its been proven that towns and cities that have more street trees are cooler in the hot summer months this is vital with climate change they also help to absorb carbon dioxide from traffic pollution and store that carbon and breath out oxygen.	10/16/2020 7:11 PM
14	Point 7 is too weak. There needs to be proactive work to prevent drivers from damaging verges and prosecute those who commit criminal damage - defined as an action that will require time and/or money to restore to its original state. This part of the policy is completely silent on the issue of street trees in new developments. The many benefits of street trees are highlighted in the policy document. There must be a presumption that street trees will be included in any new development, be that housing, industrial, commercial retail or commercial entertainment/hospitality. I propose the following design measures for new developments; 3 trees per dwelling (residential) 2 trees per 100m2 of floor space (retail / entertainment / hospitality) 1.25 trees per 100m2 of floor space (industrial)	10/16/2020 5:21 PM
15	Dont know what policy is...hopefully not like Sheffield council cutting down trees as they are lifting up pavements...ie stanhope rd?...	10/16/2020 3:50 PM
16	The priorities set out in this section are the right ones, but it would be good to have more specific and measurable commitments. On the replacement of felled trees, we recommend a	10/16/2020 10:49 AM

commitment to at least 3 for 1 replacement to account for the risks to young trees and the loss of ecosystems services delivered by felled mature trees. We also think a specific canopy cover target should be set out to clearly state what the destination is that this strategy is aiming towards. This could be informed by an assessment of current tree canopy cover via the likes of iTree or CAVAT that also quantify the benefits Darlington's trees provide.

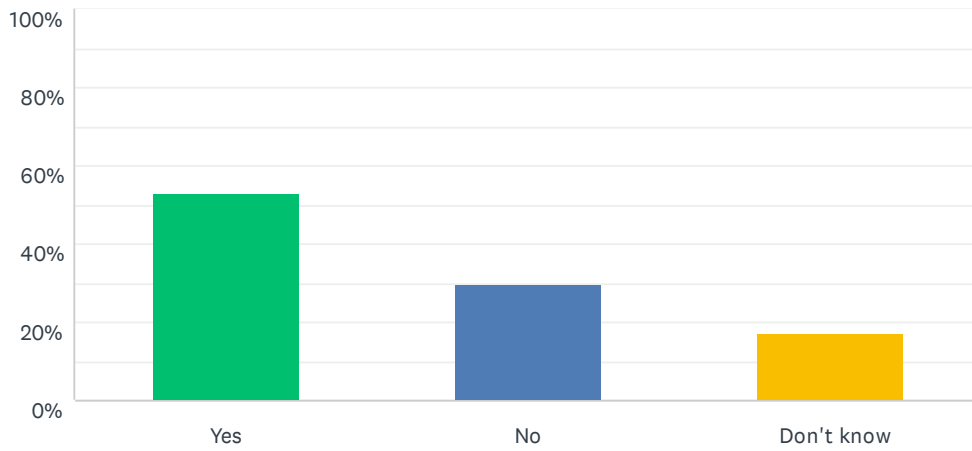
17	Concentrates on flow of traffic and not making clear considered management proposals	10/15/2020 8:50 PM
18	Xx	10/13/2020 11:52 PM
19	Again this would be best if this survey outlined the actual strategy so we wouldn't have to keep referring back to the document	10/13/2020 3:17 PM
20	This only suggests that it may reduce the flow of traffic and only concentrate on traffic. no mention of the management of these trees to prevent leaf fall during autumn months which can be quite dangerous for pedestrians.. can obstruct the line of site when crossing roads etc..I please rethink this policy	10/12/2020 9:59 PM
21	Not enough emphasis on native species to be used with emphasis on replacing those under threat e.g. ash die back, Dutch elm & other diseases.	10/12/2020 9:49 AM
22	Makes complete sense	10/11/2020 7:37 PM
23	Need more trees planting	10/11/2020 5:33 PM
24	The Council are trying to squeeze in as many trees as possible in the wrong places to appease the public. Trees planted outside houses and roadside cause problems when they are mature, and when they are at their full potential. Roots cause uneven pavements and potholes in roads, also go under house foundations.	10/10/2020 10:06 AM
25	It has detailed information regarding slowing traffic to possibly provide safety measures for pedestrians yet, in other points disregards the health and well being of those very pedestrians and their right to keep Darlington's current woodlands and walkways in place of development Page 4-: item omitted – Policy Framework – context Our Open Space Strategy takes our vision for cleaner, greener, safer environment one step further. Again, working in partnership with the community, we are committed to providing, protecting and enhancing a variety of high quality, accessible open and green spaces throughout the Borough to meet the needs of residents. National and Regional Context The Tree Strategy will build on this work and will also ensure that we are delivering against national priorities, including Local Agenda 21 and the UK Sustainable Development Strategy “A Better Quality of Life”, which recognise trees and woodlands as key features that need to be protected. The aims of this key national strategy include: • Sustainable management of forests and woodlands • Protection of ancient and semi-natural woodlands • Woodland expansion • Sustainable timber production • Benefits for urban and rural development – direct employment in forestry activities, linked employment (e.g. recreation and tourism) and • Promotion of planting on degraded and contaminated land on the fringes of towns In development the Tree Strategy we have also taken into account the Tees Valley Structure Plan, which sets out the future of land use development of Tees Valley in terms of protecting its environment whilst promoting economic growth and social cohesion. The Tees Valley Structure Plan is aligned o the Governments Regional Planning Guidance for the North East and provides a strategic framework for the Local Plans prepared by the five unitary authorities, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-On-Tees. We have also considered the benefits offered to us by the Town and Country Planning (Tree) Regulations 1999, which sets out the Governments Policy on the Tree Preservation Orders system.	10/9/2020 8:16 PM
26	As above	10/9/2020 8:09 PM
27	Trees on roads will cost the council to be managed can create hazard to drivers cyclists and pedestrians.	10/9/2020 7:37 PM
28	All improvements welcome to our day to day environment	10/9/2020 7:10 PM
29	Although the roadside environment is a delicate space for tree management, I believe it essential to maintain a valued green environment for the population	10/9/2020 12:20 PM
30	Appears to be in line with the Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent Parish Neighbourhood Plan's Forest and Nature Reserve Proposal	10/9/2020 12:00 PM
31	The people who are drafting the policy have very little experience of carrying out a proper tree	10/8/2020 5:21 PM

	surveys.	
32	Very positive approach to the replacement of any trees lost and the replanting of the appropriate specimens	10/8/2020 12:08 PM
33	.	10/6/2020 4:26 PM
34	Think that's common sense	10/5/2020 10:19 PM
35	Just because a tree is an inconvenience to someone, that shouldn't override the benefits to everyone of that tree.	10/5/2020 6:59 PM
36	When these older trees were planted there was considerably less traffic on the roads. As the policy states it is difficult to maintain healthy trees because of pipework, pollutants, drought etc, it would appear to be counter productive to replace these older trees as new ones would be subject to alot more stress than the original ones	10/5/2020 4:49 PM
37	We should have more trees in streets	10/5/2020 4:09 PM
38	Agree to certain extent but some trees on streets are too tall, larger than houses and need to be pruned and kept to manageable sizes	10/5/2020 3:52 PM
39	...	10/5/2020 1:28 PM
40	what is the draft policy	10/5/2020 12:54 PM
41	Trees are feature of many of our established streets. They need to be a feature of more streets n the town!	10/4/2020 7:29 PM
42	Seems to make sense	10/4/2020 3:07 PM
43	There is still insufficient awareness of local environmental constraints in some areas - particularly along some sections of Coniscliffe Road. Grade II Historic assets are being challenged by expanding tree roots and deprivation of day-light into habitable rooms. Pavements and driveways are also being damaged. Dripping trees that overhang weaken historic stonework to private properties.	10/4/2020 2:39 PM
44	Further pruning schedule is needed as trees grow too high and roots affect gardens and path nets causing issues for householders and pedestrians and particularly those on mobility scooters	10/3/2020 1:40 PM
45	Again it seems to be a sensible strategy, although I don't believe it always happens. We had a sorbus tree replaced with what look like a small leafed lime tree due to honey fungus. Another cherry tree on our street was felled and replaced with a Roman tree. So neither were like for like. The cherry trees in particular are spectacular but never seem to be replaced with another cherry so are disappearing.	10/3/2020 1:16 PM
46	We disagree with point 4 : Same Species	10/3/2020 9:51 AM
47	See previous answer.	10/2/2020 5:25 PM
48	As stated in previously we have been in our house for over 10 years and the tree out the front has never been maintained once.	10/2/2020 2:01 PM
49	Xx	10/2/2020 1:09 PM
50	"We will seek to plant new street trees in appropriate sites with priority given to sites where street trees are currently or have in the past been located." This is a long awaited commitment to repair the neglected avenues of street trees in Darlington, particularly those along major routes like the A167 which has been shockingly neglected over many years.	9/25/2020 2:23 PM
51	I agree there needs to be a policy to protect trees and wooded areas	9/23/2020 2:45 PM
52	"We will place a priority on the replacement of aging street tree populations, particularly where these adjoin major traffic routes, planting large-growing trees where appropriate." I believe this clause will leave Darlington with a lack of mature roadside trees for decades to come and will result in a significant change to the looks, environment and carbon footprint of the town for decades to come.	9/23/2020 1:51 PM
53	I like to see the trees in streets as they often enhance an area and as long as they are properly maintained I don't see any issues with them.	9/21/2020 10:26 AM

54	I agree with most aspects but I would like to see more cutting of lower growth from the base of trees as this can be dangerous especially when it goes onto roads Also I don't think there is that much need for taking out trees for root growth by houses?	9/20/2020 11:09 PM
55	We need parking spaces on our streets not trees or grass verges. Invariably the trees have outgrown their position and cause problems for us residents. We don't all have drives or off-street parking and would like the option of parking safely outside of our property.	9/20/2020 10:23 PM
56	Makes sense	9/20/2020 4:26 PM
57	not sure about the desires of street trees due to traffic considerations, if the council thinks that we will do away with vehicle transport in the future then street trees will be okay.	9/20/2020 10:50 AM
58	Yes, all 12 steps.	9/20/2020 9:00 AM
59	I don't know what the draft policy is.	9/18/2020 7:21 PM
60	Seems straight forward enough, however I would say one tree removed to be replaced by two new trees	9/17/2020 8:48 AM
61	good for darlington	9/16/2020 7:33 PM
62	Appears to agree that I damaged trees are not to be touched without good reason	9/16/2020 2:26 PM
63	The Policy provides the right balance between management of trees, ensuring them future generations and combatting climate change.	9/15/2020 10:47 AM
64	Trees on streets add to the attraction of the area	9/14/2020 9:30 PM
65	The trees on streets serve a valid purpose in our town and enhance its appearance.	9/13/2020 8:36 PM
66	Many street trees need management	9/13/2020 11:00 AM
67	I do believe it slows traffic however careful species selection based on width of street should be considered	9/12/2020 11:01 AM
68	My neighborhood (Parkside) already has the verges hardened to facilitate parking; I want to see a special policy to encourage planting in front gardens (as in Skerne Park)	9/10/2020 9:33 PM
69	i think there should be more trees on the streets	9/9/2020 4:49 PM
70	It meets all requirements	9/8/2020 12:32 PM
71	It is clear that some trees do cause problems to public footpaths and road users. With good transparent management and sufficient employees of the council this could happen. Good footways also contribute to the overall architectural effect of tree lined streets without the use of black Tarmac. Tree lined streets can be beautiful and contribute to any area which can be seen when travelling abroad.	9/8/2020 11:19 AM
72	I live on a road to a school entrance. Conyers Avenue. The trees are severely overgrown, some even dead, these cover school road signs and overhanging branches have caused damage to passing cars. If a branch falls on a child it could kill them.	9/8/2020 10:23 AM
73	The trees and hedges can obstruct the public footpaths if not maintained.	9/8/2020 10:05 AM
74	Some council trees, or trees growing on land that does not appear to belong to anyone, grow too big and cause misery for the people living next to them who have fruit, sap, branches and other debris falling on their property. It is a constant battle for them to maintain their own land and prevent trip/slip hazards or flooding from blocked drains and gutters. The policy should allow for the council to take proper ownership and stop the trees from encroaching on private property.	9/8/2020 8:41 AM
75	In principle the overall strategy is in the right direction. However, Residents want trees and an increase in bio-diversity.	9/4/2020 10:10 AM
76	It is important to plant new street trees in advance of the older trees dying off	9/3/2020 9:49 PM
77	It's a sensible policy, but you don't work to it.	9/3/2020 1:54 AM
78	Street tree preservation and planting improves air quality and civic appearance	9/2/2020 6:17 PM
79	.	9/2/2020 3:08 PM

Q5 Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the strategy on trees in woodlands?

Answered: 100 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53.00%	53
No	30.00%	30
Don't know	17.00%	17
TOTAL		100

Q6 Please give details as to why you chose the option you did to the question about the draft policy on trees in woodland in the box below.

Answered: 67 Skipped: 78

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	All woodland should be managed with nature conservation in mind. The felling of trees to ground level should be discouraged and to encourage leaving trees as tall as possible. Dead trees support more wildlife than live ones. We would like to leave trees standing so they can become a habitat for birds and species diversity. We encourage, rewilding of land including degraded and species poor land. Nature, given its own time will start to repair itself and heal.	10/19/2020 12:30 AM
2	There seems to be no intention to measure the area of woodland canopy nor to increase it during the lifetime of the policy. I question how it is possible to meet Darlington's Climate Emergency declaration without undertaking this measure. The policy should set out to measure our area of woodland canopy, compare it to our statistical neighbours and other towns of a similar size to Darlington across Europe, and aim to match those, or at a minimum double tree cover by the end of the policy period.	10/19/2020 12:03 AM
3	The species of trees have been listed, but it would be good to list the areas of woodland - a map would be helpful. Why are only 'most of the woodland' managed with nature conservation objectives as a priority? What about the others? Policy should be changed to 'support natural regeneration and increase species diversity' (point 3).	10/18/2020 6:10 PM
4	The policy should include the intention to measure the amount of tree cover in borough and ensure that the amount of tree cover significantly increases during the next ten years.	10/18/2020 12:49 PM
5	I am pleased to see the commitment to providing management plans which focus on sustainability, nature and public education, especially supporting natural regeneration where possible. Also leaving the wood of dead trees to enable and support other species.	10/17/2020 7:21 PM
6	Too vague. The emphasis is on maintenance, which is essential for healthy and sustainable woodland, but regeneration is not a central plank of this policy.	10/17/2020 2:51 PM
7	This is all too vague and flies in the face of the councils Local Plan, which is set to destroy Skerningham community woodland (and other green spaces) in favour of the senseless moving of the golf course for more unnecessary development	10/17/2020 8:09 AM
8	The strategy should list all of our woodlands, their size and types of trees growing in them. The new strategy no longer mentions the community woodlands in this section which are "within easy reach of the majority of Darlington's residents", community woodlands which have created "new and improved green infrastructure to Darlington". Has this paragraph been conveniently dropped because Skerningham Community Woodland will now NOT be "managed as a long-term sustainable resource for the public, for education and for nature conservation", as stated in point 2?	10/17/2020 7:07 AM
9	I would like to know why the council has deleted the initiative to plant fruit trees in our town. Also why only plant one tree for every one that is cut down? We should be planting 2 or 3 at least to replace lost trees.	10/16/2020 11:06 PM
10	Read recently about a Woodland in North Darlington to be cut down to be replaced with a golf course, how can Darlington Borough Council even allow this to be considered.	10/16/2020 8:22 PM
11	DBC need to offer more protection for the towns Woodlands. , Skerningham Community Woodland is a prime example DBC are supporting the developers plans to fell thousands of Trees in this community Woodland to replace them with a Golf Course DBC have recently become a business partner of Darlington Garden Village Ltd alongside two other directors who are the land owners of Skerningham Community woodland, which has over 12,000 trees funded and planted with tax payers money from Government and EU grants, there are also a large number of rare black poplar trees which according to the Forestry Commission are the most endangered native UK tree, these Skerningham Black poplars were helped to be planted and grown by local school children for the benefit of future generations. so once again a total disgrace that DBC are allowing this to be considered and not helping to protect Skerningham Community Woodland for the benefit of Darlington residents.	10/16/2020 7:19 PM
12	There is no intention to measure the area of woodland canopy nor increase that area within the lifetime of this draft policy (up to 2031). The UK has one of the lowest woodland canopy indices in Europe (measured as proportion of land covered in woodland). The policy should set out to; measure the area of woodland tree canopy compare that against European statistical neighbours aim to double tree canopy within the lifetime of this document.	10/16/2020 5:21 PM
13	According to the Woodland Trust document 'Space for People' (2017 - Available in pdf format	10/16/2020 10:54 AM

on our website), only 5.5 per cent of Darlington residents live within a short walk (500m) of a small wood (<20ha). A commitment to improving woodland access would be good to see here; as the recent lockdown showed, connecting with nature through woodland access is important to people's health and wellbeing as well as physical exercise. The Woodland Trust can help with woodland creation through our MOREWoods scheme for large landowners, public and private alike.

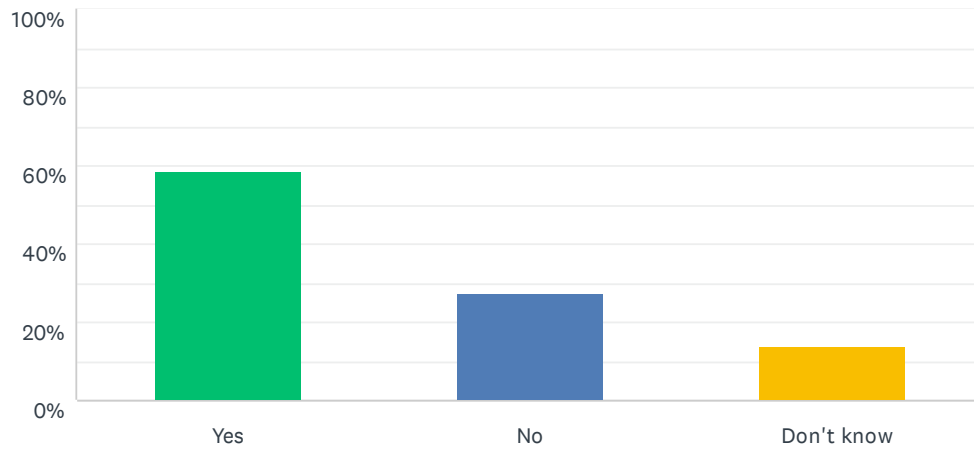
14	Important points to protect current rare native woodlands have been neglected and to the general public this would not be aware of the implications of this	10/15/2020 8:51 PM
15	All trees greater than 75 years must be protected including from the damage of deer who strip the bark and old trees must be prevented from strangulation by tree ivy	10/13/2020 11:53 PM
16	I absolutely object to this policy as it paves the way for development and not the long term future of our green belt land and woodlands ...within the borough, which is a haven for wildlife and home to many rare red listed species and most importantly the Native Rare Black Poplar tree of which its DNA and scientific relevance is under threat... Skerningham woodlands is a perfect example of the planting of hundreds of saplings back in 2002 How can this administration destroy the residence of Darlington's heritage for development that can not replace the woodlands with this rare native species of trees ... this policy must not be accepted	10/12/2020 10:04 PM
17	No mention of preventive planting in areas prone to flooding. Given the new plans for building garden villages where there are already trees in decline such as Skerningham or along Baydale & Cocker becks.	10/12/2020 9:53 AM
18	I agree with the Policy, however, I'm concerned the DBC will not comply with its own policy, the 'Local Plan' allows the destruction of Woodland, including ancient woodland, how can DBC have a policy then ignore it?	10/11/2020 7:45 PM
19	Unsure	10/11/2020 5:33 PM
20	Stopping cutting down healthy trees	10/10/2020 8:15 PM
21	Woodlands grow with nature not being manipulated to suit our own purposes.	10/10/2020 10:07 AM
22	Animal and bird habitats	10/9/2020 8:50 PM
23	More trees please	10/9/2020 7:37 PM
24	A sensible place for easy expansion	10/9/2020 7:10 PM
25	To continue to adapt to the priority on the environment and the benefits provided by trees	10/9/2020 12:22 PM
26	Again	10/9/2020 12:00 PM
27	The council have a very poor track record when dealing with policy on trees.	10/8/2020 5:24 PM
28	In the Tree and Woodland Strategy 2011-2020 there was mention of the planting of Monument/Memorial Trees for loved ones who have passed on. It was noted that West Cemetery would have an areas allocated to this practice which was popular in Victorian times. Could this planting of monument trees under the direction of DBC Arbocultural Officer be extended to the managed woodland area and green spaces of the Borough?	10/8/2020 12:22 PM
29	Cutting too many down	10/5/2020 10:19 PM
30	Woodlands need to be maintained for nature and the climate	10/5/2020 3:52 PM
31	Woodland near property should not be treated as woodland that is not near property. The risk to life from falling trees is far greater from woodland which is not maintained to the same degree as non-woodland areas.	10/5/2020 1:30 PM
32	the trees at the back of me are too tall	10/5/2020 12:55 PM
33	Communal benefits obtainable	10/4/2020 2:47 PM
34	The tres grow too high and need more regular pruning	10/3/2020 1:41 PM
35	There are many trees in the mowden woodland area the new bell way estate which have trees falling and that isn't taken care of.	10/2/2020 9:03 PM
36	See previous comments.	10/2/2020 5:25 PM

37	Not interested in the woodlands, they do not affect where I live.	10/2/2020 2:03 PM
38	Once again the policy seems to timid, I refer you to the following document: "Town Tree Cover in the City and County of Swansea. Understanding canopy cover to better plan and manage our urban trees" Potential for tree cover 'Green land' sites (soil, grass and shrub areas) were assessed for potential planting, piloting one major town in each local authority, e.g. Swansea itself. If all 'green land' sites identified were planted, with the right trees in the right places, cover in Swansea could potentially increase by 38%. Knowing where trees might be planted enables planners to set realistic canopy cover targets. Many North American and Australian cities have comprehensive tree strategies with tree canopy cover goals. Portland in Oregon, with a similar climate to Wales, intends to increase its cover by 7% from its current level of 26%. Bristol City Council has set an aspirational goal of increasing canopy cover from 14% to 30%. If Welsh towns with lower cover aimed for 20% (the UK Forest Standard woodland definition) in the medium term – we could have a nation of woodland towns! Comment : I'm not sure how Darlington's 3% Woodland in the Borough compares to the lofty ambitions of the towns mentioned in the referenced document, but to the untrained eye the ambition here would appear to be an order of magnitude lower.	9/25/2020 2:23 PM
39	N/a	9/23/2020 1:51 PM
40	I cant remember the specific sections. Regarding woodland see the answer to my detailed answer to question 1	9/21/2020 8:44 PM
41	Depends on whether the council are willing to uphold their commitment to the neighbourhood plans on maintaining and expanding green corridors.	9/21/2020 3:40 PM
42	*	9/21/2020 10:26 AM
43	Don't see enough on planting new trees	9/20/2020 11:10 PM
44	I would need to see more information as to how this would work in practice.	9/20/2020 10:25 PM
45	Makes sense	9/20/2020 4:26 PM
46	As per your strategy	9/20/2020 10:51 AM
47	Darlington has amazing woodland which no one realises is there - I did in lockdown and more will have so important to maintain and grow new	9/20/2020 9:11 AM
48	I agree. . . and I would like to see a more trees planted and a guarantee that existing woodland will not be sold off.	9/20/2020 9:01 AM
49	I have no information about the draft policy.	9/18/2020 7:21 PM
50	It is not ambitious enough, theres are lots of brownfield sites around Darlington, especially over Haughton, Great Burden, Hurworth and Skerningham that are used for housing.	9/17/2020 6:50 PM
51	I am concerned about proposed removal of trees at Middleton One Row, which goes beyond necessary woodland management.	9/17/2020 4:57 PM
52	seems straight forward enough	9/17/2020 8:49 AM
53	good for me to walk the dog	9/16/2020 7:33 PM
54	Appears to preserve these as much as possible	9/16/2020 2:27 PM
55	Woodlands need protection for future generations not to mention the need to secure bio diversity	9/14/2020 9:32 PM
56	As above - enhances our town.	9/13/2020 8:36 PM
57	Woodlands need light touch	9/13/2020 11:01 AM
58	Woodland areas no not impact residents and we are blessed with lots of green space are wooded areas in Darlington	9/12/2020 11:02 AM
59	Chair of Friends of Snipe Pond; this agrees with the strategy we had previously agreed with Tim Crawshaw, Phil Roxby, Rob George, et al	9/10/2020 9:35 PM
60	we need more native trees and if any are cut down they need to be replaced	9/9/2020 4:53 PM

61	it's okay	9/9/2020 10:07 AM
62	This may be enough to get trees maintained correctly	9/8/2020 12:33 PM
63	There needs to be the same level of commitment to sustaining hedgerows, Miles of uk hedgerows have been sacrificed to development which is not acceptable.	9/8/2020 11:22 AM
64	The policy should address the problem of neglect and manage the woodland to the benefit of the trees, wildlife and people.	9/8/2020 8:44 AM
65	Overall in the right direction	9/4/2020 10:11 AM
66	No comment needed.	9/3/2020 1:58 AM
67	The diversity factors are comprehensive and appropriate	9/2/2020 6:18 PM

Q7 Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the strategy on trees in parks and open spaces?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 51



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	58.51%	55
No	27.66%	26
Don't know	13.83%	13
TOTAL		94

Q8 Please give details as to why you chose the option you did to the question about the draft policy on trees in parks and open spaces in the box below.

Answered: 66 Skipped: 79

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	A commitment to plant similar value trees is essential to maintaining the visual integrity of different areas. We would like the Darlington Orchard initiative to be included in this section. The inclusion of nut trees as well as fruit trees.	10/19/2020 12:32 AM
2	The Darlington Orchard Initiative - to plant fruit trees in the town does not appear in this draft policy - it should be reinstated. There should be a policy to plant more fruit trees in parks and public open/green spaces, especially in the more deprived areas of the town, to provide some free food to assist those who need it. A mixture of types of fruit tree should be provided to give a long season of free fruit throughout the summer and autumn. Types of trees planted should also aim to improve the stock of those native British trees whose numbers are low or in decline. Woodland and trees planted in parks should be mixed rather than monoculture for both visual appeal and to reduce risk of disease transmission, and obviously always suitable for the soil type present.	10/19/2020 12:04 AM
3	<p>Re Management Plans - Better intention and wording is given to 'Disused Cemeteries and Cemeteries' than to 'Parks & Open Spaces'. Can this be changed ? The two Policies should be at least equal, and ideally a Management Plan should be created for Each Park and Each Open Space as they are all so very different. Can this be applied ? One management plan just would not be appropriate as each area has different content of differing ages with very different needs, with Parks being much more frequented by the public. [Some years ago many of the Friends groups worked with the Rangers and the Manager to write Management plans for the parks and open spaces - Probably due to varied reasons including financial cuts, they have not been completed or applied. So it is hoped that the Tree Management plans will be followed.] 8. says "We will develop long term management plans for trees in disused churchyards and cemeteries to identify areas of risk and to prevent decline". The 2010-15 Strategy for PARKS etc fell short of that paragraph, as does this new draft proposal. It should be changed to read the same as 'preventing decline' applies to P&OS too. 'Maximising Safety' has been removed from this strategy - can it be included ?</p> <p>..... Replacement of trees - For some years the replacement of trees felled has been far less than optimum- it is not addressed in this parks policy. Avenues of trees are diminishing. For 10-15 years the expected replacements/underplanting has not materialised. This needs to be caught up on urgently and is not mentioned in Parks Policy. Veteran trees cannot be replaced by another veteran and so there is constant decline in numbers and quality. This is not included in the policy. Whilst there is an aim to plant 10,000 trees, as we know these are very small and most used in open spaces as they are most often unsuitable for parks - The number is arbitrary & is target driven rather than coming from need of an area. Yes, It might stimulate new projects but they will take up precious department & ranger time if run correctly so as not to waste many trees or plant in unsuitable places which takes up much time.Target chasing rather than achieving management plans and helping the climate. After-Care should be improved - it needs to be written into this policy. There is little offered in this policy for Parks, and the draft says that 'the use of inappropriate trees has potential to devalue this resource forever' - That has been happening at a pace for years - what is being offered now to stop this ? Short lived trees of ornamental species don't maintain the scale of long living trees for avenues in parks, nor provide a canopy for walkers .It is not enough - The quality of life of local people is affected by this - trees are the lungs of the area. the policy aim must be improved upon - what can be done ? Inspections 5 year inspection is far too long for parks - it should be a maximum of 3 years. High winds have done much damage in local park to concern of residents. There is a general perception that there is only 'reaction' to a fall, rather than inspections as they see no checks done.</p>	10/18/2020 10:46 PM
4	I would like to see the Parks and Opens spaces defined, similar to the Cemeteries section. I would also like to see a commitment of planting similar value replacement trees for each mature tree cut down specifically mentioned in this section. The Darlington Orchard initiative has been deleted in the new strategy. Would like to see this included again. We should be increasing our ambitions with tree planting, not reducing them.	10/18/2020 6:24 PM
5	The Darlington Orchard Initiative (to plant fruit trees in our town) which was in the previous strategy document must be reinstated.	10/18/2020 12:50 PM
6	No mention of DBC previously pledged "Orchard Initiative" to plant fruit trees	10/18/2020 12:08 PM
7	I am very pleased to see the acknowledgement that there has been little or no underplanting and that many of our trees may be over mature and subject to disease. It is not clear whether	10/17/2020 7:29 PM

there is a commitment to favour new planting with large native long lived trees over the shorter lived ornamental species. This does need clarifying, accepting of course that species will also need to survive whatever effect of climate change may be, which may not necessarily favour our native traditional trees.

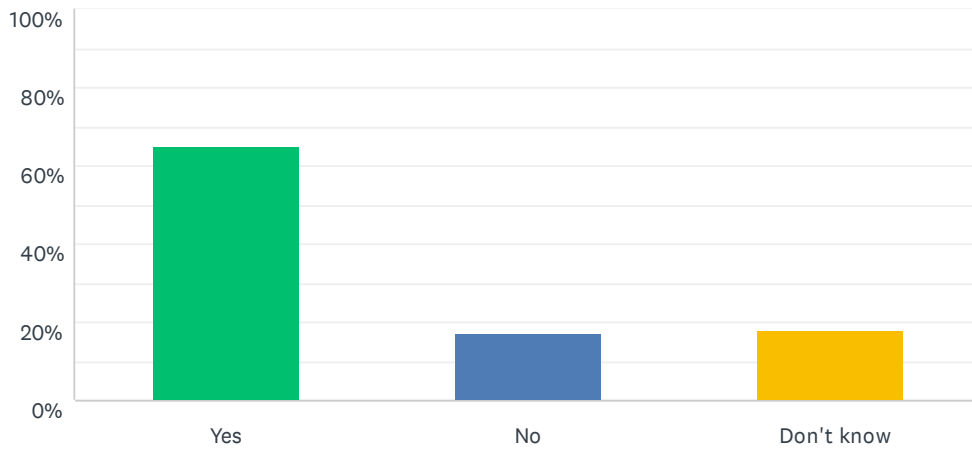
8	Again, too vague and lacking detail. Lack of underplanting is mentioned but no commitment to address this it seems. A sensory arboretum is an excellent idea but there a commitment to create one or more?	10/17/2020 2:57 PM
9	Why has Darlington orchard initiative been deleted in this new strategy? I would like to see it reinstated. It shouldn't just be left to the goodwill and hard work of local voluntary groups	10/17/2020 8:24 AM
10	The Darlington Orchard initiative has been omitted from this strategy. Orchards encourage healthy eating, bring communities together and new orchards provide the next generation of traditional orchards. This initiative should be put back in.	10/17/2020 7:12 AM
11	Where is the plan to protect the trees we have in our parks & open spaces?	10/16/2020 11:08 PM
12	Not enough Trees in open spaces and parks we need more compared to other countries in Europe we have a lot less tree cover.	10/16/2020 8:24 PM
13	Skerningham Community Woodland is in a Country park DBC even described it as the Town's Jewel in the Crown for accessible open space provision they were looking to protect it, enhance it , plant more trees there , then now they are running out of money here they are looking to support the felling of thousands of healthy trees.	10/16/2020 7:24 PM
14	The Darlington Orchard initiative (to plant fruit trees in our town) has not been carried forward into the draft strategy. The Darlington Orchard initiative should be reinstated.	10/16/2020 5:22 PM
15	We especially welcome the commitment to, where appropriate, plant native tree species of local provenance. Some councils, e.g. Leeds, are looking to guarantee this into the future by creating (or in Leeds's case, significantly upscaling) a local municipal tree nursery to ensure the council can meet its tree planting commitments now and into the future. Again, the Woodland Trust has contacts in the tree nursery industry who can advise on this.	10/16/2020 10:56 AM
16	We need more effort to create and add to exciting woodlands, parks and open spaces given the climate emergency pledge	10/15/2020 8:52 PM
17	My property is next to Mowden Park, 7 Conyers Avenue. Trees overhand my property. I have had damage on yearly basis to the property roof and grounds from falling debris, pine needles making drains inoperative - damage to roof tiles and had to remove substantial branches fallen on my property.	10/14/2020 1:51 PM
18	See previous answers	10/13/2020 11:53 PM
19	I do not agree with this strategy as most of the commitments that the previous strategy had, has now been omitted which paves the way for development of which the residence of Darlington do not need.	10/12/2020 10:05 PM
20	See previous comments on Woodburn nursery replacement	10/12/2020 9:54 AM
21	Makes sense.	10/11/2020 7:48 PM
22	Unsure	10/11/2020 5:34 PM
23	More planted and leave alone existing trees	10/10/2020 8:15 PM
24	We have lots of parks in Darlington for a reason - we live on marshy ground therefore some of the land is left on purpose to soak up excessive water. This is sometimes ignored and houses are built on boggy land anyway hoping that they can beat nature by creating reserves and ponds to take the excess.	10/10/2020 10:12 AM
25	As previous	10/9/2020 8:50 PM
26	Please put in a hedge grow around the Southpark bowling green.	10/9/2020 7:37 PM
27	Obvious places of beauty. Hedgerows would also be good where appropriate- Bowls green at South Park needs protection and this would be aesthetically pleasing	10/9/2020 7:12 PM
28	The historic legacy is more apparent within parks and a long term management plan is essential	10/9/2020 12:24 PM

29	Again	10/9/2020 12:00 PM
30	Recognition of a need to review this area of the Strategy as little or no planing has taken place. Also the recognition that the correct species be chosen in any replanting scheme.	10/8/2020 12:26 PM
31	Cutting too many down	10/5/2020 10:19 PM
32	Parks and open spaces always need trees for diversity, interest and nature	10/5/2020 3:53 PM
33	The department responsible for the maintenance of existing trees are useless , countless people in Darlington have problems with council owned trees and get no response or help with them	10/5/2020 1:34 PM
34	...	10/5/2020 1:30 PM
35	trees in open spaces are fine	10/5/2020 12:56 PM
36	There is no robust evidence in the public domain to show that DBC understands or can protect or cherish historical environments and their special significance.	10/4/2020 2:54 PM
37	The trees need more regular maintenance as issues are caused when branches or the whole tree fall into peoples gardens	10/3/2020 1:42 PM
38	Just hope the pruning is carried out by qualified tree surgeons, some of the trees that have fallen recently in Stanhope Park seemed to be lopsided which may have contributed to them coming down. We have also had branched lopped off the trees in our street by council workers who were not tree surgeons and it shows.	10/3/2020 1:19 PM
39	See previous answer	10/2/2020 5:25 PM
40	Not interested in the parks and open spaces, they do not affect where I live.	10/2/2020 2:03 PM
41	The vast majority of parks and open spaces in the town result from the town's Victorian benefactors and there has been little addition to these public open spaces since. When I was growing up in the town there was a large playing field between Pendelton Road and Thompson St East that was lost to house building and not replaced, that's in addition to the playing fields on Thompson St East in front of Robert Stephenson's. Remembering also that the population in the town was a lot less in the 60's and 70's. There is no proposal to add open space on a similar scale to the existing spaces or to repace areas lost over the years. However, I also congratulate the Council on the green space alongside the River Skerne between the Five Arch Bridge and Haughton Rd which is a remarkable natural landscape.	9/25/2020 2:23 PM
42	N/a	9/23/2020 1:51 PM
43	As before	9/21/2020 3:41 PM
44	*	9/21/2020 10:26 AM
45	Mostly sensible	9/20/2020 11:10 PM
46	Again, I would need to see more information as to how this would work in practice.	9/20/2020 10:26 PM
47	Makes sense	9/20/2020 4:26 PM
48	as per your strategy	9/20/2020 10:51 AM
49	Also the small parks are important I live near Eastbourne Park and in lockdown it was used so much maybe these parks could have a little More spent I know South Park is lovely but this small area park is equally important and great for exercise and family time	9/20/2020 9:12 AM
50	I agree with all 4 points.	9/20/2020 9:02 AM
51	I don't know what the draft policy is!	9/18/2020 7:22 PM
52	Totally agree, however I believe planting of some unusual exotic species should be adopted to provide a wide range as what happened in the Victorian era. I also believe that the South Park could have more trees planted in a strip following the path from Victoria embankment southbound between the path and the very large open space area.	9/17/2020 8:54 AM
53	good for me	9/16/2020 7:33 PM
54	Unsure if it will be adhered to where finances become involved	9/16/2020 2:27 PM

55	More investment is needed for parks and open spaces to enhance what we have	9/14/2020 9:33 PM
56	Good strategy promoting our historic parks and open spaces.	9/13/2020 8:37 PM
57	I do not have parks adjacent to my home	9/13/2020 11:01 AM
58	we s a race need places to be where there are green leafy areas	9/9/2020 4:55 PM
59	It's ok	9/9/2020 10:07 AM
60	Not enough detail	9/8/2020 12:33 PM
61	more attention could be payed to trees over hanging property.	9/8/2020 11:31 AM
62	It is vastly important to the publics mental health particularly in parks, cemeteries and churches were people sit to reflect. These areas have a lot of wild life which must be retained and maintained to the highest levels.	9/8/2020 11:27 AM
63	Depends on the definition of open spaces - if those open spaces are close to residential property then "No" - see answers 12 and 14	9/8/2020 10:33 AM
64	it is appropriate	9/8/2020 8:45 AM
65	The premise appears to be that the Victorians made the correct decisions on planting and this will be maintained. Yes, it is important to retain the heritage, though planting decisions must be made to reflect current thinking and to increase bio-diversity	9/4/2020 10:13 AM
66	You've altered the strategy from what it was before. This new draft says "We will develop a long-term management plan for trees in parks and open spaces to identify the areas of risk." The strategy for up to 2020 says "We will develop long term management plans for trees in parks and open spaces to identify areas of risk, maximise safety and to prevent decline." The wording shouldn't be changed in the new one, it should just repeat the old one. There's no good reason to remove the words "maximise safety and to prevent decline." They should be included. You should work to the strategy, but you haven't been doing it. Austerity is one reason you haven't, but it's not the only reason - sometimes it's used as an excuse.	9/3/2020 2:04 AM

Q9 Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the strategy on trees in disused churchyards and cemeteries?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 51



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	64.89%	61
No	17.02%	16
Don't know	18.09%	17
TOTAL		94

Q10 Please give details as to why you chose the option you did to the question about the draft policy on trees in churchyards and cemeteries in the box below.

Answered: 55 Skipped: 90

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	These areas often have a variety of trees from the victorian period, such as the West Cemetery exotic trees are included with English standard trees . Please can this be maintained so that the quality of the space is maintained as an arboretum.	10/19/2020 12:36 AM
2	N/A	10/18/2020 12:10 PM
3	see previous all comments apply to alldetail boxes	10/17/2020 11:53 PM
4	I am pleased to see this commitment to maintain and prevent decline as well to new plantings.	10/17/2020 7:31 PM
5	As long as these guidelines are followed, and the purchase and voluntary planting of trees by the public are not included in the council's '10,000 trees ' tally.	10/17/2020 8:31 AM
6	Same as in Question 9	10/16/2020 11:08 PM
7	Trees in churchyards and cemeteries should be cherished the song of birds singing is a lovely comfort to those grieving for loves ones.	10/16/2020 8:25 PM
8	We would only add here that given the tradition of churchyard yews, it would be good to recognise the special place of yew trees in churchyards in terms of planting commitments.	10/16/2020 10:56 AM
9	The promotion of the option to dedicate a tree for loved ones who've passed should be promoted and not in a basic (if they choose to) at the end of a sentence	10/15/2020 8:54 PM
10	Xx See above	10/13/2020 11:54 PM
11	This policy must re-include and state the option for people to dedicate a tree to there loved ones .. the draft strategy has omitted and replaced it with (if people choose to) how would they know if it's not written in the strategy that they can dedicate a tree?	10/12/2020 10:07 PM
12	Worth involving church councils too	10/12/2020 9:54 AM
13	Makes sense.	10/11/2020 7:49 PM
14	Need more	10/11/2020 5:35 PM
15	Not sure about this, but they are still needed I think	10/10/2020 8:16 PM
16	I have always had the fear that I would live long enough to see our cemeteries and church yards dug up. As long as the trees remain healthy they should be left alone.	10/10/2020 10:14 AM
17	as previous	10/9/2020 8:51 PM
18	Again, sensible	10/9/2020 7:12 PM
19	Feel it is again essential to maintain such areas of historic and future tree planting, to provide a naturalistic environment for the loved ones laid to rest.	10/9/2020 12:28 PM
20	A	10/9/2020 12:01 PM
21	A clear recognition of the sanctity of disused churchyards and the maintenance of the trees in these spaces. A continued option in West Cemetery for the planting of monument trees to loved ones.	10/8/2020 12:32 PM
22	Should be maintained	10/5/2020 10:20 PM
23	There are a number of trees in cemeteries in Darlington that are growing over the top of gravestones and in some instances the gravestone has been completely obliterated by a tree - more responsible action needs to be taken by the Council to ensure that gravestones of loved ones are not consumed by trees whether planted by the Council or individuals in particular as no-one seems to look after them or prevent this from happening. Certainly individuals planting trees is not a good idea for this reason!	10/5/2020 4:59 PM
24	Some trees I see eg north road cemetery appear huge and I wonder how safe they are	10/5/2020 3:54 PM
25	...	10/5/2020 1:30 PM
26	maybe its half with church	10/5/2020 12:59 PM
27	Both the original section of the West Cemtery and the whole of the North Cemetery have special national historical/environmental significance that should be understood - relating to the	10/4/2020 3:30 PM

principles set out by architect/environmentalist John Claudius Loudon. Landscaping in the West Cemetery was laid out by Joseph Bowker of Scarborough to a plan of paths and buildings by the cemetery architect J. P. Pritchett & Sons. Where is the evidence to suggest that future tree planting on graves is historically acceptable? (The practice should be discouraged.) The overall landscape has almost lost its original coherent vision and there are too many trees of poor quality already - many self-seeded. Significant specimen trees have been sadly neglected and poorly managed for years. Some could be expected to last several hundred years. There should first be a full tree audit by a qualified and suitably experienced arborist with a knowledge of conservation landscaping and a new landscaping plan devised to protect and enhance the historic buildings and their settings as a priority. Inappropriate views of later developments/re-developments should be screened off using appropriate planting - hedges/trees not fences along boundaries.

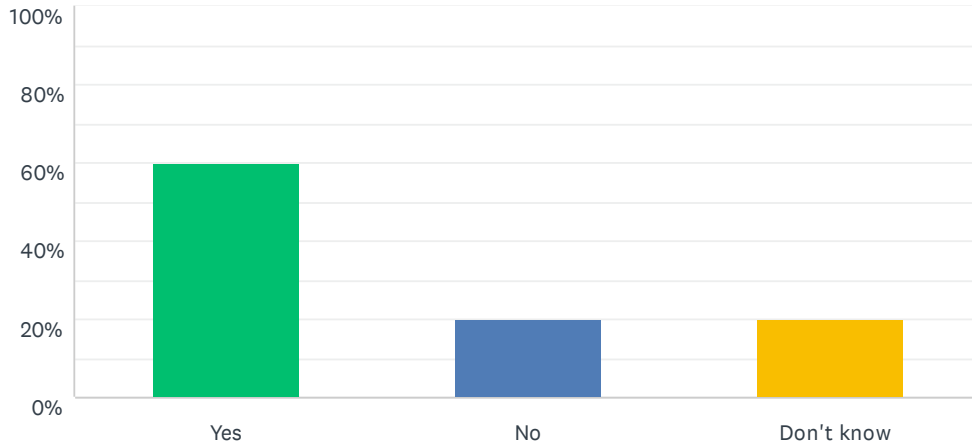
28	More can be done to clear dropped branches	10/3/2020 1:42 PM
29	Point 2 There should be short term plans as we believe the cemeteries are not well maintained	10/3/2020 9:55 AM
30	See previous answer	10/2/2020 5:26 PM
31	Not interested in the churchyards and cemeteries, they do not affect where I live.	10/2/2020 2:03 PM
32	The policy seems to be based on the status quo.	9/25/2020 2:35 PM
33	N/a	9/23/2020 1:51 PM
34	*	9/21/2020 10:26 AM
35	Mostly sensible	9/20/2020 11:10 PM
36	No more Council taxpayer's money should be spent on maintaining trees in disused churchyards and cemeteries. West Cemetery and crematorium should be closed and a new, purpose-built crematorium and cemetery built on the outskirts of the town. Planting of appropriate trees could be included in this plan.	9/20/2020 10:29 PM
37	Not sure	9/20/2020 4:27 PM
38	as per you strategy	9/20/2020 10:52 AM
39	I agree with all 3 points.	9/20/2020 9:02 AM
40	What is the draft policy?	9/18/2020 7:23 PM
41	It appears to maintain existing trees	9/17/2020 6:51 PM
42	totally agree	9/17/2020 8:55 AM
43	it will look for me	9/16/2020 7:34 PM
44	Unsure how this will pan out in the future	9/16/2020 2:28 PM
45	Again to maintain and enhance facilities	9/14/2020 9:34 PM
46	As last question	9/13/2020 8:37 PM
47	Not applicable in my area	9/13/2020 11:02 AM
48	I enjoy the arboretum quality to the Cemetery, and would like to see this continue	9/10/2020 9:37 PM
49	these are places where we can have really big trees without disturbing people	9/9/2020 4:59 PM
50	Adequate	9/8/2020 12:33 PM
51	These areas are where families loved ones are buried and trees forms part of the overall tranquil area for grieving relatives. However, grave stones need to be restored and not just left to fall to the ground. Cemeteries once had on site maintainers, together with the trees these are special places of significance.	9/8/2020 11:35 AM
52	the policy is appropriate	9/8/2020 8:45 AM
53	Again, to be reviewed to improve the environment, not just retain the old	9/4/2020 10:14 AM
54	Needs to keep these words from last strategy "The choice of species and location of the trees will be determined by us to ensure a variety of species and correct locations with regard to the	9/3/2020 2:12 AM

species types." No good reason to remove those words. Will cause problems and arguments if those words are removed. Needs to keep these words "We will continue to develop management plans for disused churchyards and cemeteries." No good reason to remove them. Every good reason to keep them, and work to the strategy not ignore it as if it's a paper exercise.

55	These locations comprise a genetic bank for the future.	9/2/2020 6:18 PM
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Q11 Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the strategy on trees in Council housing areas?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.00%	54
No	20.00%	18
Don't know	20.00%	18
TOTAL		90

Q12 Please give details as to why you chose the option you did to the question about the draft policy on trees in Council housing areas in the box below.

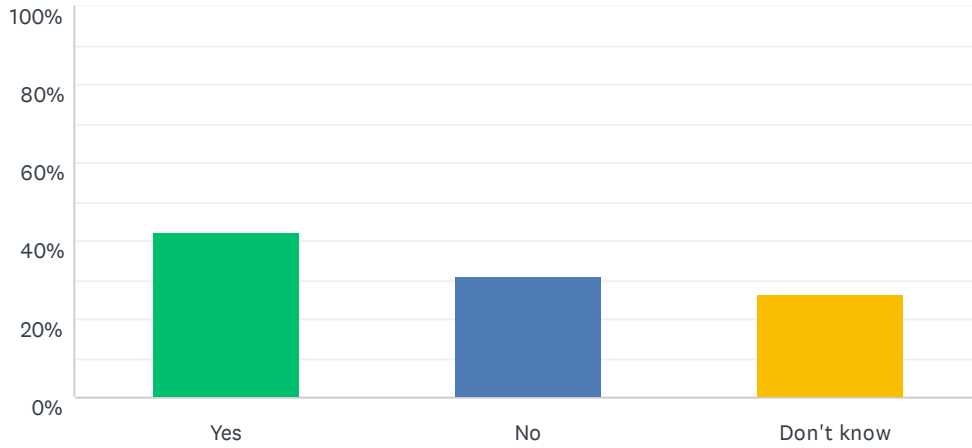
Answered: 52 Skipped: 93

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Hedging in council house gardens are a vital habitat for the endangered red list house sparrow. Hedges in council gardens should be maintained and encouraged. Too many gardens have lost their garden greenery to paving and their hedged to fencing. If a tree has been planted inappropriately if removed a new appropriate tree should replace it.	10/19/2020 12:41 AM
2	There should be a policy to plant more fruit trees in public open/green spaces, especially in the more deprived areas of the town which tend to be close to council housing areas, to provide some free food to assist those who need it. A mixture of types of fruit tree should be provided to give a long season of free fruit throughout the summer and autumn. However all types of tree also provide mental health benefits, so even where fruit trees are not possible for some reason, tree cover should still be sought to be increased for health reasons. As before, types of trees planted should also aim to improve the stock of those native British trees whose numbers are low or in decline, and should perhaps include those likely to increase nature value to birds and small mammals as a way of also bringing nature into council estates.	10/19/2020 12:07 AM
3	N/A	10/18/2020 12:11 PM
4	see previous	10/17/2020 11:54 PM
5	It would be good to see the renewal of hedgerow trees when it becomes necessary as each species has its own specific ecology of interdependent species.	10/17/2020 7:33 PM
6	If evergreen hedges are removed, they should be immediately replaced by native species (singular or mixed varieties) and managed appropriately.	10/17/2020 8:41 AM
7	Same as in previous questions	10/16/2020 11:09 PM
8	As many trees as possible in all council housing areas.	10/16/2020 8:26 PM
9	It would be exemplary here for the council to commit to assessing its council housing estates and identify spaces for more trees. The right tree in the right place can clean air, absorb rainwater, improve mood, beautify, etc. These benefits are often not extended to more deprived communities which studies show are usually less "leafy". A commitment in Darlington to address this, as suggested, would be welcome.	10/16/2020 10:58 AM
10	Social housing residence should be encouraged to plant trees and wildlife friendly areas	10/15/2020 8:55 PM
11	Xx	10/13/2020 11:54 PM
12	This strategy must be scrapped and build on the previous strategy which has been named a good example of a tree and woodland strategy	10/12/2020 10:12 PM
13	Developers often fail to replace young vandalised trees once the estates are completr	10/12/2020 9:56 AM
14	Makes sense	10/11/2020 7:51 PM
15	Need more	10/11/2020 5:35 PM
16	They are amazing as long as they are far enough away from the houses. I live on a Council estate and have 3 Silver Birches and 2 Ash trees in view. Lovely to have them to encourage the birds and relax by watching the branches.	10/10/2020 10:23 AM
17	Yes, would avoid the months of haggling with private residents	10/9/2020 7:12 PM
18	Essential these areas are managed on a proactive basis, to enhance the benefits provided by trees	10/9/2020 12:31 PM
19	It may be useful as part of the Strategy to include community groups here in the maintenance and planting of trees etc	10/8/2020 12:38 PM
20	Think that's fair	10/5/2020 10:20 PM
21	Diversity and interest but cannot be allowed to grow too big	10/5/2020 3:55 PM
22	...	10/5/2020 1:30 PM
23	as where i live they are left to it and get too big	10/5/2020 1:01 PM
24	For communal public benefits	10/4/2020 3:32 PM

25	Ok with me	10/3/2020 1:42 PM
26	See previous answer	10/2/2020 5:26 PM
27	Not interested in the council house areas, they do not affect where I live.	10/2/2020 2:04 PM
28	The policy appears to be little more than the council saying "Well what else can we do? We're basically just trying to hold the line - it's too difficult" The impression created is that due to years of inattention by the council that the council have created a management problem that they are now struggling with. Perhaps there needs to be more engagement with tenants and local schools, highlighting the beneficial aspects of trees to the environment and local children's futures in terms of the climate emergency ?	9/25/2020 2:35 PM
29	N/a	9/23/2020 1:51 PM
30	Not in a position to comment	9/21/2020 3:41 PM
31	*	9/21/2020 10:26 AM
32	Mostly ok but do people really plant their own hedgerows if they are in council housing? If so then shouldn't they also look after them themselves?	9/20/2020 11:12 PM
33	Council housing areas should be greener spaces to improve the environment and wellbeing of the residents.	9/20/2020 10:30 PM
34	Those areas need more trees/hedges- where my sister lives there are hardly any, so no wildlife	9/20/2020 4:33 PM
35	as per your strategy	9/20/2020 10:52 AM
36	Again important for social housing areas have access to green space especially lockdown told us this so up keep and new growth important	9/20/2020 9:13 AM
37	I agree with both points.	9/20/2020 9:03 AM
38	It could be more ambitious, and focus on wider ecology, such as natural meadowland.	9/17/2020 6:51 PM
39	totally agree	9/17/2020 8:55 AM
40	good for the areas	9/16/2020 7:34 PM
41	Seems sensible	9/16/2020 2:28 PM
42	Trees improve peoples lives by improving the environment	9/14/2020 9:40 PM
43	Not sure how residents feel or are affected.	9/13/2020 8:37 PM
44	I would like to see a preference for replanting large-scale, long-lived trees, of non-native origin if the native oak, ash, elm, etc are under attack from outside environmental issues, Sudden Oak Death, Ash Dieback, etc.	9/10/2020 9:43 PM
45	we need more trees on the streets of housing estates	9/9/2020 5:01 PM
46	More need to be done to maintain these trees correctly	9/8/2020 12:33 PM
47	Council areas are just as important as any other developed areas and have the same needs and require good maintenance and care.	9/8/2020 11:38 AM
48	They do not take fair balance between residents' genuine concerns and the well being of the trees.	9/8/2020 10:33 AM
49	Some council trees, or trees growing on land that does not appear to belong to anyone, grow too big and cause misery for the people living next to them who have fruit, sap, branches and other debris falling on their property. It is a constant battle for them to maintain their own land and prevent trip/slip hazards or flooding from blocked drains and gutters. The policy should allow for the council to take stop the trees from encroaching on adjacent council property.	9/8/2020 8:47 AM
50	In the right direction	9/4/2020 10:14 AM
51	No comments needed.	9/3/2020 2:14 AM
52	Historically, council housing areas have been under-supplied with trees, rendering them less attractive as residential areas	9/2/2020 6:19 PM

Q13 Do you agree with the draft Council policy included in the strategy for trees on privately owned land?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	42.22%	38
No	31.11%	28
Don't know	26.67%	24
TOTAL		90

Q14 Please give details as to why you chose the option you did to the question about the draft policy on trees on privately owned land in the box below.

Answered: 60 Skipped: 85

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The use of TPOs should be increased to include significant mature trees, ancient and veteran trees. Especially those that border roads and public spaces that contribute to the historical heritage of the area. Developers should plant trees straight away within a year of the development being complete not the 5 years 5 period currently being proposed.	10/19/2020 12:59 AM
2	As part of planning applications, whilst planting new trees helps, the emphasis should always be to reduce the loss of existing trees as much as possible. In terms of biodiversity, carbon emissions and their other benefits, one existing tree has been shown to be worth the equivalent of 3 newly planted trees, and only with a significant amount of time delay, so any trees which are removed must be replaced by triple the number of new trees, and these should be as large as possible (standards or heavy standards for trees, with smaller saplings or whips only used for new hedging) so as to reduce the delay time to regain what was lost. There should be a policy – as in other local authorities – where trees which are determined to be of landscape value A and B (in tree reports as part of planning applications) should be built-around as a matter of course in new developments, only being felled as a matter of exception, where an adequate case must be made that a certain piece of infrastructure cannot be placed elsewhere for logistical reasons. Where these trees must be removed, they should be replaced elsewhere in the development with a “heavy standard” tree as soon as possible. TPO / veteran trees on private land should be retained and worked around except only in circumstances where the tree is in poor health and this cannot be rectified by any other tree management, pruning etc.	10/19/2020 12:12 AM
3	I would like to see TPO's issued not just for trees at threat, but trees of beauty in good locations.	10/18/2020 6:26 PM
4	I consider that the Council should be more vigilant re developments and expect developers to retain as many mature trees as possible. Also to landscape in an increase in the number of trees on the site in excess of what was there before. The council should prioritise development for Brown field sites not Green filed sites.	10/18/2020 2:54 PM
5	There should be more to encourage landowners to protect there trees and plant more trees.	10/18/2020 12:52 PM
6	N/A	10/18/2020 12:13 PM
7	see previous	10/17/2020 11:54 PM
8	I agree with the presumption of non removal of trees unless there is a good reason, rather than simply some nuisance as trees are habitats for many species. There does need to be stronger protection of trees from developers. Better education and awareness is essential to protect staff.	10/17/2020 7:38 PM
9	All trees should be defended from removal, development etc. We have precious little tree cover in our locality, and especially mature specimens cannot be replaced by relocated new tree plantings. We desperately need every mature tree if we are to contribute to the porevention of climate catastrophe.	10/17/2020 9:04 AM
10	If you have a statutory duty to take steps to protect trees that you believe “make an important contribution to the amenity of the areas”, which was a sentence also included in the old strategy, will you actually deliver on this? The Council has so far failed to do so with Skerningham Community Woodland which is privately owned. Including statements like this in any strategy and then to not follow them reflects badly on the Council and makes any strategy look like a mere tick-box exercise! Also, please ensure all staff know that TPOs can be made on trees on private land because residents have been told in the past in email exchanges when making enquiries that this is not possible.	10/17/2020 7:46 AM
11	I haven't seen the draft.	10/16/2020 11:10 PM
12	The Woodland in North Darlington that is due to be cut down and replaced by a golf course is on privately owned land is it not, therefore if DBC allow this to happen then our current tree strategy is not very good and comparing it with this new draft version which seems not as good then it would seem the council has some work to do to strengthen the protection for Trees on private land.	10/16/2020 8:30 PM
13	DBC need offer more protection for trees on privately owned land, Skerningham Community Woodland is yet another example by supporting the developers plans and becoming a business partner of their new limited company Darlington Garden Village limited they are	10/16/2020 7:29 PM

advertising to other private land owners that its ok to fell trees in the Borough of Darlington to make way for Houses and new roads, forget the Environmental damage, forget biodiversity or climate change emergency if they are in the way of your plans get the felled a total slap in the face to current and future generations of Darlington.

14	Again, this section could be more ambitious. Whilst the council has limited power over trees on private land, it can provide an example and encouragement to landowners. The iTree Eco survey (mentioned earlier - also see: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/i-tree-eco/i-tree-eco-projects-completed/) quantifies the benefits that specific trees provide, which is helpful in terms of getting local people and landowners to better appreciate their trees and woods, and perhaps even incentivise them to plant more. As also mentioned, the Woodland Trust can help private landowners as well as schools and community groups with woodland creation and tree planting, and it would be good for the council to distribute this information through its local channels.	10/16/2020 11:03 AM
15	Either you will protect trees or you won't ...	10/15/2020 8:55 PM
16	Xx	10/13/2020 11:54 PM
17	Any rare species of tree, plant life, wildlife and biodiverse areas whether it is public or private must be protected and encouraged ... not sold and forgotten and developed	10/12/2020 10:13 PM
18	Should be at owners liability	10/12/2020 9:57 AM
19	Makes sense, however, should DBC implement their proposed 'Local Plan' the 'Tree an Woodland Policy' will be totally ignored, yet again	10/11/2020 7:59 PM
20	Need more	10/11/2020 5:35 PM
21	Surely that is up to the owner within reason, depending on the size size of their garden or land and circumstances. Very old trees, may be listed or some could have outgrown their surroundings, a good reason not to build too close.	10/10/2020 10:41 AM
22	Choice on private land should be with the owner.	10/9/2020 7:38 PM
23	Would be more difficult to achieve apart from new builds	10/9/2020 7:13 PM
24	It is essential to promote good standards of tree care and woodland management. Strict control on new housing development is a priority to ensure as much retention of trees and hedgerow are retained	10/9/2020 12:36 PM
25	The Strategy here is very detailed, sound and in keeping with the Environment Bill currently being debated in Parliament. The difficulties come when this has to be put into practice on land for housing development. An example of this kind of calamity, during which over 200 trees were felled and which shook the town, occurred in February 2018 on the Meadows at Carmel Road South. New proposals in the relaxation of planning laws may prove a great challenge for our Arboricultural Officer and Team and this policy.	10/8/2020 12:46 PM
26	A number of pockets of trees exist on Mowden and Hummersknott estates that do not appear to be owned by anyone . As the majority of them have had TPO's placed on them by the Council, they should take full responsibility for their maintenance and ongoing upkeep. It is also interesting that a number of these pockets of land have paved public paths, street lighting and grass, all of which is maintained by the Council so why not the trees? If one of trees should blow over onto a member of the public (a lot of these routes are used by school children) who would be responsible for that? If the Council insist on not taking responsibility for these trees then they should have a statutory obligation to find and name the legal owner and agree a published plan for maintenance of these trees so we as residents know who to contact	10/5/2020 5:11 PM
27	See previous comments.	10/5/2020 1:31 PM
28	if the council planted them they should maintain	10/5/2020 1:03 PM
29	There is no clear evidence that statements made in this draft can be effectively managed. My evidence against it is the poor quality landscaping to the setting of a Grade II property Woodburn Cottage, 298 Coniscliffe Road. The Esh housing developers hedging is not being maintained and tree planting in front of the cottage windows is not appropriate - either environmentally or historically. The poor ground behind the cottage has already killed off one tree which was recently replaced by a new specimen that does not relate to the ethos of the original place being an agricultural site with several fruit trees - cut down by DBC as Phil	10/4/2020 3:51 PM

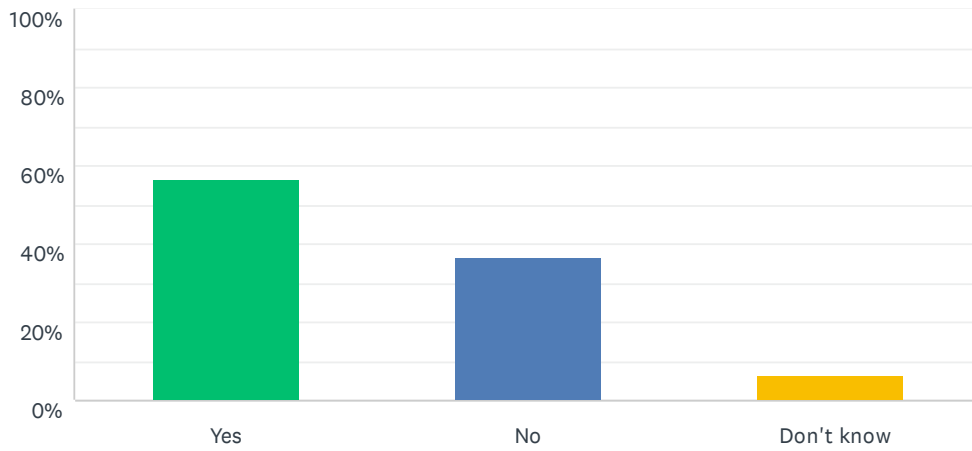
Haynes himself knows. The new trees are incapable of screening off the wide-angle views over an incongruous back-land housing estate and its over-bearing infrastructure. No cherishing (understanding) or legal protection of heritage assets here - despite 'fine words' in the draft local plan that cannot be delivered.

30	Provided the safe guards are enforceable to ensure proper permission is obtained. Its no good after a tree has been cut down. Substantial fines should be introduced to deter illegal cutting down of trees ie £10000 per tree.	10/4/2020 3:10 PM
31	There is too much nuisance getting anything done by the council and access should be easier for pruning when branches overgrow or fall	10/3/2020 1:43 PM
32	There is no reference to council ensuring the trees are managed appropriately	10/3/2020 9:58 AM
33	See previous answer	10/2/2020 5:27 PM
34	"We will usually expect a new site development to contribute to the overall tree population either through on-site planting through planning conditions or through the donation of funds via 'Section 106 Agreement' dedicated to the planting of trees by the Council in the locality" - Should this not read "always expect" rather than usually? After all this is 2021-2031, not 1961-1971.	9/25/2020 2:35 PM
35	I believe all trees on private land ought to be actively protected by the council.	9/23/2020 1:52 PM
36	Some of the land in the Coniscliffe & Merrybent Forrest & Nature Reserve is in private hands, but lottery grants & Forrest monies are available - please see proposal in LC&M neighbourhood plan or contact isobell.jackson@gmail.com for copy	9/21/2020 3:44 PM
37	*	9/21/2020 10:26 AM
38	Think the council should do more to prevent trees from being removed	9/20/2020 11:12 PM
39	The Council is taking away the rights of the landowners and this isn't fair or just and discriminated against private landowners.	9/20/2020 10:32 PM
40	Makes sense	9/20/2020 4:33 PM
41	This area is more difficult, because although I agree with the strategy but my experience says that controlling it seems difficult. The council seems to have a reluctance to enforce maintenance on trees or an inability through resources to keep track of original planning agreements on what to do with trees on private land particularly following housing developments, even when PTO's are present or trees are dead or when self seeded trees grow. Land owners NEED TO BE MORE AWARE of their responsibilities and not treat trees as a short term problem, we all know trees last several of our lifetimes and are therefore a long term commitment to look after.	9/20/2020 11:08 AM
42	I agree with all three points.	9/20/2020 9:04 AM
43	Difficult to have a rule for all.	9/17/2020 4:58 PM
44	Not sure about this one as private land owners have a tendency in my belief (whether true or not) that they will do what they want to suit their own purposes. I believe tree preservation orders should be widely used if appropriate	9/17/2020 8:58 AM
45	it should be up for privately owned land	9/16/2020 7:36 PM
46	Difficult implementing plans for private land although too many trees are being destroyed for housing	9/16/2020 2:29 PM
47	The policy identifies liability but are the public at large aware of the individual liability	9/14/2020 9:44 PM
48	As last question	9/13/2020 8:38 PM
49	In my opinion trees on private owned land should be subjected to the exact same rules inspections Etc as council owned trees with the same schedule of works required to be performed by the owner as per council.	9/12/2020 11:20 AM
50	I oppose the tendency of developers to clear-cut land before appropriate surveys and TPO's can be carried out; Broadly, the Council's proposals seem to be well-considered	9/10/2020 9:48 PM
51	anything to make sure there is more trees	9/9/2020 5:02 PM

52	Needs some specific measures or examples to show what DBC would do.	9/9/2020 10:08 AM
53	Not sure about this one	9/8/2020 12:34 PM
54	Private land owners have a duty to look after their trees and ensure people who use public footpaths are not impeded or neighbours disadvantaged by too much overgrowth.	9/8/2020 11:40 AM
55	Residents are generally unable to prune trees and keep them to an acceptable height. Over the years this laissez faire attitude has led to areas that were once lit by sunlight being in more and more shade, leaf drop has been harder to control and gutters and gulleys are needing clearing more often than would otherwise be necessary.	9/8/2020 10:33 AM
56	Home owners should have more security around who plants what on or in close proximity to their land.	9/8/2020 10:26 AM
57	with the proviso that trees on private land should not be allowed to encroach on neighbouring properties that are also privately owned.	9/8/2020 8:52 AM
58	There is no mention of actions to discourage people / developers from removing trees, for example prior to planning applications. Surely there must be something in the Strategy which talks about prosecution and other measures to put the decision making in the right place, and not the arbitrary whims of private owners	9/4/2020 10:17 AM
59	Several points:- A) This presumably means 'their' not 'your'?? "Land owners have a Common Law right to remove (abate) the nuisance associated with tree encroaching onto your property. They can only consider removing those parts of the tree from the point where they cross the boundary of your property. Land owners have no legal right to cut or remove any part of a tree that does not overhang your property;" B) Chunks have been deleted from last strategy, but should be kept in the new one: "Arboriculture is an established technical discipline where qualifications at various levels are available. There are many people willing to offer tree advice; however, the quality of this advice does vary. Tree owners should be aware that research has updated and substantially changed tree management in the last 20 years. Consequently, any person offering advice should keep themselves up-to-date, usually through membership of an appropriate professional body such as the Arboricultural Association and/or by subscription to the Tree Advisory Trust's research notes and reading list. Also, the quality of tree surgery work undertaken by businesses can vary. We strongly advise using companies that work to recognised standards such as "British Standard 3998, 2010, Recommendations for Tree Work". The Arboricultural Association produces a list of contractors and consultants who have been examined and found to reach recognised standards. We can also provide members of the public with a list of contractors that meet recognised standards." C) Policy 3 has five subsections - i) ii) iii) iv) v) - but it needs to have 'AND' or put between each one otherwise it's not clear if only one or all of these criteria have to be fulfilled. D) Paragraphs about leaves, sap etc, causing problems in gutters etc when council owns the trees overhanging residents' land - this policy is heavily biased in favour of the council and heavily biased against residents. You are there to provide a service, not to provide a nuisance or thumb your nose at residents simply because you have failed to work to the previous strategy by neglecting your duty to manage, maintain, and prune council trees during the austerity years. This policy needs to be re-written in partnership with residents to ensure you do not adopt a self-serving attitude which shuts out residents' complaints by default. This is meant to be a tree strategy, not a 'let's reject all complaints by writing it into our tree strategy' strategy. You have written quite a nasty policy to protect yourselves from your duty to serve residents. Not all residents' complaints are correct, but not all council opinions are correct either. Your attitude in this policy is offensive, wrong, and needs to be re-written with partnership in mind, not 'go forth and multiply', which is clearly what you had in mind when you wrote this. COUNCIL FAILURE TO MANAGE COUNCIL'S TREES IS COUNCIL'S FAULT, NOT RESIDENTS'.	9/3/2020 2:35 AM
60	Tree preservation involves careful and appropriate management, including removal, re-planting, pruning and pollarding, all of which are captured in the draft policy.	9/2/2020 6:21 PM

Q15 Do you agree with the Council commitment included in the strategy to plant 10,000 trees in the next 3 years?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 55



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.67%	51
No	36.67%	33
Don't know	6.67%	6
TOTAL		90

Q16 Please give details as to why you chose the option you did to the question about the commitment on planting trees in the box below.

Answered: 72 Skipped: 73

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	<p>10,000 trees is not ambitious enough and should not include trees planted by community groups. The number of trees planted should also measure how many trees have been lost due to development or other and the equivalent CO₂ capturing saplings planted in replacement. It is not possible to replace one old tree however many new trees are planted. The felling and removal of mature trees for development of any kind should be refused. The cutting down of a mature tree is a significant loss to the historic landscape and to communities and wildlife. "The number of trees planted should be decided depending on the original measurements of the original tree felled. We believe that there are some trees that should never be felled whatever the circumstances such as the rare black poplar trees and any veteran tree or any significant hedgerow habitat. Natural England says that "Hedgerows make an important contribution to local distinctiveness- giving a real sense of place and continuity with generations past and present" and should be protected for our future.</p>	10/19/2020 12:59 AM
2	<p>DBC has committed to planting 10,000 trees from 2021-24 (which was also a manifesto commitment of the minority Conservative group administration). I agree with the aim of this policy BUT the method of counting these trees must be clarified: 1. This policy waters down the above commitment as it also includes trees planted by other groups e.g. community groups. The 10,000 trees must count only those planted by the council themselves, so that any community group planting is *in addition to* those which the council has promised to plant. 2. - This should be 10,000 NEW trees, in addition to any required to mitigate for those which have been cut down. On this matter, the draft strategy commits to planting just one tree for any tree felled - there appears to be no scientific validation for this stance. Whilst planting new trees helps, the emphasis should always be to reduce the loss of existing - especially large & mature - trees as much as possible. In terms of biodiversity, carbon emissions and their other benefits, one existing tree has been shown to be worth the equivalent of 3 newly planted trees, and only with a significant amount of time delay, so any trees which are removed must be replaced by at least triple the number of new trees, and these should be as large as possible (standards or heavy standards for trees, with smaller saplings or whips only used for new hedging) so as to reduce the delay time to regain what was lost. Enormous old trees would be the equivalent of significantly more new trees, suggested is 1/10th of the trunk diameter in cm - e.g. a trunk diameter of 80cm should be deemed to be "worth" planting 8 new trees. In terms of counting / accounting for numbers of trees, the above equivalence should be accounted for, so each mature tree lost should count as "minus 3" (or more, as above) i.e. 3 new trees must be planted to regain a zero net loss - the 10,000 new trees planned for must be over and above this otherwise the target for the increase is meaningless. It would therefore be more worthwhile to measure tree-covered area, since this naturally accounts for the smaller size and nature benefits of saplings vs. the vast canopy of a mature tree. The time limit for replanting replacement trees is too long - as it will already take a significant amount of time for the nature and carbon benefits of a small new tree to be seen, this must be replanted within at most 2 years (potential for a 1 year extension in exceptional circumstances), not the 5 years suggested in this policy.</p>	10/19/2020 12:29 AM
3	<p>3333 per year - is probably close to what has been planted over past years across the Borough. That number of larger trees might help climate change much better ! Goal Setting is a slippery slope. Virtue Signalling and photoshoots ? !</p>	10/18/2020 10:50 PM
4	<p>Tree-planting rates have fallen behind government goals, but if the UK is to meet its long-term aim of net zero emissions by 2050, about 1.5bn new trees will be needed, according to the Committee on Climate Change, the government's statutory advisers. Only 13% of the UK's land area is made up of woodland, far below the European average of about 38%. Darlington's tree cover is only 10%. So if the political stance across the UK is the level up the North, then this should also apply to tree planting. Darlington should at least be aiming to be level with the rest of the UK which is to increase tree cover from 10% to 13%. The Council's commitment to plant 10,000 trees between 2021-2024 is extremely welcome and very good to see. However, it is noted that this number will include any trees planted by community groups on Council land with the majority of the effort done by volunteers. There is appetite across Darlington to plant trees and the Council should not be taking advantage of this. The Council should commit to planting 10,000 trees not including any planted by community groups. There should also be some commitment to planting trees between 2025-2031. I disagree with the fact that developers have 5 years to replace lost trees and feel this should be shortened. Also developers should be asked to dig up any small tree seedlings to the Council to be replanted. It is welcome that the strategy is committed to planting one tree for every tree that is removed. However, this will not increase tree cover in Darlington. Wirral Council's policy states that when</p>	10/18/2020 6:48 PM

they feel a tree on public land, they plant at least two trees or more as soon as possible and in an appropriate place. "The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. Wherever possible, replanting will be in the same area as the felled tree, but if this is not possible, appropriate trees will be planted elsewhere on Wirral. This ensures an overall increase in the number of trees." I would like to see a similar commitment in Darlington. Rare trees should be given special protection. We are lucky to have some of the rarest trees in the UK growing in Darlington, namely Black Poplars. In Worcester "some of the most important sites where black poplars occur, such as Castlemoreton Common, are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)". Hundreds of saplings were planted in Skerningham Community Woodland and near South Burdon. The black poplar is the UK's most endangered native timber tree. Darlington was meant to become a focal point "for the resurgence of these magnificent trees". Why are these trees not mentioned in the strategy? There should be an up-to-date action plan for the black poplar.

5	However this is not enough! It should be new trees. It should not include in this figure (target), replacement trees, and those trees planted by third parties. These should be a bonus to the 100,000 planted by the council.	10/18/2020 2:58 PM
6	The 10,000 trees to be planted should only include trees directly planted by the council and exclude all planting by community and other voluntary groups. The draft strategy commits to planting just one tree for every tree felled. This does nothing to compensate for the huge benefits of mature trees bring. The following replacement planting depending on the girth of tree felled should be adopted. Trunk diameter (cm) - number of trees to be planted d<20 =1 tree 20	10/18/2020 1:02 PM
7	DBC have confirmed that the proposed 10,000 trees will not be over and above trees planted by voluntary organisations such as Darlington Forest Project and I think they should be	10/18/2020 12:17 PM
8	see previous all applies. This is not game playing -it needs thought and planning. Too casually plucking numbers from thin air is not being responsible.! Right tree right numbers right spaces right soil type right light right maintenance	10/17/2020 11:57 PM
9	YES! Fantastic. And I was especially pleased to see the commitment to work with Park Friends groups. There is a very great need for education and awareness of the value of trees and the environment to humans, and especially that we very much depend on the environment for our quality of life in so many ways. It is also ESSENTIAL that trees are properly watered and properly staked to try and resist vandals who carelessly snap young trees. I do think the investment in the trees must be accompanied by commitment from the community to watch over and health of especially new trees, and be encouraged to water them. I do hope priority can be given to much better stakes and protection for young trees as I have seen far too many carelessly destroyed by snapping off young trunks.	10/17/2020 7:44 PM
10	Although I welcome the commitment, I was disappointed by the news that the council intends to include in this total any trees planted by community groups such as The Darlington Forest Project on council land. This is a shameful negation of responsibility, as the DFP intends to plant this many trees in the next winter alone! This must be amended, and the Council must, alone, be responsible for this commitment, and any extra planting must be over and above this, and seen as an excellent contribution and not part of the council's tally.	10/17/2020 9:21 AM
11	Aiming to plant 10,000 trees between 2021-2024 is good but using any trees planted by Darlington Forest Project and other groups to help you reach this target shows a lack of ambition. You should be aiming to plant 10,000 trees off your own bat, any additional trees put in by the various groups should be viewed as a welcome bonus! Their success should not be milked to help you succeed. Planting one tree for every tree that has been removed isn't good enough. Be bold! The number of replacement trees planted should be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame.	10/17/2020 8:07 AM
12	10,000 trees is not enough, and the number quoted is to include trees planted by community groups.	10/16/2020 11:12 PM
13	It would seem the council is trying to hide off the back of the thousands of trees a community project Darlington Forest group are going to plant I recently read in a Northern Echo article that they have secured a grant and plan to plant 7,000 trees soon these should not be included in DBC commitment to plant 10,000 so to be clear DBC plant their pledged 10,000 new trees and Darlington Forest Project plants tens of thousands of new trees the more the better	10/16/2020 8:35 PM

14	DBC commitment to plant 10,000 trees was pledge well before Darlington forest project was set up by Roz Henderson and her friends so the Council pledge to plant 10,000 trees should be separate from any Trees DFP Plant what is so wrong with planting as many trees as possible the trees Darlington Forest Project plant should NOT be including in DBC commitment to their residents that they would plant 10,000 trees DFP will help with volunteers to help DBC plant their 10,000 trees but DBC SHOULD NOT be dictating to DFP that any trees they source the funding for, buy and plant MUST be including in their 10,000 promised new Trees to be planted. DBC are supporting the developers of Skerningham Garden Community to fell 12,000 trees in Skerningham Community Woodland so they should be now looking to plant 22,000 new trees!	10/16/2020 7:35 PM
15	Darlington Borough Council has committed to planting 10,000 trees from 2021 to 2024 (a manifesto commitment of the minority Conservative group). However, this document wasters down that commitment as it will include any trees planted by community groups. This should be reversed so that community group planting is in addition to the 10,000 trees that the Council has promised residents it will plant. The draft strategy commits to planting just one tree for every tree felled. This does nothing to compensate for the many benefits mature and large trees bring. The replanting strategy should be upgraded to take this into account. I suggest that the replanting number be a function of the felled tree's girth. Trunk diameter (cm) -> number of trees to be planted $d < 20 = 1$ tree $20 < d < 30 = 2$ trees $30 < d < 40 = 3$ trees $40 < d < 50 = 4$ trees $50 < d < 60 = 5$ trees $60 < d < 70 = 6$ trees $70 < d < 80 = 7$ trees $d > 80 = 8$ trees The time limit on replanting for all areas of Darlington is up to 5 years. This is too long. I recommend that the time limit for replanting be reduced to 2 years with an extension granted for an extra year (total 3 years) in exceptional circumstances. Rare trees should receive special protection above and beyond all other trees. We are fortunate to have a number of rare Black Poplars growing in the Borough. These trees deserve extra protection. I recommend that the area where Black Poplars are growing is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.	10/16/2020 5:22 PM
16	Whilst Darlington is to be congratulated for making a commitment to plant more trees, we believe a better way of doing this would be to make a commitment to increase tree canopy cover ambitiously, informed by data such as that from an iTree Eco survey. A commitment to planting trees doesn't account for trees lost and it is by increasing tree canopy cover that residents and nature alike in Darlington will benefit from trees.	10/16/2020 11:06 AM
17	This should be solely the councils target and not include volunteer groups planting efforts	10/15/2020 8:56 PM
18	Providing the old classics are included	10/13/2020 11:55 PM
19	Finally a question that can be easily answered without having to refer back to policies. I think trees are hugely important and play a role in how we all can help combat climate change, increase biodiversity and help the town look attractive too	10/13/2020 3:19 PM
20	Most of these trees will be planted by volunteer groups and not by DBC themselves .. you are including these volunteer groups planting of trees within you're target.. which is both unfair and immoral. And a huge disregard of the climate promise ... DBC should plant a tree for every resident within the borough if Darlington and County Durham as a start! All volunteer groups planting should not be included in this strategy it should support and guide them instead ... and not used as an excuse to do you're job for you ... absolutely shocking !	10/12/2020 10:17 PM
21	Insufficient	10/12/2020 9:57 AM
22	DBC history of compliance to its own policy is pathetic, it prepares a commendable policy then fails to fulfill its obligations under its own policy. It is proposing to plant 10,000 saplings, to replace many thousands of mature trees. Is there any sense in that?	10/11/2020 8:12 PM
23	Good	10/11/2020 5:35 PM
24	No, if these means 12,000 trees are going to be cut down for new developments. Going to be a long time before we get any benefit from them	10/10/2020 8:18 PM
25	That's a good thing for future generations, but not an excuse to continue to fell our existing mature trees. We need to use up CO2 now not in 50 year's time. We need to bring back the varieties, not just the quicker growing trees. J	10/10/2020 10:46 AM
26	can only be good for environment	10/9/2020 8:52 PM
27	I would say as many as realistic	10/9/2020 7:13 PM
28	There is a need to proactively manage, protect and enlarge the tree population of the Borough	10/9/2020 12:38 PM

29	Clear intent for co-operation with community groups. Due care to the Equality Act and appropriate staff training. Good Health and Safety rolling plan, removal and replanting.	10/8/2020 12:52 PM
30	Net loss	10/5/2020 10:20 PM
31	in principal this strategy is fine as long as the Council has the ability to look after additional trees as it appears to struggle to maintain the ones they already have! It will be interesting to see if 'the Willow's' developers replace the numerous trees that were needlessly felled within 5 years as outlined in this policy as this decision by the Council made a total mockery of this document on protecting our trees for the future!	10/5/2020 5:20 PM
32	Depends where	10/5/2020 3:56 PM
33	...	10/5/2020 1:31 PM
34	its a great thing to do	10/5/2020 1:09 PM
35	Not enough!	10/4/2020 7:29 PM
36	It is not simply a matter of meeting a numerical target. Trees should generally be treated with respect as they are mostly long-lived. Their size, type, position and expected long-evity should be very carefully considered to avoid adverse consequences - on local people/local environment. Trees that may cause ground subsidence, self-seeding should not be close to buildings. Deciduous trees create slippery pavements in wet weather. Uneven or slippery pavements are a menace to the well-being of frail-members of society who may be a little unsteady on their feet but who are still able to walk to local shops and seek to keep their independence for as long as possible. There is no prospect in the present economic climate that effective monitoring of the policies proposed will take place. It is merely a 'vision' that has too little substance. Growth of the town disproportionately to the trained work-force will simply make these proposals unworkable/economically unviable even in the short term - as of now.	10/4/2020 4:07 PM
37	To make up for the ones already lost and likely to be cut down.	10/4/2020 3:11 PM
38	We need to increase the number of trees in order to help in becoming carbon neutral.	10/3/2020 4:29 PM
39	Good plan for the environment	10/3/2020 1:43 PM
40	Providing the follow up maintenance is adhered to. The replacement trees on our toad were planted with a watering tube but never saw them watered and the tree strap broke on the tow an and has never been replaced.	10/3/2020 1:21 PM
41	This is to be applauded. How will the council be held to account on this?	10/2/2020 5:28 PM
42	We do need more trees, but they need to be maintained and kept under control..	10/2/2020 2:05 PM
43	There are many places in the world where they are proposing to plant 10000 trees from Middlesbrough to Bratislava and into North America and indeed across the World. It must be the right thing to do given the climate emergency. In Bratislava they are saying: "The 10,000 trees initiative is a structured plan for the systematic restoration of Bratislava's woodwork. Over the course of 2019, the local government planted over a thousand trees – more than the 4 previous years combined. The new initiative, however, will see the planting of 10,000 trees by 2022, while simultaneously creating new city alleys. "In summer, trees protect our city from overheating, improve air quality, mitigate the effects of torrential rains and provide a refuge for animals and important insects. The streets with trees are more beautiful and we simply feel more comfortable in them. Greenery is, therefore, one of our priorities," said the mayor of Bratislava Matúš Vallo. The main planting season part of the initiative will begin at the start of October before the first snows fall. A 2nd round is also being made ready for November. According to officials, those will be the perfect periods for trees to be planted as the conditions will allow the saplings to quickly take root. Furthermore, together with the city's districts, Bratislava is gearing up for a "passportization" of greenery (e.g. the creation of a unified registration system for greenery), which will provide an overview of the city's woods. Not only that, but the municipality is also working alongside the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava on the creation of a green care manual - an open document that will bring professional solutions and procedures focused on the sustainable planting of trees and their care in urban areas."	9/25/2020 2:35 PM
44	I believe that the council intend to remove. A significant amount of mature trees in key areas, particularly road sides. The commitment to plant 10,000 new trees will not counter the negative effects of the loss of significant numbers of mature trees.	9/23/2020 1:53 PM

45	Do not demolish mature healthy prosperous trees in the North of Darlington that are already doing what they are supposed to do, then you will not need to plant as many! Trees are our life source and to cut most down to provide a private golf course that only people with a certain income can afford to be honest is not at all within the aims of the strategy it makes a mockery of it	9/21/2020 8:48 PM
46	A great proportion of this target could be met if DBC committed to the enlargement of Merrybent Wood, which was originally planted as a part of the Tees Valley Forrest and supported by Tees Valley Green Infrastructure- The Tees Forest, is one of twelve Community Forests established throughout England. It covers an area of over 350 sq. kilometres, representing a major element of the Tees Valley green infrastructure resource. The Tees Forest is accessible to around one million potential users. The aims of the Tees Forests are to retain the best landscapes, restore those that are in decline, create new landscapes and to achieve major environmental improvements around the conurbation and towns of the Tees Valley sub-region. One of the principal objectives of the Tees Forest is to develop, in conjunction with the Countryside Agency, the concept of 'connected countryside' - securing good inter-connections between built up areas and the countryside by means of Gateways, which provide access points to the Tees Forest for the local community and Greenways, which are off road routes radiating from the Gateways	9/21/2020 3:48 PM
47	We need to plan to replace trees that are at the end of life and to ensure that we maintain green spaces for wildlife	9/21/2020 10:27 AM
48	Agree with new planting but still think council should do more to preserve existing trees - especially those in danger of being removed for development or such as golf courses. Especially if old and historic	9/20/2020 11:14 PM
49	The Council needs to manage its current stock of trees before planting any more. I see that the Lead Officer is someone called Phil Haynes. Well Mr Haynes is going to have his work cut out looking after all these trees - good luck to him.	9/20/2020 10:34 PM
50	Should aim much higher, and put TPO on all that are planted to prevent them being removed for houses	9/20/2020 4:34 PM
51	It is necessary for the trapping of greenhouse gasses and improving the life of the planet in the long term. It will help wildlife and stop extinctions. IT will improve air quality to the benefit of all.	9/20/2020 11:14 AM
52	Great - just important to look At where - again don't forget the small parks like Eastbourne which could easily take more trees in its green space	9/20/2020 9:14 AM
53	I think it is vital to plant more trees.	9/20/2020 9:05 AM
54	Not ambitious enough because any planting strategy is mitigated by the mass drive for housebuilding.	9/17/2020 6:52 PM
55	It should be much higher	9/17/2020 8:59 AM
56	good for darlington	9/16/2020 7:36 PM
57	Totally agree though they won't catch up to the ones lost in my lifetime	9/16/2020 2:29 PM
58	The more the better for the battle against climate change	9/14/2020 9:45 PM
59	Brilliant way to support climate change.	9/13/2020 8:38 PM
60	Essential part of actiuon to curtail global warming	9/13/2020 11:04 AM
61	Depends where they are planting them and if residents have any say.	9/12/2020 11:21 AM
62	I commend the effort, but please, make sure they're the right trees in the right settings, not just guided by number-crunching.	9/10/2020 9:49 PM
63	we ned more trees	9/9/2020 5:03 PM
64	Not particularly ambitious, & Covid has already delayed scheduled planting of trees in some parks.	9/9/2020 10:09 AM
65	Great strategy	9/8/2020 12:34 PM
66	Both yes and No- Ongoing tree planting is essential and 10,000 is just the start. As stated	9/8/2020 11:43 AM

there must be more protection and planting up of hedgerows that have suffered badly due to development. Hedgerows and trees are the lungs of any area.

67	If in the right places and the right species that will not incur future problems. Housing planning should also be dove tailed to suit.	9/8/2020 10:34 AM
68	As a minimum	9/8/2020 8:52 AM
69	The objective needs to have more clarity in terms of place and species. The current wording could mean planting 10000 conifers and claiming success.	9/4/2020 10:19 AM
70	Does not identify the need for 10,000 trees. Where has this number come from? Having a target quantity has always led to bad decisions being forced through. Any statement of quantity needs to be justified in this document. It should be given as a RANGE hoped for, not a specific number. We have lots of self-seeded trees which need to be REMOVED before they grow any bigger. We have trees planted by well-meaning people which are wrong species, wrong location, or both. You need to fix those problems not just commit to planting more and more trees. The 10,000 figure needs to be justified otherwise it is plucked out of nowhere.	9/3/2020 2:49 AM
71	It is a reasonable and attainable objective, but should be reviewed upwards in the light of climate change developments.	9/2/2020 6:23 PM
72	This is not as it sounds. This number of trees will not be planted and survive. They are one or two foot tall and loads dont live. The town needs grown trees to an older stronger type, not little whips given by woodland trust - they can be planted but dont count them as trees because they dont all promise to ever be a tree, especially in the places my family have seen them planted. A FEW THOUSANDS of these have been planted in Darlington to date - it's an extremely small effect that these seedling trees can/do have. To be making a difference to the town and also replaceing the lost trees, the statement/policy should be 10, 000 + mature trees within the next three years.	9/2/2020 3:19 PM

Q17 Please add any further comments you have in the box below.

Answered: 56 Skipped: 89

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It is vital that older trees and hedgerows are protected without exception. New trees will never replace the older ones, neither in storing carbon or in supporting wildlife . We have to find a way where nature does not come last .	10/19/2020 12:59 AM
2	Rare and declining tree species should receive protection above and beyond other trees. We have a number of Black Poplar trees in the Borough which are the rarest British timber tree. These should be sought to be propagated and planted in other locations where the situation is suitable, but where these grow should be designated a site of special scientific interest, and protected from any felling or development which may damage this incredibly rare tree. Those tree species which have suffered from tree diseases in the past such as elm and ash should also be retained where they are thriving, as healthy specimens may be resistant to the diseases which have affected others so would be valuable to repopulate the British landscape with healthy stock.	10/19/2020 12:34 AM
3	The previous tree strategy was excellent and it was ground breaking at the time (2010) and upheld for best practice. Sadly, this is no longer the case as other tree strategies across the UK have bounded ahead in their ambitions for protecting trees. If anything, this draft strategy is weaker than the previous version, not stronger. I hope this consultation process will help the council to look at the draft strategy again with the aim of improving the ambitions in it to increase the tree cover across Darlington.	10/18/2020 6:52 PM
4	Darlington Borough Council Draft Strategy states that it will plant one tree for every tree they have to fell. One new tree is not enough, taking into account the benefit of mature trees to the environment. I think a mature tree should be replaced by at least two immature trees. I would also more stringent protection measures to rare trees such as Darlington's rare black poplars	10/18/2020 12:25 PM
5	MUCH Rethinking throughout needed. I Haven't covered everything.....	10/17/2020 11:59 PM
6	It does seem to me that this is a massive task and I wonder whether more staffing is needed. There is a need for residents to be more involved in caring and monitoring the trees. There is also a need for better education and awareness. I would also like to see a commitment to improving tree cover in the areas like Northgate which have so few trees and no gardens. Perhaps more street trees? One benefit of trees which was not included was how they cool the air when the temperature increases. Again, in Northgate where the whole area is mostly brick and tarmac, this retains the heat, which is only predicted to increase with climate change, which seems to me to make an important case for increasing tree cover in areas like this.	10/17/2020 7:51 PM
7	The council strategy, if a tree is cut down, is to replace it with one new tree. this figure should be increased to at least two, or ,better still, more than two. The protection of rare black poplars is not mentioned. This should also be a major part of this policy.	10/17/2020 9:26 AM
8	Darlington is a lovely green town, with many parks and green spaces, and an abundance of trees and hedging, some of which are sadly disappearing because of the increasing encroachment on available land to build more and more housing, Blackwell Meadows being just one of the areas sacrificed to this rash of building, another instance is a beautiful field in Middleton Lane, Middleton St. George, and there are many, many more. This has a major impact on wildlife in our area, which is increasingly under threat from the loss of habitat. I would like to know that we are leaving a legacy of a brighter future for the future residents of our town and area, and for the flora and fauna within.	10/16/2020 11:24 PM
9	Get your act together DBC the residents will not be fobbed off with a terrible watered down version of the towns current Tree strategy no we want a better one that protects our healthy trees and plants thousands more.	10/16/2020 8:37 PM
10	This draft tree strategy needs looking at by DBC and concerns from residents reflected in the amendments they should make to it, its far inferior to the Tree Strategy its due to replace and residents of Darlington are thinking we Climate change emergency it should be DBC priority to protect all the towns healthy trees, plant as many new ones as possible and stop helling the land developers and new home builders fell these healthy trees and rip of the established Hedgerows are protected under Hedgerow Regulation 1997 and section 97 of the Environment act 1995 protecting our already fragile environment is important to existing residents and future generations of Darlington please never forget this.	10/16/2020 7:41 PM
11	Many local authorities are doing, or have done, many of the suggestions made in this response. The Woodland Trust can also provide advice, guidance and support. It's great to see	10/16/2020 11:07 AM

Darlington invest in a tree and woodland strategy for the next decade, but we think that more can be done and we stand ready to help. If this would be of interest then please contact our regional external affairs officer, Richard O'Callaghan (richard.o'callaghan@woodlandtrust.org.uk) in the first instance.

12	The old strategy must be retained and added too	10/15/2020 8:56 PM
13	I would like see to maintenance of Trees that seem to have no ownership. As mentioned my property is damaged every year and despite requests, the trees have not been maintained. There is also risk to life from falling debris on the path next to the property which is also a public right of way and main route to schools.	10/14/2020 1:53 PM
14	Trees destroyed by developers with tpo on them should be fined so heavily that no profit can be gained from the building site.	10/13/2020 11:56 PM
15	I just feel more people would get involved and have their say on council and public issues/matters if everything was made clearer and easier for them to comment.	10/13/2020 3:20 PM
16	Yes This strategy must not be accepted This strategy is not a commitment to protect the borough of Darlington'S green belt land of which is home to many rare species of wildlife and the rare Native Rare Black Poplar Trees Of which it's plight was recognised back in 2002 Is also subject to scientific research... this strategy has disregarded the climate emergency to protect all trees and woodlands within the borough of Darlington This strategy does not promote the commitment to become carbon neutral by 2050 This strategy disregards the health and well-being of the residents of Darlington and it's desire to keep the remaining woodlands it has left.	10/12/2020 10:21 PM
17	The 'Tree and Woodland Policy' to me seems an excellent policy, however, a policy is of no real use without the will to comply with it. DBC need to be aware of its commitment when a policy is implemented..	10/11/2020 8:23 PM
18	Stop cutting so many trees and hedges down in the first instance. Something that happens a great deal in Datlington.	10/10/2020 8:19 PM
19	Hedgerows are very important to encourage nesting birds, but I've noticed in recent years that the majority of these have been removed from my estate.	10/10/2020 10:49 AM
20	The hedge grow at the Darlington south park bowling club would give shelter from elements, and shade from sun and aid the playing surface.	10/9/2020 7:40 PM
21	Hedgerows would also be good where appropriate- Bowls green at South Park needs protection and this would be aesthetically pleasing and give the protection the bowlers are struggling to afford. Resolves 2 problems. The plan of the bowls was a small hedge and was locally approved already, just needs cash and action	10/9/2020 7:15 PM
22	The Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent Parish Neighbourhood Plan submitted a Proposal for a LC&M Forest & Nature Reserve - an extension of the existing Community Woodland of 16 hectares of deciduous planting should be encouraged to provide a valued environment amenity for future local generations	10/9/2020 12:46 PM
23	These further comments are specific to the Historic Blackwell Parkland, which this year sees the 200th Anniversary of this Georgian Pleasure Park. Grid Reference: NZ 28050 13244. It is an area of land which has historic connections to the South Park being part of this green wedge. South Park before its layout as a park, was once part of the Havelock-Allan estate as arable land. The Blackwell Parkland being the more formal part of the estate in the 17th Century onwards. The Blackwell Parkland has many fine ancient specimen trees, a total of 672 trees of 48 different varieties. This is recorded in the 2019 Treezilla Survey carried out for the Parkland Heritage Network (Bramfitt R. "Ecosystem Services provided by Blackwell Grange Parkland and the Impact of Possible Development" 2019). The Heritage Network , on behalf of the wider community has made submission to the Local Authority for Green Space Status for the Parkland. The Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021-2031 is opening up many opportunities for a sound partnership between the various interest groups in the Network and the Local Authority with regards to the value, protection and enhancement of this much loved green space and Parkland.	10/8/2020 1:19 PM
24	We endorse the approach to statutory protection in the context of planning applications, particularly the retention of existing hedgerows. While we would have liked to have seen a very definite statement to the effect that as a principle no trees are allowed to be removed from a	10/5/2020 4:55 PM

potential development site, including any removal prior to planning submission, we are generally supportive of the approach set out, which seems realistic. Finally we are glad to see the importance given to advice, the continued availability of free advice from yourselves, and encouraging people to take professional advice. We find the draft to be clearly written, logically set out, and generally accessible.

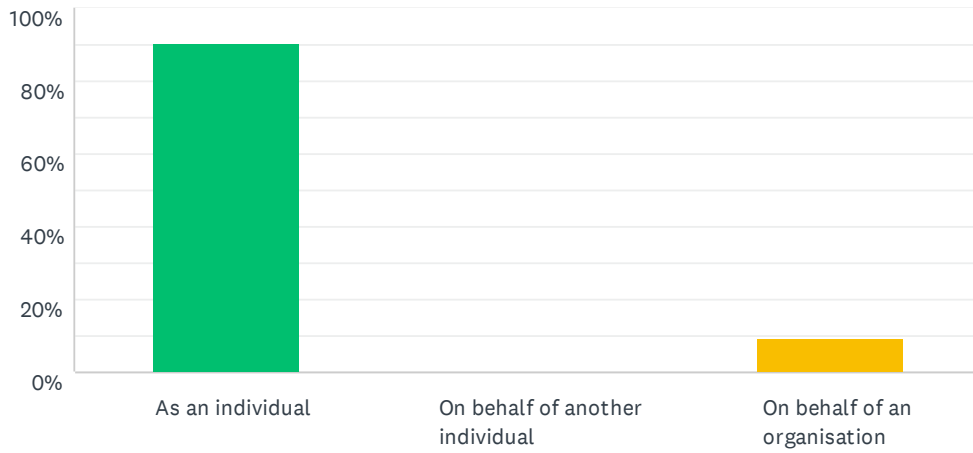
25	Trees should not be bigger than houses they block light and the bad winds we get cause branches to fall and could be dangerous	10/5/2020 3:57 PM
26	The existing trees here aren't properly maintained so planting new ones is a stupid idea , it's just going to cause more residents hassle that never gets resolved !!!!!	10/5/2020 1:37 PM
27	Phil Haynes is a rude objectionable individual. He is not a good person to have in a people facing role.	10/5/2020 1:32 PM
28	please let me know when you can do something about the trees at the back of me	10/5/2020 1:11 PM
29	This is not a viable strategy. It is already undermined by recent housing development plans. Places of less value can never re-place anything that had greater social/cultural, environmental and potentially unexplored economic value.	10/4/2020 4:12 PM
30	I would like the tree monitoring reports to be published on the council's website and for some notification of when trees local to residents' areas have been assessed and reported (this could, for example, be in ward newsletters or in the council magazine.	10/3/2020 4:32 PM
31	Take out as much buerocracy as you can	10/3/2020 1:43 PM
32	There is no mention in the policy as to how the council is going to manage and measure success in the adoption of this policy and the action taken should the policy not be adhered to.	10/3/2020 10:05 AM
33	How do we get a tree looked at? Because they council do not do what they state in the policy...!	10/2/2020 2:06 PM
34	I am fully supportive of a greener future for the town.	9/25/2020 2:36 PM
35	Save our Woodlands now they will be lost for our next generations to enjoy and a loss of wildlife .	9/23/2020 10:35 AM
36	See separate submission re FSDR	9/21/2020 4:24 PM
37	If DBC are truly committed to improving the number of trees then the proposal for the Coniscliffe & Merrybent Forest and Nature Reserve should be included within the strategy. (I have tried to attach a copy of the proposal to this page, but have been unable to do so - It was given to DBC as a part of the Low Coniscliffe & Merrybent Neighbourhood Plan, but if you cannot find it please contact me directly.	9/21/2020 3:56 PM
38	I am told that the council are planning on giving woodland up to a golf course. This is ludicrous There are already more yhan two courses in the town. Why do we need more and surely woodland should be protected from something which would benefit so fed people	9/20/2020 11:16 PM
39	I live in the Eastbourne area and we have major problems with street trees. I wouldn't like to live on a new estate with all the tree planting that is proposed. The Council need to look at this strategy again and the problems it could cause in the long term.	9/20/2020 10:38 PM
40	.	9/20/2020 4:34 PM
41	Regular annual inspections should be done on the health of trees and actions taken accordingly especially on trees with preservation orders on them, this should include pruning.For safety reasons dead trees should be removed immediately no Covid19 excuses allowed.	9/20/2020 11:22 AM
42	It's great to see this strategy. Is there a emailing list I can join to receive opportunities to be consulted on other issues?	9/20/2020 9:05 AM
43	Trust issues with this due to previous track record with trees. Too many developers have destroyed trees when they could have planned them into the development enhancing it for everyone & helping the planet	9/16/2020 2:31 PM
44	The person tasked with implementing the strategy seems to have an onerous responsibility hopefully the Council will recognise this and suitably recompense him	9/14/2020 9:48 PM

45	Please can my individual case be seriously considered ASAP. My house may receive structural damage caused by trees very soon if pruning does not take place	9/13/2020 8:39 PM
46	Trees can be cut down behind my property to make way for housing on the Mowden hall estate however permission to raise the canopy or reduce the canopy on the trees neighbouring my property was refused. It seems the council will allow trees to be cut if a developer pays them however if a resident voiced an issue with trees that are bigger than their 3 storey property affecting their house, outdated laws about no right to light are quoted by the council. It seems like only once an overgrown tree causes property damage would the council consider works. A very outdated view in my opinion.	9/12/2020 11:33 AM
47	There are points that might be argued, but in general, a good policy.	9/10/2020 9:50 PM
48	anything that makes it possible to have more trees is a good thing as long as its the right tree in the right place	9/9/2020 5:05 PM
49	Needs a map of areas of interest /concern/ action/ mass planting	9/9/2020 10:10 AM
50	Listen to the house owners	9/8/2020 12:34 PM
51	When we go abroad it can be seen the arid effect upon the absence of green surroundings, England is unique! Trees and hedgerows should always be at the top of the Council agenda and known as "a green and pleasant land". The Council should publish more information of the proposed 'Independent' party and members of local communities must be encouraged to be members. Managers and Maintainers of our valuable community resources must always be employees of the Council and not responsible to private individuals who come and go. We once had environment employees including street and lane cleaners who were proud to represent their communities and work for the council. Trees and hedgerows alone do not make the environment look nice, it is the wider picture that is painted.	9/8/2020 11:59 AM
52	Many years ago my wife and I would sit out to enjoy the morning sunshine, similarly in early evening. The time this has been available has diminished over the years as the trees around us have been left to grow to intolerable heights and spread. If they are pruned at all the effort to do so is not worthwhile. There are spurious claims made about health or balance of the trees to justify lack of action - more thought and consideration should be given to the health and well being of residents. It is noteworthy that when new developments take place the council can then allow the removal of trees with or without a TPO - Blackwell development and Mowden Hall site are examples - double standards that are despicable.	9/8/2020 10:42 AM
53	Overall, the intention of the Strategy is going in the right direction. It just needs a little more clarity in certain areas, being more positive for Residents, increasing diversity and habitats for the future, as well as declaring legal measures to discourage violation by offenders, be these developers or vandals	9/4/2020 10:22 AM
54	Main concern is the identification of, effectively, only one lead officer to do the work. The overall strategy will not work unless you have more officers than Phil Haynes. Without additional support your plans are pie in the sky.	9/3/2020 9:12 AM
55	The strategy doesn't address removing trees that have self-seeded leading to overcrowding (failure to manage trees owned by council, failure to work to strategy). The strategy doesn't address tree roots making pavements and cycle paths difficult to use by pushchairs, wheelchairs, and bikes. Money is limited, but the strategy needs to be there, even within limited budget. The strategy is monitored almost exclusively by one person. It needs to be regularly assessed by a Scrutiny committee, and that person needs to attend Scrutiny and Cabinet at least once annually for strategy accountability. The strategy is silent on land where ownership is unclear. Council has a duty to manage the borough and if land ownership is unclear, the council cannot wash its hands of responsibility. The council has a duty to ensure no disputes arise, and if they have already arisen, the council has a duty to try to resolve them to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. The council has a duty to ensure all residents act within the law, including where land ownership is unclear or unable to be established. The council must manage the borough's trees even if it means stepping in where there is a genuine need that will otherwise go unmet leading to trees or tree mismanagement causing problems, or where unnecessary/inappropriate pruning/removal of trees may cause, or has caused, problems to the trees and/or to local amenity. This can, should, and must be written into the strategy in a balanced way, otherwise the council is complicit in tree-related problems.	9/3/2020 3:08 AM
56	Not enough has changed and improved from the last T&WS imo. Considering the Tree team were diminished and now getting back more realistic staff levels, they should be given a bigger	9/2/2020 3:31 PM

budget to keep Darlington's tree population healthy and its park and open spaces with a variety of species they deserve, just as the Victorians did, but a better and more modern version. So many have been lost and not replaced - especially since the financial crash when officers were reduced in numbers across parks, countryside and green teams. The arboricultural office has a reputation of not communicating with public, groups or councillors - that can be something simple or controversial, there is no distinction - can that improve please. People are entitled to know what the council do. Climate change needs to have real attention from the council. The reasons for that aren't obvious but something needs to change.

Q18 Are you responding to this consultation

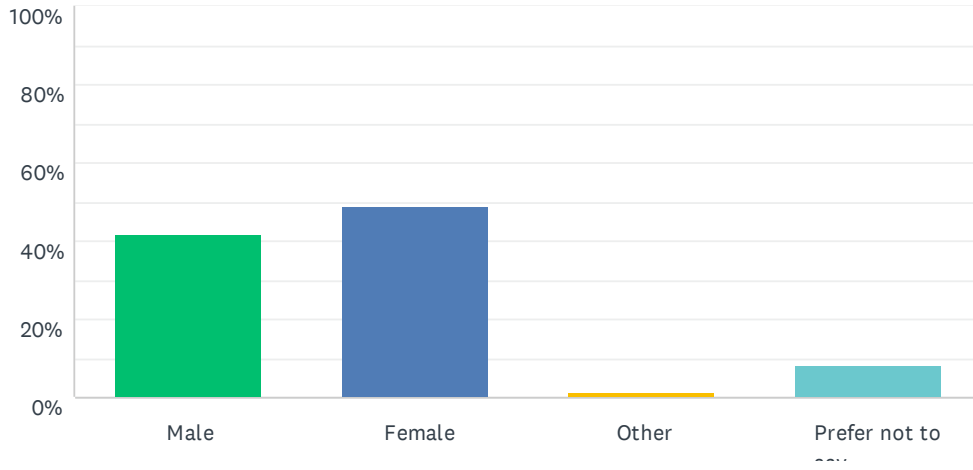
Answered: 85 Skipped: 60



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
As an individual	90.59%	77
On behalf of another individual	0.00%	0
On behalf of an organisation	9.41%	8
TOTAL		85

Q19 What is your sex?

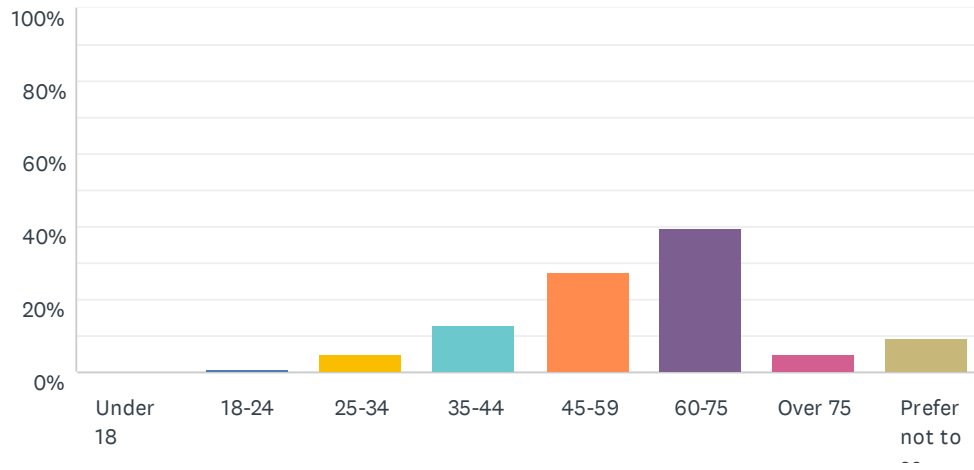
Answered: 84 Skipped: 61



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	41.67%	35
Female	48.81%	41
Other	1.19%	1
Prefer not to say	8.33%	7
TOTAL		84

Q20 What was your age on your last birthday?

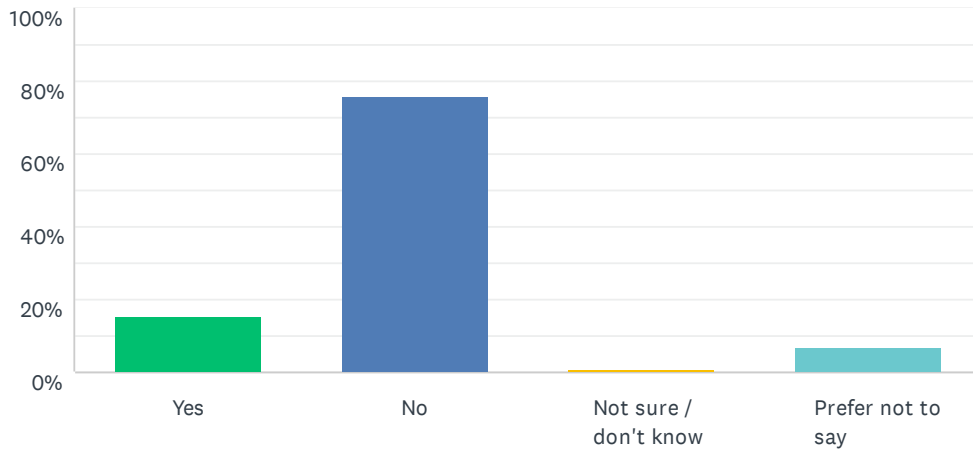
Answered: 84 Skipped: 61



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	1.19%	1
25-34	4.76%	4
35-44	13.10%	11
45-59	27.38%	23
60-75	39.29%	33
Over 75	4.76%	4
Prefer not to say	9.52%	8
TOTAL		84

Q21 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

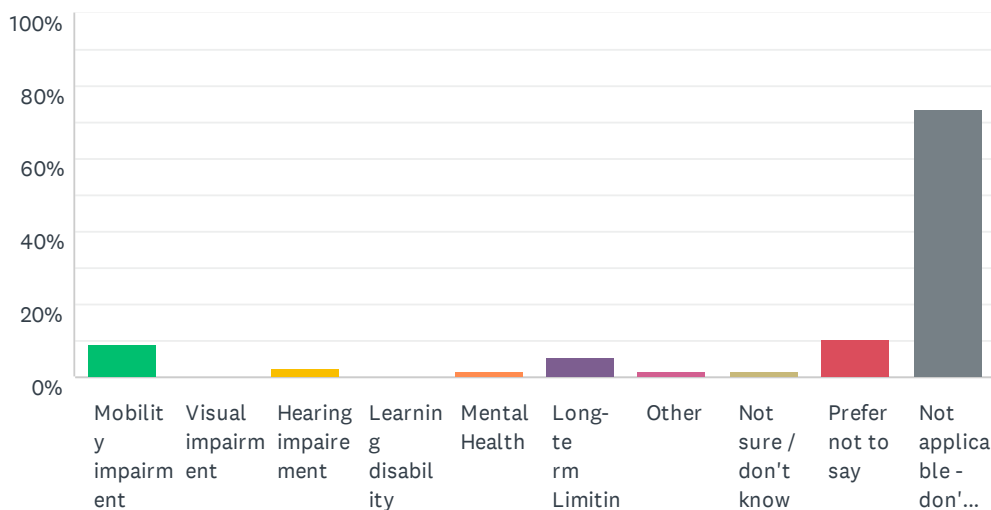
Answered: 83 Skipped: 62



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	15.66%	13
No	75.90%	63
Not sure / don't know	1.20%	1
Prefer not to say	7.23%	6
TOTAL		83

Q22 If you, or the person on whose behalf you are responding, consider yourself to have a disability, please tick any/all of the following which apply to you...

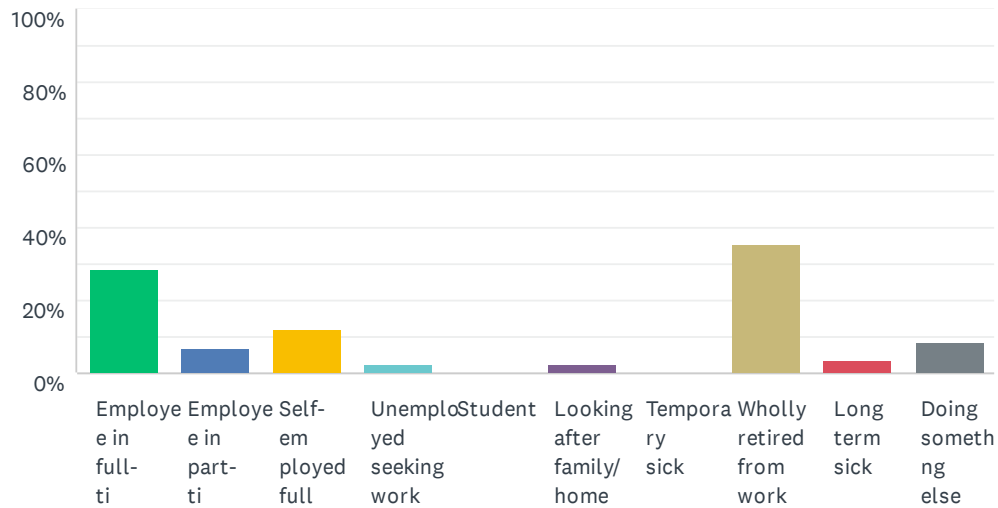
Answered: 76 Skipped: 69



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Mobility impairment	9.21% 7
Visual impairment	0.00% 0
Hearing impairment	2.63% 2
Learning disability	0.00% 0
Mental Health	1.32% 1
Long-term Limiting illness	5.26% 4
Other	1.32% 1
Not sure / don't know	1.32% 1
Prefer not to say	10.53% 8
Not applicable - don't have a disability	73.68% 56
Total Respondents: 76	

Q23 Which of these activities best describes what you are doing at present?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 61

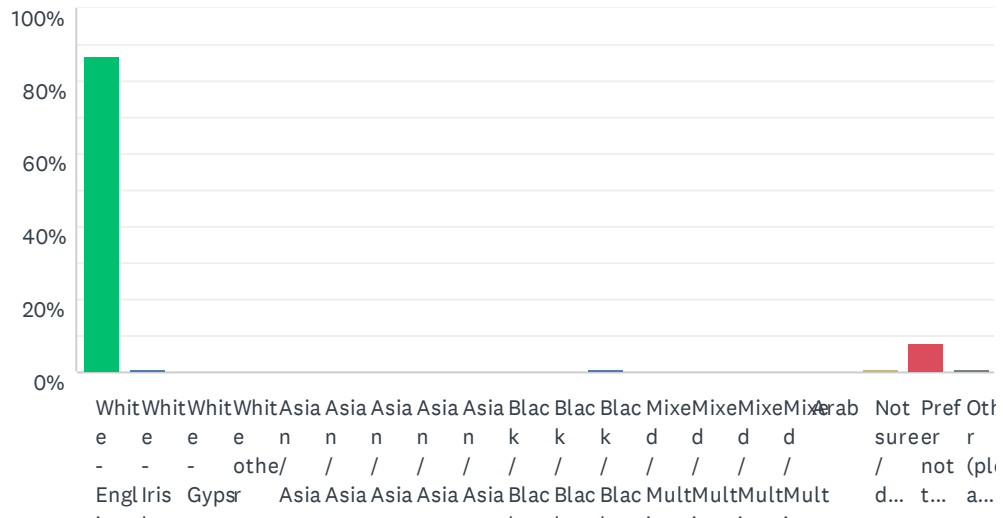


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Employee in full-time job (30 hours plus per week)	28.57%	24
Employee in part-time job (under 30 hours per week)	7.14%	6
Self-employed full or part-time	11.90%	10
Unemployed seeking work	2.38%	2
Student	0.00%	0
Looking after family/home	2.38%	2
Temporary sick	0.00%	0
Wholly retired from work	35.71%	30
Long term sick	3.57%	3
Doing something else (please specify)	8.33%	7
TOTAL		84

#	DOING SOMETHING ELSE (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Various professions	10/19/2020 1:01 AM
2	Retired form work but carry out voluntary work for several days a week.	10/18/2020 3:00 PM
3	Couch potatoing	10/12/2020 11:21 AM
4	I am retired, but volunteer as much as possible. I love walking with the Council's healthy walking group and the Sedgefield Milers prior to Covid 19, I also ride my bike wherever I feel safe to do so.	10/10/2020 10:54 AM
5	retired	10/5/2020 1:13 PM
6	Part time voluntary work for government	9/21/2020 3:58 PM
7	*	9/21/2020 10:28 AM

Q24 Which ethnic group do you belong to?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 60



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	87.06%	74
White - Irish	1.18%	1
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.00%	0
White other	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Pakistani	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Indian	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Chinese	0.00%	0
Asian / Asian British - Other	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - African	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - Caribbean	0.00%	0
Black / Black British - Other	1.18%	1
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Black African	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Black Caribbean	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian	0.00%	0
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups - Other	0.00%	0
Arab	0.00%	0
Not sure / don't know	1.18%	1
Prefer not to say	8.24%	7
Other (please specify)	1.18%	1
TOTAL		85

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Various ethnic groups	10/19/2020 1:01 AM

Tree Strategies/Policies Comparison (Updated August 2019)

APPENDIX 3

	TREE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS	DEVELOP &, EXPLAND TREE STOCK, NEW PLANTING AND REPLACE	TREE REMOVAL CRITERIA	WHEN FELLING/PRUNING WORKS ARE NOT PERMITTED	SUSTAINABLE TREE POPULATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
Darlington Borough Council (current policy 2011-2020)	We will maintain the highest possible standards of tree care and management by: i) Working to standards set within BS 3998 2010. ii) Adopting best practice according to all relevant legislation and research.	We will ensure that the tree population continues to be developed and expanded with new planting where appropriate. Any trees removed shall be replaced unless there are special circumstances preventing this.	We will resist the removal of trees unless there are sound arboricultural or other reasons e.g. dead, diseased, dying or proven structural damage.	We will not carry out felling or potentially disfiguring forms of tree work in order to improve the reception of television signals, solar panels and wind turbines or for CCTV operations, or the alleviation of bird mess, honey dew, leaf or fruit fall.	We will provide a sustainable, high quality tree population. We will endeavour to avoid any work to trees that result in the loss of valuable wildlife habitat. Where appropriate, native species will be planted to maximise habitats for wildlife. We will support the process of natural regeneration on appropriate sites
Durham County Council (updated policy dated July 2017, previous policy July 2014)	We aim to provide high standards of tree management based on the latest arboricultural research and promote such standards with other parties. We will seek to ensure that all works to Council owned trees, or those that the Council is responsible for (including work carried out by third parties), are in accordance with arboricultural best practice and guided by recommendations within British Standards for tree works BS3998 (2010) or subsequent updates.	To help maintain a continuity of tree cover across the county we will undertake the planting of new trees on our land when suitable opportunities arise. Where trees are removed from land owned / managed by us, replacement planting will be carried out where appropriate.	We will not prune or fell a tree under council ownership / management because it is considered to be 'too big' or 'too tall' for its surroundings. We will normally not prune or fell a tree under our ownership / management where a request has been made to do so because of a personal medical complaint. However, where it can be established that the presence of a tree is causing a detriment to the health of residents, further consideration will be given to the management approach of trees. We will consider felling or pruning the roots of a tree under our ownership / management to allow the installation of a drop kerb. Each case will be considered on an individual basis.	Removal or pruning of trees to enable a clear television reception would only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Similarly we will not prune or fell a tree in our ownership / management to: - improve natural light to a solar panel. - alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena, which are largely outside of our control. - We will not normally prune or fell a tree in our ownership/management to prevent or reduce interference with telephone wires. We would recommend contacting the telecom service provider in such circumstances for them to arrange appropriate pruning works.	Trees are important features in the landscape. Not only do trees have a visual quality, but they also enhance the environment in less obvious ways: - they provide food and habitat for birds and other wildlife, thus supporting nature conservation value and biodiversity;
Hartlepool Borough Council (current policy 2011-2016 not yet updated)	Through its management of publicly owned trees, and through its control of privately owned trees in conservation areas or with tree preservation orders, the Council has considerable influence over the contribution that trees make to the urban landscape of the borough. All maintenance work on publicly owned trees is undertaken by trained and qualified arborists located in the Grounds Maintenance section, and is carried out in accordance with the current BS3998 'Recommendations for tree work'.	By adopting this updated tree strategy Hartlepool Borough Council further demonstrates its commitment to caring for the trees under its management and increasing the number of trees in public places. In order to maintain and enhance an abundant and healthy tree population it is necessary to have an ongoing programme of new and replacement planting. The Council will identify further opportunities for tree planting in streets, on highway verge, in public open space, parks, cemeteries and other public land and will undertake to annually plant more trees than are removed.	Trees of amenity value will not be felled unless there is a very clear justification for the work and each case will be carefully judged on its merits. That said there will be circumstances where due to their condition it is necessary to remove individual trees. Where practical and appropriate however, the Council will undertake to replant with a new tree in the same location or nearby.	The Council will not usually prune trees to improve television reception or to remove seasonal nuisances such as fallen leaves.	The overall aim of the Hartlepool Tree Strategy is to enhance the role and status of trees in the borough and to ensure the sustainability of its tree population. Trees and woodlands provide a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. They have a vital role to play in the sustainability and liveability of our town. Trees in streets can provide natural links with parks and open spaces, allowing for the movement of wildlife between areas. Where there are implications for biodiversity, trees are assessed by the Council's Ecologist prior to pruning or felling to ensure that there are no breeding birds, roosting bats or other wildlife likely to be harmed.

	TREE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS	DEVELOP &, EXPLAND TREE STOCK, NEW PLANTING AND REPLACE	TREE REMOVAL CRITERIA	WHEN FELLING/PRUNING WORKS ARE NOT PERMITTED	SUSTAINABLE TREE POPULATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
Middlesbrough Borough Council (updated policy dated 2018 replaced previous policy)	MBC's Tree Policy sets out the criteria for the inspection regime, which Middlesbrough Council will adopt in respect of those trees for which it has a legal responsibility. The policy also explains how the Council will deal with complaints in respect of those trees, details the legislation on which the policy criteria is based and sets out how disputes in terms of complaint resolution will be dealt with.	The Council will ensure appropriate planting takes place to replenish a site in the event of the need to remove trees.	The Council will not fell or prune any tree without good reason. The Council will avoid felling trees unless it is absolutely necessary and each case will be carefully judged on its merits. Felling may be considered where a tree is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dead, dying or infected by a disease that has a significant detrimental impact on the host. - A danger to public safety. - Causing an obstruction to a public highway, right of way, access to property or footpath. - A major contributor to serious structural damage to buildings or infrastructure. - Clearly of a size and species deemed by the Authority to be inappropriate to their situation. - In an area which is designated for development or redevelopment. 	Pruning can weaken the structure of trees and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. Where trees within an urban environment are blocking light into a property there is no legal 'right to light'. The tree owner is not by law obliged or required to carry out work to the tree for the benefit of level of light. This is the position adopted by the Council. The Council will not prune or remove trees due to poor TV or satellite or telephone reception. In most cases relocating the aerial or satellite dish or having a booster to improve the reception can significantly improve the situation.	Trees are an important part of the Middlesbrough environment and provide enjoyment, visual attractiveness and important wildlife habitats.
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (current policy 2013-2018 not yet updated)	R&C work to recognised standards and best practice. All work must be carried out to recognised, modern safety standards, such as BS 3998 and BS 5837 and their subsequent revisions.	Our vision is for our trees to thrive in a well-managed, safe, sustainable environment for the benefit of current and future generations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace lost tree species (where budget allows). - Prioritise the replacement of ageing street trees, particularly where they adjoin major traffic routes, planting larger trees species where appropriate. - Plant suitable and appropriate tree species for new and/or replacement planting in roads that will reflect the type in use locally, maintaining avenues of single species where appropriate. 	Our approach will be only to remove trees that are dead, diseased, dangerous, or can be proven to be linked to the damage caused to buildings. This approach fully addresses the Council's duty of care in accordance with current industry best practice, and ensures that all possible investigations are carried out. The onus in all cases will be on the resident to provide evidence, at their own expense, to demonstrate that there is a real likelihood of immediate structural damage to property. Should the Council agree to removal of a healthy tree without evidence of immediate structural damage, then in all cases, the costs of this action and any remedial works such as reinstating the pavement etc. will be passed on in full to the resident. The Council will not look favourably upon requests from residents to remove healthy trees, where there is no evidence of immediate structural damage, when that resident has recently moved into a street or estate and the tree was already present.	Reserve the right to refuse felling or potentially disfiguring forms of tree work in order to reduce the amount of shade being cast or to improve the reception of television signals, for CCTV operations, to reduce leaf and seed fall, aphid or bird droppings etc. The very fact that leaves or fruit may fall from trees or that there may be a build-up of bird droppings for example are not reasons to justify the removal of a healthy tree.	Avoid any work to trees that result in the loss of valuable wildlife habitat, recognising the importance of both bird nesting and bat roosting sites. Plant native species, where appropriate to maximise habitats for wildlife
Stockton Borough Council (updated policy dated 2018 replaced previous policy)	All policies relating to tree management are closely guided by Statute Law (Acts of Parliament), English Common Law (Case Law) and modern Arboricultural best practices.	The Council will normally aim to replace trees that are removed on a 1 for 1 basis where appropriate and where resources are available. In relation to conservation areas and TPOs, there is a standard duty to replace trees that are removed on 1 for 1 basis and the Council will serve a Replacement Notice if this is not undertaken within a reasonable time period	The Council will prioritise responding to reports of 'dangerous trees' based on the information provided at the time such as reports of storm damage, signs of breakage, dead/dying or diseased, obstructions caused. It will <u>not</u> prioritise or undertake additional tree inspections in the absence of adequate supporting information or reasons given, such as 'tree too big / moving in the wind / taller than the house'.	The Council will not cut back trees on request if they are partially overhanging properties and otherwise not considered to be causing direct obstruction or unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of property. The Council will not normally prune or remove trees to alleviate light loss unless they are causing substantial encroachment into a property or in the Council's opinion, are considered to be causing unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of property.	The Council has a tree planting programme which identifies priority areas for new tree and woodland planting. This includes major green spaces, parks, highways and other public open space where new trees are likely to provide the greatest benefit to the environment and public amenity. These sites will be targeted for new planting where funding opportunities arise.

	TREE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS	DEVELOP &, EXPLAND TREE STOCK, NEW PLANTING AND REPLACE	TREE REMOVAL CRITERIA	WHEN FELLING/PRUNING WORKS ARE NOT PERMITTED	SUSTAINABLE TREE POPULATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
		<p>following removal of a protected tree.</p>		<p>There is currently no legal right to direct sunlight or to a view and often pruning trees will only have a negligible impact on the amount of natural light reaching a house or garden. In exceptional cases and at its discretion, the Council may consider some remedial pruning work where it considers there will be sufficient benefit without compromising the health or amenity value of the trees in question.</p> <p>The Council will not normally prune or remove trees that are perceived to be 'overgrown' or 'too big' unless they are causing some form of direct interference or legal nuisance in some way that requires the Council to take action, e.g. severe encroachment, obstructions, hazards etc.</p> <p>There is no legal right to receiving a tv or satellite reception therefore the Council will not normally prune trees back to alleviate interference, and not if it is likely to damage or disfigure a tree.</p> <p>The Council will not undertake tree pruning or removals to try and alleviate the effects of bird droppings, falling leaves, fruit/flowers, sap, honey dew, conkers, seeds or other deposits, insects, pollen allergies.</p> <p>In relation to root invasion in gardens, the Council will not cut back trees or their root systems unless it is considered absolutely necessary to abate an actionable nuisance or where in its opinion considers there is unreasonable interference with use and enjoyment of property and actual damage has been caused to property.</p>	
<p>Scarborough Borough Council (current policy 2016-2030 therefore not yet updated)</p>	<p>The Council needs to carry out all works according to the latest relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice and Guidelines.</p>	<p>The Tree & Woodland Strategy establishes a framework for the care and development of the public tree asset.</p>	<p>The Council will not fell or reduce trees solely for the reason that light structures such as driveways, footways, patios, garden walls, lawns etc. are being disrupted.</p> <p>The Council will only remove or prune Council-owned trees that are proven to be responsible for causing damage to property if this is the most appropriate solution. In these circumstances the Council will require positive evidence to support any including (but not restricted to) the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age of property - Depth and type of foundation - Building extension history - Spatial arrangement and amplitude of damage - Tree root data - Soil tests - Seasonal monitoring - Level distortion survey <p>The responsibility for provision of such evidence lies with the claimant.</p>	<p>The Council will not prune or remove trees in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve or provide TV, radio, or satellite reception. <p>The Council will not fell or prune trees solely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for the purpose of improving solar access to panels. - to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena. - for the purpose of eradicating honeydew or sooty moulds. <p>The Council will not generally prune or remove trees in order to improve or restore views.</p>	<p>The Council needs to ensure its tree operations comply with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006, Habitats Directives, and all other relevant legislation including trees on Scheduled Ancient Monument Sites.</p>

	TREE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS	DEVELOP &, EXPLAND TREE STOCK, NEW PLANTING AND REPLACE	TREE REMOVAL CRITERIA	WHEN FELLING/PRUNING WORKS ARE NOT PERMITTED	SUSTAINABLE TREE POPULATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
			The Council will not undertake the pruning or felling of trees to prevent roots entering damaged pipes.		
St Helens Council (current policy 2016 not yet updated)		The Council is committed to maintaining and increasing the tree cover across the borough. Budget restrictions may mean that we cannot commit to replacing every council tree that is felled. Currently we plan our annual tree planting in accordance to available budget resources. New trees planted will be appropriate to the location, with species shape and form considered as well as the size of the tree to ensure that a robust tree, less prone to vandalism is planted.	<p>Trees requiring immediate action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council trees that are dead, dying or dangerous. <p>Tree related subsidence damage to property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Council will rigorously identify and defend any claims which are presumed to be. <p>We will not prune, fell or cut the roots of a council owned/ managed tree to prevent roots entering a drain that is already broken or damaged.</p> <p>We will not prune or fell a Council owned/managed tree because it is considered to be too big or too tall.</p> <p>We will not prune or fell a Council owned/managed tree where a request has been made to do so because of a personal medical condition.</p> <p>The Council is not required to allow the felling or pruning of the roots of a council owned/ managed tree to allow the installation of a drop kerb.</p>	<p>We will not prune or fell a Council owned/managed tree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remove or reduce honeydew or other sticky residue from trees. - remove or reduce blossom from the trees or remove fallen blossom from private land. - remove or reduce bird droppings from trees or to remove bird droppings from private land. - remove or reduce the nuisance of fruit/berries or nuts, or remove such fallen fruit from private land. - remove or reduce incidence of bees, wasps or wild animal. - prevent interference with TV/satellite installation/ reception - alleviate the nuisance of overhanging branches. - improve natural light in a property. - improve the view from a private property - remove or reduce leaf fall or remove fallen leaves from a private property - improve natural light to a solar panel or improve wind conditions for adjacent wind turbines. - remove or reduce interference with telephone wires. There may be instances where the Council will undertake works to prune trees and reduce interference where pruning will be an effective measure. 	The trees and woodlands in St. Helens are seen as a significant asset and resource that is of great significance for the health and benefit of local people as well as being a vital resource for wildlife.
Warrington Borough Council (updated policy dated July 2018 replaced previous policy)	WBC's Tree Policy details its approach to tree management, (including the management of risk associated with trees), and outlines the legal obligations and requirements imposed on the Council as a landowner. The Council also encourages the implementation of best practice in the management of its tree and woodland assets.	Available funding/resources will be used to plant new trees where a need is identified: trees will be selected and sited to complement and enhance the park or green space.	<p>Trees requiring immediate action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council trees that are dead, dying or dangerous. <p>In circumstances where it is claimed that a tree is impacting upon a resident's health, such cases will be investigated, risk assessed and appropriate action considered.</p>	<p>We will not prune or fell a tree in Council ownership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - alleviate the nuisance of overhanging branches. - improve natural light to a property. - improve the view from a private property. - because it is considered too big or too small - remove or reduce the fall of leaves, sap (honeydew), blossom and fruit/nut/berry fall or remove fallen leaves, blossom or fruit/nut/berries from private property. - remove or reduce bird droppings from trees or to remove bird droppings from private land. - remove or reduce incidence of bees, wasps or wild animals. - prevent interference with TV / satellite installation / reception and/or telephone wire interference. - to prevent roots entering a drain that is already broken or damaged or cut the roots of a Council owned/managed tree. - to allow the installation of a drop kerb or the pruning of the roots of a Council owned/managed tree. 	To promote the creation and/or maintenance of a high quality amenity landscape within the town, with a sustainable tree cover and the associated environmental benefits

APPENDIX 4

TREES IN THE STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY CORRIDOR

Trees are of paramount importance to the setting of the S&DR and the walking and cycling route that follows it. Trees are located both within and alongside the enclosed boundary of the active and abandoned sections of the line, thus creating a corridor within the borough from Whiley Hill in the north, through the urban area, to Goosepool in the east. Many trees are in the Council's control; a substantial number are on Network Rail and other private land. The Durham Wildlife Trust and the Forestry Commission also have responsibilities along the corridor.

The nature of the S&DR trees is such that it does not fall easily into any of the categories defined in Darlington Council's draft Tree and Woodland Strategy. Instead, the S&DR corridor is one of a number of green corridors following railway routes (active and abandoned) and watercourses which combine to form a network, readily visible from the satellite view of Google Maps. Trees and other vegetation in these corridors require protection and management in order to provide improved and effective habitats for wildlife.

The heritage and ecological importance of the S&DR corridor is recognised in the Darlington Green Infrastructure Strategy, the emerging Darlington Local Plan and in the Project Programme of the S&DR Heritage Action Zone. The 200th anniversary celebrations for the S&DR in 2025 will generate thousands of visitors to the town from throughout the UK and overseas. They will expect the S&DR corridor to look its best.

Existing Trees

No trees were likely to have been planted when the S&DR was built in 1825 but in the Darlington section the track was contained within thorn hedges to prevent animals and people from straying on to the line. Over time, and since the closure of the Fighting Cocks Branch, some of the hedges have been left to grow and develop into trees and tall bushes. Addition trees have self-sown in undisturbed areas.

Roughly half of the 15k of the S&DR corridor is within the built-up area of the town. All but 6k from the East Coast Main Line and Oak Tree remains an active railway. Many trees line the route along the abandoned section in Council ownership east of the A66 Bypass. There is also a significantly important tree presence along the active line in both the urban and rural sections and this has not been unduly affected by Network Rail's right to remove growth for operational safety reasons.

The trees currently within the Northgate Conservation Area are protected by the planning system. However, consideration is being given to designating a conservation area covering the abandoned section of trackbed and adjoining land between the A66 Bypass and Oak Tree as a pilot to designating the whole 26 miles of the S&DR main line.

The Council-owned trackbed has, since the closure of the Fighting Cocks Branch in the 1970s, become a popular walking and cycling route, recently resurfaced as part of the HAZ programme to create a continuous 26 mile route from Witton Park to Stockton Riverside. A management strategy and specification is required for the trees and other vegetation, which has two aspects;

1 To ensure that the green corridor is maintained with the best interests of it being a suitable habitat and corridor for wildlife, and

2 To maintain an attractive setting of the S&DR for users of the Walking and Cycling Route Heritage Trail by;

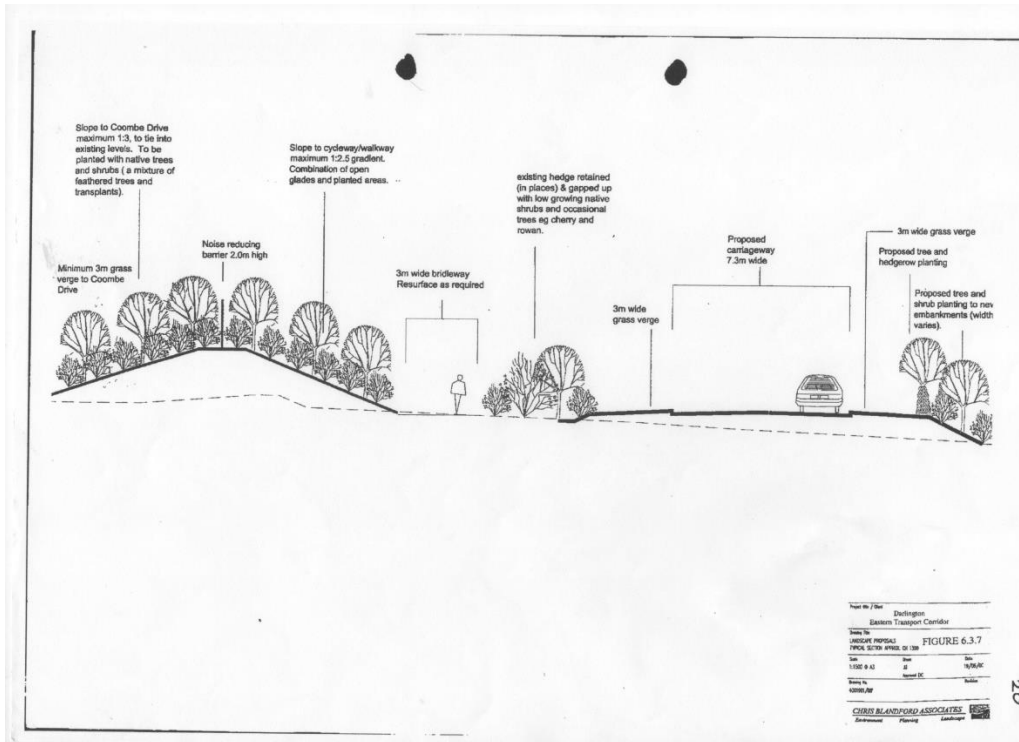
- Keeping the path clear of fallen branches and trees,
- Avoiding root damage to features of heritage significance,
- Keeping drainage clear to prevent flooding,
- Removing leaf fall build-up on the path,
- Avoiding obstructing important views.

New tree planting

There are three distinct opportunities for additional tree planting along the S&D corridor in Darlington;

1 Tornado way

The original proposals for Tornado Way, formerly termed the Eastern Transport Corridor, included extensive tree planting on either side of the road, together with the retention of the S&DR trackbed and its enhancement as a landscaped footpath and cycle route (see below). Unfortunately almost all traces of the historic railway trackbed were destroyed when the road was eventually built and the landscape concept was abandoned in favour of open plan wildflower meadow mix areas of grassland. This has not been successful and the result is a fairly bleak unkempt and noisy highway dominated corridor of motor traffic, street lighting columns, highway signs, traffic lights and views of industrial development and areas of car storage. It presents an unattractive experience for those following the footpath and cycle route alongside the road.



Fortunately, the situation will improve as Darlington Forest Project have successfully secured funding for planting whips in a number of areas alongside Tornado Way. These will take some years to mature and it will be necessary to ensure their protection and management as they grow.

Darlington Council has planted trees within and adjoining the new Houghton Road roundabout. This demonstrates what can be successfully achieved and it is understood that the Council wish to continue this by planting an avenue of trees eastwards to the A66 Bypass on the highway verge if funding can be found.

2 Faverdale Great Park

The draft Darlington Local Plan proposes a green corridor to the west of the Bishop Line as part of the Faverdale Great Park development. This will augment the existing railway green corridor and will provide an attractive landscaped setting including tree planting for the walking and cycling route from Burtree Lane southwards towards Elmtree Street/Honeypot Lane.

3 Opportunities elsewhere

Some tree planting could accompany the construction of missing lengths of the walking and cycling route, where space and circumstances allow. Development which adjoins the line will have to have regard to the setting of the line in accordance with policy ENV2 of the Local Plan. This could require planting new trees as well as retaining those that exist.

Conclusion

It is important that the Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy encompasses trees in the S&DR corridor, whether they be in Council or private ownership, within or outside the boundary of the line, or whether the line is active or abandoned. Existing and new trees deserve protection and proper care and attention if they are to thrive and contribute to the value of the corridor to wildlife and to the setting of the S&DR and its walking and cycling route.

Ross Chisholm
Planning Officer and Trustee
Friends of the S&DR
13 10 2020

**CABINET
8 DECEMBER 2020**

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – MTFP 2021/22 TO 2024/25

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Kevin Nicholson,
Health and Housing Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider proposals for the revenue budget, rent levels and service charges for the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the financial year 2021/22 in the context of the HRA Medium Term Financial Plan to 2024/25 and the 30-year Investment Plan.

Summary

2. The key decision regarding the HRA is the balance between rent and service charge levels and investment in the housing stock. Local Authorities have discretion to inflate rents by CPI plus 1%, which means an average £1.46 increase in weekly rents. Similarly, it is recommended that where appropriate service charges also have an inflationary increase. However, members may opt for a rent reduction or a rent increase of a lesser amount than CPI plus 1% if they wish. Clearly the less income we receive the less we can invest in the management and maintenance of our tenant's homes and the number of new properties we are able to provide would also be reduced. It is worth noting that 73% of tenants will have their rent and most service charges covered by benefit payments. Our rent and service charges also tend to be much lower than other Social Landlords operating in Darlington due to historical differences in government guidance on what Housing Associations and Local Authorities could charge.
3. Since Central Government lifted the borrowing cap on the HRA we have been using this additional capacity to invest in building much needed new homes. In 2021/22 we plan to borrow an extra £8m to fund our new build programme. This can be supplemented with Homes England grant and we plan to build 100 affordable homes per annum over the next 10 years. We also have over 50% of households with one or more person with a disability and we are therefore committed to providing good quality homes with generous space standards and lifetime homes principles to support people to live independently and have a good quality of life. All properties are designed to meet a good standard of thermal efficiency. Over 237 households have already benefitted from our current new build programme which has taken place at various locations around the town and

demand continues to be exceptionally high.

Recommendations

4. It is proposed that the following recommendations are agreed for wider consultation: -
 - (a) An average weekly rent increase of 1.7% for 2021/22 be implemented giving an average social rent of £73.11 and affordable rent of £83.62.
 - (b) Garage rents and service charges are increased as shown in Table 3.
 - (c) The budget at **Appendix 1** is approved.
 - (d) The Housing Business Plan **Appendix 2** is agreed.
 - (e) That the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services be given delegated powers to proceed with new build schemes for affordable rent using the funding as identified at paragraph 16.
 - (f) That the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services be given delegated powers to acquire dwellings in the private sector as opportunities arise, particularly as part of regeneration initiatives as discussed at paragraph 17 of this report.

Reason

5. To enable the Council to deliver an appropriate level of service to tenants to meet housing need and to support the economic growth of the Borough through housing development.

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Background Papers
MHCLG Rent Guidance

Pauline Mitchell: Ext 5831

S17 Crime and Disorder	The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.
Health and Well Being	By ensuring our housing stock is in good condition we are making a positive contribution to the Health and well- being of our Council tenants
Carbon Impact	There are a range of energy efficiency measures included in the investment plan which will have a positive carbon impact
Diversity	There are no diversity issues
Wards Affected	This will have an effect on all Wards in the Borough with Council owned Housing.
Groups Affected	All Council Tenants and Lifeline Service Users
Budget and Policy Framework	The issues contained within this report require Council approval and the report will be presented to Council in February 2021.
Key Decision	This is a key decision because agreement to the recommendations will result in the Local Authority incurring expenditure which is significant. There will also be a significant 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 the approval of Council on February 2021 will be required.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Improving the existing housing stock and external environment, as well as, the new build programme will all contribute towards the sustainability agenda.
Efficiency	As the HRA is a ring fenced budget every effort is made to maximise income and identify savings in order to maintain a high quality service.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No impact

MAIN REPORT

Setting the MTFP for the HRA

6. Councils have the flexibility to decide the balance between the levels of service provided to tenants and the levels of rent charged provided they are no higher than the maximum level determined by the DWP. This is known as the limit rent. In Darlington for 2021/22 the maximum average increase allowed will be 1.7%. It is recommended therefore that we increase all rents to the maximum allowed. Similarly, it is recommended that where appropriate service charges also have an inflationary increase. However, members may opt for a rent reduction or a rent increase of a lesser amount than the government guidance of CPI plus 1% if they wish. Clearly the less income we receive the less we can invest in the management and maintenance of our tenant's homes and the number of new properties we can provide would also be reduced. It is worth noting that 73% of tenants will have their rent and most service charges covered by benefit payments. Our rent and service charges also tend to be much lower than other Social Landlords operating in Darlington due to historical differences in government guidance on what Housing Associations and Local Authorities could charge.
7. Since Central Government lifted the borrowing cap on the HRA we have been using this additional capacity to invest in building much needed new homes. In 2021/22 we plan borrow an extra £8m to fund our housing capital programme. This can be supplemented with Homes England grant to provide more than 1000 much needed new Council homes at affordable rents over the next 10 years. Around 237 households have already benefitted from our current new build programme which has taken place across the Borough with sites at Branksome, Red Hall, Skerne Park, Lingfield and Lascelles Park. Overall demand has been exceptionally high.
8. **Analysis of Expenditure within the HRA**
 - (a) **Management £2.948m**

This includes all staffing costs associated with the provision of a housing management service, central support service and other associated support costs such as ICT and insurance.
 - (b) **Service Charges and other contributions to expenditure £3.285m**

This covers services charges to tenants such as grounds maintenance and Lifeline Services charges to a range of clients. All service charges are fully recoverable. It also includes recharges that will be recovered through additional income including court costs and recharges to the General Fund for grounds maintenance.
 - (c) **Maintenance - Revenue Repairs - £4.157m**

This covers the on-going general repairs to the Council's 5,293 properties at a rate of approximately £606 per property per year. This level represents an average spend and reflects the overall good condition of the stock due to sustained capital investment. The continued investment in a good repairs service is essential to maintaining our stock at a good level for current and future tenants.

- (d) **Capital Financing Costs - £3.623m**
This is the cost of paying for borrowing undertaken to fund capital expenditure.
- (e) **Bad Debts Provision - £0.350m**
This is a provision to cover rents that are deemed unrecoverable.
- (f) **Revenue Contributions to Capital Programme - £11.743m**
This represents the amount by which the HRA can fund major capital works. In addition to this the Council continues to be successful in bidding for grant funding from Homes England towards the building of new homes.

Borrowing

- 9. Since the abolition of the HRA borrowing cap we have been able to prudentially borrow and have included additional borrowing of £8m in 2021/22 to build new affordable houses.
- 10. Members will appreciate that expenditure items (a) to (d) are relatively fixed and the main variable is the type and location of capital investment. The proposed Investment Plan is discussed in the following section and this explains where future capital investment is planned.

Housing Investment Plan

- 11. All Housing Capital schemes are funded fully from the Housing Revenue Account. The priorities identified through the Housing Investment Plan to be funded from the estimated capital resources for 2021/22 include:-
 - (a) Adaptations and lifts – £0.200m budget is to deliver adaptations within the Council's housing stock to enable tenants with a disability to remain in their own home and live independently across the Borough. This work is based on individual assessments by our in-house Occupational Therapy Team. Passenger lifts within sheltered and extra care schemes are regularly services and any unplanned major works identified will be funded from this budget also.
 - (b) Heating Replacement - £1.015m to fund new condensing boiler and central heating upgrades in approximately 290 properties. This work will predominantly be completed in Haughton and Bank Top where boilers are around 15 years old and starting to fail, in addition to some miscellaneous properties as part of a "just in time" programme of replacement for those boilers that fail before their due replacement date.
 - (c) Structural Works - £0.400m has been set aside to address structural issues predominantly in the Hundens area. This work was highlighted in the five yearly stock condition survey and a recent comprehensive survey has identified the full extent of the works required
 - (d) Lifeline Services - £0.050m is set aside to continue to provide upgrades to Lifeline equipment.
 - (e) Repairs before Painting - £0.060m will be invested in joinery repair works in anticipation of the five yearly cyclical external painting programme. This will predominantly be in the Branksome, Cockerton, Bank Top and Red Hall areas.

- (f) Roofing & Repointing work – £1m for the replacement of flat and pitched roofs and the replacement of fascia's, soffits and rainwater goods together with the top-up of loft insulation where appropriate. The programme will primarily be in the Haughton area. This work was highlighted in the five yearly stock condition survey and a recent comprehensive survey has identified the full extent of the works required.
- (g) Garages - £0.075m will be invested predominantly in the demolition and making good of stand-alone garages at Lascelles Park where they are beyond economical repair. Further details are provided at paragraph 23
- (h) External Works - £0.200m will be used to provide new rear dividing fences and new footpaths to Council properties across areas in the Haughton area. This work was highlighted in the five yearly stock condition survey and a recent comprehensive survey has identified the full extent of the works required.
- (i) Smoke Detectors - £0.025m is required to replace existing hard-wired smoke and heat detectors where systems are now 10 years old and reaching the end of their recommended lifespan.
- (j) Pavement Crossings - £0.032m has been identified to fund pavement crossings across the Borough based on tenant's requests and where practicable.
- (k) Replacement Door Programme - £0.450m will be used to replace external doors in the Lascelles Park and Firthmoor. This work was highlighted in the five yearly stock condition survey and a recent comprehensive survey has identified the full extent of the works required.
- (l) Window Replacement - £0.500m will be used to replace windows across at Lascelles Park. This work was highlighted in the five yearly stock condition survey and a recent comprehensive survey has identified the full extent of the works required.
- (m) Internal planned maintenance – £1.690m to fund around 220 kitchen and bathroom replacements predominantly at Lascelles Park in accordance with our 20 year replacement programme and miscellaneous properties as necessary.
- (n) Communal Works - £0.100m is required to replace communal doors in poor condition in the Town Centre and North Road area.
- (o) Energy Efficiency Improvements - £1.000m has been set aside to support Energy Efficiency improvements and contribute towards any match funding required as part of future potential Energy Grant bids.
- (p) New Build - £13.385m will be spent completing the current new build programme.

12. The purpose of the Housing Investment Plan is to ensure that the Housing Service has a financial plan which is sustainable and focuses investment towards strategic priorities. During the development of the Investment Plan it has become clear that there are several strategic investment priorities that are particularly pressing and have significant financial implications for both the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's General Fund.
13. The following proposals will outline these strategic priorities, the resources available to deliver on these priorities (subject to final decisions on rent levels) and how resources will be aligned against the priorities.

New Build

14. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment completed for Darlington in 2015 identified that there is a need for 160 affordable dwellings for rent across the Borough of Darlington each year and housing associations provide relatively low numbers of affordable housing units on average.
15. Not only is there a need to build affordable dwellings to meet local need, it is also a business need for the Housing Service. The Investment Plan is underpinned by the rents received from Council owned properties and the loss of rents as a result of previous regeneration works and ongoing right to buy sales would significantly reduce income for the Housing Service if these properties were not replaced. Similarly, the impact for New Homes Bonus of overall reductions in property numbers needs to be considered.
16. Now that the HRA borrowing cap has been abolished we are able to prudentially borrow an additional £8m in the current year to build new affordable houses. This is in addition to £5m available from revenue contributions to capital giving us a total of £13m available for the development of new affordable homes for rent or other property acquisitions. We have also assumed that we will be successful in grant applications to the Homes England's Affordable Housing Programme. It is difficult to predict grant funding levels as funding is now available based on a rolling programme, but we have received up to 40% of the overall costs for previous schemes. Several new build sites have been identified and are currently being worked up in more detail to enable planning permission to be sought. Meanwhile delegated powers are being requested for the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services to enable new build schemes to be progressed in a timely manner subject to planning permission. **Appendix 3** shows we are anticipating spending around £74m on new build in total going forward and with projected Homes England grant of £23m.
17. There may also be a strategic need in the future to acquire a small number of properties in the private sector to either address a specific housing need or as part of the regeneration of an area of older housing. Included in the Council's refreshed Corporate Plan there is a commitment to addressing poor quality private housing and bringing empty homes back into use. This will include buying up empty properties where appropriate. Delegated powers are therefore being requested for the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services to purchase private sector properties where appropriate.

Housing for Vulnerable People

18. Each year Housing Services complete a range of minor and major adaptations to individual Council properties where a need has been identified by an Occupational Therapist. Works range from the provision of lever taps and grab rails to semi-permanent ramps, stair lifts, hoists and ground floor extensions.
19. The HRA adaptations budget reflects the fundamental role adaptations play in supporting households to continue to live independently, reduce the need for expensive care packages and prevent a premature move into a more supported form of accommodation. These high levels of need have therefore been considered in developing our new build housing programme. The properties provided as part of our ongoing new build programme have been built in accordance with Lifetime Homes standards. Inexpensive features include flush door entrances at front and rear for wheelchair access, and raised sockets, as well as, low level windowsills and openings. Increased space standards allow for hallways wide enough for 360° wheelchair turning circles, wider doors, and ground floor toilets. Occupational Therapists and Housing Officers also work closely with individuals to meet their needs where appropriate, providing bespoke lowered kitchens, specific bathing requirements etc. before they move in wherever possible.
20. This approach has significantly reduced the demands on the adaptations budget. However, going forward we will need to balance the additional costs of providing properties to this standard with anticipated future increased Building Regulation requirements in response to the Climate Change agenda.

Existing Stock Investment and Responsive Repairs

21. In accordance with good practice, the housing stock is surveyed by an independent specialist organisation every five years and detailed analysis of the data takes place to help inform our priorities. Overall, our properties have been assessed as being in good condition, reflecting our significant annual investment as part of a structured programme for both on-going capital improvements and maintenance. All properties reached the government's Decent Homes standard in 2006. Average SAP rating are over 70 across the Council's housing stock indicating an above average level of thermal comfort. This can be largely attributed to a central heating programme providing A-rated combi-boilers and a planned maintenance programme which ensures all properties suitable benefit from cavity wall insulation and 300mm of loft insulation. A significant number of properties with previously poor SAP ratings have also been targeted in recent years for a more comprehensive package of energy efficiency
22. Various grant funding opportunities are emerging to enable social landlords to improve the thermal efficiency of their stock and a provisional one off sum has been included of £1m in 2021/22 to enable match funding where appropriate. An additional £250k has also been included each year throughout the 30 year Investment Plan. Appendix 2 shows that in total over the next 10 years we are anticipating spending £12,659m on energy efficiency measures including double glazed UPVC windows, composite doors and in some cases insulation such as external cladding. This is in addition to £11,417m to upgrade heating systems and provide energy efficient 'A' rated boilers.

23. A particular issue has been identified with the structural condition of 47 individual garages in the gardens of properties at Lascelles Park. These concrete garages with integral sheds are around 50 years old and have become too brittle to continue to repair. It is not possible to obtain replacement parts and they now need to be demolished. In total 39 garages are currently occupied and only 19 are rented by tenants who live in the adjoining properties. Due to an over-supply of garages in this area there are 39 alternative vacant garages at various locations throughout the estate. Full consultation will take place with all affected tenants but the proposed works include the provision of a timber shed, as well as side and rear fencing to allow off street parking.
24. The Investment Plan identifies a capital works budget of around £110m over the next five years and £255m budget for capital works over the next 30 years, including the New Build Programme. This budget will ensure all works identified within the stock condition survey can be completed alongside additional works to maintain properties to the appropriate standard.
25. The Investment Plan anticipates responsive repairs will remain at historical levels and so allocates a budget of £28m for responsive and cyclical repairs within the five-year investment plan and £186m within the 30-year investment plan.

Rent Level Options

26. The main objective of the Government's policy on rent restructuring is that rents should be fair and affordable for tenants in the social rented sector. The policy sets out a common basis on which all rents in the social sector should be set. This means that the rent for a house or flat (known as the formula rent) is linked to its capital value, size, location, condition and local earnings so that tenants can make a proper choice between how much they pay and the size and quality of the property they live in. As set out in paragraph 6 of this report Councils now have the flexibility to decide the balance between the levels of rent charged provided, they are no higher than the maximum level determined by the DWP.

Garage Rents and Service Charges

27. The budget at Appendix 1 includes the financial effect of the proposed increases. The proposed service charges shown below at Table 3 provide for achieving full recovery of costs from those tenants who directly benefit from the services provided. In most instances this means a small inflationary increase is necessary but in some instances no increase is needed to maintain current levels of service.
28. Any additional costs will be covered by Housing Benefit or Universal Credit for the 73% of tenants who are eligible. The HRA funds a Money Advice Service and Income Management Team to address the financial challenges facing a significant number of Council tenants and referrals are also made to CAB for independent financial advice as well as to food banks and furniture recycling schemes. Those tenants, particularly first- time tenants who require more sustained intensive support will be referred to the Housing Plus Team.

Table 3: Garage Rents and Service Charges

Description	Current Weekly Charge (20/21)	Proposed Weekly Charge (21/22)
	£	£
Garage Rents	8.01	8.07
Building Cleaning – Flats	1.85	1.88
Building Cleaning – Sheltered Schemes	3.81	3.84
Building Cleaning – Extra Care	12.02	12.25
Grounds Maintenance – General Housing	1.76	1.80
Grounds Maintenance – Blocks of Flats	1.76	1.80
Heating – Comprehensive schemes	11.46	11.46
Heating – Blocks of flats	1.50	1.53
Administration – Leaseholders	1.74	1.75
Furnishings and Fittings – Comprehensive Schemes	2.01	2.03
Furnishings and Fittings – Good Neighbour Schemes	0.92	0.93
Lifeline Response	5.78	5.98
Lifeline – Sheltered and Extra Care Housing	17.92	18.35
Pavement Crossings and Hard standings	4.32	4.35
Mid-day Meal – Extra Care (Residents only)	34.21	35.24
Mid-day Meal – Extra Care (Non-Residents only)	41.11	42.34
Guest Rooms in Sheltered Schemes	85.60	87.31
Door Entry Systems	0.72	0.72
TV Aerials	0.19	0.19
Housing Plus Service	19.01	19.39

Consultation

29. The Annual Review of the HRA Investment Plan is developed in consultation with Council tenants through their Customer Panel and associated sub-groups, supplemented with surveys and focus groups. The specific proposals have not yet been considered by the Customer Panel.

Financial Implications

30. The estimates included in this report represent a fair view of ongoing plans and commitments although Members will appreciate some budgets are subject to volatility and will continue to be monitored closely.

31. The level of revenue balances projected in this report represent an adequate level given the level of risk.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Appendix 1

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>Income</u>					
Rents Of Dwellings (Gross)	(20,602)	(20,899)	(21,828)	(22,193)	(22,416)
Sundry Rents (Including Garages & Shops)	(490)	(493)	(497)	(500)	(459)
Charges For Services & Facilities	(3,024)	(2,953)	(2,990)	(3,025)	(2,959)
Contribution towards expenditure	(262)	(262)	(262)	(262)	(262)
Interest Receivable	(6)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Total Income	(24,384)	(24,632)	(25,601)	(26,004)	(26,121)
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Management	5,950	5,869	5,929	6,012	6,134
Capital Financing Costs	3,623	3,991	4,428	4,918	5,399
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	350	350	350	350	350
HRA Revenue Repairs	4,157	4,240	4,325	4,411	4,499
Revenue Contribution to Capital (R.C.C.O.)	11,743	10,968	10,568	10,468	10,468
Contribution to/(from) balance	(1,438)	(786)	2	(154)	(729)
Total Expenditure	24,384	24,632	25,601	26,004	26,121
(Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0	0	0
Opening balance	11,222	9,784	8,998	9,000	8,846
Contribution to/(from) balance	(1,438)	(786)	2	(154)	(729)
Closing balance	9,784	8,998	9,000	8,846	8,116
<i>of which: Capital Investment Fund</i>	4,982	4,982	4,982	4,982	4,982
<i>HRA Working Balance</i>	4,802	4,016	4,018	3,864	3,134
Estimated closing dwelling numbers	5,340	5,437	5,473	5,489	5,539
Closing balance per dwelling	£1,832.14	£1,654.97	£1,644.45	£1,611.54	£1,465.31

THIRTY YEAR INVESTMENT FORECAST 2021/22 - 2050/51

Appendix 2

	Years 1-10 (£000)	Years 11-20 (£000)	Years 21-30 (£000)	Total Spend (£000)
Adaptations / Lifts	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Communal Works	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Decoration following IPM	208	454	430	1,092
External works (footpaths, fencing, etc.)	2,100	2,000	2,000	6,100
Garage Improvements	525	500	500	1,525
Heating Replacements	11,417	12,866	12,189	36,472
Internal Planned Maintenance	18,857	22,682	21,488	63,027
Repairs before painting	600	600	600	1,800
Roof work	6,000	5,000	5,000	16,000
Structural Repairs	4,100	4,000	4,000	12,100
Lifeline & Sheltered Housing	500	500	500	1,500
Energy Efficiency	12,650	12,000	12,000	36,650
Professional Fees	2,670	2,670	2,670	8,010
Smoke / Fire Alarms	250	250	250	750
Pavement Crossing	320	320	320	960
New build and regeneration capital investment	74,046	0	0	74,046
Total expenditure	137,243	66,842	64,947	269,032

HRA Business Plan – Draft 5 Year Investment Plan						Appendix 3
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
<u>Scheme / Project</u>						
Adaptations / Lifts	200	200	200	200	200	
Heating replacement programme	1,015	1,015	1,015	1,015	1,015	
Structural works	400	400	500	400	400	
Lifeline Services*	50	50	50	50	50	
Repairs before painting	60	60	60	60	60	
Roofing	1,000	1,000	500	500	500	
Garages	75	50	50	50	50	
External Works (footpaths, fencing, fabric etc.)	200	200	200	200	200	
Smoke detection	25	25	25	25	25	
Pavement Crossing	32	32	32	32	32	
Replacement Door Programme	450	450	450	450	450	
Window Replacement	500	500	500	500	500	
IPM works	1,690	1,690	1,690	1,690	1,690	
Energy Efficiency	1,000	250	250	250	250	
Communal Works	100	100	100	100	100	
New build (net of HE grant)/regeneration	13,385	15,415	15,082	15,082	15,082	
Fees	267	267	267	267	267	
Total spend	20,449	21,704	20,971	20,871	20,871	
<u>Resourced by:</u>						
Capital Receipts	303	303	303	303	303	
RCCO	6,761	5,986	5,586	5,486	5,486	
Additional Borrowing	8,403	10,433	10,100	10,100	10,100	
Investment Fund	4,982	4,982	4,982	4,982	4,982	

Examples of Weekly Rent Changes for 2021/22

Appendix 4

Area		Property Type	Approved Rent 2019/20	Proposed Rent 2020/21	Increase between 19/20 & 20/21	Increase between 19/20 & 20/21
					£	%
<u>Middleton St George</u>						
	Mount Pleasant Close	1 Bedroom Bungalow	81.57	82.96	1.39	1.7% *
	Pounteys Close	2 Bedroom House	76.68	77.98	1.30	1.7%
	Thorntree Gardens	3 Bedroom House	87.47	88.96	1.49	1.7%
<u>Cockerton</u>						
	Newton Court	1 Bedroom Flat	63.33	64.41	1.08	1.7%
	Elvet Place	2 Bedroom House	74.16	75.42	1.26	1.7%
	Minors Crescent	3 Bedroom House	79.90	81.26	1.36	1.7%
<u>Haughton</u>						
	Ted Fletcher Court	1 Bedroom Flat	63.86	64.95	1.09	1.7%
	Lyonette Road	2 Bedroom Flat	72.33	73.56	1.23	1.7%
	Nightingale Avenue	1 Bedroom Bungalow	76.85	78.16	1.31	1.7% *
	Rockwell Avenue	2 Bedroom House	76.10	77.39	1.29	1.7%
	Dunelm Walk	3 Bedroom House	85.08	86.52	1.45	1.7%
<u>Branksome</u>						
	Branksome Hall	1 Bedroom Flat	63.42	64.50	1.08	1.7%
	Whitby Way	1 Bedroom Bungalow	70.15	71.34	1.19	1.7%
	Malvern Crescent	2 Bedroom House	72.75	73.98	1.24	1.7%
	Rosedale Crescent	3 Bedroom House	82.70	84.11	1.41	1.7%
	Sherborne Clsoe	2 Bedroom Flat	87.64	89.13	1.49	1.7% *
<u>Lascelles</u>						
	Coxwold House	1 Bedroom Flat	62.69	63.75	1.07	1.7%
	Gilling Crescent	2 Bedroom Flat	69.91	71.10	1.19	1.7%
	Aldbrough Walk	2 Bedroom House	82.30	83.70	1.40	1.7% *
	Caldwell Green	3 Bedroom House	79.43	80.78	1.35	1.7%
	Fenby Avenue	3 Bedroom House	99.08	100.77	1.68	1.7% *

<u>Bank Top</u>						
	Graham Court	1 Bedroom Flat	63.83	64.91	1.09	1.7%
	Graham Court	3 Bedroom House	90.88	92.42	1.54	1.7% *
<u>Redhall</u>						
	Bramall House	1 Bedroom Flat	76.23	77.53	1.30	1.7% *
	Aviemore Court	2 Bedroom Flat	67.34	68.49	1.14	1.7%
	Murrayfield Way	1 Bedroom Bungalow	64.93	66.03	1.10	1.7%
	Aintree Court	2 Bedroom House	68.83	70.00	1.17	1.7%
	Aintree Court	3 Bedroom House	90.43	91.96	1.54	1.7% *
<u>Eastbourne</u>						
	West Moor Road	1 Bedroom Flat	60.15	61.17	1.02	1.7%
	Tansley Gardens	2 Bedroom Flat	66.99	68.13	1.14	1.7%
	Firthmoor Crescent	2 Bedroom House	69.77	70.95	1.19	1.7%
	Brignall Moor Crescent	3 Bedroom House	75.52	76.80	1.28	1.7%
<u>Stygne Park</u>						
	Trent Place	2 Bed House	70.55	71.75	1.20	1.7%
	Humber Place	3 Bed House	76.23	77.53	1.30	1.7%
<u>Parkside</u>						
	Wordsworth Road	1 Bedroom Flat	63.91	65.00	1.09	1.7%
	Shakespeare Road	2 Bedroom House	79.95195	81.31	1.36	1.7% *
	Ruskin Road	3 Bedroom House	83.49	84.91	1.42	1.7%

* Affordable rent properties - these rents include applicable service charges.

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**CABINET
08 DECEMBER 2020**

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

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

Responsible Director – Chief Officers Executive

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To propose a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2021/22 to 2024/25 including setting a budget and council tax increase for 2021/22.

Summary

2. The Council has faced significant challenges over the last decade following the economic downturn and reduction in public sector spending. To date, the Council has been successful in responding to these challenges but this is becoming increasingly difficult, particularly in respect of a growing elderly population; pressure in the children's social care sector and of course the major economic impact of Covid-19 which has had a direct impact on the Council's finances this year and will undoubtedly be felt for a number of years to come. We must therefore press ahead with our top priority of growing Darlington's Economy and continue to be creative and find innovative ways of working.
3. In the 2020 spending review, delivered on 25 November, the Chancellor made reference to a number of funding streams in respect of Social Care grant, Covid-19 support, the continuation of Revenue Support Grant and an Adult Social Care precept. As this report has been prepared before the Local Government Finance Settlement, a number of assumptions in regard to government funding have been made. Any changes following the announcement will be reported to Cabinet in February.
4. The Council undertook a significant consultation exercise in 2016 following an in-depth and detailed review of all services which resulted in the agreement of a Core Offer budget which allowed for a small fund allocated to discretionary services. Furthermore, in subsequent MTFP's Members following consultation agreed to use unallocated balances of £6.5m to invest in five areas which hold great value to our community and encourage economic growth, they were;
 - (a) Community Safety
 - (b) Maintain an attractive street scene environment
 - (c) Maintaining a vibrant town centre
 - (d) Developing an attractive visitor economy
 - (e) Neighbourhood renewal

5. The Core offer remains challenging with some significant pressures arising in social care and the ongoing impact of Covid-19. Nevertheless, assuming the funding streams in paragraph 3 are received and agreed and through tight financial management, innovative financial investments and increased income from economic growth successes, the Council can still deliver the agreed balanced plan, finance the MTFP a further year to 2024/25 whilst retaining usable balances of £3.504m.
6. In summary, if the recommendations are agreed the Council's financial position is robust with a four-year balanced MTFP and funds available for investment which will be delegated to Cabinet.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that Cabinet approve for consultation, the Revenue MTFP as set out in **Appendix 7** including the following;
 - (a) Council tax increase of 1.99% plus a 3% Adult Social Care Precept to help fund social care for 2021/22 totalling 4.99%.
 - (b) The Schedule of Charges as set out in **Appendix 3**
 - (c) The Futures Fund continuation into 2024/25 as set out in paragraph 56.

Reasons

8. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) The Council must set a budget for the next financial year.
 - (b) To enable the Council to continue to plan services and finances over the medium term.
 - (c) To ensure decisions can be made in a timely manner.

Chief Officers Executive

Background Papers

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

Elizabeth Davison: Extension 5830

S17 Crime and Disorder	The report contains proposals to continue to allocate resources in support of the Council's Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Well Being	The report contains proposals to continue to allocate resources in support of the Council's Health and Well Being responsibilities
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	The proposals in the report seek to continue to support the Council's responsibilities and ambitions to reduce carbon impact in the Council and the Borough.
Diversity	There are no specific proposals that impact on diversity issues.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected
Groups Affected	All groups are affected by the Council Tax increase.
Budget and Policy Framework	The MTFP, Budget and Council Tax must all be decided by full Council
Key Decision	The MTFP, Budget and Council Tax must all be decided by full Council
Urgent Decision	The MTFP, Budget and Council Tax must all be decided by full Council
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Within the constraints of available resources it is necessary for the Council to make decisions involving prioritisation. The proposals contained in this report are designed to support delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, and the Council Plan within those constraints.
Efficiency	Efficiency savings which do not affect service levels have been included in the MTFP.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Children's social care continues to be resourced to provide good outcomes for Looked after Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Background and context

9. The Council has faced significant financial challenges over the last decade as the Government responded to the worldwide economic downturn by introducing public sector spending reductions. This was exacerbated by a growing demand for services, particularly in relation to social care, both Adults and Children's services. As a result, an in-depth review of all service provision was undertaken in 2016 following a need to reduce the budget by a further £12m, and a significant consultation exercise was held with the public. This resulted in the agreement of a Core Offer budget, which 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 does not have to provide, but which add great value to Darlington and its residents.
10. Subsequently following good progress made on achieving savings, strong cost management and innovative treasury initiatives over the following years the Council was in a position to add to the futures fund and unallocated balances of £6.5m were invested in the following five areas which hold great value to our community and are consistent with the councils priorities in particular the key priority of Growing Darlington's economy:-
 - (a) Community Safety
 - (b) Maintain an attractive street scene environment
 - (c) Maintaining a vibrant town centre
 - (d) Developing an attractive visitor economy
 - (e) Neighbourhood renewal
11. The funds are being utilised as expected to make positive change, the progress of which is detailed later in the report.
12. The core offer budget plus the futures fund as noted above is the starting position for this year's MTFP.
13. This year the Coronavirus pandemic has brought further considerable challenge and Darlington is facing significant pressures on its expenditure budgets and more significantly on its income streams. The impact is across the board but being particularly felt across leisure and culture facilities that have been required to close; on car parking revenues and reductions in council tax income as housebuilding slowed in the early part of the year along with an increase in Local Council Tax support claimants, all of which are having a major effect. The Government have provided support in the form of various grants in 2020/21 which have been helpful in sustaining services, the spending review also suggested there would be some Covid-19 support in 2021/22, at this stage there is no clarity on what this may be. It is clear however the financial and economic impact will be ongoing into future years. .
14. It is therefore very challenging to predict expenditure and income levels moving forward so best estimates have been used and assumptions made on the impact of Covid-19 on budgets in 2021/22. For future years it is assumed income and expenditure levels will return to normal from 2022/23 onwards and no further Government Covid-19 funding is received.

Financial Analysis

Projected Expenditure

15. Estimates attached at **Appendix 1** have been prepared based on current service levels and include known pressures and efficiencies which are summarised below and detailed in **Appendix 2**. The most significant are however discussed in the following paragraphs. Assumptions used when preparing the estimates are set out at **Appendix 4**.

<u>Summary of Pressures</u>	Estimate 2021/22 £m	Estimate 2022/23 £m	Estimate 2023/24 £m	Estimate 2024/25 £m
Efficiencies/Savings offsetting pressures	(2.757)	(2.994)	(2.786)	(2.892)
Service Demand	1.609	1.744	1.918	2.077
Price Inflation	0.318	0.912	1.352	2.152
Reduced Income	0.034	0.018	0.019	0.020
Other	0.124	0.105	0.106	0.107
Current Savings Shortfalls	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011
COVID-19 pressures	3.119	0.645	0.625	0.418
	2.458	0.441	1.245	1.893

16. **Efficiencies/Savings** – there are significant anticipated savings over the life of the MTFP of £11m. The largest of which comes from increased investment returns from the two new Joint Venture companies Darlington has formed with ESH construction to build houses. Along with the profits comes a positive financing return from the loans made to the companies which are provided on state aid rates.
17. Further savings continue in street lighting electricity charges following the replacement columns, from lower borrowing costs, inflation being lower than initially anticipated and there has also been reduction in Business rates on Council properties following revaluation.
18. **Service demand** – the most significant pressure in this category is an increase anticipated for adults with learning and physical disabilities. Whilst the numbers are not high the package costs per placement are significant.
19. Disabilities and the increase in children coming into the local authority has put pressures on both staffing levels and the adoption budget. This pressure is being felt across the country with most Councils' reporting overspends in this area. The Council has been awarded a £1.2m grant from the DfE to assist in transforming social care practice within Darlington and the team is working in partnership with Leeds City Council who have already been through this process. The ultimate aim is to improve outcomes for children, focus on prevention and reducing the number of children who need to come into care and ultimately reduce the budget pressure.

20. We have a number of contracts relating to care leavers, missing from home and safer families and homelessness where demand has increased and/or no inflation has been provided over the last few years. These contracts provide vital services and if they were not continued would undoubtedly increase demand in children's services and ultimately higher costs. There is pressure in School transport due to an increase in the number of children the local authority is required to transport to school.
21. **Inflation** – our domiciliary social care contracts are linked to various inflation factors, the main one being the national living wage which is anticipated to be higher than amount provided for in our expenditure budgets, additional funding is therefore required for our social care providers and direct payment clients.
22. **COVID-19** – the coronavirus pandemic has had a significant effect on the Councils expenditure and income budgets. To date the government has responded with help to offset a large proportion of these pressures. It is clear the pressures will extend into futures years, in particular the impact on our economy and the subsequent impact on Council tax and business rate income. An estimate has been made on the direct service impact in 2021/22 with the assumption it will return to normal in 2022/23. The recent spending review suggested there would be further Covid-19 funding in 2021/22 however there is no detail on what this maybe at this point in time. An assumption has been made on the continuation of the Sales, fee and charges recompense grant for three months and this is detailed in paragraph 30.

Total Expenditure

23. Taking the above savings and pressures into account the projected expenditure is shown in the table below: -

	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Children and Adult Services	61.026	63.497	65.465	67.672
Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services	24.322	22.660	23.368	24.241
Resources	10.525	10.916	11.089	11.310
Financing costs	0.823	0.956	2.921	2.933
Investment Returns	(1.546)	(1.286)	(1.349)	(1.632)
Council Wide Pressures/(savings)	(0.550)	(0.557)	(0.573)	(0.584)
Council Wide Contingencies *	0.525	0.525	1.512	1.512
Total Expenditure	95.125	96.711	102.433	105.452

* Includes apprentice levy and previously agreed risk contingency for provision ordinary residency costs in Adult services along with a provision for pensions following the triennial review in 2023/24.

Projected Income

Spending Review and Finance Settlement.

24. The 2020 Spending Review was announced on 25 November and whilst the specific detail in relation to Darlington's funding won't be known until the finance settlement, anticipated mid-December, assumptions have been made as detailed in the following paragraphs and will be updated in the MTFP proposal at the February 2021 Cabinet meeting.
25. The settlement is likely be for one year only given the uncertainty of Covid-19 and therefore the following three years are based on the same assumptions used in 2021/22 using best estimates given the most up to date information available. All assumptions are summarised in **Appendix 4** and detailed in the relevant sections below, however the overriding principle is that we will receive a cash equivalent grants funding for all government funding streams unless otherwise stated.

Core Grant funding to Local Government

26. **Revenue Support Grant (RSG)** has become a reducing element of the Council core funding over recent years and we were anticipating a further reduction in 2020/21 which didn't materialise. In the 2020/21 MTFP we anticipated the funding would continue over the life of the MTFP and have made the same assumption this year. It has been confirmed in the spending review that RSG will continue into 2021/22.
27. **New Homes Bonus (NHB)** is included in core Government funding as it is top sliced from RSG. However, in the last three Local Government Finance Settlements, there have been changes to the formula whereby a national baseline of 0.4% was set, the payment for each property was reduced from 6 years to 4 years and latterly that no new payments are made going forward with only legacy payments paid up until 2022/23. The spending review noted the NHB would continue for a further year without legacy payments, clarity is being sort on the effect for Darlington and any changes will be updated in the February report. For reporting purposes existing estimates are used and payments stop after 2022/23.
28. **Better Care fund** - Members will recall that previous year changes to the NHB scheme along with the reduction in RSG funded the Improved Better Care Fund which was separate to the funding stream allocated direct to the NHS. This was in recognition that Councils were under significant pressure in regard to social care funding, it was initially a three-year pot but continued in 2020/21 as core funding. The spending review confirmed this will continue into 2021/22 and for estimate purposes it has been assumed this funding will continue over the life of the MTFP given it is part of the core funding settlement.
29. **Social Care funding** - In recognition of the significant pressures being faced by Councils in social care due to the growing elderly population and increases in children looked after, the Chancellor announced access for Councils to an additional £1 billion for social care for 2021/22. £300m in Social Care grant and £700m through an Adult Social Care precept. Darlington's allocation of the £300m won't be known until the settlement however an assumption has been made based on previous allocations and has been included at £0.550m for one year along with the same level of grant received last year which is assumed to continue into future

years. It is also assumed **the Winter Pressures funding** received in the last two years is mainstreamed into the core baseline funding.

30. **Sales, Fees and Charges recompense scheme and Troubled Families Grant** – the spending review confirmed the Troubled Families Grant will continue into 2021/22 at £0.503m and there will also be a continuation of the Sales, Fees and Charges recompense scheme from April to June 2021. It is estimated this will be £0.616m. Due to the very short time between the spending review announcement and the Cabinet papers being dispatched this income has been included as a one line entry SR20 in the table below at para 41.

Council Tax Income

31. Due to reduction and reliance on Government funding over the last ten years, Council Tax is now by far the largest single funding stream and will increase further as a percentage over the coming years representing 61% of projected resources anticipated by 2024/25. The on-going increases reflect the Cabinet’s view that income from Council Tax needs to increase to protect key services. Members will recall that a 1% increase in Council Tax equates to an annual revenue of £0.520m.

The Council Tax referendum limit has been set at 2% for 2021/22 and this MTFP assumes a council tax increase of 1.99% for 2021/22 and across the rest of the MTFP. In addition, as noted in paragraph 29, Local Authorities have been given access to additional social care funding through an adult social care precept of 3% in 2021/22, this is in recognition of the extreme pressure councils are facing, particularly in regard to demand and the increasing demographic of older people and rises in people with complex needs. Adult social care is by far our largest overall budget and the precept is required to help in funding the on-going sustainability of the service. The precept is on top of the 1.99% Council Tax so the overall increase for 2021/22 would be 4.99%.

32. The Council Tax base has been affected by Covid-19 firstly due to the increase in Local Council Tax support claimants and also the reduction in housebuilding in the earlier part of the year. Moving forward Planning estimates anticipate growth levels to be an average of 433 band D equivalent properties over the period of this plan which is a growth on the tax base of 1.08% per annum, lower than anticipated in the current MTFP due to the ongoing effect of Covid-19. These figures have been used to prepare the estimates; clearly should this be any different income levels will differ. The collection rate (of collectable debt) is anticipated to remain at 99% in 2021/22, but as mentioned previously other factors are impacting on the overall income levels.
33. Taking the above into account Council Tax income over the period of this plan is estimated as follows:-

	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Total Council Tax anticipated	55.030	56.809	58.594	60.643

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

34. The Council retains 49% of NNDR collected and can gain or lose depending on whether the net tax collected increases or decreases. The Government via the valuation office sets rateable values and the rate paid in the pound is increased each year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The business tax-base is far more volatile than the council tax base and requires very close monitoring. In addition to the potential to “lose” income due to business closures the Council also carries the risk of losing appeals by businesses against valuations. This is even more significant during and post Covid-19 and there will undoubtedly be an effect on the economy and business rates moving forward unless further support is provided to businesses.
35. For MTFP purposes a pressure has been included in the projections for 2021/22 onwards due to a reduction in CPI which at September stood at 0.5% and on which the NNDR multiplier is based and subsequently impacts on the Council’s income levels, previous assumptions had been a 2% increase in CPI in 2021/22.
36. Members will recall one of the three conditions identified to help the Council tackle the reduction of government grant and increasing service demand was to grow the economy. This is the key priority in the Council Plan and the Economic Strategy gives priority to increasing business within the borough and significant effort has been put into achieving growth. This has been rewarded with a positive net increase in current and projected NNDR collected over the MTFP. Sites such as Symmetry Park and the Horizon Centre are all contributing to the growth. Notwithstanding these major developments, attracting businesses into the Town by their very nature takes time and upfront investment, particularly in these challenging times, so this is an area which needs continued prioritisation and pump prime funding so growth can continue. It needs to be remembered that net growth in NNDR collected relies on growth outstripping revaluations and reductions which can be very challenging in the current economy.
37. The in-year collection rate target for NNDR is 98.0% and as at the end of October 2020 is 65.2% and on track to achieve the target.
38. Taking the above into account the projections of NNDR are shown below

	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Business Rates retained locally	19.016	19.318	19.697	20.075

Collection Fund

39. The Collection Fund account reflects the statutory requirements for the Council to maintain a separate Fund in relation to the operation of Council Tax and the Business Rates Retention Scheme (BRRS). The Fund records all of the transactions for billing in respect of Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and Council Tax, exemptions and discounts granted, provision for bad debts and appeals and payments made to the Council’s General Fund, the Police and Fire and Rescue precept authorities and Central Government. There is an identified deficit given the impact of COVID-19 noted previously and these have been taken account of in the proposed MTFP. The Chancellor has recognised the impact Covid-19 has had on

the ability to collect revenue in these areas and in the Spending Review committed to fund 75% of the 2020/21 deficit. The overall impact on 2020/21 won't be known until the new financial year, however an estimate based on current knowledge has been included and added to our reserves figure as due to the technical nature of the fund it will be paid as a grant and not directly into the collection fund.

Other Grants

40. Set out below are the estimated specific grants which as the title suggests are for specific areas of expenditure as dictated by the government and cannot be used for other areas. The main one being the Public Health ring fenced grant. These grants are included in service estimates at Appendix 1.

	2021/22
	£m
Public Health Grant	8.401
PFI Grant	3.200
Strengthening Families Grant	0.600
Youth Justice Board	0.223
Local Reform & Community Voices	0.057
Adult & Community Learning	1.385
Staying Put	0.050
Community Engagement & Community	
Crime Grant	0.019
Heritage Action Zone	0.046
Towns Fund	0.016
Bus Service Operators Grant	0.009
Denes Restoration	0.014
	14.020

Total Income

41. The table below summaries the Council's estimated income for the period of this plan which thanks to the increase in social care funding, continued economic growth and house building activity, and the subsequent increases in council tax and NNDR, confirms a much-needed increase in income given our expenditure pressures.

Resources - Projected and assumed	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Council Tax	55.030	56.809	58.594	60.643
Business rates retained locally	19.016	19.318	19.697	20.075
Top Up Grant	7.340	7.457	7.603	7.749
RSG	3.614	3.614	3.614	3.614
New Homes Bonus	0.717	0.425	0.000	0.000
Better Care Fund	4.356	4.356	4.356	4.356
Adult Social Care Support Grant	3.502	2.952	2.952	2.952
SR20 additional Government funding	1.119	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Resources	94.694	94.931	96.816	99.389

Projected MTFP

42. Set out in the table below are the projections based on the income and expenditure analysis discussed in the previous sections along with the required use of balances over the period. The projections assume additional futures funding for ongoing commitments in 2024/25 is agreed and allocated as noted in paragraph 57.

	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Estimated Expenditure	92.667	96.270	101.188	103.559
Add Pressures / Additional savings	2.458	0.441	1.245	1.893
	95.125	96.711	102.433	105.452
Projected Total Resources	(94.694)	(94.931)	(96.816)	(99.389)
Projected budget (surplus)/deficit	0.431	1.780	5.617	6.063
Utilisation of balances	(0.431)	(1.780)	(5.617)	(6.063)
Total	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Futures Fund

43. As noted earlier the Council allocated £6.5m to the futures fund, a mix of one-off funding across five themes (£4.1m) and an ongoing revenue stream for Community Safety and Maintaining an Attractive Street Scene Environment (£2.4m).
44. The fund is being used to support the core offer budget, in particular areas which will help grow Darlington's Economy through keeping the borough clean, safe and healthy whilst valuing our heritage and culture, alongside working with communities to maximise their potential.
45. To date £3.401m has been committed to the themes with a balance of £0.699m remaining. A summary of commitments is noted below.

Futures Fund - Theme 1 - Community Safety (£0.950m)

46. £0.931m of the fund has been committed, £0.866m on staffing across the six years. This is to improve resilience and robustness in the team particularly as community safety is a key priority for the Council. £0.065m was for the purchase of a mobile CCTV camera and deployment over the years.

Futures Fund - Theme 2 – Maintaining an Attractive Street Environment (£0.500m)

47. £0.180m has been allocated to employ an arboriculture team leader to help address the increasing workload in regard to trees. £0.100m for a street orderly concentrating on keeping the arterial roads and areas into Darlington clean, £0.051m on a back-lane crew to help tackle fly tipping and £0.055m on trees in the town centre. The remaining funding has not been committed yet. The core funding allocation of £0.300m per annum has made a significant impact on the street environment. Grass cutting returned to a 12-15 day cycle which improved the look of the borough over the summer period and more frequent cleanses and litter picks have made a noticeable difference. Floral displays helped in achieving the Northumbria in bloom awards accolades.

Futures Fund - Theme 3 – Maintaining a Vibrant Town Centre (£1.5m)

48. The Town Centre faces a number of challenges as do many towns across the country due to the increase in on-line shopping and out of town retailing. £1.170m of the funding has been committed across a number of areas including a one of grant to the House of Fraser to facilitate the store remaining open following the financial difficulties they faced and the announcement of store closures across the country. The fund is also supporting a full Town Centre events programme such as the Festival of Ingenuity, Pride and the Ice Sculpture installations all of which encourage footfall.

Futures Fund - Theme 4 – Developing an Attractive Visitor Economy (0.500m)

49. £0.283m has been committed against this theme including Heritage Action zone funding and the development of live stream events and a feasibility study exhibition of early locomotives for the 2025 200th Anniversary of the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. The uncommitted amount will be used to further pump prime investment and match fund initiatives on these and other culture opportunities.

Futures Fund - Theme 5 – Neighbourhood Renewal (0.650m)

50. One of the Council priorities is to work with communities to maximise their potential and enjoy a good quality of life. The funding in this theme is aimed at assisting with this priority and £0.632m has been allocated to various initiatives including £0.050m to the Darlington Credit Union to enable them to continue work in addressing financial hardship and across households in Darlington; £0.187m for a skills and employability officer to understand what skills are required in the borough and take action to promote employment; £0.197m to run initiatives and part fund a programme officer for the Northgate project which is a multi-agency programme providing a range of interventions from support and advice to enforcement activities where required in order to improve outcomes for local residents; and £0.020m for the pilot In2 Programme which introduces children who wouldn't usually have access to arts and cultural experiences. There has also been an allocation of £0.016m for a holiday hunger scheme through the school holidays and £0.035m to support work to embed community wealth building across the Council and partners.

Futures Fund – ongoing commitments

51. A significant proportion of the futures fund expenditure is on staffing to carry out services over and above the statutory level, for example Community Safety including enforcement officers; Street Scene activities including grass cutting, street cleaning, back lance clear ups and tree work; helping neighbourhoods with our skills and employability officer. In total there are 22.7 full time equivalent staff funded on an annual basis through this fund. Additionally, there is £0.110m allocated to the Town Centre events programme per annum to assist in maintaining a vibrant Town Centre and helping out local businesses with increased footfall.
52. The fund was set up using balances as an additional resource over and above the core offer, however it is clear these services are of real importance to the community and our Economic Growth strategy in maintaining a clean, safe and exciting town. Given the anticipated positive revenue balance position noted below it is recommended the annual commitment is extended to 2024/25.

Revenue Balances

53. Taking into account the projected revenue out turn for 2020/21 detailed at **Appendix 5**, along with the assessment of required risk balances as set out in **Appendix 6** and the utilisation of balances to fund the projected budget deficit over the four year period, leaves a projected general fund balance of £4.418m by 2024/25.
54. However, the unallocated balances rely on building around 433 Band D equivalent houses per annum; no significant overspending; assumptions of a cash equivalent position materialising in the settlement and a Council Tax increase, including a 3 % Social care precept of 4.99%. We therefore need to be cautious particularly in light of future years estimated income, but we understand the need to invest into our services as much as possible to stimulate growth and tackle inequality.
55. As balancing the MTFP requires the use of reserves it is sensible that any unallocated balances should be used to:-

- (a) To minimise on-going committed annual spending to assist and work towards eradicating future years funding gaps.
- (b) Continue to invest into the Futures Fund to stimulate growth and invest in our communities.

56. Given the pressure on budgets and the limited funds for discretionary services it is recommended that £0.914m of the unallocated balances are utilised to continue the Futures Fund ongoing priorities and commitments a further year into 2024/25. If agreed the revenue reserve closing balance position at the end of 2024/25 would be £3.504m as shown below.

57. Whilst this is a welcomed position, it needs to be noted that the MTFP is only being balanced annually by using reserves which is not a sustainable position moving forward as reserves will eventually be depleted. Given the uncertainties in regard to future funding and expenditure pressures it is recommended the balance remains unallocated to assist in future pressures or mitigation of the year 5 gap.

Revenue Balances	2021/22 £m	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Opening balance	20.506	16.963	15.184	9.566
Risk Reserve	(5.350)			
Contribution to/(from) balances	(0.431)	(1.780)	(5.617)	(6.063)
Contribution from Collection Fund	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
SR20 Collection Fund contribution	1.238	0.000	0.000	0.000
Closing balance	16.963	15.184	9.567	3.504

Consultation

58. This report will be published for consultation from 1 December to 26 January 2021.

Conclusion

59. The MTFP as agreed by Council remains deliverable but as previously acknowledged it is not without risk and challenges. Some risks previously identified have occurred and the recommendations within this report address the associated financial implications. The proposed MTFP includes the retention of the Risk Reserve which has been increased this year given the unprecedented times we are facing to offset further unforeseen risks and the provision of a risk contingency in adult social care to cover a specific significant value risk which is already known.

60. The Council still has the financial capacity to deliver a four-year balanced MTFP which puts it in a much stronger position than many Councils, however this is based on a core offer service level with limited discretionary services. To add to this offer, available revenue balances have been utilised to create five Future Fund Investments themes which are helping to stimulate growth and assist with a key priority of growing the economy. As balances have improved it is proposed a further £0.914m is being requested to continue the ongoing commitments into 2024/25. Despite significant pressures faced by the impact of Covid-19 and in Social Care, the proactive stance taken in growing the economy and our joint venture

partnerships is working and assisting in minimising on-going committed annual spending.

61. Planning beyond the current MTFP is extremely difficult given the uncertainty around Covid-19, the new Local Government Financial system (currently on hold but anticipated in 2022), and issues such as the impact of Brexit on the country's finances. Given the four-year balanced position, the proposed plan will allow Members time, post the fair funding review, to assess the impacts of the changing landscape and decide how to address the future financial position faced. Current planning suggests there will be a budget deficit of approximately £6m, however for the reason above, this will almost certainly change. At this stage it is not possible to know whether this will be a positive or negative position.
62. In summary, the Council continues to face significant financial challenges, however, the MTFP remains deliverable on the basis of what we know now and the following conditions – economic growth, house building, no further pressures, fair funding review and a fair settlement, if this changes plans will need to be adjusted.
63. As the Council's Statutory Chief Financial Officer, the Assistant Director Resources, must advise the Council on the robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves. The budget presented to Members in this report has been based on the most accurate information available at this point in time, therefore the Assistant Director is confident that they are an accurate reflection of the Council's financial position. General Fund Reserves are adequate however the Council is carrying a financial risk over the lifetime of the plan which is difficult to forecast at present, in particular the implications and impacts of Covid-19, Brexit and the uncertainty around the fair funding review. It is essential that growing pressures in social care are addressed through transformation and implemented as the Council will be operating with minimum levels of balances to fund any future cost pressures.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Detailed Estimates
Appendix 2	Budget Pressures / Savings
Appendix 3	Fees and Income Proposals
Appendix 4	Assumptions used to prepare estimates
Appendix 5	Projected Revenue Outturn 2020/21
Appendix 6	Assessment of Risk Balances
Appendix 7	Proposed MTFP 2021 to 2025

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REVENUE ESTIMATES 2021/22 - Summary

APPENDIX 1

	2020/21	2021/22			
	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children and Adults	60,352	116,418	(14,993)	(40,399)	61,026
Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services	21,766	92,484	(43,627)	(24,536)	24,322
Resources	10,550	12,742	(2,217)	0	10,525
Group Totals	92,668	221,644	(60,837)	(64,935)	95,873
Financing Costs	895	823	0	0	823
Investment Returns - Joint Ventures	(1,028)	(1,546)	0	0	(1,546)
Council Wide Pressures / Savings	405	(550)	0	0	(550)
Contingencies	522	525	0	0	525
Grand Total	93,462	220,896	(60,837)	(64,935)	95,125

Revenue Estimates 2021/22

CHILDREN & ADULT SERVICES

	2020/21	2021/22			
	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Director of Adults & Children's Services	159	188	(12)	0	176
Children & Adult Services					
Transformation & Performance	602	742	(115)	0	627
Business Support	1,326	1,403	0	0	1,403
Children's Services					
Children's Services Management & Other Services	496	485	0	0	485
Assessment Care Planning & LAC	3,664	3,966	0	0	3,966
First Response & Early Help	2,295	3,383	0	(600)	2,783
Adoption & Placements	13,738	14,233	(44)	(50)	14,139
Youth Offending / ASB	263	618	(127)	(223)	268
Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement	498	732	(123)	0	609
Development & Commissioning					
Commissioning	2,360	2,278	(51)	0	2,227
Workforce Development	281	339	0	(57)	282
Voluntary Sector	167	145	0	0	145
Education					
Education	961	23,770	(1,431)	(21,261)	1,078
Schools	0	8,575	0	(8,575)	0
Transport Unit	1,684	2,405	0	(534)	1,871
Public Health & Community Safety					
Public Health	9	8,686	0	(8,401)	285
Adult Social Care & Health					
External Purchase of Care	25,625	35,940	(10,937)	(698)	24,305
Intake & Enablement	590	2,124	(1,529)	0	595
On-going Long Term Care - Older People	1,385	1,555	(125)	0	1,430
On-going Long Term Care - Physical Disability	5	57	(52)	0	5
On-going Long Term Care - Learning Disability	1,687	1,774	(37)	0	1,737
On-going Long Term Care - Mental Health	1,122	1,548	(410)	0	1,138
On-going Long Term Care - Disabled Children's	473	500	0	0	500
Service Development & Integration	962	972	0	0	972
Total Adults & Children's Services	60,352	116,418	(14,993)	(40,399)	61,026

Revenue Estimates 2021/22

Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services

	2020/21	2021/22			
	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Director of Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services	167	172	0	0	172
Planning, Economic Initiatives & Asset Management					
AD - Economic Growth	185	132	0	0	132
Building Control	138	305	(162)	0	142
Consolidated Budgets	135	146	0	0	146
Development Management	(73)	580	(642)	0	(61)
Economy	310	258	0	(16)	242
Environmental Health	291	332	(17)	0	316
Place Strategy	600	692	(30)	(65)	597
Property Management and Estates	(579)	768	(1,238)	0	(470)
Capital Projects, Transport & Highways Planning					
AD - Transport & Capital Projects	125	129	0	0	129
Building Design Services	20	525	(505)	0	20
Capital Projects	327	567	(261)	0	306
Car Parking R&M	566	483	0	0	483
Concessionary Fares	3,439	3,434	0	0	3,434
Flood and Water Act	111	88	0	0	88
Highways	2,507	4,100	(900)	0	3,199
Highways - DLO	(514)	9,037	(9,552)	0	(515)
Investment and Funding	511	179	(182)	0	(3)
Regeneration Projects	4	0	0	0	
Sustainable Transport	264	72	(30)	0	42
Community Services					
AD - Community Services	125	129	0	0	129
Allotments	11	22	(11)	0	11
Building Cleaning - DLO	105	727	(588)	0	139
Cemeteries and Crematorium	(868)	666	(1,563)	0	(897)
Dolphin Centre	579	3,272	(1,483)	0	1,789
Eastbourne Complex	(16)	118	(79)	0	39
Emergency Planning	97	99	0	0	99
Head of Steam	249	321	(47)	0	275
Hippodrome	(5)	3,759	(2,904)	0	855
Indoor Bowling Centre	12	18	(6)	0	12
Libraries	790	848	(19)	0	829
Move More	29	86	(52)	0	33
Outdoor Events	403	419	(22)	0	397
School Meals - DLO	57	719	(654)	0	65
Strategic Arts	112	114	0	0	114
Street Scene	4,997	7,397	(2,016)	(14)	5,367
Transport Unit - Fleet Management	(16)	61	(70)	0	(9)
Waste Management	2,936	3,274	0	0	3,274
Winter Maintenance	420	471	(2)	0	469
Community Safety					
CCTV	187	602	(403)	0	199
Community Safety	577	627	(35)	0	592
General Licensing	0	155	(155)	0	(0)
Parking	(1,665)	265	(2,380)	0	(2,116)
Parking Enforcement	32	180	(176)	0	5
Private Sector Housing	72	88	(10)	0	78
Stray Dogs	43	47	(1)	0	46
Taxi Licensing	0	203	(203)	0	0
Trading Standards	224	240	(6)	0	234

Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services (continued)

	2020/21	2021/22			
	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Building Services					
Construction - DLO	(568)	10,711	(11,282)	0	(571)
Maintenance - DLO	(406)	4,424	(4,831)	0	(407)
Other - DLO	14	(0)	0	0	(0)
Corporate Landlord	3,191	3,539	(267)	0	3,272
General Support Services					
Works Property & Other	109	111	0	0	111
Joint Levies & Boards					
Environment Agency Levy	112	116	0	0	116
Housing					
Local Taxation	457	897	(284)	(144)	469
Rent Rebates / Rent Allowances / Council Tax	(132)	23,650	(132)	(23,650)	(132)
Housing Benefits Administration	221	875	0	(648)	227
Customer Call Centre	271	487	(180)	0	307
Homelessness	297	418	(94)	0	324
Service, Strategy & Regulation and General Services	179	333	(154)	0	179
Total Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services	21,766	92,484	(43,627)	(24,536)	24,322

Revenue Estimates 2021/22**Resources**

	2020/21	2021/22			
	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Managing Director	163	277	(94)	0	183
Darlington Partnership	36	125	(85)	0	40
AD Resources					
Financial Services & Governance	1,508	1,787	(307)	0	1,480
Financial Assessments & Protection	244	284	(40)	0	244
Communications & Engagement	980	992	(138)	0	854
Systems	770	798	(7)	0	791
Xentrall Services (D&S Partnership)	1,693	2,354	(649)	0	1,705
Human Resources	582	763	(162)	0	601
Health & Safety	145	200	(57)	0	143
AD Law & Governance					
Complaints & Freedom of Information	186	202	(1)	0	201
Democratic Support	1,210	1,245	(23)	0	1,222
Registrars of births, deaths and marriages	(13)	230	(254)	0	(24)
Administration	697	800	(92)	0	708
Legal & Procurement	1,397	1,740	(296)	0	1,444
Coroners	215	220	0	0	220
AD ICT	737	725	(12)	0	713
Total Resources	10,550	12,742	(2,217)	0	10,525

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<u>Pressures/Savings</u>	Estimate 21/22 £m	Estimate 22/23 £m	Estimate 23/24 £m	Estimate 24/25 £m
Savings				
Street Lighting Utility savings	(0.030)	(0.030)	(0.030)	(0.030)
NNDR Savings across the asset base from revaluation	(0.098)	(0.098)	(0.098)	(0.098)
Childrens and Adults staffing savings	(0.036)	(0.030)	(0.024)	(0.025)
Adult Social care - residential inflation	(0.624)	(0.691)	(0.579)	(0.402)
Older Peoples package costs	(0.308)	(0.308)	(0.308)	(0.308)
Contracts - Financial Crisis & Community Care	0.000	(0.040)	(0.040)	(0.040)
Insurance - Saving on contract extension	(0.100)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Financing costs - lower borrowing costs	(0.273)	(0.463)	(0.275)	(0.263)
Investment Returns - extension of JV's	(0.734)	(0.769)	(0.855)	(1.138)
Pay award - 1% pay award in 2021/22, 2% thereafter	(0.554)	(0.565)	(0.577)	(0.588)
	(2.757)	(2.994)	(2.786)	(2.892)
Increased Demand				
Concessionary Fares - bulk bus pass re-issue	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.085
Public Sector Hub (DfE Building) - service charge	0.020	0.021	0.022	0.023
Waste Disposal - allowance for new builds	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.024
Street Scene Wheeled Bins - new properties.	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040
Winter Maintenance - review of T&C's for staff	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030
Customer Services - security guard	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018
Children's Services - Interpreters	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018
Social care staffing increased demand - Family Support service	0.100	0.104	0.111	0.118
Social care staffing increased demand - Leaving care service	0.000	0.119	0.232	0.234
Social care staffing increased demand - Child Protection & Review	0.016	0.016	0.052	0.077
Adoption - interagency Costs/ Adoption Tees Valley	0.127	0.136	0.149	0.16
Social Work - Lone working devices	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006
Advocacy contract	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
Contracts - Childrens volunteer drivers	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047
Contracts - Homeless Trailblazer - continuation of service	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064
Business Support - continuation of Archivist post	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012
Contracts - Missing from Home and Safer Families/Carers support	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09
Safeguarding Board - Information Officer post	0.021	0.021	0.022	0.023
School Transport - Support for new and Secondary School routes	0.143	0.145	0.148	0.151
Learning Disability package costs - high cost residential placement	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330
Learning Disability package costs - increase in domicillary hours	0.311	0.311	0.311	0.311
Physical Disability package costs	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061
Mental Health package costs	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090
Childrens day and home care package increases	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041
Carers - Increase in respite provision	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020
	1.609	1.744	1.918	2.077
Current Savings Shortfall				
Business Support - service demand target not met	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011
	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011
Price Inflation				
Utilities/Waste Disposal etc	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.071

Adults Homecare / Direct Payments	(0.024)	0.395	0.795	1.490
Contracts - various childrens, housing related support	0.000	0.080	0.122	0.125
NNDR - Reduction in CPI rate	0.342	0.437	0.435	0.466
	0.318	0.912	1.352	2.152
Reduced Income				
School Meals - service to be reviewed post 21/22	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pedestrian Training - grant not confirmed	0.017	0.018	0.019	0.020
	0.034	0.018	0.019	0.020
Other				
Winter Maintenance - end of red diesel usage	0.000	0.018	0.019	0.020
Council Wide auto-enrolment into pension scheme	0.051	0.049	0.050	0.050
Vulnerable pupils laptops - schools	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.000
Commissioning - staffing	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017
Drug & Alcohol - staffing	0.012	0.000	0.000	0.000
Bank Charges - renewal of bank contract	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020
	0.124	0.105	0.106	0.107
Covid Related				
Estates - Reduced rent	0.025	0.000	0.000	0.000
Feethams House - occupancy targets pushed back 1 year	0.070	0.089	0.050	0.033
Hippodrome - assumes no shows until June + reduced patronage	0.864	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dolphin Centre - reduced patronage due to social distancing	1.160	0.000	0.000	0.000
Eastbourne Complex - reduced patronage due to social distancing	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.000
Head of Steam - reduced patronage due to social distancing	0.013	0.000	0.000	0.000
Libraries - reduced patronage due to social distancing	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.000
Waste Disposal - household waste due to working from home	0.226	0.000	0.000	0.000
Car Parking - reduction in income due to change in working practices	0.154	0.000	0.000	0.000
Trade Waste - cancelled contracts	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045
Council Tax - reduction in current taxbase	0.493	0.511	0.530	0.340
	3.119	0.645	0.625	0.418
Total Net Pressures	2.458	0.441	1.245	1.893

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES 2021/22				
Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
LEARNING SKILLS - LEARNING FOR LIFE				
Fees Policy: August 2020 to July 2021 (Next Review July 2021)				
Full Fees (including enrolment and tuition fees) per hour	L	3.00	3.00	NIL
<p>Accredited Learning Full accreditation fee (if applicable) - if the course has a qualification there will be additional fees to pay for registration and certification.</p> <p>No fees will be charged for publicly subsidised courses where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Learners are aged 16-18 (on 31 August 2020) Learners are aged 19-24 (on 31 August 2020) with a learning difficulty and/or disability as evidenced through an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan Learners are aged 19 or older where the learning aim is up to and including level 2, and the learner is studying English or Maths Learners are aged 19-23 (on their first day of study) and are studying their first 'full' level 2 or first 'full' level 3, excludes English for speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Learners are aged 19 or older where the learning aim is up to and including level 2 (including ESOL), the skills training will help them into work, and the learner is classed as unemployed and one or more of the following apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They receive Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) - this includes those receiving National Insurance credits only, or They receive Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), or They receive Universal Credit and their earned income from employment (disregarding benefits) is less than £338 a month (learner is sole adult in their benefit claim) or £541 a month (learner has a joint benefit claim with their partner) They are released on temporary licence, studying outside a prison environment, and not funded by the Ministry of Justice Learners are aged 19 or older where the learning aim is up to and including level 2 (including ESOL), they are employed and eligible for co-funding but earn less than £17,004.00 gross salary, based on the assumption of a 37.5 hour contract with paid statutory holiday entitlement. <i>Evidence required: A wage slip within 3 months of the learning start date, or a current employment contract which states gross monthly / annual wages</i> Learners aged 19-24 who are unemployed and on a Traineeship <p>Courses with no public subsidy For learners aged 19 or above and where the learning aim is level 3 or above (except for exclusion above), learners will need to take out an Advanced Learning Loan, subject to funding availability. Further details can be found at: www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans</p> <p>Asylum Seekers – individuals will be assessed for eligibility in conjunction with ESFA guidance Special Fees – some courses have special fees, cost on application FE course – NVQ etc price on application</p> <p>The following courses are free: Family Learning, Functional Skills, Study Programmes and courses which are funded through external projects</p> <p>Additional Learning Support (ALS) is intended to enable disadvantaged learners to achieve their learning goal by providing funding, on top of programme funds, to help them overcome their barriers to learning. The funding is intended to be flexible and to help support learners who have a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities</p>				

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS				
The following fees do not incur VAT				
Marriages				
Entering a Notice of Marriage or Civil Partnership	N			
For a Registrar to attend a Marriage at the Register Office	N			
Civil Partnership Registration	N			
Incumbents for every Entry Contained in Quarterly Certified	N			
Copies of Entries of Marriage	N			
Registrars fee for attending a marriage at a registered building or for the housebound or detained	N			
Superintendents Registrar fee for attesting a notice of marriage away from his office for housebound or detained	N			
Superintendents Registrar fee for attending the marriage of the housebound or detained	N	These charges set nationally by Statute and will be charged at the advised rate for 2020/21	These charges set nationally by Statute and will be charged at the advised rate for 2020/21	
Certification for Worship and Registration for Marriages				
Place of Meeting for Religious Worship	N			
Registration of Building for Solemnisation of Marriage	N			
Certificates issued from Local Offices				
Standard Certificate (SR)	N			
Standard Certificate (RBD) (at time of Registration)	N			
Standard Certificate (RBD) (after Registration)	N			
Short Certificate of Birth (SR)	N			
Short Certificate of Birth (RBD)	N			
Certificates of Civil Partnership (at time of Ceremony)	N			
Certificates of Civil Partnership (at later date)	N			
General Search fee	N			
Each Verification	N			
Civil Partnership Ceremony				
All Ceremonies – Approved Premises				
Application Fee for licence as an approved venue (valid for 3 years)	N	1,700.00	1,750.00	
Fee for Attendance - All days including Bank Holidays	L	525.00	540.00	
All Ceremonies – Town Hall				
The Council Chamber (Monday to Saturday)	L	275.00	285.00	
The Council Chamber Foyer (Monday to Saturday)	L	125.00	130.00	
REGISTER OF ELECTORS, OPEN REGISTER AND MONTHLY UPDATES - SALE				
The following fees do not incur VAT.				
Register – Printed Form	N	10.00	10.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Printed	N	5.00	5.00	
Register – Data Form	N	20.00	20.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Data	N	1.50	1.50	
LIST OF OVERSEAS ELECTORS – SALE				
The following fees do not incur VAT.				
List – Printed Form	N	10.00	10.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Printed	N	5.00	5.00	
List – Data Form	N	20.00	20.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Data	N	1.50	1.50	
MARKED COPY OF THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS AND MARKED ABSENT VOTERS LIST - SALE				
The following fees do not incur VAT				
Register – Printed Form	N	10.00	10.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Printed	N	2.00	2.00	
Register – Data Form	N	10.00	10.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Data	N	1.00	1.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
TOWN HALL				
Hire of Committee Rooms – all charges shown exclusive of VAT. Charges will be made plus the appropriate VAT rate. All rooms are to be charged by the hour, rather than by session Committee Rooms per hour				
	L	33.00	33.00	
				Minimal
LAND CHARGES				
The following fees are inclusive of VAT				
Search Fees				
Standard Search - Residential Property (post or DX)	L	91.80	91.80	
Standard Search – Residential Property (electronic)	L	89.80	89.80	
Standard Search – Commercial Property (post or DX)	L	139.80	139.80	
Standard Search – Commercial Property (electronic)	L	137.80	137.80	
Con 29 Required				
Residential Property				
One Parcel of Land	L	76.80	76.80	
Several Parcels of Land – Each Additional Parcel	L	24.00	24.00	
Commercial Property				
One Parcel of Land	L	124.80	124.80	
Several Parcels of Land – Each Additional Parcel	L	24.00	24.00	
Con 29 Optional				
Each Printed Enquiry	L	6.00	6.00	
Own Questions	L	6.00	6.00	
Official Search – LLCI	L	15.00	15.00	
Official Search – NLIS (National Land Information Service) or email	L	13.00	13.00	
Expedited Search (Residential)	L	165.00	165.00	
Expedited search (Commercial)	L	225.00	225.00	
Personal Search	L	No charge	No charge	
				NIL

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
FINANCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES				
Category				
I. Work up to and including the date upon which the court makes an order appointing a deputy for property and affairs	N	745.00	745.00	
II. Annual management fee where the court appoints a local authority deputy for property and affairs, payable on the anniversary of the court order:	N	775.00	775.00	
- for the first year	N	650.00	650.00	
- for the second and subsequent years				
where the net assets are below £16,000, the local authority deputy for property and affairs will take an annual management fee not exceeding 3% of the net assets on the anniversary of the court order appointing the local authority as deputy				
Where the court appoints a local authority deputy for health and welfare, the local authority will take an annual management fee not exceeding 2.5% of the net assets on the anniversary of the court order appointing the local authority as deputy for health and welfare up to a maximum of £500.				
III. Annual property management fee to include work involved in preparing property for sale, instructing agents, conveyancers, etc or the ongoing maintenance of property including management and letting of a rental property	N	300.00	300.00	
IV. Preparation and lodgement of an annual report or account to the Public Guardian	N	216.00	216.00	
V. Conveyancing Costs				
Where a deputy or other person authorised by the court is selling or purchasing a property on behalf of P, the following fixed rates will apply except where the sale or purchase is by trustees in which case, the costs should be agreed with the trustees:	N	See Description	See Description	
A value element of 0.15% of the consideration with a minimum sum of £350 and a maximum sum of £1,500, plus disbursements				
Travel Rates are allowed at a fixed rate per hour for travel costs	N	40.00	40.00	
Please note that these rates are set by The Office of Public Guardian and are the rates as of 1st April 2017, these may be amended during 2021/22				
Administration fee for arranging the care and support needs for those with capital in excess of the upper capital limit or those who have chosen not to disclose their financial information.	L	105.00	105.00	
NIL				
DEFERRED PAYMENT FEES				
Administration cost for setting up a Deferred Payment Agreement	L	315.00	321.00	
plus cost of valuation (this will be dependant on property type)	L	Actual cost of valuation	Actual cost of valuation	
Minimal				

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
LIBRARIES				
Fines On Overdue Items				
Adults – per day	L	0.15	0.20	
Maximum charge per book	L	5.10	3.00	
Senior Citizens – per day	L	0.10	0.10	
Maximum charge per book	L	3.10	3.10	
Children – per day	L	No charge	No charge	
Loan Charges for Audio Materials (1 week)				
CD's	L	1.00	1.00	
DVD's	L	1.50	1.50	
Reservation Fees for books and Audio Materials				
Adults	L	0.50	0.50	
Senior Citizens	L	0.25	0.25	
Children/Unemployed	L	0.25	0.25	
Reservation Fees for Books Obtained from Outside the Authority				
Single charge for all books obtained from other libraries	L	6.00	6.00	
Repeat Fee for Renewal of Books from Outside the Authority				
Single Charge for all books obtained from other local authorities	L	6.00	6.00	
Replacement Tickets				
Adults	L	1.20	1.50	
Senior Citizens	L	1.20	1.50	
Children/Unemployed	L	0.60	1.50	
Spoken Word				
Cassettes & CDs (3 Week Loan)	L			
Adults (who are not exempt) each	L	1.50	1.50	
Children each	L	No charge	No charge	
Language Courses (per element)				
Subscription for whole course to be paid in advance	L	1.35	1.35	
Local History Research				
Look Up Service	L	5.00	5.00	
Specialist Research – per hour	L	30.00	30.00	
Photocopies				
A4 B&W	L	0.15	0.20	
A3 B&W	L	0.30	0.40	
Printing				
Text Printouts				
A4 B&W	L	0.15	0.15	
A3 B&W	L	0.30	0.30	
Test Printouts				
A4 colour	L	0.60	0.60	
Reproduction of Images from Stock				
Digital copies for Private/Study purposes – per photo	L	5.50	5.50	
Digital copies for small local commercial use – per photo	L	5.50 + 2 copies of publications	5.50 + 2 copies of publications	
Digital copies for local commercial use - per photo	L	10.50 + 2 copies of book	10.50 + 2 copies of book	
Digital copies for national/international commercial	L	110.00	110.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Scan and e-mail Service				
First sheet	L	1.00	1.00	
Each subsequent sheet	L	0.50	0.50	
Hire of Locker	L	0.50	0.50	
Internet Use				
Library members First 60 minutes FREE , Members & Non Members £1.00 per 30 minutes hereafter	L	1.00	1.00	
Lost & Damaged Items	L	Full current Replacement Cost (non-refundable)	Full current Replacement Cost (non-refundable)	
Fax				
Outgoing Transmission				
United Kingdom – per sheet	L	1.45	1.45	
Europe – per sheet	L	2.30	2.30	
USA/Canada – per sheet	L	2.80	2.80	
Rest of the World – per sheet	L	3.80	3.80	
Incoming Transmission – per sheet	L	0.45	0.45	
Fax by Satellite				
Atlantic Ocean/Indian Ocean/Pacific Ocean – per sheet	L	12.50	12.50	
Room Hire				
Not for profit organisations per hour	L	10.00	10.00	
Commercial organisations per hour	L	15.00	15.00	
				Minimal
PLANNING FEES				
Planning fees are set nationally				
PLANNING – PRE APPLICATION ADVICE				
All charges include VAT at 20%				
Large Major Development (200+) for a written response, including up to 2 meetings	L	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Small Major Development (10-199) for a written response, including up to 2 meetings	L	600.00	600.00	
Minor Development for a written response to include a meeting if necessary	L	400.00	400.00	
Other Developments				
Minerals Processing	L	Based on areas above	Based on areas above	
Change of use for a written response to include a meeting if necessary	L	50.00	50.00	
Householder developments	L	36.00	36.00	
Advertisements	L	25.00	25.00	
Listed Building consents (to alter/extend/demolish)	L	Free	Free	
Conservation area consents	L	Free	Free	
Certificates of lawful development	L	Application advice not appropriate	Application advice not appropriate	
Telecommunications Notifications	L	126.00	126.00	
Other Charges				
Pre-Application meeting involving Planning Committee Members	L	1,000.00	1,000.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
PLANNING – SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS				
Items inclusive of VAT at 20%				
A4 Photocopy (ex plans) – first page	L	1.10	1.10	
Subsequent pages	L	0.10	0.10	
A3 Photocopy (ex plans) – first page	L	1.20	1.20	
Subsequent pages	L	0.20	0.20	
A2 Photocopy (ex plans) – first page	L	1.50	1.50	
A1 Photocopy (ex plans)	L	2.00	2.00	
A0 Photocopy (ex plans)	L	3.00	3.00	
Items outside the scope of VAT				
Local plan	L	18.00	18.00	
Local plan – postage	L	4.00	4.00	
Local plan – alterations	L	2.00	2.00	
Invoicing	L	9.00	9.00	
				NIL
LICENSING The following fees do not incur VAT				
Prosecution Costs				
Hourly rate for Preparation of Case Reports	L	47.00	47.50	
General Licensing				
Pavement Café Licence, per person				
1-10	L	200.00	200.00	
11-25	L	240.00	240.00	
26-40	L	280.00	280.00	
41-60	L	320.00	320.00	
61-80	L	360.00	360.00	
81-99	L	400.00	400.00	
100 or over	L	450.00	450.00	
Duplicate licence fee	L	50.00	50.00	
Transfer of licence	L	50.00	50.00	
Change of detail	L	30.00	30.00	
Variation of Covers	L	100.00	100.00	
Goods on Highway Licence	L	155.00	155.00	
Sex Shop Grant of application	L	3,700.00	3,700.00	
Sex Shop Renewal	L	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Sex Shop transfer	L	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Skin Piercing (Premises) Grant	L	280.00	280.00	
Skin Piercing (Personal) Grant/Variation	L	65.00	65.00	
Scrap Metal Dealers				
Collectors Licence (3 years) - application	L	150.00	150.00	
Collectors Licence (3 years) – renewal	L	150.00	150.00	
Major Variation	L	50.00	50.00	
Minor Variation	L	15.00	15.00	
Site Licence (3 years) Grant	L	350.00	350.00	
Additional Sites (per site per year of licence)	L	195.00	195.00	
Site licence (3 years) – renewal	L	270.00	270.00	
Additional sites (per site per year of licence)	L	195.00	195.00	
Minor Variation Site	L	15.00	15.00	
Major Variation Site	L	50.00 + 65.00	50.00 + 65.00	
		per additional site per year	per additional site per year	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Caravan Sites				
New Application for a permanent residential site licence;	L			
1-5 pitches	L	200.00	200.00	
6-20 pitches	L	225.00	225.00	
21-50 pitches	L	240.00	240.00	
Greater than 50 pitches	L	260.00	260.00	
Annual Fees associated with administration and monitoring of site licences;				
1-5 pitches	L	No charge	No charge	
6-50 pitches	L	220.00	220.00	
Greater than 50 pitches	L	260.00	260.00	
Cost of Laying Site Rules	L	25.00	25.00	
Cost of Variation/Transfer	L	100.00	100.00	
Zoo Licensing Act				
New Application (4 years) or renewal (6 years) for a Zoo Licence (excluding the inspection costs of appointed inspector)	L	450.00	450.00	
Animal Welfare				
Breeding of Dogs - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	245.00	245.00	
2 Year Licence	L	290.00	290.00	
3 Year Licence	L	335.00	335.00	
Breeding of Dogs - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	215.00	215.00	
2 Year Licence	L	260.00	260.00	
3 Year Licence	L	305.00	305.00	
Pet Vending Commercial - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	252.00	252.00	
2 Year Licence	L	297.00	297.00	
3 Year Licence	L	342.00	342.00	
Pet Vending Commercial - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	222.00	222.00	
2 Year Licence	L	267.00	267.00	
3 Year Licence	L	312.00	312.00	
Pet Vending Home - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	245.00	245.00	
2 Year Licence	L	290.00	290.00	
3 Year Licence	L	335.00	335.00	
Pet Vending Home - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	215.00	215.00	
2 Year Licence	L	260.00	260.00	
3 Year Licence	L	305.00	305.00	
Keeping or Training Animals for Exhibition - Grant of Licence				
3 Year Licence	L	235.00	235.00	
Keeping or Training Animals for Exhibition - Renewal of Licence				
3 Year Licence	L	215.00	215.00	
Hiring Out of Horses - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	265.00	265.00	
2 Year Licence	L	310.00	310.00	
3 Year Licence	L	355.00	355.00	
Hiring Out of Horses - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	235.00	235.00	
2 Year Licence	L	280.00	280.00	
3 Year Licence	L	325.00	325.00	
Boarding of Dogs and Cats Commercial - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	305.00	305.00	
2 Year Licence	L	350.00	350.00	
3 Year Licence	L	395.00	395.00	
Boarding of Dogs and Cats Commercial - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	275.00	275.00	
2 Year Licence	L	320.00	320.00	
3 Year Licence	L	365.00	365.00	
Boarding of Dogs and Cats Home - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	245.00	245.00	
2 Year Licence	L	290.00	290.00	
3 Year Licence	L	335.00	335.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Boarding of Dogs and Cats Home - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	215.00	215.00	
2 Year Licence	L	260.00	260.00	
3 Year Licence	L	305.00	305.00	
Boarding of Dogs Day Care Up to 7 Dogs - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	245.00	245.00	
2 Year Licence	L	290.00	290.00	
3 Year Licence	L	335.00	335.00	
Boarding of Dogs Day Care Up to 7 Dogs - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	215.00	215.00	
2 Year Licence	L	260.00	260.00	
3 Year Licence	L	305.00	305.00	
Boarding of Dogs Day Care 8+ Dogs - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	305.00	305.00	
2 Year Licence	L	350.00	350.00	
3 Year Licence	L	395.00	395.00	
Boarding of Dogs Day Care 8+ Dogs - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	275.00	275.00	
2 Year Licence	L	320.00	320.00	
3 Year Licence	L	365.00	365.00	
		130.00 + 10.00 per host +	130.00 + 10.00 per host +	
Dog Boarding Franchise in Darlington - Grant of Licence	L	65.00 per host inspection fee + 45.00 annual enforcement fee per year	65.00 per host inspection fee + 45.00 annual enforcement fee per year	
		100.00 + 10.00 per host +	100.00 + 10.00 per host +	
Dog Boarding Franchise in Darlington - Renewal of Licence	L	60.00 per host inspection fee + 45.00 annual enforcement fee per year	60.00 per host inspection fee + 45.00 annual enforcement fee per year	
Dog Boarding Franchise out of Darlington - Grant of Licence	L	60.00 + 65.00 per host	60.00 + 65.00 per host	
Dog Boarding Franchise out of Darlington - Renewal of Licence	L	55.00 + 60.00 per host	55.00 + 60.00 per host	
Additional Fees				
Cost per additional licensable activity - Grant and Renewal (each)	L	65.00	65.00	
Mandatory mid licence inspection fee - Grant and Renewal (each)	L	30.00	30.00	
Variation of licence where no inspection is required (each)	L	35.00	35.00	
Variation of licence where inspection is required (each)	L	90.00	90.00	
Application for Re-Rating (each)	L	70.00	70.00	
Copy Licence	L	15.00	15.00	
Administration Fee	L	35.00	35.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Street Trading				
November / December - Full Calendar Month	L	975.00	975.00	
- Week	L	385.00	385.00	
- Day	L	85.00	85.00	
January / October - Full Calendar Month	L	660.00	660.00	
- Week	L	270.00	270.00	
- Day	L	60.00	60.00	
Note- The above to apply to Itinerant traders. For regular all year round traders - fees as follows				
Annual Consent	L	7,000.00	7,000.00	
If Paying Monthly	L	620.00	620.00	
If Paying Weekly	L	170.00	170.00	
Buskers selling CD's – Half Day	L	25.00	25.00	
Full Day	L	45.00	45.00	
Mobile vehicles (moving or lay-by)	L	260.00	260.00	
New Vendor Permits	L	35.00	35.00	
Duplicate licenses	L	15.00	15.00	
Skip Hire Licence				
More than 3 days' notice	L	15.00	15.00	
Less than 3 days' notice	L	30.00	30.00	
Hoarding/Scaffold Licence	L	50.00	50.00	
Administration Charge (per hour or part thereof)	L	35.00	35.00	
Statutory Fees				
Petroleum Licences				
Less than 2,500 litres	L	44.00	44.00	
2,500 – 50,000 litres	L	60.00	60.00	
More than 50,000 litres	L	125.00	125.00	
Transfer/variation	L	8.00	8.00	
Gambling Act				
Statutory Fees- The following gambling fees are set within statutory bands and will be revised as changed nationally.				
Adult Gaming Centres – Annual Fee	N	600.00	600.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Betting Shops - Annual Fee	N	550.00	550.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Bingo Halls - Annual Fee	N	600.00	600.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Family Entertainment Centres – Annual Fee	N	550.00	550.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	950.00	950.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	950.00	950.00	
Betting (tracks) – Annual Fee	N	550.00	550.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	950.00	950.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	950.00	950.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
<i>Permit Type – The following fees are set by statute and will be revised as changed nationally</i>				
Small Society Lottery Registration	N	40.00	40.00	
Small Society Annual Fee	N	20.00	20.00	
FEC gaming machine – Renewal fee	N	300.00	300.00	
FEC gaming machine – Change of name	N	25.00	25.00	
Prize gaming – Application fee	N	300.00	300.00	
Prize gaming – Renewal fee	N	300.00	300.00	
Prize gaming – Change of name	N	25.00	25.00	
Prize gaming – Copy permit	N	15.00	15.00	
Gaming machines (3 or more) - application Fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Gaming machines (3 or more) - variation Fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Gaming machines (3 or more) - transfer Fee	N	25.00	25.00	
Gaming machines (3 or more) - annual Fee	N	50.00	50.00	
Change of name	N	25.00	25.00	
Copy Permit	N	15.00	15.00	
Notice of intent 2 or less gaming machines available	N	50.00	50.00	
Club Premises cert (S 72f Licencing Act 2003) application fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Club Premises cert (S 72f Licencing Act 2003) renewal fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Other applicants - application fee	N	200.00	200.00	
Other applicants - renewal fee	N	200.00	200.00	
Variation fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Annual fee	N	50.00	50.00	
Copy permit	N	15.00	15.00	
Initial fee	N	40.00	40.00	
Annual fee	N	20.00	20.00	
Temporary use notice	N	500.00	500.00	
Copy/replacement/endorsed copy of notice	N	25.00	25.00	
Licensing Act Fees				
Statutory Fees- The following gambling fees are set within statutory bands and will be revised as changed nationally.				
Premises Licences				
Band A (RV £0 - £4,300) - Initial fee	N	100.00	100.00	
- Annual fee	N	70.00	70.00	
Band B (RV £4,301 - £33,000) - Initial fee	N	190.00	190.00	
- Annual fee	N	180.00	180.00	
Band C (RV £33,001 - £87,000) - Initial fee	N	315.00	315.00	
- Annual fee	N	295.00	295.00	
Band D (RV £87,001 - £125,000) - Initial fee	N	450.00	450.00	
- Annual fee	N	320.00	320.00	
Band E (RV > £125,001) - Initial fee	N	635.00	635.00	
- Annual fee	N	350.00	350.00	
Band D with Multiplier - Initial fee	N	900.00	900.00	
- Annual fee	N	640.00	640.00	
Band E with Multiplier - Initial fee	N	1,905.00	1,905.00	
- Annual fee	N	1,050.00	1,050.00	
Club Premises Certificates				
Band A (RV £0 - £4,300) - Initial fee	N	100.00	100.00	
- Annual fee	N	70.00	70.00	
Band B (RV £4,301 - £33,000) - Initial fee	N	190.00	190.00	
- Annual fee	N	180.00	180.00	
Band C (RV £33,001 - £87,000) - Initial fee	N	315.00	315.00	
- Annual fee	N	295.00	295.00	
Band D (RV £87,001 - £125,000) - Initial fee	N	450.00	450.00	
- Annual fee	N	320.00	320.00	
Band E (RV > £125,001) - Initial fee	N	635.00	635.00	
- Annual fee	N	350.00	350.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Large Scale Events				
5,000 to 9,999 - Initial fee	N	1,000.00	1,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	500.00	500.00	
10,000 to 14,999 - Initial fee	N	2,000.00	2,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	1,000.00	1,000.00	
15,000 to 19,999 - Initial fee	N	4,000.00	4,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	2,000.00	2,000.00	
20,000 to 29,999 - Initial fee	N	8,000.00	8,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	4,000.00	4,000.00	
30,000 to 39,999 - Initial fee	N	16,000.00	16,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	8,000.00	8,000.00	
40,000 to 49,999 - Initial fee	N	24,000.00	24,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	12,000.00	12,000.00	
50,000 to 59,999 - Initial fee	N	32,000.00	32,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	16,000.00	16,000.00	
60,000 to 69,999 - Initial fee	N	40,000.00	40,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	20,000.00	20,000.00	
70,000 to 79,999 - Initial fee	N	48,000.00	48,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	24,000.00	24,000.00	
80,000 to 89,999 - Initial fee	N	56,000.00	56,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	28,000.00	28,000.00	
> 90,000 - Initial fee	N	64,000.00	64,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	32,000.00	32,000.00	
Other Licensing Act 2003 Fees & Charges				
Minor Variations	N	89.00	89.00	
Personal Licence	N	37.00	37.00	
Provisional Statement	N	315.00	315.00	
Temporary Event Notice (TEN)	N	21.00	21.00	
Theft / Loss of Licence / Notice	N	10.50	10.50	
Variation of DPS	N	23.00	23.00	
Transfer of Premises Licence	N	23.00	23.00	
Change of Name / Address	N	10.50	10.50	
Notification of Interest	N	21.00	21.00	
Notification of Alteration of Club Rules	N	10.50	10.50	
Interim Authority Notice	N	23.00	23.00	
Explosives Act/Fireworks Annual Registration	N	52.00	52.00	
				NIL

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
HACKNEY CARRIAGES				
Taxi Licencing				
Taxi licensing fees are agreed annually by licensing committee normally in March and will be published separately as part of this process. Existing licence holders will be notified accordingly.				
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH				
Pest Treatment Charges – All charges shown exclusive of VAT. Charges will be made plus the appropriate VAT rate				
Insects – per Treatment	L	58.50	58.50	
Rodents in Private Premises	L	8.33	8.33	
Re-rating Food Hygiene Inspections	L	150.00	150.00	
Prosecution Costs				
Hourly Rate for preparation of case reports and carrying out works in default of legal notices	L	47.00	47.50	
Environmental Searches				
Environmental search 1 or 2 report includes environmental information held by the Council on a site (additional charges apply for sites larger than 10,000m2 and distance buffer greater than 250m radius)	L	65.00	65.00	
Additional photocopying for example copies of site investigation reports;				
A4 B&W	L	0.10	0.10	
A3 B&W	L	0.20	0.20	
A4 Colour	L	1.00	1.00	
A3 Colour	L	2.00	2.00	
Scanned Copy	L	Free	Free	
LAPPC and LAIPPC Permits				
Charges are annually set by Defra in March and are subject to change. Current charges as known are;				
LAPPC Charges				
Application Fee;				
Standard process (includes solvent emission activities)	N	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Additional fee for operating without a permit	N	1,188.00	1,188.00	
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners	N	155.00	155.00	
PVR I & II combined	N	257.00	257.00	
VRs and other Reduced Fee Activities	N	362.00	362.00	
Reduced fee activities: additional fee for operating without a permit	N	71.00	71.00	
Mobile plant**	N	1,650.00	1,650.00	
for the third to seventh applications	N	985.00	985.00	
for the eighth and subsequent applications	N	498.00	498.00	
Where an application for any of the above is for a combined Part B and waste application add an extra to the above amounts	N	310.00	310.00	
Annual Subsistence Charge;				
Standard process Low*	N	772.00	772.00	
		(+104.00)	(+104.00)	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Standard process Medium*	N	1,161.00 (+156.00)	1,161.00 (+156.00)	
Standard process High*	N	1,747.00 (+207.00)	1,747.00 (+207.00)	
*the additional amounts must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation				
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners Low	N	79.00	79.00	
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners Medium	N	158.00	158.00	
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners High	N	237.00	237.00	
PVR I & II combined Low	N	113.00	113.00	
PVR I & II combined Medium	N	226.00	226.00	
PVR I & II combined High	N	341.00	341.00	
VRs and other Reduced Fees Low	N	228.00	228.00	
VRs and other Reduced Fees Medium	N	365.00	365.00	
VRs and other Reduced Fees High	N	548.00	548.00	
Mobile plant, for the first and second permits Low**	N	626.00	626.00	
for the third to seventh permits Low	N	385.00	385.00	
eighth and subsequent permits Low	N	198.00	198.00	
Mobile plant, for the first and second permits Medium**	N	1,034.00	1,034.00	
for the third to seventh permits Medium	N	617.00	617.00	
eighth and subsequent permits Medium	N	316.00	316.00	
Mobile plant, for the first and second permits High**	N	1,551.00	1,551.00	
for the third to seventh permits High	N	924.00	924.00	
eighth and subsequent permits High	N	473.00	473.00	
Late payment fee	N	52.00	52.00	
Where a Part B installation is subject to reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation add an extra to the above amounts	N	104.00	104.00	
Transfer and Surrender;				
Standard process transfer	N	169.00	169.00	
Standard process partial transfer	N	497.00	497.00	
New operator at low risk reduced fee activity	N	78.00	78.00	
Surrender: all Part b activities	N	0.00	0.00	
Reduced fee activities: transfer	N	0.00	0.00	
Reduced fee activities: partial transfer	N	47.00	47.00	
Temporary transfer for mobiles;				
First transfer	N	53.00	53.00	
Repeat following enforcement or warning	N	53.00	53.00	
Substantial change;				
Standard process	N	1,050.00	1,050.00	
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new PPC activity	N	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Reduced fee activities	N	102.00	102.00	
**Not using simplified permits				
LAPPC mobile plant charges (not using simplified permits)				
Number of permits 1 to 2;				
Application fee	N	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Subsistence fee Low	N	646.00	646.00	
Subsistence fee Medium	N	1,034.00	1,034.00	
Subsistence fee High	N	1,506.00	1,506.00	
Number of permits 3 to 7;				
Application fee	N	985.00	985.00	
Subsistence fee Low	N	385.00	385.00	
Subsistence fee Medium	N	617.00	617.00	
Subsistence fee High	N	924.00	924.00	
Number of permits 8 and over;				
Application fee	N	498.00	498.00	
Subsistence fee Low	N	198.00	198.00	
Subsistence fee Medium	N	316.00	316.00	
Subsistence fee High	N	473.00	473.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
LA-IPPC charges				
Every subsistence charge below includes the additional £104 charge to cover LA extra costs in dealing with reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation				
Application	N	3,363.00	3,363.00	
Additional fee for operating without a permit	N	1,188.00	1,188.00	
Annual Subsistence Low	N	1,447.00	1,447.00	
Annual Subsistence Medium	N	1,611.00	1,611.00	
Annual Subsistence High	N	2,334.00	2,334.00	
Late Payment Fee	N	52.00	52.00	
Variation	N	1,368.00	1,368.00	
Transfer	N	235.00	235.00	
Partial Transfer	N	698.00	698.00	
Surrender	N	698.00	698.00	
Subsistence charges can be paid in four equal quarterly instalments paid on 1st April, 1st July, 1st October and 1st January. Where paid quarterly the total amount payable to the local authority will be increased by £38.00				
Newspaper adverts may be required under EPR at the discretion of the LA as part of the consultation process when considering an application. This will be undertaken and paid for by the LA and the charging scheme contains a provision for the LA to recoup its costs				
				Minimal
TRADING STANDARDS				
Please note that VAT may be added to some charges. Check with the service before the work is agreed.				
Prosecution Costs				
Hourly rate for Preparation of Case Reports	L	47.00	47.50	
Measures				
Linear measures not exceeding 3m each scale	L	14.50	15.00	
Not exceeding 15kg	L	40.00	40.50	
Exceeding 15kg but not exceeding 100kg	L	60.50	70.50	
Exceeding 100kg but not exceeding 250kg	L	83.50	84.50	
Exceeding 250kg but not exceeding 1 tonne	L	145.50	147.00	
Exceeding 1 tonne but not exceeding 10 tonnes	L	233.00	235.50	
Exceeding 10 tonnes but not exceeding 30 tonnes	L	488.50	494.00	
Exceeding 30 tonnes but not exceeding 60 tonnes	L	726.00	734.00	
Charge to cover any additional costs involved in testing incorporating remote display or printing facilities based on the above fee plus a charge per hour (minimum charge of 2 hours)	L	63.77 per hour	65.00 per hour	
Measuring Instruments for Intoxicating Liquor				
Not exceeding 150ml	L	23.00	23.50	
Other	L	26.50	27.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuels and Lubricants				
Container Type (un-subdivided)				
Multi-grade (with price computing device):	L	100.50	102.00	
Single Outlets	L	138.00	139.50	
Solely Price Adjustment	L	252.50	255.00	
Otherwise				
Other Types – Single Outlets				
Solely Price Adjustment	L	110.50	112.00	
Otherwise	L	150.50	152.00	
Other Types – Multi Outlets:				
1 Meter Tested	L	161.00	162.50	
2 Meters Tested	L	264.00	267.00	
3 Meters Tested	L	360.50	365.00	
4 Meters Tested	L	459.50	465.00	
5 Meters Tested	L	556.00	562.00	
6 Meters Tested	L	652.50	660.00	
7 Meters Tested	L	737.00	746.00	
8 Meters Tested	L	852.00	861.00	
Charge to cover any additional costs involved in testing ancillary equipment such as payment acceptors based on the above fee plus a charge per hour (minimum of 2 hours)	L	63.77 per hour	65.00 per hour	
Special Weighing and Measuring Equipment				
For all specialist work undertaken by the service which is not included above a charge per hour on site (minimum charge of 2 hours) plus cost of provision of testing equipment applies	L	63.77 per hour	65.00 per hour	
Discounts				
Fees from Measures to Certification Calibration will be discounted as follows :-				
a) Where more than a single item is submitted on one occasion the second and subsequent fees will be reduced by 20%				
b) Where tests are undertaken using appropriately certified weights and equipment not supplied by the Borough Council the fees will be reduced by 20%				
c) Special rates can be negotiated for multiple submissions or where assistance with equipment or labour is provided				
NB – Where different fees are involved the highest fee will be charged in full and any discounts calculated from the remaining lesser fees				
Licensing – VAT not applicable				
Explosives and Fireworks Licences (Statutory Fee)				
Licence for the storage of explosives	N	**See Note	**See Note	
Licence for the sale of fireworks all year round	N	**See Note	**See Note	
**These are statutory rates that are set centrally in April				
				Minimal

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
PARKING – all off-street charges are inclusive of VAT at 20% <i>**The below pricing reflects the proposed parking offers to be funded by the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) until December 2022 (inclusive)</i>				
<i>***Figures to be confirmed once the proposal on 2 year funding of parking offers has been approved by TVCA, expected in late 2020</i>				
Off Street Car Parks - Town Centre within Inner Ring Road included in the Parking Offer				
Car Parks - Abbots Yard, Commercial Street East & West, Winston Street North & South, Town Hall & Feethams MSCP				
Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) First 2 hours L Free Free Each subsequent hour L 1.00 1.00				
Car Parks - East Street				
Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) First 2 hours L Free Free Per day L 2.00 2.00				
Sunday 8am to 6pm First 2 hours L Free Free Per day L 1.00 1.00				
Off Street Car Parks - Town Centre outside Inner Ring Road excluded from the Parking Offer				
Car Parks - Archer Street, Kendrew Street East & West, Park Place East & West				
Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) Per hour (up to 3 hours) L 1.00 1.00 Per day L 4.00 4.00 Per week L 16.00 16.00				
Sunday 8am to 6pm Per day L 1.00 1.00				
Car Parks - Garden Street, Hird Street, St Hilda's Tannery Yard Parkgate				
Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) First 2 hours L Free Free 3 hours L 1.00 1.00 Per day L 4.00 4.00				
Car Parks - Chestnut Street Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) Cars per day L 2.00 2.00 Cars per week L 8.00 8.00 HGV and coaches per day L Free Free HGV and coaches per night (6pm to 8am) L 4.00 4.00				
Sunday 8am to 6pm Cars per day L 1.00 1.00 HGV and coaches per day L Free Free				
Car Parks - Park Lane (Station)				
Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) Per day L 5.00 5.00				
Sunday 8am to 6pm Per day L 1.00 1.00				

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Areas included in the Parking Offer				
East Row Horsemarket, Barnard Street, Back Street, Beaumont Street, Duke Street, South Arden Street, Winston Street, East Raby Street, Larchfield Street, Napier Street, Powlett Street, Primrose Street, Raby Street, West Powlett Street (Max stay of 2 hours)				
Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) First 2 hours	L	Free	Free	
Grange Road, Town Centre, Northumberland Street (Max stay of 3 hours)				
Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) First 2 hours	L	Free	Free	
Subsequent 1/2 hour	L	0.50	0.50	
Areas excluded from the Parking Offer				
Gladstone Street, Kendrew Street, North Lodge Terrace, Victoria Road, Hargreave Terrace, Park Place, Swan Street, Victoria Embankment (Max stay of 2 hours)				
Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm (including bank holidays) Per 30 minutes	L	0.50	0.50	
Car Parks – Contract Parking – all charges are inclusive of VAT at 20%				
Parking locations as determined by the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services.				
Per year one space	L	950.00	950.00	
Per year two spaces	L	900.00	900.00	
Per year three spaces	L	860.00	860.00	
Per year four spaces	L	830.00	830.00	
Per year five to nine spaces	L	800.00	800.00	
Per year ten or more spaces	L	700.00	700.00	
Four Riggs				
Per calendar month	L	64.00	64.00	
Winston Street West				
Per space per year	L	1,100.00	1,100.00	
Car Parks – Staff & Members per year	L	173.04	173.04	
Residents Parking Permits				
3 month temporary permit	L	12.00	12.00	
6 month permit	L	24.00	24.00	
12 month permit	L	40.00	40.00	
Tradesmen Parking Permits				
Daily Waiver	L	5.00	5.00	
3 month permit	L	50.00	50.00	
6 month permit	L	90.00	90.00	
12 month permit	L	150.00	150.00	
				Offers funded by TVCA

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
DOLPHIN CENTRE				
Pricing based on the introduction of a leisure card.				
Swimming				
Adult swim				
Card holder	L	3.85	3.90	
Non card holder	L	4.45	4.50	
Concession	L	2.95	3.00	
Junior Swim	L	2.65	3.00	
Concession	L	2.00	2.25	
Family swim junior rate discount (up to 4 children accompanying 1 adult)				
Per card holder	L	2.00	2.10	
Per non card holder	L	2.30	2.40	
Under 5 years	L	1.20	3.00	
Under 12 months	L	Free	Free	
Lessons	L	47.50	50.00	
Fitness Areas				
The Gym				
Card holder	L	4.65	4.90	
Non card holder	L	5.35	5.65	
Concession	L	3.50	3.70	
Junior Gym	L	3.80	4.00	
Concession	L	2.90	3.05	
Health & Fitness Classes				
Health & Fitness Classes				
Card holder	L	4.05	4.15	
Non card holder	L	4.65	4.75	
Concession	L	3.05	3.15	
Multi Activity Sessions				
Badminton Daytime Session				
Card holder	L	2.80	2.95	
Non card holder	L	3.20	3.35	
Half Main Hall				
Adult				
Card holder	L	43.50	43.50	
Non card holder	L	50.00	50.00	
Junior (1 hour courts only)	L	30.00	30.00	
Weekday lunchtime				
Card holder	L	38.00	38.00	
Non card holder	L	42.00	42.00	
Badminton				
Adult				
Card holder	L	8.10	8.25	
Non card holder	L	9.30	9.50	
Concession	L	6.10	6.30	
Junior (1 hour courts only)	L	4.45	4.55	
Concession (1 hour courts only)	L	3.35	3.45	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Equipment Hire				
Footballs	L	Free	Free	
Footballs – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	
Badminton	L	2.00	2.00	
Badminton – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	
Squash Racquets	L	2.00	2.00	
Squash Racquets – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	
Table Tennis Bats	L	1.40	1.40	
Table Tennis Bats – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	
Pram Lock	L	Free	Free	
Pram Lock – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	
Children's Activities				
Crèche	L	3.55	3.75	
Soft play admissions	L	3.85	4.75	
Sensory Room	L	3.85	4.75	
Parent/toddler (Soft play)	L	3.85	4.75	
Other Activities				
Showers				
Card holders	L	1.95	2.05	
Non card holders	L	2.25	2.35	
Fit 4 Life Packages				
12 month Full Membership	L	299.40	299.40	
12 month Seniors	L	228.00	228.00	
12 month Student	L	180.00	180.00	
6 Month Full	L	195.00	195.00	
12 Month Upfront	L	275.00	275.00	
Swimming Pools				
Main Pool - per hour	L	92.00	97.00	
Diving Pool - per hour	L	52.00	55.00	
Teaching Pool - per hour	L	52.00	55.00	
Gala - per hour				
Swimming Galas - whole complex				
Normal opening hours - per hour	L	293.00	308.00	
Outside normal opening hours - per hour	L	155.00	163.00	
Swimming Galas - Schools, Junior Clubs and Organisations				
Main Pool - Peak	L	206.00	217.00	
Main Pool - Off Peak	L	145.00	153.00	
Main Pool and Teaching Pool - Peak	L	172.00	181.00	
Main Pool and Teaching Pool - Off Peak	L	177.00	187.00	
Electronic Timing	L	86.00	91.00	
Dry Sports Hall				
Main Sports Hall - per hour	L	97.00	102.00	
Special Events - per hour Weekends	L	318.00	335.00	
Preparation - per hour Weekends	L	166.00	175.00	
Special Events - Schools - per hour off peak	L	44.50	47.00	
Meeting Room	L	33.00	34.50	
Seminar Room/Stephenson Suite	L	33.00	34.50	
Central Hall				
All Events (except commercial, exhibitions and local societies)	L	101.00	106.00	
Exhibitions - commercial - per hour	L	132.00	139.00	
Local Societies event - per hour	L	69.00	73.00	
				27,000
PARKS				
Football - Hire of Hundens Park Pitch Seniors' Match	L	37.00	37.00	
Juniors Match	L	21.00	21.00	
				NIL

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
EASTBOURNE SPORTS COMPLEX				
3G Pitch				
Non Charter Standard Pay and Play (No VAT)				
3G 1/3 per hour – Adult	L	46.00	46.00	
3G 1/3 per hour – Junior	L	29.00	29.00	
3G Full pitch per hour – Adult	L	77.00	77.00	
3G Full pitch per hour – Junior	L	50.00	50.00	
Charter Standard and Partner Clubs (No VAT)				
3G 1/3 hour	L	36.00	36.00	
3G Full pitch hour	L	52.00	52.00	
Partner Club Rate Fridays 3G Full pitch hour	L	31.00	31.00	
Off Peak Summer Prices (May to August) Charter Standard and Partner Clubs				
3G 1/3 hour	L	15.50	15.50	
3G Full pitch hour	L	26.00	26.00	
Grass Pitch				
Adult per match	L	37.00	38.00	
Junior per match	L	19.00	20.00	
Athletics Track				
Non club rate				
Adult	L	3.70	3.80	
Junior	L	3.30	3.40	
Full track per hour	L	33.00	34.00	
Club rate				
Adult	L	3.10	3.10	
Junior	L	3.10	3.10	
Gym				
Adult	L	4.30	4.40	
Cardiac Concession	L	2.30	2.40	
Junior	L	2.10	2.20	
Adult induction	L	10.80	11.00	
Junior Induction	L	8.20	8.40	
Personal training per hour	L	20.60	21.00	
3 months membership	L	60.00	60.00	
12 month full upfront membership	L	150.00	150.00	
12 month direct debit membership per month	L	15.00	15.00	
Other				
Shower	L	1.90	2.00	
Function room and pavilion hire per hour	L	20.60	21.00	
				Minimal

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
HIPPODROME & HULLABALOO				
Hire & Conferencing (all pricing exclusive of VAT)				
John Wade Group Lounge - max capacity 40 (theatre style) - per hour	L	44.00	35.00	
John Wade Group Lounge - max capacity 40 (theatre style) - day hire**	L	265.00	210.00	
Living Water Tower Room - max capacity 18 - per hour	L	33.00	30.00	
Living Water Tower Room - max capacity 18 - day hire**	L	220.50	180.00	
Hippo Lounge - max capacity 70 - per hour	L	44.00	42.00	
Hippo Lounge - max capacity 70 - day hire**	L	265.00	252.00	
Hippo Education Space - max capacity 40 (workshop of approx. 25) - per hour	L	44.00	35.00	
Hippo Education Space - max capacity 40 (workshop of approx. 25) - day hire**	L	265.00	252.00	
Hullabaloo Rehearsal Space - max capacity 35 - per hour	L	44.00	35.00	
Hullabaloo Rehearsal Space - max capacity 35 - day hire**	L	265.00	210.00	
Hullabaloo Café - max capacity 70 - per hour	L	44.00	42.00	
Hullabaloo Café - max capacity 70 - day hire**	L	265.00	252.00	
Hippodrome Theatre Hire - max capacity 1,000 - w/end full day	L	1,654.00	1,900.00	
Hippodrome Theatre Hire - max capacity 1,000 - w/end half day	L	827.00	950.00	
Hippodrome Theatre Hire - max capacity 1,000 - w/day full day	L	1,378.00	1,750.00	
Hippodrome Theatre Hire - max capacity 1,000 - w/day half day	L	717.00	875.00	
Hullabaloo Theatre Hire - max capacity 150 - per hour	L	66.00	62.00	
Hullabaloo Theatre Hire - max capacity 150 - day hire**	L	397.00	450.00	
**day hire - 9am to 6pm				
Community Rate may be applicable for charities, NHS, children's groups and local artists if qualifying criteria met. This equates to 30% reduction on the above charges.				
				Minimal

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
HEAD OF STEAM				
Admission				
Adult	L	4.95	4.95	
Concession	L	3.75	3.75	
Children (6-16 years old)	L	3.00	3.00	
Children (under 6)	L	No charge	No charge	
Single annual pass	L	10.00	10.00	
Family day pass (2 adults & 4 children)	L	10.00	10.00	
Family annual pass (2 adults & 4 children)	L	15.00	15.00	
School Visit	L	No charge	No charge	
Research				
Research	L	£30.00 (min 1 hour & max 3 hours)	£30.00 (min 1 hour & max 3 hours)	
Research by Curator	L	£30.00 (min 1 hour & max 3 hours)	£30.00 (min 1 hour & max 3 hours)	
Short research (up to 10 mins)	L	Free except for £5.00 minimum handling fee for scans, photocopies and postage	Free except for £5.00 minimum handling fee for scans, photocopies and postage	
Photocopying				
A4 (B&W)	L	0.20	0.20	
A3 (B&W)	L	0.40	0.40	
A4 (B&W)	L	0.50	0.50	
A3 (Colour)	L	1.00	1.00	
A0 plan copies (B&W)	L	6.50	6.50	
Digital Copies (personal) per image				
Scan of document (max A3)	L	Free except for £5.00 minimum handling fee for scans	Free except for £5.00 minimum handling fee for scans	
Scan of photograph (max A3)	L	6.50	6.50	
Day photo pass	L	10.00	10.00	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Digital Copies (commercial) per image				
Small local charitable, educational including websites	L	6.50	6.50	
Local commercial including websites	L	15.00	15.00	
Books, specialist magazines, journals & newspapers including websites	L	30.00	30.00	
Regional TV/Video/Film/DVD	L	50.00	50.00	
National/international TV/Video/Film/DVD	L	100.00	100.00	
Discount for 10 images or more	L	0.10	0.10	
Postage and Packing				
Up to A4 (in UK only)	L	Free except for 5.00 minimum handling fee	Free except for 5.00 minimum handling fee	
'Package' size and/or outside UK delivery	L	Dependant on size and weight	Dependant on size and weight	
Filming Fees				
Student Production (during opening hours)	L	Free but donation welcome	Free but donation welcome	
Small Productions (per day)	L	350.00	350.00	
Large Productions (per day)	L	700.00	700.00	
Conference Facilities				
During opening hours (per hour)	L	25.00	25.00	
Outside opening hours (per hour)	L	32.50	32.50	
Use by Museum partners (during opening hours)	L	Free	Free	
Hire of Museum Field				
Educational Use	L	No charge	No charge	
Corporate Events	L	Negotiated on an individual basis	Negotiated on an individual basis	
				NIL
REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL				
Refuse sacks (per 25) (Exclusive of VAT)	L	102.35	105.45	
Bulky Household Collection up to 6 items	L	18.25	18.80	
Cost of replacement (inclusive of 20% VAT)				
360L Wheeled Bin	L	51.80	53.35	
240L Wheeled Bin	L	20.40	21.00	
Caddie	L	5.25	5.40	
Glass Box	L	3.35	3.45	
55L Box	L	1.65	1.70	
Lid for recycling box	L	1.40	1.45	
Lid for 240 bin	L	5.10	5.25	
				2,500

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
CEMETERIES				
Burial fees without exclusive right of burial (these fees will be tripled where the deceased is a non-resident of Darlington at time of death)				
Individual foetal remains	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Stillborn or child not exceeding 12 months	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Person over 12 months up to 18 years	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Person over 18 years	L	900.00	930.00	
Burial fees with exclusive right of burial (these fees will be doubled where the deceased is a non-resident of Darlington at time of death)				
Individual foetal remains	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Child not exceeding 12 months	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Person over 12 months up to 18 years	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Person over 18 years	L	900.00	930.00	
Cremated remains	L	200.00	200.00	
Exclusive rights of burial (these fees will be doubled if the purchaser is a non-resident of Darlington if not purchased at time of first interment).				
Exclusive burial rights (50 years)	L	900.00	950.00	
Exclusive burial rights for a bricked grave	L	1,800.00	1,900.00	
Other charges				
Scattering of cremated remains	L	45.00	45.00	
Indemnity form (to produce duplicate grant)	L	45.00	45.00	
Use of Cemetery Chapel	L	100.00	100.00	
After post mortem remains	L	200.00	200.00	
Evergreens (including grass mats)	L	65.00	65.00	
Exhumation of a body (excl. re-interment)	L	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Exhumation of cremated remains (excl. re-interment)	L	500.00	500.00	
Grave Maintenance (inclusive of 20% VAT)				
Initial payment	L	50.00	50.00	
Annual Maintenance	L	36.00	37.00	
Memorials (fees will be doubled where the deceased to whom the memorial/inscription refers was non-resident of Darlington at time of death)				
Memorial rights including first inscription (30 years)	L	220.00	220.00	
Provision of kerbs – traditional sites only)	L	100.00	100.00	
Vases not exceeding 300mm	L	80.00	80.00	
Additional inscription	L	80.00	80.00	
Total financial effect for Cemeteries				8,000

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
CREMATORIUM				
Crematorium fees (inclusive of certificate of cremation, use of organ and scattering of remains in Gardens of Remembrance at an unreserved time)				
Individual foetal remains	N	No charge	No charge	
Hospital arrangement – foetal remains	L	200.00	200.00	
Stillborn or child not exceeding 12 months	N	No charge	No charge	
Person over 12 months up to 18 years	N	No charge	No charge	
Person over 18 years	L	825.00	850.00	
After post mortem remains	L	200.00	200.00	
Other charges				
Medical Referee Fee	N	20.00	22.00	
Environmental Surcharge (set by CAMEO)	N	56.00	58.00	
Postal Carton	L	20.00	20.00	
Metal Urn	L	40.00	40.00	
Wooden Casket	L	50.00	50.00	
Baby Urn	L	10.00	10.00	
Crematorium Chapel	L	100.00	100.00	
Scattering of remains at reserved time	L	45.00	45.00	
Book of Remembrance (inclusive of 20% VAT)				
Single Entry (2 lines)	L	70.00	70.00	
Double Entry (3 or 4 lines)	L	110.00	110.00	
Additional lines	L	25.00	25.00	
Crest or floral emblem	L	115.00	115.00	
Memorial Cards (inclusive of 20% VAT)				
Single entry card (2 lines)	L	25.00	25.00	
Double entry card (3 or 4 lines)	L	30.00	30.00	
Additional lines	L	5.00	5.00	
Crest of floral emblem	L	70.00	70.00	
Personal photographs – set up	L	50.00	50.00	
Additional photographs – after set up	L	10.00	10.00	
Memorial Books (inclusive of 20% VAT)				
Single entry book (2 lines)	L	80.00	80.00	
Double entry card (3 or 4 lines)	L	85.00	85.00	
Additional lines	L	5.00	5.00	
Crest of floral emblem	L	70.00	70.00	
Personal photographs – set up	L	50.00	50.00	
Additional photographs – after set up	L	10.00	10.00	
Triptych (inclusive of 20% VAT)				
Single entry card (2 lines)	L	67.00	67.00	
Double entry (3 or 4 lines)	L	72.00	72.00	
Additional lines	L	5.00	5.00	
Crest or floral emblem	L	70.00	70.00	
Personal Photographs – set up	L	50.00	50.00	
Additional Photographs – after set up	L	10.00	10.00	
Other Memorial Schemes				
Replacement kerb vase plaque	L	300.00	300.00	
Replacement flower holder	L	5.00	5.00	
Wall plaques	L	245.00	245.00	
Planter plaques	L	365.00	365.00	
Lease of space for memorial plaques (per annum)	L	25.00	25.00	
Total financial effect for Crematorium				38,000

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
ALLOTMENTS				
Rent per year	L	175.00	180.20	
				Minimal
HIGHWAYS				
Private apparatus in the Highway (Section 50 Licence, new installations)	L	550.00	550.00	
Private Road Openings (repair existing)	L	225.00	225.00	
Vehicle Crossings – estimate fee (taken as part of payment if go ahead with the works)	L	25.00	25.00	
Vehicle Crossings (plus actual construction costs)	L	100.00	100.00	
Vehicle Crossings if planning permission required on a classified road (plus actual construction costs)	L	150.00	150.00	
Temporary Road Closure Notices	L	130.00	130.00	
Temporary Road Closure Orders (plus advertising)	L	275.00	275.00	
Emergency Road Closures	L	130.00	130.00	
Street Naming Royal Mail Income (per address, Nationally agreed price LGIH)	L	1.00	1.00	
Street Naming & Numbering of Properties:				
- Per road name (developer suggests)	L	165.00	165.00	
- Per road name (council names)	L	200.00	200.00	
- Per plot	L	15.00	15.00	
Street Naming & Numbering of Properties:				
- Per plot or renaming of a property	L	35.00	35.00	
Rechargeable Works	L	Actual cost + 10%	Actual cost + 10%	
Temporary Traffic Light Applications	L	No Charge Individually priced based on requirements	No Charge Individually priced based on requirements	
Section 50 Licence associated bond costs	L	No charge	No charge	
Access protection markings	L	£75.00 + VAT	£75.00 + VAT	
Tourist Sign (plus actual cost of sign)	L	£75.00 + VAT	£75.00 + VAT	
Accident Data Requests	L	75.00	75.00	
Traffic Count Data	L	Individually priced based on charge out rate	Individually priced based on charge out rate	
Street Lighting Design Service	L	No charge	No charge	
Oversailing Licence	L	No charge	No charge	
Banner Licence	L	No charge	No charge	
Placing Goods on the Highway	L	155.00	155.00	
Deposits upon the Highway	L	No charge	No charge	
Temporary Development Signs – Admin Fee	L	200.00	200.00	
Temporary Development Signs – DBC undertake work on behalf of developer	L	Actual costs	Actual costs	
Switch off / on traffic signal / pelican crossings – per visit	L	150.00	150.00	
Unauthorised marks or affixing of signs to street furniture	L	No charge	No charge	

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Section 278 Highway works agreement	N	6% of works + legal if delivered by developer	6% of works + legal if delivered by developer	
Section 116 Stopping Up of the Highway	N	Actual Costs	Actual Costs	
Section 38 Road Adoption agreement	N	6% of works + legal if delivered by developer	6% of works + legal if delivered by developer	
NRSWA Defect Charges	N	Nationally set scale of charges	Nationally set scale of charges	
NRSWA Road Opening Inspection Charges (sample)	N	Nationally set scale of charges	Nationally set scale of charges	
Section 74 – charges for overstays	N	Nationally set scale of charges	Nationally set scale of charges	
				NIL
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY				
Public Path Orders (HA 80 S 118 and 119, TCPA 90 s247, 257) Actual cost based on charge out rate plus advertising and legal costs				
PROW Temporary Closures – as Highways fees and charges				
Landowner Rights of Way Statement and Declaration s31.6				
One parcel of land, includes 2 notices	L	250.00	250.00	
Additional parcel	L	50.00	50.00	
Additional notice	L	50.00	50.00	
Authorisation for installing a new gate or stile (HA 80 s147)	L	100.00	100.00	
Path Orders under Deregulation Act Actual cost based on charge out rate plus advertising and legal costs, to include but not restricted to pre-application advice, processing the application, resolving objections, making the order, confirmation of the order, and any subsequent Public Inquiry or Hearing				
				NIL
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT				
Charges for Concessionary Travel (ENCTS);				
Replacement pass for lost/stolen without a CRN	L	10.00	10.00	
Learn to Ride per session (child)	L	3.00	3.00	
Production, placement and retrieval of notices when bus stops are temporarily per bus stop	L	60.00	60.00	
Production and placement of bus timetable information when bus services have to be re-registered due to road closures – up to 6 timetables	L	84.00	84.00	
				NIL
TRANSPORT SERVICES				
Charges for Taxi Licensing;				
Taxi Vehicle Test	L	50.00	50.00	
Taxi Vehicle Test and MOT	L	60.00	60.00	
Failure to attend (less than 48 hours' notice)	L	50.00	50.00	
Re-test	L	25.00	25.00	
Re-test including emissions	L	35.00	35.00	
Re-test emissions only	L	10.00	10.00	
Charges for General Public;				
MOT for Motorbike Class I & II	L	25.00	25.00	
MOT for Standard Car Class IV	L	35.00	35.00	
MOT for Class V Vehicles	L	40.00	40.00	
MOT for Class VII Vehicles	L	40.00	40.00	
				NIL

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING				
Works in default & statutory activities per hour	L	47.00	47.00	
Housing inspections & consultancy per hour (inclusive of VAT)	L	56.00	56.00	
Charge for the service relevant Housing Act 2004 legal notice	L	421.00	421.00	
Securing empty homes (addition of VAT by agreement)	L	280.00	280.00	
Houses in Multiple Occupation Activities;				
HMO licence fee per letting/let/tenancy	L	187.00	187.00	
Other relevant HMO activities per hour	L	47.00	47.00	
Housing Immigration Inspections;				
Within 10 working days (including VAT)	L	141.00	141.00	
Fast Track within 5 working days (including VAT)	L	188.00	188.00	
General Enforcement Activities:				
Hourly rate for preparation of case reports/prosecutions	L	47.00	47.00	
Additional copies of legal notices via post	L	10.00	10.00	
Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms (England) Regulation 2015;				
Fines for failing to provide a working smoke or carbon monoxide alarm. Offence by the same individual or organisation;				
First	N	500.00	500.00	
Second	N	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Third	N	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Fourth	N	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Fifth or more	N	5,000.00	5,000.00	
The Redress Schemes for Letting Agency Work and Property Management Work (England) Order 2014;				
Fines for failing to join an approved letting and management redress scheme;				
Businesses that have been served with a notice of intent and failed to join an approved scheme	N	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Businesses that have joined an approved scheme following the service of the notice of intent	N	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Businesses that have joined an approved scheme prior to enforcement action being taken, after the 1st October 2014	N	3,000.00	3,000.00	
**The Redress Scheme is currently undergoing a national review and may be replaced prior to April 2021 by a new civil penalty policy				

Description	Type**	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
**KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations				
Penalty (less than 3 months in breach) renting a non-compliant property	N	Up to 2,000.00 and/or publication penalty	Up to 2,000.00 and/or publication penalty	
Penalty (3 months or more in breach) renting out a non-compliant property	N	Up to 4,000.00 and/or publication penalty	Up to 4,000.00 and/or publication penalty	
Providing false or misleading information on the PRS Exemptions Register	N	Up to 1,000.00 and/or publication penalty	Up to 1,000.00 and/or publication penalty	
Failing to comply with a compliance notice	N	Up to 2,000.00 and/or publication penalty	Up to 2,000.00 and/or publication penalty	
Housing and Planning Act 2016				
Failure to comply with an Improvement Notice (under section 30 of the Housing Act 2004)	N	Civil penalties of up to 30,000 per offence as an alternative to prosecution	Civil penalties of up to 30,000 per offence as an alternative to prosecution	
Failure to comply with a Prohibition Order (under section 32 of the Housing Act 2004)				
Breach of a banning order made under section 21 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 (due to be enacted in November 2017);				
Using violence to secure entry to a property (under section 6 of the Criminal Law Act 1977)				
Illegal eviction or harassment of the occupiers of a property (under section 1 of the Protection from Eviction Act 1977)				
				NIL
COST OF REVENUE COLLECTION				
Council Tax – All Charges do not incur VAT				
Issue of Summons for Liability Order	L	33.50	33.50	
Issue of Liability Order	L	44.00	44.00	
Issue of Summons for Committal Hearing	L	90.00	90.00	
Issue of Statutory Demand	L	157.50	157.50	
				NIL
Business Rates (NNDR) – All Charges do not incur VAT				
Issue of Summons for Liability Order	L	33.50	33.50	
Issue of Liability Order	L	44.00	44.00	
Issue of Summons for Committal Hearing	L	90.00	90.00	
Issue of Statutory Demand	L	157.50	157.50	
				NIL

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APPENDIX 4

**KEY ASSUMPTIONS USED IN PROJECTED
RESOURCES, EXPENDITURE AND INCOME 2021/22-2024/25**

Factor	Assumption
Resources	
Council Tax base	Variable depending on projected additional properties.
Council Tax	4.99% increase in 2021/22 year (including 3% for the Adult Social Care precepts) and then a 1.99% increase in 2022/23, 2023/24 & 2024/25.
Council Tax collection	99% collected
Government Grants	Government grants for 2021/22 as indicated in 2020 spending review and indicative figures for 2022/23 – 2024/25.
	Increase in Business Rates Scheme Top Up Grant of 0.5% in 2021/22, 1.59% in 2022/23, 1.96% in 2023/24 & 1.92% in 2024/25 (projected CPI).
	Revenue Support Grant 2021/22 flat lined to 2024/25.
	Continuation of Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) at 2020/21 rates.
	Continuation of 2020/21 Social Care Support Grant of £2.952m in total and assumed to continue to 2024/25. And a further £0.550m in additional grant for 2021/22 as per the spending review.
	New Homes Bonus (NHB) legacy payments will continue but no new ones assumed after 2021/22, any funding beyond this subject to 2020 Spending Review so assumed to discontinue in 2023/24.
Expenditure	
Pay inflation	2021-22 1% and thereafter 2% in line with national scheme.
Price inflation	Only contractual inflation on running costs
Local Government Pension Scheme	Contribution rate of 18.4% for 2021/22 – 2023/24 plus past service deficit contributions of £0.271m in 2021/22, £0.280m in 2022/23, amounts set aside in Contingencies for potential increase post 2022/23 Triennial review.
Financing Costs	
Interest rates payable	Average rate on existing debt 2021/22 of 2.48%; 2022/23 of 2.39%; 2023/24 of 2.35% & 2024/25 of 2.35%.
Interest rates payable on new debt – 10 year rate	2021/22 of 2.15%; 2022/23 of 2.28%; 2023/24 of 2.35% & 2024/25 of 2.40%.
Interest rates receivable	0.10% in 2021/22 & 2022/23; 0.25% in 2023/24 & 0.75% in 2024/25.
Income	
Inflationary increases	Various based on individual service considerations

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REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2020/21

<u>Projected General Fund Reserve at 31st March 2021</u>	
	2020-24 MTFP (Feb 2020)
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) :-	£000
MTFP Planned Opening Balance 01/04/2020	18,092
Approved net contribution from balances	1,271
Planned Closing Balance 31/03/2021	19,363
Increase in opening balance from 2019-20 results	274
Projected corporate underspends / (overspends) :-	
Adult Social Care re-based savings	525
Economic Growth re-based savings	372
Council Wide	(389)
Troubled Families grant not required	503
Financing Costs	345
Financing costs - Covid 19	(236)
Joint Venture - Investment Return - Covid 19	(125)
Projected Collection Fund deficit - Covid 19	(2,568)
Government Grant - Covid -19	7,174
Government Grant - Covid -19 estimate of £1bn	1,508
Government Grant - SFC	4,095
Projected General Fund Reserve (excluding Departmental) at 31st March 2021	30,841
Planned Balance at 31st March 2021	19,363
Improvement	11,478

<u>Departmental projected year-end balances</u>	
	Improvement / (decline) compared with 2019-23 MTFP
	£000
Children & Adults Services	(1,879)
Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services Resources	(8,261)
	(195)
TOTAL	(10,335)

<u>Summary Comparison with :-</u>	
	2019-23 MTFP £000
Corporate Resources - increase in opening balance from 19/20 results	274
Corporate Resources - additional in-year Improvement/(Decline)	12,875
Projected Collection Fund deficit	(2,568)
Quarter 1 budget claw back	897
Departmental - Improvement / (Decline)	(10,335)
Improvement / (Decline) compared with MTFP	1,143
Projected General Fund Reserve at 31st March 2021	20,506

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RISK RESERVE

	Risk	Consequence	Scale	Financial Loss £m	Likelihood %	Annual Risk £m	Period (Years)	Reserve Required £m
ECONOMIC Page 223	Economic Downturn	Reduced Revenue Income – Leisure, Culture, Planning, Property & Parking	£15m @ £0.150m per 1% - assess risk of 10%	1.500	25%	0.375	2	0.750
		Reduction in Business Rate Income	£19m @ 5% risk	0.950	10%	0.095	2	0.190
		Increase in LCTS claimants	Taxbase increase of 1% @ average Council Tax (less 20% contribution)	0.450	10%	0.045	2	0.090
		Failure of significant service provider contractors	£36m pa corporately – assess risk of 10% cost increase	3.600	10%	0.360	2	0.720
	Energy Costs Significant Increases	Higher Annual Revenue Costs		0.200	20%	0.040	2	0.080
	General Price Inflation	Higher Annual Revenue Costs	£70m – assess risk of 2%	1.400	20%	0.280	2	0.560
	Slow down in housing growth	Not achieving house growth as anticipated	100 Band D equivalents @ circa £1,600 per property	0.160	25%	0.040	4	0.160
	Adverse Changes in Interest Rates	Higher Financing costs	Net Debt £120m @ 1% = £1.2m	1.200	10%	0.120	1	0.120
	Brexit	Increased demand and reduced income	£93m net revenue budget @1%	0.900	25%	0.225	2	0.450
	Pandemic or Similar Event	Increased employee absence requiring cover at extra cost	£0.5M per 1% of employee costs	0.500	10%	0.050	1	0.050
SERVICES	New Children's Care Packages	Higher Costs	Average £0.200m per Case – 5 cases	1.000	30%	0.300	4	1.200
			Average £0.040m per case – 10 cases	0.400	30%	0.120	4	0.480
	Social Care Increasing Demand	Higher annual Revenue Costs		0.500	30%	0.150	2	0.300
Capital Overspends	Fund from Revenue (no Capital Resources available)	One-off £5M funded over 10 years	0.500	10%	0.050	2	0.100	
GENERAL	Corporate Manslaughter	Unlimited Fine	Assess risk of £10M fine	10.000	1%	0.100	1	0.100
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RESERVE REQUIREMENT								5.350

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MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL TERM 2020 TO 2024

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children and Adults Services	61.026	63.497	65.465	67.672
Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services	24.322	22.660	23.368	24.241
Resources	10.525	10.916	11.089	11.310
Financing costs	0.823	0.956	2.921	2.933
Investment Returns - Joint Ventures	(1.546)	(1.286)	(1.349)	(1.632)
Council Wide (Savings)/Pressures	(0.550)	(0.557)	(0.573)	(0.584)
Council Wide Contingencies	0.525	0.525	1.512	1.512
Contribution to/(from) revenue balances	(0.430)	(1.780)	(5.617)	(6.063)
Total Net Expenditure	94.695	94.931	96.816	99.389
<u>Resources - Projected and assumed</u>				
Council Tax	55.030	56.809	58.594	60.643
Business rates retained locally	19.016	19.318	19.697	20.075
Top Up	7.340	7.457	7.603	7.749
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	3.614	3.614	3.614	3.614
New Homes Bonus (NHB)	0.717	0.425	0.000	0.000
Better Care Fund (BCF)	4.356	4.356	4.356	4.356
Adult Social Care Support Grant	3.502	2.952	2.952	2.952
SR20 additional government funding	1.119	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Resources	94.695	94.931	96.816	99.389
<u>Balances</u>				
Opening balance	20.506	16.964	15.184	9.567
Risk Reserve	(5.350)	0.000	0.000	0.000
SR20 Collection fund contribution	1.238	0.000	0.000	0.000
Contribution from Collection Fund	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Contribution to/(from) balances	(0.430)	(1.780)	(5.617)	(6.063)
Closing balance	16.964	15.184	9.567	3.504

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**CABINET
08 DECEMBER 2020**

REVIEW OF OUTCOME OF COMPLAINTS MADE TO OMBUDSMAN

Responsible Cabinet Members

**Councillor Charles Johnson – Resources
Councillor Rachel Mills – Adults
Councillor Jon Clarke - Children and Young People
Councilor Kevin Nicholson - Health and Housing**

Responsible Directors

**Paul Wildsmith, Managing Director
James Stroyan, Interim Director of Children and Adults Services
Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with an update of the outcome of cases which have been determined by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Housing Ombudsman (HO) since the preparation of the previous report to Cabinet on 15 September 2020.

Summary

2. This report sets out in abbreviated form the decisions reached by the LGSCO and the HO since the last report to Cabinet and outlines actions taken as a result.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) It is important that Members are aware of the outcome of complaints made to the LGSCO and the HO in respect of the Council's activities.
 - (b) The contents of this report do not suggest that further action, other than detailed in the report, is required.

**Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director**

Background Papers

Note: Correspondence with the LGSCO and HO is treated as confidential to preserve anonymity of complainants.

Lee Downey- Extension 5451

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report is for information to members and requires no decision. Therefore there are no issues in relation to Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report is for information to members and requires no decision. Therefore there are no issues in relation to Health and Well Being.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	This report is for information to members and requires no decision. Therefore there are no issues in relation to Carbon Impact.
Diversity	This report is for information to members and requires no decision. Therefore there are no issues in relation to Diversity.
Wards Affected	This report affects all wards equally.
Groups Affected	This report is for information to members and requires no decision. Therefore there is no impact on any particular group.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any changes to 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 contributes to all the delivery themes.
Efficiency	Efficiency issues are highlighted through complaints.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Background

5. Cabinet has previously resolved that they would consider reports on the outcome of cases referred to the LGSCO and HO during the Municipal Year on a bi-annual basis.
6. The opportunity is normally taken to analyse the areas of the Council's functions where complaints have arisen. It is appropriate to do that in order to establish whether there is any pattern to complaints received or whether there is a particular Directorate affected or a type of complaint which is prevalent. If there were a significant number of cases in any one particular area, that might indicate a problem which the Council would seek to address.

Information

7. Between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020, four cases were the subject of decision by the LGSCO.
8. Between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020, zero cases were the subject of decision by the HO.
9. The outcome of cases on which the LGSCO reached a view is as follows:

LGSCO Findings	No. of Cases
Upheld: Maladministration Injustice	1
Closed after initial enquiries: no further action	2
Upheld: not investigated - injustice remedied during Body in Jurisdiction's complaint process	1

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)

Upheld: Maladministration Injustice

10. This complaint concerned the Council wrongly treating the complainant's car as abandoned and towing it away. The complainant said they incurred costs to release the car. The Council refused to accept a complaint about the matter on the basis that, at the time, it understood the issue was a matter for the courts. The Council accepted its 7-day vehicle removal form contained errors making it invalid, and it should have investigated the complaint in line with its Corporate Complaints Procedure. The Council agreed to refund the complainant £318 in fees paid to release his car. It also agreed to pay the complainant £150 to recognise the frustration, uncertainty and time and trouble caused by its poor handling of the complaint.

Closed after initial enquiries: no further action

11. The first of these complaints concerned the Council allegedly not following the legal requirements when in 2019 it granted amendments to planning permission for development. The complainant argued the Council did not request a new planning application after they pointed out there might be landowners that had not been

properly notified of the development. The complainant argued this invalidated the planning application and the Council should not have considered the application. The complainant's view was based on information they had already complained to the Council about in 2018. The Council investigated their points in 2018 and presented its legal position with regards to land ownership based on affidavits it received. The complainant disagreed with the Council's legal position. The Ombudsman concluded they would not investigate the complaint as it was unlikely they would find fault in how the Council reached its decision and because there was no personal injustice to the complainant that would warrant their involvement.

12. The second of these complaints concerned two Council members allegedly pre-determining their vote on the Local Plan as they had recorded a video prior to the Council decision making meeting, giving their views on its approval. The Ombudsman decided not to investigate as it was unlikely they would find fault by the Council and the injustice to the complainant was not sufficient to warrant their involvement.

Upheld: not investigated - injustice remedied during Body in Jurisdiction's complaint process

13. This complaint concerned the Council not supporting an Adult Services, service user to set up a direct debit mandate in October 2018, when it completed a financial assessment, and a delay in sending out invoices. Following its own investigation the Council partly upheld the complaint, apologised for the distress caused by the delay in sending out the invoices, offered £500 to offset against the complainant's outstanding debt and offered to implement a repayment plan to recover the remaining debt. The Ombudsman was satisfied this remedied the injustice caused.

Analysis

14. During the first half of 2020/21 the Council received one Upheld: Maladministration Injustice decisions from the LGSCO, compared to four for the same period in 2019/20.
15. The organisational learning identified as a result of this complaint should ensure there is not a re-occurrence.

Outcome of Consultation

16. The issues contained within this report do not require formal consultation.

**CABINET
8 DECEMBER 2020**

MID YEAR PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT 2020/21

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Charles Johnson, Resources Portfolio**

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

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval of the revised Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and provides a half-yearly review of the Council's borrowing and investment activities. Audit Committee are requested to forward the revised Strategy and indicators to Cabinet and Council for their approval and note changes to the MTFP with regard to the Treasury Management Budget (Financing Costs).

Summary

2. The mandatory Prudential Code, which governs Council's borrowing, requires Council approval of controls, called Prudential Indicators, relating to capital spending and borrowing. Prudential Indicators are set in three statutory annual reports, a forward-looking annual treasury management strategy, a backward looking annual treasury management report and this mid-year update. The mid-year update follows Council's approval in February 2020 of the 2020/21 Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy.
3. The key objectives of the three annual reports are:
 - (a) to ensure the governance of the large amounts of public money under the Council's Treasury Management activities:
 - (i) Complies with legislation;
 - (ii) Meets high standards set out in codes of practice.
 - (b) To ensure that borrowing is affordable,
 - (c) To report performance of the key activities of borrowing and investments.
4. The key proposed revisions to Prudential Indicators relate to the Operational Boundary will reduce to £188.018m and the Authorised Limit to £229.233m to allow for any additional cashflow requirement.

5. Investments now include £30m in property funds which are expected to increase our net return on investments by around £0.500m in future years.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that :
 - (a) The revised prudential indicators and limits within the report in Tables 1 to 6, 8, 11 and 13 to 18 are examined.
 - (b) Cabinet note the proposal in para. 32 re the potential of Darlington College accessing the Council's loan facility in accordance with the Capital Strategy.
 - (c) The underspend in the Treasury Management Budget (Financing Costs) of £0.110m shown in Table 12 is noted.
 - (d) That this report is forwarded to Council in order for the updated prudential indicators to be approved.

Reasons

7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-
 - (a) In order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
 - (b) To inform Members of the performance of the Treasury Management function;
 - (c) To comply with the Local Government Act 2003;
 - (d) To enable further improvements to be made in the Council's Treasury Management function.

**Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director**

Background Papers

- (i) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21
- (ii) Prudential Indicators & Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21
- (iii) Accounting records
- (iv) The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities

Peter Carrick: Extension 5401

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for S17 Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This report has no implications for the Council's Health and Well Being agenda.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no carbon impact implications in this report.
Diversity	There are no specific implications for the Council's diversity agenda.
Wards Affected	All Wards.
Groups Affected	All Groups.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report must be considered by Council.
Key Decision	This is not an executive decision.
Urgent Decision	For the purposes of call in this report is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report has no particular implications for the sustainable Community Strategy.
Efficiency	The report refers to actions taken to reduce costs and manage risks.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report does not impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. This mid-year review report meets the regulatory framework requirement of treasury management. It also incorporates the needs of the Prudential Code to ensure monitoring of the capital expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators (PIs). The Treasury Strategy and the PIs were previously reported to Council on 20 February 2020.
9. This report concentrates on the revised positions for 2020/21. Future year's indicators will be revised when the impact of the MTFP 2021/22 onwards is known.
10. A summary of the revised headline indicators for 2020/21 is presented in **Table 1** below. More detailed explanations of each indicator and any proposed changes are contained in the report. The revised indicators reflect the movement in the Capital MTFP since its approval in February 2020 and the means by which it is financed.

Table 1 Headline Indicators

	2020/21 Original Estimate	2020/21 Revised Estimate
	£m	£m
Capital Expenditure (Tables 2 and 3)	45.179	31.798
Capital Financing Requirement (Table 4)	226.040	218.317
Operational Boundary for External Debt (Table 4)	197.118	188.018
Authorised Limit for External Debt (Table 6)	237.342	229.233
Ratio of Financing Costs to net revenue stream- General Fund (Table 15)	2.85%	2.73%
Ratio of Financing Costs to net revenue stream- Housing Revenue Account (HRA)(Table 15)	17.48%	12.78%

11. The capital expenditure plans and prudential indicators for capital expenditure are set out initially, as these provide the framework for the subsequent treasury management activity. The actual treasury management activity follows the capital framework and the position against the treasury management indicators is shown at the end.
12. The purpose of the report supports the objective in the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Investment Guidance which state that Members receive and adequately scrutinise the treasury service.
13. The underlying economic environment remains difficult for Councils and concerns over counterparty risk are still around. This background encourages the Council to continue investing over the shorter term and with high quality counterparties, the downside is that investment returns remain low.

Key Prudential Indicators

14. This part of the report is structured to update:

- (a) The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- (b) How these plans are financed;
- (c) The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the PI's and the underlying need to borrow;
- (d) Compliance and limits in place for borrowing activity;
- (e) Changes to the Annual Investment Strategy;
- (f) The revised financing costs budget for 2020/21

Capital Expenditure PI

15. **Table 2** shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed at the budget.

Table 2

Capital Expenditure by Service	2020/21 Original Estimate	2020/21 Revised Estimate
	£m	£m
General Fund	15.457	20.130
HRA	28.843	14.900
Total Estimated Capital Expenditure	44.300	35.030
Loans to Joint Ventures	0.879	(3.232)
Total	45.179	31.798

16. The changes to the 2020/21 capital expenditure estimates have been notified to Cabinet as part of the Capital Budget monitoring process (Quarterly Project Position Statement Report).

17. The current capital programme that has not already been financed now stands at £159.755m but this includes a number of schemes that will be spent over a number of years not just in 2020/21. A reduction of £127.956m has been allowed for schemes which are known will be finalised in future years, but it is likely that other schemes will also slip into future years.

Impact of Capital Expenditure Plans

Changes to the financing of the Capital Programme

18. **Table 3** draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans shown above, highlighting the original elements of the capital programme, and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element (Borrowing Need) increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by

way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). Borrowing need has increased for 2020/21 due to borrowing not required in previous years for slipped schemes but expected to be needed this year. This direct borrowing need may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

Table 3

Capital Expenditure	2020/21 Original Estimate	2020/21 Revised Estimate
	£m	£m
General Fund	15.457	20.130
HRA	28.843	14.900
Loans to Joint Ventures	0.879	(3.232)
Total Capital expenditure	45.179	31.798
Financed By:		
Capital Receipts - Housing	0.303	0.303
Capital Receipts –General Fund	0.800	0.963
Capital grants	8.757	14.917
HRA Revenue Contributions	10.551	14.597
HRA Investment Fund	8.722	0.000
Self-Financing - GF	0.500	0.250
Total Financing	29.633	31.030
Borrowing Need	15.546	0.768

The Capital Financing Requirement (PI), External Debt (PI) and the Operational Boundary

19. **Table 4** shows the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which is the underlying external need to borrow for capital purposes. It shows the expected actual debt position over the period. This is called the Operational Boundary. The reduction in Borrowing Need (Table 3) is around £14.8m and currently actual borrowing for the Council is £171.661m. The reduction is due to the Housing programme being delayed due to Covid 19, as well as the Council receiving repayments from the joint ventures of amounts previously loaned. It is proposed to set an actual borrowing figure of £177.660m this will accommodate the additional borrowing need and any debt requirements for cash flow purposes. Other Long term liabilities (the PFI scheme) will be added to give the revised operational boundary for 2020/21.

Prudential Indicator- External Debt/ Operational Boundary**Table 4**

	2020/21 Original Estimate	2020/21 Revised Estimate
	£m	£m
Prudential Indicator- Capital Financing Requirement		
Opening CFR- Post Audit of Accounts	216.930	219.488
CFR General Fund	124.680	143.024
CFR General Fund PFI/Leasing IFRS	10.358	10.358
CFR – Housing	73.338	68.168
CFR – Loans to Joint Ventures	17.664	(3.232)
Total Closing CFR	226.040	218.317
Net Movement in CFR	9.110	(1.171)
Borrowing	186.760	177.660
Other long Term Liabilities	10.358	10.358
Total Debt 31 March- Operational Boundary	197.118	188.018

Limits to Borrowing Activity

20. The first key control over the treasury activity is a PI to ensure that over the medium term gross borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2019/20 and the next two financial years. As shown in **Table 5** below.

Table 5

	2020/21 Original Estimate £m	2020/21 Revised Estimate £m	2021/22 Revised Estimate £m	2022/23 Original Estimate £m
Gross borrowing	186.760	177.660	192.660	207.660
Plus Other Long Term Liabilities	10.358	10.358	9.232	8.117
Total Gross Borrowing	197.118	188.018	201.892	215.777
CFR* (year-end position)	226.040	218.317	240.503	253.402

* includes on balance sheet PFI schemes and finance leases

21. The Assistant Director Resources reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current and future years in complying with this PI.
22. A further PI controls the overall level of borrowing, this is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which while not desirable, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. The Authorised Limit is currently set 5% above the Capital Financing Requirement to allow for any additional cashflow needs, the revised figure for 2020/21 has been raised by 5% of the new CFR total. Whilst it is not expected that borrowing would be at these levels this would allow additional borrowing to take place should market

conditions change suddenly and swift action was required. This is a Statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

23. It is proposed to move the Authorised Limit in **Table 6** in line with the movement in the overall Capital Financing Requirement.

Table 6

Authorised Limit for External Debt	2020/21 Original Indicator £m	2020/21 Revised Indicator £m
Capital Financing Requirement	226.040	218.317
Additional headroom to Capital Financing Requirement	11.302	10.916
Total Authorised Limit for External Debt	237.342	229.233

Interest Rate Forecasts Provided by Link Asset Services

Table 7

	Bank Rate	PWLB rates for borrowing purposes*			
		5 year	10 year	25 year	50 year
	%	%	%	%	%
2020/21					
Dec 2020	0.10	1.90	2.10	2.50	2.30
March 2021	0.10	2.00	2.10	2.50	2.30
2021/22					
June 2021	0.10	2.00	2.10	2.50	2.30
Sept 2021	0.10	2.00	2.10	2.60	2.40
Dec 2021	0.10	2.00	2.20	2.60	2.40
March 2022	0.10	2.00	2.20	2.60	2.40
2022/23					
June 2022	0.10	2.10	2.20	2.70	2.50
Sept 2022	0.10	2.10	2.30	2.70	2.50
Dec 2022	0.10	2.10	2.30	2.70	2.50
March 2023	0.10	2.10	2.30	2.70	2.50

*PWLB rates above are for certainty rates (which are provided for those authorities that have disclosed their borrowing/capital plans to the government. Darlington Borough Council will be able to access these certainty rates which are 0.2% below PWLB's normal borrowing rates, although if it is for Housing purposes through the HRA you can take another 1.00% off the above rates.

24. From the local authority borrowing perspective, HM Treasury imposed **two changes of margins over gilt yields for PWLB rates** in 2019-20 without any prior warning. The first took place on 9th October 2019, adding an additional 1% margin over gilts to all PWLB period rates. That increase was then at least partially reversed for some forms of borrowing on 11th March 2020, but not for mainstream General Fund capital schemes, at the same time as the Government announced in the Budget a programme of increased infrastructure expenditure. It also announced that there would be a consultation with local authorities on possibly further amending these margins; this was to end on 4th June, but that date was

subsequently put back to 31st July. It is clear that the Treasury will no longer allow local authorities to borrow money from the PWLB to purchase commercial property if the aim is solely to generate an income stream (assets for yield).

25. It is possible that the non-HRA Certainty Rate will be subject to revision downwards after the conclusion of the PWLB consultation; however, the timing of such a change is currently an unknown, although it would be likely to be within the current financial year.
26. As the interest forecast table for PWLB certainty rates (table 7), shows, there is likely to be little upward movement in PWLB rates over the next two years as it will take economies, including the UK, a prolonged period to recover all the momentum they have lost in the sharp recession caused during the coronavirus shut down period. Inflation is also likely to be very low during this period and could even turn negative in some major western economies during 2020/21.
27. The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is probably relatively even but is subject to major uncertainty due to the virus.
28. There is relatively little UK domestic risk of increases or decreases in Bank Rate and significant changes in shorter term PWLB rates. The Bank of England has effectively ruled out the use of negative interest rates in the near term and increases in Bank Rate are likely to be some years away given the underlying economic expectations. However, it is always possible that safe haven flows, due to unexpected domestic developments and those in other major economies, could impact gilt yields, (and so PWLB rates), in the UK.
29. The downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates currently include:
 - (a) **UK** - second nationwide wave of virus infections requiring a national lockdown;
 - (b) **UK / EU trade negotiations** - if it were to cause significant economic disruption and a fresh major downturn in the rate of growth.
 - (c) **UK - Bank of England** takes action too quickly, or too far, over the next three years to raise Bank Rate and causes UK economic growth, and increases in inflation, to be weaker than we currently anticipate.
 - (d) A resurgence of the **Eurozone sovereign debt crisis**. The ECB has taken monetary policy action to support the bonds of EU states, with the positive impact most likely for “weaker” countries. In addition, the EU recently agreed a €750bn fiscal support package. These actions will help shield weaker economic regions for the next year or so. However, in the case of Italy, the cost of the virus crisis has added to its already huge debt mountain and its slow economic growth will leave it vulnerable to markets returning to taking the view that its level of debt is unsupportable. There remains a sharp divide between northern EU countries favouring low debt to GDP and annual balanced budgets and southern countries who want to see jointly issued Eurobonds to finance economic recovery. This divide could undermine the unity of the EU in time to come.

- (e) Weak capitalisation of some **European banks**, which could be undermined further depending on extent of credit losses resultant of the pandemic.
 - (f) **German minority government & general election in 2021.** In the German general election of September 2017, Angela Merkel's CDU party was left in a vulnerable minority position dependent on the fractious support of the SPD party, as a result of the rise in popularity of the anti-immigration AfD party. The CDU has done badly in subsequent state elections but the SPD has done particularly badly. Angela Merkel has stepped down from being the CDU party leader but she intends to remain as Chancellor until the general election in 2021. This then leaves a major question mark over who will be the major guiding hand and driver of EU unity when she steps down.
 - (g) **Other minority EU governments.** Austria, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, Ireland and Belgium also have vulnerable minority governments dependent on coalitions which could prove fragile.
 - (h) **Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary** now form a strongly anti-immigration bloc within the EU. There has also been rising anti-immigration sentiment in Germany and France.
 - (i) **Geopolitical risks**, for example in China, Iran or North Korea, but also in Europe and other Middle Eastern countries, which could lead to increasing safe haven flows.
 - (j) **US - the Presidential election in 2020:** this could have repercussions for the US economy and SINO-US trade relations
30. The upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilts and PWLB rates are:
- (a) UK - stronger than currently expected recovery in UK economy.
 - (b) Post-Brexit - if an agreement was reached that removed the majority of threats of economic disruption between the EU and the UK.
 - (c) The Bank of England is too slow in its pace and strength of increases in Bank Rate and, therefore, allows inflationary pressures to build up too strongly within the UK economy, which then necessitates a later rapid series of increases in Bank Rate faster than we currently expect.

Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 and Annual Investment Strategy Update

31. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, (TMSS), for 2020/21 was approved by this Council on 20 February 2020.
32. There are no policy changes to the TMSS, although the Council's Capital Strategy includes a section on 'Loans to External Bodies or Organisations' and has been approached about the possibility of Darlington College utilising this facility. The facility is based on the loans being for activities that are aligned to, and support Council service objectives and/or corporate priorities. The loan if and when required would be subject to due diligence and would need to be agreed through Cabinet /Council but as Audit Committee has a Governance role it was thought prudent to highlight the possibility of it through this report as it is a Treasury Management matter. If and when

agreed the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit will need to be amended to accommodate any increase in the CFR.

33. The details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position and budgetary changes already approved.

Debt Activity during 2020/21

34. The expected net borrowing need is set out in **Table 8**

Table 8

	2020/21 Original Estimate £m	2020/21 Revised Estimate £m
CFR (year-end position) from Table 4	226.040	218.317
<u>Less</u> other long term liabilities PFI and finance leases	10.358	10.358
Net adjusted CFR (net year end position)	215.682	207.959
Expected Borrowing	186.760	175.600
(Under)/ Over borrowing	(28.922)	(32.359)
Expected Net movement in CFR	9.110	(1.171)
Net financing need for the year from table 3	15.546	0.768
Less MRP General Fund	0.000	0.000
Less MRP Housing	0.629	0.799
Less MRP relating to finance leases including PFI	1.140	1.140
Movement in CFR (Net Borrowing Need)	13.777	(1.171)

35. The following new borrowing has been taken to date.

Table 9

Date Taken	Term	Amount £m	Interest Rate	Purpose	Lender
22/05/2020	1 year	2	0.90	Property Funds	Other Local Authority
22/05/2020	1 year	3	0.90	Property Funds	Other Local Authority
01/09/2020	2 years	5	0.90	General	Other Local Authority

36. The amount borrowed by the Council now stands at £171.661m, this excludes any additional cashflow loans which may be required.
37. There will still be an element of under-borrowing by the Council at the end of March 2021.

Debt Rescheduling

38. Debt rescheduling opportunities have been very limited in the current economic climate given the consequent structure of interest rates and following the increase in the margin added to gilt yields which has impacted PWLB new borrowing rates since October 2010. No debt rescheduling has therefore been undertaken to date in the current financial year.

Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21

Investment Portfolio

39. In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of Capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. It is a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous years as rates are very low and in line with the current 0.10% Bank Rate. The continuing potential for a re-emergence of a Eurozone sovereign debt crisis together with other risks which could impact on the creditworthiness of banks prompts a low risk strategy. Given this risk environment investment returns are likely to remain low.

Treasury Management Activity from 1 April 2020 to 15 October 2020

40. Current investment position – The Council held £67.499m of investments at 15/10/2020 and this is made up of the following types of investment.

Table 10

Sector	Country	Up to 1 year £m
Banks	UK	8.000
AAA Money Market Funds	Sterling Funds	19.500
Other Local Authorities	UK	10.000
Property Funds - CCLA	UK	10.000
Hermes		10.000
Lothbury	UK	9.999
Total		67.499

Short Term Cashflow Investments

41. Cash balances are invested on a daily basis to maximise the benefit of temporary surplus funds. These include investments in Money Market Funds, the Government's Debt Management Office and bank short term notice accounts. A total of 41 investments were made in the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2019 totalling c£55m these were for short periods of up to 100 days and earned interest of £0.015m on an average balance of £18.048m which equated to an annual average interest rate of 0.16%.

Investment returns measured against the Service Performance Indicators

42. The target for our investment returns is to better or at least match a number of external comparators, this performance indicator is also known as yield benchmarking. As can be seen from Table 11, the short term investment achievements (up to 3 months) are above market expectations.

Table 11

	Cashflow Investments %
Darlington Borough Council - Actual	0.16
External Comparators	
London Interbank Bid Rate 7 day	(0.06)
London Interbank Bid Rate 3 months	0.09
London Interbank Bid Rate 1 year	0.20

Treasury Management Budget

43. There are three main elements within the Treasury Management Budget:-

- (a) Longer term capital investments interest earned – a cash amount of which earns interest and represents the Councils revenue balances, unused capital receipts, reserves and provisions, this will now include Property Funds.
- (b) Cash flow interest earned – since becoming a unitary council in 1997, the authority has consistently had a positive cash flow. Unlike long term capital investments it does not represent any particular sum but it is the consequence of many different influences such as receipt of grants, the relationship between debtors and creditors, cashing of cheques and payments to suppliers.
- (c) Debt serving costs – this is the principal and interest costs on the Council's long term debt to finance the capital programme.

Table 12 - Changes to the Financing Costs Budget 2020/21

	£m	£m
Original Financing Costs Budget 2020/21		0.895
Less reduced Interest payments paid on debt	(0.266)	
Add reduced returns on Property Funds	0.141	
Add increased charges	0.015	
Total adjustments		(0.110)
Revised Treasury Management Budget 2020/21		0.785

44. This statement concludes that the Treasury Management budget is forecast to underspent by £0.110m in 2020/21, these have been reflected in the current MTFP projections.

Risk Benchmarking

45. A regulatory development is the consideration and approval of security and liquidity benchmarks. Yield benchmarks are currently widely used to assess investment performance and these are shown in Table 13. Discrete security and liquidity benchmarks are also requirements of member reporting.
46. The following reports the current position against the benchmarks originally approved.
47. **Security** – The Council’s maximum security risk benchmarks for the current portfolio of investments, when compared to historic default tables were set as follows;

0.077% historic risk of default when compared to the whole portfolio

Table 13

Maximum	Benchmark 2020/21	Actual July	Actual September
Year 1	0.077%	0.009%	0.007%

N.B. this excludes Property Funds

48. The counterparties that we use are all high rated therefore our actual risk of default based on ratings attached to counterparties is very low.
49. **Liquidity** – In respect of this area the Council set liquidity facilities/ benchmark to maintain
- (a) Bank overdraft - £0.100M;
 - (b) Liquid short term deposits of a least £3.000M available within a week’s notice;
 - (c) Weighted Average Life benchmark is expected to be 0.4 years with a maximum of 1 year.
50. The Assistant Director Resources can report that liquidity arrangements have been adequate for the year to date as shown in Table 14

Table 14

	Benchmark 2020/21	Actual June	Actual September
Weighted Average Life	0.4 – 1 year	0.42 years	0.39 years

51. The figures are for the whole portfolio of cash flow investments deposited with Money Market funds on a call basis (i.e. can be drawn on without notice) as well as call accounts that include a certain amount of notice required to recall the funds.

Treasury Management Indicators

52. **Actual and estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream** – This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (financing costs net of interest and investment income) against the net revenue stream. The reduction in % relates to reduced financing costs for General Fund of £0.110m.

Table 15

	2020/21 Original Indicator	2020/21 Revised Indicator
General Fund	2.85%	2.73%
HRA	17.48%	12.78%

Treasury Management Prudential indicators

53. **Upper Limits on Variable Rate Exposure** – This indicator identifies a maximum limit for variable interest rates based upon the debt position net of investments.
54. **Upper Limits on Fixed Rate Exposure** – Similar to the previous indicator this cover a maximum limit on fixed interest rates
55. Historically for a number of years this Council has used these percentages; together they give flexibility to the treasury management strategy allowing the Council to take advantage of both fixed and variable rates in its portfolio whilst ensuring that its exposure to variable rates is limited.

Table 16

	2020/21 Original Indicator	2020/21 Revised Indicator
Limits on fixed interest rates	100%	100%
Limits on variable interest rates	40%	40%

56. **Maturity Structures of Borrowing** - These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate loans (those instruments which carry a fixed interest for the duration of the instrument) falling due for refinancing. The higher limits for longer periods reflect the fact that longer maturity periods give more stability to the debt portfolio.

Table 17 - Maturity Structures of Borrowing

	2020/21 Original indicator	2020/21 Actual to Date	2020/21 Revised Indicator
Under 12 months	25%	17%	30%
12 months to 2 years	40%	6%	40%
2 years to 5 years	60%	12%	60%
5 years to 10 years	80%	9%	80%
10 years and above	100%	57%	100%

57. **Total Principal Funds Invested** – These limits are set having regard to the amount of reserves available for longer term investment and show the limits to be placed on investments with final maturities beyond 1 year. This limit allows the authority to invest for longer periods if they give better rates than shorter periods. It also allows some stability in the interest returned to the Authority.

Table 18 - Principal Funds Invested

	2020/21 Original Indicator	2020/21 Revised Indicator
Maximum principal sums invested greater than 1 year	£50m	£30m

Conclusion

58. The prudential indicators have been produced to take account of the Council's borrowing position. The key borrowing indicator (the Operational Boundary) is £188.018m. The Council's return on investments has been good, exceeding both of the targets. Based on the first six months of 2020/21 the Council's borrowing and investments is forecast to underspend by £0.110m on the approved 2020/21 budget.

59. The Council's treasury management activities comply with the required legislation and meet the high standards set out in the relevant codes of practice.

Outcome of Consultation

60. No consultation was undertaken in the production of this report.

**CABINET
8 DECEMBER 2020**

DARLINGTON TOWNS FUND

**Responsible Cabinet Member –
Councillor Alan Marshall, Economy Portfolio**

**Responsible Director –
Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Cabinet on the recently announced allocation of £1m Forward Funding from the Towns Fund and the £22.3m secured through Darlington's Town Deal.

Summary

2. The report sets out the proposed strategic interventions detailed within Darlington's Town Investment Plan to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of Darlington for long-term economic and productivity growth.
3. The Council has been allocated £1m grant for Forward Fund and in the future £22.3m will be allocated once each individual business case has been agreed.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that members support the Darlington's Town Investment Plan and the delivery of the various projects through the established Town Partnership Board.

Reasons

5. To contribute to the further economic wellbeing and vitality of the Town.

**Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

Background Papers:
Darlington Town Investment Plan

Mark Ladyman : Extension 6306

S17 Crime and Disorder	This paper supports and complements the actions detailed in the Darlington Town Centre Footfall Strategy to reduce ASB in the Town Centre.
Health and Wellbeing	No direct impacts
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	No direct Impacts
Diversity	No direct impacts
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework. Any works highlighted in the report will be met through Tees Valley Indigenous Growth Fund.
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The actions detailed in the report aim to improve the attractiveness of the Town Centre therefore directly impacting on Perfectly Placed.
Efficiency	The report aims to utilise the Councils and partner resources in a collective more efficient manner.
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

Darlington's Town Deal

6. In February 2020 Cabinet agreed that the Council should progress the application to the government's Towns Deal Fund and as part of the funding requirement set up a Towns Board to assist in the governance and development of the application to the fund.
7. In June 2020 the Council received new guidance on the Towns Fund. The guidance reaffirmed the aims and purpose of the Towns Fund which is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth. This will be done through:
 - (a) **Urban regeneration** - Ensuring towns are thriving places for people to live and work, including:
 - (i) Increasing density in town centres;
 - (ii) Strengthening local economic assets including local cultural assets;
 - (iii) Site acquisition, preparation, remediation, and/or development; and
 - (iv) Making full use of planning tools to bring strategic direction and change.

(b) Skills and enterprise infrastructure

- (i) Driving private sector investment and small business development; and
- (ii) Ensuring towns have the space to support skills and small business development.

(c) Connectivity

- (i) Developing local transport schemes that complement regional and national networks; and
- (ii) Supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity.

8. Following agreement from the Town Board, Darlington's Town Investment Plan (TIP) was submitted in July 2020. The Board received confirmation that £1m Forward Funding had been allocated by Government and in October 2020 we received confirmation that our TIP had been successful and £22.3m was made available to deliver the various projects detailed in our submission.

Forward Funding

9. Members will recall that presentations have taken place both at Scrutiny Committee and all member briefing on the intervention proposals that relate to the £1m Forward Funding programme. The four project areas are:
- (a) The Yards Phase1 (Clark's and Buckton's Yards) – Transform and improve public space
 - (b) Town Centre lighting enhancements
 - (c) Town Centre Wi-Fi
 - (d) Acquisition of properties along Northgate which contribute to the wider Railway Heritage Quarter project.
10. The above projects have been unanimously supported by the Town Board and the necessary procurement, tender and engagement exercise have commenced. It is important to note that this funding must be spent by 31 March 2021 and we are confident that the direction of travel will ensure this is achieved.

Town Fund

11. In October 2020 the Council were informed they had been successful in securing an allocation of £22.3m to fund the Town Investment Plan. Now this funding is being secured and the Heads of Terms with Government agreed, the process of developing the individual business cases for each of the following interventions need to be completed:
- (a) North Road – Enhanced townscape and urban regeneration**
 - (i) property acquisitions
 - (ii) development and alignment with private sector partner
 - (iii) mixed housing and commercial space. Improved public realm and green open space
 - (iv) public realm improvements

(b) Supporting heritage assets

- (i) Property acquisition
- (ii) Sustainable multi-use space

(c) Linear Park & River Skerne corridor

- (i) linear park- improved public realm, walking and cycling
- (ii) property acquisition
- (iii) residential/mixed use development

(d) Rail Heritage Quarter

- (i) property acquisition to enable linking of elements of the project
- (ii) new and improved Heritage Action Zone 26-mile cycle and walking route, focused on the RHQ site
- (iii) creation of public green spaces
- (iv) remediation and conservation of significant heritage assets associated with the site of the world's first passenger railway

(e) Victoria Road

- (i) public realm/highway improvements
- (ii) shop/property front improvements

(f) Bank Top Station and Cattle Mart

- (i) public realm/highway improvements
- (ii) shop/property front improvements

(g) Skinnergate and The Yards

- (i) Development of historic yards and wynds
- (ii) Public realm improvements
- (iii) Shop front and premises enhancement
- (iv) Skinnergate residential
- (v) Expansion of the mixed-use economy

(h) Adult Learning Space

- (i) Provided within a publicly accessible building in the town centre

(i) T Levels Teaching Space

- (i) Educational/Skills space at the college to enable the teaching of new T Level qualifications

12. The completion of the necessary business cases will be challenging, and full resource analysis is being carried out. Update reports will be presented to Cabinet as the business cases are completed.

**CABINET
8 DECEMBER 2020**

SCHEDULE OF TRANSACTIONS

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Charles Johnson
Resources Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider and to seek approval of the terms negotiated in respect of the Schedule of Transactions as set out below.

TRANSACTION	PURPOSE OF TRANSACTION	MINUTE REF
1. 16 Chelmsford Street 2. 5 Oaklands Terrace 3. 53 Thornton Street	Acquisition of long term empty residential properties in connection with the Next Steps Project.	58(f)/Feb/20
4. Approximately 1,000sqm of land at the rear of High Northgate and adjacent to the “£5 note” bridge.	Acquisition in connection with the Rail Heritage Quarter Scheme.	C94(6)(d)/Jan/20

Summary

2. It is necessary for Cabinet to approve terms negotiated by the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services on behalf of the Council to enable contractually binding contracts to be completed. The Part III **Appendix 1** details the terms negotiated for consideration and approval.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the schedule be approved, and the transactions completed on the terms and conditions detailed therein.

Reasons

4. Terms negotiated require approval by Cabinet before binding itself contractually to a transaction.

Ian Williams
Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Background Papers

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

Guy Metcalfe : Extension 2735

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime & Disorder
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to Health & Wellbeing which this report needs to address
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There is no impacts
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 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	This report does not adversely impact on the Strategy
Efficiency	The terms set out in the Schedule of Transactions appended to this report are considered to be in the Council's best interest and ensure the Council's business is conducted efficiently
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	There are no issues in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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