



**DARLINGTON**

Borough Council

# Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am

Thursday, 28 April 2022

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington. DL1 5QT

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

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes –  
To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 3 February 2022  
(Pages 3 - 6)
4. Climate Change –  
Presentation by the Young Peoples' Involvement and Opportunities Officer
5. Towns Fund –  
Update on Progress and Actions by the Towns Fund Manager  
(Pages 7 - 18)
6. Work Programme –  
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance  
(Pages 19 - 30)
7. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
8. Questions



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

**Wednesday, 20 April 2022**

**Town Hall**  
**Darlington.**

**Membership**

Councillors Bartch, Boddy, Crudass, Harker, L Hughes, Mrs D Jones, McEwan, Paley, Renton, Wright and Vacancy

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

## ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 3 February 2022

**PRESENT** – Councillors Renton (Chair), Crudass, Harker and McEwan

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Bartch, Boddy, L Hughes, Mrs D Jones, Paley and Wright

**ABSENT** –

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors Durham and Marshall

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Mark Ladyman (Assistant Director Economic Growth), Anthony Hewitt (Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects), Peter Carrick (Finance Manager Central/Treasury Management), Brian Robson (Head of Capital Projects), Steve Pryke and Shirley Wright (Democratic Manager)

### ER35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

### ER36 TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES/NOTES OF MEETINGS OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON

Submitted – The Minutes/notes of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 4 November 2021 and 6 and 20 January, 2022.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes/notes be approved as correct records.

### ER37 CLIMATE CHANGE - UPDATE

The Head of Highways Asset Management gave a presentation on ways in which the Highways Section had reduced and continued to reduce its carbon footprint by trialling and using alternative methods on its schemes.

It was reported that although the use of plastic had been trialled in 2019, it was not an approved material and had not been used since, however, recycling of the existing carriageways had proved effective with six schemes in the Borough being completed by this method over the last three years, with a total of 4000 tonnes of material recycled, equating to 230 wagon loads of material, which, using traditional methods of working, would have been sent to landfill.

Another scheme utilised last year was to collect and store over 2780 tons of tar bound planings from the summer maintenance programme for use on a scheme to raise the level of a road and, again, this saved 146 wagon trips with the job being completed two weeks earlier than if traditional methods had been used. Members were advised that a further scheme would also be completed in this way next year.

For road surfacing where recycling was not suitable and more traditional methods of working were required, the use of warm asphalts which were made at a much lower temperature

were specified. This requirement resulted in less gas being required, equating to a typical saving of between eight and ten per cent reduction in carbon emissions. It was reported that seven schemes had been completed last year using this method and that it would be continued into next year's schemes.

It was also reported that Co2 savings were expected in relation to a one coat system which had been used for footpaths, however, the actual savings on this had not yet been received from the contractors

In summary Members were advised that the total amount of Co2 savings over the last three years was 147 tons, which equated to driving 882,000 miles in a diesel car.

The Head of Highways Asset Management reported that discussions and feedback took place with other Tees Valley and North East Council's to discuss new products and materials which could be used and to obtain feedback on success and that all methods which were currently available to reduce the Co2 emission were being and would continue to be looked at as the technology became available.

Discussion on the culture within the service area towards achieving zero carbon emissions and in looking at the best and most cost effective ways of working, reassurance that the alternative materials being used were approved to ensure they complied and there were no detrimental effects; the programme to transfer the Council's fleet to electric vehicles, where possible and the possibility of contractors being encouraged, through contract documentation, to use electric vehicles and reduce pollution.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted.

### **ER38 PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - QUARTER 3**

The Assistant Director Transport and Capital Projects submitted a report (previously circulated) together with a report (also previously circulated) scheduled to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 8 February 2022 giving a summary of the latest capital resource and commitment position to inform the monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme, together with an update on the current status of all construction projects which were currently being managed by the Council.

It was reported that the Council had a substantial annual construction programme of work which was delivering a wide range of improvements to the Council's assets and more critically to Council services and that there were currently 46 live projects being managed with an overall projected outturn value of £138.928 million and that the majority of the Council's projects were running to time, cost and quality expectations, however they were being monitored given the current pressures on resources in the construction sector nationally.

Six projects which were showing variances were highlighted within the submitted report, together with an explanation as the reasons for those variances and it was reported that most of the variances were logistical issues.

Following questions by Members, it was reported that the increase and availability of

materials had not yet impacted on the current programme of works, however, it was likely to affect future projects and this would be monitored going forward.

Discussion also ensued on the reporting capability of Project in a Box, the new electronic capital project reporting system, and the level of information which could be provided to Members to enable them to compare the position from the previous quarters information.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted and that Officer be requested to arrange a session for Members of this Scrutiny Committee to give a demonstration of the Project in a Box system.

### **ER39 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 3**

The Assistant Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) together with a report which was being considered by Cabinet at its meeting scheduled to be held on 8 February, 2022.

It was reported that the Council's projected reserves at the end of 2021-21 were £29.773 million, a £4.847 million improvement on the initial 2021-25 MTFP position and Members were advised that this improvement in reserves, included a brought forward amount of £2.317 million from 2020/21, £0.196 million of projected departmental overspend, the rebasing exercise of £0.993 million, a £0.729 million increase in corporate resources and net £1.004 million which was required from the CV19 reserve (a total drawn down from the reserve of £1.474 m to fund the departmental CV19 costs and £0.470m to refund the shortfall in government grant for Sales, Fees and Charges in corporate resources).

The Assistant Director Resources reported that of the £29.773 million projected reserves, there was a risk reserve balance of £5.350 million and a commitment to use £15.838 million to support years two to four of the current MTFP, which left £8.858 million of unallocated reserves.

Particular reference was made to the stronger than expected recovery of the Council's leisure and culture facilities and the intention to use the additional income to a ring fenced 2025 Rail Heritage Fund to be utilised for the refurbishment of the Loco No. 1 replica and a request from the Group Services for People to carry forward funding to cover the implementation costs of a new Education Case Management System.

In relation to both of the above, it was reported that separate reports would be submitted to Cabinet in due course.

**Resolved** – That the report be noted

### **ER40 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that further consideration be given to the work programme of this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

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**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
28 April 2022**

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**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
WORK PROGRAMME**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

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

**Summary**

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

**Recommendation**

4. Members are requested to consider and approve the attached draft work programme as the agreed work programme and consider any additional items which they might wish to include.

**Luke Swinhoe  
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Background Papers**

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

Shirley Wright: Extension 5998

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

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
6. The Council Plan sets the vision and strategic direction for the Council through to May 2023, with its overarching focus being 'Delivering Success for Darlington'.
7. In approving the Council Plan, Members have agreed to the vision for Darlington which is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.
8. The vision for the Economy Portfolio is :-

**'a borough where economic growth is high and the benefits are enjoyed by all residents'**

by delivering

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

9. The vision for the Resources Portfolio is :-

**'a Council that is financially stable and delivering much needed services and support for the Borough'**

### Forward Plan and Additional Items

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

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## ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

	Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Scrutiny's Role
<b>RESOURCES</b>				
232	Performance Management Framework	6 January 2022  Work to be undertaken to look at relevant PI's. Informal meeting to be arranged	Relevant Assistant Directors	To understand/monitor and challenge the indicators
61 60	Medium-Term Financial Plan - Monitoring	Quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee	Brett Nielsen	To contribute and challenge the Medium-Term Financial Plan and assist with the implementation and development of the required savings
131 132 133	Capital Programme and project Position Statement	Quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee	Brian Robson	To look at the position
	Procurement	To be programmed in the next Municipal Year	Luke Swinhoe	To look at work and services of the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) and the Authority's contract spend

	Strengthening Families Programme	Work to be undertaken via a Task and Finish Review Group to look at the spend across the Programme	Brett Nielsen/Children's Services	To look at the spend across the Programme
<b>ECONOMY</b>				
106	Economic Strategy	To be programmed in the next Municipal Year	David Hand	To scrutinise progress of the Strategy Action Plan against outcomes and understand relationship with Tees Valley SEP and Local Plan.
114	Housing Strategy	To be programmed in the next Municipal Year	David Hand	To scrutinise progress of the Strategy Action Plan against outcomes.
88	Broadband Infrastructure in Darlington 2012-20	Briefing held 7 April 2022	Jochen Werres	To scrutinise progress of the Broadband Delivery (BDUK) and Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) programmes
	Long-term impact of Covid on the economy	To be programmed	Mark Ladyman	To update Members on the scheme
209	Climate Change	On-going	Cabinet Member	To update on the work of the Review Group
	Commercial Premises – hygiene inspections	Briefing held 8 February 2022	Stephen Todd	To update Members on the current position following the suspension of inspections due to covid



	Youth Unemployment	Joint piece of work to be undertaken with Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee taking the lead		
	Levelling Up	3 February 2022 - Deferred	Mark Ladyman	

## ARCHIVED ITEMS

RESOURCES				
	Sickness Absence Year-end out-turn	Circulated to Members of the Scrutiny Committee as a briefing note	Brett Nielsen/Helen Whiting	N/A
	Health and Safety Year end out-turn	Circulated to Members of the Scrutiny Committee as a briefing note	Brett Nielsen/Joanne Skelton	N/A
	Workforce Strategy	Presentation held on 31 August 2021	Brett Nielsen/Helen Whiting	N/A
75	Complaints, Compliments and Comments - Annual Report 2019/20	2 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2021	Lee Downey	To look at the position
16	Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	2 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2021	Lee Downey	To consider the outcome of cases which have been determined by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Housing Ombudsman (HO) and forward any view to Cabinet
	Freedom of Information Requests	All Members' briefing held	Lee Downey	

	Department for Works and Pension – Universal Credit	Presentation arranged for 7 September 2021	Anthony Sandys	To brief Members on the process and position
4	Investment Fund	2 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2021	Brett Nielsen	To consider progress against the agreed investments being funded through the Investment Fund.
99	Council Tax Support Scheme	4 November, 2021	Anthony Sandys	To provide comment to Cabinet on the proposed scheme
	Medium-Term Financial Plan	Response formulated for Cabinet	Brett Nielsen	To provide a response to Cabinet on the proposals in relation to the Medium-Term Financial Plan
	Customer Services and Digital Strategy	July/August 2022	Anthony Sandys	To brief Members on the work being undertaken
<b>ECONOMY</b>				
	Business Grant Scheme – Additional Restrictions Grant	1 July 2021	Mark Ladyman	To update Members on the scheme
	Project in a Box Repeat session to be arranged.	Presentation held on 16 July 2021	Brian Robson	To demonstrate the new project management system to Members
	Towns Fund	Presentation held on 18 August, 2021	Mark Ladyman	To update Scrutiny

	Business Week 2021	Presentation held on 19 October, 2021	Mark Ladyman	To update Scrutiny
	Markets Update	Briefing held 27 January 2022	Mark Ladyman	Update



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**FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE PERIOD: 6 APRIL 2022 - 31 AUGUST 2022**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Decision Maker and Date</b>
Council Chamber Refurbishment	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Release of Capital Allocation in the MTFP - Corporate Landlord Capitalised Repairs 2022-23	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Special Educational Needs (SEND) Accessibility Strategy 2021/24	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
CCTV Replacement Camera Programme	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
Darlington Station Improvement Project – Proceed to Delivery	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
Dolphin Centre Mechanical and Electrical Replacement – Release of Capital	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
Housing Management Policy	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village Development	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
Public Space Protection Order – Darlington Town Centre	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
Representation on Other Bodies 2022/23	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
Schedule of Transactions - June 2022	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
West Cemetery Drainage	Cabinet 22 Jun 2022
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2021-22	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Council Plan Performance Report 2021/22 – Quarters 3 and 4	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 21/22	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring 2022/23 - Quarter 1	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Restoration of Locomotion No 1 Replica	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Revenue Budget Outturn 2020/21	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/23 - Quarter 1	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022
Annual Audit Letter 2020/21	Cabinet 6 Sep 2022

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