



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00 am

Thursday, 7 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. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny held on 17 February 2022 (Pages 3 - 8)
4. Public Sector Executive Group –
Report of the Director, Darlington Partnership
(Pages 9 - 12)
5. The Northgate Initiative –
Report of the Director, Darlington Partnership
(Pages 13 - 18)
6. Darlington Hippodrome –
Presentation by the Head of Culture and Heritage
(Pages 19 - 32)
7. Darlington Libraries –
Presentation by the Library Manager
(Pages 33 - 54)

8. Work Programme –
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance
(Pages 55 - 72)
9. 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 the meeting.
10. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 30 March 2022

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Allen, Bartch, Cossins, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Haszeldine, B Jones, McCollom, Tait, Wallis and Willis

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COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 February 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Tait (Chair), Allen, Cossins, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Haszeldine, B Jones, McCollom and Willis

APOLOGIES – Councillors Bartch and Wallis

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Keir, Snedker and Kim Purcell (Arriva)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Ian Thompson (Assistant Director Community Services), Anthony Hewitt (Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects), Sue Dobson (Sustainable Transport Manager), Stephen Wiper (Creative Darlington Manager), Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

CLS28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CLS29 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES/NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON :-

CLS30 9 DECEMBER 2021

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 9 December 2021.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 9 December 2021 be approved as a correct record

CLS31 6 JANUARY 2022

Submitted – The Notes (previously circulated) of the Special meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 6 January 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Notes of the Special meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 6 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

CLS32 DARLINGTON CULTURAL STRATEGY 2022-2026

The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that Members provide comments on the draft Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 (also previously circulated) to pass to Cabinet for consideration at the meeting on 8 March 2022.

It was reported that the Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 was focused on maximizing the social and economical benefits which culture can bring to people across Darlington; that the strategy would assist the Council in developing and allocating resources to address priorities; and the strategy had been informed by research, discussion with Arts Council England and Tees Valley Combined Authority and comments from partners.

The strategy took note of the vision and drivers of national strategies and the priorities of the Tees Valley Combined Authority; reference was made to the definition of Culture being used for the strategy and the areas covered; and the strategy would help in communicating the cultural vision and priorities for cultural investment in Darlington.

Reference was made to the building and place-based cultural assets; the investment secured for and achievements made in respect of the cultural offer over the last decade; and the strategy would support the Council in delivering its vision and priorities. Details were provided of the proposed vision for the strategy; reference was made to five draft priorities within the strategy; and action plans had been developed to address each priority which would be reviewed and updated annually.

Discussion ensued regarding the planned celebrations for the bicentenary of the 1825 passenger journey on the Stockton and Darlington Railway; concerns relating to the access to the Rail Heritage Quarter; and Members highlighted the lack of reference to diversity and minority groups within the strategy.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That be Cabinet be advised of this Scrutiny's view that references to diversity and minority groups be strengthened within the strategy.

CLS33 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with an annual update on highways and transport from a regional and local perspective, outlining delivery, performance and public satisfaction in 2021/22 and outlining the 2022/23 programme, including details of funding; and providing an update on the Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan and the Darlington Transport Plan.

The submitted report stated that changes in travel behaviour had been a visible sign of restrictions; that omicron covid- 19 had a significant impact on the delivery of bus and rail services; and that challenges continue, with recognition that work was required to increase bus and rail services and to encourage passengers to use these services.

It was reported that there had been good progress on the delivery of the transport capital programme; the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) continued to deliver elements of the strategic transport plan; the Department for Transport (DfT) was focused on progressing the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) and the Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP); and Darlington had commenced the delivery of a priority scheme in the LCWIP with the creation of phase one of a cycling route on Woodland Road.

Details were provided of the capital and revenue investments in transport in Darlington 2021/22; reference was made to the transport initiatives developed by the Council in partnership with the TVCA; and details were provided of the key headlines for the performance data and public satisfaction for 2021/22.

It was reported that all of the transport funding from the DfT was now awarded to TVCA; this funding was included in the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) which was expected to be announced in February 2022 and would include the funding to deliver Darlington's transport plan; and a summary of the anticipated transport capital funding for 2022/23 was outlined. Members also noted additional funding from the BSIP and CRSTS would be available for schemes and initiatives in Darlington.

Members were informed that the Tees Valley BSIP had been published and work was ongoing to implement an Enhanced Partnership (EP), a statutory agreement between the TVCA, the five Tees Valley local authorities and the Tees Valley bus operators; the BSIP and EP had been structured around a five-point delivery plan; and delivery of this plan was dependent on government funding.

Members were informed that Darlington's Transport Strategy, Darlington Town Centre Transport Plan and a revised Parking Strategy had been drafted and would be brought to this Committee for consideration; and Darlington's Travel Plan Policy which formed part of the Supplementary Planning Document, used to set the policy basis for consideration of planning applications, had been revised.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of potholes repaired; cycling training provision; and following a question by a Member in attendance, the Transport Planning Manager confirmed that Officers would work with the Climate Change Cross Party Working group regarding the inclusion of climate change targets in the Local Transport Plan.

Members raised concern regarding the real-time information provided for customers at bus stops which was deemed unsatisfactory. Members were informed that the system was reaching the end of its life, was due to be updated and that real-time information was available on the Arriva app.

RESOLVED – a) That the progress in delivering the Transport Programme in 2021/22 be noted.

(b) That the changes to the funding process and how the funding is proposed to be used in 2022/23, be noted.

(c) That the Travel Plan Guidance and how this can secure better quality development in Darlington, be noted.

(d) That Members note the proposal for Darlington Borough Council to become party to the 'shell' bus Enhanced Partnership agreement, noting that there are no direct obligations at this stage.

CLS34 ARRIVA - OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Members entered into a question and answer session with the Commercial Director, Arriva in relation to operational issues in Darlington.

Following a question regarding reimbursement for customers with bus passes and a

reduction in ticket prices, the Commercial Director informed Members that Arriva had been in receipt of government funding to cover operational costs, however even with this funding the company had been operating at a loss, in part due to the requirement for the company to be running at 90 per cent or more of pre-COVID-19 mileage levels; and during the lockdown periods customers were offered partial refund or an extension to their passes.

Discussion ensued regarding the lack of bus routes in certain areas of the town and the suggestion to incentivise bus travel. Members were informed that passenger levels in the North East were at 75 per cent of pre-pandemic levels and as such investment in new routes was a challenge, however potential funding from the Bus Service Improvement Plan could allow investment in new routes.

Following a question, Members were informed that it would not be financially viable to run smaller vehicles more frequently due to fuel and driver costs, however bus scheduling could be adjusted to meet demands in peak periods; reference was made to the incentive packages that were available to businesses, working in partnership with Arriva to offer a bus service to the workplace; and Arriva and Stagecoach were supporting a bid to introduce Hydrogen vehicles in the region.

RESOLVED – That the discussion be noted.

CLS35 MANAGEMENT OF GRASS VERGES - FINAL REPORT

The Chair of Management of Grass Verges Task and Finish Group submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the Management of Grass Verges Task and Finish Group and requesting that Members consider and endorse the adoption of a flow chart (also previously circulated) to address a range of issues associated with grass verges.

It was reported that the Task and Finish Group was established following receipt of a report at its meeting on 25 February 2021 which set out the current position adopted by the Council in relation to the management of grass verges; an initial meeting was held on 9 April 2021 and a further meeting was held in 12 November 2021.

The review group were provided with details of a draft flow chart, which would provide a toolkit of options to address a range of issues associated with grass verges. Members of the review group were in agreement that the flow chart would be beneficial; this was developed further by Officers and circulated to all Members to provide feedback.

Discussion ensued regarding the effectiveness of the flow chart and Members acknowledged funding limitations in relation to the management of grass verges. Members considered the flow chart to be a useful framework to address issues associated with grass verges.

RESOLVED – That the adoption of the flow chart to assist with the management of grass verges, as appended to the submitted report, be endorsed.

CLS36 WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to

give consideration to a request received from Councillor Jones that an item on wheelchair accessible taxis be added to the Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

The submitted report stated that a request had been received from a Member of this Committee to investigate options to increase the number of wheelchair accessible taxis in Darlington and improve on the current situation; and Members were invited to make a decision as to whether this item should be added to its work programme, and if so, how work should proceed.

The Licensing Manager advised Members that there was a national shortage of taxi drivers following the removal of covid restrictions; an action plan was in place to address the shortage of drivers; that legislative and policy changes would be required to mandate the requirement of wheelchair accessible vehicles and this could have a financial impact on the Council and operators at a time when the focus was on restoring numbers of drivers to address the current pressures and demands on the taxi trade.

Members were informed that the Council works closely with Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) in an attempt to resolve issues as they arise; the Council's policy offers a number of incentives to drivers to invest in wheelchair accessible vehicles; and in accordance with government recommendations, the Licensing Department publishes an up to date list of all wheelchair accessible vehicles on its website. Members suggested that this list be shared via social media. Reference was also made to Tees Flex, which provided wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Members acknowledged the current position regarding taxis in Darlington and welcomed an update report at a future meeting of this scrutiny committee

Discussion ensued on the current work programme; it was agreed that the item 'Drug and Alcohol Service Contract' be removed from the work programme.

RESOLVED – (a) That an update report regarding taxis in Darlington be provided at a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

(b) That the Work Programme be updated to reflect discussion.

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**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 APRIL 2022**

PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVES GROUP

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the committee about the work of the Public Sector Executive Group.

Summary

2. This report describes the Public Sector Executives Group and outlines the work it has been undertaking.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that this report is received for information and discussion.

Seth Pearson
Director, Darlington Partnership

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Seth Pearson Extension: 0797 3425 408

S17 Crime and Disorder	Crime and Disorder will be duly considered where appropriate
Health and Wellbeing	Health and wellbeing are key issues considered by the Public Sector Executives Group
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	Hasn't been considered to date by the Public Sector Executives Group
Diversity	The Public Sector Executives Group has due regard for diversity
Wards Affected	all
Groups Affected	all
Budget and Policy Framework	The Public Sector Executives Group has due regard for the Budget and Policy Framework.
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	Supports the delivery of the Council Plan

Efficiency	Collaboration of public sector agencies as detailed in this report is a means of achieving greater efficiency
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. At it's meeting of 15 July, Council agreed the formation of the Public Sector Executives Group (PSEG) as one of the arrangements that replaced the Darlington Partnership.
5. The PSEG includes senior officers from key public sector bodies with the purpose of co-ordinating the broader efforts of the Public Sector to Deliver Success for Darlington.
6. The key aims are to :-
 - (a) Gain a common understanding of the issues facing Darlington
 - (b) Collective 'horizon scanning' 2
 - (c) Maximise the benefits of the public sector resources
 - (d) Review and plan initiatives to deliver success
 - (e) To advise their own Governance on issues raised at the partnership and seek approval from them where appropriate
 - (f) To work and support the private and voluntary sector to deliver programmes and projects to deliver success for Darlington.
 - (g) To act as the Programme Board for key initiatives.
7. The group meets regularly includes the following:
 - (a) Chief Executive, DBC
 - (b) Chief Operating Officer CCG
 - (c) Chief Constable
 - (d) Chief Fire Officer
 - (e) Director of Teesside University
 - (f) Chief Executive of Durham & Darlington Health Trust
 - (g) Principal of Darlington College
 - (h) Chief Executive of the Police Victim and Crime Commissioners office.
 - (i) Chief Officer of the Primary Care Network

Other relevant officers attend as necessary.
8. The Group initially supports/oversees the following delivery projects/organisations with more to follow :-
 - (a) Darlington Cares
 - (b) Bread and Butter Thing
 - (c) Northgate Initiative
 - (d) Community Wealth Building

9. The group is supported by the Director of the Darlington Partnership who acts as programme/project lead for many of the initiatives together with support from the Council's Policy & Performance Manager in respect of evidence and policy matters.
10. Partners continue to financially support PSEG as they did the Darlington Partnership and lend their support as needed.
11. As outlined in the aims above the group works with the private sector engaging through existing, issues focused forums such as the Towns Fund Board and Darlington Cares.
12. The Board also looks to work with the voluntary sector to ensure they are aware of emerging challenges and opportunities.
13. Key features which distinguish the PSEG from the Darlington Partnership are that it is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive and whilst it has agreed terms of reference it has no decision making authority out with its membership.

Recent Activity

14. One of the first areas the group considered was 'social value through procurement'. The Council adopted a revised approach in 2019 aimed at increasing the level of social value it was achieving through its procurements. The PSEG agreed that it would act as the 'Anchor Network' promoting social value across its members to increase the benefit to Darlington. Discussions are currently taking place with Durham County Council to explore how working together might increase benefit further.
15. More recently the group has provided comment on the emerging Levelling Up Darlington proposal. The group can act as the vehicle to provide public sector advice and support for the priorities that are being developed.
16. As public sector agencies recover from the impact of the pandemic, the PSEG has been a useful forum to share with others issues and pressures each has been facing and to discuss solutions.

Outcome of Consultation

17. The Public Sector Executives Group was formed with the full involvement of the public sector agencies involved. It was also considered by Cabinet and its formation was ratified at Council at its meeting of 15 July 2021.

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**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 APRIL 2022**

THE NORTHGATE INITIATIVE

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report summarises the current position and developments of the Northgate Initiative.

Summary

2. The Northgate Initiative was established in 2019, comprising of a multi-agency programme which seeks to pilot a range of interventions in order to improve outcomes for local residents in all areas of wellbeing including economy, education and childhood, health, environment and social relationships.
3. The workstreams align with the Local Framework for Wellbeing indicator set, which was developed by the ONS, Public Health England, What Works Centre for Wellbeing and Happy City, to identify a consistent means of monitoring residents' wellbeing at a local level.
4. There have been some measurable improvements over the past 2 years working towards the targets set for 2024. As the restrictions of the pandemic were lifted community engagement has been developed through face to face working.
5. Strong management of the programme ensures accountability for progression against defined aims.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that this report is received for information and comment.

**Seth Pearson
Director, Darlington Partnership**

Background Papers

Northgate Initiative: Actions to Vision

Sarah Small Ext 5757

S17 Crime and Disorder	The initiative aims to improve community safety in the Northgate ward
Health and Well Being	The initiative aims to improve the health of the residents of Northgate ward
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	Home energy efficiency is a focus of the initiative
Diversity	No impact
Wards Affected	Northgate ward
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	Neighbourhood Renewal
Key Decision	none
Urgent Decision	none
Corporate Plan	This report details the work of the Northgate Initiative which is key element of the Council's plan to 'Work with communities to maximise their potential.
Efficiency	N/A
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

7. Northgate is a place where residents are empowered to take control of and improve their wellbeing and life outcomes, by helping deliver the following conditions:
- (a) Fairly paid, quality employment opportunities
 - (b) Access to continuous learning
 - (c) Enough information and support to get and stay healthy
 - (d) A clean and green local environment that people can take pride in
 - (e) A safe place to live
 - (f) A community that cares for each other

Workstream Achievements to date

Environment

8. Community Safety has provided services and support to the community through:
- (a) Targeted patrols (Civic Enforcement)
 - (b) Proactive investigation and support concerning environmental crime and anti-social behaviour (Civic Enforcement)
9. A range of key developments have been delivered since 2019 including:

- (a) The introduction and delivery of an Environmental Crime Plan – An Environment Crime Co-ordinator is now in post delivering on a back lanes project with the aim of cleaner waste free back lanes. Early resident feedback from this is excellent.
- (b) The Responsible Dog Ownership Plan is now complete, but a group is still running and delivering key pieces of work such as dog fouling initiatives.

10. Deliverables:

- (a) Rapid removal of graffiti
- (b) Design of community murals (in development)
- (c) Provision of skips
- (d) Defensive planting
- (e) Installations of decorative trellis (replacing wire or glass)
- (f) Deployment of 4 dedicated CCTV mobile cameras

11. CCTV remain deployed in the ward to assist in dealing with ASB and environmental crime. There has been no great evidential value of deploying cameras in the back lanes, however they have acted as an excellent deterrent.

Crime & Security

12. Policing within the Northgate area is part of the police daily activity. It is classed as an area of the locality which has a higher demand and the level of engagement is proportionate to that. There have been opportunities to adapt police approaches to try and tackle longer term issues in a more strategic, problem solving manner.
13. Delivery across the locality of the Home Office Safer Streets funding (£298,918) secured to introduce target-hardening of area.
- (a) 416 properties visited by police regarding crime prevention advice / guidance
 - (b) 110 properties received target-hardening measures
 - (c) 18 properties have had trellis fitted
 - (d) 44 residents have received crime prevention packs (locks, timers, cameras, marking kits, alarms, tv simulators & personal attack alarms)
14. Evident reduction in calls relating to 'concern for safety' in JD3 beat code area (Northgate). Between March 2020 to February 2021 there were 499 calls compared to 474 calls for the same period up to February 2022, a decrease of 5%.
15. There has been a clear increase in proactive patrols and engagement, these locations have been reviewed as Covid restrictions were lifted with Northgate remaining high on daily

neighbourhood team briefings.

Housing

16. In December 2019, there were 177 empty domestic properties in the Northgate area, out of a total of 2,290 (7.7%). This compared with an empty property rate of 3.7% across the whole of Darlington. 108 of these (4.7%) had been empty for more than 6 months. In addition, 36 of these (1.6%) had been empty for more than 2 years.
17. In March 2022, there were 150 empty domestic properties in the Northgate area, out of a total of 2,298 (6.5%). Of these 150 properties, 79 of these (or 3.4%) have been empty for more than 6 months and 30 (or 1.3%) have been empty for more than 2 years.
18. An operational focus has developed in Northgate, which has included supporting Housing in the delivery of the Next Steps project to reduce the number of empty homes and promote independent living. This led to 4 properties being bought by DBC and fully renovated.
19. These properties are now online as an extension to the current homelessness pathway, providing some additionality for individuals who would be difficult to place within the hostel / shared environment. Placing two individuals in the same property has not yet been explored, due to some of the complexities of the client group.
20. Five individuals a mix of male and female and (ages) have been housed to date. Each person placed is assessed to establish their needs and from this Housing Options formulate a Personalised Housing Plan to support the person into independent living. Third sector partners the 700 Club then deliver specialised support until the individual is ready to move on.
21. In December 2019, there were 148 properties in Northgate with either an F or G rating, with 69 of these being listed as rented properties. In December 2021, (the last set of issued figures) there were 84 (4.5%) properties in Northgate with either an F or G rating out of a total of 1879 lodged EPCs, with 26 (1.4%) of these being listed as rented properties.
22. In addition specialist training has been undertaken by Private Sector Housing Officers to support with the enforcement of problematic landlords.

Economy

23. Economic Development have part funded the Shaping Places for Healthier Lives Peer Research recruitment and training. The peer researchers will assist in gathering the views and opinions of the residents living in the Northgate area.

24. The 2021/22 funding included within the Towns Fund for the Northgate area has now been approved by government and has been received by Darlington Borough Council. This will facilitate the further development of proposals associated with the Towns Fund in Northgate.

Childhood & Education

25. Following a scoping exercise to identify the services available to residents of Northgate, a working group was set up with representation from Children's Services, Health Visitors, Safeguarding, the local schools and young people's engagement and justice service. The results were pleasing but the uptake of provision across all services was low.
26. The earlier idea of creating a Community Information Hub, to help encourage residents to engage in provision is well underway and will be located at Corporation Road Primary School. It will provide a means of alternative approaches to service delivery, where service providers will provide drop in style sessions in a trusted place for residents.
27. Services onboard include DBC Housing, Revenues and Benefits, Income, Citizens Advice Bureau, Credit Union, Groundwork NE, McNay Street Children's Centre, Health Visitors, The Bread & Butter Thing and Health providers.
28. It is hoped the hub will be live by the end of April, following necessary security adaptations to the school to ensure the safety of the pupils as the general public will be accessing the school building.
29. There has been a slight change in focus for this workstream, as work is more focussed towards a noticeable decrease in social service intervention coupled with an increase in Early Help support. With the aim to help families at a much earlier stage, so social service intervention is not needed.

Transition from Primary to Secondary Education

30. Primary and Secondary schools are working more closely together. With the transition process starting much earlier, as the primary and secondary schools work in partnership beyond previous transition periods. Secondary staff and children are maintaining contact with the primary teachers to assist with overcoming any challenges and barriers to their education journey.

Health

31. As a result of Covid the PCN resources from an early of the initiative were redirected into the vaccination and then booster programme.

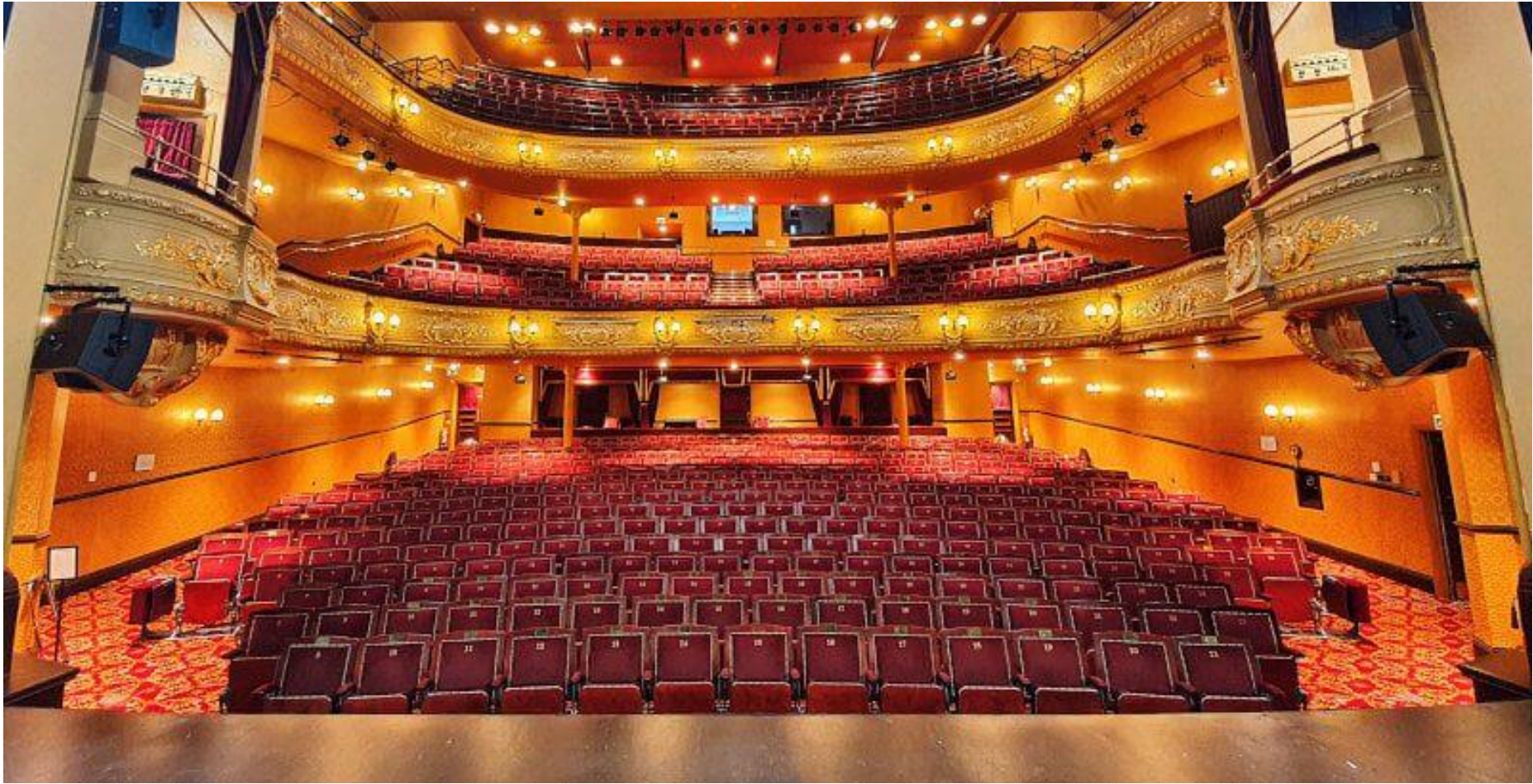
32. The PCN are now working on a Well Being service which will have a significant focus on Northgate residents, they will also play an active role in the information Hub, with a focus on increasing GP registration and mental health.

Data Dashboard

33. In January 2022 the Steering Group agreed to set up a Data Dashboard to help analyse the impact of the Northgate Initiative and to identify any gaps where work need to be increased or done to improve life for the Northgate residents. This has been done using baseline data from 2018/19 up to and including the most up to date information available.
34. As a result of the implementation of the dashboard the focus and targets have changed slightly to reflect the real needs of the area. This 'real-time' way of analysing progression will create greater impact on the success of the initiative longer term.



Summer 2021



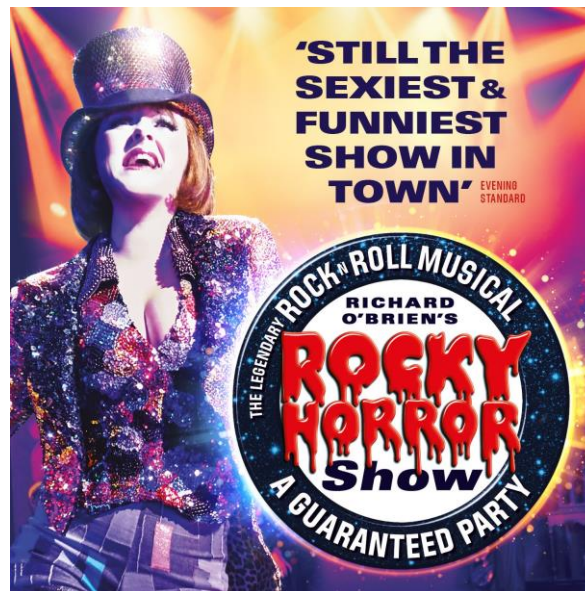
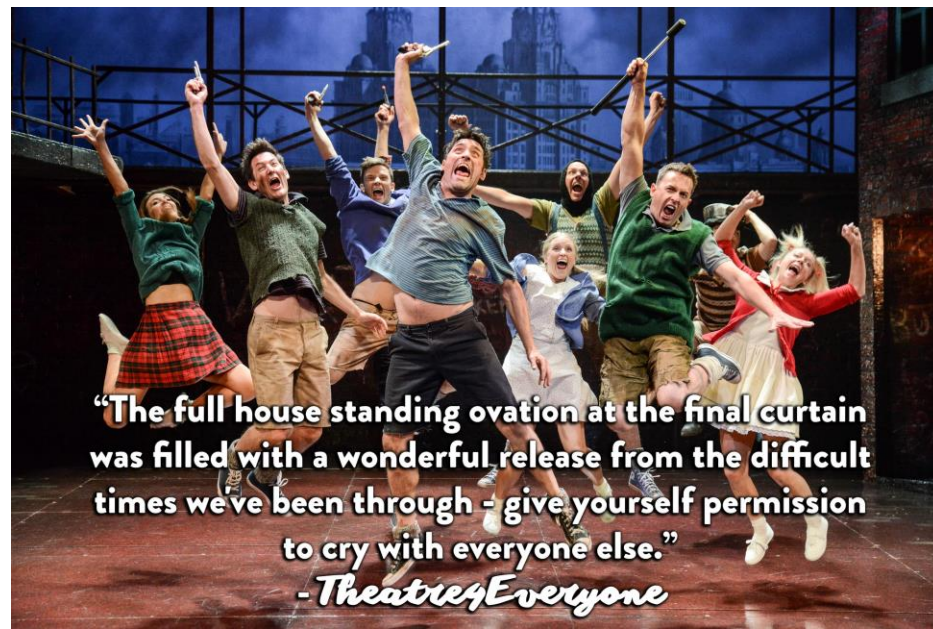
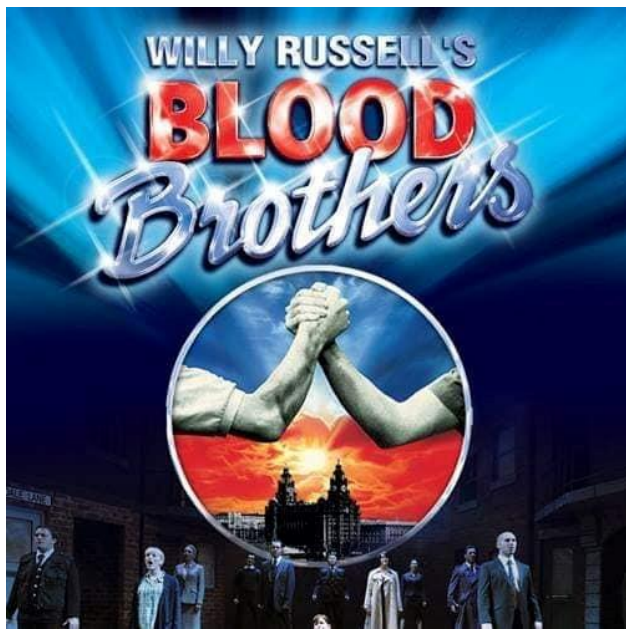


Autumn 2021



Hippodrome Team





Autumn at the Hipp

Autumn at the Hipp



Community Engagement



MAYOR OF DARLINGTON'S CHARITY

reddenORTHGATE

Gala

VARIETY SHOW
7.30PM | HOSTED BY PETER BARRON

FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 2022
DARLINGTON HIPPODROME

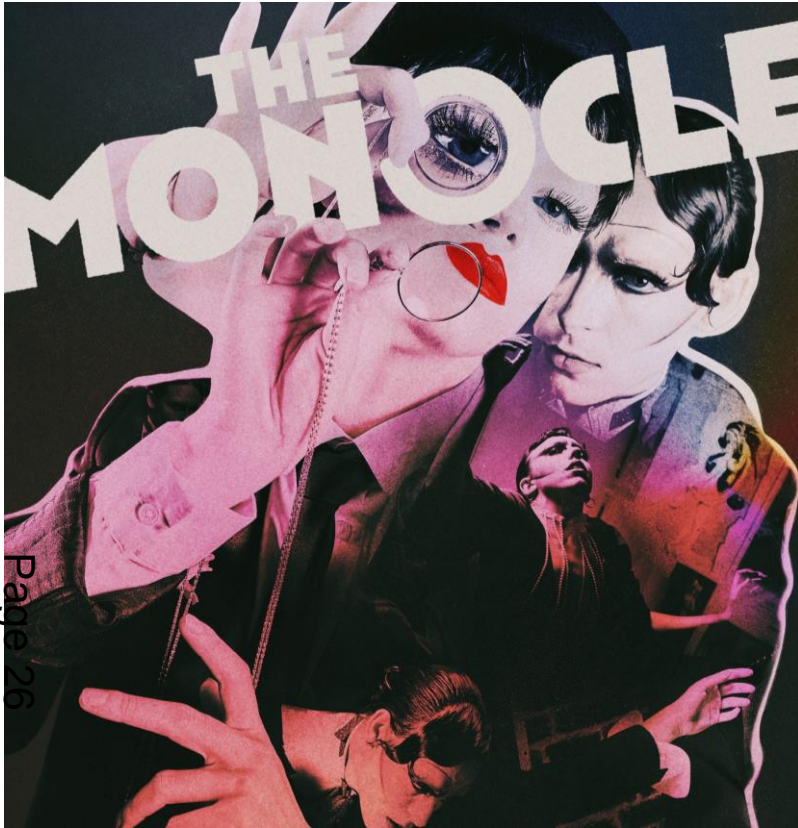
IN SUPPORT OF ST TERESA'S HOSPICE AND DARLINGTON MIND

ACTS INCLUDE: DARLINGTONOS, VOICES OF DARLINGTON, BUBAMARA, MARIA & JAMES, MATT HOSS, RACHEL COAD SCHOOL OF DANCE, DARLINGTON UKELLE SMILE TIME BAND AND ELSA - THE CRUFTS WINNING DANCING DOG!

MORE ACTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

BOOK NOW: WWW.DARLINGTONHIPPODROME.CO.UK





moveUP

Be part of MoveUP 2022, a **FREE** six-month programme dedicated to developing young dancers' choreographic skills.

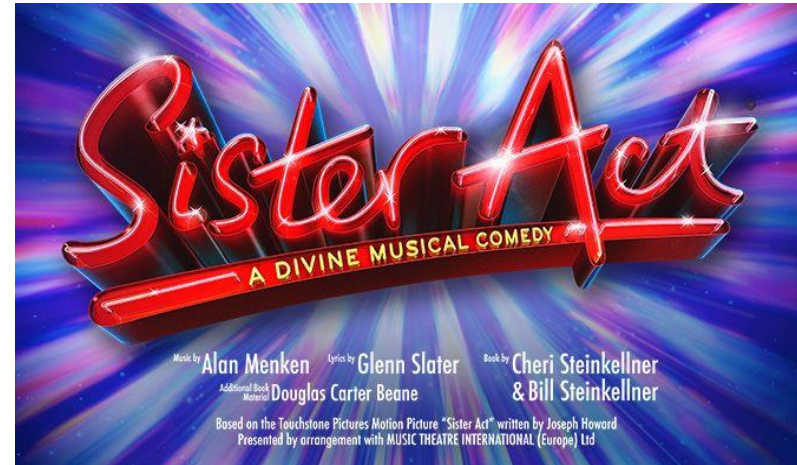
Applications **OPEN NOW** through to 14 January 2022.

Apply today at: <https://bit.ly/MoveUP2022>



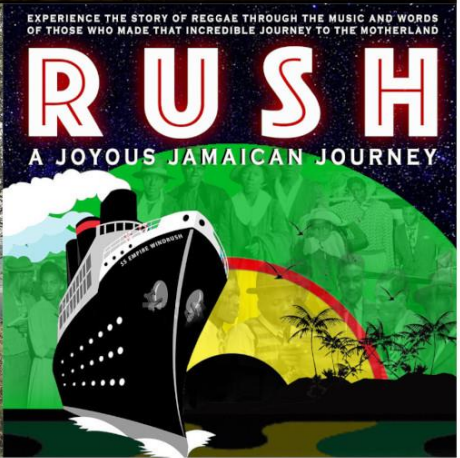
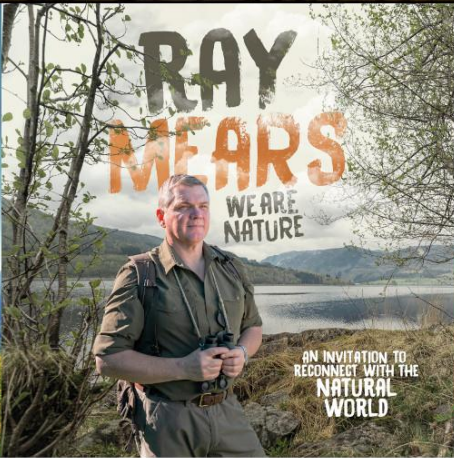
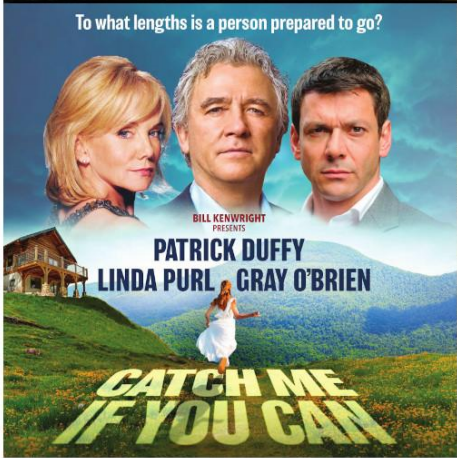
Partnership Working

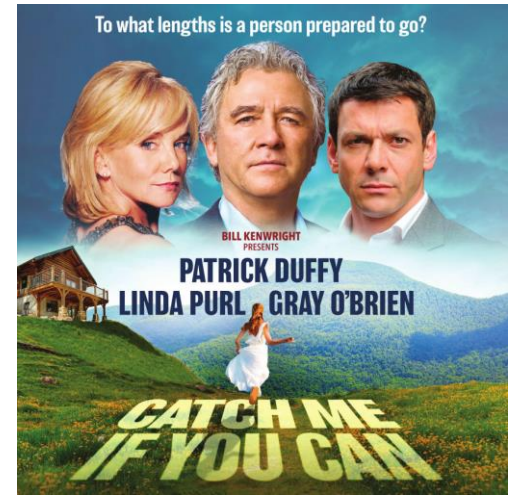
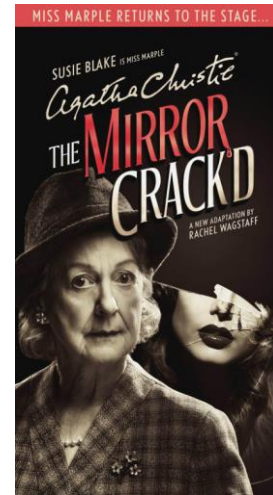
Covid Impacts





Industry Support

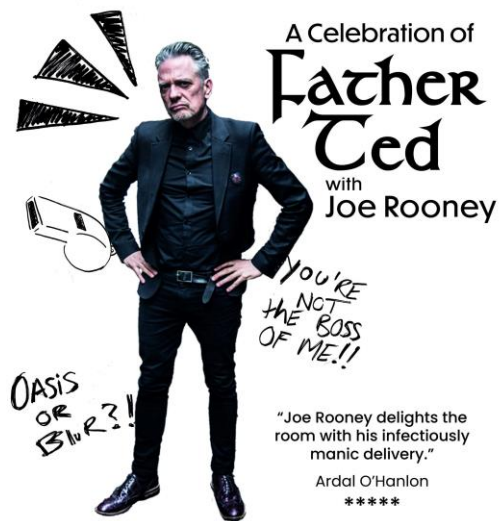




Upcoming Shows

The Hipp @ the Hullabaloo

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Ticket Sales

Recovery period

- Jul / Aug – 20% of normal box office sales
- Sep/Oct – 40% of normal box office sales
- Nov / Dec – 100% of normal box office sales
- Jan / Mar 2022 – 90% of normal box office sales



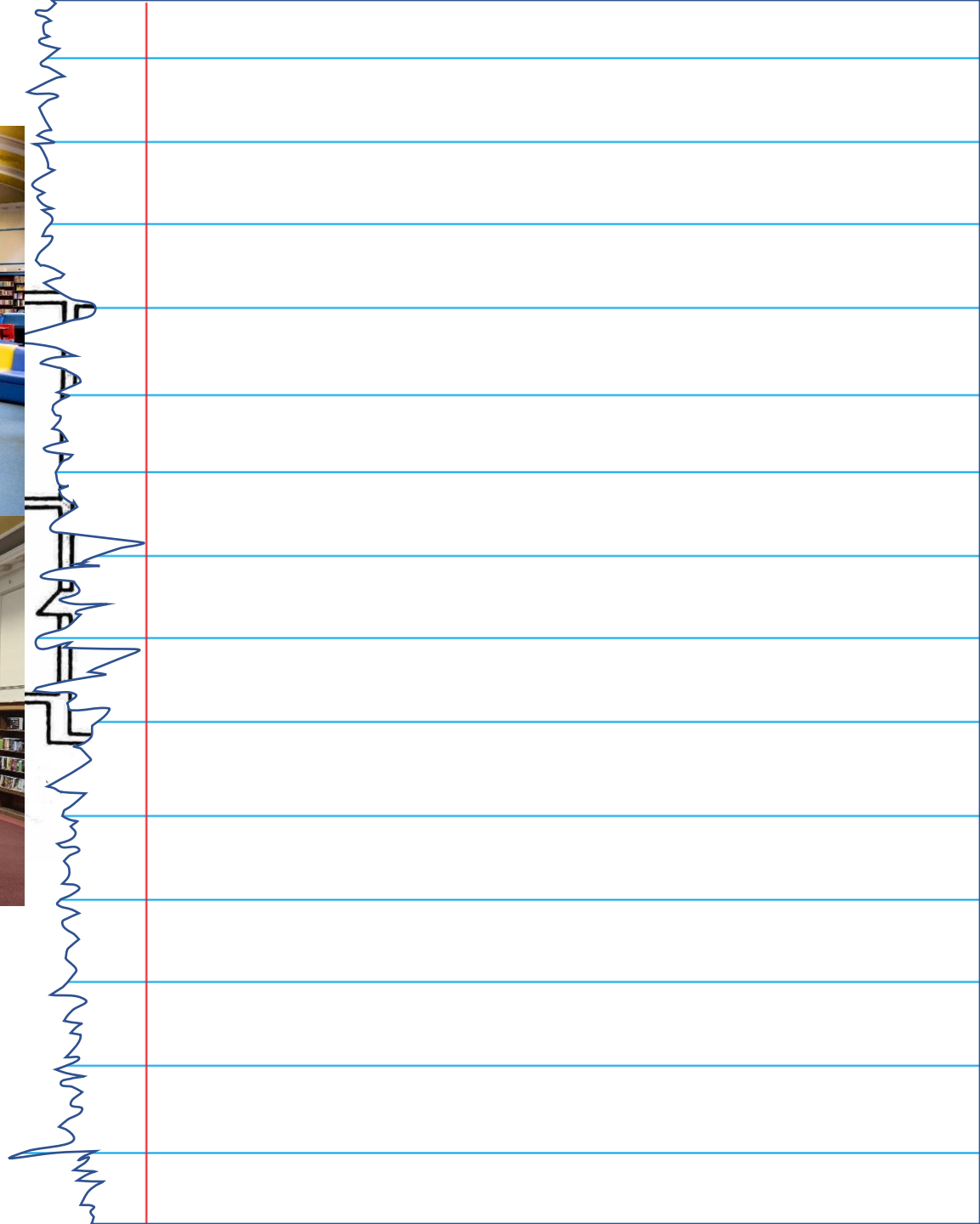
Darlington Libraries

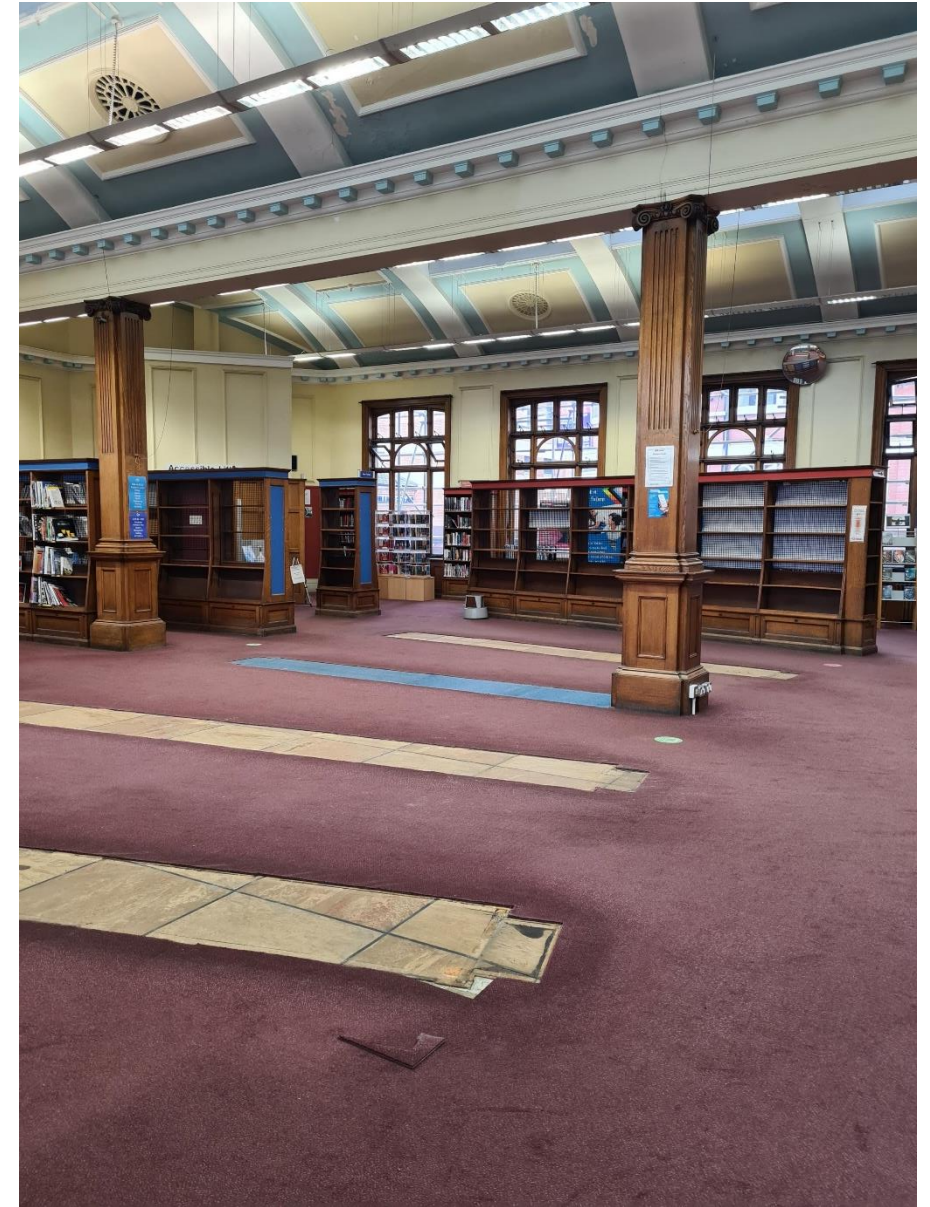
Suzy Hill: Library Manager



DARLINGTON
Borough Council













Internal Photos of the
reception area and
adult lending library



Welcome to
The Word



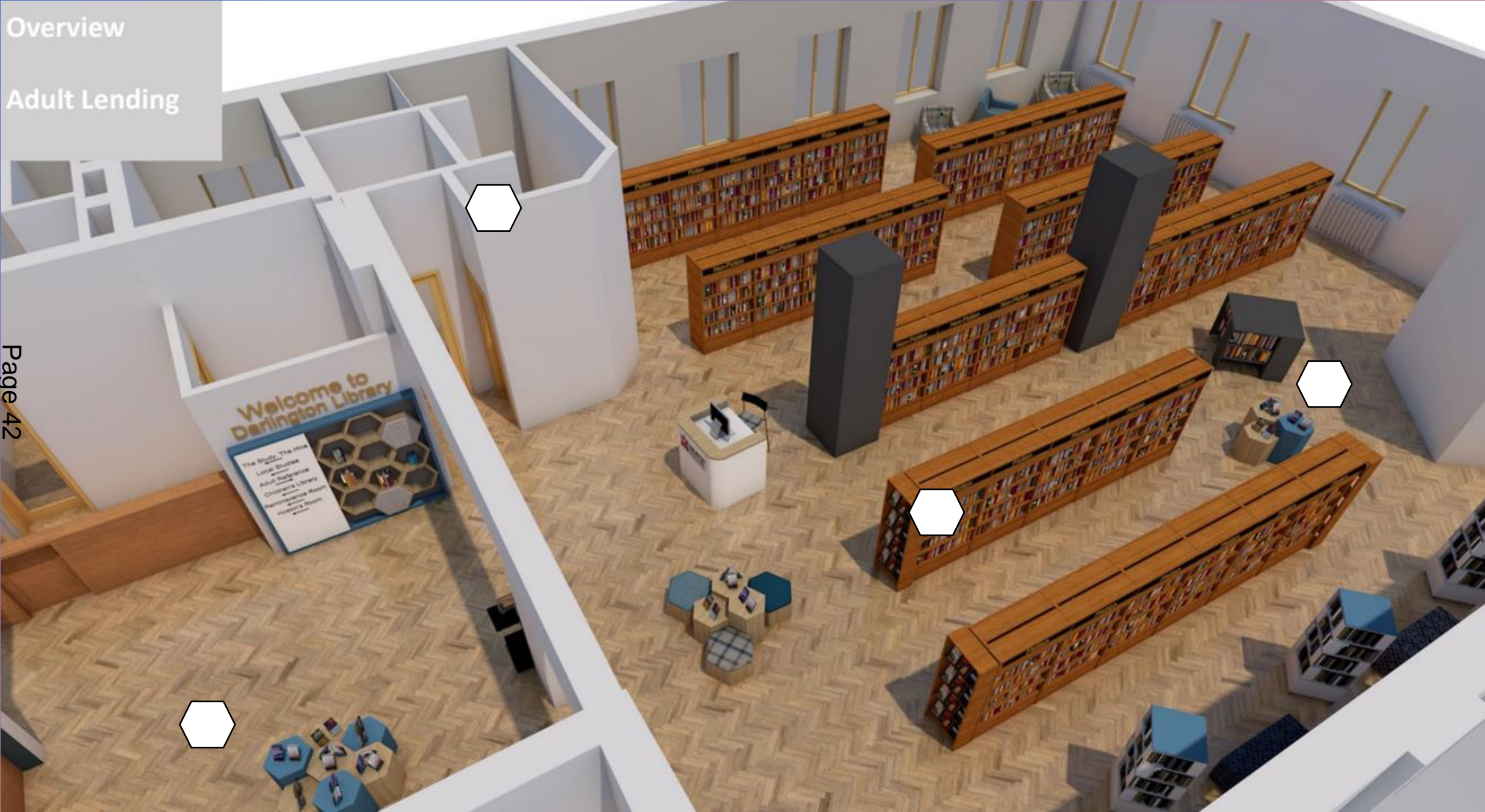
THE EXIT



Overview

Adult Lending

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Operating During Works



**YOUR LIBRARY
YOUR WAY**

Library Home
Delivery Service



Residents of Darlington, aged 60 and over, can request a delivery of books to their home.

The books will be selected based on your reading interests and will be delivered to your home every month.

To enquire about this service please ring the Library on **01325 349610**.

Phone lines are open Monday to Friday.

**Beryl, aged 82
receiving her books
from library team
member, Bob.**





Limited Browsing



**YOUR LIBRARY
YOUR WAY**

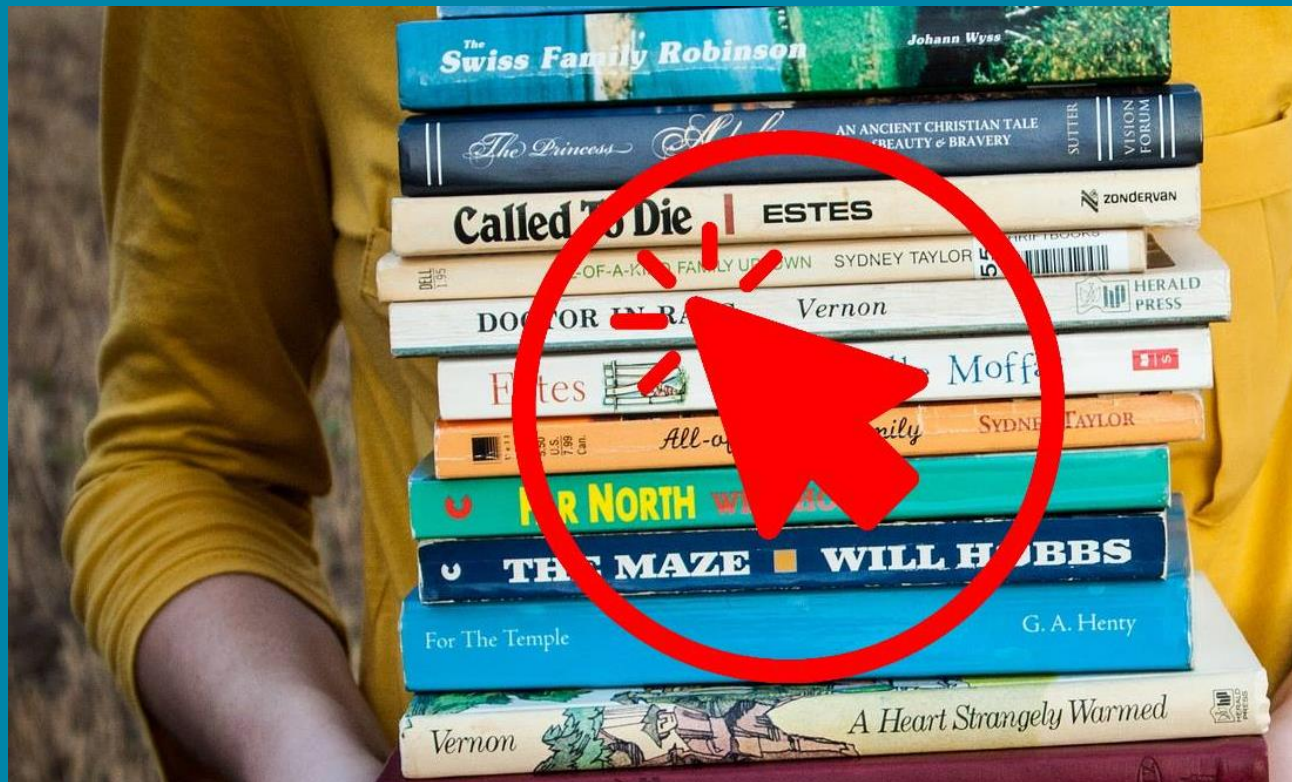
Library App

Darlington Libraries App

Keep up to date with
news and events from
Darlington Libraries.

Search the catalogue
from home and
reserve books at
the click of a button.

Self-manage your
library account and
renew books on our
easy to use, free
Library App





CfLS and Computer Use



A Space for Children's Activities



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

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**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 APRIL 2022**

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2021/22 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the 2021/22 Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee.
3. Any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendation

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

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

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

Author : Hannah Miller 5801

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Wellbeing	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	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 a 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 visions for the Stronger Communities and Local Services portfolios are:-

 'to build Stronger Communities that are resilient, sustainable and safe to ensure everyone has the best opportunities to succeed' and 'a borough that is attractive, green and clean, with a wide variety of activities to be enjoyed, and a transport offer that facilitates efficient movement and reduced carbon emissions in the borough'.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

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

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COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Public Sector Executive Group 6 Month Review	7 April 2022	Seth Pearson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Northgate Initiative	7 April 2022 Last considered 19 August 2021	Seth Pearson		To update Scrutiny Members and undertake any further work if necessary.
Hippodrome	7 April 2022 Last considered 22 April 2021	Ian Thompson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Library Services To include digital offer	7 April 2022 Last considered 19 August 2021 (verbal update)	Ian Thompson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Performance Management and Regulation/ Management of Change Regular Performance Reports to be Programmed End of Year Performance (including Compliments Comments and Complaints)	Year End/Q4 23 June 2022 Q2 15 December 2022	Relevant AD	Full Performance Management Framework suite of indicators.	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Restoration of Locomotion No 1 Replica	23 June 2022	Ian Thompson		To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider prior to Cabinet.
Taxi availability (including wheelchair accessible vehicles)	23 June 2022	Colin Dobson		To scrutinise and monitor.
Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Strategy (to include Bus Services in the Tees Valley)	Last considered 19 August 2021	Dave Winstanley/ Tom Bryant TVCA		To contribute to and influence the Strategy to ensure the best outcomes for residents.
Waste Management (to include Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility)	Last considered 21 October 2021	Ian Thompson		To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider prior to Cabinet.
Rail Heritage Quarter – To include Head of Steam and 2025 Review group also established	Last considered 21 October 2021	Ian Thompson		To contribute to the development of 'Experience Darlington' Strategy.
Bank Top Masterplan	Last considered 9 December 2021	Anthony Hewitt		To influence the Bank Top Masterplan and ensure the best outcomes for Darlington's residents and its economy.
Stronger Communities Fund 6 Month Review	Last considered Special MTFP 6 January 2022	Seth Pearson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Local Transport Plan	Last considered 17 February 2022	Sue Dobson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

REVIEW GROUP

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
School Streets Initiative	<p>Group met on 16 December 2020 and 14 January 2021</p> <p>Report to Scrutiny on 25 February 2021</p> <p>Meeting to be arranged once Quad of aims submitted to establish T&F to review additional measures</p>			<p>To enable Scrutiny members to understand the work to date, input their experience and their perspectives to inform the work going forward.</p>

ALL MEMBER BRIEFINGS

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
CCTV	All Members briefing 6 April 2022	Ian Thompson/ Graham Hall		To update Members and undertake any further work if necessary.
Community Safety	All Members Briefing 6 April 2022	Ian Thompson		To update Members on Community Safety.

ARCHIVED ITEMS

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Playing Pitch and Facilities Strategy	19 August 2021	Ian Thompson		To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider prior to Cabinet.
Back Lanes To include dog fouling and fly tipping	All Members Briefing held on 8 October 2020 Last considered 10 December 2020	Ian Thompson		To update Scrutiny Members and undertake any further work if necessary
Indoor /Outdoor Market	Last considered 22 April 2021	MAM/Mark Ladyman		To update Scrutiny on the development of the Indoor/Outdoor Market.
Darlington Cultural Strategy	17 February 2022	Ian Thompson		To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider prior to Cabinet.
Arriva – Operational Issues	17 February 2022	Kim Purcell		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

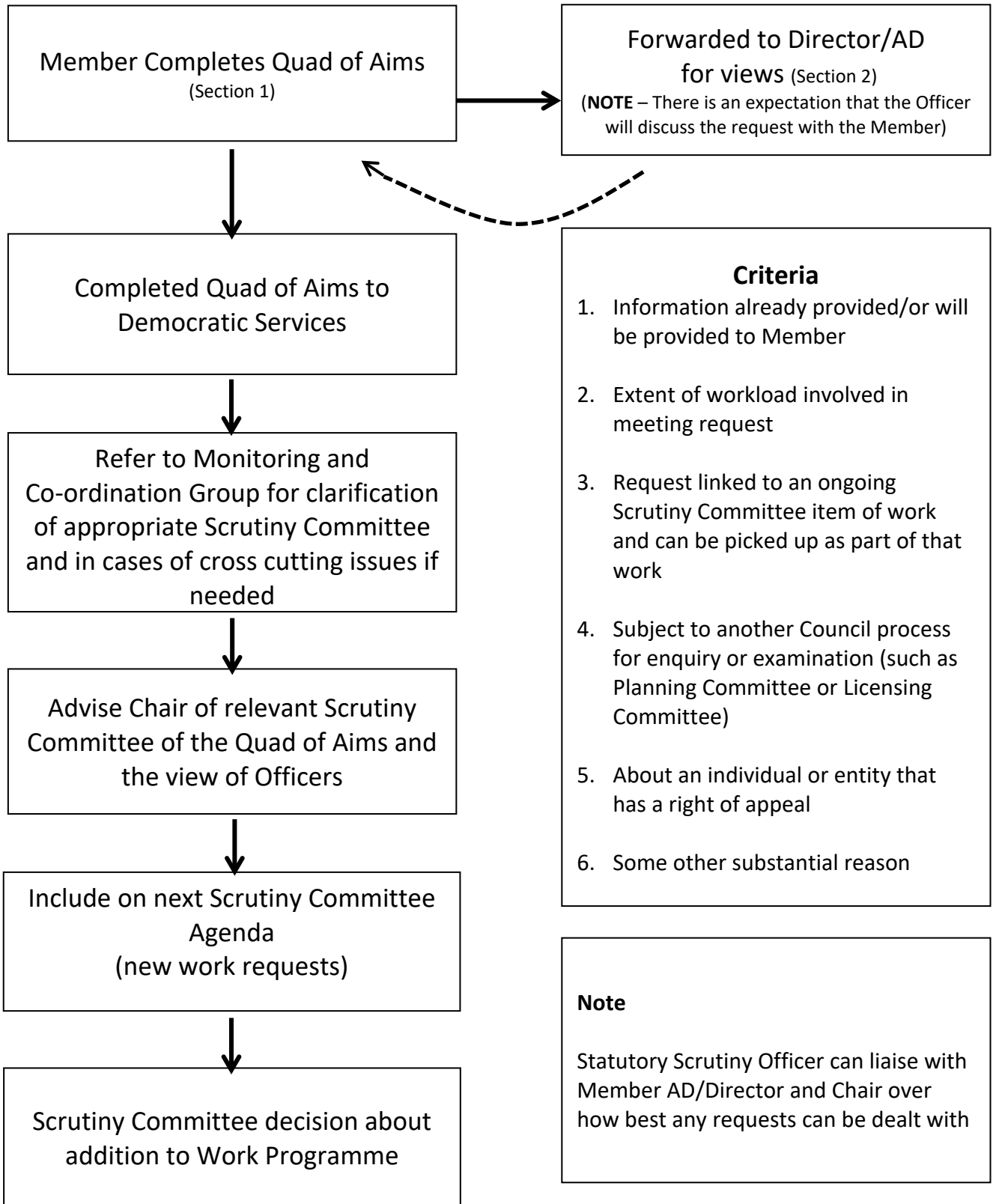
Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Management of Grass Verges	Final report considered 17 February 2022 Update report to scrutiny 21 October 2021 Group met on 9 April 2021			To assist development of a new operational policy in relation to the management of grass verges.
Drug and Alcohol Service Contract	Briefing on 13 July 2021 (Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee)	Ken Ross		To update Scrutiny Members undertake any further work if necessary.
Water Safety	All Members briefing 9 July 2021	Andrew Allison/Steve Owers, Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue		To update Members and undertake any further work if necessary.
Environmental Health	All Members Briefing 19 November 2021	Carol Whelan/ Stephen Todd	ENV 002 ENV 006 ENV 009 ENV 021 ENV 022 ENV 023 REG 803	To gain an understanding of Environmental Health and current and future challenges.

Performance Indicators

DBC Number:	Definition:
CUL 037	Number of shows held at the Hippodrome
CUL 038	Number of individual attendances at theatre shows
CUL 070	Reservations - where an item is reserved from stock or from another library and is supplied within 7 days, shown as a %
CUL 071	Number of visits to the Head of Steam
CUL 078	% of ticket sales for the Hippodrome
CUL 079	% of ticket sales for the Hullabaloo
CUL 100	Number of items borrowed
CUL 101	Physical Stock borrowed from Darlington Library
CUL 102	Physical Stock borrowed from Cockerton Library
CUL 103	Number of physical visits to Darlington Library
CUL 104	Number of physical visits to Cockerton Library
CUL 105	Number of group engagements
CUL 106	Number of group engagements at Darlington Library
CUL 107	Number of group engagements at Cockerton Library
CUL 108	Number of educational interactions
CUL 109	Number of enquires directed to the Centre for Local Studies
ENV 002	Number of Street Champions who are actively involved in litter picking a minimum of once per month
ENV 006	Total number of fly-tips reported
ENV 006a	Total number of large fly-tips reported

ENV006b	Total number of small fly-tips reported
ENV 009	% household waste that is collected that is either reused, recycled or composted
ENV 021	% of small fly tips removed within target time
ENV 022	% of large fly tips removed within target time
ENV 023	Number of prosecutions for fly-tipping
ENV 024	Land Audit Management System - Litter Score
REG 803	Trading Standards : Percentage of high risk inspections carried out
TCP 101	Bus punctuality - percentage of non-frequent bus services running on time
TCP 200	Percentage of principal roads where maintenance should be considered (A class)
TCP 202	Percentage of non principal roads where maintenance should be considered (B and C class)
TCP 203	Percentage of unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered
TCP 600	Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
TCP 601	Number of people slightly injured in road traffic accidents
TCP 602	Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
TCP 603	Number of children slightly injured in road traffic accidents
TCP 900	Overall Public Satisfaction with Public Transport Theme (National Highways and Transport Survey)

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



PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

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

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

Signed Councillor

Date

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

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

Signed **Position** **Date**

PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 2 MARCH 2022 - 31 JULY 2022**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022/26	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Local Transport Plan	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Schedule of Transactions - March	Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPD) Design Code - Burtree Garden Village	Council 12 May 2022 Cabinet 8 Mar 2022
Annual Audit Letter 2020/21	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Annual Procurement Plan 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Disposal of Land at Haughton Road, Darlington	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village Development	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Schedule of Transactions - April	Cabinet 5 Apr 2022
Council Chamber Refurbishment	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Restoration of Locomotion No 1 Replica	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Special Educational Needs (SEND) Accessibility Strategy 2021/24	Cabinet 3 May 2022
Housing Management Policy	Cabinet 14 Jun 2022
Public Space Protection Order – Darlington Town Centre	Cabinet 14 Jun 2022
Representation on Other Bodies 2022/23	Cabinet 14 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	Cabinet 5 Jul 2022

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Outturn 21/22	
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring 2022/23 - Quarter 1	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