



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Council Agenda

6.00pm, Thursday, 12 May 2022

Central Hall, Dolphin Centre, Horsemarket, Darlington. DL1 5RP

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions / Attendance at Meeting.
2. Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of this Council held on 31 March 2022 (Pages 5 - 6)
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Sealing.
5. Announcements.
6. Questions - To answer questions (where appropriate notice has been given from):-
 - (a) The Public;
 - (b) Members to Cabinet/Chairs;
 - (c) Members to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham and Darlington.
7. Council Reports.
8. Cabinet Reports.
 - (a) Overview Report of the Leader of the Council; (Pages 7 - 10)

- (b) Overview Report of the Stronger Communities Portfolio; (Pages 11 - 16)
 - (c) Overview Report of the Adults Portfolio; (Pages 17 - 20)
 - (d) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 21 - 26)
 - (e) Overview Report of the Economy Portfolio; (Pages 27 - 30)
 - (f) Overview Report of the Health and Housing Portfolio; (Pages 31 - 34)
 - (g) Overview Report of the Local Services Portfolio; and (Pages 35 - 36)
 - (h) Overview Report of the Resources Portfolio. (Pages 37 - 40)
9. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-
- (a) Adults Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 41 - 42)
 - (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 43 - 46)
 - (c) Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 47 - 50)
 - (d) Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 51 - 52)
 - (e) Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 53 - 56)
10. Membership Changes - To consider any membership changes to Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies.



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 4 May 2022

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Baldwin, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Holroyd, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lister, Lucas,

Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Paley, Preston, Renton, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Sowerby, Tait, Tostevin, Wallis, Willis and Wright

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Elections Officer, 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
Email: paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk or Telephone 01325 405805

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COUNCIL

Thursday, 31 March 2022

PRESENT – The Deputy Mayor; Councillors Ali, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Cossins, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Curry, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Holroyd, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, M Nicholson, Preston, Renton, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Tostevin, Wallis, Willis and Wright.

APOLOGIES – The Mayor; Councillors Allen, Baldwin, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Crumbie, Donoghue, L Hughes, Lucas, Newall, K Nicholson, Paley, Sowerby and Tait.

ABSENT – Councillor Lister.

68 MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2022 AND 17 FEBRUARY 2022.

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council held on 1 February 2022 and 17 February 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of this Council held on 1 February 2022 and 17 February 2022, be approved as correct records.

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

70 SEALING.

Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

71 ANNOUNCEMENTS.

War in Ukraine - The Deputy Mayor recognised and paid tribute to the efforts of those Members, Members of Staff, the many organisations across the Borough and residents, who had been heavily involved in collecting, packaging and shipping much needed supplies to Ukraine over recent weeks, and highlighted that the Ukrainian flag was being flown as a gesture of our ongoing solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

72 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN FROM):-

73 THE PUBLIC;

There were eight questions, with notice, from Members of the Public, who each received an answer thereon.

74 MEMBERS TO CABINET/CHAIRS;

There were two questions from Members, where notice had been given, for Members of the Cabinet, and who received an answer thereon.

75 MEMBERS TO THE POLICE, CRIME AND VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM AND DARLINGTON.

The Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington attended the meeting, addressed Members and answered questions thereon.

76 COUNCIL REPORTS.

There were no reports to be decided by Council, which had not been considered by Cabinet.

77 CABINET REPORTS.

The Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings. Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

78 SCRUTINY REPORTS - TO CONSIDER SCRUTINY OVERVIEW REPORTS:-

The Scrutiny Committee Chairs each submitted a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings, and responded to any questions thereon.

79 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER BODIES.

There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Strategic Transport

1. Tees Valley Combined Authority have been awarded £310m from the City Regional Sustainable Transport settlement. This is a 5-year investment programme on sustainable transport schemes to improve rail, bus, walking and cycling infrastructure and contribute towards the decarbonisation of transport. The programme is high level series of options and potential schemes that will all require further development and consultation.
2. Tees Valley Combined Authority are the Local Transport Authority, and we are working with them to address the current issues with bus operator performance in the town. Councillor Keir and I have written jointly outlining concerns and seeking improvement.

Climate Change

3. We are working with the Tees Valley Combined Authority on a new Net Zero Strategy for the region. This will be a high level region-wide approach bringing the Tees Valley to net zero by 2050.
4. The Cross Party Working Group had a presentation from Kent County Council on a system developed to gather the financial, social and environmental costs of severe weather events. The system has enabled Kent to make savings and leverage funding and we will be learning lessons from their experience.
5. I am delighted to see that the new Junior Member of the Youth Parliament and the Deputy Junior Member of the Youth Parliament have environmental issues as key parts of their manifestos. We will continue to work closely with the Youth People's Involvement Officer to ensure that young people's voices are heard.

Darlington Economic Campus

6. On the 11 April I attend an event hosted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the progress of the development of the Darlington Economic Campus (DEC) as the recruitment drive hit a major milestone with over 110 Treasury members of staff in post. Alongside the Treasury, DEC will house teams from the Department for International Trade, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Office for National Statistics and the Competition and Markets Authority.
7. The Chancellor also held a Q&A session with Darlington Economic Campus staff, local businesses, stakeholders and students on the positive impacts of the relocation.

8. Chancellor Rishi Sunak later unveiled the two remaining sites for the permanent locations for the Darlington Economic Campus. The two remaining contenders are Brunswick Street and Central Park with the Brunswick Street site as the preferred final location. The Treasury is now in the final stages of the Government Property Agency's (GPA) procurement process.
9. GPA continue to fit out and carry out works on the Feethams Office with the Campus likely to occupy late May/early June.

Towns Fund

10. The Towns Fund Investment Plan continues to progress with works ongoing within the Yard's, together with improvements and enhancements to both the public realm and properties continuing to develop along Skinnergate.
11. Also progressing is the new TLevels facility at Darlington College, which has been out to tender for the works contractor, and the proposed Adult Skills facility, which is to be provided within the newly acquired Northern Echo building in Priestgate. Design and development is now underway for this exciting opportunity, which will lead the way for the future use of the iconic building.
12. Following acceptance by government of our business case summaries, significant capital and revenue funding has now been received for the programme in Darlington, which enables the progression of all nine Towns Fund interventions.
13. Darlington has been selected for participation in the Southampton University *'Feeling Towns Programme'*. This is a project which has a focus on understanding and developing meaningful metrics for 'pride' ("*people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community*"), linked closely with the Towns Fund and levelling up.

2025 Bi-centenary Celebrations

14. The Head of Steam, Darlington's Railway Museum, was the host venue for the launch of an exciting new film project that will play a role in bi centenary celebrations of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. The project tells the incredible story of north east innovation and enterprise and is a partnership between Darlington and Stockton Borough Council's, with support from Barclays and the Northern Echo.
15. Lonely Tower film and media have been commissioned to produce the film, called, 'Iron and Steam - The Dawn of the Stockton and Darlington Railway', which will be ready for premiere by the end of 2023 and play an important role in profiling the 2025 programme of celebration.

Appointments

16. In addition to Councillor Brian Jones, who is the Veterans Champion, Councillor Mike Renton has been appointed as Heritage Ambassador and Councillor Scott Durham has been appointed as Autism Ambassador. These Councillors will work with the relevant community groups to ensure their views are taken into account when decisions are made.

**Councillor Mrs Heather Scott OBE
Leader of the Council Portfolio**

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COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF STRONGER COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

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

Community Safety

Safer Streets Programme

2. Work is ongoing with regards to the three Safer Streets programmes. The majority of Safer Streets 1 is now complete; Safer Streets 2, all the additional cameras have been installed. The Safer Streets 3 project is also progressing which has a focus on violence and intimidation against women and girls in public places. A multi-agency group is progressing the areas of work covering education, engagement, marketing environmental improvements and multi-agency response team.
3. Further Home Office funds have been secured to open a multi-agency hub to support the violence against women and girls' agenda and for other community groups to have access to. Premises have been identified in Skinnergate and DBC Estates are progressing this.

Civic Enforcement Service

Environmental Crime

4. Work in the new areas for the back lanes project is well underway and proving to be a success. Areas will continue to expand in addition to sustaining the pilot lanes.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

5. A youth injunction application will be heard in court in May 2022. The individual concerned has been involved in numerous incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Whinfield area.
6. Public consultation on the Town Centre PSPO concluded on 2 May 2022 and the outcome will be reviewed and a further report will be submitted to Cabinet.
7. A Premises Closure Order case was heard in court on 21 April 2022. The occupants of this address are involved in the drugs trade, causing nuisance and distress for residents.

Parking

8. The schools parking project, which was delayed due to Covid, launched in April 2022. The project involves young people from the school 'policing' some of the parking issues identified. Vehicle registration details will be noted, registered keeper checks will be

undertaken, and warning letters issued. Success of the scheme relies heavily on the engagement from the schools.

Trading Standards

9. Trading Standards carried out 100 per cent of inspections, utilising remote, online and on-site methods, as part of its 2021-22 targeted inspection programme.
10. It is absolutely vital that Trading Standards uses inspections to support local businesses, including the farming community, to comply with the law. Ensuring the playing field is level for businesses who want to do the right thing has never been more important.
11. Inspections were undertaken in the following sectors:
 - (a) Livestock health and welfare
 - (b) Fireworks storage
 - (c) Car trade
 - (d) Self-storage facilities
 - (e) Key local retailers as part of a 'mystery shopping' exercise
12. Trading Standards is part of a well-developed network of services that actively gathers and records intelligence which contributes to local, regional and national strategies. The local community responded well during 2021-22 to requests for information relating to immediate threats, incidents and on-going investigations. Trading Standards is taking this one stage further under 'Trading Standards – Delivering an Effective Service For You', which will see the team engage with the community to help structure priorities for 2022-2023 and beyond.

Private Sector Housing

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

13. Across Darlington, sponsors have registered to host Ukrainian families displaced by the conflict. The Private Sector Housing Team, working together with Refugee Support Officers, have carried out accommodation inspections to confirm that the properties are suitable for guests being welcomed into Darlington. These initial checks have included ensuring that each property proposed is available for at least six months, is free from serious health and safety hazards and suitable for the number of people to be accommodated.

Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES)

14. The Energy Efficiency Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard Compliance and Enforcement funding ended on 31 March 2022. However, the team continue to enforce this legislation beyond this date.

15. As part of the project to improve the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards, Private Sector Housing identified approximately 100 non-compliant properties across Darlington. Many landlords have taken action to comply with the regulations by improving their properties and where landlords have failed to engage, compliance notices have been served. The main aspect of this project was to contact and engage non-compliant residential landlords to ensure compliance with the regulations.

Cost of living

16. Private Sector Housing have been working with Northern PowerGrid and the Green Doctor Team to deliver energy awareness sessions at various hubs around Darlington. The first of these sessions were held in March advising residents in relation to how they can reduce their energy bills, make their homes warmer by being more energy efficient, maximise their income and potentially access grants and other support following the rise in energy costs on 1 April 2022. This partnership will continue throughout 2022.

Community Resilience

Darlington Open Water Safety Group

17. A draft water safety policy and strategy was reviewed by the group and comments and suggestions for changes have now been incorporated into a final version for consideration by COB/COE.
18. Zurich, the Council's insurers, have been provided with open water safety related procedures and policies to review. The outcome of the review is expected at the end of May 2022 and will be considered by the open water safety group, who will then recommend/implement any appropriate actions.

Community Cohesion

19. The Community Safety Partnership Cohesion Group has devised a work plan with key actions and measures of performance. The group is required to implement actions contained within the current Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-2026: Priority 4 Building Strong and Cohesive Communities.
20. The Community Resilience Officer is a member of the Ukrainian Refugee Operational Group, to support and consider the possible impact of the arrival of any Ukrainian individuals and families on community cohesion in Darlington.

PREVENT/CONTEST

21. The Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs) Pilot began on 1 April 2022. The first meeting of the DBC multi-agency 'Protect and Prepare Group' took place on 14 April 2022. DBC has completed a 'maturity matrix' (a benchmark of where DBC currently is) which will be used to monitor progress ahead of future legislative requirements.

22. The new Counter Terrorism Local Profile was agreed by the CONTEST Silver Board and changes have been made to DBC's Local Engagement Plan to reflect the current risks identified.

Licensing

Taxis

23. A review of the current taxi policy is to be undertaken. The trade have raised concerns that the pandemic has caused them financial pressures and would like to seek alterations to the taxi policy. A meeting was scheduled with representatives of the trade which took place at the end of April, with a view to take amendments to the Licensing Committee.
24. Licensing has worked closely with taxi meter providers to implement the new taxi tariff. On 14 April 2022, Officers from Licensing assisted the taxi meter companies to update the meters and a provide for free a new table of fares.
25. The new online automated taxi licensing application system and webpages have been developed further. There has been a further delay from the provider but assurances are in place that applications will go live in June 2022.
26. Extension to the provision of taxi marshals has been agreed until 30 September 2022 for Grange Road Taxi rank, with a view to extend this further if funding is available.

Street Trading

27. A case of an unlicensed street trader, who was given several opportunities to be licensed within the Borough of Darlington, was heard in court on 22 March 2022. The accused failed to attend court and the case was proved in their absence. The outcome was a fine of £440 and the trader was ordered to pay costs of £150 plus a £44 victim surcharge; a total of £634 due to the court.

Licensing Act

28. A review of The George public house took place on 17 March 2022 following interim steps to suspend the premises licence, put in place by the Licensing Committee on 23 February 2022. This was due to an incident of serious disorder prior to a Darlington Football Club match on 12 February 2022 where "risk supporters" were seen inside the premises preparing for a fight with away supporters that took place in Skinnergate, Darlington. Members agreed to re-instate the premises licence, as the licence holder had changed to Admiral Taverns and they had agreed conditions with Durham Constabulary. The premises have now commenced trading.

Crime and Disorder

29.

Darlington	Pre-COVID 01.04.2019- 31.03.2020	01.04.2021- 31.03.2022	% Increase/decrease
Crime	12708	10987	-14
Incidents	34570	30119	-13
ASB	3758	3255	-13

30.

DARLINGTON TOWN CENTRE	Pre-COVID 01.04.2019- 31.03.2020	01.04.2021- 31.03.2022	% Increase/decrease
Crime	1904	1436	-25
Incidents	3435	2546	-26
ASB	528	277	-48

Lead Local Flood Authority

Skerne 2025

31. The Council has received an indicative allocation of £700,000.00 from the Environment Agency. This is for a scheme focussing on environmental improvements in the Skerne from Russel Street up to Skerne Bridge in order to improve habitat quality. We will be developing a scheme in conjunction with the EA throughout the 2022/23 financial year with a view to submitting an outline business case for the funding by the end of the financial year. It is envisaged that the improvements will be carried out from 2023/24 onwards. The works will be complete in time for the 2025 Stockton and Darlington Railway Bicentennial celebrations.

Climate Change

32. The work undertaken by Private Sector Housing not only assists residents with the cost-of-living challenges but is also a positive step to address climate change and the efficiency of private sector housing stock.

Councillor Jonathan Dulston
Stronger Communities Portfolio

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COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Services since the last meeting of Council. The following are some of the areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Services.

Operational Services

2. Adult Social Care teams continue to see high demand this can be related to winter pressures and issues such as sickness and covid. This continues to be proactively managed with Teams and managers working across the system.
3. Absence due to Covid infections continues to present within the ASC teams. We are supporting staff, ensuring that safe systems are in place where staff attend the workplace, We also continue to support staff to work agile from home.
4. RIACT and Reablement and Rapid Response have continued to maintain hospital flow by supporting discharge from hospital and preventing admissions where appropriate. They have continued to ensure there are no delayed discharges from Darlington Memorial and Community Hospitals which is greatly appreciated by system partners.
5. We have 2 young people who have commenced a 6 month placement with Adult Social Care within Holicote. This is part of the kickstart scheme. They are receiving support from Workforce development and colleagues at Holicote in developing skills within social care that should assist in widening future employment opportunities.

Workforce Challenges

6. There has been a number of vacancies within the Adult Contact Team. However, a recruitment campaign is underway and a communication strategy to develop a greater awareness of adult social care services.
7. We continue to develop and implement a recruitment campaign for Adult Social Care. There will be a double-page spread in the May edition of One Darlington. This will focus on the Responsive Integrated Assessment Care Team (RIACT) and Reablement Team, who are responsible for providing short-term intervention for up to six weeks and who work in partnership with health to maximise prevention

It will include information on:

- (a) The team – what do they do, who are they here for, how do people get in touch
- (b) Case study

- (c) Testimonials – quotes from team member(s) / service user(s)
- (d) Photos
- (e) Signpost re recruitment

Commissioning and Contract

8. The Local Government Financial Settlement in December 2021 announced that all local authorities would be required during 2022 to carry out a Fair Cost of Care Exercise and also produce a provisional Market Sustainability Plan. The Fair Cost of Care exercise will cover both older person's residential care and home care and support. A national Toolkit will be available for each of these exercises and guidance will be produced for both the providers of the services and the local authorities who will need to ensure the exercises are completed.
9. The purpose of the exercises is to determine a sustainable fee rate for different care settings. Exercises will need to accurately reflect local costs such as staff pay and travel time, and provide for an appropriate return on capital or return on operations. Local authorities will be expected to publish the exercises.
10. The provisional market sustainability plan will set out the local strategy for the next 3 years (2022 to 2025) – using the cost of care exercise as a key input. The provisional plan will demonstrate the pace at which the local authority intends to move towards a sustainable fee rate, in particular taking account of the impact of the requirement to contract on behalf of self-funders as well as other pressures they have identified. It will also include strategic planning for changes in types of provision in response to local need with other local areas, taking into consideration the role of new models of care (including housing).
11. This will be a significant piece of work that will need resourcing using the allocation received from Government in order to undertake data collection and analysis, costing, consultation, reporting and sign off. It is planned that a Project Team will be established with clear Terms of Reference.
12. Contracts and Commissioning staff continue to support the residential care homes to ensure that they are fully compliant with the current Covid 19 Regulations. Outbreaks in care settings are continuing to occur in line with the recent surge in cases nationally. We continue to monitor this with assistance from colleagues in Public Health.
13. County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group have agreed to provide non-recurrent funding to implement a pilot scheme for an automated telephone system to follow up and monitor the usage of items of community equipment. The CCG have generously agreed that that the pilot scheme will also be extended to cover Darlington residents who are issued with items of equipment from the commissioned service provider.
14. It is anticipated that the pilot will evidence that savings can be made by following up with residents as to whether they still require the items of equipment or whether those no longer used can be returned. Items which are returned will be decontaminated and recycled for future use, thus assisting to manage the expenditure on community equipment.

Climate Change

15. We continue to promote awareness of climate change within the teams.
16. All Adult Social Care Teams have been made aware to direct residents to available energy support services and provide advice and support

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

17. Statutory Safeguarding Partners met in February and March and were provided an overview of the measures in place to address the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda. Partners heard how funding has been secured to make public spaces safer for all through projects to help women and girls (and men) feel safer on the streets in Darlington. Funding will be used to increase the safety of public spaces and support projects in local communities and schools to help raise awareness. Partners agreed it is an impressive menu of investment and every risk faced by women and girls has been considered and Darlington should see a significant impact.

**Councillor Lorraine Tostevin
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults**

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COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

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

Early Intervention and Front Door

2. Training in relation to the approach and work carried out at the Front Door has been completed with 16 Designated Safeguarding Leads, feedback was very positive, previous training has been rolled out to multi-agency partners. Further internal training will be carried out in the next 2-3 months.
3. A new audit programme within CIAT is working well. Team Managers and Advanced Practitioners carry out weekly call and contact audits, findings feed into the overall service wide audit programme. During April 2022 a survey monkey will be sent to all callers to establish their view on the service provided, this will assist in the ongoing improvement journey. Multi-agency audits are also being carried out during April 2022, this will improve the quality of the information shared and will help develop a shared understanding of how best to help and protect children.
4. Harmful Sexual Behaviour practice guidance has been developed with multi-agency partners, this is due to be presented at SLT in April 2022. The guidance will ensure that both the child who has been harmed and the child who has been harmed is considered with a sharp focus on historical childhood experiences; multi-agency information sharing and help and protection that might be needed.

Building Stronger Families Service

5. The Building Stronger Families Service are leading on Early Help Assessments, as well as supporting those led by external partners, there is also support being offered to children and families who are open to social care, offering a seamless service both prior to any intervention to social care and following. The offer includes a range of direct work and targeted and Universal groups with activities across the town, ranging from 0 to 18 years. Health is also engaged and delivering Well Child Clinics from McNay Street hub.
6. Discussions with outreach partners have taken place, with the aim to develop targeted sessions and workshops to meet the need of local communities, for example parenting workshops. The Inspire Program has been a success since launching last summer, and this will now move to different sites around the town to increase availability.
7. The Building Stronger Families Service includes Julie Carter, who is seconded from DWP. Julie offers support to families involved with Early Help Assessments and social care, and can advise on benefits, work, and training. Foundation Housing are also working with the service and are supporting those families with housing issues. We are anticipating some

impact from the fuel crisis and are ready to support families, with McNay Street now holding food parcels to take out to families, relationships with food suppliers across Darlington are in place to assist with this.

8. Following on from learning from the pandemic, all staff will be undertaking some training in use of tools and resources to aid their work with children and young people who have behaviours relating to autism and ADHD. Staff are also completing training in CAPVA to support their work with children and young people who are violent towards parents and carers.

Young People's Engagement and Justice Service

9. Since sharing the School Intervention Menu at the Vulnerable Pupil Panel at the beginning of March 2022 7 schools have made contact requesting help, this has resulted in 5 schools confirming that intervention sessions are taking place over the next few months, there will be a particular focus on emotional management, exploitation and ASB.
10. Victim Support Pathway - the victim group are currently working through their DofE award at a horse academy. This is working very well and the young people are learning new skills while developing in confidence and growing as a team. To date the group have learned how to rug and de-rug, tack and un-track, learnt about different brushes within a grooming kit and what each piece is used for as well as learning how to groom. They have also learnt how to lead and turn a pony without a rider and had a lesson on how to walk, turn, sit, trot and halt their ponies.
11. Out of Court Disposal files are slowly increasing and referrals into the ASB pathway have significantly increased over the past 2 months, this is being managed via group work sessions given and a dedicated staff member delivers this, as well as carrying out their substantive role in the service.

Safeguarding Assessment and Care Planning including Children with Disabilities

12. Following the conclusion of the recent consultation regarding the Life Stages Service review and related structure changes, we are now in a position to confirm that we will progress to implement the structure changes with immediate effect. In practical terms, this will not mean any immediate material change to what have been long standing temporary arrangements.
13. The changes are as follows:
 - (a) The Life Stages Service will be reconfigured to allow a team split into a 0-17 Children's Team and an 18+ Adults Team, each aligned to the relevant service area.
 - (b) Moving forward the teams will be known as Children with Disabilities Team and Adults Learning Disability Team.
 - (c) Both teams will continue to work together to develop best practice for managing and transitioning children's care plans as appropriate.

Looked After and Care Leaver statistics

14. At the end of March 2022 there were:
- (a) 326 children being supported through a child in need plan, which is a slight decrease from 331 at year end 2020/21.
 - (b) 120 children were subject to child protection plans, which is an increase from 87 at year end 2020/21.
 - (c) 273 children in care, 3 of whom are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; this is a very slight decrease from 272 at year end 2020/21.
 - (d) All 127 care leavers between 16 – 25 years have access to a personal advisor for support, advice and guidance.

Looked After Resources including Fostering, Residential, Keeping Families Together and Family Group Conference

15. Fostering and Supported Lodgings – At the end of March 2022 there were 55 mainstream foster carers and 21 fully approved connected foster carers. There were a further 7 temporary approved carers with children in placement, and 10 where children were not placed. Between April 2021 and March 2022 there has been 9 new foster carers approved and 9 deregistration of foster carers.
16. There was one prospective foster carer in Stage 1 of the assessment process and 5 in stage. There were 8 young people with mainstream foster carers in Staying Put arrangements and 2 young people with Independent Fostering Agency carers. There were 7 post SGO carers receiving varying degrees of support, which includes applications to the Adoption Support Fund to secure funding for therapeutic interventions.
17. Work has been ongoing to prepare for the launch of a Mockingbird constellation of foster carers, which aims at developing strong support networks for a group of foster carers, which in turn helps to maintain placement stability for children and young people.
18. We have been developing a series of self-service reports regarding the fostering recruitment process, and in April we will be able to “run” reports which will provide management information to support a focus on improved practice.

Residential Services

19. Eldon Children’s home will be relocating to a new build house within the next 2 months and work has been ongoing to prepare for this, in terms of preparing documents to enable an application to Ofsted for registration, preparation of the staff team and young people, and preparation and furnishing of the premises.
20. When Eldon Children’s home re-locates, work will progress further to re-purpose the Eldon building into “Cedars” our respite and emergency care unit which will be funded for 2 years. One of the exiting residential managers has expressed an interest in managing

Cedars, and there is a recruitment episode underway to backfill this manager's post on a temporary basis.

21. At the end of March, both Gilling and Dunrobin Children's homes had three young people in placement, so were at capacity. There is one vacancy at Eldon, which will be filled by mid-April. This represents the highest level of occupancy for over 5 years.

Keeping Families Together (KFT) and Family Group Conference (FGC)

22. During March, there were KFT requests for 4 families, and there are 10 families awaiting allocation due to capacity. There have been 24 home visits undertaken with 48 children. Direct work has been completed with 31 children and 72 adults
23. In March there were 25 requests for Family Group Conference support. The referrals form is now built into the Liquid Logic pathway, enabling the team to record and collate data in respect of desired outcomes at the point of referral, and whether outcomes are met at the point of closure.

Corporate Parenting Panel

24. Corporate Parenting Panel last met on 15 February 2022, which was an informal meeting.
25. Chris Bell, Assistant Director provided an overview of the restructure within Children's Services. Bronwen Smith is now responsible for Looked After and Through Care Team, and for Corporate Parenting Panel.
26. The panel discussed the following areas:
 - (a) Summary of 2021-22 Quarter 2 Performance Report;
 - (b) Update on the Care Leavers Covenant;
 - (c) Discussion about Care Leaver's Christmas activities;
 - (d) Update on the Mockingbird project;
 - (e) Update on the work ongoing within the service to form a steering group regarding Unaccompanied Asylum- Seeking Children (UASC). Local Authorities are now mandated to provide placements to UASC referred to them which is challenging given the pressures on placement availability.

Education

27. Houghton Academy was inspected on 1st and 2nd February and the school was judged to be 'good'. Ofsted inspectors noted that leaders and staff have high expectations for all pupils and that pupils enjoy going to school. Skerne Park Academy was inspected on 15th and 16th February. The overall effectiveness of the school was judged to 'require improvement', however, personal development and early years provision were judged to be 'good'.

Youth Unemployment

28. The 18-24 year old claimant count for February 2022 stood at 7.8% (570 young people), this is down from a peak of 13.8% (1,005 young people) in March 2021. The Darlington figure is still above the North-East average of 6.2% and the Great Britain average of 5.1%, both of which have also seen improvements. Darlington, jointly with Redcar and Cleveland, has the lowest youth claimant rate in the Tees Valley, where claimant counts range from 7.8% to 9.5%.
29. Young people continue to be supported through a range of local and national employability programmes, including DBC's Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) which runs until 31 July 2023. DWP has a dedicated Job Centre Youth Adviser who is co-located with the YEI team.
30. The economy continues to be buoyant and there are vacancies in a number of sectors. However, some employers are still reporting they are having trouble filling these vacancies.

Children's Commissioning and Contracts

31. On 1 April 2022 two remodelled housing related support contracts went live, these were:
 - (a) The provision of accommodation and outreach support for families, provided by Foundation Housing. The new contract incorporates an incremental increase in the number of properties with designated support for Darlington families from 6 to 12 within the first year of contract delivery. The contract also contains new opportunities for designated support for Kinship Carers in Darlington.
 - (b) The provision of a Positive Support Pathway for young people aged 16-25, provided by Tees Valley YMCA. The new contract includes an additional designated unit of direct access accommodation and the provision of specific outreach support for Care Leavers residing having their first experience of independence in taster flats.
32. The contracts team have been undertaking a programme of contract monitoring visits to external providers of children's residential care services in Darlington. From the visits undertaken to date there have been high levels of contract compliance and evidence of positive outcomes being achieved for young people.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP)

33. Partners were provided an overview of Elective Home Education which highlighted the numbers have gone up, a trend which is being seen nationally with the Pandemic appearing to have accelerated the trend and children being anxious returning to school. Partners were assured of the measures in place to have oversight of these children and relationships with schools is good.

Climate Change

34. Senior Leadership Teams continue to discuss within regular meetings the challenges of climate change and how our services can contribute via change to the overall agenda of

the Council to reduce our impact on Climate Change. A current key focus of this work focuses on our engagement with the Council's agile working pilot scheme. As a service we ensure that through the pilot period we continue to embrace modern ways of working which reduce our carbon footprint including maintaining electronic paperless records, working in an agile way which reduces our use of fuel to travel to and from the office.

Councillor Jon Clarke
Children and Young People Portfolio

COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY PORTFOLIO

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

Planning and Development Management

2. The Planning Enforcement/Compliance Service currently has 83 planning enforcement cases under investigation and 77 cases have been satisfactorily resolved by the Monitoring and Compliance Officer since the beginning of September.
3. Since the beginning of August 2020, 1288 applications have been received of which 49 are categorised as major. 970 decisions have been made in this period, including Committee Decisions, Chairs Delegated and Delegated Decisions.
4. Final negotiations have now concluded regarding the applications at the Railway Quarter with Historic England and other interest groups. Planning permission and Listed Building Consent has now been granted and preliminary work has now commenced.
5. Notices under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act [untidy land and buildings] have been served on a property in Skinnergate and Northgate House.
6. Natural England (NE) together with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUCH) announced on 16 March 2022 that the entire administrative area of Darlington Borough Council is now located within the catchment area of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA). Under the Habitats Regulations, those planning authorities falling within the catchment area must carefully consider the nutrients impacts of any projects, including new development proposals, on habitat sites and whether those impacts may have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site that requires mitigation.
7. This has an immediate impact on all planning applications which relate to all types of overnight accommodation, such as new dwellings, care homes, student accommodation, holiday accommodation etc and impacts all developments for one dwelling upwards. It also affects other applications where development may impact upon water quality, including those seeking to discharge planning conditions relating to foul and surface water drainage for a range of development proposals. This matter will need to be considered as part of the application process before a decision can be made. It is likely to require the submission of further information from developers to enable this matter to be fully assessed and to identify if mitigation is required and how this will be provided. The Council are therefore unable to determine many types of application without full consideration of this matter. Effectively this means a pause on all residential applications. Officers are currently working with the 42 other Authorities within the catchment area to establish a way forward.

Climate Change

8. A replacement Climate Change Officer has been in post since 11 April. This officer replaces the earlier recruitment, who unfortunately left the post.
9. Milestones for the action plan are in place and will be reported to Cabinet on a 6-monthly basis.
10. We are looking at system that will help us identify the carbon footprint of our supply chain. At present, these carbon emissions are not reported as they are extremely difficult to assess. Case studies from other authorities and organisations using the system demonstrate that they have made monetary savings as well as carbon savings.
11. We have been asked by BEIS (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) to be one of 28 pilot studies across the country testing the government's proposed approach for designating heat network zones. These are areas within which heat networks are the lowest cost, low carbon solution for decarbonising heat for an area.

Environmental Health

12. The Environmental Health Section has responded to 1233 requests for service in Quarter 4 2021/2022. The main categories of these requests are:
 - (a) Equalisation of term lengths as far as possible and the start and end of term.
 - (b) Food – 93
 - (c) Licensing – 85
 - (d) Noise – 188
 - (e) Planning Enquiries – 70
 - (f) Refuse – 80
 - (g) Pest – 163
 - (h) Personal Searches – 369
13. Officers within Environmental Health are responsible for inspecting and permitting certain industrial processes within the Borough to control and reduce emissions to air. The Council currently regulates processes which include the coating of engines at Cummins and timber manufacture at Nobia (Magnet). Other processes regulated by the Council include cement batching, mobile crushers, animal feed, petrol filling stations and vehicle resprayers. The frequency of inspection and the annual subsistence charge paid to the Council is determined by risk. Generally, within Darlington businesses are compliant and recently the new boilers installed at Nobia (Magnet) and replacement cremators at Darlington Crematorium have improved emissions.
14. As a result of the pandemic, Food Safety Officers were instructed by Government not to visit premises unless there was a risk to public health, ie in response to concerns raised. This was to limit the spread of infection.
15. As a consequence, as at April 2021 we had in excess of 400 food hygiene inspections which were overdue, some of which would be classed as high or medium risk.

16. The above figure is in addition to those which are due moving forward-approx. 500 for 21/22 and a further 250 for 22/23.
17. Additionally, we had application forms from more than 150 new food businesses, many of which were operating from domestic premises and would also be classed as high or medium risk and some remain un-inspected at the current time.
18. We have implemented a recovery plan in line with Government guidelines to clear this workload, but the timescale for this is two years from introduction **ie to be complete by April 2023**. Steps include:
 - (a) All current premises inspected in accordance with risk category A-E.
 - (b) Triage process in place looking at risk category, overdue date, scale of business.
 - (c) New premises classified as High or Low risk and priority inspected accordingly.
 - (d) Overtime available.
 - (e) Use of Food Hygiene Consultant.
19. Officers can report that the inspection process is progressing well and it is expected that the inspection process will be on track by end of March 2023 as required.

Business Investment

20. As part of the Government covid support, Darlington Council has successfully provided over £3.8million of Additional Restrictions Grants to local businesses, awarding the final payments in early March 2022. These grants have been administered alongside more than £40m of national Government grant schemes throughout the pandemic. The Additional Restrictions Grant is a discretionary grant scheme for businesses from sectors that may have been severely impacted by the pandemic and the restrictions, and that were not supported by mainstream Government grants. A wide range of business sectors have been supported with ARG funding including hair and beauty, childminders, driving instructors, garages, health & fitness, hospitality, photographers, pet care, taxi drivers, event venues and suppliers, hospitality and leisure, gym and fitness, and travel and tourism business.
21. The Council, together with key partners and stakeholders, has submitted an expression of interest for Darlington to become the location for the headquarters for the new Great British Railways. The submission highlighted Darlington as an ambitious place with a diverse and resilient economy grown out of a tradition of technological and entrepreneurial innovation. Bringing GBR to Darlington will offer a range of levelling up opportunities to the town and help the local economy thrive. The current timeline will see an announcement on which areas have been shortlisted for Great British Railways to be made in May 2022, before a non-binding public vote and finally a decision made in summer 2022.
22. Following the nationwide lifting of Covid restrictions, there has been an increasing number of business support and networking events taking place in person, targeted at a wide range of business matters. These events have included the Teesside Expo, North-East Chamber Exchange, and Darlington Business Club. These events provide an opportunity to establish and develop relationships and promote the benefits of Darlington as a business location.

23. The number of business enquiries received continues to rise, as business confidence returns following the lifting of all covid restrictions. The main areas of interest are industrial land availability and town centre retail/leisure space.

Darlington Towns Fund

24. A business case has been completed for each of the nine Towns Fund intervention projects and business case summaries were submitted to Government following agreement by the Towns Board. Three of the summary documents were submitted in July 2021, agreed and initial funding released. The remaining six were submitted at the end of November 2021. Agreement to the six has been received from government and approval given for release of 2021/22 funding, which was released to Darlington Council on 25 February 2022.
25. Further 2022/23 funding of the first three projects will be released to Darlington Council on the 25 April 2022 following satisfactory submission and review of Towns Fund Governance and Performance.
26. The acquired Northern Echo building is progressing with design and commissioning of required surveys. The T Levels project at Darlington College is currently awaiting return of tenders for the works. Skinnergate and the Yards project is progressing with the highway design and the design and delivery of shopfront/property improvements within the area.

Councillor Alan Marshall
Economy Portfolio

COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

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

COVID-19 RESPONSE: Living with Covid-19

2. The government's plan for removing the remaining legal restrictions was communicated in the Living with Covid-19 Plan on 21 February 2022.
3. From 1 April, the Government has removed the current guidance on domestic voluntary COVID-status certification and will no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass
4. People will continue to be advised that there are safer behaviours they can adopt to reduce the risk of infection. Precautions remain particularly important to those who are at higher risk if they catch COVID-19, although due to advances in vaccination and therapeutics, this group is now better protected.

Public Health

5. The authority has been successful as being one of fifty other local authorities who have been awarded additional grant funding from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities to support improvements in the quality and capacity of local drug and alcohol treatment systems over the next 3 years.
6. This grant funding known as the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant, will be used to enhance the existing investments in drug and alcohol treatment through the Public Health Grant to support the improvements in substance misuse services.
7. There are 27 school staff who have signed up for the Darlington School Food Qualification. This is an accredited programme developed by Public Health and Environmental Health for school kitchen staff. It creates and embeds a healthy food culture schools catering offers which will mean all children have access to healthy balanced meals in their school day.
8. The Healthy Early Years awards have been developed by Public Health and Education. These awards are for local nurseries and childminders to enable them to increase healthy eating and physical activity through movement throughout the day. This award has generated a lot of interest in providers and there has already been two providers who have successfully achieved an award. This award will go on to childcare providers family's information and will help parents with their choice about a childcare provider.

9. The Mental Health Prevention Concordat brings partners together to work together on addressing the key issues in Darlington affecting mental health. This will bring partners together to focus on delivering prevention in local communities to and promote good mental health and tackle stigma but also make sure that there is support when it is needed for local communities. Public Health continues to work with partners and the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities regionally to agree how this Concordat will be managed and delivered in Darlington.

Rent Collection

10. During 2021-22, Housing Services collected a total of £25.6 million in rent, which represents 97.5 per cent of the total rent debit. Rent arrears are relative to pre-Covid levels, which is a fantastic achievement for the team given the pressures of the past 2 years. The number of Council tenants receiving Universal Credit continues to increase, despite that, the average amount of rent arrears for tenants receiving Universal Credit continues to reduce.

Health and Safety Compliance

11. From January, we have started to introduce MOT style testing for our annual gas services in our Council properties. This will change the way we carry out our servicing, completing more gas services during the summer months, thereby giving more availability for gas operatives to undertake responsive repairs during winter, where demand traditionally increases. MOT style gas servicing will ensure a property keeps the same anniversary date each year if they have their service completed within 2 months of this date.
12. As part of our 5-year phased plan for electrical checks to be completed on all of our Council properties, we have recently introduced a new process to complete these checks on void properties. Completing checks when properties are empty is easier for our operatives and better for tenants as the checks can be quite intrusive, for example when furniture has to be moved to gain access to electrical sockets.
13. A programme to ensure every Council property is fitted with a carbon monoxide monitor and that these are checked periodically is currently being developed, in line with new Government legislation. However, carbon monoxide monitors are now being fitted as part of the annual gas servicing, periodic electrical checks and as part of our internal planned maintenance programme.

Lifeline Services

14. Lifeline Scheme Managers have recently undertaken training by the Alzheimer's Society to help deliver Games for the Brain training, which helps people living with dementia to stay active. Scheme Managers continue to work closely with the Alzheimer's Society, ensuring that residents, particularly within our extra care schemes are referred into the service.

New Build

15. Work on the Neasham Road new build site will commence shortly, and I am pleased to report that we have been successful in securing £7.35 million of funding from Homes

England, which equates to £49,000 for each property. This is a significant investment from the Government, reflecting the strategic importance of this site in delivering affordable homes to Darlington residents.

Homes for Ukraine

16. The Homes for Ukraine scheme enables individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to provide accommodation to Ukrainians and their immediate family. Currently we have 29 sponsors who have registered as hosts in Darlington and 43 Ukrainian nationals planning to arrive in Darlington who have had their visa applications approved.
17. Contact with the sponsors is being undertaken by our Refugee Support team and property inspections are being carried out by the Private Sector Housing team. In addition, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are being undertaken on the sponsors in preparation for Ukrainian arrivals.
18. The first Ukrainian families started to arrive at the end of April and visits are now being undertaken by our Refugee Support team and by Adults and Children's Social Care staff to provide advice and assistance to families and to undertake the required safeguarding checks. Financial assistance is also being provided to Ukrainian families and sponsors, in line with Government guidance.

Dolphin Centre

19. The Dolphin Centre was delighted to welcome back the annual Mayor's Ball on Friday 22 April 2022, which offered an evening of great food, entertainment and fundraising, and this year included DC Bowl.
20. The Easter holidays offered families the opportunity to participate in family favourites, such as swimming and bowling, and also featured soft play parties and mad hatter tea parties for young children to enjoy.
21. Work is underway to upgrade the digital experience for Dolphin Centre customers to enhance their online experience. This will include an upgrade to the existing software to enable much better access for customers.
22. Staff shortages continue to be a pressure and new recruitment campaigns are being trialled to address the issue, which is being felt by sectors nationally. There has also been some progress made with links with the college and opportunities for students to gain employment at the Dolphin Centre whilst gaining valuable experience during their academic year.

Holiday Activity Fund

23. February half term engaged 190 children attending across various locations across the town.
24. During the Easter holidays, 14 events were held throughout the 2 weeks' holiday; 3 aimed at engaging secondary aged children, 8 aimed at primary aged children and 3 specific

events aimed at families with children with additional needs, with a total of 490 places available.

Tackling Inequalities Funding (Sport England)

25. Decisions are awaited on three applications submitted so far from Skerne Park Community Association (£9,400), Red Balloons Mental Health Support (£9,530) and Darlington Table Tennis Academy (£650). Discussions are ongoing with other charities and voluntary groups to assess whether they meet the criteria to submit an application.

Sheltered Housing Project

26. The Move More team delivered 13 sessions weekly in the sheltered housing schemes, with sessions varying from chair-based exercises to Tai Chi and Carpet Bowls. The majority of residents are aged 60 years plus. In February and March, visits were organised to the schemes from Head of Steam Railway Museum and Darlington College Beauty students.



Councillor Kevin Nicholson
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Housing

COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF LOCAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

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

Climate Change

2. The Tees Valley Combined Authority have been awarded £310m through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. This will deliver a programme of work across the Tees Valley over the next five years with investment in rail, bus, active travel and decarbonisation amongst others. Officers are working with TVCA to develop schemes for Darlington. A high-level programme of areas to be investigated has been identified. These will all be subject to further development and consultation.

Highway Maintenance Programme

3. Highway Maintenance schemes ongoing:
 - (a) A167 Croft Road (Tees View): Carriageway Reconstruction (0.448km)
 - (b) A68 Rotary Way: Carriageway Resurfacing (0.673km)
 - (c) Unc. Lingfield Way: Carriageway Reconstruction (0.225km)
4. Highway Maintenance schemes due to start:
 - (a) Unc. Huntley Street: Carriageway Resurfacing (0.05km)
 - (b) Unc. Hammond Drive: Carriageway Reconstruction (0.144km)
 - (c) C40 Newbiggin Lane: Carriageway Recycling (2.250km)
5. Highway Maintenance Schemes completed:
 - (a) Unc. Clifton Road: Footway Reconstruction (0.432km)

Highway Improvement Schemes**Woodland Road LCWIP**

6. Work on the first phase of the walking and cycling route linking West Park to the town centre via Cockerton continues on Woodland Road. The scheme will provide a segregated cycle lane on each side of the road between the junctions with Hollyhurst Road and Outram Street. Consultation has been carried out on the second phase which will continue the route from Hollyhurst Road junction to the roundabout at Woodland Road/B6279 (Staindrop Road) and the design is currently being reviewed.
7. A Public Inquiry was held on 30 March to consider objections to the proposed changes to Duke Street. The Inspector's report is expected between four and eight weeks after the Inquiry and the outcome will determine the final scheme.

A68 Transport Improvement

8. We received over 200 responses to the consultation on the A68 roundabout improvement schemes. We are currently reviewing all the comments and suggestions and will brief Ward Councillors on the outcome. We will continue to work with residents and businesses.

Head of Steam

9. 'From Steam to Green' opened on 19 March 2022 and explored the sustainability of railways in the past, present and future. The exhibition was created by reusing and recycling as many materials as possible and was decorated with recycled flowers created by children from seven Darlington primary schools and nurseries.

Libraries

10. Darlington Library remains open with limited services from the East Street entrance, where a platform temporary lift has been installed for accessibility. Mechanical and electrical work has begun as well as work to the roof.
11. Arrangements for students studying have tried to be incorporated into the temporary arrangements. Five public PC's have been provided in the temporary library and Local Studies remains open with study space available. We also loan iPads as part of the Council's Lets Do Digital scheme.

Town Centre Partnership and Events

12. Darlington has entered Northumbria in Bloom 2022 and lots of preparation for the judges visits on 27 April 2022 and 20 July 2022 has been programmed. This award showcases Darlington town centre, looking specifically at plants, street furniture and the cleanliness of the town centre, and it involves officers from a variety of departments.

Environmental Services

13. Significant damage was experienced to the tree stock throughout the town during the recent storms and approximately 230 trees were felled during this time. All of these trees have now been attended to and the appropriate remedial work undertaken.

Councillor Andy Keir
Local Services Portfolio

COUNCIL
12 May 2022

OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

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

Capital Projects and Design Services Management

2. The Council's capital programme has a wide range of exciting projects being developed and delivered.
 - (a) Design work is progressing on a number of schemes. The Bank Top Gateway East and West scheme Compulsory Purchase Order proposals are progressing through RIBA Stage 4, and work is still ongoing to try and acquire the remaining land interests by agreement. The Railway Heritage Quarter scheme is due to commence on site 4 May 2022 with some highway restrictions on Bonomi Way. Site work continues on the Hybrid Innovation Centre on Central Park, Central Library, Crematorium and new Chapel development. The demolition of the ex-Sports Direct building on East Street is due to commence 4 April 2022.
 - (b) Business cases continue to be developed to secure additional projects from funding opportunities.
 - (c) The likely site requirements for the Treasury North Campus are being reviewed with the Government Property Agency and is hoped to have a final location decision through shortly.
 - (d) There remains a risk of delay costs from Covid-19 and also possibly a risk from Russia's invasion of Ukraine causing inflation related effects on construction material prices.

Property Asset Management

3. Following the confirmation of the Bank Top Compulsory Purchase Order, proposed acquisitions are being progressed and will continue to be reported to Cabinet in the Schedule of Transactions.

Household Support Fund

4. The Household Support Fund (HSF) was set up in October 2021 to support households in the most need with food and energy bills over the winter months. From October 2021 to March 2022, over £900,000 in food and energy vouchers were distributed to 6,100 households in Darlington.
5. The Government has recently announced an extension to the scheme with a further £913,854 funding available from April 2022 to September 2022. Again, support should primarily be

provided to households with their food and energy bills with at least a third of the funding spent on households with children, whilst at least a third must be spent on pensioners.

- Options for the delivery of the HSF currently being considered include providing food vouchers to families who qualify for free school meals, food vouchers for care leavers and Fuel Bank vouchers. Options to support pensioners who qualify for Council Tax Support are also being considered.

Elections Bill Update

- The legislation is currently being considered in Parliament
- The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, have established an Electoral Integrity Programme (EIP) and a Business Change Team to help support Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and elections staff with the delivery of the changes that will be required. The EIP is working with suppliers on the electoral management software changes needed and a digital team is working on voter ID card production and the on line application process. New burdens funding will be allocated to councils to assist with the initial implementation costs. The Electoral Commission are going to run a national communications campaign on voter identification and they will also be producing resources that local authorities can use.
- Electors will be able to apply for a Voter ID Card in person, by post or online. A Voter ID Card application can also be made at the same time as making an application to register to vote. The applicants electoral registration status will be checked and their identity will also need to be confirmed. These checks will use local data, such as Council Tax Records, but further information can be requested from the applicant if necessary. The government intends to implement automatic checks where possible in order to assist in validating the applicant's identity and speed up the application process for electors. This will operate in a similar way to the Register to Vote service. An elector will be able to request their Voter ID Card be posted to their registered address, or can collect it in person.
- Deadlines for Voter ID Card applications have not yet been finalised, but it is likely to take account of emergencies with the that the last possible point electors can apply for a Voter Card having been suggested as 5pm the day before the poll. If it is not possible to produce Voter Cards in time for a poll, at Temporary Voter ID Cards can be printed as an interim measure. Late applications for Voter ID Cards will increase the pressure on staff working on elections
- Appropriate equipment and facilities to take photographs and print Voter ID Cards will need to be available. Voter ID cards will have security features and the design will be standardised throughout all local authorities.
- A workstream to prepare for the changes arising from the legislation is underway in Democratic Services. A vital part of this is a local communications plan to ensure that the public and are notified of the changes and in particular the need for voters to show photo identification and about how they can obtain voter identity cards if they need one.
- Members will be interested to note that the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011 was repealed on 24 March 2022 by the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022. This

means the dissolution prerogative has been revived - this enables the PM to advise the Monarch to dissolve Parliament (a general election must then be held 25 days after dissolution).

Councillor Scott Durham
Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio

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COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Covid-19 Response

2. We received a verbal update from the Assistant Director – Commissioning, Performance and Transformation on the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically in relation to care providers.
3. It was pleasing to hear that pressures on the care sector were easing, although it was recognised that Covid-19 was still common in society, and Care Homes were still using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and utilising visiting arrangements for relatives. We heard that outbreaks were being managed in conjunction with the Infection Control Team, and that the Spring Booster vaccine was in the process of being rolled out to Care Home residents.
4. We remain conscious of pressures around workforce capacity, however it was reassuring to learn that the Rapid Response Service had been extended until June 2022.

Adult Social Care External Funding Sources

5. The Committee received a report which provided an overview of external funding sources for Adult Social Care Services in 2021/22, however the report excluded core Central Government funding received through the Revenue Support Grant and additional funding secured through the 3% Council Tax precept for Adult Social Care Services.
6. Members were keen to establish the number of people assisted by the Better Care Fund and the Disabled Facilities Grant, were pleased to hear that the Adult Social Care Infection Control funding was spent within required deadlines, and examined whether there were any other funding sources available to assist with the provision of Adult Social Care.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

7. Members received a copy of the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) for the period 2020/21, and the Independent Chair, Ann Baxter, attended our meeting to speak to the report.
8. It was reported that the Local Safeguarding Partnership was required to produce an Annual Report to account for the Partnership's achievements over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area. The report outlined what the Partnership had done over the period 2020/21, drawing

upon a range of data and information to outline the progress made, and illustrate the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements.

9. We welcomed the report, and the opportunity to hear from Ann, and we were pleased to note an emphasis on coercive control, and Members suggested that more should be done to highlight this form of abuse. Members also discussed the number of referrals in terms of Domestic Violence, particularly throughout the pandemic period, and suggested that there may be further delays in reporting. Members were also keen to establish whether the rationale for a joint safeguarding board was being borne out in practice.

Work Programme

10. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

Councillor Bob Donoghue
Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee

COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Performance Indicators Quarter 3 2021/22

2. Children's Services Quarter 3 (Oct 2021 to December 2021) performance information was presented to the December meeting which highlighted the following areas of good practice:
 - (a) 10.8 per cent of the children referred during this quarter had been re-referred to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral which was positively below the internal target of 18 per cent;
 - (b) 100 per cent of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan and 100 per cent of Children in Care (CiC) had an allocated social worker;
 - (c) No child had ceased to be subject to a CP plan who had been subject to the plan for two or more years, and continue to positively perform below the target of five per cent;
 - (d) 92.1 per cent of Initial Child Protection Conferences were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting/Section 47 being initiated during this quarter;
 - (e) The number of Children in Care (CiC) was 271 by the end of December 2021, which was a reduction when compared with the number of children at the end of December 2020 (284) and work continues to safely reduce the number of children coming into care;
 - (f) 100 per cent of Children in Care (CiC) had been allocated a qualified social worker and 98.4 per cent of the reviews had been completed within the required timescales;
 - (g) 89.8 per cent of statutory CiC visits were completed within timescale during Q3 inline with the target of 90 per cent;
 - (h) 10.0 per cent of our Children in Care, as of December 2021, had 3 or more placements within the previous 12 months and performance was positively below the internal target of 10 per cent;
 - (i) 73.5 per cent of Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) had been in their current placement continuously for at least two years, in line with the internal target of 68 per cent;

- (j) 6.1 per cent of Children in Care had been placed 20 or more miles away from home as of December 2021 below the target of 10 per cent;
 - (k) 82.7 per cent of children due a review health assessment year to date had one completed and 80.4 per cent of Children in Care that were due a dental check assessment by December 2021 had had one completed; and
 - (l) 17.6 per cent of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET) at the end of December 2021, which was positively below target of 30 per cent and 100.0 per cent were in suitable accommodation.
3. Areas highlighted for focus were in respect of :
- (a) Social workers completed 80.0 per cent of the C&F assessments within timescale which falls below the target of 90 per cent and is similar to the 85.4 per cent for the same period last year;
 - (b) 67.7 per cent of referrals were screened and completed within 1 day by the end of Q3, below the target of 90 per cent and 7.7 per cent of the referrals took over three days to complete;
 - (c) At the end of December 2021, the percentage of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time within two years of the previous plan ending was 8.0 per cent, above the 6 per cent target, however this was a reduction from 9.8 per cent as at the end of Q2 2021/22; and
 - (d) 82.3 per cent of children received a statutory CP visit within 10 working days during Q3 below the target of 90 per cent.

Vulnerable Pupil Panel Review

- 4. We received a report on the work and impact of the Darlington Vulnerable Pupil Panel, the multi-agency panel of which the Local Authority is a part.
- 5. The Panel was created in 2019 to replace the previous arrangements of the School Behaviour and Attendance Partnership and since its inception has formed a dynamic multi-agency partnership which aims to avoid children disengaging from education due to any cause.
- 6. This Panel has seen a reduction in permanent exclusion and persistence absence has improved above the national figure and for disadvantaged pupils this is now better than the national figure. The work of the Panel has shown a reduction in the gap between all children and vulnerable groups.
- 7. As part of a review Members of this Scrutiny are currently undertaking we met with some members of the Parent Carer Forum on 16 March and discussed issues and concerns and requested that the Forum members provide us with their top priorities.

Work Programme

8. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2021/22, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.
9. Members also discussed the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021/22 which was reported at the Scrutiny meeting held on 21 February 2022 and agreed to examine the finance available to nurseries in the most deprived wards to gain a better understanding and to discuss the best way to investigate this issue going forward.

Councillor Paul Crudass
Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

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COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Public Sector Executive Group

2. Scrutiny received a report informing Members of the work of the Public Sector Executive Group (PSEG), which was formed following agreement at Council on 15 July as one of the arrangements that replaced the Darlington Partnership.
3. The report outlined the membership of the PSEG, which includes a range of senior officers from key public sector bodies and is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive. We noted the key aims of the PSEG, that the PSEG is financially supported by partners and that the group has no decision making authority.
4. We were provided with details of the recent activity of the group which included consideration of social value through procurement, providing comments on the Levelling Up Darlington proposal, and acting as a forum to share issues and pressures resulting from the pandemic and to discuss solutions.
5. We discussed the frequency and attendance for the PSEG and following a question, the Director, Darlington Partnership informed Members that work is progressing to establish the Stronger Communities Board.

The Northgate Initiative

6. We received a report summarising the current position and developments of the Northgate Initiative, a multi-agency programme established in 2019, piloting a range of interventions to improve outcomes for local residents in all areas of wellbeing including economy, education and childhood, health, environment and social relationships.
7. Scrutiny were informed that there have been some measurable improvements over the past 2 years working towards the targets set for 2024 and that as the restrictions of the pandemic were lifted community engagement has been developed through face to face workings.
8. We were provided with details of the workstream achievements to date. We were pleased to note that the Environment Crime Co-ordinator was now in post delivering on a back lanes project with the aim of cleaner waste free back lanes. We also noted that £298,918 has been secured from the Home Office Safer Streets funding to introduce target-hardening and that there has been a five per cent decrease in calls relating to 'concern for safety' for Northgate for March 2021 to February 2022 when compared to the same period in the previous year.

9. Members were informed that the number of empty properties in the ward has decreased from 177 in December 2019 to 150 in March 2022, and the number of properties in the ward with an EPC rating of F or G has decreased from 148 in December 2019 to 84 in December 2021. We also noted that four properties have been bought by the Council as part of the Next Steps projects, these have been renovated and are online as an extension to the current homelessness pathway.
10. We were advised that a Community Information Hub would be located at Corporation Road Primary for service providers to provide drop in style sessions, which would help to improve engagement with residents in the ward.
11. We also noted that a data dashboard has been implemented to help analyse the impact of the Northgate initiative and identify any gaps. We look forward to receiving further updates.

Darlington Hippodrome

12. Scrutiny welcomed a PowerPoint presentation on Darlington Hippodrome, updating Members on the theatre's re-emergence following the easing of Covid restrictions.
13. Members were informed that between March 2020 and Autumn 2021 the theatre applied for and secured £1.7M of funding from the Cultural Recovery Fund which enabled staff to be retained, overheads to be paid and ensured a programme of theatre, cinema and engagement activities was in place in the Autumn of 2021.
14. The presentation made reference to the Hippodrome Team who have ensured that the theatre remains operational and open to the public and we were informed that the response from the public has been unprecedented.
15. We noted the community engagement opportunities and the theatre's charitable fund, A place for everyone, which has enabled 1,128 theatre experiences for young people and community groups, visits by 25 Darlington Schools and has supported students with a bursary place for the Theatre's Contemporary Dance classes.
16. Members were informed of the upcoming shows at the Hippodrome and the Hullabaloo and noted the ticket sales in the recovery period.
17. We discussed in particular the options to address an anticipated reduction in ticket sales as a result of increased living costs, which includes an extension of the 241 offer and a range of ticket prices. A discussion took place on ticket payment options with a focus on being able to spread the cost of a theatre ticket - options like Klarna were discussed. As of yet there isn't an industry standard model of doing this but with the aim of making Darlington's culture offer accessible and affordable to everyone, given financial pressures on households, we remain open minded at looking at different solutions.

Darlington Libraries

18. Scrutiny received a PowerPoint presentation on Darlington Libraries to update Members on the progress of the renovation work.

19. We were informed that the external scaffolding has been erected and work is progressing on the roof. Internal scaffolding has also been erected and work is progressing on the adult and junior lending libraries and the reference library, which includes new lighting, installation of wifi, redecoration, cleaning of glass lights and cleaning and treatment of shelving units.
20. The presentation provided internal photos of the reception area and adult lending library and graphics for the renovated adult lending library and reference library.
21. Members noted that the library is offering a limited service during the work, however most services are being maintained on a smaller scale with popular stock available in a condensed area and a free select and collect service offering access to all stock on request.
22. The Centre for Local Studies remains open and the Art Gallery has been transformed into a space for children's activities. Free deliveries are available people 60 and over and the branch library remains open part time with children's activities taking place outside of opening hours.

Work Programme 2021/22

23. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

Councillor Steven Tait
Chair of Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

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COUNCIL
12 May 2022

OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Young People and the Environment

2. Joanne Shutt, the Young People's Opportunity and Involvement Worker gave a presentation on the work of the Youth Partnership in Darlington, which aims to take forward issues which children and young people from the Borough have identified and campaign about for change to happen.
3. We were advised of the Make your Mark consultation, which is an annual nationwide consultation, which gives all young people aged 11-18, the opportunity to shortlist the topics they feel are the most pressing issues facing young people in the UK, giving them the opportunity to have their say and influence the Government and local decision makers.
4. This national consultation took place during February 2022 and the young people were presented with seven topics which they cared about the most, with the three topics receiving the most votes becoming the campaigns that Members of the Young Parliament will work on throughout their two-year term.
5. Seven schools and the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form and Darlington College from Darlington were involved in this consultation, with 3,477 votes being cast and it is pleasing to note that, in Darlington, the environment came third out of these seven topics. Health and Well-Being and education and learning being first and second.
6. The presentation covered some of the environmental projects which are currently being undertaken in schools and it was interesting to note that three young people from Darlington are also taking part in a virtual meeting in June 2022, with young people from Mulheim, one of the Council's twin towns, to discuss various topics, one of which being the environment and climate change

Towns Fund

7. Our second presentation by Mark Ladyman, the Assistant Director Economic Growth, gave us an update on the projects within the Towns Fund.
8. To date, the Council has received £8,757,500 capital funding from the Government to fund projects to revitalise and improve the Town with £341, 029 revenue funding. A business case for each of the nine Towns Fund intervention projects has been completed with a business case summary for each one submitted to Government, following agreement by

the Towns Board.

9. All of the submitted business cases have now been approved by Government which has enabled initial funding to be released. As part of this, work is progressing with the design and commissioning of the required design and surveys for the acquired Northern Echo building, the Skinnergate and the Yard project is progressing with public realm improvement proposals and the design and delivery of shopfront/property improvements within the area and the T Levels project working alongside Darlington College is progressing.
10. We were also given an update on the progress against the further six projects within the programme which included the Rail Heritage Quarter, Bank Top, Linear Park, North Road and Northgate House, Edward Pease House and Victoria Road.

Councillor Mike Renton
Chair Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

County Durham and Darlington Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation and Recovery Services - Re provision of Primrose Lodge, Chester le Street Inpatient Service Update

2. We welcomed a report from the Director of Mental Health and Learning Disability, Durham Tees Valley Partnership and the Director of Operations County Durham and Darlington, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust updating Members of the outcome of the further targeted engagement to support the proposal to relocate Primary Lodge Inpatient Rehabilitation and Recovery unit from Chester le Street to Shildon.
3. Members were provided with details of the key factors for the change and the targeted engagement plan which included a briefing document and bespoke surveys for service users, families, carers and referring organisations. We also noted that two forums were held to explain the proposal further and seek direct feedback.
4. We noted the survey responses as detailed in the report and that overall there was a high level of rated support for the proposal. The average rating for the proposal was 3.9, with 5 being fully support the proposal, with recognition and support of the importance of an improved environment of the Shildon unit and the ability of the staff to continue to support service users recovery. We acknowledged the concerns identified through the engagement process regarding the bed reduction from 15 to eight beds, but were assured that this would be safely and effectively managed through a phased bed reduction.
5. Members of this Scrutiny Committee support the proposal and relocation of the inpatient rehabilitation service to Shildon.

Care Quality Commission Update

6. We also received an update from the Care Group Director for Adult Mental Health services, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust on the work undertaken by the Trust following the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections of the Adult Mental Health (AMH) and Psychiatric Intensive Care Units (PICU) in January and May and visits to CAMHS, Forensic, Community Adult Mental Health and the Crisis Team in June 2021.
7. Scrutiny were informed that following the inspection, work was undertaken across the organisation, including community services, to improve systems and processes to safely assess and mitigate patient risk. This included all key risk information for patients being contained in one place and a range of quality assurance measures. We noted that a further visit was expected in the coming months.

8. We questioned staffing levels and were informed that significant work had been undertaken to address staffing levels and noted the range of incentives that were in place to recruit staff. We also highlighted concerns regarding CAMHS and were advised by the Care Group Director for Adult Mental of the actions in place, including a Keeping In Touch process for those on a waiting list and improved mental health support in schools, including online resources.
9. We look forward to receiving an update on CAMHS at a future meeting.

Accident and Emergency Wait Times

10. Scrutiny received a presentation from the Director of Performance, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust updating Members on Accident and Emergency (A&E) wait times.
11. Reference was made to the A&E four hour standard, Members were informed that following the peak of the winter pressure period, performance had been improving throughout March and there had been no 12 hour trolley waits during March.
12. The presentation outlined the new Emergency Department (ED) measures and we were informed that there had been a reduction in patients waiting more than 12 hours in Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) ED, with a decreased from 9.3 a per cent in January to 5.5 per cent in March and overall in March, 72 per cent of patients had been assessed within 15 minutes of arrival.
13. Scrutiny were advised that a key area of focus was ED and ambulance handover. Reference was made to the range of improvement actions in place, including dedicated clinical and management support for the ED to enhance the quality and safety of the services, recruitment of junior doctors and increased bed base. We also noted the rag ratings for the improvement actions.
14. Members questioned the impact of pressures in other regional ED's on Darlington and were informed that a Local Delivery Board was in place to monitor A&E performance and work was being undertaken by the ICB to ensure the right infrastructure was in the right place.
15. Discussion also ensued regarding the timeline for the additional wards in Durham and Darlington and triage and discharge pathways.

Drug and Alcohol Service Contract – We Are With You

16. We received presentation from the Contracts Manager and Executive Director of Services, We Are With You, updating Members on the Darlington drug and alcohol service that they deliver under contract on behalf of the authority.
17. The presentation gave a service overview, detailing the three key components which were clinical support, treatment and care and abstinence, recovery and wellbeing and the priorities of the service were outlined. Reference was made to the challenges associated with the delivery site and to the need for partnership working was highlighted.

18. We raised concern regarding the perceived lack of work by the new service. The Executive Director of Services acknowledged the need for improved communication with the local authority and stakeholders to ensure the work being delivered by the service was evident and that they were working to deliver an improvement plan agreed with the authority.
19. We also discussed the location of the delivery site; access for vulnerable residents and following a question, Members were assured that there was no waiting list to access the service.
20. Scrutiny were informed of a dual diagnosis pathway with TEWV and this would be extended to include Darlington and Members were reminded of the outreach work of the ACCESS Team who are employed by the authority.

Housing Management Policy

21. Scrutiny received a report, requesting that Members give consideration to the draft Housing Management Policy prior to its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 14 June 2022.
22. Members were informed that Darlington Borough Council provides over 5,300 high quality homes for local residents and that to enable the Council to manage these properties effectively, rental and service charge income from Council tenants need to be maximised to ensure comprehensive range of good quality housing management and support services is provided to tenants. The Housing Management Policy sets out how the Council will do this.
23. We noted that the housing management policy is divided into two main sections; Income Management, which details how the Council collects rent and service charges and recover arrears and debts from current and former Council tenants; and Tenancy Management, which details how the Council manages its properties and how decisions are made by the Council across a range of issues.
24. The Tenants Panel have been consulted on the draft policy in March 2022 and overall the Panel support the proposed Housing Management Policy. Reference was made to examples of the Panel's comments.
25. Members of this Scrutiny Committee support the onward submission of the draft Housing Management Policy to Cabinet.

Work Programme

26. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and possible review topics. The work programme is a rolling programme and items can be added as necessary.

Councillor Ian Bell
Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

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