



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00 am

Thursday, 22 June 2023

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Appointment of Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24
3. Appointment of Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24
4. Declarations of Interest
5. To consider the times of meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24 on the dates agreed in the Calendar of Meetings by Cabinet at Minute C258/Feb/23
6. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny held on 9 February 2023 (Pages 3 - 6)
7. Work Programme –
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance
(Pages 7 - 20)
8. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at the meeting.

9. Questions

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

Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 14 June 2023

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Keir, Mahmud, McGill, M Nicholson, Mrs H Scott and Snedker

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Hannah Miller, Democratic 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: hannah.miller@darlington.gov.uk or telephone 01325 405801

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 February 2023

PRESENT – Councillors Tait (Chair), Mrs Culley, Donoghue, McCollom and Willis

APOLOGIES – Councillors Allen, Cossins, Haszeldine, Mrs D Jones and Wallis

ABSENT – Councillor Bell

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Renton and Keir

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Anthony Hewitt (Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects), Seth Pearson (Partnership Director), Andrew Casey (Head of Highway Network Management), Gill Hutchinson (Transport Planning Manager), Neil Bowerbank (Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

CLS37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CLS38 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON :-

(1) 15 DECEMBER 2022

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 15 December, 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 15 December, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

CLS39 12 JANUARY 2023

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 12 January, 2023.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 12 January, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

CLS40 NORTHGATE INITIATIVE

The Member with Portfolio for Stronger Communities provided a verbal update on the Northgate Initiative, and in doing so advised Members that a planning meeting was held to discuss the future of the initiative, the objectives were reviewed and refreshed and a work programme developed.

Following a question, the Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder informed Members that the issues being addressed were long term and therefore short term timescales could not be assigned. Any exit strategy that the steering group determined would be a long way in the

future, however learning would be disseminated for implementation in other Wards.

Members entered into a discussion regarding resources for the initiative; Members were advised that no specific funding had been received for the Northgate Initiative, however funding had been allocated from other initiatives such as Safer Streets; and reference was made to the community hub which was due to open imminently.

Members felt that further updates were required in relation to benchmarking and progress against the objectives.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

CLS41 PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVES GROUP

The Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) informing Members about the work of the Public Sector Executives Group (PSEG).

It was reported that the PSEG was formed as one of the arrangements to replace the Darlington Partnership, following agreement by Council on 15 July; that the group included senior officers from key public sector bodies; and the key aims and membership of the group was outlined.

Details were provided of recent activity of the group, including sharing information with agencies in relation to cost of living and supporting the development of the Levelling Up Darlington Plan. Particular reference was made to the role of the PSEG in the Household Support programme.

Discussion ensued regarding meeting attendance; the difference between the PSEG and the Darlington Partnership was outlined; and following a question Members were informed that an update could be provided to Scrutiny on the newly established voluntary sector engagement group.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

CLS42 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Assistant Director – Transport and Capital Projects submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with an annual update on highways and transport from a regional and local perspective, outlining delivery, performance and public satisfaction in 2022/23 and outlining the 2023/24 programme, including the release of funding; and providing an update on the Darlington Transport Plan.

The submitted report stated that there had been good progress on the development and delivery of the transport capital programme; the Tees Valley had secured significant funding from government, including the £310m City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme; and that the Council had adopted a new Transport Strategy for the Borough, Town Centre Transport Plan and Parking Strategy, with work underway on implementing the associated action plans.

It was reported that the Department for Transport (DfT) was focussed on progressing the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) and the Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP); Darlington had started the delivery of one of two priority schemes in the LCWIP with the creation of phase one of a cycling route on Woodland Road; and Members were informed that an Enhanced Bus Partnership had been created to deliver improvements to bus services.

Reference was made to the progress on the schemes delivered in 2022/23, the Transport Capital Programme 2023/24 and proposed programme of schemes, and the Performance Indicators.

Discussion ensued regarding cycle path usage; maintenance of structures; and following ongoing concern regarding bus services, Members were informed of the Tees Valley Combined Authority improvement plan to address bus punctuality. Members were also provided with a progress update on the School Streets Initiative.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

CLS43 DBC MOBILE APP - UPDATE

The Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with an update regarding the development of the DBC mobile app.

The submitted report stated that the DBC app, which was launched in November 2021, remained in a constant state of development; and information about the functionality and planned developments for the app was available on the Council's website.

It was reported that the reporting functions available within the DBC app were determined by the functionality available within two main back office systems (Lagan and Symology); the reporting features for Lagan and Symology were outlined; that the Council's online services must remain compliant with the prevailing web accessibility standards; and as the two systems function in slight different ways there can, on occasion, be a conflict between design, usability, and accessibility.

Members were informed that an established programme of work was in place to enhance mobile working processes within the street cleansing section of the council and to introduce some new reporting functions, with a focus on the bin/dog bin reporting feature; and that prerequisite work was required to determine how people would report the location of the bins.

Discussion ensued regarding different mechanisms to enable residents to identify and report full bins via the app; and following issues raised in relation to feedback from the app, Members were advised of the long term aim for feedback to be generated for all problems reported.

RESOLVED – That the content of the report be noted.

CLS44 WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest be included in the previously approved work programme.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted.

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 JUNE 2023**

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2023/24 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

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

Recommendation

4. Members are requested to consider and approve the attached draft work programme as the agreed work programme for the Municipal year 2023/24 and consider any additional items which they might wish to include.

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

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

Author : Hannah Miller 5801

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

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The Council Plan 2020-23 sets the vision and strategic direction for the Council, with its overarching focus being 'Delivering success for Darlington'.
6. In approving the Council Plan, Members agreed to a vision for Darlington which is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.
7. As part of that Plan, the visions for the Stronger Communities and Local Services portfolios are:-

 'to build Stronger Communities that are resilient, sustainable and safe to ensure everyone has the best opportunities to succeed' and 'a borough that is attractive, green and clean, with a wide variety of activities to be enjoyed, and a transport offer that facilitates efficient movement and reduced carbon emissions in the borough'.
8. It is intended to commence work on developing a new Council Plan later in 2023.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

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

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COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

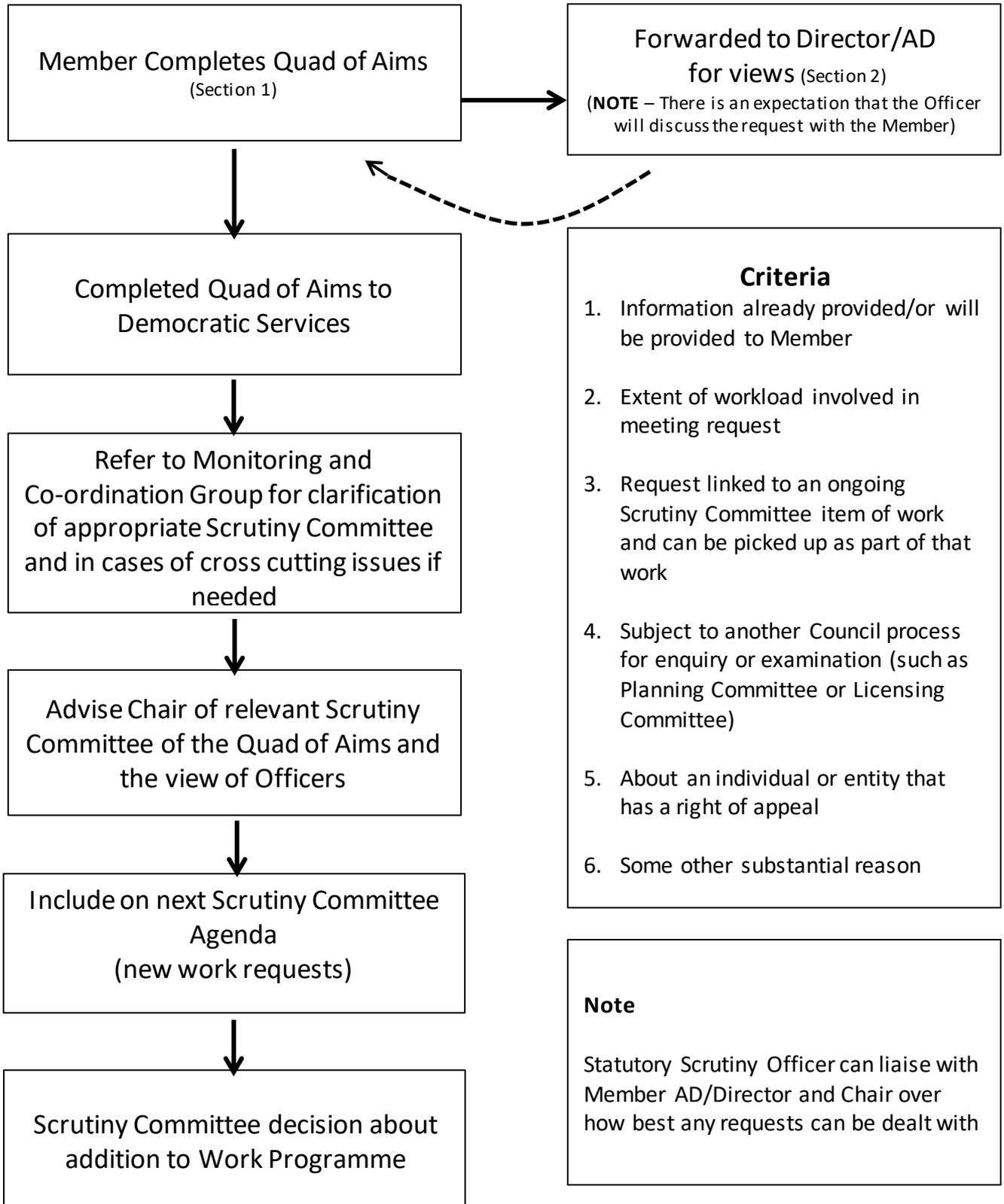
Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management and Regulation/ Management of Change Regular Performance Reports to be Programmed End of Year Performance (including Compliments Comments and Complaints)	11 January 2024 Year End 24 August 2023	Relevant AD	Full Performance Management Framework suite of indicators.	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan for 2023/24	24 August 2023	Ian Thompson		To update Scrutiny Members.
Public Space Protection Order – Darlington Town Centre	To be agreed Last considered 9 June 2022	Ian Thompson		To update Scrutiny Members and undertake any further work if necessary.
Camera Replacement Programme	To be agreed Last considered 15 December 2022	Ian Thompson		To update Scrutiny Members.
Stronger Communities Fund Update	To be agreed	Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder		To update Scrutiny Members.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Strategy (to include Bus Services in the Tees Valley)	To be agreed Last considered 19 August 2021	Anthony Hewitt		To contribute to and influence the Strategy to ensure the best outcomes for residents.
Library Services (Library Plan)	To be agreed Last considered 15 December 2022	Ian Thompson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Hippodrome	To be agreed Last considered 7 April 2022	Ian Thompson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Waste Management (to include Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility)	To be agreed Last considered 21 October 2021	Ian Thompson		To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider prior to Cabinet.
Taxi availability (including wheelchair accessible vehicles)	To be agreed Last considered 27 October 2022	Colin Dobson		To scrutinise and monitor.
Bank Top Masterplan (Presentation)	To be agreed Last considered 27 October 2022	Anthony Hewitt		To influence the Bank Top Masterplan and ensure the best outcomes for Darlington's residents and its economy.
Rail Heritage Quarter– To include Head of Steam and 2025 Review group also established	To be agreed Last considered 15 December 2022	Ian Thompson		To contribute to the development of 'Experience Darlington' Strategy.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Open Spaces Groups	To be agreed Last considered 15 December 2022	Brian Graham		To update Scrutiny Members and undertake any further work if necessary.
Northgate Initiative	To be agreed Last considered 9 February 2023	Seth Pearson		To update Scrutiny Members and undertake any further work if necessary.
Local Transport Plan	To be agreed Last considered 9 February 2023	Andy Casey/ Anthony Hewitt		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Public Sector Executive Group 6 Month Review	To be agreed Last considered 9 February 2023	Seth Pearson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

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



PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

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

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

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Signed Councillor

Date

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

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

Signed **Position** **Date**

PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 1 JUNE 2023 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Adaptation Plan	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Ingenium Parc - Proposed Development of Plot 1	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Introduction of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Representation on Outside Bodies 2023/24	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Schedule of Transactions	Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Skerningham Garden Village Design Code Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Council 20 Jul 2023 Cabinet 13 Jun 2023
Annual Audit Letter 2020/21	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2022-23	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Council Plan 2020/23 Performance Report - Quarter 4	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
House Building - Proposed Joint Venture	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Premises at Brignall Moor Crescent, Darlington - Proposed long lease extension	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2022/23	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Renewal of Dog Public Space Protection Order	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Revenue Budget Outturn 2022/23	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023
Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 4 Jul 2023

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Asset Management Plan	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter One 2023/24	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter One	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
School Term Dates 2025/26	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023
Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 10 Oct 2023