



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00 am

Thursday, 24 August 2023

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny held on 22 June 2023 (Pages 3 - 4)
4. Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan for 2023/2024 –
Report of the Group Director of Services
(Pages 5 - 44)
5. Consultation on Renewal of Dog Public Space Protection Order –
Report of the Group Director of Services
(Pages 45 - 60)
6. Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2022/23 –
Report of the Assistant Director – Community Services and Assistant Director – Highways
and Capital Projects
(Pages 61 - 100)

7. Stronger Communities Fund –
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance
(Pages 101 - 120)
8. Work Programme –
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance
(Pages 121 - 170)
9. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are
of an urgent nature and can be discussed at the meeting.
10. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 16 August 2023

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Coe, Cossins, Mrs Culley, Garner, Keir, Mahmud, McGill, M Nicholson, Snedker and Walters

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, 22 June 2023

PRESENT – Councillors , Coe, Cossins, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Mahmud, McGill, M Nicholson, Mrs Scott and Snedker

APOLOGIES – Councillor Keir,

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Anthony Hewitt (Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects), Brian Graham (Head of Environmental Services) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

CLS1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

RESOLVED – That Councillor McGill be appointed Chair of this Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

CLS2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

RESOLVED – That Councillor Coe be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

CLS3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CLS4 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

RESOLVED – That the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee in the 2023/24 Municipal Year be held at 10.00am on the dates, as agreed on the calendar of meetings by Cabinet at Minute C258/Feb/23.

CLS5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2023

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 9 February 2023.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 9 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

CLS6 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 for the

Municipal Year 2023/24 and to consider any additional areas to be included.

A discussion was held in respect of the current items on the work programme and a number of new items were proposed; these included Tree Strategy, Climate Change, Street Scene and Private Sector Housing Landlords. Members agreed to the removal of the items 'Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Strategy' and 'Bank Top Masterplan'.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 AUGUST 2023**

DARLINGTON CULTURAL STRATEGY ACTION PLAN FOR 2023/2024

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update members on progress delivering the priorities in the Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 and the 2022/23 Action Plan.
2. For members to consider the Action Plan for 2023/24.

Summary

3. Within Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 (Appendix 1) there is a commitment to submit annual Action Plans for consideration by Scrutiny Members. This report presents a summary of progress for 2022/23 alongside the Action Plan for 2023/24.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that:
 - (a) Members note the update on progress on the 2022/23 Action Plan
 - (b) Members consider the Action Plan for 2023/24.

**Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services**

Background Papers

Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026

Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan delivery for 2022 to 2023 and Action Plan for 2023 to 2024

Stephen Wiper: 07970184533

S17 Crime and Disorder	Cultural activities can have a positive impact on crime and disorder by engaging individuals in positive activity.
Health and Wellbeing	Culture can have a positive impact on Health and Wellbeing.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	This report has no significant impact on Carbon Impact and Climate Change.
Diversity	One of the priorities within Darlington's Cultural Strategy 2022–2026 is for Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture.
Wards Affected	Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 covers all wards in Darlington Borough.
Groups Affected	Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 is focused on the population of Darlington Borough, and also considers those working in, visiting or considering establishing or relocating business within Darlington Borough.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no impact on the budget or policy framework. Various Darlington Borough Council budgets support or deliver programmes which contribute to Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026, including Darlington Hippodrome, Heritage & Culture Fund (Creative Darlington), the Library Service, Museums Service, Town Centre Partnership and Events Service.
Key Decision	This report is not a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision.
Council Plan	Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 has set out how the Council will deliver its cultural ambitions.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's efficiency agenda.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2026 and associated Action Plan for 2023/24 considers cultural access for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Cultural services routinely work with colleagues in Children's Services to support Looked After Children and Care Leavers access to cultural provision through the Holiday Activities and Food programme, the In2 programme and programmes involving the Virtual School.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 was approved in 2022/23 and is attached at **Appendix 1**. The strategy was informed by research, including the Darlington Arts Enquiry report in 2011, development work since that date and discussion with stakeholders including Arts Council England, Tees Valley Combined Authority and the Creative Darlington board.
6. The main drivers for Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 are to focus our cultural vision and assist advocacy and fundraising to take forward cultural priorities within the timespan of the document.
7. The strategy uses a definition of Culture as set out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport which covers the following areas:
 - (a) Arts (including visual arts, literature, music, theatre and dance)
 - (b) Architecture
 - (c) Crafts
 - (d) Creative Industries
 - (e) Design
 - (f) Heritage
 - (g) Historic Environment
 - (h) Museums and Galleries
 - (i) Libraries
 - (j) Archives
 - (k) Film
 - (l) Broadcasting and Media
8. The vision of Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 is that Darlington will be a place in 2026 and beyond where culture enriches lives, involves people and is central to identity and prosperity.
9. The five priorities which Darlington Cultural Strategy seeks to address between 2022 and 2026 are:
 - (a) To creatively celebrate Darlington's contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway.
 - (b) For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth.
 - (c) For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people.
 - (d) For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre.

- (e) For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages.
10. Numerous council services and partners contribute to taking the vision and these priorities forward, including Darlington Hippodrome, the Heritage and Culture Fund (Creative Darlington) budget, the Library Service, the Museums Service, Town Centre Partnership and Events Service alongside additional services for adults (e.g. The Community Arts Project) and children (e.g. The Virtual School's longstanding support for cultural engagement), as do programmes which the Council contributes to and/or manages (e.g. Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone).
 11. The majority of cultural provision delivered or supported by the Council contributes to council priorities of economic and/or social concerns including place promotion, community cohesion, education and well-being, and the Council frequently works in partnership with different enterprises, groups and organisations to take things forward. Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 clarifies our priorities and is helpful in identifying opportunities for joint working with other agencies.
 12. Within Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 a commitment was made to present detailed annual Action Plans to Members on an annual basis, and to share annual reports on progress.
 13. Attached at **Appendix 2**, is an update on progress on the 2022/23 Action Plan and the Action Plan for 2023 to 2024.
 14. Considerable progress was made in 2022/23 in addressing particular priorities:
 - (a) Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone securing funds for community programmes;
 - (b) a diverse programme of Town Centre events and festivals delivered;
 - (c) In2 Project;
 - (d) the Holiday Activities Programme and our Virtual School supporting cultural opportunities for children and young people in the borough;
 - (e) a significant increase in annual investment alongside a place in Arts Council England's National Portfolio from 2023-2026 negotiated in 2022/23.

Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026



Darlington Cultural Strategy

2022-2026

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Section 1

Darlington, People, Place and Culture

1.1 Introduction

Darlington is known for many things including its railway heritage, connectivity, a fantastic theatre offer and as a distinctive and attractive town with a strong market tradition. It is an ingenious and welcoming place where commercial, industrial, scientific and social innovations have been nurtured and supported.

Darlington is located within County Durham for ceremonial purposes and Darlington Borough Council was established as a unitary authority on 1 April 1997 as the administrative authority. Tees Valley Combined Authority was established in 2016 to further the sustainable and inclusive growth of the economy of the Tees Valley and their remit includes Darlington.

Looking to the future, Darlington Borough Council recognises economic growth as its priority in delivering a long-term vision for the borough and the importance of working alongside Tees Valley Combined Authority to support economic growth. Darlington Borough Council aims to provide the opportunity for everyone to access a good job and a good home and is committed to maximising the potential of young people, working with communities and supporting the most vulnerable in the borough, so people can play their part in Darlington's success.

Darlington is bordered by County Durham to the north and west, Stockton-on-Tees to the east and North Yorkshire to the south, along the line of the River Tees. The borough includes a number of villages and settlements. This Cultural Strategy is informed by dialogue with local people and reflects Darlington Borough Council's recognition of the importance of economic growth within the Delivering Success for Darlington Council Plan to 2023.

Darlington's Cultural Strategy takes note of the vision and drivers of national strategies, including Arts Council England's Let's Create strategy to 2030, the North East Cultural Partnership's Case for Culture strategy to 2030 and the priorities of the Tees Valley Combined Authority, as befits an outward looking place. It recognises the importance of the contributions made by people from the private, public and voluntary sectors to Darlington's current cultural offer and their potential to further develop Darlington as a Creative Place.

Within Let's Create, Arts Council England advise they will *'focus a large part of our development role on ensuring that children and young people are able to fulfil their creative potential, and access the highest-quality cultural experiences where they live, where they go to school and where they spend their free time.'*

Darlington's Cultural Strategy to 2026 is informed by our longstanding engagement with agencies including Durham Music Service and Theatre Hullabaloo, who have secured national recognition for their work with children and young people. We plan to continue to work with these partners and to learn from Darlington Hippodrome's In2 programme to ensure that children, young people, their families and the adults in their lives have opportunities to experience Darlington as a creative place.

Our Cultural Strategy for 2022 to 2026 is focused on maximising the social and economic benefits which culture can bring to people across Darlington Borough, including residents, visitors, those working and investing in Darlington. It considers the fantastic opportunities Darlington has via investment through the Towns Fund, through the expected upgrade of Darlington Station, the Rail Heritage Quarter and celebrations in 2025 of the bicentenary of the birth of the modern passenger railway marking the momentous journey of Locomotion No. 1 on the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825.

1.2 What is culture and why does it matter?

This strategy uses a definition of Culture as set out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport which covers the following areas:

- arts (including visual arts, literature, music, theatre and dance)
- architecture
- crafts
- creative industries
- design
- heritage
- historic environment
- museums and galleries
- libraries
- archives
- film
- broadcasting and media

We recognise this definition of Culture does not include Sports and Leisure, which are considered in other strategies covering Darlington and will support ongoing dialogue between both sectors.

Recently published national research shows the value of culture to the UK economy, and that while the arts and culture industry receives public funding it makes a significant contribution to the exchequer through VAT, corporation tax, income tax and national insurance and is highly productive. There are direct economic contributions made by the sector alongside the indirect impact (demand supported through supply-chain purchases) and the induced impact (demand supported through the wider spending of employees).

In 2018, the arts and culture industry supported £64bn of turnover, £29bn of GVA, 461,000 FTE jobs and £16bn of employee compensation in the UK economy.

The Contribution of the arts and culture industry to the UK economy report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research for Arts Council England, May 2020

Culture plays an important role in making Darlington a vibrant place, it adds life and energy to the borough, helps define Darlington as place and provides opportunities for people to explore their own potential, enjoy themselves, work together and to explore and enrich the world.

Culture should be seen as not only the commissioning of arts and the production of events, but also as a tool; that builds upon the heritage of the area; that builds a shared vision and identity for the area that is steeped in history and has a wealth of cultural assets; that builds the local economy particularly in the context of tourism and creative industries; that improves the local quality of life and encourages engagement in community activities; and that provides new ways of tackling challenges around health and well-being.

Local Government Association: Cultural Strategy in a box

1.3 Current Assets

Culture harnesses, nurtures and shares the talents of the people involved, bringing economic and social benefits to places. The Forum Music Studios is a major cultural asset in Darlington, which attracts visitors alongside highly acclaimed artists and has launched and supported many musical careers through the facilities and services it provides whilst housing activities that bring people together. As a Community Benefit Society, they have contributed to the growth of the UK Music Industry and create a first-class music experience at a grassroots level that inspires people of all ages and demographics to engage with music through participation in a range of social, education, enterprise or entertainment activities. Since they began trading as a social enterprise in 2010, they advise they have introduced over three million pounds into the local economy, over half a million of which has been grant funding from bodies including National Lottery providers and local funding and donations, whilst generating income through the provision of services, activities and reinvesting into the cultural economy of Darlington.

Darlington for Culture currently promote and support culture through advocacy and initiatives including Darlington Cultural Volunteers, their Small Grants programme and network. They came into being in late 2010 and became established as a co-operative in 2011. Members include representatives from arts and community groups from across the borough, and networks and organisations including Darlington for Culture play a significant part in advocating for culture and making things happen.

‘Darlington for Culture has become an important organisation through its ability to provide a network through which the arts can be promoted, supporting Creative Darlington.’

On With the Show, Supporting Local Arts & Culture, Dr Claire Mansfield, New Local Government Network

Going forward to 2025 and beyond we recognise the importance of bringing together voluntary, public and private sector parties, including Darlington for Culture, to make Darlington Borough the best creative place it can be.

Many people, organisations and enterprises animate our cultural offer. Those involved include actors, architects, archivists, artists, broadcasters, crafts people, ceramicists, choreographers, comedians, creatives, curators, dancers, designers, directors, filmmakers, librarians, musicians, performers, poets, photographers, producers, readers, singers, technicians, writers, not forgetting audience members, participants and volunteers, the list goes on. A selection of Darlington's current cultural assets in terms of buildings, resources and events is shown below.

Museums and Galleries

- The Head of Steam railway museum
- Crown Street Art Gallery in Darlington Library

Theatres

- Darlington Hippodrome
- The Hullabaloo
- The Majestic

Cinemas

- Odeon Luxe
- Vue Cinema

Heritage

- Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter
- Darlington Market
- A section of the Stockton & Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone
- Tees Cottage Pumping Station
- There are 20 archaeological sites within the borough registered as Scheduled Monuments

Libraries

- Darlington Library
- Cockerton Library

Music Venues

- The Forum Music Studios

Parks and Green Spaces

- 16 parks (including South Park)
- 10 nature reserves

Festivals and Events

- (In 2025) the bicentenary of the 1825 passenger journey on the Stockton & Darlington Railway
- Darlington Arts Festival
- Darlington Community Carnival
- Darlington Food Festival
- Darlington Pride
- Darlington R 'n' B Festival
- Last Train Home and Mish Mash music festivals

Visual Arts

- The Bridge Centre for Visual Arts
- Gallerina

1.4 Cultural highlights from 2016 to 2021



There have been many highlights in Darlington's cultural offer in recent years including:

- The opening of the Vue cinema in Darlington in 2016
- The Bridge Centre for Visual Arts secured charitable status, focusing on the connections between art and health (particularly mental health)
- The restoration and reopening of Darlington Hippodrome in 2017
- The opening of The Hullabaloo, home of Theatre Hullabaloo, in 2018
- Stockton & Darlington Railway declared a Heritage Action Zone in 2018
- The Enjoy Darlington campaign launched, and a cohesive Town Centre events programme promoted
- Commercial concerts promoted successfully at The Darlington Arena
- Refurbishment of the Odeon Luxe cinema in Darlington
- Darlington Borough Council allocating capital to refurbish Darlington Library

- Darlington securing Purple Flag status in 2020 and the Town’s nightlife deemed one of the safest in the North-East
- Tees Valley Combined Authority allocating budget to create a Rail Heritage Quarter in Darlington which is expected to become a significant visitor attraction in Tees Valley by 2025
- Darlington securing £22.3 million in 2020 through the Town’s Fund to support regeneration schemes in Darlington including the acquisition of key properties on Northgate, to protect heritage assets within the Rail Heritage Quarter, including supporting the creation of a 26-mile walking and cycling route along the track-bed of the original Stockton and Darlington Railway
- The re-opening of Cockerton Library following a refurbishment programme and Darlington Library refurbishment underway in 2021/22
- Support secured for sector recovery and adaptation during the Covid 19 pandemic



Darlington secured Purple Flag status in 2020



Cockerton Library reopened in 2021



Restoration of Darlington Library underway in 2022

1.5 Impact of the pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has inevitably impacted on Darlington’s culture and the lives of those providing services or employed in the cultural sector. The pandemic necessitated temporary closure of cultural venues and facilities and either cancellation or postponement of cultural programme. Government announced the largest ever one-off investment in UK Culture of £1.57 billion. Several Darlington residents secured support through Arts Council England’s Emergency Funds and The Forum Music Centre and Darlington Hippodrome secured support from Arts Council England’s Culture Recovery Programme.

North East Culture Partnership commissioned research to assess the regional impact of the pandemic on the sector, which has helped to identify prevailing issues. Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen announced the establishment of a new, independent and sector-led Task Force to advise on the development and delivery of a £1million Recovery Programme for the Visitor Economy and Cultural Industries sectors through Tees Valley Combined Authority in June 2020, and a number of programmes have been delivered and are in development. Darlington Borough Council led programmes to support resilience and recovery during the pandemic. It is expected that national, regional, sub regional and local bodies will continue to monitor recovery and that further research will inform measures taken to encourage recovery.

Section 2

Vision, priorities, opportunities and how this strategy will impact on Darlington's culture

The Cultural Strategy for 2022 – 2026 will look to build on momentum gained in the last decade and will be reviewed regularly. The vision and priorities for investment within the 2022 – 2026 timeframe are shown below.

2.1 Vision:

Darlington will be a place in 2026 and beyond where culture enriches lives, involves people and is central to identity and prosperity.

2.2 Priorities

- 1 To creatively celebrate Darlington's contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway.
- 2 For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth.
- 3 For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people.
- 4 For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre.
- 5 For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages.

2.3 Opportunities to 2026

In recent years, Darlington has worked with Tees Valley Combined Authority and other parties to secure investment to create a Rail Heritage Quarter around the current site of the Head of Steam railway museum,



Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter and 2025 programme fast approaching

adjoining North Road Station, which is expected to open in advance of 2025 and to become a significant and distinctive visitor attraction in Tees Valley. The Rail Heritage Quarter will be one of the North East's tourism assets and a catalyst for regeneration in the Northgate area.

Work is also underway to preserve and promote public engagement with rail heritage within the Stockton & Darlington Railway Heritage Action Zone. The original track-bed of the railway runs 26 miles from County Durham, through Darlington, to Stockton and several programmes of work are moving forward to safeguard this heritage and build public engagement.

Darlington was involved in a significant programme of events in 1925 to mark the centenary of this historic journey, which is the birth of the modern passenger railway, and again in the Stockton & Darlington Railway Pageant 1975. Given the importance of railway heritage to Darlington, and the worldwide significance of railways, we aim for the 2025 bicentenary to celebrate and safeguard our heritage and to leave a legacy for people in the borough and the wider area working with partners. The bi-centenary events programme is expected to be of significant scale and to attract visitors to Darlington, Tees Valley. and County Durham. Subject to budget the programme may include live steam and motive power, the exhibition of early steam locomotives, education projects, knowledge sharing activity, community events and large scale outdoor cultural events.

Darlington secured a significant Town’s Fund Award in 2020 which is supporting significant regeneration activity within Darlington and will help develop the Rail Heritage Quarter as a visitor attraction and to protect key heritage assets. It is expected Darlington Borough Council will seek support from other government programmes for regeneration and that culture can be a component of these programmes subject to successful application, through protecting heritage and improvements to the public realm.

Culture is making a strong contribution to our Town Centre offer, and the Enjoy Darlington and Enjoy Tees Valley campaigns, and regular festivals and events play a part in attracting people to visit Darlington and add value to their visits, whether residents, tourists or people working here. Culture is contributing to encouraging extended visits and to the vibrancy of the daytime and evening economy, and we will continue to explore opportunities to share local, Tees Valley, regional and national events with people in Darlington.

Darlington Borough Council expects to work closely with Tees Valley Combined Authority in addressing shared cultural

priorities up to 2026 and beyond, and recognises the importance of culture as a high growth sector of the economy, in encouraging sustainable growth, encouraging investment, supporting place promotion, and contributing efficiently to agendas including education, health and quality of life. Tees Valley Combined Authority area was identified by Arts Council England in 2021 amongst 54 priority places for their focus during the first period of their Let’s Create strategy 2020 - 2030.



Enjoy Darlington – Town Centre

Darlington is the home of pioneering theatre company, Theatre Hullabaloo, who have recently delivered successful programmes engaging parents, babies and young children to support positive health outcomes. Darlington Borough Council has commissioned collaborative programmes including In2 led by Darlington Hippodrome and work involving Blue Cabin and our Virtual School, which help to maximise the potential of young people. We will explore opportunities to extend programmes of this nature working with Tees Valley Combined Authority and other partners in the health and education sectors.

Darlington Hippodrome has developed significant programmes to engage residents in Darlington's theatre heritage and we intend to maintain this work and to build on successful initiatives to make Darlington Hippodrome a place for everyone. Alongside celebrating the heritage of theatre in Darlington we intend to develop the reach of other assets including Darlington Library by exploring their heritage with people in Darlington.

Tees Valley has established a well-earned reputation for innovative practice in film, animation and creative digital practice. The Northern School of Art, Teesside University and Northern Film + Media through Tees Valley Screen are working alongside various partners, with Tees Valley Combined Authority support, to promote Tees Valley as a fantastic location for film and television productions. Successful film and television productions have provided significant economic returns for the locations in which they are housed, including employment and place promotion. Darlington has distinctive locations for film and television productions to utilise, given our railway, engineering and agricultural heritage and as a market town. Popular television series 'Vera' and films, including 'Atonement' and '1917', have utilised locations in Tees Valley successfully. We applaud the work undertaken in recent years in developing production facilities within Tees Valley, working with the sector to support progression routes and retain talent, and to attract film and television productions here.

2.4 How the strategy will impact on Darlington's culture

We will use this strategy to inform:

- Where Darlington Borough Council focuses resources
- Our engagement with people living in Darlington Borough around culture
- Darlington Borough Council's engagement with Arts Council England, National Heritage Lottery Fund, North East Cultural Partnership and Tees Valley Combined Authority and other bodies
- Our fundraising strategy

This Cultural Strategy has been informed by dialogue with people resident in, working in, visiting and invested in the borough, and by strategic priorities in Darlington, Tees Valley, the North East of England and Nationally, given Darlington's connectivity and outward looking instinct.

Section 3

Where the Cultural Strategy sits and how it is actioned

3.1 Where the Cultural Strategy sits

The Cultural Strategy is informed by Darlington's Borough Council's Delivering success for Darlington Council Plan to 2023, by Tees Valley Combined Authority's work on culture and tourism, by the North East Cultural Partnership's Case for Culture and by Arts Council England's Let's Create strategy to 2030.

Darlington Borough Council's Council Plan 2020 – 2023 Delivering success for Darlington vision sees:

Darlington 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.

It is focused on growing Darlington's Economy by delivering more sustainable well-paid jobs, more businesses and more homes and commits Darlington Borough Council to supporting economic growth by keeping the borough clean, safe, healthy, sustainable, well-planned and on the move, whilst valuing our heritage and culture.

The Council's overarching focus on growing Darlington's Economy feeds into commitments to:

- Maximise the potential of our young people by working with partners to maximise educational achievement, working to remove barriers to young people reaching their potential, working at a Tees Valley level to match jobs with skills and training.
- Work with communities to maximise their potential by maximising the benefits of a growing economy for all communities, targeting services where they are most needed, working with partners and working with communities.
- Support the most vulnerable in the borough by providing care and support when needed, working with people to build on their strengths to maximise their potential, working with partners.

Darlington's Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2026 is informed by and aligned to the vision and commitments above.

Tees Valley Combined Authority are leading significant work around Culture and Tourism and Darlington Borough Council and organisations and enterprises working in Darlington, regularly engage with Tees Valley Combined Authority around Culture and Tourism. Through its Culture and Tourism programme, the Combined Authority is currently taking the Stockton and Darlington Railway Heritage Programme forward and has allocated significant budget to support development of a Rail Heritage Quarter in Darlington. Tees Valley Combined Authority is included amongst 54 Priority Places that Arts Council England will prioritise working with between 2021 and 2024. Darlington Borough Council engages with Tees Valley Combined Authority around culture through a variety of mechanisms, including Creative Darlington board meetings.

North East Culture Partnership's The North East Case for Culture 2015-2030 vision is *'...a positive statement of ambition for the next 15 years, building on the strengths of our diverse communities and pointing to the opportunities for further investment in arts and heritage right across the North East'*.

North East Culture Partnership's five aspirations address Participation, Children and Young People, Talent and Progression, Economic Value and Quality of Life. The partnership is backed by the region's arts and heritage sector, the business and private sector, North East universities, the further education sector and the twelve local authorities in the region including Darlington Borough Council. They have reached out beyond the cultural sector to universities, business networks, the health and well-being sector, and organisations working with children and young people.

Arts Council England's Let's Create strategy 2020 – 2030 will inform their work with the arts, libraries and museums and contains their vision that *'by 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences'*. The strategy seeks three outcomes, Creative People, Cultural Communities and A Creative and Cultural Economy and recognises the importance of involving people in shaping culture, the value of culture to communities and the economic value of the sector and the importance of leadership and diversity. Arts Council England have shared four investment principles for the first period of the Let's Create strategy, these being Ambition and Quality, Dynamism, Environmental Responsibility and Inclusivity and Relevance.

Arts Council England have a National Portfolio of Organisations they support through regular funding, co-ordinate support for Music Hubs, lead strategic programmes and manage Project Funding (Lottery). Within Darlington as of May 2021 Theatre Hullabaloo are the sole Darlington based National Portfolio Organisation, although Darlington Borough is within the remit served by Tees Valley Museums who are a National Portfolio Organisation. Darlington Borough is also served by Durham Music Hub, who receive support through Arts Council England.

3.2 Equality

Darlington Borough Council aims to promote equality in everything it does. This means treating people fairly, valuing diversity and removing barriers that prevent people being able to fully participate in public life and fulfil their potential. Much of the local authority's work, together with its partners, is focused on narrowing the gaps in health, attainment, prosperity and quality of life between more vulnerable and disadvantaged people and the Darlington community as a whole. Darlington's Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2026 embodies the local authority commitment to equality in various measures, including supporting diverse public events, festivals and programmes and continued support for bespoke activity and the promotion of opportunities for people with protected characteristics.

Darlington Borough Council supports a rich array of cultural activity involving people with different protected characteristics and consults with appropriate partners to ensure that equality underpins our cultural planning and service provision. Programmes including the Darlington Hippodrome led In2 are engaging children in diverse areas of Darlington including Northgate, while free Town Centre festivals like the Mish Mash music festival and Darlington Pride Weekender, celebrate the rich diversity within Darlington. Between 2022 and 2026 this commitment to equality will continue to inform the various cultural services and programmes we provide. Our Cultural Strategy seeks to provide opportunities for everyone including minority groups ensuring all residents can experience Darlington's rich and vibrant cultural programmes. Darlington's cultural offer is distinctive and ever evolving and we welcome and appreciate people from all ethnicities and nationalities contribution to this.

We will support diversity within Darlington Borough Council's cultural programmes and build or maintain productive relationships with individuals, enterprises, organisations and services who develop provision for people in Darlington. For example, as a Corporate Parent we expect to continue to engage with registered charities, like Blue Cabin, who nurture meaningful relationships between children and young people with experience of the care system, and the adults and organisations who play a significant part in their lives. We will work with community based creative organisations and enterprises who value equality, and will promote funding opportunities like Darlington for Culture's small grants programme widely, which has supported Chinese and Polish cultural events engaging people in Darlington in recent years.

3.3 Sustainability

Darlington Borough Council is also committed to promoting a sustainable approach, which means balancing different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the economic, social and environmental limitations that we face as a society. In July 2019, Members acknowledged the threat of climate change and passed a motion committing Darlington Borough Council to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Plans to develop or refurbish cultural assets within Darlington by 2026 are informed by our commitment to sustainability. For example, the refurbishment programme at Darlington Library will incorporate improvements to the energy efficiency of heating and lighting the building, and plans for Darlington's Rail Heritage Quarter pay due consideration to those travelling on foot, bicycle, via public transport and automobile.

3.4 How we will act on the Cultural Strategy and where we aim to be in 2026

Darlington Borough Council will implement the Cultural Strategy working with partners including Tees Valley Combined Authority, North East Culture Partnership, organisations including Arts Council England, National Heritage Lottery Fund, and sharing information on progress through the Creative Darlington Board and Darlington Partnership as appropriate.

Detailed annual action plans will be presented to Darlington Borough Council on an annual basis. Annual reports on progress will be made to the Creative Darlington Board, which includes board members from Darlington for Culture, Darlington Partnership and Arts Council England. Darlington Borough Council will consider climate change and other environmental concerns when taking forward these action plans.

Subject to our success in taking forward the Cultural Strategy by 2026 and beyond Darlington will be where culture enriches lives, involves people and plays a central role in the identity and prosperity of the borough.

We will have creatively celebrated the birth of the modern railways in 1825 and the bicentenary celebrations in 2025, investment in our Rail Heritage Quarter and the Stockton & Darlington Railway Heritage Action will have left a positive legacy for the borough, Tees Valley and the North East region. Darlington will have a distinctive, accessible and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth. Culture will be a significant component of our vibrant Town Centre offer, enriching the lives of those living, working or visiting the borough, contributing to place promotion and encouraging investment here. Darlington's theatres and cultural assets will be vibrant, thriving and known for their innovative work and Darlington will be known for its creative people, creative communities and making a positive contribution to England as a creative and cultural country. Equality and environmental sustainability will underpin our cultural offer. We encourage all people interested in culture in Darlington to get involved with this strategy and welcome your comments.

Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan 2022-2023 delivery and Action Plan for 2023-2024

1.1 Introduction

Our Cultural Strategy for 2022 to 2026 (Appendix 1: lse0262_Accessible.pdf) is focused on maximising the social and economic benefits which culture can bring to people across Darlington Borough, including residents, visitors, those working and investing in Darlington. It considers the fantastic opportunities Darlington has, including the bicentenary of the birth of the modern passenger railway marking the momentous journey of Locomotion No. 1 on the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825. It uses a definition of Culture as set out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport covering:

- arts (including visual arts, literature, music, theatre and dance)
- architecture
- crafts
- creative industries
- design
- heritage
- historic environment
- museums and galleries
- libraries
- archives
- film
- broadcasting and media

1.2 Vision, priorities, opportunities and how this strategy will impact on Darlington's culture

The vision and priorities for investment within the 2022-2026 timeframe are shown below.

Vision:

Darlington will be a place in 2026 and beyond where culture enriches lives, involves people and is central to identity and prosperity.

Priorities

1. To creatively celebrate Darlington's contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway.
2. For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth.

3. For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people.
4. For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre.
5. For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages.

1.3 Delivery of Darlington Cultural Strategy

Darlington Borough Council is working with partners to progress our vision and address these priorities. Annual action plans are presented to Darlington Borough Council and annual reports on progress will be made to both Darlington Borough Council and to the Creative Darlington Board (which includes representation from Arts Council England, Darlington for Culture, Darlington Partnership and Tees Valley Combined Authority), of which this is the first. The 2022-2023 Action Plan alongside a report on Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 went to Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee on 17 February 2022, before its publication. The strategy has since been signed off and utilised to inform our work and advocacy, including in fundraising where appropriate, to address the vision above.

The table following point 1.4 in this report summarises delivery against the 2022/23 Action Plan and the table following point 1.5 presents the proposed Action Plan for 2023/24 for consideration by Darlington Borough Council. This paper asks the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee to comment on and/or endorse the proposed Action Plan for 2023/24.

1.4: Darlington Culture Strategy Annual Action Plan for 2022-2023

The five priorities of Darlington Culture Strategy 2022-2026 are listed below. Annual action plans will be presented to Darlington Borough Council to address these priorities and to consider and respond positively to unforeseen opportunities and circumstances. We recognise these priorities overlap to some degree, and that particular actions address more than one priority:

1. To creatively celebrate Darlington’s contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway
2. For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth
3. For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people
4. For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre
5. For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages

Delivery of Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan 2022/23					
Priority	What	Lead	Partners	Action	Measure(s) of success
1	Develop the content of the 2025 bi-centenary programme proposal	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, Stockton Borough Council, Rail Heritage Board, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply to Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants for National Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme agreed and application submitted
<p>Delivery in 2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Borough Council and partners have made significant progress in addressing this priority in 2022/23. Following the sign off of a report scoping the scale of the bi-centenary programme by the Rail Heritage Board and a process agreed and enacted to recently appoint a bi-centenary festival director with Tees Valley Combined Authority support. The director is employed through Stockton Borough Council and will develop and manage the programme working with partners. 					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions were held by Darlington Borough Council and partners in 2022/23 with Arts Council England around the scale of the opportunity and Darlington Borough Council will work with the festival director to support the development of an application for Arts Council England support in 2023/24. • We are currently in recruitment for a marketing and communications role for the bi-centenary 2025 festival. [• A major street theatre commission for the 2025 bi-centenary festival by Darlington Borough Council and Stockton Borough Council has taken place with an appointment secured. 					
1	Stockton & Darlington railway Heritage Action Zone includes cultural activity in their programme where appropriate	Stockton & Darlington railway Heritage Action Zone	Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, Stockton Borough Council, Rail Heritage Board, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and progress projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes involving culture developed, funding secured, programme outputs
<p>Delivery in 2022/23: The Stockton & Darlington railway Heritage Action Zone secured £25K in 2022/23 to deliver a programme of engagement and activities along the route of the line with the support of the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway. This programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a suit of S&DR learning materials for KS1 and 2 which will be used to support learning activities across the whole of the line. • Production of ‘The Railway that got the world on track’ booklet. • Up to the end of Q3, delivery of 15 S&DR engagement events which attracted over 800 attendees. • Undertaking of research to further understand the role of the Quakers in the development of S&DR and Darlington. • Delivering a Heritage Crime project entitled ‘caring for the S&DR’ which enables the public to directly report problems along the route of the line. • Completion of the S&DR interpretation strategy including proposals of physical and digital interpretation along the route. • Completion of S&DR future management options study which sets out proposals and recommendations on how the S&DR can be protected, cared for, and promoted in future years. • Securing funding for funding to repair and restore heritage assets at risk along the route. 					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing funding applications to deliver enhanced physical and digital interpretation for S&DR (subject to securing additional funding this may include cultural programme). 					
1	Creatively celebrate Darlington’s engagement with railways	Darlington Borough Council	Creative Darlington, Darlington Borough Council, Rail Heritage Board, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of creative proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals developed, funding secured, programme outputs
<p>Delivery in 2022/23: Proposals have been developed and funding secured as below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Borough Council secured a Commissions programme offer of £38,000 from The Art Fund to commission a suite of public artwork for Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter in February 2023. The works will be created by Andrew McKeown, who we previously commissioned to create and install four railway signs celebrating locomotives with strong associations to Darlington (Derwent, Locomotion No. 1, The Prince of Wales, Tornado) as part of the redesign of the Haughton Road roundabout, and installed before Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter opens to the public. The Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum creatively celebrated Darlington’s engagement with railways within their exhibitions, outreach and engagement programmes and through their work with Tees Valley Museums Group. Darlington Borough confirmed budget support (Creative Darlington) in 2022/23 for a proposal in development involving Darlington Choral Society and Citizen Songwriters to create an original choral performance celebrating rail heritage through engagement with a small number of Darlington primary schools and residents. Subject to the proposal securing Arts Council England Project Funding (decision c. September 2023) the new work will be performed in Darlington in 2025/26. Darlington Borough Council has supported work by artist Stephen Bainbridge whose paintings explore railway heritage at the Head of Steam railway museum and through exhibitions at Darlington Library previously. In 2022/23 we reached agreement with Stephen to deliver an exhibiting including work which embodies Darlington’s engagement with the railways in 2023/24. Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Choral Society and Darlington Operatic Society have scheduled to meet in late 2023 with a West End musical director to explore the potential of creating a train themed musical which will be shared in Darlington in 2025/26 subject to budget. Further discussions potential project partners and potential sponsors are scheduled in April 2023. 					

2	Work within Darlington Town's Fund programme brief to encourage visitor spend, enhance place promotion and encourage investment in Darlington borough through culture where appropriate.	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Borough Town Centre Partnership, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for cultural sector to further contribute to improvements in the Town Centre streetscape • Progress Rail Heritage Quarter capital programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on Town Centre economy and footfall • Rail Heritage Quarter capital programme underway in 2022/23
<p>Delivery in 2022/23:</p> <p>Action: Explore opportunities for cultural sector to further contribute to improvements in the Town Centre streetscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans informed by artist Nicky Peacock to showcase the town's period character and raise the profile of Darlington's historic yards and wynds were taken forward in 2022/23. <p>Action: Progress Rail Heritage Quarter capital programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary permissions were secured to take forward Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter improvements and to create a significant visitor attraction in Tees Valley which will attract visitors and benefit Darlington residents. Work has officially started on the construction of Darlington's Railway Heritage Quarter, with the Head of Steam railway museum sit handed over to contractor Wilmott Dixon in January 2023. 					
2	Darlington to participate in Tees Valley wide programme to boost screen industries	Tees Valley Combined Authority	Darlington Borough Council, Northern Film + Media, Tees Valley Screen, Northern School of Art, Teesside University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to promote opportunities for talent development and locations for filming in Darlington borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington participants involved in sector development programmes, filming enquiries answered, and, subject to enquiries, filming

					undertaken in Darlington borough.
<p>Delivery in 2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Borough Council promoted various Tees Valley Screen development opportunities for those working within the film sector through Creative Darlington. • Darlington Hippodrome hosted the Women X Film Festival 2022 programmed by Rianne Pictures which highlighted film-making talent from those already established, and those just starting out in the film industry, with a programme selected from 500 films submitted worldwide, all created by women, and ran 2nd – 4th September 2022. Women X Film Festival 2023 is scheduled to take place at Darlington Hippodrome in September 2024. • Darlington Borough Council addressed a number of enquiries from the film and TV sector in 2022/23 regarding permissions required to film in particular locations, including the Denes and South Park. 					
3	An excellent cultural offer is accessible to children and young people across Darlington borough	Darlington Borough Council	Sector individuals, organisations and enterprises, Creative Darlington, Culture Bridge North East, Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Academies and Schools, Darlington and Durham Music Hub, Further Education providers in Darlington, Teesside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Borough Council will provide a Children’s Library Service, an Events Service, and a Museum’s Service providing opportunities for children and young people to engage with their culture and support Darlington Hippodrome’s work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service delivery and outputs, successful application by Tees Valley Museums to operate within Arts Council England’s National Portfolio from 2023/34 onwards

			<p>University, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Museums</p>	<p>with children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate part of Darlington Borough Council’s Arts and Heritage budget to support programme with and for children and young people, led by other parties • Darlington Borough Council will work with Tees Valley Museums to support their application to remain within Arts Council England’s National Portfolio from 2023/24 	
<p>Delivery in 2022/23 Action: Darlington Borough Council will provide a Children’s Library Service, an Events Service, and a Museum’s Service providing opportunities for children and young people to engage with their culture and support Darlington Hippodrome’s work with children and young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Borough Council offered a popular Children’s Library Service from Cockerton Library (full service including events) and the children’s library book collection from The Dolphin Centre whilst the restoration of Darlington Library was ongoing in 2022/23. 					

- Darlington Town Centre events programme regularly offered events which provided opportunities for children and young people to engage with culture with highlights including Darlington Dance Festival, Darlington Community Carnival, Darlington by the Sea, family engagement during Darlington Pride Weekender, the Christmas Lights switch on and Ice Sculpture Trail. All this alongside their work in safely delivering the South Park fireworks event in 2022 to delight thousands of local attendees.
- The Head of Steam railway museum continued to provide a popular service for young museum visitors and families, working with Tees Valley Museums service where appropriate.
- Darlington Hippodrome worked successfully with children and young people through its programming, including regular dance, drama and music activity as part of its Place for Everyone vision and worked in depth with particular schools through the In2 programme and partnerships with organisations including Orchestras Live.

Action: Allocate part of Darlington Borough Council's Arts and Heritage budget to support programme with and for children and young people, led by other parties.

- Darlington Borough Council supported a range of activity led by other parties which engaged children and young people in Darlington in 2022/23, including Blue Cabin CIC, Cabinet of Curiosity Studios, Durham Music Service, Middlesbrough Art Weekender, Orchestras Live and TeesDance through the Creative Darlington budget and other budgets. Several of these parties secured additional external funding to support this work, e.g. Blue Cabin secured a Youth Music grant of c. £30,000 in 2022/23 for their This Is The Place programme, which works with Care experienced Children aged 0-5 and their trusted adults in Darlington, and was also supported through our Virtual School. Working with partners in this way helps attract additional funding to support this priority.

Action: Darlington Borough Council will work with Tees Valley Museums to support their application to remain within Arts Council England's National Portfolio from 2023/24.

- Darlington Borough Council museums service worked alongside colleagues from all Tees Valley local authority museums services to support Stockton Borough Council's successful application (as the Local Authority managing NPO budget and staff for Tees Valley Museums) to remain in Arts Council England's National Portfolio of regularly funded organisations from 2023 to 2026. Tees Valley Museums delivery over the previous National Portfolio period (2018 – 2022) and application secured an offer from Arts Council England which significantly increased their funding of Tees Valley Museums from £381,900 in 2022/23 to average annual funding of £601,900 in the 2023 – 2026 National portfolio period.

3 & 5	Support Theatre Hullabaloo’s pioneering work, putting young people at the heart of the creative process, with those aged 0 – 16 years in Darlington	Theatre Hullabaloo	Theatre Hullabaloo, Creative Darlington, Darlington Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through its Arts and Heritage budget Darlington Borough Council will support an agreed programme of activity in Darlington led by Theatre Hullabaloo in 2022/23 • Darlington Borough Council will work with Theatre Hullabaloo to support their application in 2022/23 to remain within Arts Council England’s National Portfolio from 2023/24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatre Hullabaloo deliver agreed programme in 2022/23 • Theatre Hullabaloo apply successfully in 2022/23 to remain in Arts Council England’s National Portfolio of Organisations from 2023/24

<p>Delivery in 2022/23:</p> <p>Action: Through its Arts and Heritage budget Darlington Borough Council will support an agreed programme of activity in Darlington led by Theatre Hullabaloo in 2022/23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2022/23 Darlington Borough Council allocated £5,000 budget through Creative Darlington to support Theatre Hullabaloo’s innovative work with children and families in Darlington borough. We have committed £5,000 through Creative Darlington to their Hullabaloo in the Park programme which is expected to engage several thousand people in South Park between 26th and 30th July 2023. <p>Action: Darlington Borough Council will work with Theatre Hullabaloo to support their application in 2022/23 to remain within Arts Council England’s National Portfolio from 2023/24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theatre Hullabaloo applied successfully to retain their place as an Arts Council England National Portfolio from 2023 to 2026. Their delivery over the previous National Portfolio period (2018 – 2022) and application secured an offer from Arts Council England which significantly increased their funding of Theatre Hullabaloo from £254,924 in 2022/23 to average annual funding of £389,924 in the 2023 – 2026 National portfolio period. Darlington Borough Council support through the Creative Darlington budget was shown I their proposal and Tees Valley Combined Authority’s award of significant budget for Hullabaloo in the Park over the same three year period reflects the value of Theatre Hullabaloo delivery. 					
3	Durham Music Service receive funding to support their core offer to schools through Arts Council England as the Music Hub for Darlington and Durham, supporting children’s engagement in choral and ensemble music	Durham Music Service	Darlington Academies and Schools, Durham Music Service, Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Hippodrome, Orchestras Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Borough Council will continue to support children’s engagement in music in Darlington through partnership working with Durham Music Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme for Darlington pupils involving Durham Music Service, Darlington Hippodrome and Orchestras Live delivered successfully in 2022/23

<p>Delivery in 2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Music Service received funding in 2022/23 to support their core offer to schools through Arts Council England as the Music Hub for Darlington and Durham. In 2022/23 Darlington Borough Council allocated Creative Darlington budget to support the longstanding partnership between Darlington Hippodrome, Durham Music Service and Orchestras Live which supported London Mozart Players work with pupils from Corporation Road and Whinfield primary schools and encouraged attendance at a London Mozart Players concert at Darlington Hippodrome in November 2022 with further school engagement involving the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in Spring 2023. • On 21 June 2022 Darlington contributed to World Music Day with several primary schools performing in Darlington Market Square co-ordinated by Durham Music Service with support from Darlington Town Centre Partnership and events service, an evening showcase event at The Forum Music Centre and a free ticketed performance at Darlington Hippodrome co-ordinated by Durham Music Service, which showcased the talents of children and young people from various ensembles alongside those of local artist Jodi Nicholson, whose performance alongside venue costs were supported via the Creative Darlington budget. 					
3	Darlington Borough Council will support children and young people’s cultural engagement through intervention programmes	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, particular Darlington Academies and Schools, Durham University, cultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Hippodrome will continue to deliver the In2 programme, and undertake fundraising to extend the programme, subject to positive evaluation • Darlington Borough Council will programme additional cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In2 programme outputs • Holiday Activities Fund backed cultural programme outputs

				opportunities for children and young people supported by the Holiday Activities Fund	
<p>Delivery in 2022/23:</p> <p>Action: Darlington Hippodrome will continue to deliver the In2 programme, and undertake fundraising to extend the programme, subject to positive evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The In2 programme engaged several hundred pupils from particular Darlington primary schools in 2022/23 as part of Darlington Hippodrome's A Place for Everyone commitment. <p>Action: Darlington Borough Council will programme additional cultural opportunities for children and young people supported by the Holiday Activities Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Borough Council supported drama activity led by Scott Young and co-ordinated by Move More within its Holiday Activities Fund programme in 2022/23. 					
4	Support economic growth through the Enjoy Darlington campaign, including accessible, diverse and vibrant cultural events, festivals and programmes which enhance the Town Centre.	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Borough Town Centre Partnership, Darlington Partnership, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and manage a year-round Town Centre events programme Extend the scope of Darlington R 'n' B festival and Darlington Pride Mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a celebratory programme attracting Town Centre visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre footfall, estimated attendance at cultural events, media coverage secured

<p>Delivery in 2022/23:</p> <p>Action: Promote and manage a year-round Town Centre events programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Borough Council Town Centre Partnership and events service promoted a significant events programme throughout 2022/23, including vibrant cultural events Darlington Dance Festival in May and Darlington Community Carnival on 25 June 2022. <p>Action: Extend the scope of Darlington R 'n' B festival and Darlington Pride.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Borough Council Town Centre Partnership worked with partners to extend the Darlington Pride, which opened with MonGAY, Darlington's long established Gay Pride night in locals bars and pubs on 8th August with a Pride Picnic in South Park on Sunday 14th August 2022 closing the programme. <p>Action: Mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a celebratory programme attracting Town Centre visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darlington Borough Council supported an extensive and highly popular programme in the Market Square from 2nd – 4th June 2022 which incorporated live music (Beatlemania, Cockerton Prize Silver Band, Laura Jane Butler - Amy Winehouse tribute etc) a film screening of Mary Poppins and a live broadcast of the Queen's birthday parade, Trooping of the Colour. 					
5	Audience development, youth theatre programmes and sector development programmes are led by, promoted by, or held at Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington Hippodrome, Cultural Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Theatre programme promoted Youth Dance programme promoted Audience development programme supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme outputs
<p>Delivery in 2022/23:</p>					

Action: Youth Theatre programme promoted.

- Extensive youth theatre provision was offered in Darlington Hippodrome in 2022/23 with sessions for those aged 7 – 10 years, 10 – 13 years, a 14+ group and a newly established Musical Theatre group for those aged 14+.

Action: Youth Dance programme promoted.

- Darlington Hippodrome promoted its successful Youth Dance programme in 2022/23 working with Debbie Harbin, supported TeesDance's moveUP programme for 14-19 year olds and hosted a variety of dance performances, including Darlington School Games Dance Festival.

Action: Audience development programme supported.

- Darlington Hippodrome supported a variety of audience development activity in 2022/23 including Sarah Li's 'Opening the Closet Doors' programming exploring the Darlington archives for LGBTQ+ stories and hosting a screening of an original film during Darlington Pride Weekender 2022 and engagement with Ukrainian people currently based in and around Darlington borough.

1.5 Proposed Action Plan for 2023/24

The 2023/24 Action Plan tackles the five priorities of Darlington Culture Strategy 2022 – 2026 listed below. We recognise these priorities overlap to some degree, and that particular actions address more than one priority. It retains elements of the Action Plan for 2022/23 alongside new actions informed by the progress of current capital programmes, including the restoration of Darlington Library and the creation of Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter:

1. To creatively celebrate Darlington’s contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway
2. For Darlington to have an accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth
3. For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people
4. For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre
5. For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages

Proposed Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan 2023/24					
Priority	What	Lead	Partners	Action(s)	Measure(s) of success
1	Assist the 2025 bi-centenary festival director in their development of a proposal seeking significant Arts	Darlington Borough Council	Durham County Council, Stockton Borough Council, Rail Heritage Board, Tees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the fundraising of the 2025 festival director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising application submitted

	Council England support by providing information on Darlington borough where requested and available		Valley Combined Authority		
1	Progress the commissioning of rail heritage themed public art within Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter and creatively celebrate Darlington’s engagement with railways	PLB for Darlington Borough Council	Creative Darlington, Rail Heritage Board, Tees Valley Combined Authority, The Art Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Andrew McKeown to deliver a suite of work informed by Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter Public Art Strategy • Support the development of creative proposals to explore Darlington’s rail heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail heritage themed Public Art commissioned by PLB for Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter site in 2023/24 • Proposals developed, funding secured, programme outputs (if programmes commence in 2023/24)
2	Darlington to participate in Tees Valley wide programme to boost screen industries	Tees Valley Combined Authority	Darlington Borough Council, Northern Film + Media, Tees Valley Screen, Northern School of Art, Teesside University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to promote opportunities for talent development and locations for filming in Darlington borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington participants involved in sector development programmes, filming enquiries answered, and, subject to enquiries, filming undertaken in Darlington borough

3	An excellent cultural offer is accessible to children and young people across Darlington borough	Darlington Borough Council	Sector individuals, organisations and enterprises, Creative Darlington, Darlington Academies and Schools, Darlington and Durham Music Hub, Further Education providers in Darlington, Northern School of Art, Teesside University, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Tees Valley Museums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Borough Council will provide a Children’s Library Service, an Events Service, and a Museum’s Service providing opportunities for children and young people to engage with their culture and support Darlington Hippodrome’s work with children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service delivery and outputs
3 & 5	Support Theatre Hullabaloo’s pioneering work, putting young people at the heart of the creative process, with those aged 0 – 16 years in Darlington	Theatre Hullabaloo	Theatre Hullabaloo, Creative Darlington, Darlington Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Borough Council will allocate Arts and Heritage budget to Theatre Hullabaloo’s Hullabaloo in the Park 2023 programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatre Hullabaloo delivery of Hullabaloo in the Park programme in South Park in 2023, festival outputs
3	Darlington Borough Council will support children and young people’s cultural engagement through intervention programmes	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, particular Darlington Academies and Schools, Durham University, cultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington Hippodrome will continue to deliver the In2 programme, and to provide cultural opportunities for children and young people supported by the Holiday Activities Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In2 programme and Holiday Activities Fund backed cultural programme outputs

4	Support cultural engagement through events, exhibitions and programmes utilising improved facilities befitting Darlington Library as a key cultural asset within the borough post restoration and reopening	Darlington Borough Council	Creative sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme cultural events, exhibitions and activity in Darlington Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme outputs and funding secured
4	Support economic growth through the Enjoy Darlington campaign, including accessible, diverse and vibrant cultural events, festivals and programmes which enhance Town Centre animation	Darlington Borough Council	Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Borough Town Centre Partnership, Darlington Partnership, Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and manage a year-round Town Centre events programme • Mark the King's Coronation with a celebratory programme attracting Town Centre visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre footfall, estimated attendance at cultural events, media coverage secured
5	Audience development, youth theatre programmes and sector development programmes are led by, promoted by, or held at Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington Hippodrome, Cultural Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Theatre programme promoted • Youth Dance programme promoted • Audience development programme supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme outputs

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**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 AUGUST 2023**

CONSULTATION ON RENEWAL OF DOG PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek members' views on the renewal of the Dog Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which will be included in the Cabinet report following the consultation.

Summary

2. The current dog PSPO was introduced on 31 January 2021, and this is due to lapse in January 2024. As part of a review on the possible extension of the order, the Council must undertake statutory consultation as part of the review process. On 3 July 2023 Cabinet approved a period of consultation on the PSPO based on the existing order and that the outcome of the consultation and further analysis would be the subject of a future report to Cabinet that would consider the renewal of the PSPO. Attached at **Appendix 1** are copies of the draft PSPOs for dog control.
3. The majority of dog owners and walkers in Darlington behave responsibly. However, dog related anti-social behaviour (ASB) is still a concern to some residents, businesses and people who visit the Borough.
4. PSPOs were introduced in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. A PSPO is designed to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area. The behaviour must be having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the community, it must be persistent or continuing and it must be unreasonable. The PSPO can impose restrictions on the use of that area which apply to everyone who is carrying out that activity. The orders are designed to ensure that the law-abiding majority can enjoy public spaces, safely and free from anti-social behaviour.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee provide their views to Cabinet to be included as part of the consultation on the renewal of the Dog PSPO.

**Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services**

Background Papers

Below is the link to maps of the proposed PSPOs for dog control.

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/your-council/community-safety-team/civic-enforcement/dog-control/public-space-protection-orders/proposed-maps/>

Ian Thompson / Anna Willey: Extension 6628 / 6756

S17 Crime and Disorder	Introducing PSPOs for dog control will enable the authority to take action against individuals who do not look after their dogs responsibly.
Health and Well Being	PSPOs will impact on the Health & wellbeing of the community, making sure dogs are supervised responsibly.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There is no impact on carbon as a result of this report.
Diversity	Exemptions are available under PSPOs to some sections of the disabled community.
Wards Affected	All.
Groups Affected	The main impact on any protected characteristic as a result of introducing a Public Space Protection Order will be on residents with a disability who require an assistance dog. As detailed in the report, those individuals who have assistance dogs are excluded from certain offences under the PSPO.
Budget and Policy Framework	No impact on the Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	No.
Urgent Decision	No.
Council Plan	PSPOs will contribute to safer Darlington.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council's Efficiency agenda as a result of this report.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	There is no impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers as a result of this report.

Information

- Owning a dog can bring great happiness but also places a lifelong responsibility on the owner to ensure that the dog is not a hazard, a health risk, or a nuisance to other members of our community. Unfortunately, some owners do not take a responsible attitude towards dog ownership and as a result we receive a number of complaints each year covering a range of issues, such as noise nuisance from barking, uncollected dog faeces or out of control dogs. We need to balance the needs of those in charge of dogs with the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs, bearing in mind the need for people, in particular children, to have access to dog-free areas and areas where dogs are kept under strict control.

7. Currently the Council has in place Dog PSPOs that cover:
 - (a) Failure to remove dog faeces
 - (b) Not keeping a dog on a lead on specified land
 - (c) Not putting a dog on a lead and keeping on the lead when directed by an authorised officer
 - (d) Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
 - (e) Permitting dogs in cemeteries on a lead
8. The existing PSPO's for dog control come to an end on 31 January 2024 and if Members wish to continue to impose controls, then existing PSPO's require renewal and any other additions to dog control that arise from the public consultation will need to be considered.
9. Since the current PSPO's came into force, six fines have been issued for dog fouling, three fines issued for failing to keep a dog on a lead in a designated area and no fines have been issued in dog exclusion areas.
10. PSPOs are a key element of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which came into force in October 2014. The aim of a PSPO is to improve the enjoyment of public spaces for the majority of people and in respect of dogs reduce anti-social behaviour caused by dog fouling and nuisance dogs.
11. The responsibility for renewing existing PSPO's rests with the Council. The Council must, prior to making an order, be satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that activities carried out in a public space have had or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and that the effect or likely effect of the activities:
 - (a) is or is likely to be persistent or continuing;
 - (b) is or is likely to be such as to make the activities unreasonable; and
 - (c) justifies the restrictions imposed.
12. Before making a PSPO, the Council must carry out consultation with the local Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the owners and occupiers of any land included in the PSPO which is not in Council ownership and wider consultation with representatives from the local community.
13. An offence involving failure to comply with a PSPO is punishable by a fine of up to £1,000 or by a fixed penalty of up to £100.
14. Any PSPO introduced would be for a 3-year period at which time it must be extended, or it would cease. The Council have the power to remove specific prohibitions or end a PSPO early, for example if an activity no longer existed. If significant new issues arose during the PSPO then the Council can vary prohibitions.

A future report to Cabinet would consider these matters and the outcome of consultation if approved.

15. A copy of the proposed PSPOs is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Equalities Implications

16. It is proposed to put in place exemptions for anyone with an assisted dog for all of the PSPOs with the exclusion of failure to remove dog faeces.
17. It is proposed to exclude registered blind individuals with an assisted dog and other disabled individuals who have mobility/dexterity issues and are unable to pick up dog faeces from this offence. Officers will obviously be able to apply common sense when enforcing PSPOs involving residents with disabilities.

Consultation

18. Cabinet have approved an 8-week consultation process that commenced in July, the outcome of which will be brought back to Cabinet for them to consider prior to implementing renewed PSPOs for Dog Control. The Council must consult with the following:
 - (a) Chief Officer for the Police area
 - (b) The area's Police and Crime Victim Commissioner
 - (c) Representatives of the public who it is believed will be affected by the restrictions, e.g. residents' associations or people who use the area
 - (d) The owner or occupier of the land
 - (e) Dog Law and Welfare Experts, e.g. vets, animal welfare officers
 - (f) Organisations affected by any restrictions
 - (g) In addition, the views of the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee will also be reported to Cabinet as part of the consultation process.
19. Direct contact will be made with the relevant organisations to provide their feedback and an online survey will be introduced for residents generally to provide their feedback. The consultation will be advertised through social media, the Council's website, in One Darlington magazine and other appropriate channels to encourage as many residents as possible to take part in the consultation.

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – DOG CONTROL

Number 1 of 2023

Notice is hereby given that Darlington Borough Council (“the Council”) in exercise of its powers under sections 59 and 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) being satisfied that the conditions set out in section 59 of the Act have been met, make the following Order:-

PRELIMINARY

1. This Order applies to all land which is in the administrative area of the Council and which is open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side) and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment), with the exception of land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967. A map of this area appears at Schedule 1.
2. The Order may be cited as the Darlington Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control and shall come into force on [insert date] for the duration of 3 years. At any point before the expiry of this three year period the Council can extend the Order by up to three years if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that this is necessary to prevent the activities identified in the Order from occurring or recurring or to prevent an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

3. The activities identified in paragraph 6 below have been carried out in public places within the Council's area and have had a detrimental effect to the quality of life of those living in the locality.
4. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in sections 59 and 72 of the Act have been met and that it is, in all the circumstances, expedient to make this Order in order to seek to reduce the detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality caused by the activities listed in paragraph 6 below.
5. The effect or likely effect of these activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make these activities unreasonable, and therefore justifies the restrictions imposed by this Order.
6. The activities referred to are:
 - Dog fouling
 - Failure to put dogs on leads when requested
 - Failure to keep dogs on leads in prescribed areas
 - Failure to exclude dogs entirely from prescribed areas
7. The Council has had particular regard to the rights and freedoms set out in Article 10 (right of freedom of expression) and Article 11 (right of freedom of assembly) of the European Convention on Human Rights and has concluded that the restrictions on such rights and freedoms imposed by this Order are lawful, necessary and proportionate.
8. For the purposes of this Order a person who habitually has a dog in his possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.
9. For the purposes of this Order each of the following is a "Prescribed Charity"
 - (i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)
 - (ii) Support Dogs (registered charity number 1088281)
 - (iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680)

10. THE FOULING OF LAND BY DOGS

(1) If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence unless —

(a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

(2) Nothing in this article applies to a person who

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or

(b) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.

(3) For the purposes of this article —

(a) placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be a sufficient removal from the land; and

(b) being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

11. DOGS ON LEADS BY DIRECTION

(1) In this Order "an authorised officer of the Council" means an employee of the Council who is authorised in writing by the Council for the purpose of giving directions under this Order.

(2) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this Order applies, he does not comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer of the Council to put and keep the dog on a lead, unless —

(a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

(3) For the purposes of this article an authorised officer of the Council may only give a direction under this Order to put and keep a dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person [on any land to which this order applies] or the worrying or disturbance of any animal or bird.

12. DOG EXCLUSION AREAS

(1) This section of the Order only applies to the land specified in Schedule 2.

(2) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, he takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which this section of the Order applies unless —

(a) he has reasonable excuse for doing so; or

(b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his doing so.

(3) Nothing in this article applies to a person who —

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or

(b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or

(c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.

13. DOGS ON LEADS

- (1) This section of the Order only applies to the land specified in Schedule 3.
- (2) A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, on any land to which this section of the Order applies he does not keep the dog on a lead, unless —
- (a) he has a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

EFFECT OF FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER

15. It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to engage in an activity that is prohibited by this Order.
16. A person guilty of any offence listed above, in accordance with section 67 of the Act, is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1000). The full text of section 67 of the Act is set out in Schedule 4 to this Order.

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

17. A constable or an authorised person may issue a fixed penalty notice to any person he or she believes has committed an offence under section 67 of the Act. The person will then have 14 days to pay a fixed penalty of £100. If payment is received within 14 days they will not be prosecuted.
18. Authorised person means a person authorised for the purposes of this section by Darlington Borough Council.

CHALLENGING THIS ORDER

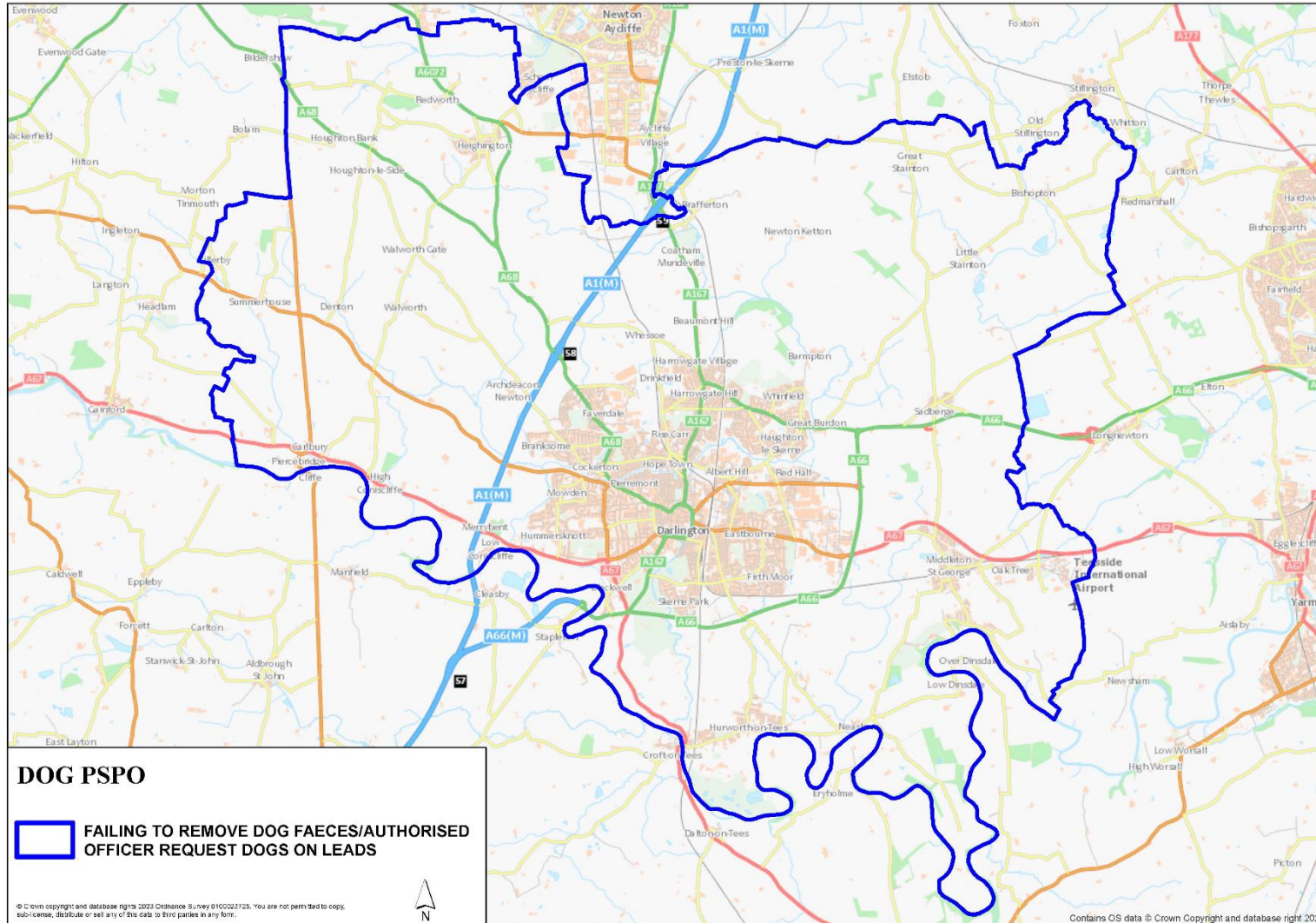
19. Any challenge to this Order must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. There is further detail regarding this in Schedule 5 to this Order.

GIVEN under the common seal of
The Council of the Borough of Darlington

On the
..... day of 2023

THE COMMON SEAL of the
Council of the Borough of Darlington
was hereunder affixed in the presence of :-

SCHEDULE 1



SCHEDULE 2

- Albert Hill Park - Enclosed Play Area (map 1)
- Alderman Crooks Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 2)
- Bensham Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 3)
- Bishopton Play Area (map 28)
- Brinkburn Dene – Enclosed Play Area (map 4)
- Brinkburn Dene – Tennis Dene (map 29)
- Broken Scar Sand Pit Area (map 5)
- Bushell Hill Park (whole site) (map 6)
- Branksome Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 7)
- Darrowby Drive – Enclosed Play Area (map 8)
- Eastbourne Park – Enclosed Play Areas (map 9)
- Eastbourne Sports Complex (map 10)
- Eastmount Road - Enclosed Play Area (map 11)
- Emley Moor Road Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 12)
- Ettersgill Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 13)
- Fryer Crescent – Enclosed Play Area (map 14)
- Grass Street – Enclosed Play Area (map 15)
- Green Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 16)
- Harrowgate Farm - Enclosed Play Area (map 17)
- Haxby Road and Station Road, Middleton St George – Enclosed Play Areas (map 18)
- Hurworth Community Centre – Enclosed Play Area (map 19)
- Lascelles Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 9)
- North Lodge Park – Enclosed Play Area, MUGA and Bowling Green (map 20)
- North Park – Enclosed Play Area and Bowling Green Centre (map 21)
- Parish Hall Lane and St Michaels Crescent Parks, Heighington (map 41)
- Pensbury Street – Enclosed Play Area (map 22)
- Red Hall - Headingley Crescent Enclosed Play Area (map 23)
- South Park – Enclosed Play Area, Skate Area and MUGA (map 24)
- Springfield Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 25)
- Stanhope Park – Tennis Courts (map 26)

West Auckland Park – Enclosed Play Area (map 27)

SCHEDULE 3

Albert Hill Kick About Area (map 1)

Arnold Road Allotments (map 10)

Brinkburn Dene (Play Dene) (map 4)

Broken Scar Play Area (unfenced) (map 5)

Cockerton Allotments (map 33)

Darlington Memorial Hospital – hospital grounds excluding residential area (map 34)

Dodmire Allotments (map 9)

Drury Street Allotments (map 35)

East Cemetery (map 30)

Eastbourne Sports Complex – parking area and footpath accessing site (map 10)

Emley Moor Road Play Area (map 12)

Field Street Allotments (map 15)

Green Park Play Area (unfenced) (map 16)

Honeypot Lane Allotments (map 36)

Lascelles Allotments (map 9)

North Cemetery (map 31)

Red Hall Football Pitch (map 23)

Sadberge Play Area (map 42)

Salters Lane North Allotments (map 37)

Salters Lane South Allotments (map 3)

Skerne Green Play Area (map 43)

South Park – all formal areas except the show field (map 24)

Springwell Allotments (map 38)

Station Road Play Area and Water Park, Middleton St George (map 18)

Town Centre (map 39)

West Auckland Road Allotments (map 33)

West Cemetery (map 32)

West Park Play Area (unfenced) (map 40)

SCHEDULE 4

Text of section 67 of the Act

(1) It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse—

(a) to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order or an expedited order, or

(b) to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a public spaces protection order or an expedited order.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

(3) A person does not commit an offence under this section by failing to comply with a prohibition or requirement that the local authority did not have power to include in the public spaces protection order or expedited order.

(4) Consuming alcohol in breach of a public spaces protection order or an expedited order is not an offence under this section (but see section 63).

SCHEDULE 5

Challenging this Order (Section 66 of the Act)

1. Any challenge to this Order must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits the restricted area. This right to challenge also applies where this Order is varied by the Council.
2. Interested persons can challenge the validity of this Order on two grounds: (1) that the Council did not have the power to make the Order, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or (2) that one of the requirements of the legislation has not been complied with.
3. When an application is made the High Court can decide to suspend the operation of the Order pending the Court's decision, in part or in totality. The High Court has the ability to uphold the Order, quash it or vary it.

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COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24 AUGUST 2023

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QTR 4 2022/23

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with performance data against key performance indicators for 2022/23 at Quarter 4.

Background

2. This report provides performance information in line with an indicator set and Scrutiny Committee distribution agreed by Monitoring and Coordination Group on 4 June 2018, and subsequently by scrutiny Committee Chairs. Following agreement at Council on 5 December 2019 to align Scrutiny Committees to the updated Cabinet Portfolios, the indicator set has been aligned accordingly.
3. The indicators included in this report are aligned with key priorities. Other indicators may be referenced when appropriate in narrative provided by the relevant Assistant Directors, when providing the committee with performance updates.
4. 35 indicators are reported to the committee annually of which 25 can be reported on six-monthly.

2022/23 comparison to 2020/21 (%)

5. The number of shows held at the Hippdrome (173 to 201) and Hullabaloo (107 to 122) have increased. A model of individual music shows which minimised the theatre's financial risk and offered broad appeal to audiences was adopted. This supported the theatre to maintain a healthy income and secondary spend.
6. Attendances to the Hippdrome (83,298 to 126,357) and the Hullabaloo (3,622 to 6,908) have increased. This increased number of shows and richer more diverse programme has helped to draw in existing and new audiences.
7. The number of visits to the Head of Steam (24,859 to 40,379) increased as more performances, activities and events were held. The museum closed to the public at the end of December 2022 to undergo a £35m redevelopment. An outreach programme has been set up and is becoming more established to increase public engagement during the closure of the museum.
8. The closure of the Crown Street library has had a minimal effect on book borrowing, as overall borrowing decreased slightly (214,027 to 208,702). This has been achieved through the library team keep services as accessible as possible during this time via Cockerton Library and the Dolphin Centre.

9. The number of group engagements (257 to 598) and educational interactions (55 to 173) held at the libraries have both increased. The Audience Development Team are working within Cockerton Library and at schools, nurseries, and out in the community to reach a variety of different audiences.
10. The closure of Crown Street library affected the visitor numbers (62,657 to 24,093), physical book borrowing (136,403 to 89,785) and group engagement (158 to 83) indicators. whose numbers have all decreased. The temporary library point located at The Dolphin Centre, the Home Delivery Service, and the additional services provided at Cockerton library all help meet the needs of customers during this work.
11. The physical book borrowing (36,748 to 76,931), physical visits (11,279 to 48,333) and group engagements (80 to 415) at Cockerton library have all increased. This is due to the combination of the refurbishment of the library in November 2021, the engagement programme offered by the team, the management of stock at the branch, and the change of behaviour as customers visit Cockerton Library whilst the town library is closed.
12. The number of enquiries directed to the Centre for Local Studies decreased slightly (3,445 to 2,994). Whilst the building is closed to the public, the Local Studies staff have dealt with the email, telephone enquiries and booked appointments at our branch library to satisfy enquiries.
13. The percentage of item's reserved from stock or from another library increased (60% to 64%). Reservations are marketed as a "Select and Collect" service. Customers are encouraged to use this through the App, website, over the phone and in person at Cockerton Library and the temporary Select and Collect Point at the Dolphin Centre.
14. The number of small fly-tips increased (2,138 to 2,491) whereas the number of large fly-tips decreased (825 to 700). A large proportion of small fly tips are side waste, put out particularly in back lanes at the same time as refuse collection. A significant proportion of these fly tips are being identified by staff as part of the back lanes project, which is achieving great success in the areas it is operating in.
15. The removal of fly-tipping within target time increased for both small (93.6% to 96.7%) and large (93.6% to 93.7%). The introduction of an additional back lane crew has made a significant difference to the time fly tips are collected with the majority being collected in under 5 days with a significant number of those in under 2 days. There have been eight prosecutions in connection to fly-tipping.
16. The percentage of household waste, that is collected that is either reused, recycled or composted has decreased slightly (32.4% to 31.7%). Significant work continues to be undertaken by Street Scene and Communication teams to increase recycling and reduce contamination, by raising residents' awareness of what can be recycled via various medias.
17. The percentage of high-risk inspections carried out by Trading Standards was unable to be completed by the end of the year and decreased (100% to 58%) due to various

factors including staffing capacity, completing a complex investigation and multi-agency illegal goods enforcement. The aim is to complete them by the end June 2023.

18. The percentage of roads where maintenance should be considered increased for A class roads (from 1.29% to 1.47%, which is below both the North-East and England averages. The percentage decreased for B and C class roads (from 5.42% to 5.30%) which is below the England average and increased for unclassified roads requiring maintenance increased (from 15.9% to 16.5%). The Council are continuing to invest in the road network, and we completed 46 micro asphalt schemes in 2022/23 which will extend the life of those unclassified roads. Inflation is impacting on the service by reducing the amount of work which can be undertaken for the available budget.
19. Traffic accidents for adults increased for those killed or seriously injured (41 to 47) and decreased for those slightly injured (113 to 89). For children, those killed or seriously injured decreased (5 to 4) and slightly injured increased (8 to 17). The Council continue to invest in road safety education and through the Local Transport Plan and continue to invest in speed management and casualty reduction schemes.
20. Public transport satisfaction decreased (55% to 44%). Work is to be undertaken over the coming year to try and reinstate confidence in public transport use and improvements to the bus network through a bus service improvement plan and a partnership approach.

Performance Summary

21. 34 of the 35 indicators reported have Quarter (Qtr) 4 data to report.
22. 33 of the 35 indicators can be compared with Quarter 4 data from the previous year.
23. When taking into consideration what is best performance for each indicator:
 - a) 19 of the 35 indicators have increased when compared to the same period as last year or from when last reported.
 - b) 16 of the 35 indicators have decreased when compared to the same period as last year or from when last reported.
24. A detailed performance scorecard is attached at Appendix 1.
25. Detailed performance and narratives for each indicator is attached at Appendix 2.

Recommendation

26. It is recommended that:
 - a) Performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with appropriate Assistant Directors.

Ian Thompson
AD – Community Services

Anthony Hewitt
AD – Highways and Capital Projects

Background Papers

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

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Council's Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Well Being	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents
Sustainability	This report supports the Council's sustainability responsibilities
Diversity	This report supports the promotion of diversity
Wards Affected	This report supports performance improvement across all Wards
Groups Affected	This report supports performance improvement which benefits all groups
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	This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes
Efficiency	Scrutiny of performance is integral to optimising outcomes.

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee 2022 - 2023 QUARTER 4												APPENDIX 1			
												Year on year Qtr 4 comparisons			
Indicator	Title	Return Format	Reported	What is best	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023 - Qtr 1	2022/2023 - Qtr 2	2022/2023 - Qtr 3	2022/2023 - Qtr 4	2020/2021 compared to 2019/2020	2021/2022 compared to 2020/2021	2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022	
CUL 037	Number of shows held at the Hippodrome	Number	Monthly	Higher	290	0	173	36	107	193	251	↓	↑	↑	
CUL 038	Number of individual attendances at Hippodrome theatre shows	Number	Monthly	Higher	131,183	0	83,298	16,931	9	94,708	126,357	↓	↑	↑	
CUL 070	Reservations - where an item is reserved from stock or from another library and is supplied within 7 days, shown as a %	Percentage	Annually	Higher	52%	61%	60%	Annual indicator no data to report for these quarters			64%	↑	↓	↑	
CUL 071	Number of visits to the Head of Steam	Number	Monthly	Higher	42,146	4,216	24,859	11,959	28,698	39,797	40,379	↓	↑	↑	
CUL 078	Number of shows held at the Hullabaloo	Number	Monthly	Higher	164	0	107	32	36	99	122	↓	↑	↑	
CUL 079	Number of individual attendances at Hullabaloo shows	Number	Monthly	Higher	8,969	0	3,622	1,562	5	5,415	6,908	↓	↑	↑	
CUL 100	Number of library items borrowed	Number	Monthly	Higher	284,114	172,519	214,027	54,753	110,221	158,680	208,702	↓	↑	↓	
CUL 101	Physical Stock borrowed from Darlington Library	Number	Monthly	Higher		101,553	136,403	29,269	55,310	72,970	89,785	NA	↑	↓	
CUL 102	Physical Stock borrowed from Cockerton Library	Number	Monthly	Higher		12,320	36,748	15,257	34,207	54,896	76,931	NA	↑	↑	
CUL 103	Number of physical visits to Darlington Library	Number	Monthly	Higher	177,110	0	62,657	14,578	24,093	24,093	24,093	↓	↑	↓	
CUL 104	Number of physical visits to Cockerton Library	Number	Monthly	Higher	No data available			11,279	8,262	20,007	34,732	48,333	NA	NA	↑
CUL 105	Number of group engagements	Number	Monthly	Higher				257	131	270	432	598	NA	NA	↑
CUL 106	Number of group engagements at Darlington Library	Number	Monthly	Higher				158	46	84	83	83	NA	NA	↓
CUL 107	Number of group engagements at Cockerton Library	Number	Monthly	Higher				80	82	167	286	415	NA	NA	↑
CUL 108	Number of educational interactions	Number	Monthly	Higher				55	28	50	111	173	NA	NA	↑
CUL 109	Number of enquires directed to the Centre for Local Studies	Number	Monthly	Higher				3,445	1,352	2,406	2,697	2,994	NA	NA	↓
ENV 002	Number of Street Champions who are registered as being actively involved in litter picking a minimum of once per month	Number	Quarterly	Higher	136	174	416	471	486	499	522	↑	↑	↑	
ENV 006c	Total number of large fly-tips reported	Number	Quarterly	Lower	No data available			825	188	340	519	700	NA	NA	↑
ENV 006d	Total number of small fly-tips reported	Number	Quarterly	Lower				2,138	639	1,291	1,797	2,491	NA	NA	↓
ENV 006e	Total number of fly-tips reported	Number	Quarterly	Lower				2,963	827	1,631	2,316	3,191	NA	NA	↓
ENV 009	% household waste that is collected that is either reused, recycled or composted	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	40.8%	35.1%	32.4%	35.3%	34.5%	33.2%	31.7%	↓	↓	↓	
ENV 021	% of small fly tips removed within target time	Percentage	Monthly	Higher	85.3%	99.5%	93.6%	97.2%	98.3%	99.0%	96.7%	↑	↓	↑	
ENV 022	% of large fly tips removed within target time	Percentage	Monthly	Higher	85.7%	100.0%	93.6%	93.6%	95.7%	95.3%	93.7%	↑	↓	↑	

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee 2022 - 2023 QUARTER 4												APPENDIX 1			
												Year on year Qtr 4 comparisons			
Indicator	Title	Return Format	Reported	What is best	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023 - Qtr 1	2022/2023 - Qtr 2	2022/2023 - Qtr 3	2022/2023 - Qtr 4	2020/2021 compared to 2019/2020	2021/2022 compared to 2020/2021	2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022	
ENV 023	Number of prosecutions for fly-tipping	Number	Quarterly	Higher	0	0	0	0	3	5	8	↔	↔	↑	
ENV 024	Land Audit Management System - Litter Score	Percentage Value	Quarterly	Higher	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available	72%	No data available	71%	NA	NA	NA	
REG 803	Trading Standards : % of high risk inspections carried out	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	100%	100%	100%	0%	10%	33%	58%	↔	↔	↓	
TCP 101	Bus punctuality - % of non-frequent bus services running on time	Percentage	Annually	Higher	No data available	93.0%	88.9%	Annual indicator no data to report for these quarters				No data available	NA	↓	NA
TCP 200	% of principal roads where maintenance should be considered (A class)	Percentage	Annually	Lower	3.01%	1.87%	1.29%					1.47%	↑	↑	↓
TCP 202	% of non principal roads where maintenance should be considered (B and C class)	Percentage	Annually	Lower	5.96%	5.97%	5.42%					5.30%	↓	↑	↑
TCP 203	% of unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered	Percentage	Annually	Lower	7.9%	13.1%	15.9%					16.5%	↓	↓	↓
TCP 600	Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	Number	Annually	Lower	44	27	41					47	↑	↓	↓
TCP 601	Number of people slightly injured in road traffic accidents	Number	Annually	Lower	151	97	113					89	↑	↓	↑
TCP 602	Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	Number	Annually	Lower	5	2	5					4	↑	↓	↑
TCP 603	Number of children slightly injured in road traffic accidents	Number	Annually	Lower	15	14	8					17	↑	↑	↓
TCP 900	Overall Public Satisfaction with Public Transport Theme (National Highways and Transport Survey)	Percentage	Annually	Higher	58%	58%	55%	48%	↔	↓	↓				
									Better than =	↑	9	13	19		
									Not as good as =	↓	10	10	14		
									The same as =	↔	3	2	0		
									No comparative data	NA	13	10	2		



DBC Number

CUL 037

Indicator Name

Number of shows held at the Hippodrome

Theme or Portfolio

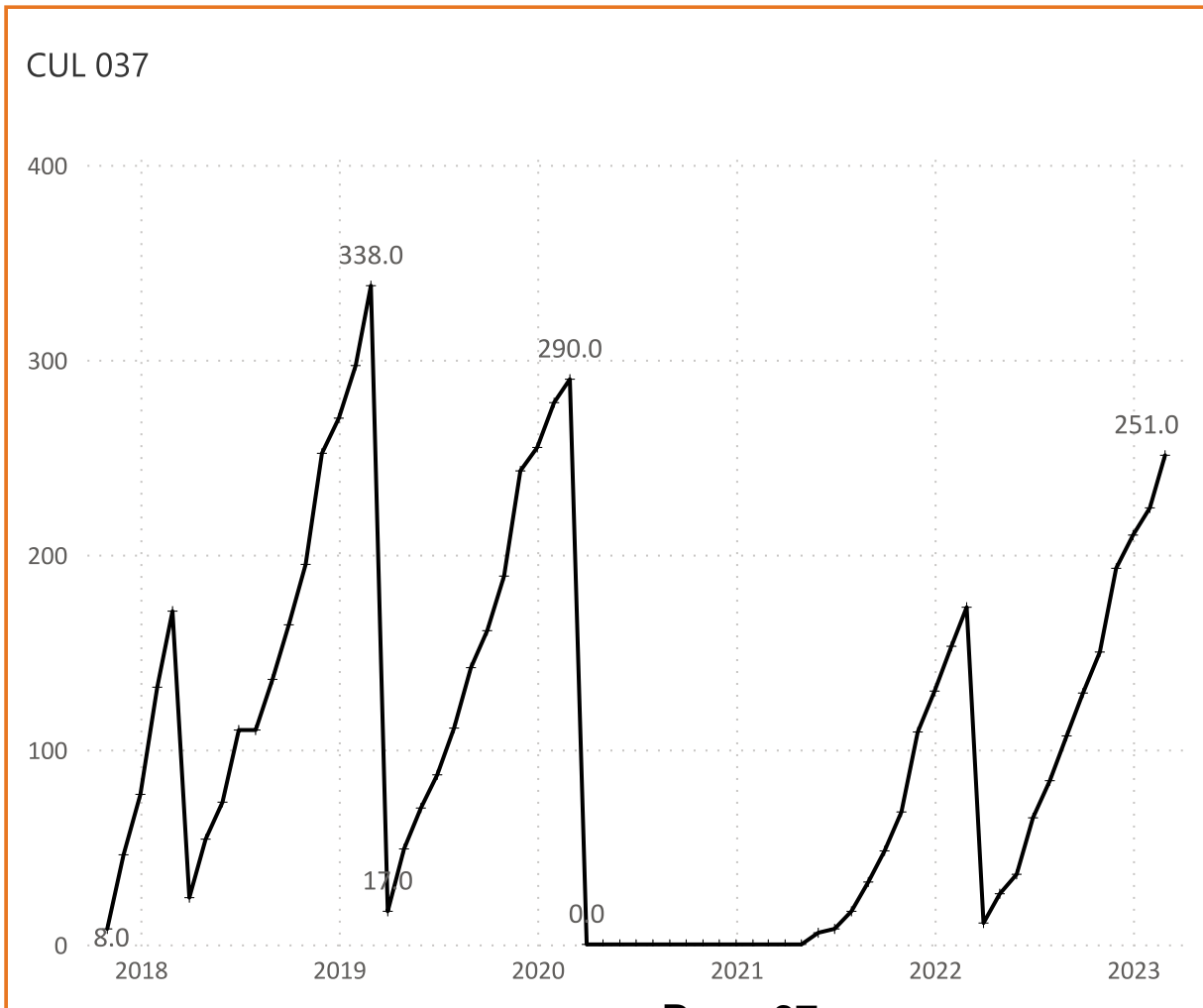
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Availability and stability of shows was difficult for the financial year. many shows are programmed 1 - 2 years in advance and at the point of programming 2022/2023 the theatre industry was still in flux as we recovered from Covid.

Show options were limited as many touring shows were running limited tour periods to minimise risk, or were choosing only to go to major venues. To safeguard the future of Darlington Hippodrome, we sought individual music shows which minimised the theatre's financial risk and offered broad appeal to audiences. This model supported the theatre to maintain healthy income and secondary spend but has had an impact on the number of shows we were able to present.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 038

Indicator Name

Number of individual attendances at theatre shows

Theme or Portfolio

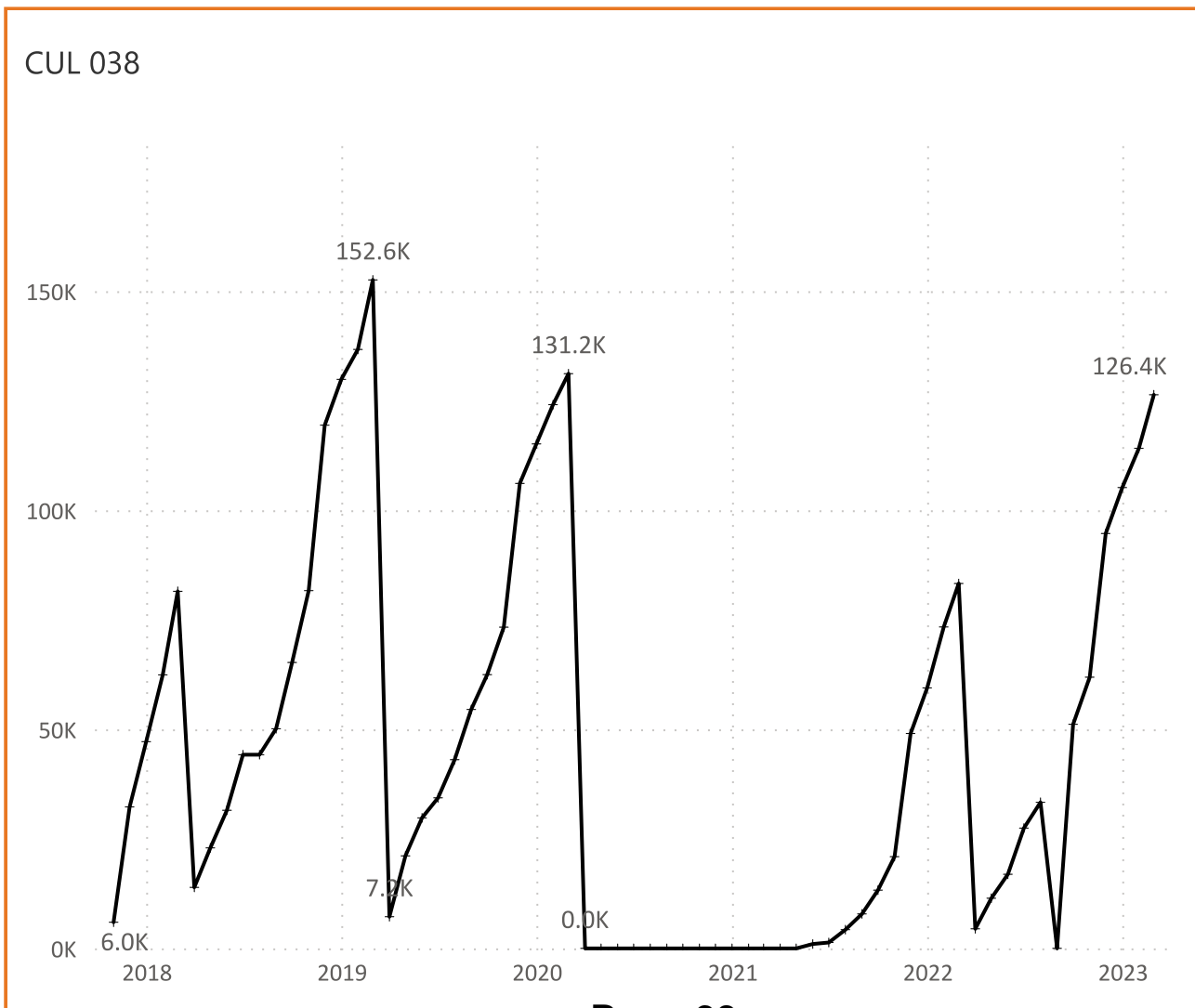
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Covid continued to impact audience booking habits this year. Some audiences found new cultural or leisure pursuits and others had fallen out of the routine of attending theatre. We have seen a steep decline in attendance by older customers who made up a large percentage of our drama audience

As the visitor economy continues to recover after the Covid closure period, we have started to see growth in audiences as the theatre continues to increase the number and variety of shows available. This richer more diverse programme helps to draw in existing and new audiences.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 070

Indicator Name

Library Reservations: % of reserved stock or stock from another library supplied within 7 days

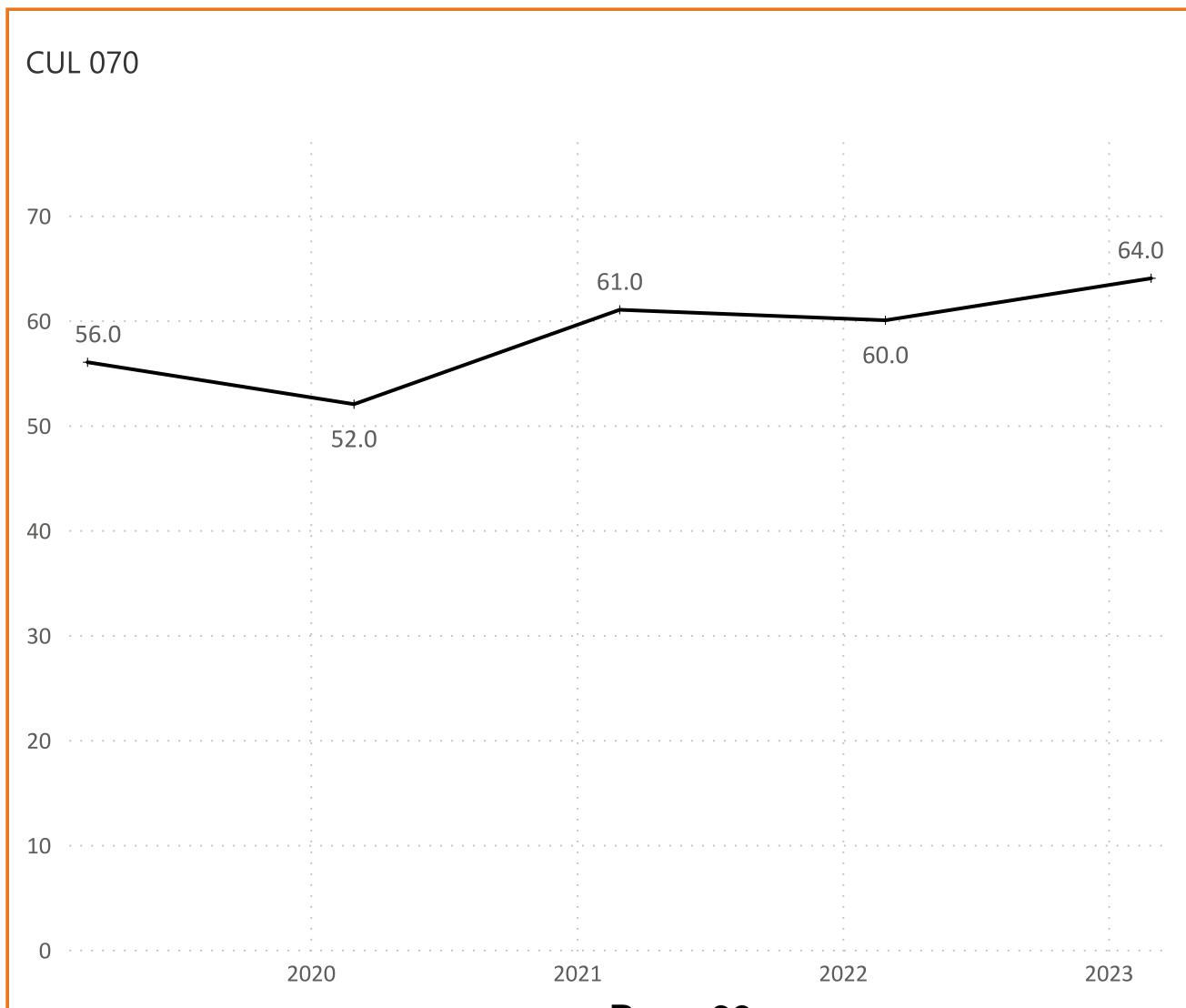
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Our reservations are now marketed as a "Select and Collect" service. Customers are encouraged to use this through our App, through our website, over the phone, or in person at Cockerton Library or our temporary Select and Collect Point at the Dolphin Centre. Select and Collect is a daily task for staff at both libraries and allows customers to access our whole catalogue of stock, and for them to collect from whichever venues is best for them.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 071

Indicator Name

Number of visits to the Head of Steam

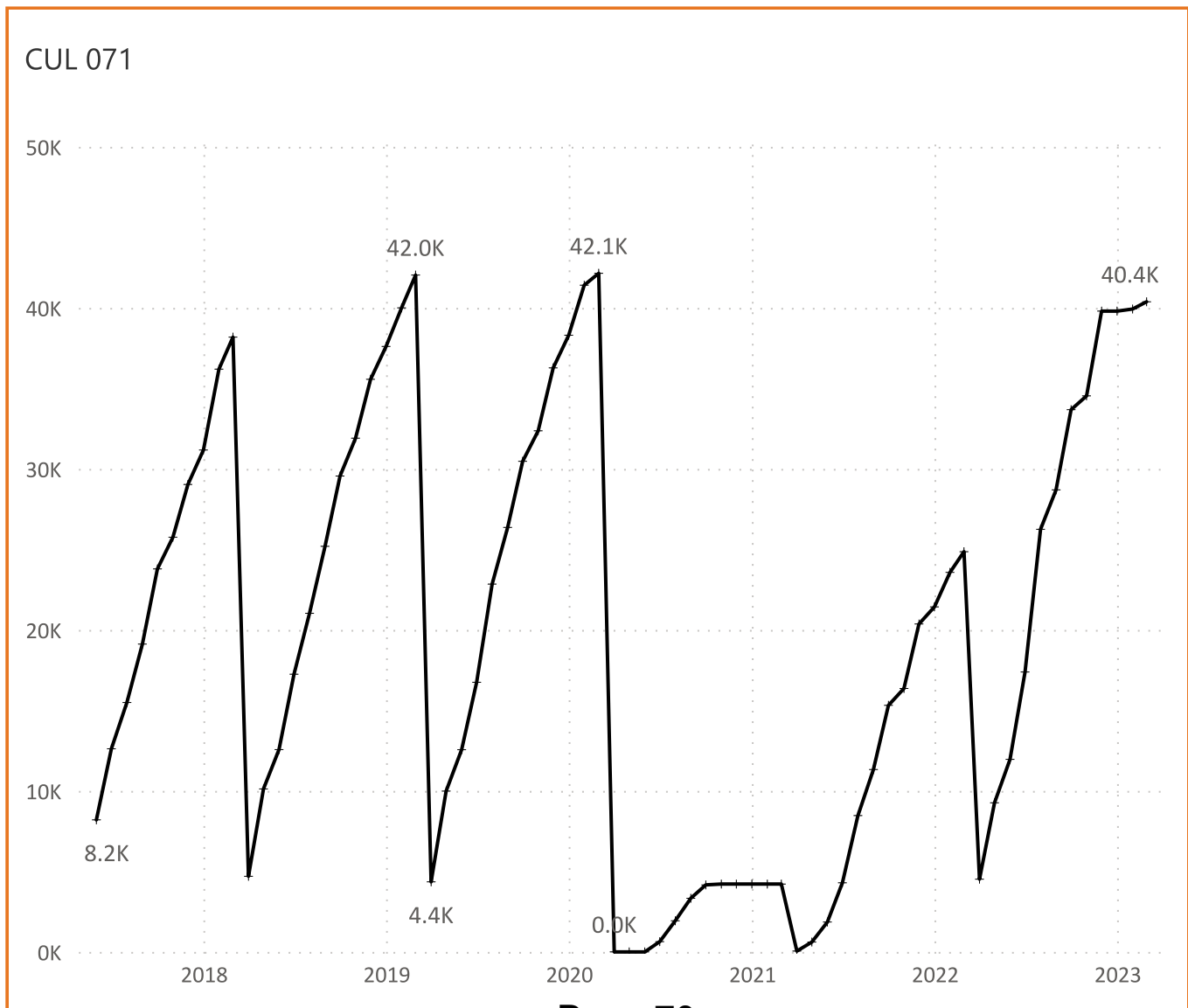
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The museum closed to the public at the end of December 2022 to undergo a £35m redevelopment. All engagement with the public throughout 2023 will be through outreach at different venues and settings, such as schools and community centres within Darlington. The lack of a museum venue has resulted in a reduction in the museum's visitor figures. However, as our outreach programme becomes more established our engagement figures are starting to slowly increase.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 078

Indicator Name

Number of shows held at the Hullabaloo

Theme or Portfolio

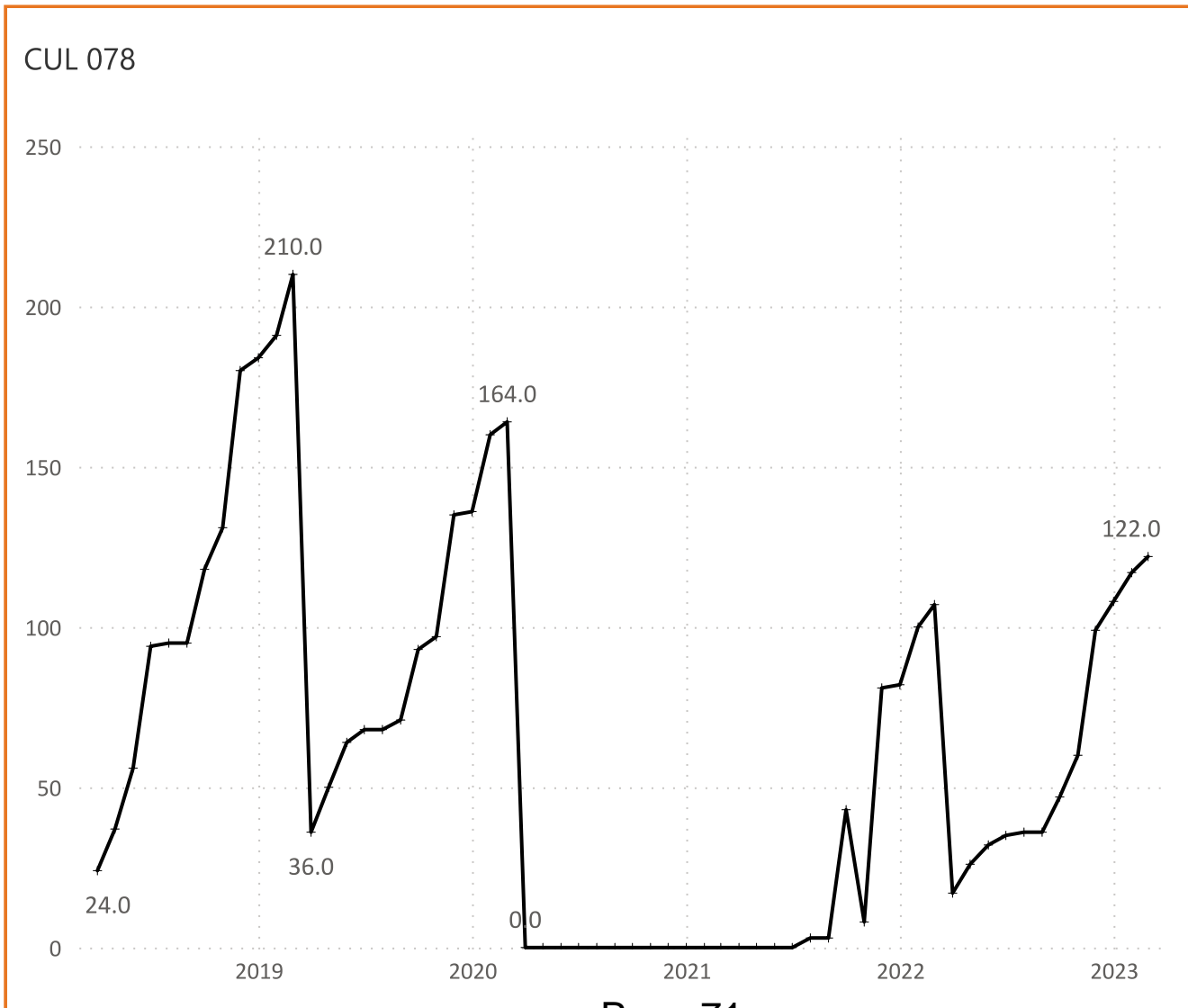
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Availability of shows for the Hullabaloo was lower this financial year as artists and producers recovered from Covid impacts and gathered funding to be able to mount tours.

Show options were more limited as many touring shows were running limited tour periods to minimise risk. A greater focus was given to the Hippodrome show programme as a priority as it offered greater potential for revenue and retained margins.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 079

Indicator Name

Number of individual attendances at Hullabaloo shows

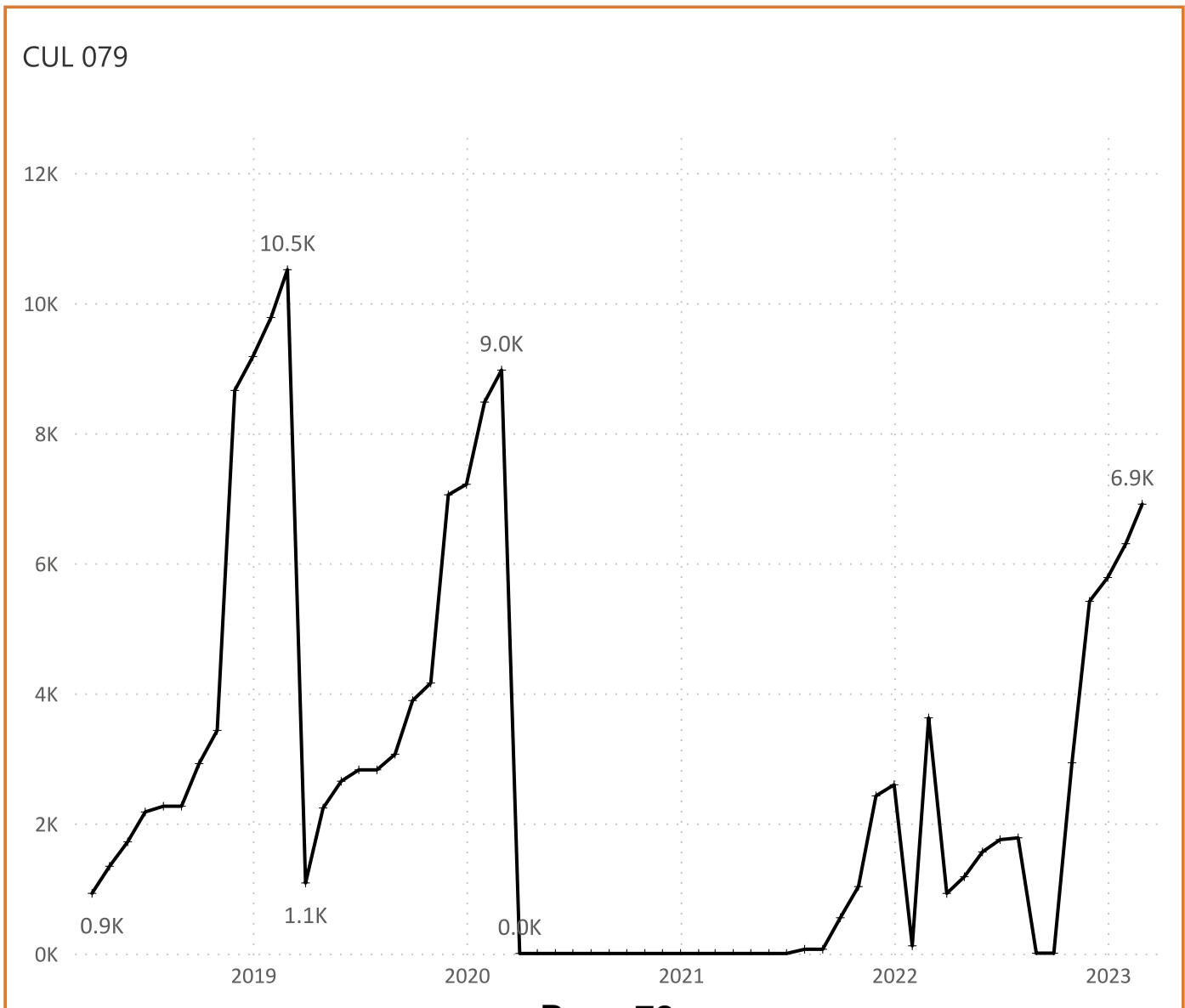
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Covid continued to impact audience booking habits this year. Some audiences found new cultural or leisure pursuits and others had fallen out of the routine of attending theatre. As the visitor economy continues to recover after the Covid closure period, we have started to see growth in audiences as options for more regular programming generates greater choice for audiences

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 100

Indicator Name

Library items borrowed (including physical and digital stock, quarterly)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

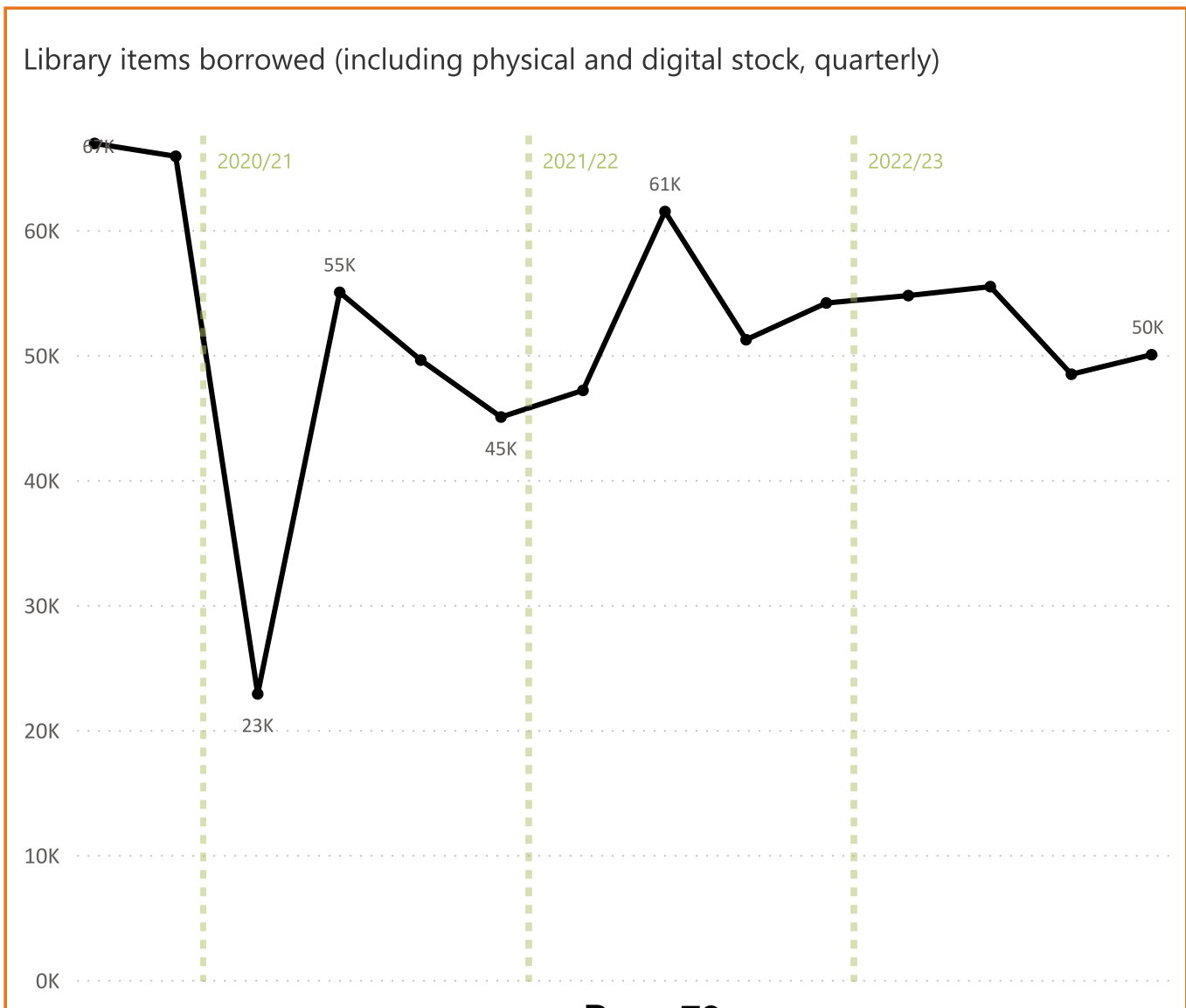
Priority or Key Action

Whilst - Valuing our heritage and culture

Narrative

There is only a slight drop of 2.5% in our borrowing figures, which factoring in the current closure at Darlington Library, reflects the dedication of the library team to keep services as accessible as possible for our customers during this time. These figures include our physical books, our audio books and our digital stock of eBooks, eAudio, digital magazines and newspapers.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 101

Indicator Name

Physical Stock borrowed from Darlington Library

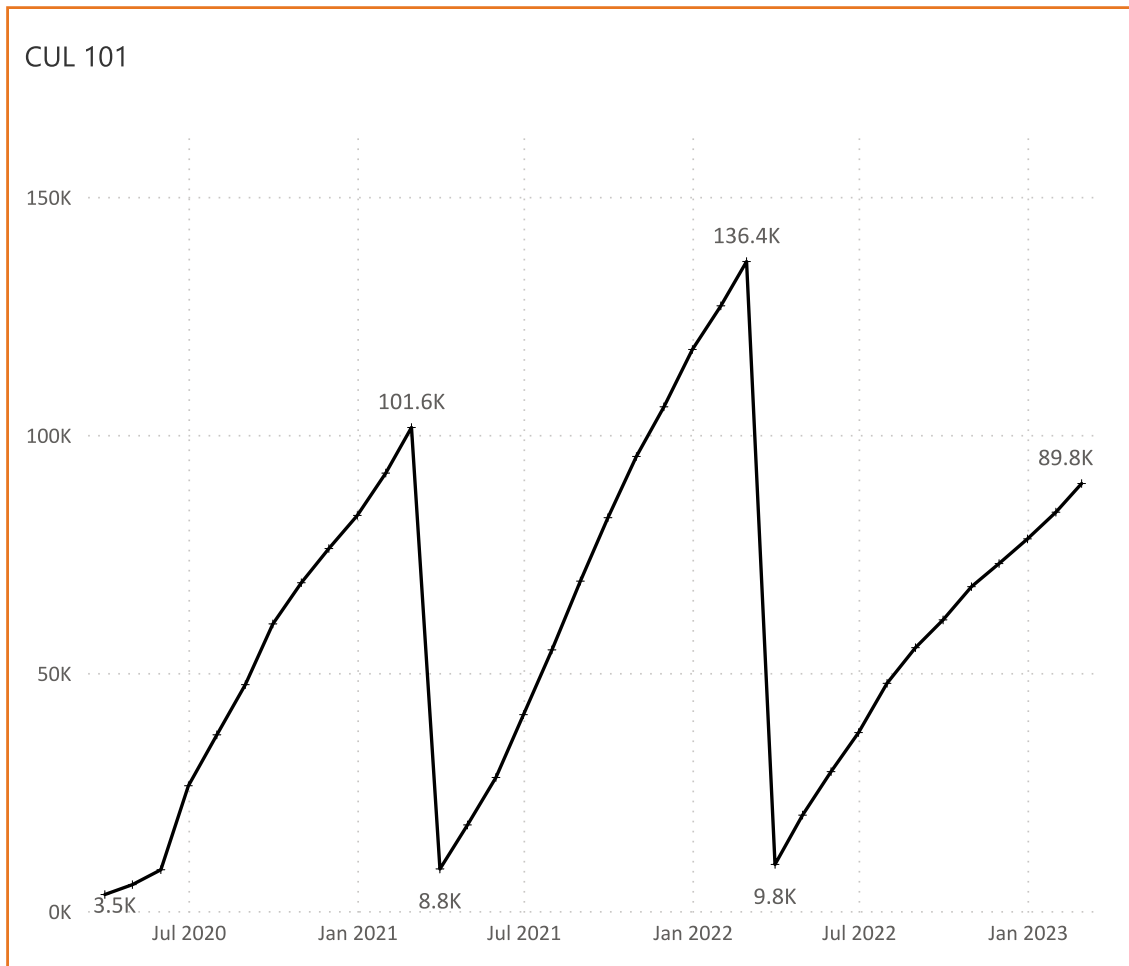
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Stock borrowed from our central library is at record low due to the doors being temporarily closed. Customers can borrow through the Select and Collect point at the Dolphin Centre, our Home Delivery Service, and our book box scheme which supports schools, nurseries, and old people's homes. During 2022/23 we delivered 21,523 books direct to older people's homes through our Home Delivery Service, a scheme which receives consistently high feedback and appreciation from customers.

Graph/Table



Text



DBC Number

CUL 102

Indicator Name

Physical Stock borrowed from Cockerton Library

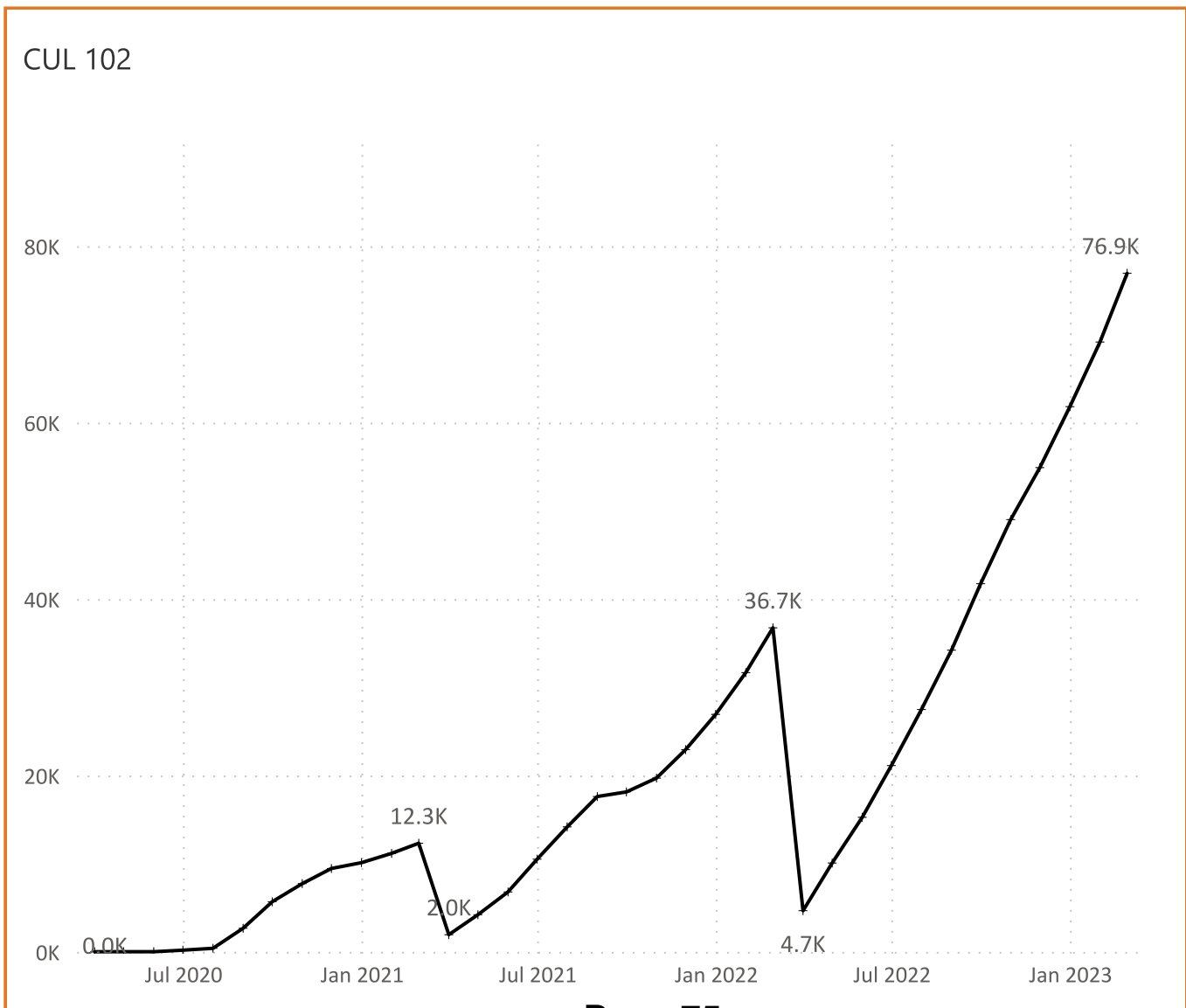
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Lending figures at our branch library have exceeded those since 2017/18. The library is very busy with customers of all ages visiting to borrow books. We believe the rise stems from the refurbishment in November 2021, the engagement programme offered by the team, the management of stock at the branch, and the change of behaviour as customers visit Cockerton Library whilst the town library is closed for refurbishment.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 103

Indicator Name

Number of physical visits to Darlington Library (door count, quarterly)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

Whilst - Valuing our heritage and culture

Narrative

The doors are currently closed as work progresses on Darlington Library.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 104

Indicator Name

Number of physical visits to Cockerton Library (door count, quarterly)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

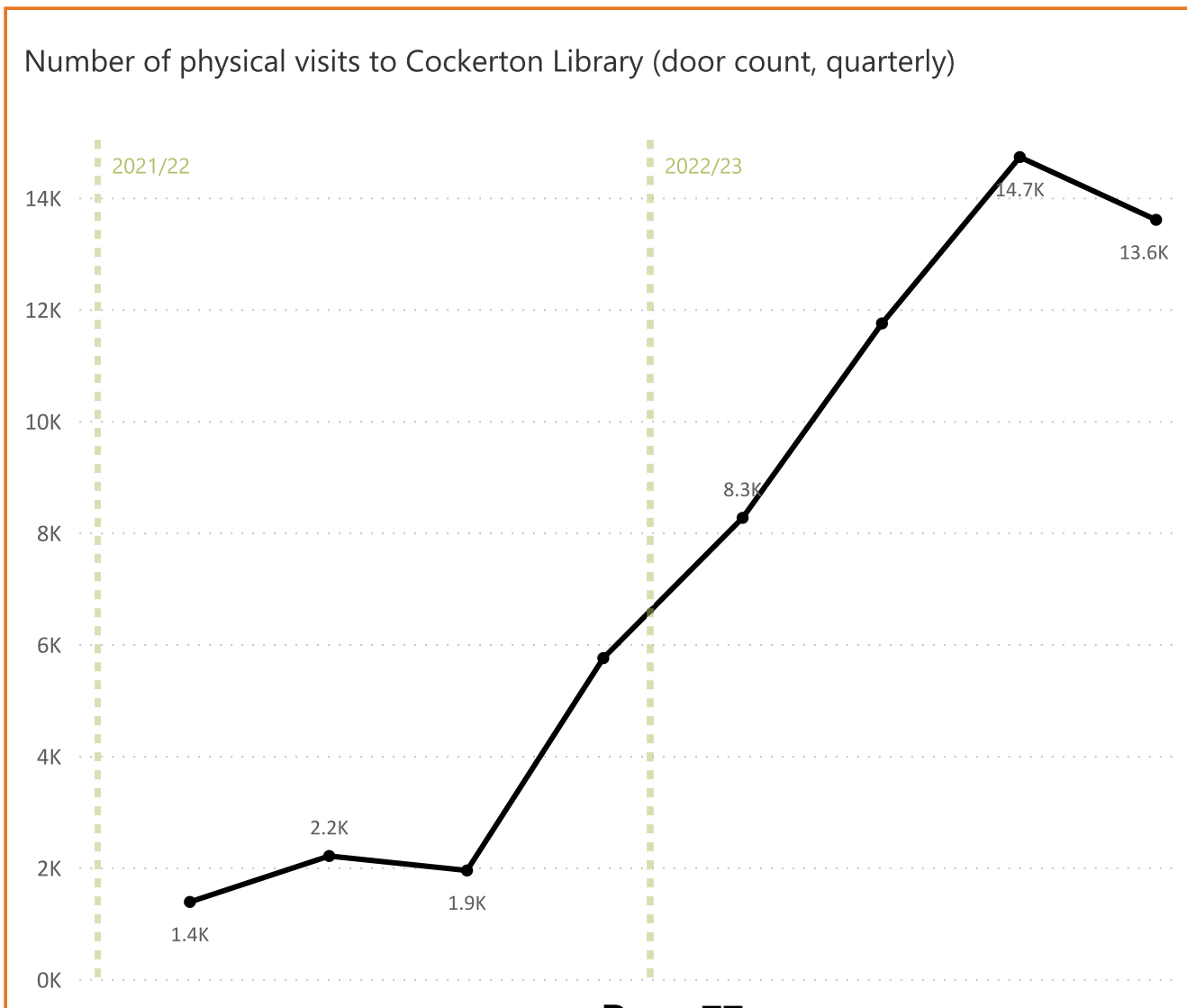
Priority or Key Action

Whilst - Valuing our heritage and culture

Narrative

Visitor numbers to our branch library have increased and are at the highest recorded since 2016. The team strive to engage a diverse range of audiences through a varied activity programme, whilst providing knowledge on books and support with computers. Physical visits to Cockerton Library are monitored using a door counter and we note that on occasion the battery has died, as such the recorded figures are likely to be under our actual visitor numbers.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 105

Indicator Name

Number of group engagements provided within libraries, at external venues and online

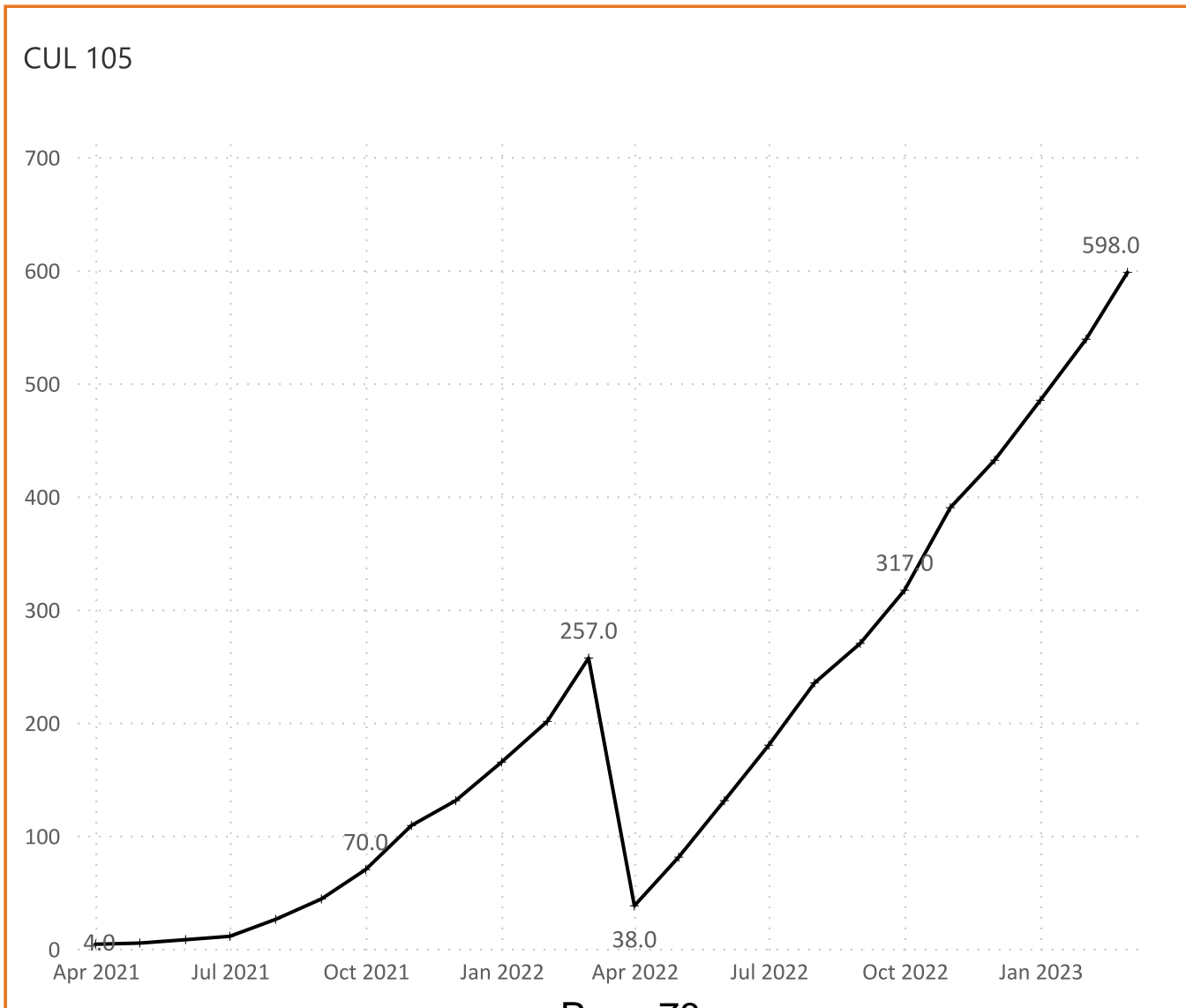
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The Audience Development Team are working within Cockerton Library and at schools, nurseries, and out in the community to reach as many different audiences as we can. Sharing books and library information to raise the profile of our service, encourage reading for education, well being, and enjoyment, and offering wider support such as working with Ukrainian refugees and parent support groups.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 106

Indicator Name

Number of group engagements at Darlington Library

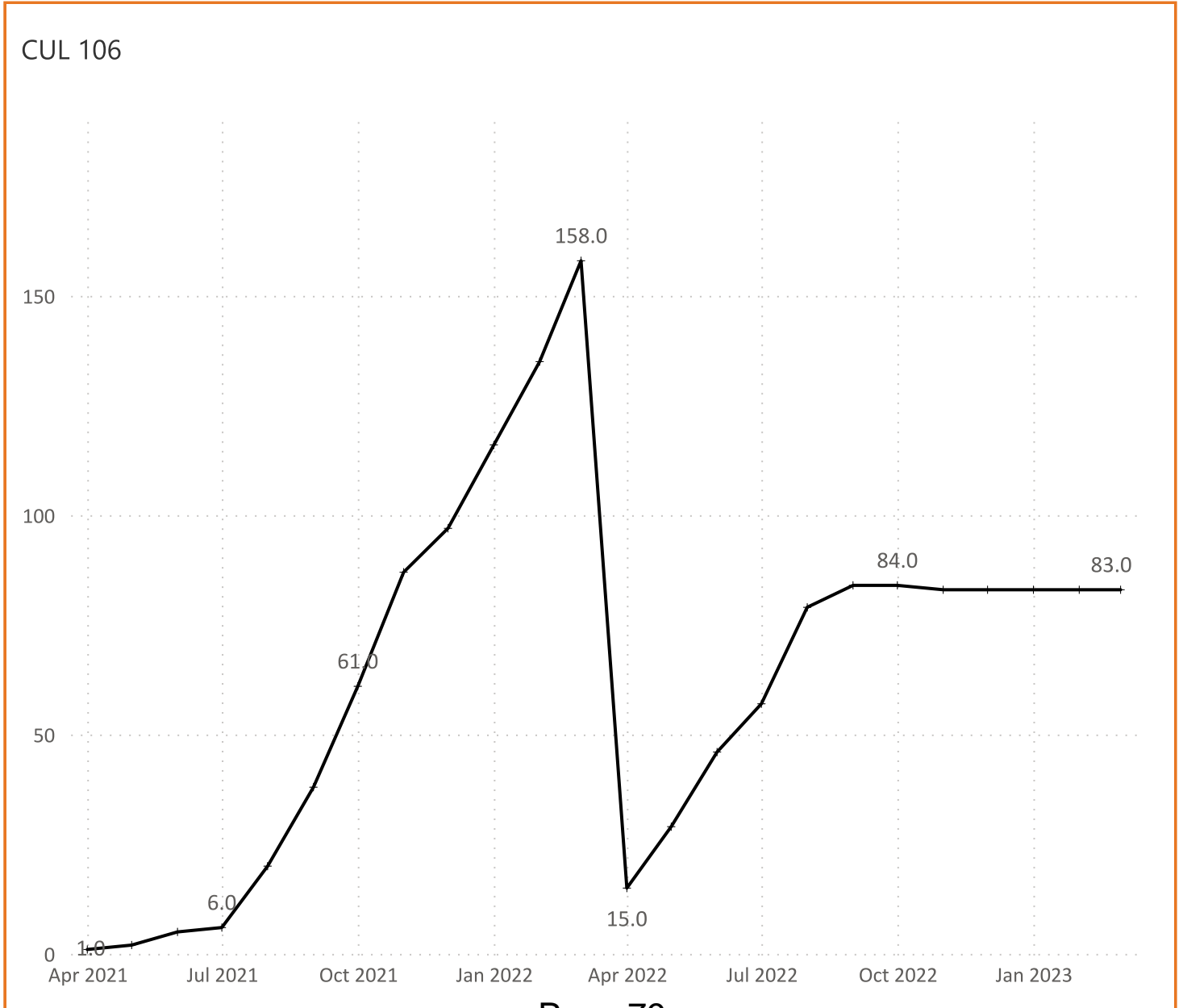
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

..... These are currently on hold as work progresses on Darlington Library.
.....

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 107

Indicator Name

Number of group engagements at Cockerton Library

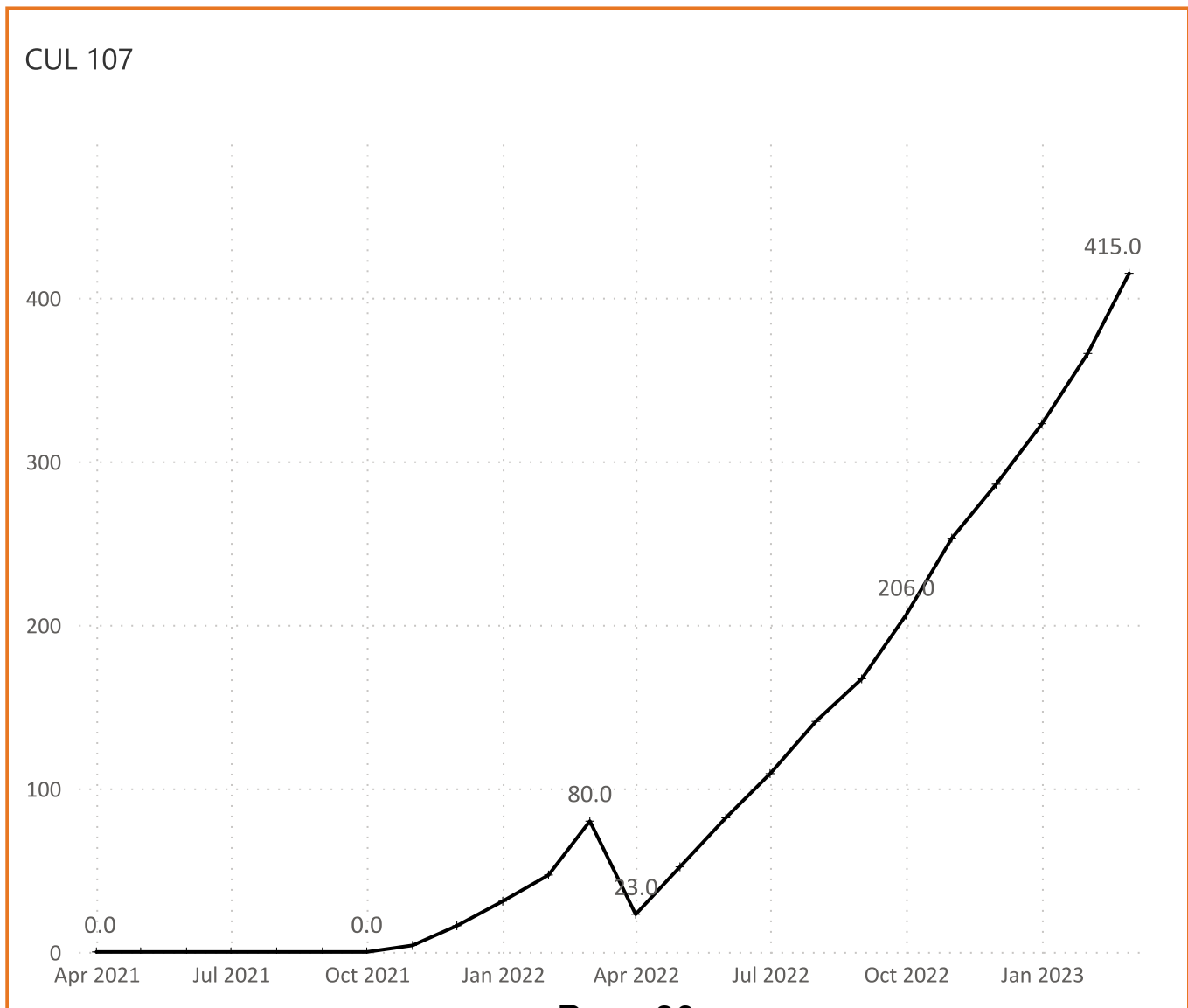
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The team are working hard to offer a varied events and activity programme from Cockerton Library both during opening hours, and out of hours by our Audience Development Team. Currently we run "Watercolours" for budding artists, "Rock of Ages" for older people and those with dementia, "Reading Sparks" aimed at helping children with hands on science progression, alongside our regular Rhymetimes and Lego clubs for children. We also hold one-off children's and adult events such as authors, writing workshops, crafts, and animal encounters.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 108

Indicator Name

Number of educational interactions

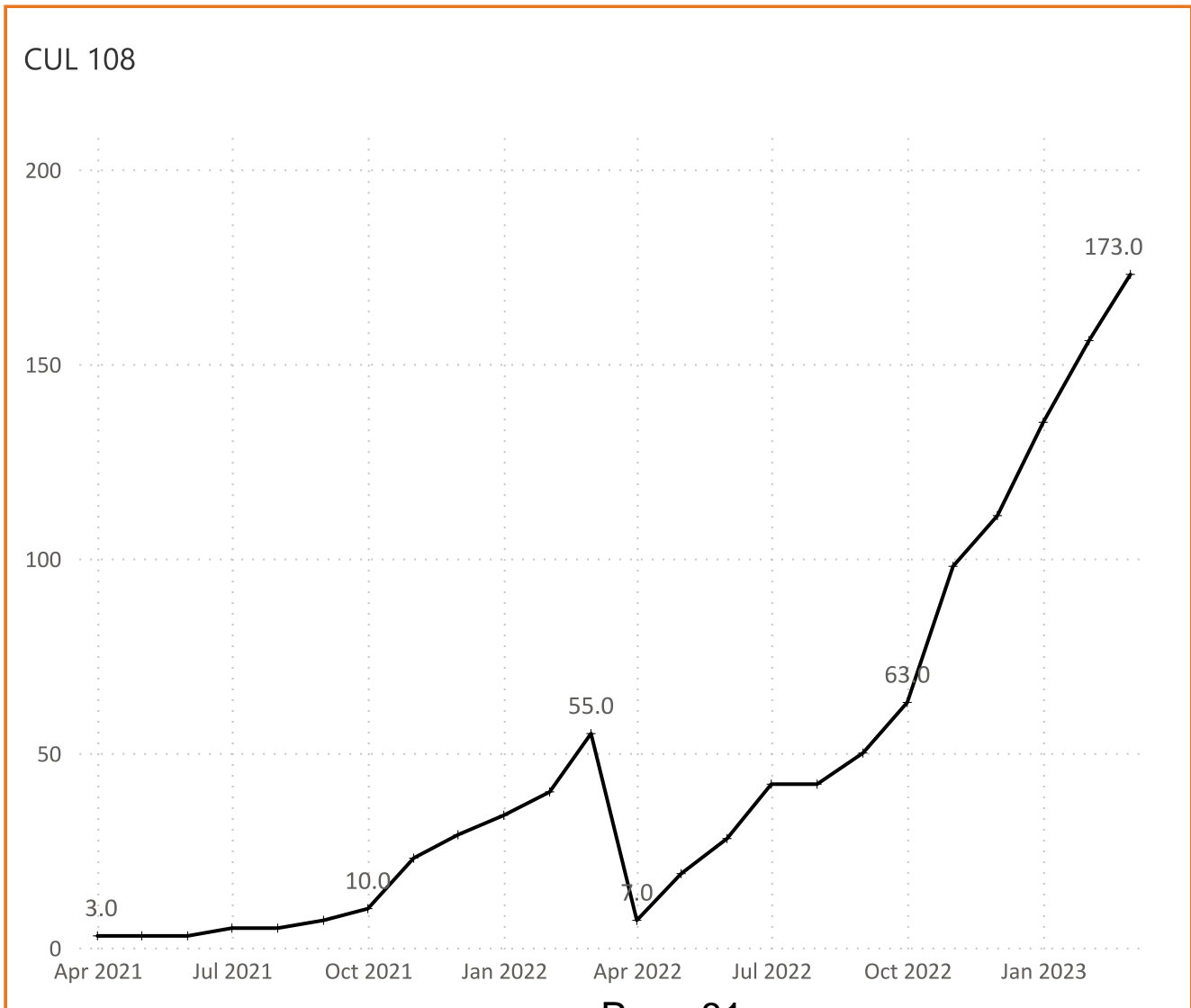
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Local schools St Mary's Cockerton, Holy Family, and Mount Pleasant visit Cockerton Library regularly helping children to access and choose quality reading material. Visits are offered by our libraries to all nurseries and schools in Darlington and these are on the rise as our Audience Development Team work to re-establish links after the pandemic. The figures represent visits from nurseries, schools and colleges to our library venues, or a member of our team visiting them.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

CUL 109

Indicator Name

Number of enquires directed to the Centre for Local Studies

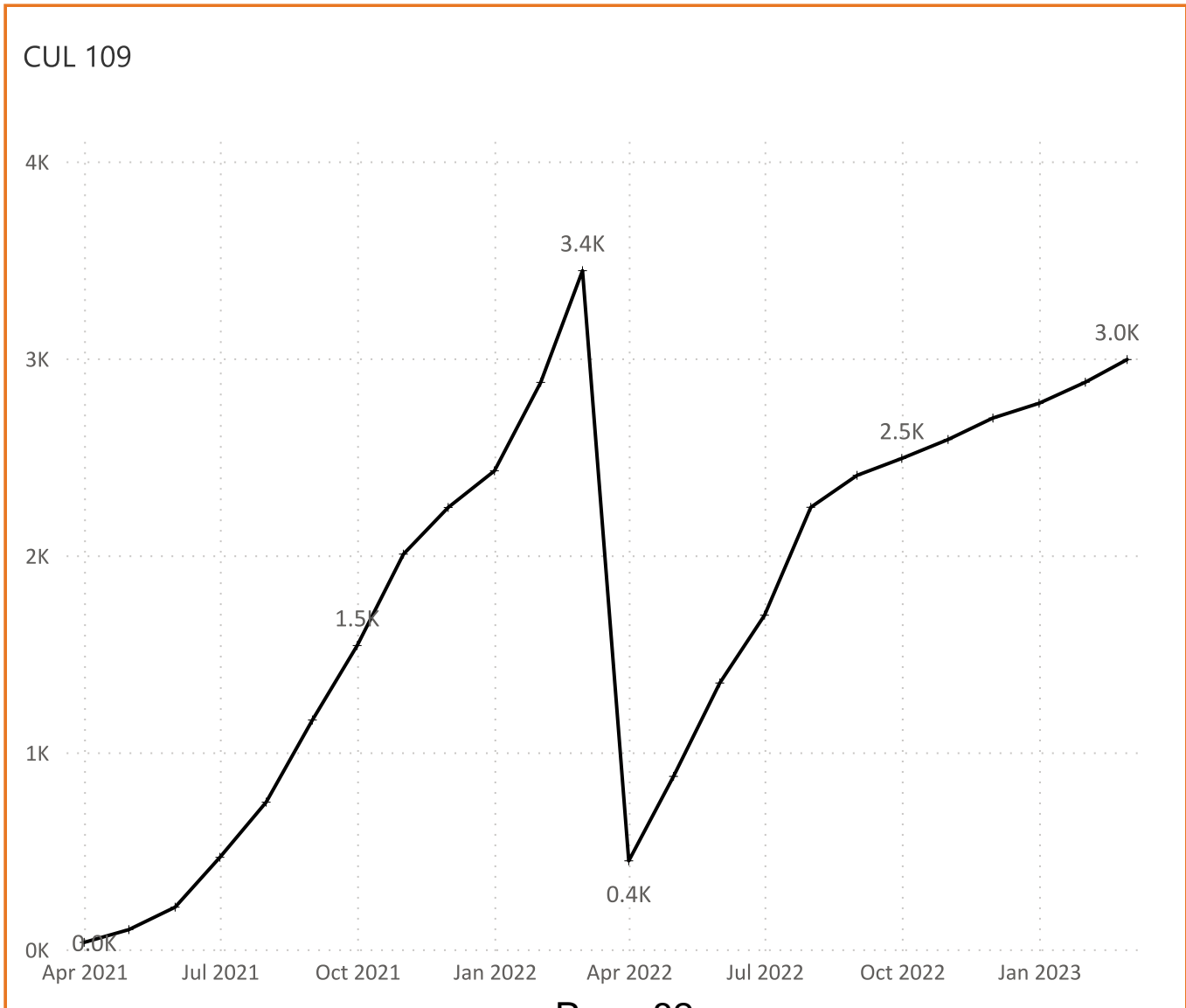
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The Centre for Local Studies is Darlington’s largest collection of local information and research. We have visitors contact us from around the world and visiting us from around the UK. Whilst our building is closed to the public, the Local Studies staff receive email and telephone enquiries, and they book appointments at our branch library to satisfy enquiries. Stock and support are offered from Cockerton Library weekly outside of general opening hours.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

ENV 002

Indicator Name

Number of registered Street Champions

Theme or Portfolio

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO MAXIMISE THEIR POTENTIAL

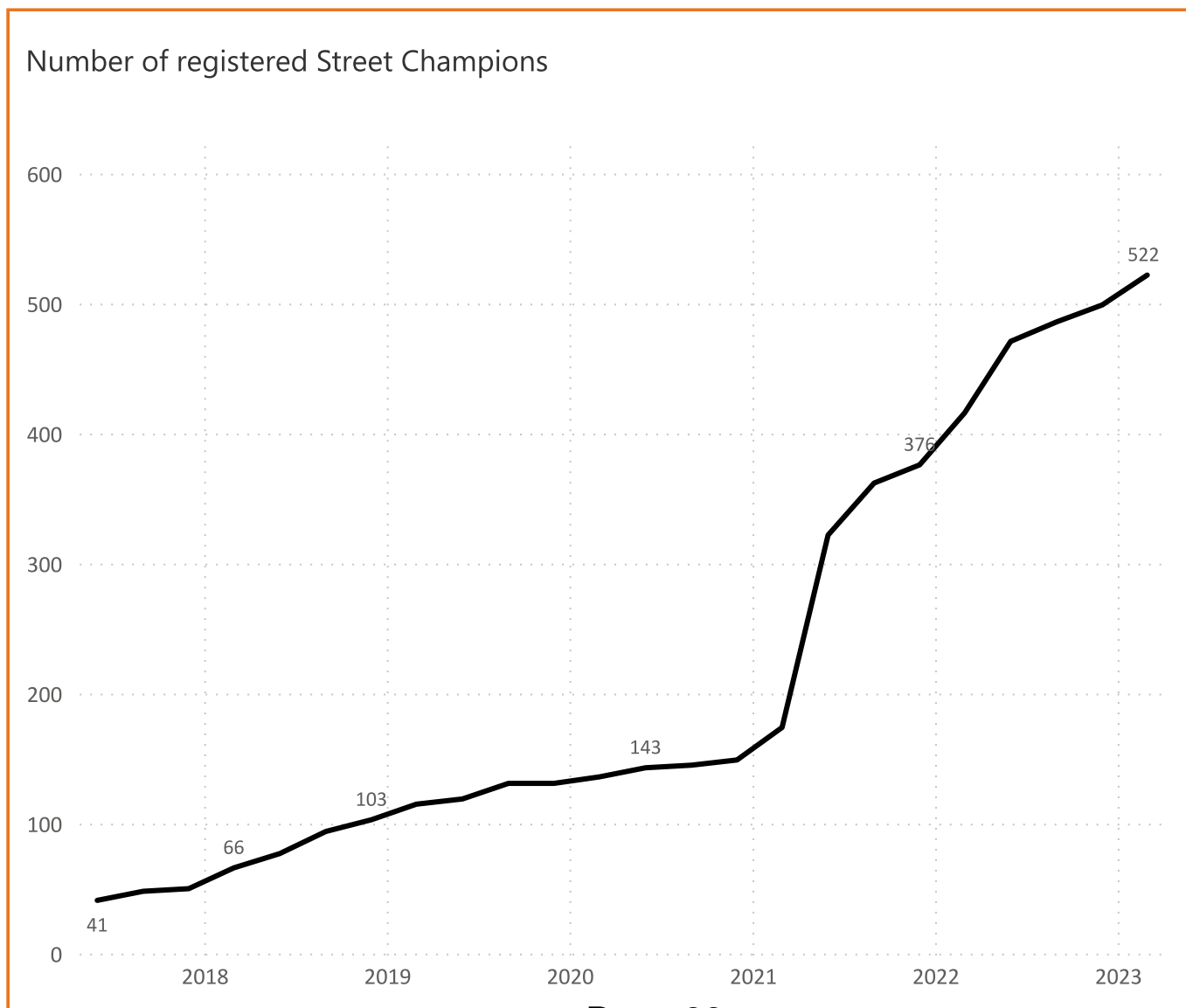
Priority or Key Action

Working with communities

Narrative

The number of street champions continues to rise steadily. There are 522 active street champions, the Big spring clean 2022 campaign was a success again and saw more volunteers sign up off the back of an organised litter pick. The scheme has also encouraged other groups to set up a regular litter picking event to improve with mental health / wellbeing for individuals who became self-isolated during lock downs.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

ENV 006e

Indicator Name

Total number of fly-tips reported

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

When comparing 2021/22 performance against 2022/23, overall fly tips have increased by 7.6%. While small fly tips (a couple of bin bags) have increased by 16.5% over the period, large fly tips have reduced by 15%. A large proportion of small fly tips is side waste, put out particularly in back lanes at the same time as refuse collection. A significant proportion of these fly tips are being identified by staff as part of the back lanes project, which is achieving great success in the areas it is operating in. The majority of fly tips are collected within 5 days. The larger, more complex incidents that take longer sometimes contain asbestos (or other) and need significant resources to remove.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

ENV 006f

Indicator Name

Number of fly-tips reported in quarter

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

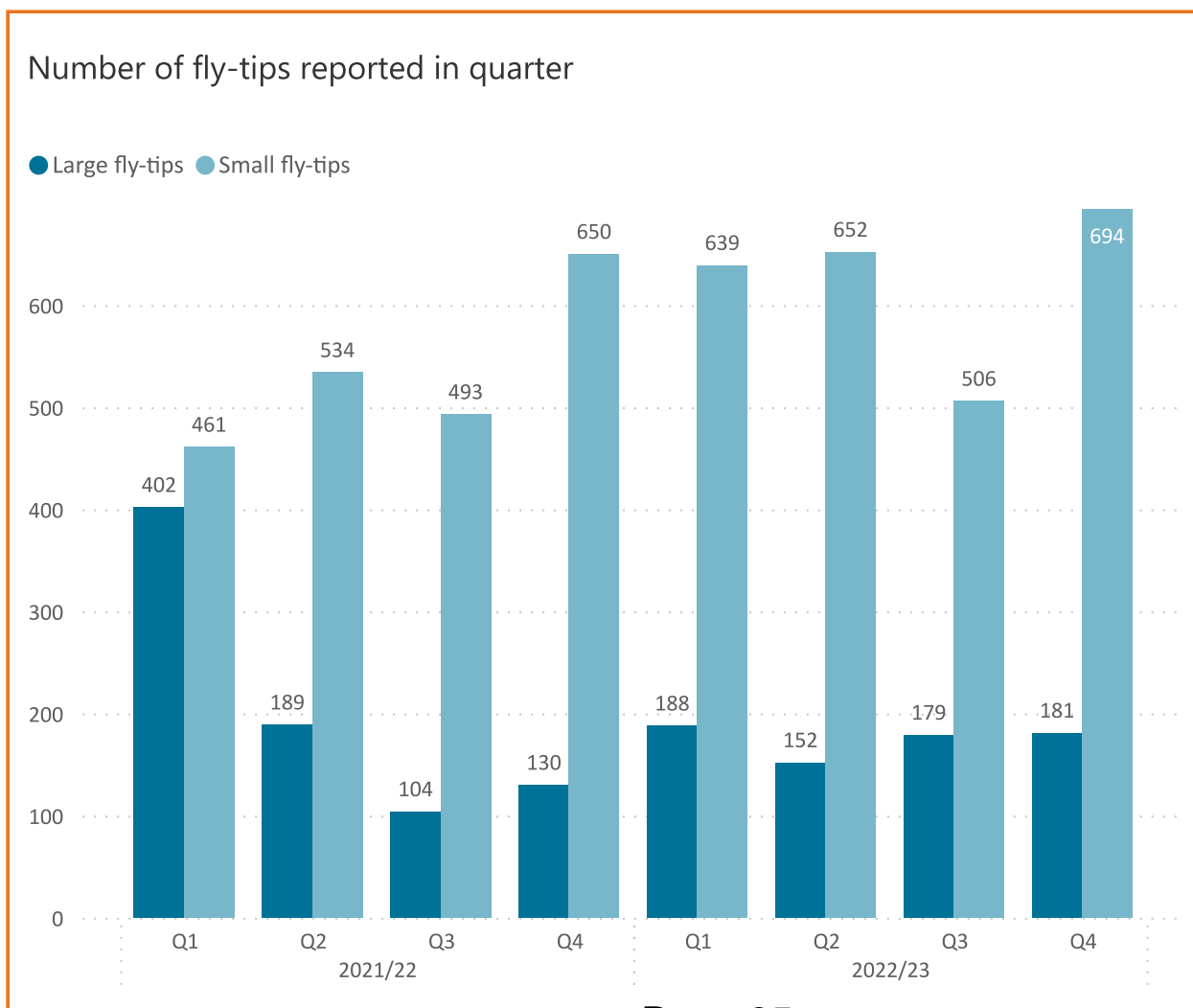
Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Clean

Narrative

When comparing 2021/22 performance against 2022/23, overall fly tips have increased by 7.6%. While small fly tips (a couple of bin bags) have increased by 16.5% over the period, large fly tips have reduced by 15%. A large proportion of small fly tips is side waste, put out particularly in back lanes at the same time as refuse collection. A significant proportion of these fly tips are being identified by staff as part of the back lanes project, which is achieving great success in the areas it is operating in. The majority of fly tips are collected within 5 days. The larger, more complex incidents that take longer sometimes contain asbestos (or other) and need significant resources to remove.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

ENV 009

Indicator Name

Percentage of household waste that is collected that is either reused, recycled or composted

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

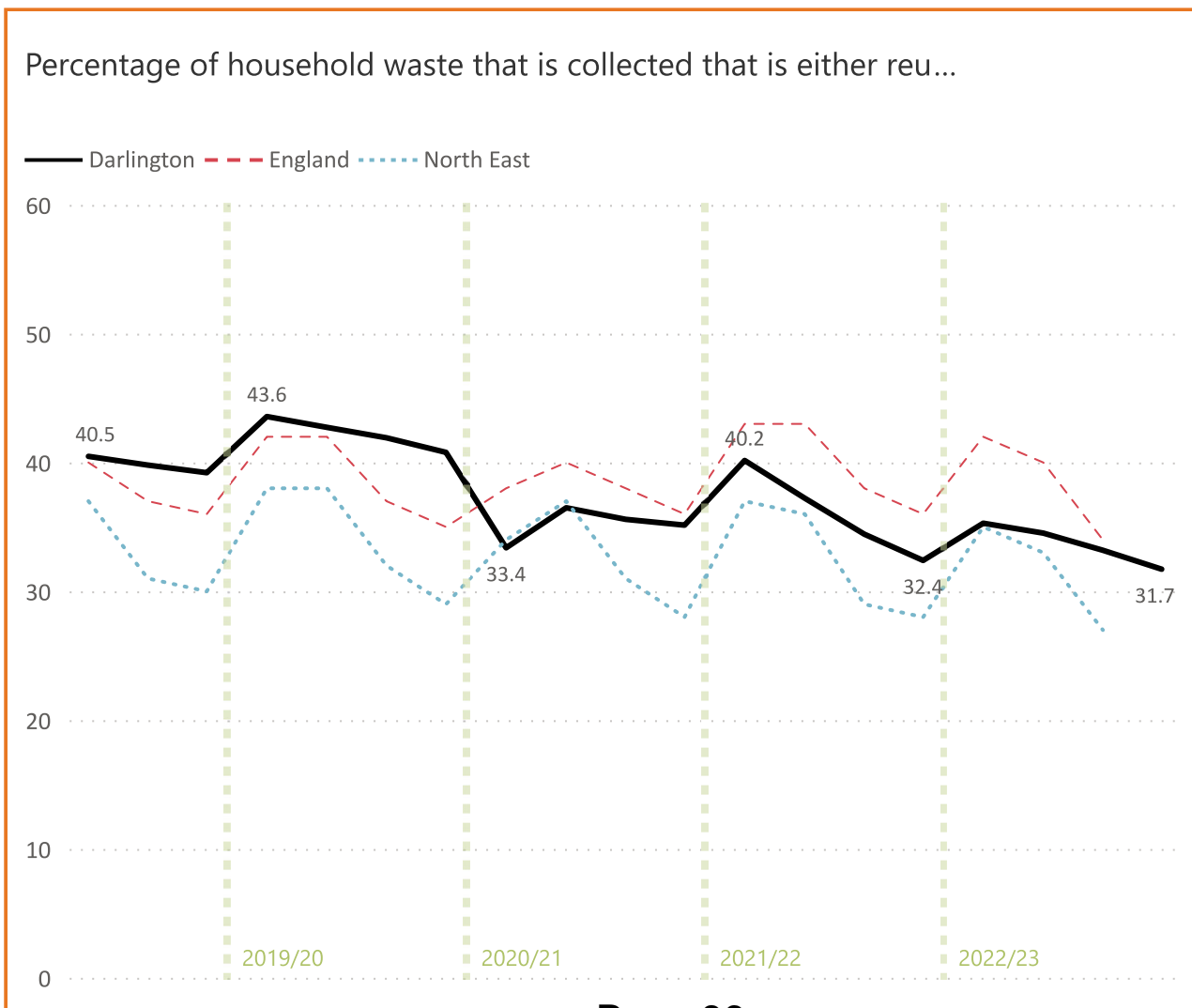
Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Clean

Narrative

The amount of waste that is recycled, composted or reused has fallen in recent years due to changes in what can be accounted for and an error that was picked up through an external audit. However, similar to other areas and nationally, recycling levels in recent years has started to plateau. Significant work continues to be undertaken by Street Scene and Communication teams to increase recycling and reduce contamination, by raising residents awareness of what can be recycled via various medias.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

ENV 021

Indicator Name

Percentage of small fly tips removed within target time (reported monthly)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

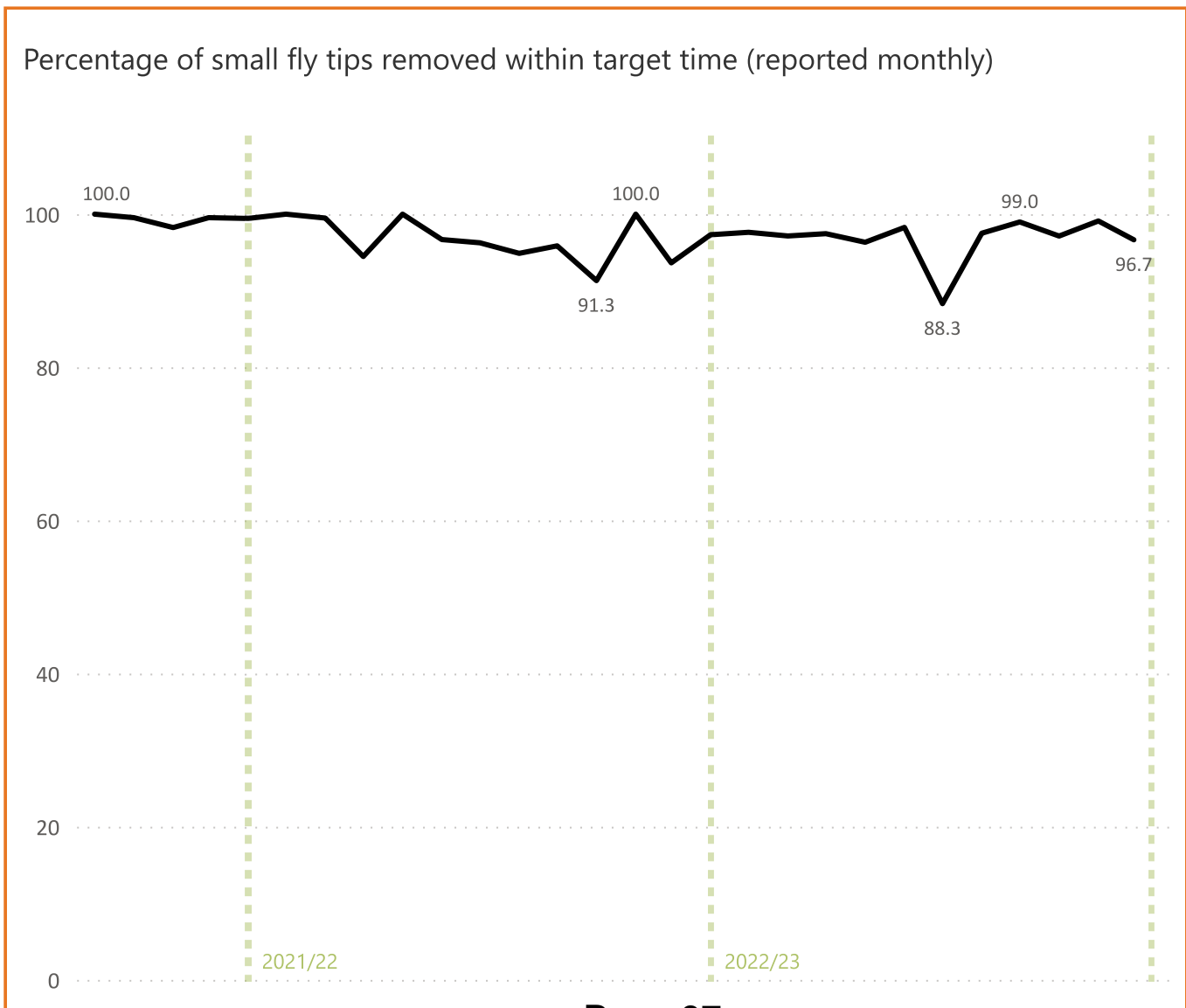
Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Clean

Narrative

The performance of street cleansing teams remains very high with an average since April 2022 of 96.8% of small fly tips removed within their target time. The introduction of an additional back lane crew has made a significant difference to the time fly tips are collected with the majority being collected in under 5 days with a significant number of those in under 2 days.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

ENV 022

Indicator Name

Percentage of large fly tips removed within target time (reported monthly)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

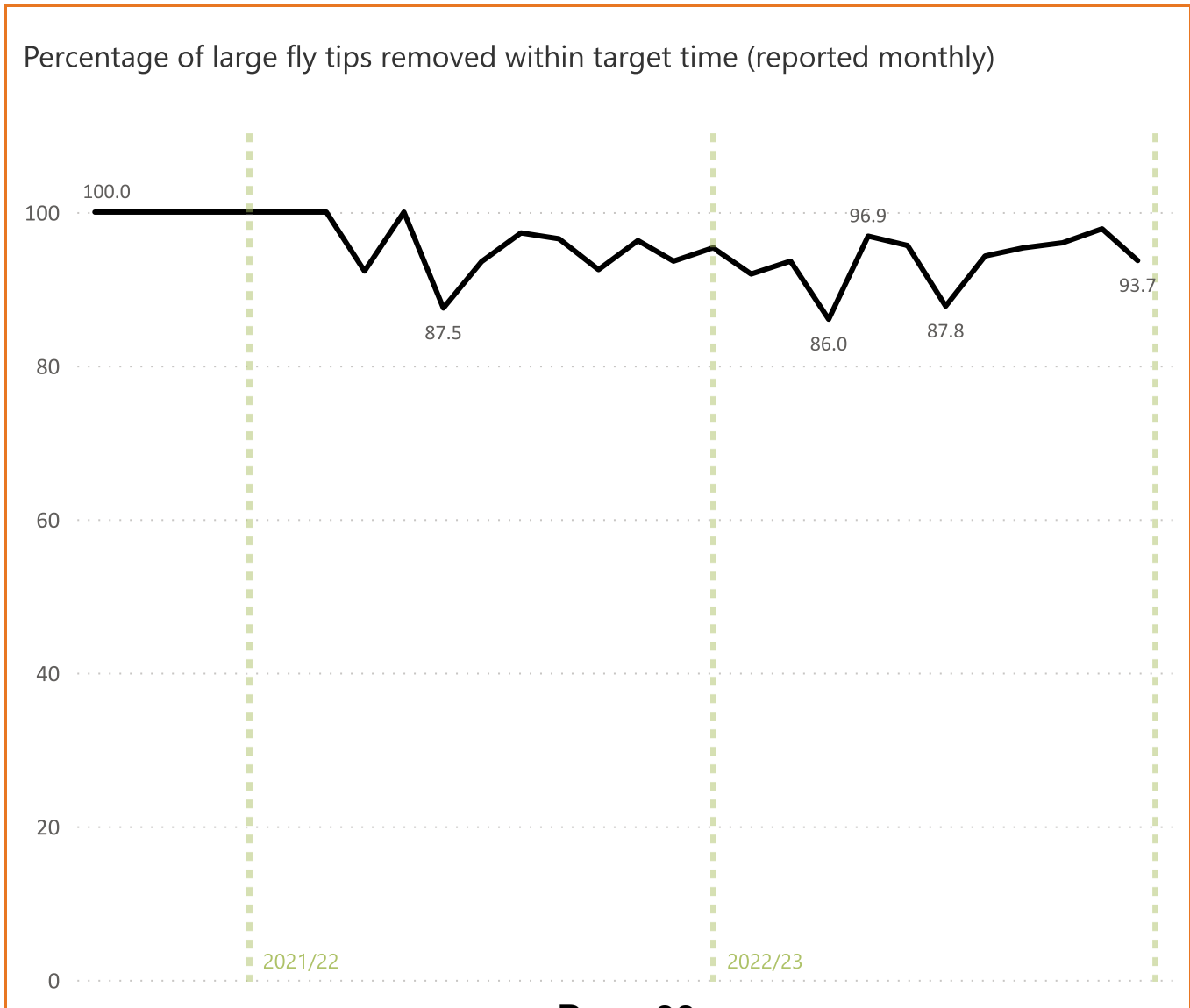
Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Clean

Narrative

The performance of street cleansing teams remains very high with an average of 93.69% of large fly tips removed within their target time. The introduction of an additional back lane crew has made a significant difference to the time fly tips are collected with the majority being collected in under 5 days with a significant number of those in under 2 days.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

ENV 023

Indicator Name

Number of prosecutions for fly-tipping

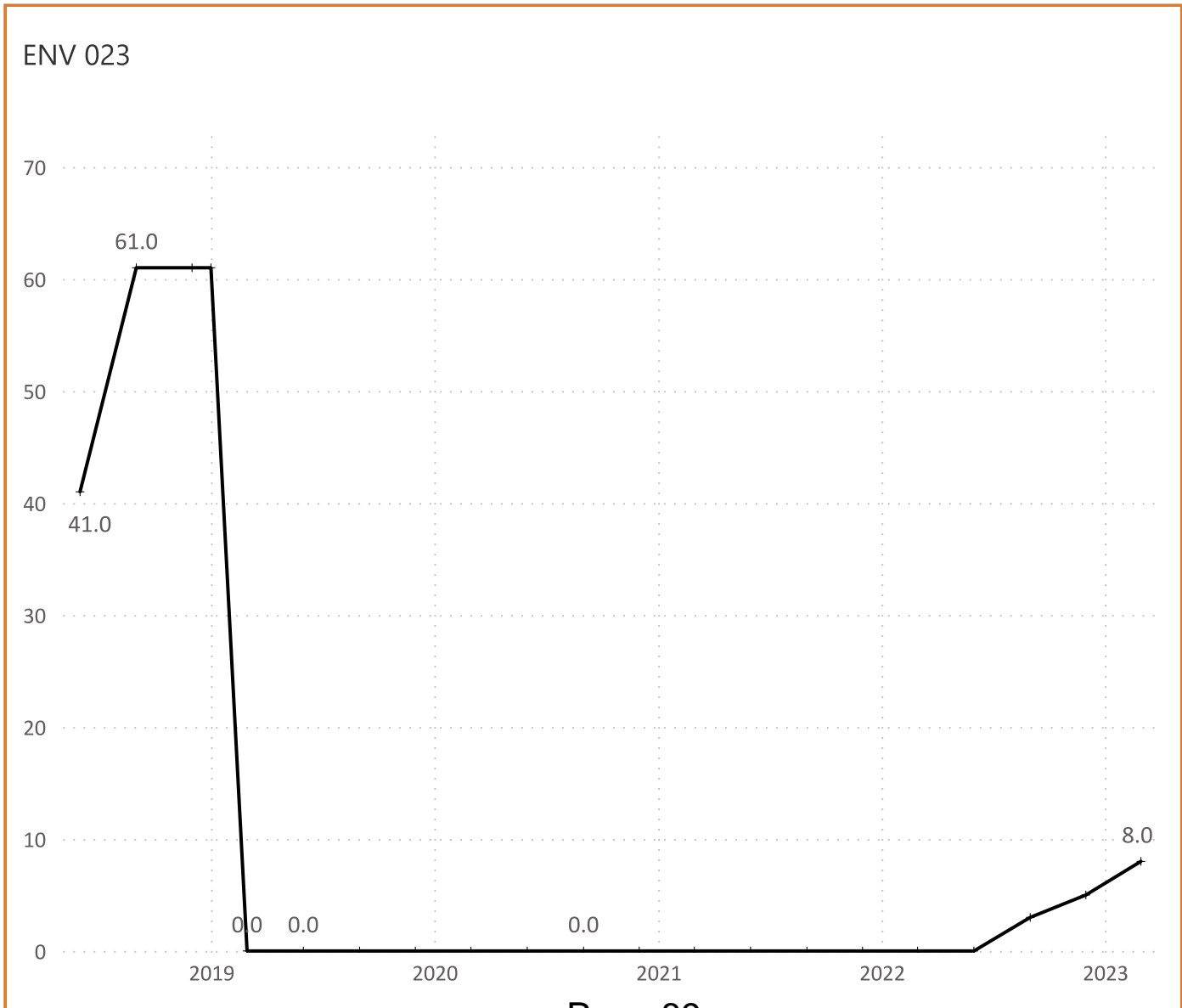
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

During the 2022/23 period, there have been 8 section 110 prosecutions as a result of failing to assist in fly tipping investigations. Of the 8 prosecutions, 6 resulted in fines of £876 and 2 received a fine of £766. In the same reporting period there has been 4 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for fly tipping offences and 1 Fixed Penalty Notice for Duty of Care. Further, there are three pending prosecutions for fly tipping in May and June.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

ENV 024

Indicator Name

Land Audit Management System - Litter Score

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

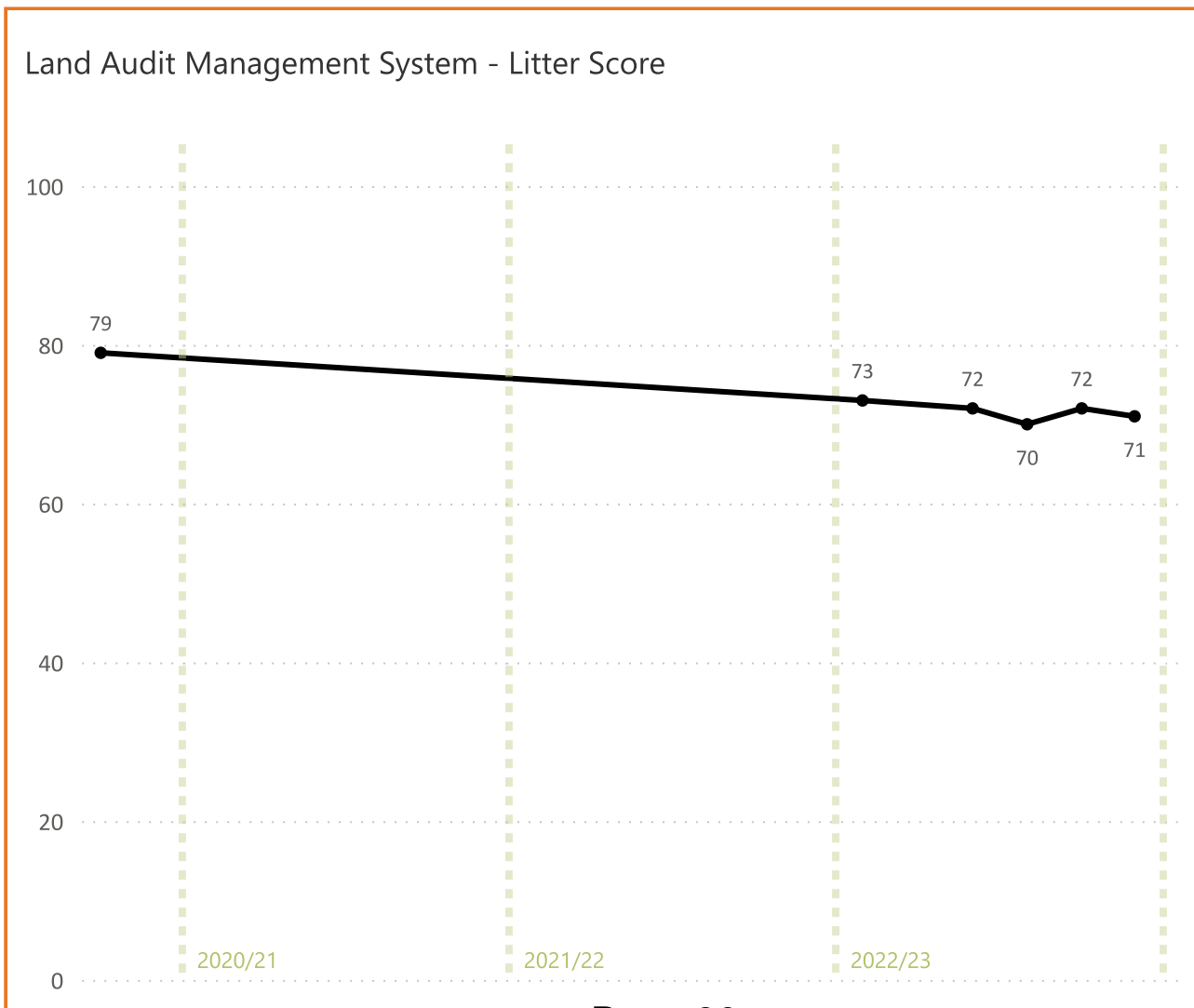
And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Clean

Narrative

This is a rolling average percentage score of the 40 transects inspected for litter every other month, as defined by the APSE's Land Audit Management System grading system and covering all wards of the borough.

The overall average has remained consistent between 70 and 72 since the inspections re-started after the break due to Covid. Street Scene has continued to assist with the Civic Enforcement back lane project which incorporates litter picking of the front street as well as the back lane.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

REG 803

Indicator Name

Trading Standards: Percentage of high risk inspections carried out

Theme or Portfolio

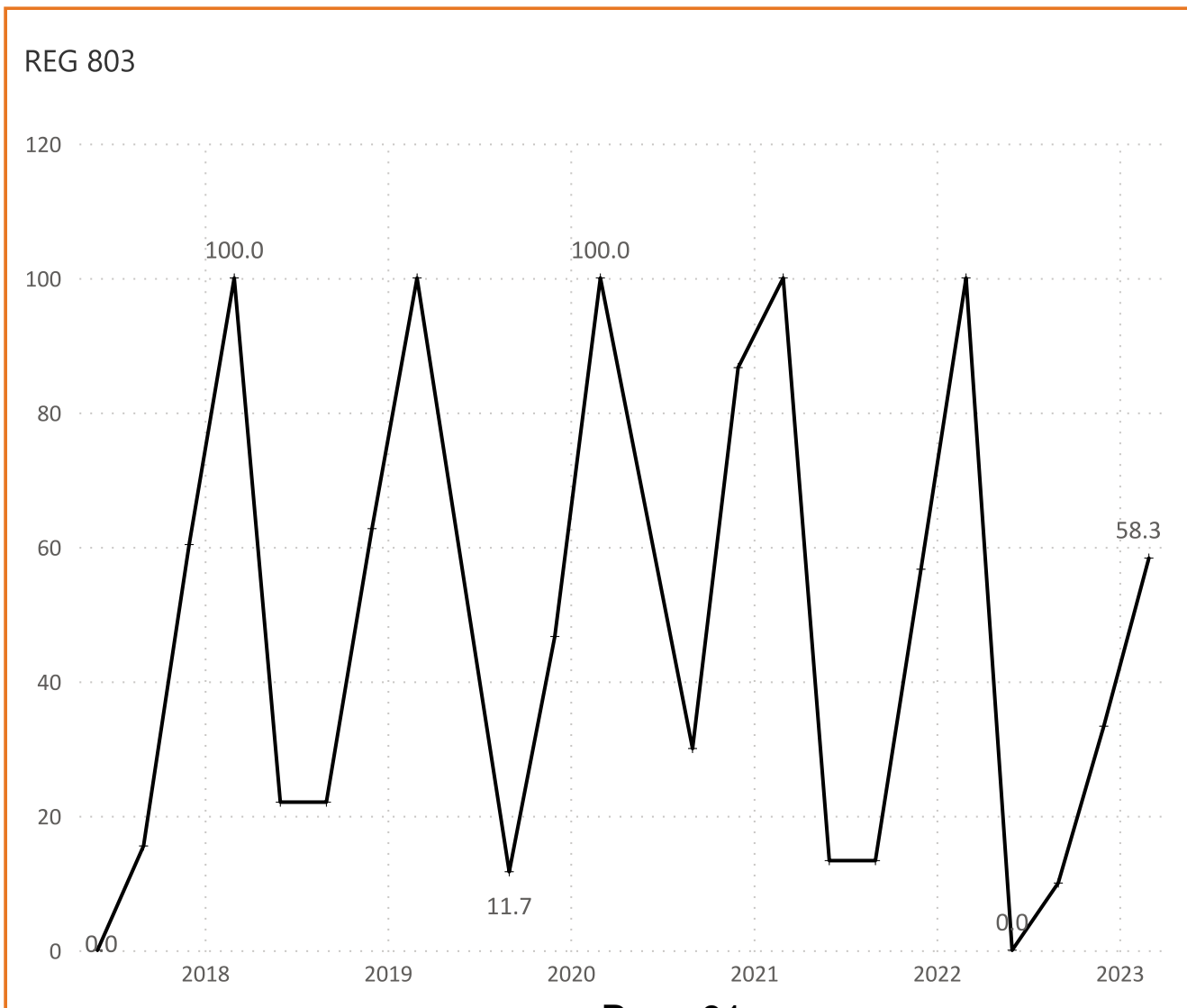
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Each year, Trading Standards delivers a programme of intelligence-led and market surveillance inspections. Due to various factors including staffing capacity, completing a complex investigation and multi-agency illegal goods enforcement, the programme was not fully completed.

The service aims to complete 100% of 2022-23 inspections within the first quarter of 2023-24 and 100% of 2023-24 inspections within quarters two to four.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

TCP 101

Indicator Name

Bus punctuality: percentage of non-frequent bus services running on time

Theme or Portfolio

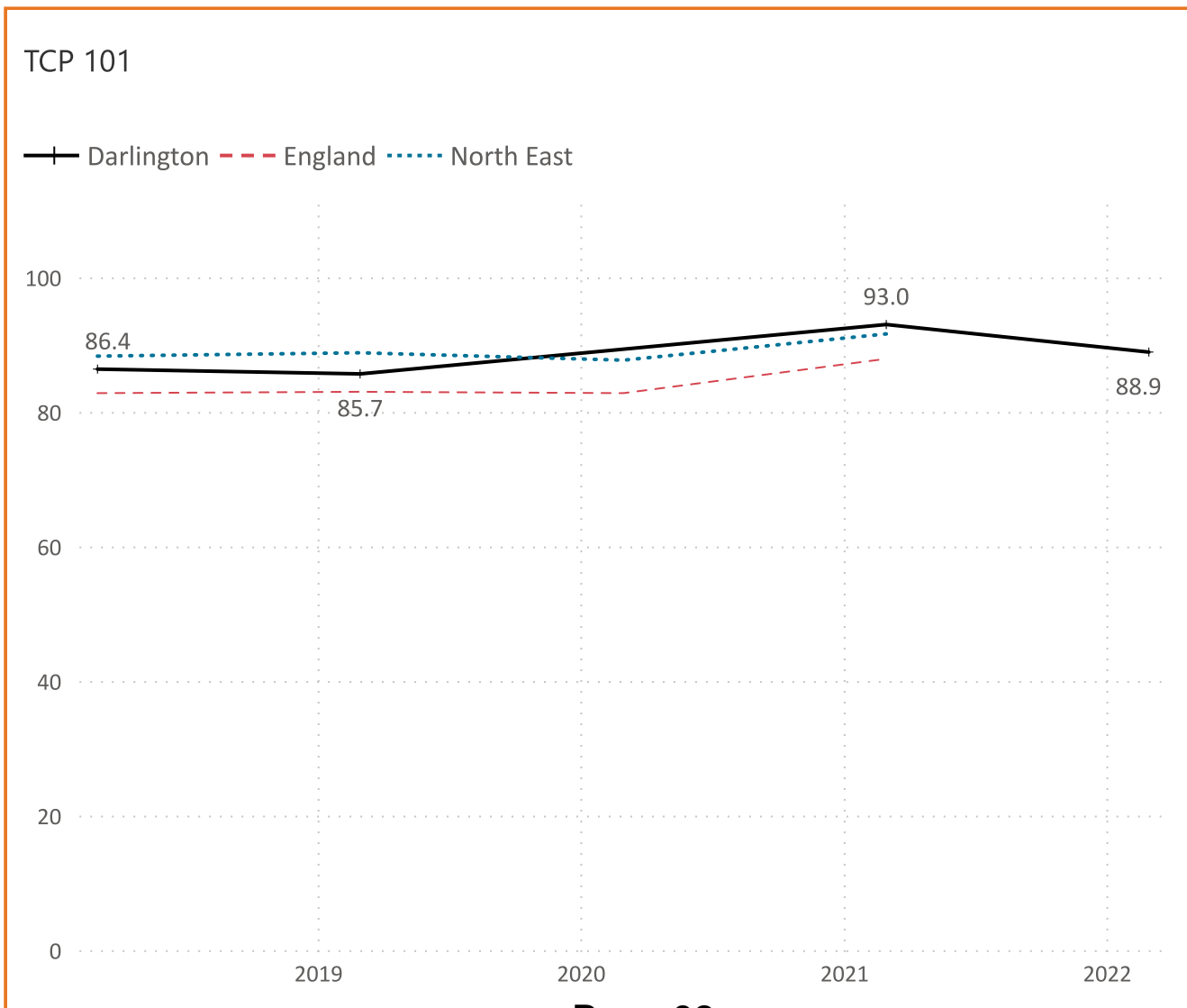
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

There has been a decrease in the % of bus services operating on time in 21/22, compared to 20/21. This is due to reliability issues affecting commercial bus services caused by driver availability and mechanical issues.

DBC will work with Tees Valley Combined Authority and bus operators, to deliver improvements to bus priority, through the bus Enhanced Partnership. This will include infrastructure and Urban Traffic Management Control improvements on key bus priority corridors in Darlington.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

TCP 200

Indicator Name

Percentage of principal roads where maintenance should be considered (A class)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

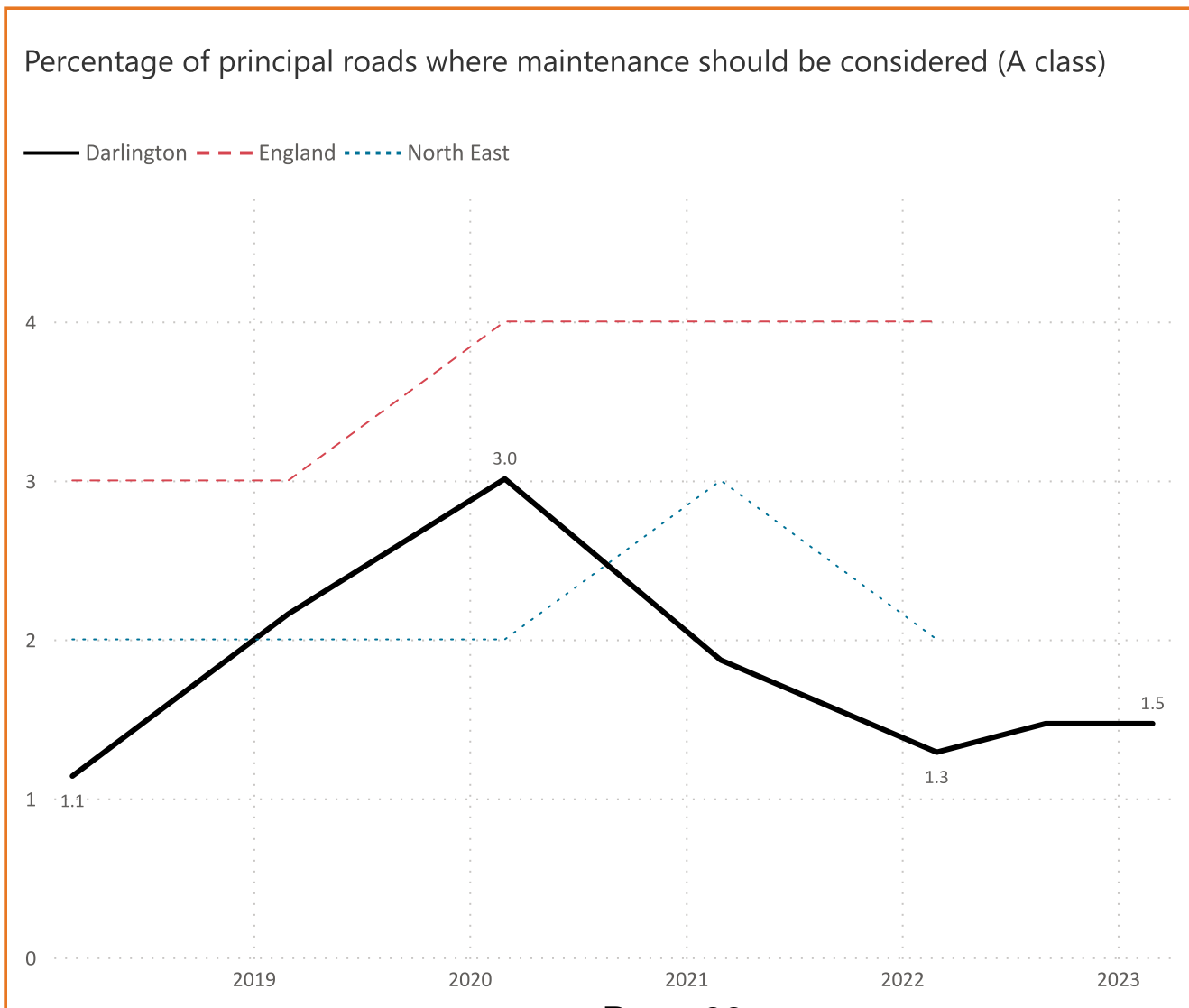
Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - On the move

Narrative

This is a yearly data set with Q2 being the most up to date and as follows (copied from Q2):
 We have continued with our investment in road maintenance however this year has seen a slight fall in the condition of the A-road network, with the percentage of the A-road network which needs to be considered for maintenance now being 1.47%, from 1.3% the previous year which however this is still significantly below the national and the North East averages. (Please note that this is the same data and narrative as previous)

Graph/Table





DBC Number

TCP 202

Indicator Name

Percentage of non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered (B and C class)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

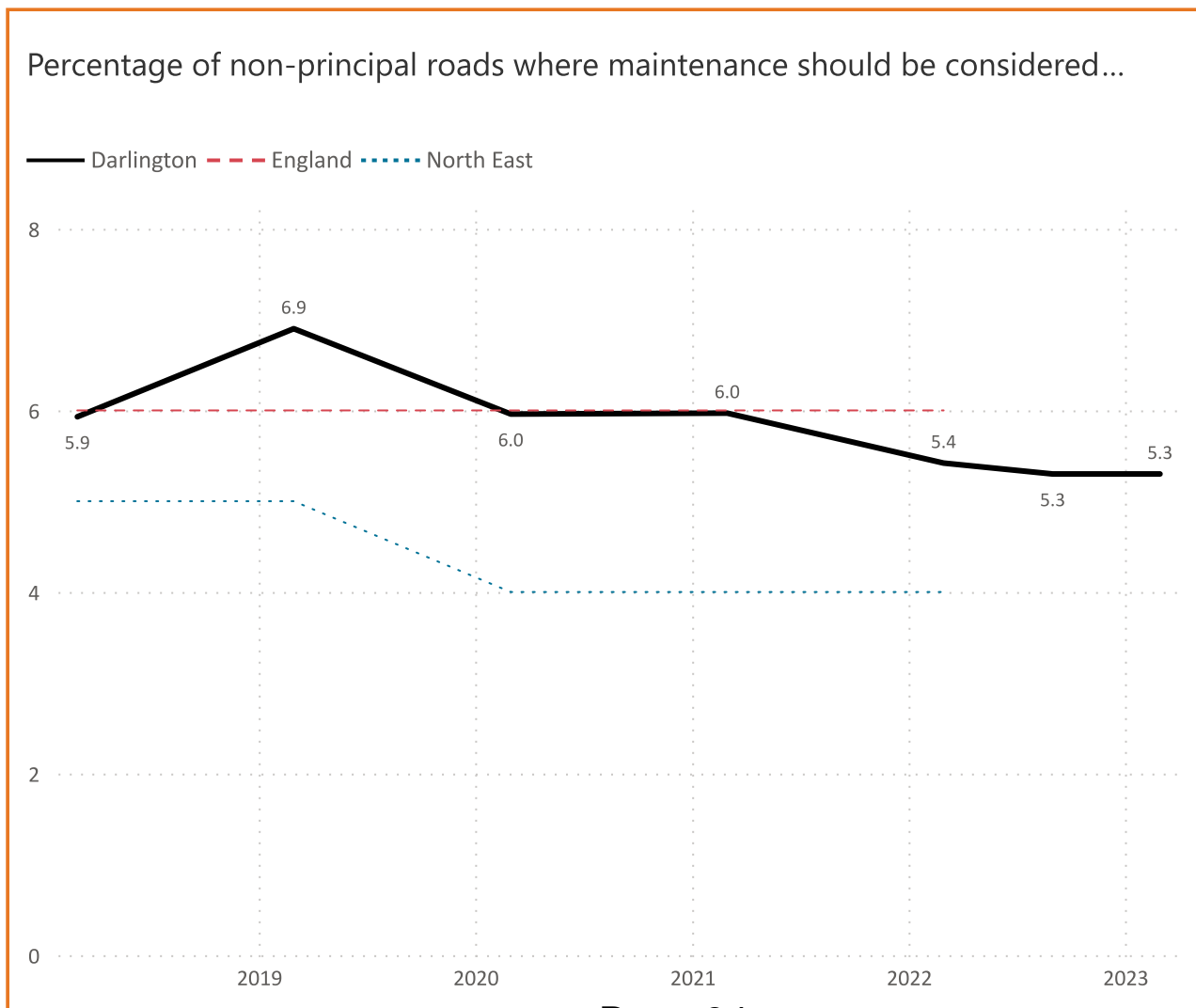
Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - On the move

Narrative

This is a yearly data set with Q2 being the most up to date and as follows (copied from Q2):
 We continue to invest in B & C class roads and this has seen a slight improvement in the quality of the network. The percentage of B & C class roads where maintenance should be considered has improved and is now at 5.3%. This is an improvement on the previous year and is better than the national average. However, this remains above the north east average.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

TCP 203

Indicator Name

Percentage of unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered

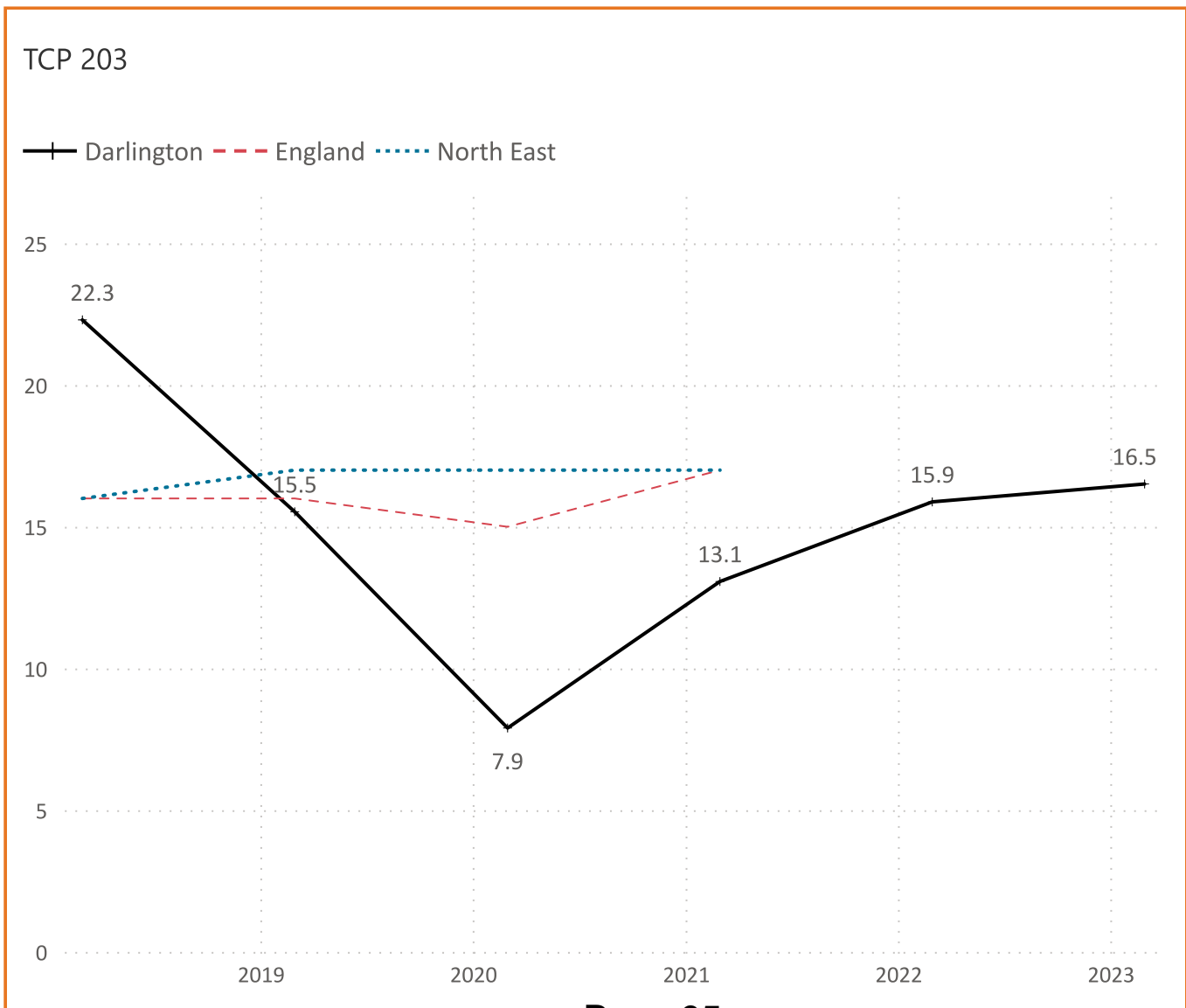
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Data for 2022/23 shows the % of unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered at 17% (actual 16.51). Whilst this is a slight increase over the previous year (15.9) it is considered to be in a steady state and holding decline and it is significantly lower than both the North East and national averages and follows an improving trend over the five-year period. The Council are continuing to invest in the road network, and we completed 46 micro asphalt schemes in 2022/23 which will extend the life of those unclassified roads.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

TCP 600

Indicator Name

Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (annual)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Safe

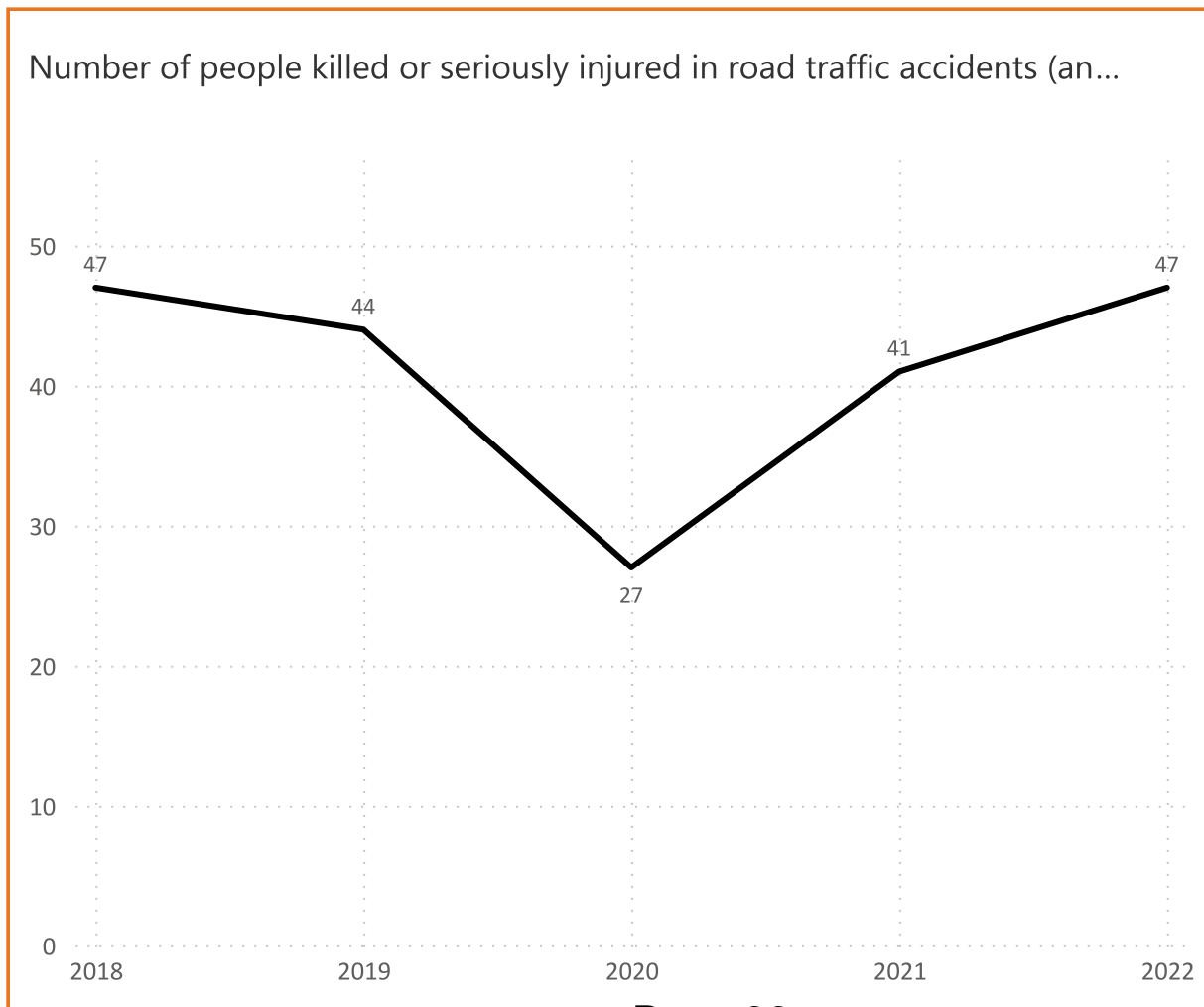
Narrative

Casualties are monitored annually over a calendar year. The casualty indicators use a five-year average (2018/2022) for their baseline. For killed or seriously injured (KSI), this is 41.2.

2022 shows an increase over 2020-21. However, 2020-21 is a statistical outlier due to the impact of Covid-19 on traffic levels (15% of normal traffic levels at its lowest). Since 2020 traffic levels have recovered to similar volumes to that recorded in 2019 prior to Covid-19 (within approximately +/- 2% overall)

Of the 47 Killed or seriously injured on our roads in 2022, there were 4 fatalities.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

TCP 601

Indicator Name

Number of people slightly injured in road traffic accidents (annual)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Safe

Narrative

Casualties are monitored annually over a calendar year. The casualty indicators use a five-year average (2018/2022) for their baseline. For slightly injured, this is 125.8.

2022 shows a decrease over 2021 despite traffic volumes recovering to similar levels to that recorded in 2019 prior to Covid-19 (within approximately +/- 2% overall).

Based on the years prior to Covid-19, we are still seeing a substantial reduction which has been sustained over time, and this level is significantly below the baseline.

We continue to invest in road safety education and through our Local Transport Plan, we continue to invest in speed management and casualty reduction schemes.

Graph/Table

Number of people slightly injured in road traffic accidents (annual)





DBC Number

TCP 602

Indicator Name

Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (annual)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Safe

Narrative

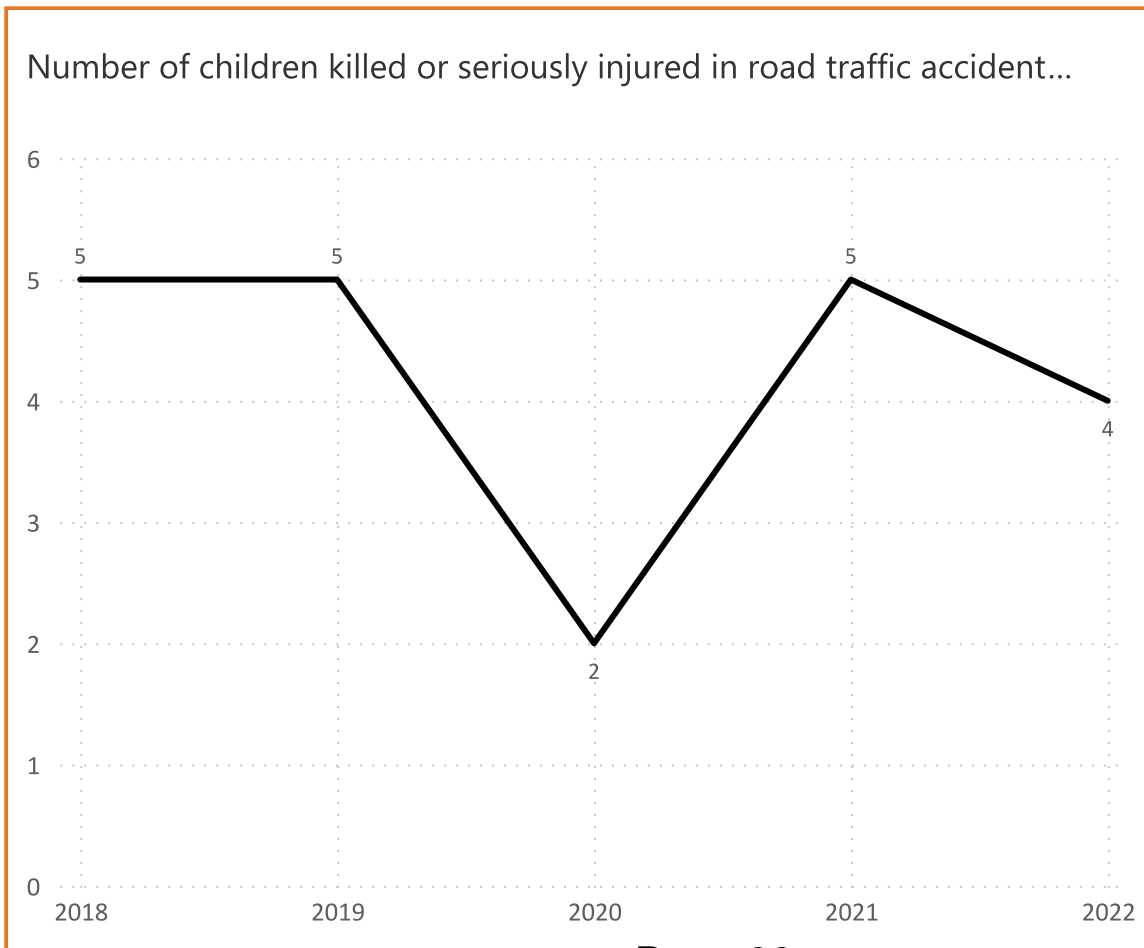
Casualties are monitored annually over a calendar year. The casualty indicators use a five-year average (2018/2022) for their baseline. For children killed or seriously injured (KSI), this is 4.2.

2022 shows a decrease over 2021 despite traffic volumes recovering to similar levels to that recorded in 2019 prior to Covid-19 (within approximately +/- 2% overall).

Based on the years prior to Covid-19, we are at a slightly lower level which falls marginally below the baseline. However, there have been no child fatalities since 2013.

Through our Local Transport Plan, we continue to invest in speed management and casualty reduction schemes.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

TCP 603

Indicator Name

Number of children slightly injured in road traffic accidents (annual)

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

And we will support economic growth by keeping the borough - Safe

Narrative

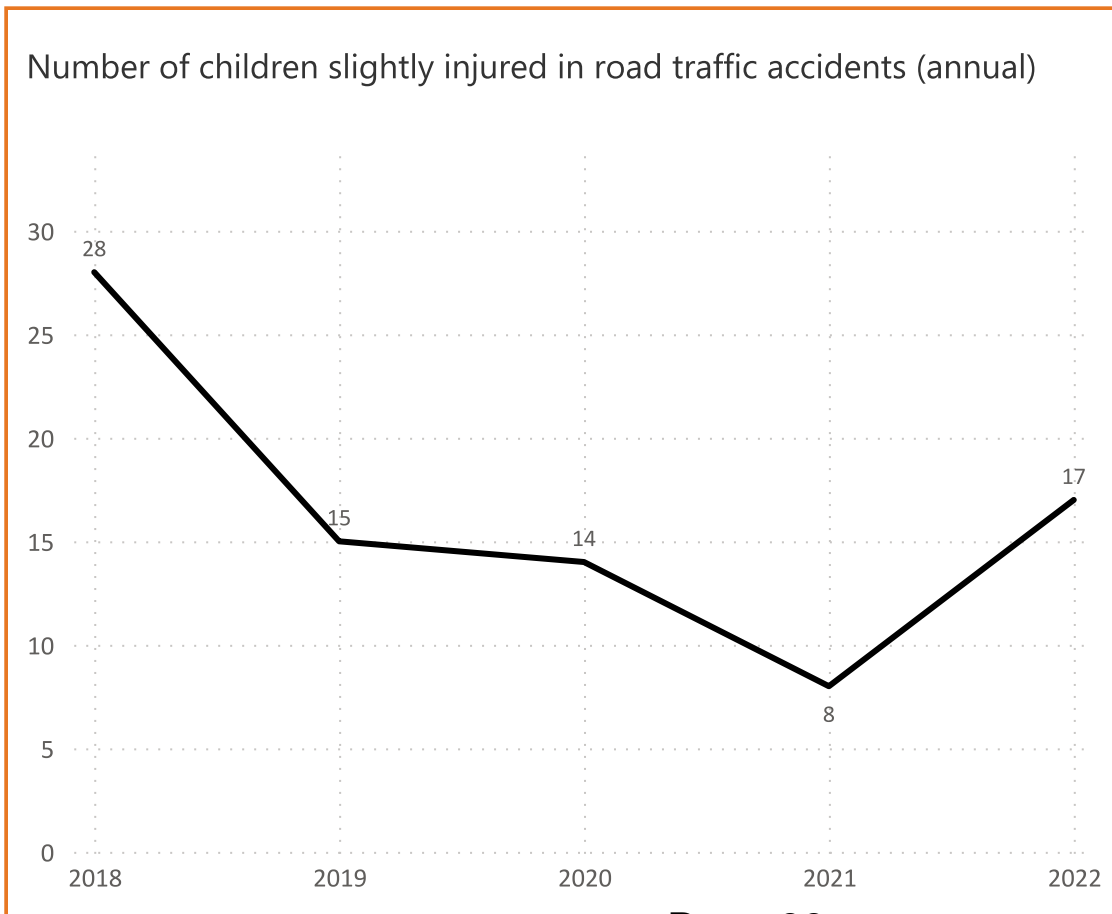
Casualties are monitored annually over a calendar year. The casualty indicators use a five-year average (2018/2022) for their baseline. For child slight casualties, this is 16.4.

2022 shows an increase over 2020-21 which goes against the recent trend of reduction over the longer term. At 17, this is now marginally above the baseline.

However, 2020-21 is a statistical outlier due to the impact of Covid-19 on traffic levels (15% of normal traffic levels at its lowest). Since 2020 traffic levels have recovered to similar volumes to that recorded in 2019.

We continue to invest in road safety education, publicity and training and through our LTP in speed management schemes.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

TCP 900

Indicator Name

Overall Public Satisfaction with Public Transport Theme (National Highways and Transport Survey)

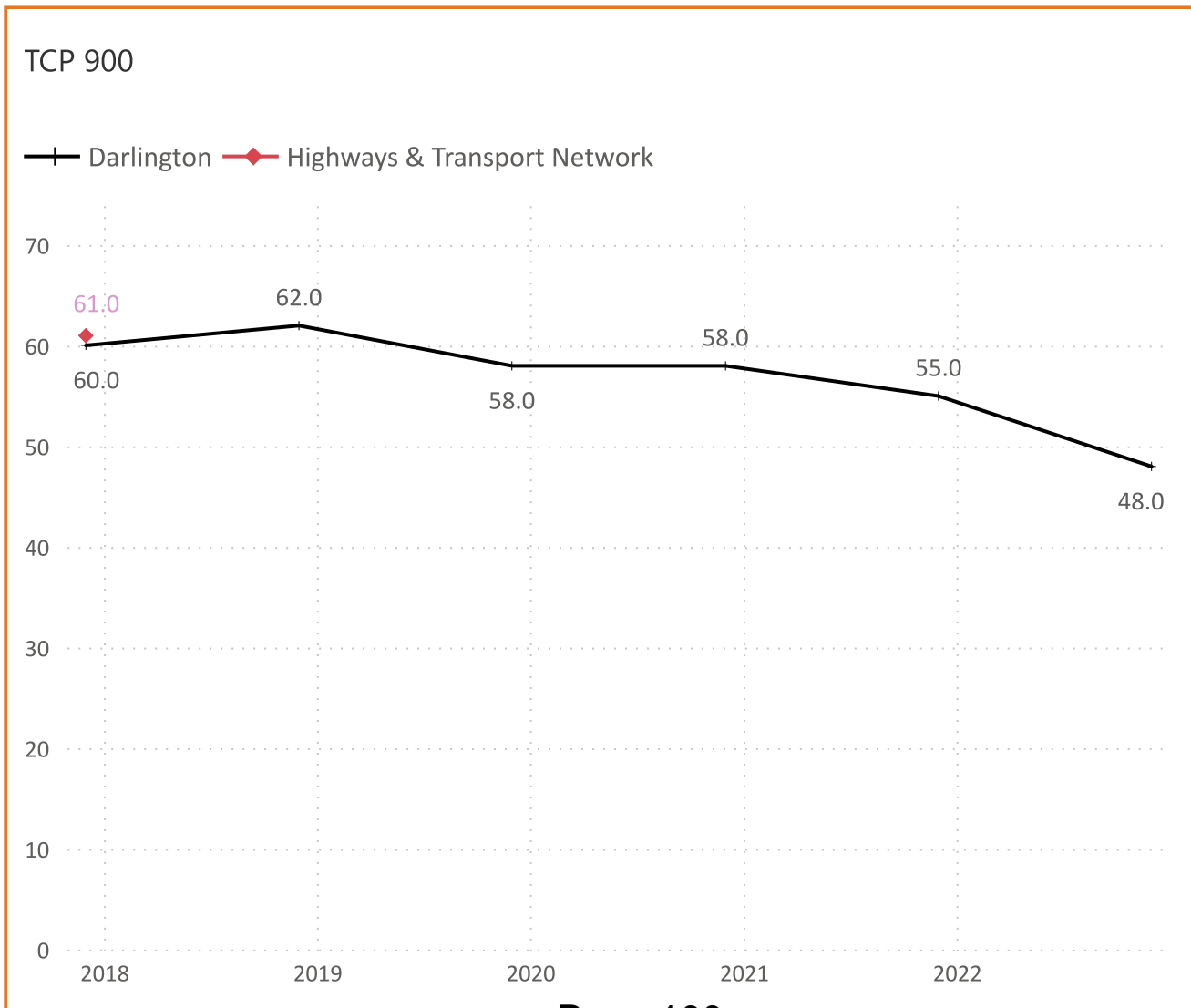
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Public Satisfaction with Transport: The overall public satisfaction with public transport has reduced and work will be undertaken over the coming year to try and reinstate confidence in public transport use and improvements to the bus network through a bus service improvement plan and a partnership approach. There are ongoing challenges for bus operators in terms of driver availability, driver recruitment, inflation, recovery from Covid 19 and other issues that are impacting the industry with operators working on solutions to protect services and the network.

Graph/Table



**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 AUGUST 2023**

STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with information on the spend and use of the Stronger Communities Fund (SCF) during the 2022/2023 financial year.

Summary

2. Cabinet agreed the establishment of the Stronger Communities Fund in April 2021 **(Appendix 1)**. The Fund, which is held by the Credit Union, allows Councillors to use an allocated amount of money (£1,000) per annum to deliver the objectives of the Fund.
3. This report sets out the final spend against the £50,000 for the 2022/2023 financial year, together with information on what has been delivered in wards on an individual Councillor basis **(Appendix 2)**.
4. Members will recall that this Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 12 January 2023, when considering the six-monthly spend and use, supported the continuation of the pilot scheme in the 2023/24 financial year.

Recommendation

5. Members are requested to note the final spend against the £50,000 for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Luke Swinhoe

Assistant Director Law and Governance

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report other than those referred to

Shirley Wright: Extension 5998

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
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Health and Well Being	There are no issues relating to health and well being which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no specific carbon impact issues in this report.
Diversity	The report does not contain any proposals that impact on diversity issues.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	No specific groups are particularly affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The report does not require a key decision.
Urgent Decision	The report does not require an urgent decision.
Council Plan	The subject matter of the report, the Councils financial standing and financial management, is critical to delivery of the SCS, but this report does not contain new proposals
Efficiency	The report contains updated information regarding efficiency savings contained in the MTFP.
Impact of Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. Following the establishment of the Stronger Communities Fund by Cabinet in April 2021, each Councillor is, each year, allocated £1,000 with the aim of :-
 - (a) supporting individuals and groups to enhance access to opportunities to improve health and wellbeing outcomes;
 - (b) investing in environmental improvements that enhance the local area to the benefit of the local community.
7. In agreeing to the establishment of the fund, each Member was required to enter into an agreement (**Appendix 3**) with the Council regarding the use of the funds which, amongst other things, stipulated that :-
 - (a) the process of awarding grants is open and transparent
 - (b) grants are made without prejudice or favour
 - (c) the funds will not be used for Members' personal or political gain
 - (d) Members will be responsible for ensuring as far as possible that the grant has been used for the purpose that it was provided
8. If there is any doubt about whether any proposals being made by a Member adheres with the scheme, the original scheme required them to consult with the Chief Executive who would review the proposal in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. T
9. This provision has been reviewed and the Agreement now specifically requires Members to consider whether the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Members will apply before agreeing to the award of any of the Funding and, any potential conflict should be declared within the signed Agreement. Advice on this can be sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer.
10. The relevant Cabinet Member will also take responsibility for monitoring the details of the grant recipient and the purpose.
11. It is also the individual Member's responsibility to provide evidence of spend that tallies with the account statement from the Credit Union.
12. Councillors are able to pool their budget with other Councillors within their wards and more widely across the Borough if they wish.
13. Appendix 2 sets out sets out the final spend against the £50,000 for the 2022/2023 financial year, together with information on what has been delivered in wards on an individual Councillor basis and details of paperwork received to date.
14. There has been good use of the fund, with only £3,465.02 of the £50,000 remaining unspent, which has been reclaimed by the Council.

15. At its meeting held on 12 January 2023, this Scrutiny Committee assessed the value of the Fund and supported the continuation of the pilot scheme in the 2023/24 financial year, and, as such, each Councillor will be allocated £1,000 to deliver the objectives of the scheme.
16. Members have now been provided with the 2023/24 Agreement to sign and return **(Appendix 4)**.

CABINET
13 APRIL 2021

COUNCILLORS STRONGER COMMUNITY FUND

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Jonathan Dulston, Stronger Communities Portfolio**

Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Managing Director

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To establish a pilot scheme to enable Councillors to utilise the fund at their discretion to deliver the objectives of the Stronger Communities Fund (SCF).

Summary

2. The approved MTFP allocated £50,000 to establish a Stronger Communities Fund, this report proposes a Pilot Scheme for Cabinet's consideration. The scheme will operate for one year during which time it's success will be reviewed, and Council will consider whether the pilot becomes a permanent feature of the MTFP.
3. £1,000 will be allocated to each Councillor to be used to deliver the objectives of the SCF. The initial objectives of the fund are to build Stronger Communities by :-
 - (a) Supporting individuals and groups to enhance access to opportunities to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.
 - (b) Investing in environmental improvements that enhance the local area to the benefit of the local community.
4. The scheme will be administered with maximum flexibility to enable learning and benefits to be easily achieved by the pilot.
5. Councillors can merge their allocations with other Councillors within their wards and across the Borough, should they so wish. They may also use a third party to allocate funds on their behalf.
6. Grants and investments should only be made to individuals or "not for profit" organisations.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that Cabinet :-

- (a) Approve the Pilot Stronger Communities Scheme as described at paragraphs 10 to 12.
- (b) Delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Stronger Communities to determine if any proposals made by Councillors are out with the “spirit” and procedures of the fund.

Reasons

8. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) To determine the scheme
- (b) To govern the scheme flexibly

**Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

Paul Wildsmith : Extension 5828
TAB

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications as a direct result of this report
Health and Wellbeing	There are no implications as a direct result of this report
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications as a direct result of this report
Diversity	There are no implications as a direct result of this report
Wards Affected	All wards included
Groups Affected	All groups have access to the fund.
Budget and Policy Framework	The MTFP includes provision for the fund.
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There are no implications as a direct result of this report
Efficiency	There are no implications as a direct result of this report
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

9. Council agreed to the establishment of a Pilot SCF as part of the approved MTFP. The Council indicated that a detailed report on the scheme would be presented to

Cabinet, this report proposes a scheme for Cabinet's approval.

10. The proposed objectives of the fund are set out below :-
 - (a) Supporting individuals and groups to enhance access to opportunities to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.
 - (b) Investing in environmental improvements that improve the local area to the benefit of the local community.
11. These are wide objectives to enable maximum flexibility during the pilot to maximise learning and the benefits delivered; examples of how the fund could be used are set out below but clearly this is not an exclusive list :-
 - (a) Supporting local groups with rent or events
 - (b) Supporting individuals to excel in sport or education
 - (c) Providing equipment for individuals in need of support
 - (d) Contributing towards or funding the purchase of environmental improvements such as providing a park bench or play equipment.
12. Each Member will enter into an agreement with the Council regarding the use of the funds which, amongst other things, will stipulate that:
 - (a) The process of awarding grants is open and transparent
 - (b) Grants are made without prejudice or favour
 - (c) The funds will not be used for Members' personal or political gain
 - (d) Members will be responsible for ensuring as far as possible that the grant has been used for the purpose that it was provided
13. The process for managing the use of the fund will be as follows :-
 - (a) An account for each Member will be set up at Darlington Credit Union countersigned by an officer of the Council but allowing the Member to authorise payments individually from their individual established bank account. This may include making payments to the Council should a Councillor wish the Council to provide goods or services.
 - (b) The Council will advertise the scheme and Members will be responsible for publicising the fund within their ward should they so wish. They may also want to announce their particular focus for the fund based on the needs in their ward.
 - (c) Members will be required to ensure each applicant completes and signs a grant application form which gives details of the lead individual applying, description of what is being applied for together with justification for the payment. This will form the basis of an agreement between the member and the recipient should a grant be awarded.
 - (d) It will be made clear in the agreement between the Council and Members that any grant they provide must not commit the Council to any future spend, for

example ongoing maintenance. This will also be made explicit in the form completed by applicants.

- (e) At the end of the financial year members will be responsible for providing evidence of spend that tallies with the account statement from the credit union. Members will be required to provide a report outlining how the way they have used the Stronger Communities Fund has supported their ward. In this first year Members will be requested to provide a report on the first 6 months of the scheme to allow a review of the scheme to inform decisions regarding the Medium Term Financial Plan.
 - (f) Should there be doubt whether the proposal been made by a member adheres with the scheme they should consult with the Chief Executive who will review the proposal in consultation with the portfolio holder for Stronger Communities.
 - (g) On a quarterly basis the Chief Executive and the Cabinet member for Stronger Communities will review progress of the scheme and on completion of quarter one Communities and local services scrutiny committee be asked to review the pilot scheme.
14. Councillors may pool their budgets with other Councillors within their Ward and more widely across the Borough, the only limitation on beneficiaries of the grant is they must be Darlington residents. Members may also carry forward any balance of their fund to a following year subject to the continuation of the fund.

Pilot Review

15. A review will take place prior to the preparation of the MTFP in late 2021 and Members will be asked to prepare a note on what they have delivered from their budgets. Council will then be able to review the outcomes and decide whether to progress with the pilot.

Stronger Communities Fund
Grant Information

Ward	Councillor	Signed Agreement	Recipient - Name of Group	Purpose of Grant	Date Grant Awarded	Amount Allocated (£)	Amount Remaining (£)	Agreement letter Returned	CU Account empty	Receipt Recd	
Bank Top and Lascelles	Helen Crumbie and Wendy Newall	Y	Family Help	To be used to publicise the Women's Peer Support group at the Community Hub in Eastbourne Park, provide refreshments and activities.	31-Oct-2022	500.00		Y	N		
			Eastbourne Park Community Hub	To purchase a new cooker and extractor fan for Eastbourne Community Hub Café due to safety concerns and a broken extractor fan	14-Feb-2023	234.98		Y			
			The Rydal Academy	To purchase wellies and waterproofs so that early years and reception pupils can access the Early Years outdoor learning areas and the nature garden throughout the year. Any remaining funds to be put into the Academy's hardship fund	14-Mar-2023	600.00		Y			
			St John's CE Academy	to purchase a set of waterproofs for each child. The Academy has recently adopted an Outdoor Play and Learning approach to playtimes. The purchase would enable pupils to be outside in all weather	13-Mar-2023	600.00		Y			
								65.02			
	Darrien Wright	Y	Eastbourne Park Community Hub	To purchase new security lights for outside Eastbourne Park Community Hub	16-Feb-2023	300.00		Y	N		
			Eastbourne Park Community Hub	To help towards events for the community	20-Mar-2023	200.00		Y			
			The Forum Music Centre	The Rainbow Scren - To support LGBTQI events	23-Mar-2023	100.00		Y			
Darlington Amateur Boxing			To help children and young adults in the area in getting into sport				400.00				
Brinkburn and Faverdale	Scott Durham	Y	Brinkburn Community Volunteers	Summer Family Fund Day - Bellburn Field	1-Jul-2022	550.00		Y	Y	Y	
			John Wade Group	To support community volunteers to clear up Brinkburn Pond – site clearance work at Hartington Way, Brinkburn	23-Jan-2023	156.00		Y			
			Brinkburn Community Volunteers	To fund a Kings Coronation event on Bellburn Field	8-Mar-2023	294.00		Y			
	Rachel Mills	Y	Brinkburn Community Volunteers	To fund a Kings Coronation event on Bellburn Field	8-Mar-2023	500.00		Y	Y		
			WestPark Levy Trust	To support community events planned	8-Mar-2023	500.00		Y			
	Lisa Preston	Y	WestPark Levy Trust	To support community events planned	8-Mar-2023	250.00		Y	Y		
			Darlington Railway Athletic Club	To support activities for the Junior Teams	9-Mar-2023	750.00		Y			
Cockerton	Paul Baldwin	Y	Wyvern Academy	For the benefit of the music fund for children	30-Nov-2022	1000.00		Y	Y		
	Jan Cossins	Y	Branksome Hall Drive	For the Residents of Branksome Hall Drive to put towards cost of transport to the venue for their Christmas celebrations and a small buffet for the xmas raffle day	9-Dec-2022	100.00		Y	Y		
			Windsor Court	For the Residents of Windsor Court to put towards cost of transport to the venue for their Christmas celebrations and a buffet for the residents Xmas party at Windsor Court	12-Dec-2022	100.00		Y			
			Squires Court	Residents of Squires Court to put towards their Christmas afternoon tea.	9-Dec-2022	100.00		Y			
			Cockerton Community and Business Group	towards flags for Cockerton Green Memorial	2-Dec-2022	100.00		Y			
			St Mary's Church of England Primary School	£100 for outdoor area equipment for early years, and £50 towards books for KS1	19-Dec-2022	150.00		Y			
			St Mary's Foodbank	To support the food bank	20-Dec-2022	200.00		Y			
			Cockerton Methodist Church	towards the Warm Space (hub) at Cockerton Methodist Church	8-Dec-2022	250.00		Y			
	Eddie Heslop	Y	Mount Pleasant Primary School	For after school clubs	3-Oct-2022	1000.00		Y	Y		
	College	Bryony Holroyd	Y	FC Darlington Locomotives	To support at least one girl from each of our 8 teams and to subsidise player subscriptions which are currently £20 per month. We have several children from the College ward who currently play for us. Most of them are in the younger age (Under 7's) groups and three in particular will be playing competitive football for the first time this year. They play in the Russell Foster league at a central venue in Washington every Saturday from September to May.	4-Aug-2022	300.00		Y	Y	
QE interact and volunteering group				To fund the following projects: Coronation celebration - £500 QE Gardening Group - £150, Reminiscence Boxes - £50	9-Mar-2023	700.00		Y			
Matthew Snedker		Y	Resident	To cover some of the expenses for a College Ward resident, to travel to Poland to represent England at the WKSF European Open Championships 2022	7-Sep-2022	250.00		Y	Y		
			Resident	To cover some of the expenses for a College Ward resident, to travel to Greece to represent England at the WKSF European Open Championships 2023	22-Feb-2023	250.00		Y			
			QE interact and volunteering group	To put towards Reminiscence Boxes - £50	9-Mar-2023	50.00		Y			
St Teresa's Hospice		To support the rapid response team, which offers urgent care at short notice, and operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They can offer reassurance or advice to family members or carers, to visiting a person who needs care at home. This could be to help with medical equipment, help overcome breathing difficulties or pain, or just being a friendly face to talk to	13-Mar-2023	450.00		Y					
Eastbourne	Jonathan Dulston	Y	Firthmoor Community Centre	to buy additional equipment for our community gym to support local residents with physical and mental health	22-Feb-2023	1000.00		Y	Y		
	Kevin Nicholson	Y	Firthmoor and District Community Association	Firthmoor LIVE 'King Charles III' Coronation Event	27-Oct-2022	500.00		Y	Y		
			Firthmoor and District Community Association	Community Clean Up and Environmental Initiative	27-Oct-2022	300.00		Y			
			Firthmoor and District Community Association	Festive/Seasonal Hampers for over 60's group	27-Oct-2022	200.00		Y			
	Steven Tait	Y	Grosvenor Park Care Home	To put towards the residents fund - to help fund and organise events, entertainment and crafts for residents	20-Mar-2023	200.00		Y	Y		
Roxby Court			To put towards the residents fund - to help fund and organise activities for residents	22-Mar-2023	200.00		Y				

			Firthmoor Community Centre	To put towards the Youth Provision (£200) and Coronation activities (£400)	17-Mar-2023	600.00		Y		
Harrowgate Hill	Ian Bell						1000.00			
	Jon Clarke	Y	Mount Pleasant Rangers JFC	To be used to help purchase kit for the new under 8 Team. A number of young people that live in the Harrowgate Hill ward play for the Team	24-Feb-2023	400.00		Y	Y	
			Whessoe Parish Council	To be used by the Events Committee to host activities for children ove the Kings Coronation weekend and over the Christmas period	3-Mar-2023	600.00		Y		
	Lynn Paley	Y	North Park Bowls Club	To purchase garden equipment, e.g. a jet washer, plants and personal protective equipment e.g. kneeling pads, gloves etc. Once we have the equipment in situ we will organise a recruitment programme to encourage local people (bowlers and none bowlers) to help us maintain the assets which we have taken responsibility for	22-Jun-2022	1000.00		Y	Y	
Houghton and Springfield	Chris McEwan, Andy Scott and Nick Wallis	Y	Salvation Army	To support the food bank	9-Dec-2022	750.00		Y		
			St Andrew's Food Bank	To support the food bank	8-Dec-2022	750.00		Y	Y	
			Houghton School	For anti poverty and hardship support measures	5-Jan-2023	1500.00		Y		
Heighington and Coniscliffe	Paul Crudass	Y	Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent Parish Council	To part fund the purchase of a Marquee for use in village events and celebration	23-Feb-2023	1000.00		Y	Y	Y
	Gerald Lee	Y	Heighington Parish Council	To purchase play area activities/equipment	12-Dec-2022	1000.00		Y	Y	
Hummersknott	Charles Johnson, JP. FQI	Y	Tees Cottage Pumping Works	The installation of new footpaths on the site in order to improve accessibility for volunteers and the general public	20-Feb-2023	750.00		Y	Y	
			Resident	The purchase of a three wheeled vehicle which will contribute to improved personal mobility for the resident	31-Jan-2023	250.00		Y		
	Jack Sowerby	Y	Hummersknott Allotments	Sponsorship of a Supreme Plot Champion for 9 years. This will include purchase of a shield with space for 9 mini shields to be engraved on it and awarded annually on behalf of Darlington Borough Council, the purchase of various items of gardening equipment that can be utilised by all allotment holders, with a particular aim of supporting the allotment currently being operated by care leavers, and the purchase of equipment for the on site bee keepers.	5-Aug-2022	500.00		Y	Y	
			Tees Cottage Pumping Works	The installation of new footpaths on the site in order to improve accessibility for volunteers and the general public	20-Feb-2023	250.00		Y		
			Resident	The purchase of a three wheeled vehicle which will contribute to improved personal mobility for the resident	31-Jan-2023	250.00		Y		
Hurworth	Dr Christy Chou	Y	Neasham Parish Council	To put towards upgrading the Millennium Garden, improving access to the adjacent Jubilee Bench and providing portable lighting to facilitate evening village events. This will further the objectives to create a "village hub" at Neasham Village Green	28-Feb-2023	1000.00		Y	Y	
	Lorraine Tostevin	Y	Neasham Reading Room	For the purchase of a Defibrillator for the village of Neasham	9-Mar-2023	1000.00		Y	Y	
Mowden	Mrs Pauline Culley and Alan Marshall	Y	Townswomen's Guild	To purchase a tree, plaque and fertiliser	14-Nov-2022	100.00		Y		
			Environmental Services	To supply and fit a four seater wooden bench on Staindrop Road	13-Mar-2023	529.00		Y	Y	
			1st Darlington Brownies	For activities, equipment, crafts, rent and outings and to buy bulbs for the Brownies to plant as part of their gardening badge	16-Mar-2023	700.00		Y		Y
			Mockingbird Hub	For activities, equipment, toys and outings	23-Mar-2023	671.00		Y		
North Road	Hilary Allen	Y	The Well	To contribute towards "warm days", "free meal Wednesdays" as well as various "childrens' clubs" for young mums	7-Feb-2023	500.00		Y	Y	
			Kings Centre, Kings Church	To support the work of the Centre in the community	2-Mar-2023	500.00		Y		
	Nigel Boddy LLB	Y	Kings Church Food Bank	To support the food bank	17-Oct-2022	400.00		Y	Y	
			YMCA Tees Valley	To support YMCA Tees Valley	23-Nov-2022	400.00		Y		
			North Riverside Residents Association	To support the NRRRA	23-Feb-2023	200.00		Y		
	Anne-Marie Curry	Y	North Riverside Residents Association	To contribute towards the summer fair and Christmas event	20-Mar-2023	200.00		Y		
			Kings Church	To support the food bank	16-Mar-2023	400.00		Y	Y	
The Well	To be used for funding for the children's programme during the summer	16-Mar-2023	400.00		Y					
Northgate	Sajna Ali	Y					1000.00		N	
	Eleanor Lister O.B.E	N					1000.00		N	
Park East	Cyndi Hughes	Y	St Vincent de Paul Society	For St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) to support the provision of fresh food and supplies for those individuals and families reliant on the foodbank at the Clifton Centre, located at St. Columba's	8-Nov-2022	350.00		Y	Y	
			Ukrainian Students (via Carmel College)	To help Ukrainian students, many of whom reside in the Park East ward, to assimilate and to assist them in overcoming some of the barriers (language, culture) that might get in the way of their success and well-being. The money will be spent by the young people on enrichment activities and resources they may need (reading materials in Ukrainian, etc.) to help with their development, assimilation and well-being	23-Jan-2023	400.00		Y		
			27th Darlington Scout Group	To enable 3 young people, who would not have otherwise been able to go through lack of funding, to take part in a trip to the Lake District	20-Feb-2023	250.00		Y		
	Libby McCollom	Y	The Forum Music Centre	To put towards the purchase and installation of a defibrillator, accessible to the surrounding community	22-Mar-2023	1000.00		Y	Y	
	Michael Nicholson	Y	Clifton Centre Community Association	Contribution towards purchasing a defibrillator to save lives, improve health and wellbeing	3-Oct-2022	500.00		Y	Y	
			Café JJ	Funding towards monthly rent which is £650 per month. Café JJ, support disabled people to run our successful community café.	7-Oct-2022	500.00		Y		
Park West	Bob Donoghue	Y	Friends of St Augustines	To put towards children attending the pantomime	9-Dec-2022	100.00		Y		
			Abbeyfield	Contribution to take residents out for day trips and activities	7-Mar-2023	250.00		Y	Y	
			Elm Ridge Guides	To put towards camping equipment for a Summer trip and Coronation celebrations	17-Mar-2023	555.00		Y		
			Traffic Management (DBC)	To provide a sign for the Tees Cottage Pumping Station	17-Mar-2023	95.00		Y		
			Abbeyfield	Contribution to take residents out for day trips and activities	7-Mar-2023	250.00		Y		

	Mrs Heather Scott O.B.E	Y	Elm Ridge Guides	To put towards camping equipment for a Summer trip and Coronation celebrations	17-Mar-2023	500.00		Y	Y	
			Traffic Management (DBC)	To provide a sign for the Tees Cottage Pumping Station	17-Mar-2023	250.00		Y		
Pierremont	Stephen Harker, Linda Hughes, Mary Layton	Y	St Matthew and St Luke's Church	To provide financial support to the Warm Hub at St Matthew and St Luke's Church	21-Feb-2023	1500.00		Y	Y	
			Reid Street School	To help the school provide support to families to enable their children to attend and participate in school life fully	7-Mar-2023	1500.00		Y	Y	
Red Hall and Lingfield	Hilary Lucas	Y	Friends of Red Hall Ponds and Green Spaces	Cleaning up the pond and making it safer, general maintenance	16-Sep-2022	300.00		Y	Y	
			Heathfield Primary School	To support the outdoor garden team	21-Mar-2023	200.00		Y		
			Red Hall School	To support the outdoor play and learning project	22-Mar-2023	200.00		Y		
	David Willis	Y	Darlington Football Club Foundation	To provide diversionary activities for young people with anti-social behaviour issues	20-Mar-2023	300.00		Y	Y	
Sadberge and Middleton St. George	Brian Jones and Mrs Doris Jones B.E.M	Y	Middleton St George Memorial Association	to provide accommodation to visiting dignitaries from Canada who visit Teesside International Airport annually to visit the Mynarski statue and to celebrate the heroism of Pilot Officer William McMullin	3-Feb-2023	1000.00		Y	Y	
			Middleton St George Community Association	To promote the Summer Fair	8-Mar-2023	1000.00		Y		
	Deborah Laing	Y	Brownies and Guides - 1st Middleton St George Guides	To be used for hall rental and field trips, specifically to sponsor those who may not have been able to have afforded such trips	6-Mar-2023	500.00		Y	Y	
			Breathe Easy Darlington	To pay for hall hire and two hours of exercise from a trained respiratory nurse	20-Mar-2023	100.00		Y		
Stephenson	Ian Haszeldine	Y	FC Darlington Locomotives	To subsidise the cost of new footballs	9-Mar-2023	500.00		Y	Y	
			Gurney Pease Academy	To fund a project to develop a "Pond and Wildlife Area" within the school grounds. This project is intended to develop awareness of the environment and the importance of preserving and encouraging natural wildlife	14-Mar-2023	500.00		Y		
	Mike Renton	Y	405 sqn Darlington Air Cadets	going towards STEM equipment for the cadets	16-Mar-2023	250.00		Y	Y	
			FC Darlington Locomotives	going towards kit and equipment for girls football team	16-Mar-2023	250.00		Y		
			St James the Great Warm Hub	going towards their warm hum held on Fridays	23-Mar-2023	250.00		Y		
			Darlington Veterans Community	going towards their work helping veterans in Darlington	24-Mar-2023	250.00		Y		
Whinfield	Jamie Bartch	Y	Whinfield Residents Association	To fund a defibrillator	9-Mar-2023	684.00		Y	Y	
			Whinfield Residents Association	To fund a batter for the defibrillator and to support the bulb planting project	16-Mar-2023	316.00		Y		
	Andy Keir	Y	Whinfield Residents Association	To support Whinfield Residents Association bulb planting project	16-Nov-2022	250.00		Y	Y	
			Whinfield Residents Association	To fund a defibrillator	9-Mar-2023	750.00		Y		
						Total Spent	46534.98			
						Grant Allocation				
						Remaining	3465.02			

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Stronger Communities Fund Agreement

2022/23

1. The Council has agreed to establish a Stronger Communities Fund as part of the approved Medium-Term Financial Plan.
2. This Agreement is between Darlington Borough Council (the 'Council') and the elected Member of _____ Ward, Councillor _____ (the 'Member') and sets out the conditions (on receipt of a signed copy of this Agreement) for the distribution of £1,000 (the 'Funding') to the Member to be used for the benefit of their ward and its residents

The Fund

3. As part of the approved Medium Term Financial Plan, £1,000 has been allocated to each individual Member to be used at their discretion to deliver the objectives of the Stronger Communities Fund.
4. The proposed objectives of the fund as agreed by the Council are :-
 - a. to support individuals and groups to enhance access to opportunities to improve health and wellbeing outcome within their Wards; and
 - b. to invest in environmental improvements which improve the local area to the benefit of the local community
5. Examples of how the Funding could be used, include, but are not restricted to :-
 - a) supporting local groups with events or rents;
 - b) supporting individuals to excel in sport or education;
 - c) providing equipment for individuals in need of support; and
 - d) contributing towards or funding the purchase of environmental improvements such as providing a park bench or play equipment
6. The Council reserves the right to withdraw the account should it believe the Funding has been used inappropriately and/or has remained unspent. For the avoidance of doubt, any funding which is not distributed by the Member will be repayable to the Council.

Awarding the Funding

7. The Member must publicise the Funding within their ward, through newsletters, notice boards etc, advising residents and organisations of the availability of the funding, the criteria and application process and the date by which any applications should be received.
8. The Member must also consider whether the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Members will apply before agreeing to award any of the Funding. Decisions to award Funding to an organisation that a Member works for, or is in a position of management or control, may be considered to be a pecuniary interest, and, as such, the Member must seek advice about this from the Council's Monitoring Officer.
9. In utilising the funding, in accordance with paragraph 10 below, the Member must not commit the Council to any future spend, for example, on-going maintenance.
10. In using the Funding, the Member shall ensure that :-
 - (a) in the 2022/23 financial year, due to the requirements to ensure the appropriate use of Council resources during an election period, all of the funding must be given to the grant recipient by 24 March 2023 and no advertising or promotion of any of the fund shall be undertaken after this period.
 - (b) the process of awarding Funding is open and transparent;
 - (c) the funding will not be used for the Members' personal or political gain;
 - (d) no aspect of the Funding may be, or appear to be, party political in intention, use or presentation
 - (e) the Funding has been used for the purpose that it was provided; and
 - (f) funding shall only be made to individuals or 'not for profit' organisations that are resident in the Borough of Darlington; and

Releasing the Funding

11. The Member will advise, in writing, the Democratic Manager of the details of their grant recipient together with the funding amount and the purpose for which the grant has been allocated.
12. The Democratic Manager will advise, in writing, the grant recipient of the success of their application and request them to agree to the terms and conditions of the funding allocation.
13. On receipt of 12 above, the Democratic Manager will transfer the total amount of funding, as agreed by the Member, to the funding recipient.

Monitoring of the Scheme

14. The Stronger Communities Fund will be reviewed by the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee on a six-monthly basis to ensure the Fund is meeting its aims and objectives and to inform decisions regarding its continuation into future financial years.

Acceptance of Grant Conditions

Member of the Council for :

Ward

Name :

Signature :

Authorised Signatory for the Council :

Name : S Wright, Democratic Manager

Signature :

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Stronger Communities Fund Agreement

2023/24

1. The Council has agreed to establish a Stronger Communities Fund as part of the approved Medium-Term Financial Plan.
2. This Agreement is between Darlington Borough Council (the 'Council') and the elected Member of _____ Ward, Councillor _____ (the 'Member') and sets out the conditions (on receipt of a signed copy of this Agreement) for the distribution of £1,000 (the 'Funding') to the Member to be used for the benefit of their ward and its residents

The Fund

3. As part of the approved Medium Term Financial Plan, £1,000 has been allocated to each individual Member to be used at their discretion to deliver the objectives of the Stronger Communities Fund.
4. The proposed objectives of the fund as agreed by the Council are :-
 - a. to support individuals and groups to enhance access to opportunities to improve health and wellbeing outcome within their Wards; and
 - b. to invest in environmental improvements which improve the local area to the benefit of the local community
5. Examples of how the Funding could be used, include, but are not restricted to :-
 - a) supporting local groups with events or rents;
 - b) supporting individuals to excel in sport or education;
 - c) providing equipment for individuals in need of support; and
 - d) contributing towards or funding the purchase of environmental improvements such as providing a park bench or play equipment
6. The Council reserves the right to withdraw the account should it believe the Funding has been used inappropriately and/or has remained unspent. For the avoidance of doubt, any funding which is not distributed by the Member will be repayable to the Council.

Awarding the Funding

7. The Member must publicise the Funding within their ward, through newsletters, notice boards etc, advising residents and organisations of the availability of the funding, the criteria and application process and the date by which any applications should be received.
8. The Funding shall be allocated by 31 March 2024
9. The Member must also consider whether the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Members will apply before agreeing to award any of the Funding. Decisions to award Funding to an organisation that a Member works for, or is in a position of management or control, may be considered to be a pecuniary interest, and, as such, the Member must declare any potential conflict in section 18 below and seek advice about this from the Council's Monitoring Officer.
10. In utilising the funding, in accordance with paragraph 10 below, the Member must not commit the Council to any future spend, for example, on-going maintenance.
11. In using the Funding, the Member shall ensure that :-
 - (a) the process of awarding Funding is open and transparent;
 - (b) the funding will not be used for the Members' personal or political gain;
 - (c) no aspect of the Funding may be, or appear to be, party political in intention, use or presentation
 - (d) the Funding has been used for the purpose that it was provided; and
 - (e) funding shall only be made to individuals or 'not for profit' organisations that are resident in the Borough of Darlington.

Releasing the Funding

12. The Member will advise, in writing, the Democratic Manager of the details of their grant recipient together with the funding amount and the purpose for which the grant has been allocated.
13. The details of the grant recipient and the purpose for which the grant has been allocated will be monitored by the Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Stronger Communities. Any area of doubt as to whether the proposals are outside of the spirit and procedures of the Fund will be referred to the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer for determination.
14. The Democratic Manager will advise, in writing, the grant recipient of the success of their application and request them to agree to the terms and conditions of the funding allocation.
15. On receipt of 12 above, the Democratic Manager will transfer the total amount of funding, as agreed by the Member, to the funding recipient.

Publicity

16. The Member should arrange for appropriate publicity in relation to the spend of their individual allocation to improve transparency and to promote how the money has been used to the benefit of the Ward.

Monitoring of the Scheme

17. The Stronger Communities Fund will be reviewed by the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee on a six-monthly basis to ensure the Fund is meeting its aims and objectives and to inform decisions regarding its continuation into future financial years.

Declaration and Acceptance of Grant Conditions

18. In signing and accepting the terms of this Agreement, the Member must declare any potential conflict of interest in awarding the Fund below :-

Member of the Council for :

Ward

Name :

Signature :

Authorised Signatory for the Council :

Name : S Wright, Democratic Manager

Signature :

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**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 AUGUST 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 added to the previously approved work programme.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee.
3. Any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).
4. Following approval of the work programme for the Municipal year 2023/24 at the Scrutiny Committee held on 22 June 2023, Officers are seeking clarification from Members in relation the following items on the work programme; Camera Replacement Programme, Hippodrome, Open Spaces Groups and Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021-2031.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme and consider any additional areas of work they would like to include.
6. Members views are requested in relation to the following items on the Work Programme; Camera Replacement Programme, Hippodrome, Open Spaces Groups and Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021-2031

**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 Well Being	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

7. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
8. The Council Plan sets the vision and strategic direction for the Council through to May 2023, with its overarching focus being 'Delivering success for Darlington'.
9. 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.
10. 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'.
11. It is intended to commence work on developing a new Council Plan later in 2023.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

12. 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.
13. 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

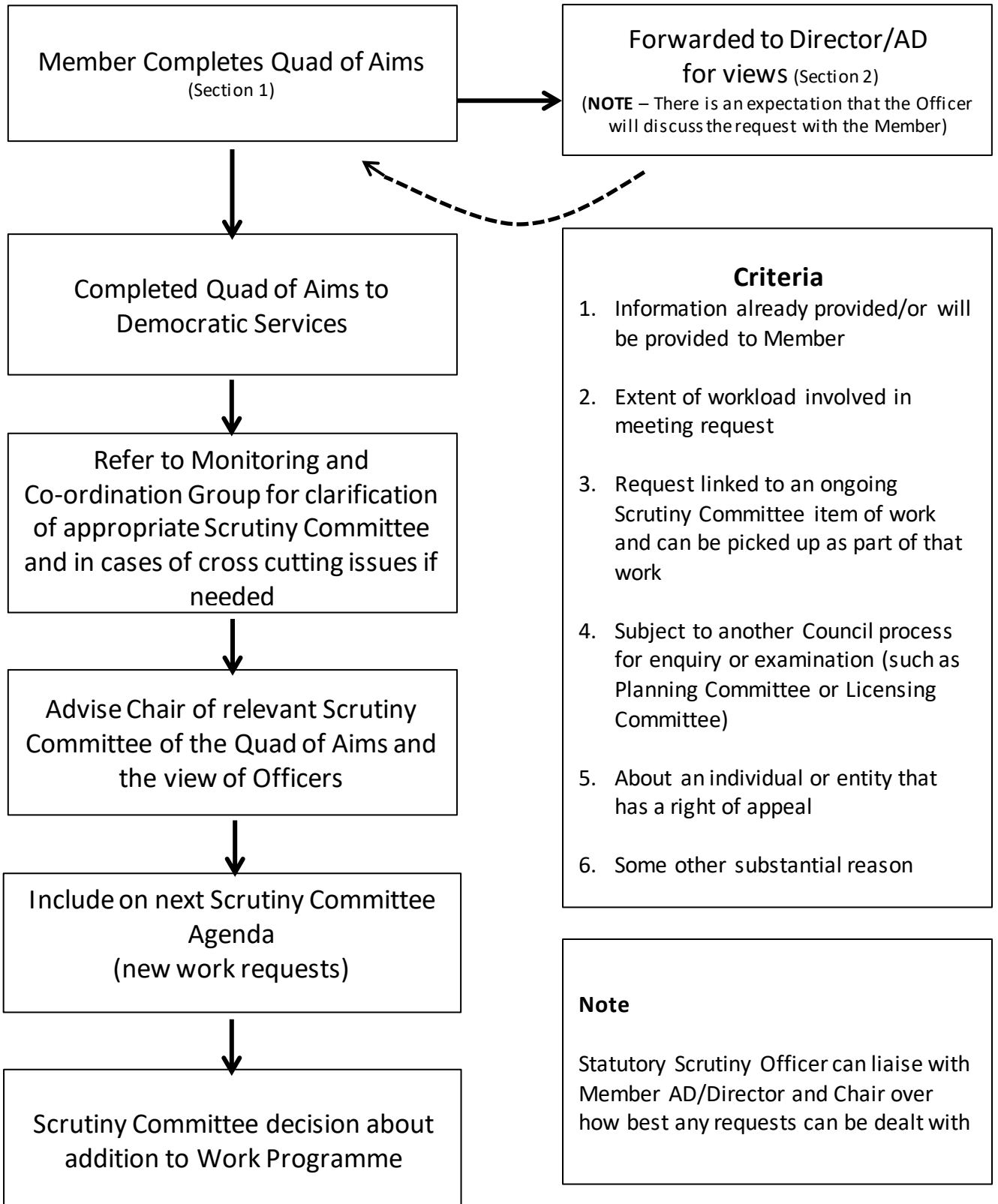
Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management and Regulation/ Management of Change Regular Performance Reports to be Programmed End of Year Performance (including Compliments Comments and Complaints)	11 January 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	24 August 2023 Last considered 9 June 2022	Ian Thompson		To update Scrutiny Members and undertake any further work if necessary.
Stronger Communities Fund Update	24 August 2023	Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder		To update Scrutiny Members.
Street Scene	Members Briefing 11 September 2023	Brian Graham		
Library Services (Library Plan)	26 October 2023 Last considered 15 December 2022	Ian Thompson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Taxi availability (including wheelchair accessible vehicles)	26 October 2023 Last considered 27 October 2022	Colin Dobson		To scrutinise and monitor.
Rail Heritage Quarter– To include Head of Steam and 2025	26 October 2023 Last considered 15 December 2022	Ian Thompson		To contribute to the development of 'Experience Darlington' Strategy.
Waste Management (to include Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility)	11 January 2024 Last considered 21 October 2021	Ian Thompson		To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider prior to Cabinet.
Local Transport Plan	22 February 2023 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	22 February 2024 Last considered 9 February 2023	Seth Pearson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Private Sector Housing Landlords	To be agreed	Christine Booth		
Medium Term Financial Plan	To be agreed			
Camera Replacement Programme Further information from Members required	To be agreed Last considered 15 December 2022	Ian Thompson		To update Scrutiny Members.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Hippodrome	To be agreed Last considered 7 April 2022	Ian Thompson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
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.
Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021-2031	To be agreed	Brian Graham		
Climate Change Update	To be agreed	Margaret Enstone		
Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee	To be agreed	Anthony Hewitt		To receive the Minutes from the Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee

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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
2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff?	3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that?	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway?	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal?	6. Some other substantial reason
6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme?	

Signed **Position** **Date**

PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 2 AUGUST 2023 - 31 DECEMBER 2023

Title	Decision Maker and Date	Page
Dolphin Centre Pool Repairs	Cabinet 11 Aug 2023	3
Annual Audit Letter 2020/21	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	4
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	5
Asset Management Plan	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	6
Climate Change	Council 28 Sep 2023 Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	7
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	9
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2022/23	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	10
Disabled Facilities Grant 2023/24	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	11
Dolphin Centre Repairs	Council 28 Sep 2023 Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	12
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	14
Land at Neasham Road - Cell A	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	15
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter One 2023/24	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	16
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	17
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter One	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	18
Schedule of Transactions	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	19
School Term Dates 2025/26	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	20
Skerningham Garden Village Design Code Supplementary Planning Document	Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	21
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2022/23	Council 28 Sep 2023 Cabinet 5 Sep 2023	22
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 - Fixed	Cabinet 10 Oct 2023	24

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Penalty Notices		
Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 10 Oct 2023	25
Special Free School at West Park, Darlington	Cabinet 10 Oct 2023	26
Council Tax Changes to Empty Property Premiums from 2024	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023	27
Council Tax Support - Scheme Approval 2024/25	Council 30 Nov 2023 Cabinet 7 Nov 2023	28
Housing Services Climate Change Strategy	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023	30
Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023	31
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter Two 2023/24	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023	32
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter Two	Cabinet 7 Nov 2023	33
Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management 2023/24	Council 25 Jan 2024 Cabinet 5 Dec 2023	34
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 5 Mar 2024	36

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Dolphin Centre Pool Repairs

Brief Description

To consider extending the Dolphin Centre Pool Project to undertake additional works.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

Yes

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

11 Aug 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager

Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Annual Audit Letter 2020/21

Brief Description

High Level summary from the results of the audit work undertaken by Ernst & Young the Council's External Auditors.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report and Annual Audit Letter

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Annual Review of the Investment Fund

Brief Description

To provide an update on the schemes and projects agreed by Cabinet to be funded from the £50m investment fund.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Asset Management Plan

Brief Description

To seek endorsement of the draft Asset Management Plan.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Climate Change

Brief Description

Annual report to provide Members with an update on the Climate Change Action Plan

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Council

28 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Leader of the Council

Leader of the Council

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report and Action Plan

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman

Brief Description

To provide Members with an update of the outcome of cases which have been determined by the Local Government, Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Housing Ombudsman (HO).

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager
Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2022/23

Brief Description

To consider the annual complaints, compliments and comments annual reports for Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Corporate, Housing and Public Health.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report and Annual Reports.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Disabled Facilities Grant 2023/24

Brief Description

Permission to release fund to enable the adaptations for those individuals who are eligible to receive the Disabled Facilities Grant

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Adults Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Adults Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Sarah Foster

sarah.foster@darlington.gov.uk

Department

People

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Dolphin Centre Repairs

Brief Description

To consider additional works required in the Dolphin Centre and the release of funding to undertake those works.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Council

28 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Health and Housing Portfolio

Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement

Brief Description

To consider a proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement for land at Faverdale.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

Brinkburn and Faverdale

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report and draft agreement

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Land at Neasham Road - Cell A

Brief Description

To consider proposals for land at Neasham Road (Cell A).

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy Portfolio, Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

Hurworth

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter One 2023/24

Brief Description

To provide a summary of the latest Capital resource and commitment position, to inform monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)

Brief Description

To inform and update Members about issues relevant to the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and developments and recent developments.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter One

Brief Description

To provide an up to date forecast of the revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Schedule of Transactions

Brief Description

To consider the terms negotiated by the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, to enable contractually binding contract(s) to be completed.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

School Term Dates 2025/26

Brief Description

To consider and set the school term date arrangements for Darlington Maintained Schools for the Academic Year 2024/25.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Children and Young People Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Sarah Foster

sarah.foster@darlington.gov.uk

Department

People

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Consultation with all schools.

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Skerningham Garden Village Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

Brief Description

Report submitted to Cabinet to enable consideration to be given to the Planning Policy Final Supplementary Planning Document

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

Brinkburn and Faverdale; Harrowgate Hill; Haughton and Springfield; Sadberge and Middleton St. George; Whinfield

Consultation Process

Consultation previously been undertaken on the document.

Document to be submitted

Report and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2022/23

Brief Description

Report providing information on the regulation and management of the Council's borrowing, investments and cash-flow and requesting approval of the Prudential Indicators.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Sep 2023

Council

28 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager
Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

None

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Document to be submitted
Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 - Fixed Penalty Notices

Brief Description

To provide an update on Defra's announcement that on-the-spot fines for litter, graffiti and fly-tipping are set to rise, and how this Council will proceed.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Oct 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Stronger Communities Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Procurement Plan Update

Brief Description

To consider and approve an update to the Annual Procurement Plan 2023/24

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Oct 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Internal consultation with Departments.

Document to be submitted

Report and updated Procurement Plan

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Special Free School at West Park, Darlington

Brief Description

To consider the development of a special Free School at West Park, Darlington.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

10 Oct 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager
Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

Brinkburn and Faverdale

Consultation Process

Meetings

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Council Tax Changes to Empty Property Premiums from 2024

Brief Description

To approve the Council Tax Changes to Empty Property Premiums from 2024.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Nov 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Online consultation with residents via online feedback form.

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Council Tax Support - Scheme Approval 2024/25

Brief Description

To consider and approve a draft Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Nov 2023

Council

30 Nov 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report and Council Tax Support Scheme

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Housing Services Climate Change Strategy

Brief Description

To approve the Housing Climate Change Strategy.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Nov 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Health and Housing Portfolio, Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Meeting with Tenants Panel and written representation.

Document to be submitted

Report and Strategy

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy

Brief Description

To approve the Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Nov 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Meeting with Tenants Panel and written comments

Document to be submitted

Report and Policy

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter Two 2023/24

Brief Description

To provide a summary of the latest Capital resource and commitment position, to inform monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Nov 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter Two

Brief Description

To provide an up to date forecast of the revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Nov 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management 2023/24

Brief Description

To consider the revised Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and providing a half-yearly review of the Council's borrowing and investment activities.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Dec 2023

Council

25 Jan 2024

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Operations

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

N/A

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Items deferred since the publication of the last Forward Plan

Title

Offset Strategy

Brief Description

To consider a document setting out the Council's approach to dealing with residual carbon emissions after all energy efficiency and other actions have been taken.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 Mar 2024

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lynne Wood, Elections Manager
Lynne.Wood@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Internal consultation

Document to be submitted

Report

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**