



**DARLINGTON**

Borough Council

# Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00 am

Thursday, 1 February 2024

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 this Scrutiny Committee: –
  - (a) 4 January 2024 Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
  - (b) 18 January 2024 Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.  
(Pages 3 - 12)
4. Inclusive Growth Strategy for Darlington –  
Report of the Business Growth & Investment Manager  
(Pages 13 - 16)
5. Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2023/24 –  
Report of the Assistant Director Resources  
(Pages 17 - 42)
6. Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Quarter 3 –  
Report of the Assistant Director Transport & Capital Projects  
(Pages 43 - 60)

7. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter 3 –  
Report of the Assistant Director Resources  
(Pages 61 - 80)
8. Work Programme –  
Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance  
(Pages 81 - 96)
9. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are  
of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
10. Questions



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

**Wednesday, 24 January 2024**

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

**Membership**

Councillors Baker, Coe, Dillon, Durham, Haszeldine, Henderson, Marshall, McGill, Ray and  
Mrs Scott

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on  
this agenda please contact Michael Conway, Mayoral and 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 E-mail: [michael.conway@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:michael.conway@darlington.gov.uk) or telephone 01325 4056309

## ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 4 January 2024

**PRESENT** – Councillors , Coe, Dillon, Durham, Haszeldine, Henderson, Marshall, McGill, Ray and Mrs Scott

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Baker,

**ABSENT** – Councillors

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Mark Ladyman (Assistant Director Economic Growth), Brett Nielsen (Assistant Director Resources), Anthony Sandys (Assistant Director - Housing and Revenues), Michael Conway (Mayoral and Democratic Officer) and Cheryl Williams (Programmes and Performance Manager)

### ER73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr McGill declared an interest as a Trustee and non-remunerated Director of FirstStop Darlington.

### ER74 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2023

Submitted – The Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 2 November 2023

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 2 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### ER75 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Assistant Director Resources presented the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2024/25 to 2027/28, agreed for consultation on 5 December 2023 with the consultation period running until 22 January 2024.

A briefing was delivered to Councillors on 13 December 2023 which provided an overview and highlighted key points in the plan. It was noted that since the report had been published the Council has received the draft financial settlement for 2024/25 and an update was provided to Members highlighting the key points

- (a) The settlement is for 2024/25 only.
- (b) The Services Grant has reduced by approximately £800,000.
- (c) The New Home Bonus has been continued for 2024/25, we will receive approximately £400,000.
- (d) A number of figures are still to be confirmed, but at this point it is estimated that resources will decrease by approximately £250,000 for 2024/25 and further in

future years if the New Homes Bonus ends.

The Assistant Director Resources clarified that the Local Government Finance Settlement which was received on 18 December 2023 and that staff have been interpreting and incorporating figures and that all settlement details will be included in the updated version of the MTFP which will go Cabinet and Council in February. Some Members expressed the view that more time was required to consider the MTFP in view of the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement and could not form a view on the MTFP until this was known.

We raised questions regarding the reduction in the Services Grant, officers clarified that this decrease was expected following further information received after the MTFP was published, but the decrease was more than expected. The Services Grant had reduced in previous years.

A further question was raised as to whether fundamental changes in strategy will be required in the longer term if more budget pressures arise. Officers responded that the budget is built using the best knowledge available at this time taking into account service demands and these have been included in the MTFP, however further pressures or savings would impact on the plan.

Members also asked the question regarding the impact of interest rate fluctuations on future budgets. Officers confirmed that the main impact of interest rates is on contracts that have allowance built in for interest rate changes and particularly for borrowing and investments. Staff manage the borrowing and investments through the Treasury Management always consider interest rates in decisions.

The question was asked whether the impact of council tax arrangements for empty properties is being included in the report and it was confirmed that it is and any changes will be included in the final version of the report.

A further question was raised as to whether the commitment to invest in play areas was still being honoured. Officers confirmed that commitment is still funded, as it was included in the 2023/24 MTFP, this was not included in appendix 7 as works have begun.

Members also raised the question as to whether any reduction in staff numbers may occur in 2024/25. Officers confirmed that any savings currently in the report are achieved through natural turnover however future years cannot be predicted at this time.

Members raised the point that this report is not the final report that will be presented to Cabinet, it was confirmed that this is due to new information (such as the Local Government Finance Settlement) which will be included in the final MTFP, but officers strive to provide Scrutiny Committees with the most up-to-date version possible at the time of meeting.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) Members noted the report and agreed that the Chair of this meeting, in consultation with the Lead Scrutiny Officers supporting this Scrutiny Committee, be given authority to agree the Minutes of this Scrutiny Committee, to enable the Minutes to be considered at a Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee scheduled to be held on 18 January 2024.
- (b) That the minority view of this Scrutiny Committee, as expressed by Councillor Mrs.

Scott on behalf of the Conservative Group is that they would not support the MTFP in its current form until fully appraised of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

#### **ER76 HOUSING SERVICES CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2024-29**

The Programmes and Performance Manager - Housing and Revenues delivered a presentation on Housing Services Climate Change Strategy 2024-29 to be considered before approval by Cabinet on 9 January 2024 with progress of the strategy to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Members were provided with information in support of the Government's target of achieving net zero carbon by 2050 including the challenges faced by Housing staff and the strategies in place to handle these and to meet the Government targets of achieving an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C for all our council homes by 2030. Members received an explanation of the "Fabric First" approach being utilised, in which the service's goal is to maximise efficiency in the use of all materials (e.g., insulation, windows and doors) in carrying out works on council properties with the average spend on each property between £26,707 to £31,410.

It was reported that positive progress is being made overall and that the benefits to residents include better quality insulation resulting in shorter periods with heating on and double-glazing keeping heat in resulting in positive feedback from tenants.

Members raised the question as to whether work is also carried out on private housing where possible. Officers clarified that where funding opportunities are available, they will work with the Private Sector Housing team with joint funding bids. We also asked as to whether payments are made from the housing revenue account, and it was confirmed that this is the case but only in relation to Council housing.

Members asked as to whether emissions from occupied council properties count towards net carbon zero goals. Officers stated that they would need to confirm this however that it would be difficult to regulate tenants' energy usage.

**RESOLVED** – Members acknowledged the quality of presentation and information provided and support the report's onward submission to cabinet and to review progress on an annual basis.

#### **ER77 DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT POLICY 2024-29**

The Assistant Director - Housing and Revenues to presents the report prior to its onward submission to 9 January 2024 Cabinet. Members were informed that the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) policy is a scheme which aims to provide residents who receive Housing Benefit or Universal Credit, with additional financial assistance with their rental costs. The operation of the scheme is at the Council's discretion and funding is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) with any leftover funding returned at the end of each grant period.

Members asked questions which included the time periods that funds are granted to tenants,

we were informed that the policy is designed for short-term assistance, generally lasting six months and twelve in certain cases.

Members questioned as to why the entire grant has not been spent in this period and officers clarified that a balancing act is required in order to make the funding last for the full period however in previous years where housing benefit was more prevalent it was far easier to identify shortfall and those requiring aid as opposed to the current system of Universal Credit. However, officers also highlighted that the goal is always to issue the full amount of funding where possible in each period.

Discussion was held as to the promotion of the scheme and we were informed that promotion is mainly handled by the local authority and citizens advice bureaux rather than the DWP and members suggested that the scheme could be advertised in One Darlington in the future.

**RESOLVED** – Members considered the report and support the report’s onward submission to Cabinet.

#### **ER78 COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF POLICY 2024-29**

The Assistant Director - Housing and Revenues presents the report prior to its onward submission to 9 January 2024 Cabinet.

Members were informed that Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 provides the Council with discretionary powers to reduce a person’s Business Rates liability in cases of hardship. In addition, section 69 of the Localism Act 2011 amends the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to allow Councils the discretion to award discretionary relief to all types of businesses.

Section 13a (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides the Council with discretionary powers to reduce a person’s Council Tax liability to such an extent as we think fit.

It was highlighted that the Council does not receive a grant towards these payments which are taken from the Council’s collection fund.

**RESOLVED** – That members considered the report and support the report’s onward submission to cabinet.

#### **ER79 COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES RECOVERY STRATEGY 2024-29**

The Assistant Director - Housing and Revenues presented the report prior to its onward submission to 9 January 2024 Cabinet.

Members were informed that the strategy sets out how the Council will use its discretionary and statutory powers to facilitate payments, recover debts and maintain a firm but fair approach to collection and recovery. The collection of Council Tax and Business Rates is a high priority for the Council and is the main revenue source for the funding of key Council services and the overall goal is to recover debts in the most efficient manner for the Council.

Members asked questions which included what proportion of debts are unrecoverable and

were informed that we have a 1% bad-debt provision however most debt agencies recognise council tax as a primary debt for payment. A further question was asked with regards to council tax collection rates appearing to be lower than expected and this was explained to be as a result of in-progress recovery and those on long-standing payment arrangements.

A question was asked as to the driving factors behind the production of the report. Officers confirmed that the decision was made due to various factors which included the high number of Freedom of Information requests received, the council's desire for transparency and also the opportunity to consolidate a lot of information that is already present (e.g. on the council website) into a single format. It was also asked if it will be evident if the strategy has an effect on recovery. Officers stated that it would be difficult at any time to determine the trends for non-payments however the team are proven to be very effective in identifying cases requiring attention and providing help and support to aid recovery actions. It was also highlighted that statistical results are also present in performance indicator reports if future analysis is required.

Members took the opportunity to acknowledge the high standard of work carried out by the recovery department and acknowledge the impact on recovery post-COVID.

**RESOLVED** - Members considered the report and support the report's onward submission to Cabinet.

## **ER80 WORK PROGRAMME**

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

**RESOLVED** – That the work programme be considered and additionally a Member highlighted that the Revised Climate Change Strategy (9 January 2024 Cabinet) had not been suggested for presentation at this Scrutiny Committee prior to submission to Cabinet. This will be addressed for future meetings.

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## **ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 18 January 2024

**PRESENT** – Councillors Baker (Chair), Coe, Durham, Haszeldine, Henderson, Marshall, McGill, Mrs Scott, Crumbie, Johnson and Layton

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Dillon, Ray and Allen,

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Olivia Hugill (Democratic Officer), Brett Nielsen (Assistant Director Resources), Anthony Sandys (Assistant Director - Housing and Revenues) and Michael Conway (Mayoral and Democratic Officer)

### **ER81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

### **ER82 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of all the meetings of the Scrutiny Committees which had been held to discuss the proposals contained within the draft Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2024/25-27/28.

Note - The Minutes of the Communities and Local Services and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee were submitted with the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to enable all the responses to be considered at this meeting.

The Assistant Director Resources attended and outlined the process and consultation period surrounding the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for which he had attended the Council's individual scrutiny committees. It was clarified that the purpose of this Special meeting was to discuss and collate the feedback as presented by Chairs of the individual committees at this meeting and to form a combined response for onward submission.

The Chairs of the individual scrutiny committees were invited to relate any feedback to this committee.

- a) The Chair of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee provided a summary of the 4 January 2024 meeting and the discussion held around MTFP. Highlighting that a minority view was recorded as expressed by members who felt they could not endorse the MTFP as presented without more time to consider and after the full inclusion of the Local Government Finance Settlement details.
- b) The Chair of the Adults Scrutiny Committee provided a summary of the 9 January 2024 meeting and the discussion held around MTFP. It was highlighted that the committee believed that a greater fund for mental health services is required going forward.
- c) The Vice Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee provided a summary of the 3 January 2024 meeting and the discussion held around MTFP. Highlighting that a minority view was recorded as expressed by members who felt they could not endorse

the MTFP as presented without more time to consider and after the full inclusion of the Local Government Finance Settlement details.

- d) The Chair of the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee provided a summary of the 11 January 2024 meeting and the discussion held around MTFP in which the reduction in crematorium income was noted. It was also highlighted that the committee felt that changes would be required for future MTFPs in order to avoid excessive overspend.
- e) The Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee provided a summary of the 15 January 2024 meeting and the discussion held around MTFP. It was highlighted that members wished to commend officers on their progress in bringing some services in-house that were previously externally provided at greater cost. Members also requested should additional funds become available that SEND provision be a priority for funding.

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee had also considered a report (previously circulated) in relation to Children's Social Care in Darlington, Ensuring Placement Sufficiency and Enabling Creative Alternatives.

Following the presentation from committees' Chairs, the Chair of this meeting opened the room to discussion and questions in order to facilitate a combined response.

Discussions were held which noted the drop in overall grant funding and that a close eye should be kept on services that could experience major strain from this. It was also highlighted that the increase in demand for statutory services reduces budgets elsewhere, this was acknowledged as a national issue but the point was made that more money and longer term financial stability should be the primary goal.

A member also requested that the lowering of central government funding be noted as this is a pressure for the Council.

Another member made the point that they believe looking at the budget from a zero-base position could assist in identifying opportunities going forward.

A member raised discussion with regards to climate change funding and their concern that action may need to be taken at short notice towards this which may not be included in the budget. Officers clarified that the Housing budget is a large area with climate change impacts and funding has been set aside in the HRA MTFP for this, however it was acknowledged that not every implication of climate change is built into the MTFP but will be considered as part of future MTFPs to coincide with government timeframes for net carbon zero.

Questions were raised which included as to whether funding will be available to maintain Darlington's roads and repair potholes with the response that keeping roads at the highest standard would cost around £10m and that extra funding would be required to achieve this.

A question was raised asking how other committees are able to satisfy themselves that they understand the MTFP report and numbers involved. Responses were provided including that briefings with officers and COE members are available to aid in understanding where needed. That members are provided with the most relevant information and that data from previous

meetings can be readily accessed should members wish to gain a broader understanding of the history and trajectory of reports. That many committee members have professional experience in the areas being scrutinised and that all members take the subject matter seriously regardless of past experience. Overall, the consensus being that other committees are capable of understanding and processing the MTFP reports with members being welcome and encouraged to attend and observe any committees represented at this meeting.

Members asked for clarification of reserves with the Assistant Director Resources responding that unearmarked reserves were used to balance the budget with other earmarked reserves used to fund specific service areas, it was also stated that funding could be released from earmarked reserves in due course if unused and no longer needed. It was also asked if any surplus in the Council Tax Collection Fund will be utilised in coming years with the Assistant Director Resources answering that £1m had been released this year.

**RESOLVED** – That Cabinet be advised that the following is the response of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on behalf of all of the Council’s Scrutiny Committees in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28 consultation:

- (i) That the report and the input of the scrutiny committees’ representatives be noted with the majority view that the MTFP is approved for onward submission.
- (ii) A minority view was recorded from members who do not support the MTFP in its current form.

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND**

The Scrutiny Committee also considered a report (previously circulated) of the Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Stronger Communities in relation to the Stronger Communities Fund.

The Assistant Director Resources reported that the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee on 11 January 2024 had also considered the report and had recommended the continuation of the scheme for the 2024/25 financial year and had noted the scheme’s current spend against the £50,000 allocated funding.

The Chair of the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee reported that, in making the recommendation to continue the scheme in 2024/25 the lack of funding available across the council had been acknowledged. The Assistant Director Resources added that the decided levels of funding would also need to be included in the MTFP.

Members entered into discussion with some Members positively encouraging others to make use of the funding available to help the residents in their wards. Other Members stated that the scheme should continue but that greater publicity would be beneficial, such as advertisements in One Darlington.

A further point was raised that if some Councillors struggled to allocate their funds, the funds could be reallocated to those wards with a greater need.

A Member highlighted the positive impact that the fund can have in maintaining community groups that benefit a lot of residents and also raised the possibility that, in the future, certain practitioners could be funded who would have a positive impact with their work.

Members also raised the point that Councillors who have had greater success would be happy to share ideas for issuing funds with other Members and that success stories of the scheme should be more widely promoted. Another Member clarified that Councillors can apply for funds for their residents who are taking part in schemes outside their Ward.

The Chair of this Committee acknowledged the current financial pressures and appreciated the continuation of such a scheme for communities. The Chair also suggests a review of spending levels and regulations around issuing funds.

A member raised the points that funding should always go those with the greatest need where possible and that strengthened conflict of interest checks when issuing funds would add to the robustness of the scheme.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted, and Cabinet be advised of the view to support the continuation of the scheme, taking into account the points raised during the discussion.

**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
1 FEBRUARY 2024**

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**INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY FOR DARLINGTON**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To outline the approach to develop and build an evidence base to provide the foundation for the development of the local inclusive growth strategy.

**Summary**

2. Since the publication of the Council's last economic strategy, much has changed, both locally and nationally. Many underlying issues within the local economy are seen to have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and cost-of living crisis.
3. As a result, the Council is developing a new Inclusive Growth Strategy for Darlington
4. The strategy will provide the framework for future long-term sustainable inclusive economic growth. It will complement the emerging economic ambitions and priorities of the new Council Plan.
5. The first step in this process is to review current data and gather new/updated evidence. This will include previous scoping work undertaken.
6. The evidence base will help shape and inform the development of the strategy.

**Recommendation**

7. Members are asked to:
  - (a) Endorse the approach outlined to develop the Inclusive Growth Strategy.

**Ian Williams,  
Chief Executive**

**Background Papers**

None

Andrew Perkin : Extension 6308

S17 Crime and Disorder	No impact from the report
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Health and Wellbeing	No impact from the report
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	No impact from the report
Diversity	No impact from the report
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally
Groups Affected	No impact from the report
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	N/A
Urgent Decision	N/A
Council Plan	This report directly supports the delivery of the Council Plan by setting local economic priorities and actions to support the economic development of the Borough.
Efficiency	No impact from the report
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No impact from the report

## MAIN REPORT

8. Since the publication of the Council's last economic strategy, much has changed, both locally and nationally. Many underlying issues within the local economy are seen to have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and cost-of living crisis.
9. As a result, the Council is developing a new Inclusive Growth Strategy for Darlington
10. The strategy will provide the framework for future long-term sustainable inclusive economic growth. It will complement the emerging economic ambitions and priorities of the new Council Plan.
11. The new Inclusive Growth Strategy will take account of recent investments and opportunities in the Darlington local economy, including:
  - Darlington Economic Campus
  - Darlington Science Park
  - Hopetown Darlington – 1825 Celebrations –
  - Towns Fund Programme
  - Bank Top Railway station
12. The starting point for developing the new strategy is to undertake a review of the existing evidence base.
13. The evidence base will help shape and inform the strategy and provide an update on the local economic picture, highlighting emerging issues and opportunities, identify gaps in the data, and secure a better understanding of Darlington's economic performance and drivers of growth.
14. The revision of the evidence base draws upon the latest data to provide a robust foundation and sound understanding on changing circumstances to inform Darlington's economic policies. These policies and actions will form the backbone of the Inclusive Growth Strategy.
15. As the Council aims to develop a new economic strategy around the principles of inclusive growth, this economic evidence base focuses not simply on job and business growth but on how change in the economy affects local residents and workers—and how the economy can be more equitable for everyone.
16. The current performance measures for reviewing economic growth are:
  - EC301 - Change in total employment since previous year
  - EC301e – Number of people employed including self-employed
  - EC301f – Number of employees
  - ECI321 – Monthly Unemployment Claimant Count
  - ECI321a - 18-24 Unemployment Claimant Count
  - ECI322 – Long Term Universal Credit Claimant Count Rate
  - ECI327 – Percentage of working age adults who are economically active
  - ECI329 – Average (Median) annual income: Darlington Residents
  - ECI 330 – Average (median) annual income: Darlington Employees

- ECI333 – Median Weekly All Residence based earnings
- ECI334 – Median Weekly Full-time employee-based earnings
- ECI337 – New Business Registration rate per 10,000 residents
- ECI340 – Percentage of workers earning the real living wage.

17. Data on these indicators is provided elsewhere on the agenda.
18. However, reviewing this small number of indicators shows that the Darlington profile is mixed. In some areas Darlington is doing well, in other areas, Darlington's performance is weak.
19. For example, the number of employees continues to grow (47,200 – June 2023), yet the monthly unemployment claimant count remains static. Employee based earnings remains higher than residence-based earnings. Finally, the percentage of workers earning the real living wage is now lower than both the England and North-East.
20. Hence the need to develop an inclusive growth plan.
21. Whilst inclusive growth means many different things to different people, it can be broadly defined as "a concern with both the pace and pattern of growth.
22. Where previous approaches to economic development had prioritised any growth, inclusive growth asks new questions about which people and places stand to benefit from growth – as well as which people or places are excluded from the benefits of growth.
23. Defining what inclusive growth means and translating these high-level approaches into tangible and measurable action is our next challenge.
24. It is expected that the draft Inclusive Growth Strategy will be published in June 2024.

## Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

1 February 2024

ITEM NO. ....

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### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QTR 2 2023/24

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#### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with performance data against key performance indicators for 2023/24 at Quarter 2.

#### 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.
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. 22 indicators are reported to the committee, 18 of them on a six-monthly basis and four annually.

#### April to September 2022/23 comparison to 2023/24

#### Culture Indicator

5. The weekly average footfall in the town centre has decreased (CUL 080a – 297,496 to 280,682). Investment from the Towns Fund is ongoing to support the High Street, a comprehensive programme of events is being delivered to attract people to the town and a marketing campaign with video was released to attract new businesses to the town that reached over 30,000 views across all media platforms. Occupancy rates in the town centre are currently approximately 90.6%.

#### Planning Indicators

6. The percentage of major planning applications decided within 13 weeks or within an agreed time increased (ECI 104 – 77.8% to 85.7%). Six of the seven applications were decided within the target time. Additional checking and monitoring have been introduced into the planning process.
7. The percentage of non-major planning developments decided within 13 weeks or within agreed time has decreased very slightly (ECI 105 – 95.9% to 94.9%). There were 187

decisions issued for the 197 applications received. The recruitment of staff to vacant posts has assisted the section to maintain the good performance level.

8. The percentage of non-major planning developments decided within 13 weeks or within agreed time over the last 24 months has continued its' trend and increased (ECI 106 – 88.4% to 92.3%).

### **Economic Growth Indicators**

9. The monthly unemployment claimant count percentage has remained relatively static since April 2022, the figure is identical to 1 decimal place (ECI 321 - 4.3% to 4.3%). This trend is mirrored in both regional and national statistics. Darlington's rate is marginally higher than both the North East (4.0%) and England (3.8%).
10. The June economically active percentage has increased by 3.7% (ECI 327 – 79.00% to 82.74%). The percentage is better than the north-east and England, whose has remained constant, around 74% in the North East, and 79% for England. Working age economically inactive people have various reasons for not looking for and/or being able to start work, e.g., students, sickness, caring and family responsibilities and early retirement.
11. The number of new homes delivered within the year has decreased (ECI 401 - 341 to 90). Housing delivery continues to be strong within the borough despite ongoing challenges with Nutrient Neutrality. Despite not granting any significant new housing permissions in the past financial year housing completions have still exceeded the annual local plan target. Options to mitigate nutrient pollution from new development are now being applied. Two rounds of Natural England credits have now been issued with a third having recently closed.

### **Human Resources Indicators**

12. The number of working days per full-time equivalent (FTE) lost due to sickness by Council employed staff has decreased (FHR 001 – 4.9 to 4.3). The number of days lost to sickness at the end of Q2 2023/24 has reduced by 593 days, (0.53 per FTE) when compared to the same period in 2022/23. Managers at all levels continue to manage sickness within the Council's sickness management policies supported by HR officers. The Wellbeing programme continues to be a high priority to promote the health and wellbeing of our staff and has produced benefits to our workforce and the Council as a whole, through many activities. The annual flu vaccination clinics have started, and further wellbeing developments are planned for the remainder of the year.
13. The percentage of voluntary leavers has decreased (FHR 019 – 5.1% to 4.2%). The number of voluntary leavers at the end of Q2 is lower than at the same point in 2022/23, 84 compared to 98. We undertake exit interviews and surveys to understand why staff leave and to inform future improvement. Results show that 87% of leavers would work for the Council again. Work is ongoing to improve/develop a number of areas including employee engagement, the Performance Development Review process,

succession planning and our recruitment processes. We continue to improve our employment package to ensure the Council attracts and retains the best talent in a very competitive employment market.

### **Health and Safety Indicators**

14. The number of reportable employee accidents / ill health to the HSE under Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, has increased (FHR 003 - 4 to 7). All accidents and ill health reports are thoroughly investigated by management and the Health & Safety team to establish the causes, identify issues or trends, and make recommendations to prevent reoccurrence. Health and Safety is a key priority for the Council at all levels and is promoted through all working practices.

### **Complaints and Information Governance Indicators**

15. The number of complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman/Housing Ombudsman increased (FHR 008 - 3 to 5). The four complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman related to Adult Services (1), Children Services (1) and Education and Inclusion (2). The one complaint upheld by the Housing Ombudsman related to Housing Management Services.
16. The number of complaints upheld by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) increased (FHR 009 - 1 to 9). Four of the six upheld complaints related to delays in responding to Subject Access Requests (SARs). Risk of enforcement action from the ICO in relation to SARs remains an above the line risk on the Council's Risk Register and work is ongoing to reduce that risk below the risk appetite line. This work includes the use of agency staff in the short term to respond to SARs and a project to digitise the Council's historic adult and children's social care records to ensure we are better equipped to deal with SARs in a timely manner in future.

### **Housing and Revenues Indicators**

17. The amount of Council Tax arrears collected has decreased (HBS 002 - £1,017,446 to £991,442). This is only slightly lower than the amount collected for the same period in 2022-23 and still exceeds the 2023-24 target. The higher amount last year was due to having restarted recovery action following the Covid pandemic, where most recovery action was suspended. We are still dealing with arrears resulting from Covid and the ongoing economic situation. However, despite these pressures, the amount of outstanding Council Tax arrears has reduced from £5.9 million at the end of quarter 2 in 2022-23 to £5.6 million at the end of quarter 2 in 2023-24.
18. The amount of Housing Benefit overpayments recovered has increased and exceeded the 2023-24 target (HBS 003 - £259,293 to £327,697). Collection rates are currently at 118% of the new overpayment debt created (£278k), whilst the overall outstanding debt continues to decrease (currently at £1.51 million). It is likely that as Housing Benefit claims continue to transfer to Universal Credit, the amount of Housing Benefit overpayments created (and therefore the amount collected) will decrease over the next

few years.

19. The percentage of Council Tax collected in-year has remained static and above the 2023-24 target (HBS 009 – 53.0% to 52.9%). The overall amount collected by quarter 2 was £39.8 million compared to £37.8 million by quarter 2 in 2022-23, an increase of 5%. The collection target for 2023-24 is on course to be met, despite the pressures of the current economic situation.
20. The percentage of Business Rates collected in-year decreased but still above the 2023-24 target (HBS 010 – 62.5% to 58.9%). The main reason for this reduction is due to the cessation of the Covid Additional Relief scheme. There has also been a national Revaluation with effect from 1 April 2023 which increased the overall amount of rateable value for Darlington by £2.8 million or 3.2%. The overall amount collected by quarter 2 was £18.5 million compared to £20.2 million by quarter 2 of 2022-23 and we are on course to meet our target for 2023-24.

### **Legal Indicator**

21. The percentage of contracted spend as a percentage of total non-salary spend increased (LGP 008 – 83.7% to 84.2%). Increased communication and early engagement and a refreshed intranet page over the past year has helped officers to better understand the procurement rules. The Procurement team engage with departments, checking the spend against the Contracts Register on a regular basis.

### **Environmental Health Indicator**

22. The percentage noise complaints investigated and completed within 6 weeks of the date of receipt increased (REG 312a - 97.6% to 98.4%). The 90% target continues to be consistently achieved and work has been carried out by Environmental Health to make the reporting of noise complaints (non-council properties) easier for service users. From July 2023 members of the public have been able to report a noise nuisance via a reporting tool on the council website which is proving successful with 32% of noise complaints received by this method in Q2 2023/24.

### **Performance Summary**

23. 17 of the 18 indicators have Quarter 2 data to report. One has Quarter 1 data.
24. When taking into consideration what is best performance for each indicator:
  - a) Eight of the 18 indicators have increased when compared to the previous year.
  - b) Ten of the 18 indicators have decreased when compared to the previous year.
25. A detailed performance scorecard is attached at Appendix 1.
26. Detailed performance and narratives for each indicator is attached at Appendix 2.

## Recommendations

27. It is recommended that performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with appropriate Assistant Directors.

**Ian Thompson**  
**Assistant Director – Community Services**  
**Mark Ladyman**  
**Assistant Director – Economic Growth**  
**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director – Law and Governance**  
**Anthony Sandys**  
**Assistant Director – Housing and Revenues**  
**Brett Nielsen**  
**Assistant Director – Resources**

## Background Papers

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

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Councils Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no specific carbon impact issues in this report.
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 outcomes
Efficiency	Scrutiny of performance is integral to optimising outcomes.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

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Economy and Resources										Scrutiny Committee 2023 - 2024 QUARTER 2			APPENDIX 1		
										2023/2024					
Indicator	Title	Return Format	Reported	What is best	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024 - Qtr 1	2023/2024 - Qtr 2	Qtr 2 compared to Qtr 1	2022/2023 - Qtr 2	Qtr 2 - 2023/2024 compared to 2022/2023			
CUL 080a	Town centre footfall weekly average	Number	Monthly	Higher	139,536	274,444	251,691	298,884	280,682	↓	297,496	↓			
ECI 104	% of major planning applications decided within 13 weeks or within agreed time (EoT)	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	80.0%	100.0%	85.0%	100.0%	85.7%	↓	77.8%	↑			
ECI 105	% of non major planning development decisions within 8 weeks or within agreed time (EoT)	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	76.4%	88.5%	92.7%	93.9%	94.9%	↑	95.9%	↓			
ECI 106	24 months to date % of non major planning development decisions within 8 weeks or within agreed time (EoT)	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	86.7%	87.3%	90.3%	90.7%	92.3%	↑	88.4%	↑			
ECI 321	Monthly unemployed claimant count	Percentage	Monthly	Lower	7.22%	4.57%	4.33%	4.21%	4.25%	↓	4.3%	↑			
ECI 327	Economically active rate	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	77.8%	81.1%	80.3%	82.7%	No data available	NA	79.0%	NA			
ECI 329	Average annual income - Darlington residents	£	Annually	Higher	£24,146	£24,784	£26,184	Annual indicators no data to report for these quarters		NA	Annual indicators no data to report for these quarters	NA			
ECI 330	Average annual income - Darlington employees	£	Annually	Higher	£23,299	£24,689	£25,552			NA		NA			
ECI 401	New homes delivered against annual target	Number	Quarterly	Higher	545	511	495	83	90	NA	341	↓			
FHR 001	Number of FTE working days lost due to sickness (excluding schools)	Average Days	Monthly	Lower	6.7	8.2	9.7	1.9	4.3	↓	4.9	↑			
FHR 003	Number of reportable employee accidents / ill health	Number	Quarterly	Lower	5	12	15	3	7	NA	4	↓			
FHR 008	Number of complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman/Housing Ombudsman	Number	Quarterly	Lower	5	7	6	1	5	NA	3	↓			
FHR 009	Number of complaints upheld by the Information Commissioners Office	Number	Quarterly	Lower	1	2	6	5	6	NA	1	↓			
FHR 019	Staff turnover - Voluntary Leavers	Percentage	Quarterly	Lower	6.6%	10.5%	10.0%	2.1%	4.2%	NA	5.1%	↑			
HBS 002	Amount in £s of Council Tax arrears collected	£	Monthly	Higher	£1,234,774	£1,546,390	£1,971,156	£359,484	£991,422	NA	£1,017,446	↓			
HBS 003	Amount in £s of Housing Benefit overpayments recovered	£	Quarterly	Higher	£646,397	£568,423	£635,633	£120,048	£327,697	NA	£259,293	↑			
HBS 009	% of Council Tax collected in year	Percentage	Monthly	Higher	95.8%	94.9%	96.1%	27.1%	52.9%	NA	53.0%	↓			

Economy and Resources      Scrutiny Committee      2023 - 2024 QUARTER 2										APPENDIX 1		
										2023/2024		

Indicator	Title	Return Format	Reported	What is best	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024 - Qtr 1	2023/2024 - Qtr 2	Qtr 2 compared to Qtr 1	2022/2023 - Qtr 2	Qtr 2 - 2023/2024 compared to 2022/2023
HBS 010	% of Business Rates collected in-year	Percentage	Monthly	Higher	97.1%	98.1%	99.8%	33.2%	58.9%	NA	62.5%	↓
LGP 008	Contracted spend as a % of total non-salary spend	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	86.6%	85.6%	83.9%	84.6%	84.2%	↓	83.7%	↑
REG 301	Environmental Health : % of food premises which are inspected within the financial year in which they are due	Percentage	Annually	Higher	18.1%	43.5%	65.7%	Annual indicators no data to report for these quarters		NA	Annual indicators no data to report for these quarters	NA
REG 308	Environmental Health: % of premises broadly compliant for food hygiene	Percentage	Annually	Higher	97.7%	98.5%	99.0%			NA		NA
REG 312a	% of noise complaints investigated and completed within 6 weeks of the date of receipt (except where diary sheet returned)	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	97.7%	95.6%	96.8%	97.5%	98.4%	↑	97.6%	↑

	Better than =	NA	8
	Not as good as =	NA	9
	The same as =	NA	0
	No comparative data	NA	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>

DBC Number

**CUL 080a**

Indicator Name

## Town centre footfall weekly average for the month

Theme or Portfolio

**Stronger Communities Portfolio**

Priority or Key Action

**Support the development of the town centre economy by putting appropriate measures in place and demonstrating it is a safe place to visit**

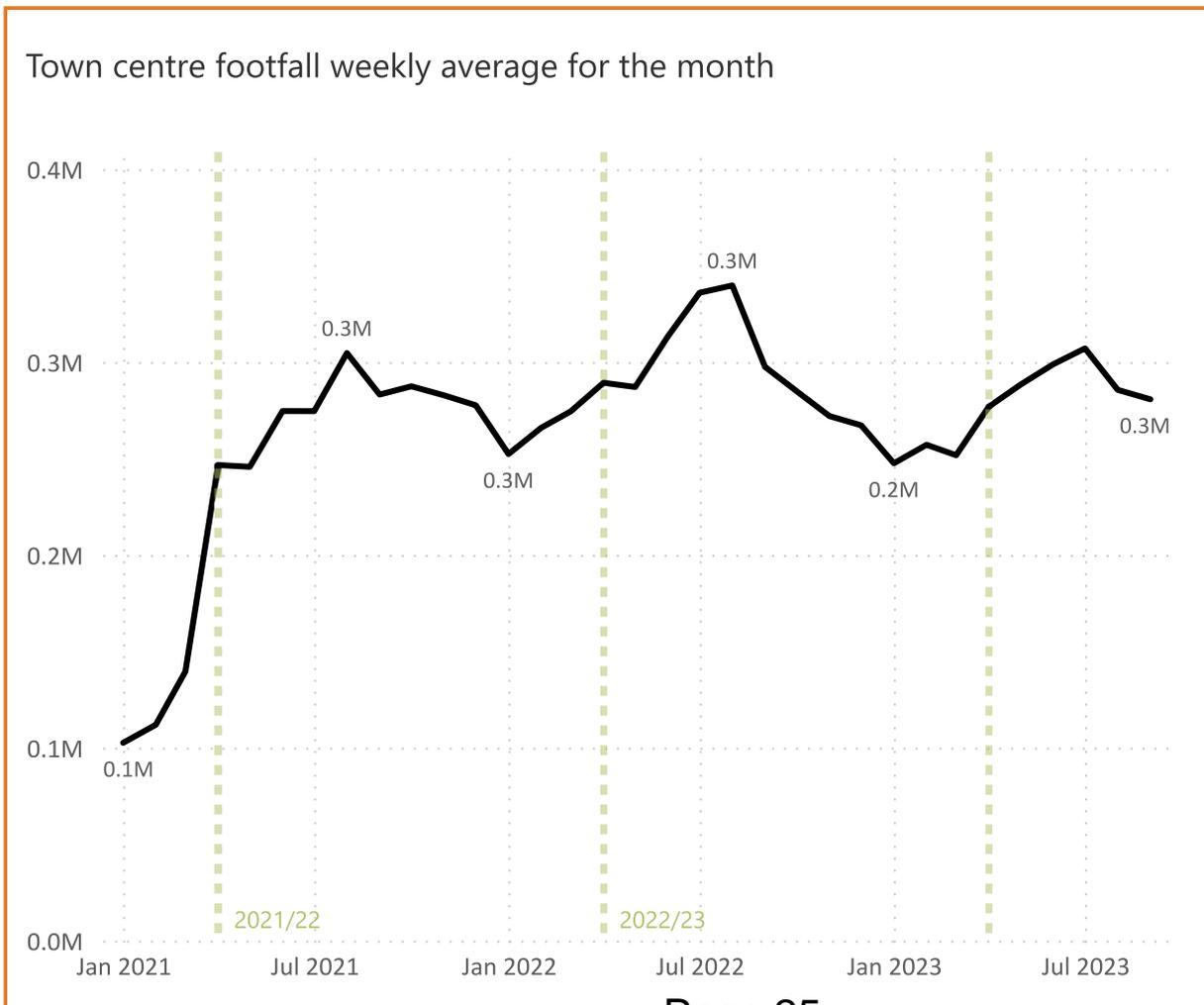
Narrative

There has been a reduction in town centre footfall in all months (apart from one) when compared to 2023.

Investment from the Towns Fund is ongoing to support the High Street, a comprehensive programme of events is being delivered to attract people to the town and a marketing campaign with video was released to attract new businesses to the town that reached over 30,000 views across all media platforms.

Occupancy rates in the town centre are currently approximately 90.6%.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

**ECI 104**

Indicator Name

**Percentage of major planning applications decided within 13 weeks or within agreed time**

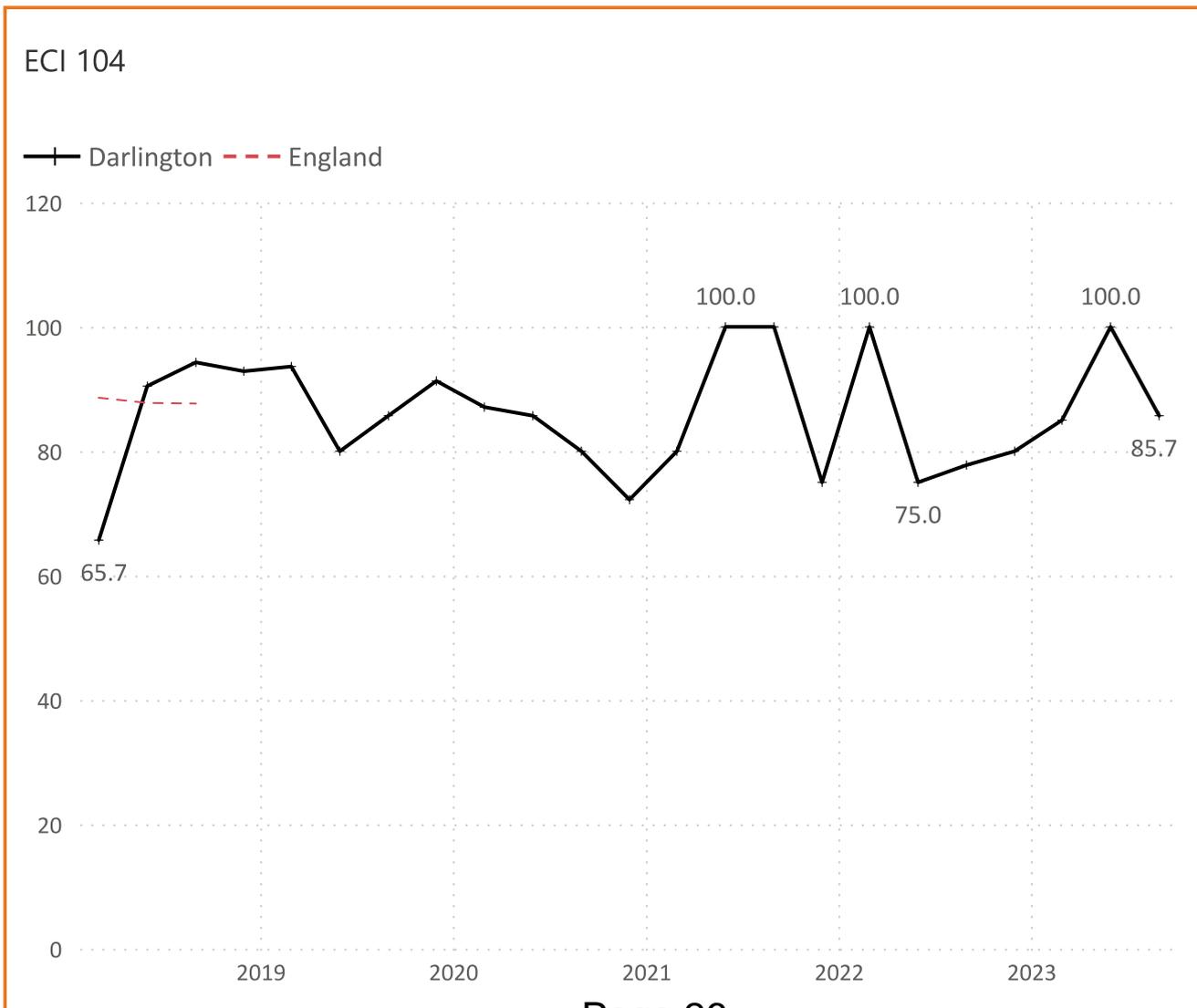
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

This Q2 (April-Sept) 23/24 indicator shows we decided 6 of the 7 applications for major developments within our target of 13 weeks or within an agreed time. This equates to 85.7 % of the total of these type of applications. We have looked into the data to identify the single application which missed the target and have put in place additional checking and monitoring of the targets for these cases.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

**ECI 105**

Indicator Name

**Percentage of non-major planning development decisions within 8 weeks or within agreed time**

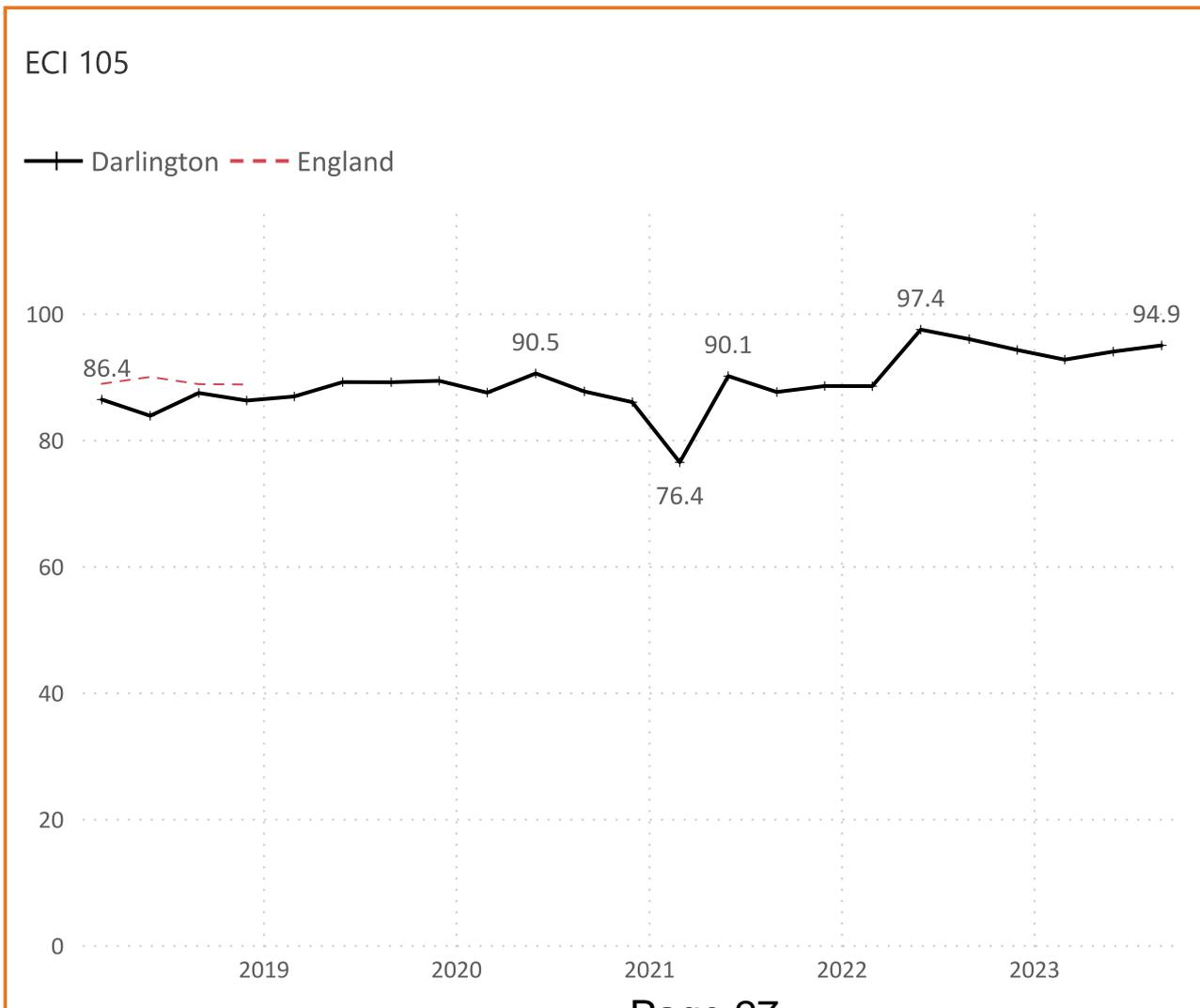
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

This Q2 (April-Sept) 23/24 indicator shows we decided 95% of non major or Household type applications within our target of 8 weeks or within an agreed time.  
 This is an increase on previous indicators of non major or Household type applications within 8 weeks or within an agreed time and equates to 187 decisions issued for the 197 applications received.  
 This was helped with the Planning department now being up to full strength with the number of full time employees

Graph/Table





DBC Number

## ECI 106

Indicator Name

### Percentage of non-major planning development decisions within 8 weeks or within agreed time (24 months to date)

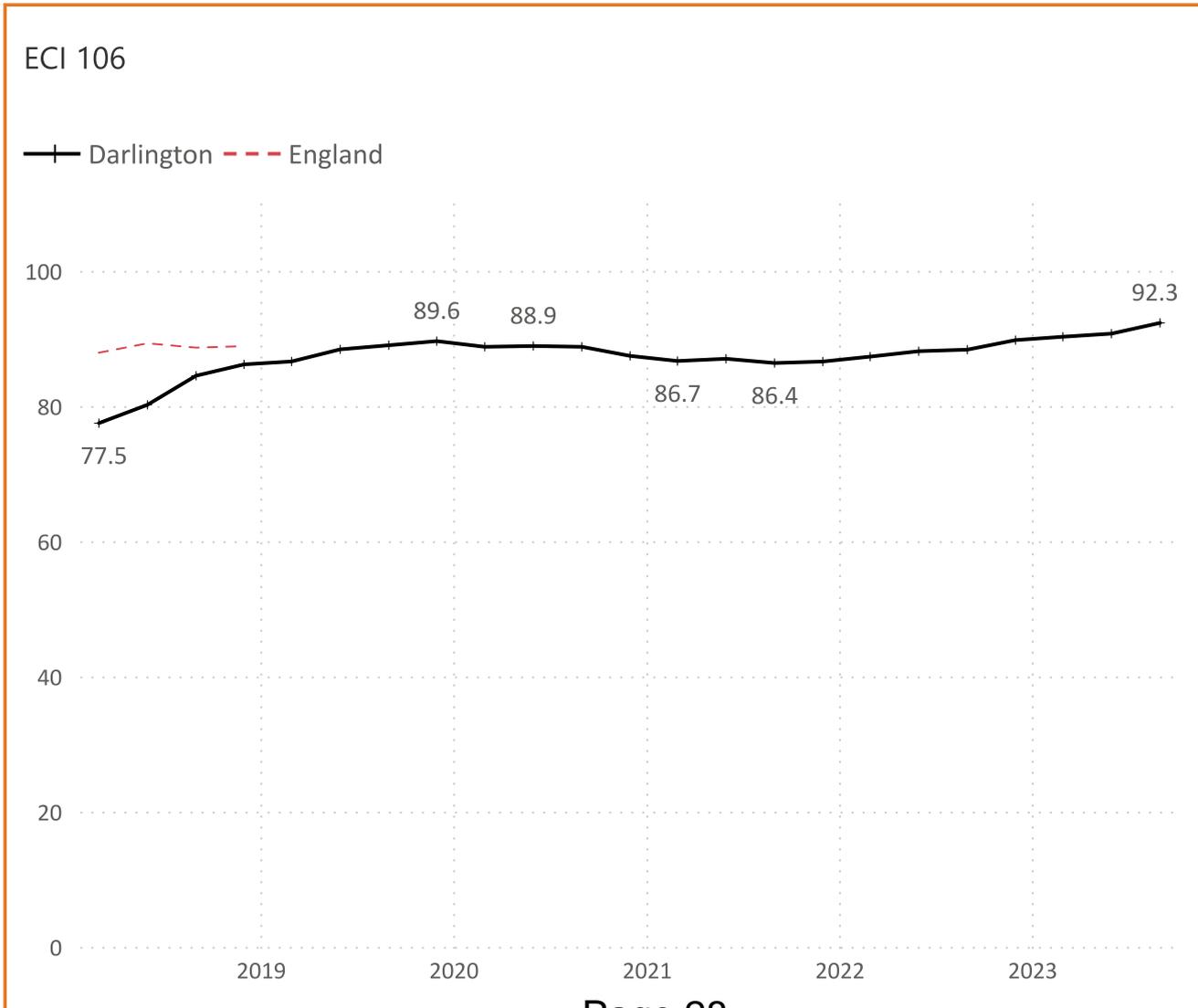
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

This Q2 (April-Sept) 23/24 indicator shows the trend over the last 24 months to date for the percentage of non-major planning decisions within 8 weeks or an agreed time. This shows we decided 92% of non major or Household type applications within our target of 8 weeks or within an agreed time. This indicator continues to show an improvement over previous years.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

**ECI 321**

Indicator Name

**Monthly unemployed claimant count (%)**

Theme or Portfolio

**GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY**

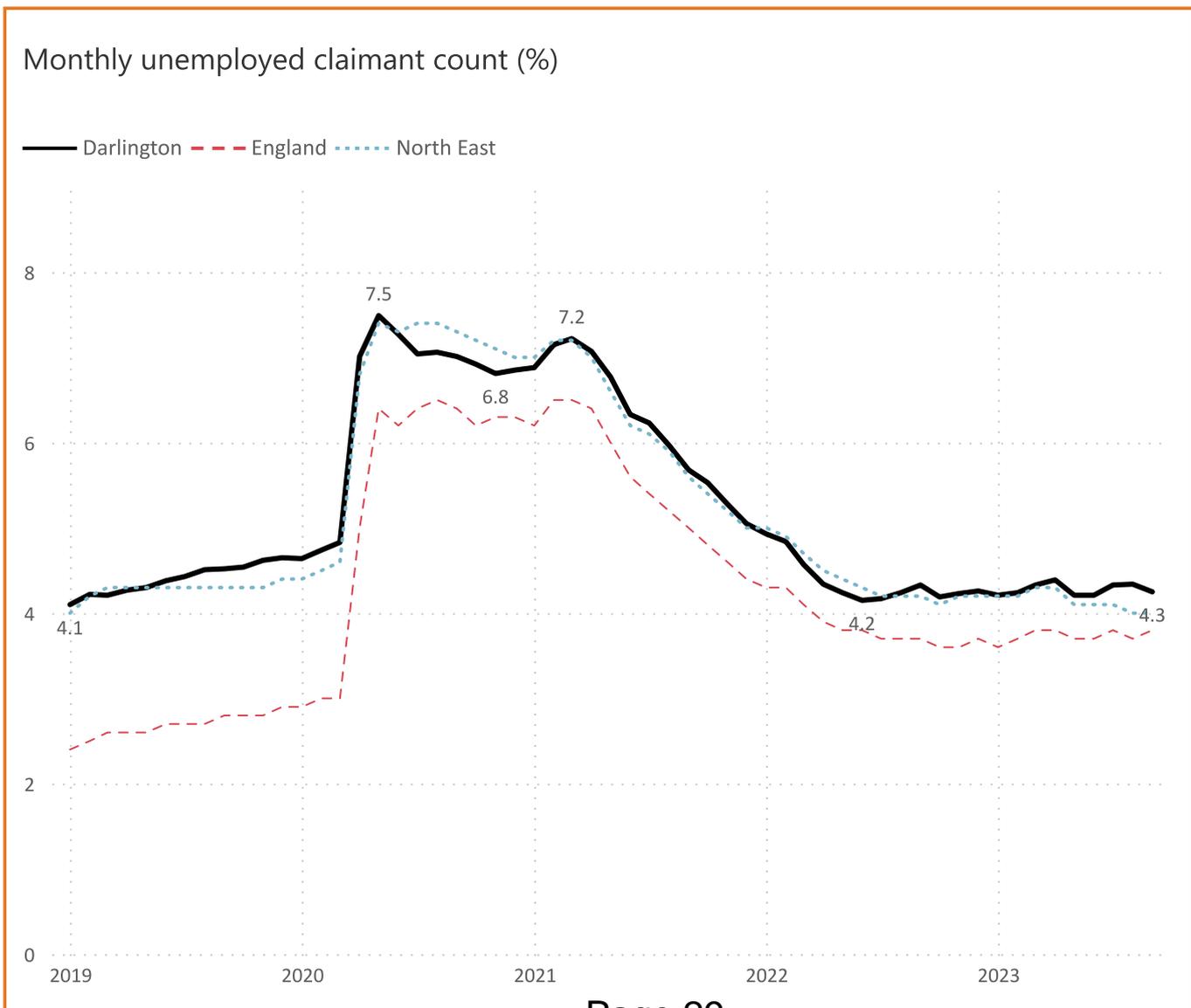
Priority or Key Action

**Delivering - More sustainable well-paid jobs**

Narrative

During the latter part of 2022 and 2023 to date, the monthly unemployed claimant count has remained relatively static - a trend which is mirrored in both regional and national statistics. The claimant count in September 2023 now stands at 4.3% (identical to September 2022). The rate in Darlington (4.3) is marginally higher than both the North East rate of 4% and the England rate of 3.8%.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

**ECI 327**

Indicator Name

## Percentage of working age adults who are economically active

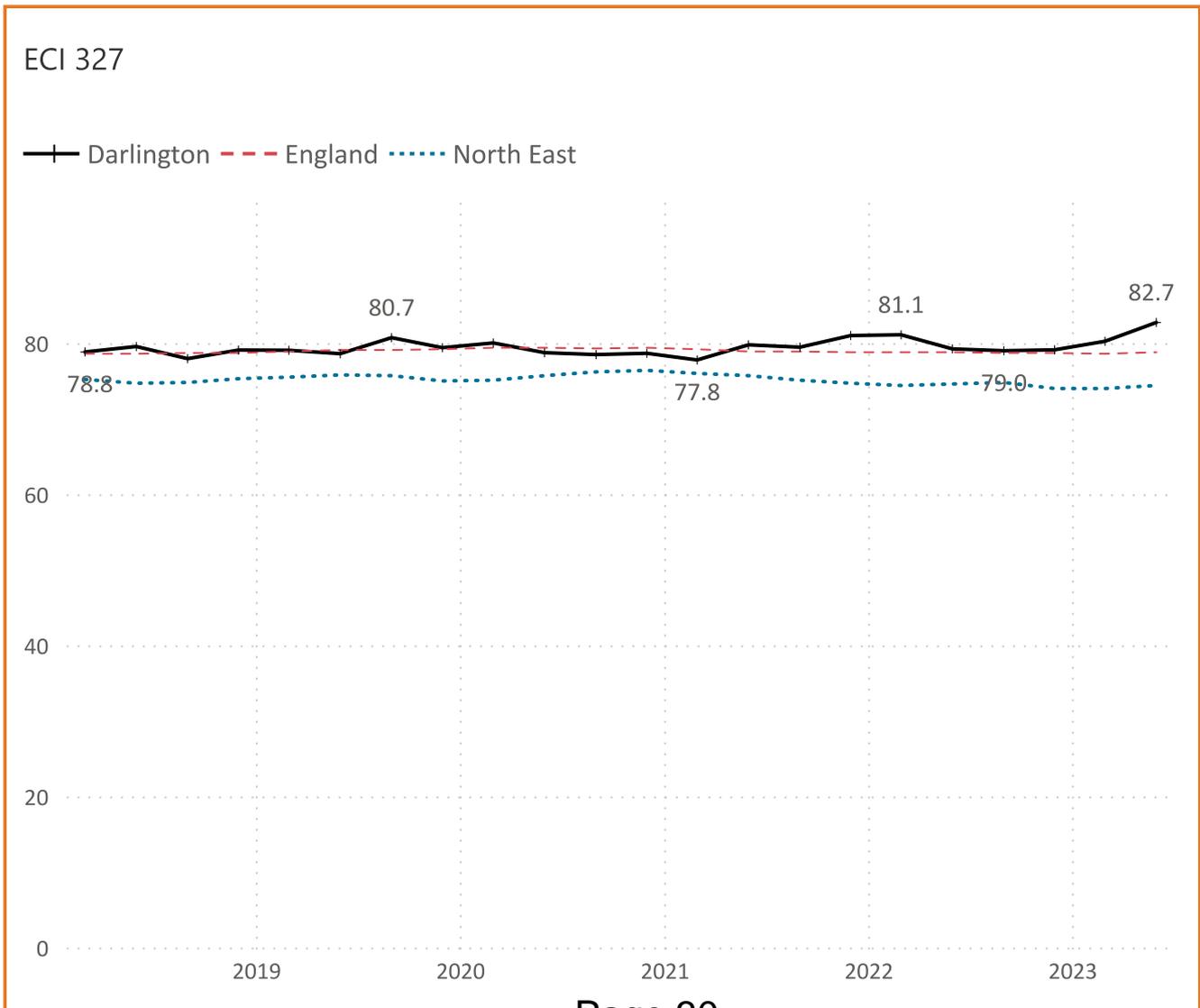
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The Darlington economically active rate (employed and unemployed) has shown a small increase and is now higher than the rate for England and North East. The percentage of working age adults who are economically active now stands at 82.74% (June 2023), a 3.7% increase since September 2022. Meanwhile the data for both the north-east and England has remained constant, around 74% in the North East, and 79% for England. Working-age economically inactive people have various reasons for not looking for and/or being able to start work. eg students, sickness, caring and family responsibilities and early retirement.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

**ECI 401**

Indicator Name

**New homes delivered, annually**

Theme or Portfolio

**GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY**

Priority or Key Action

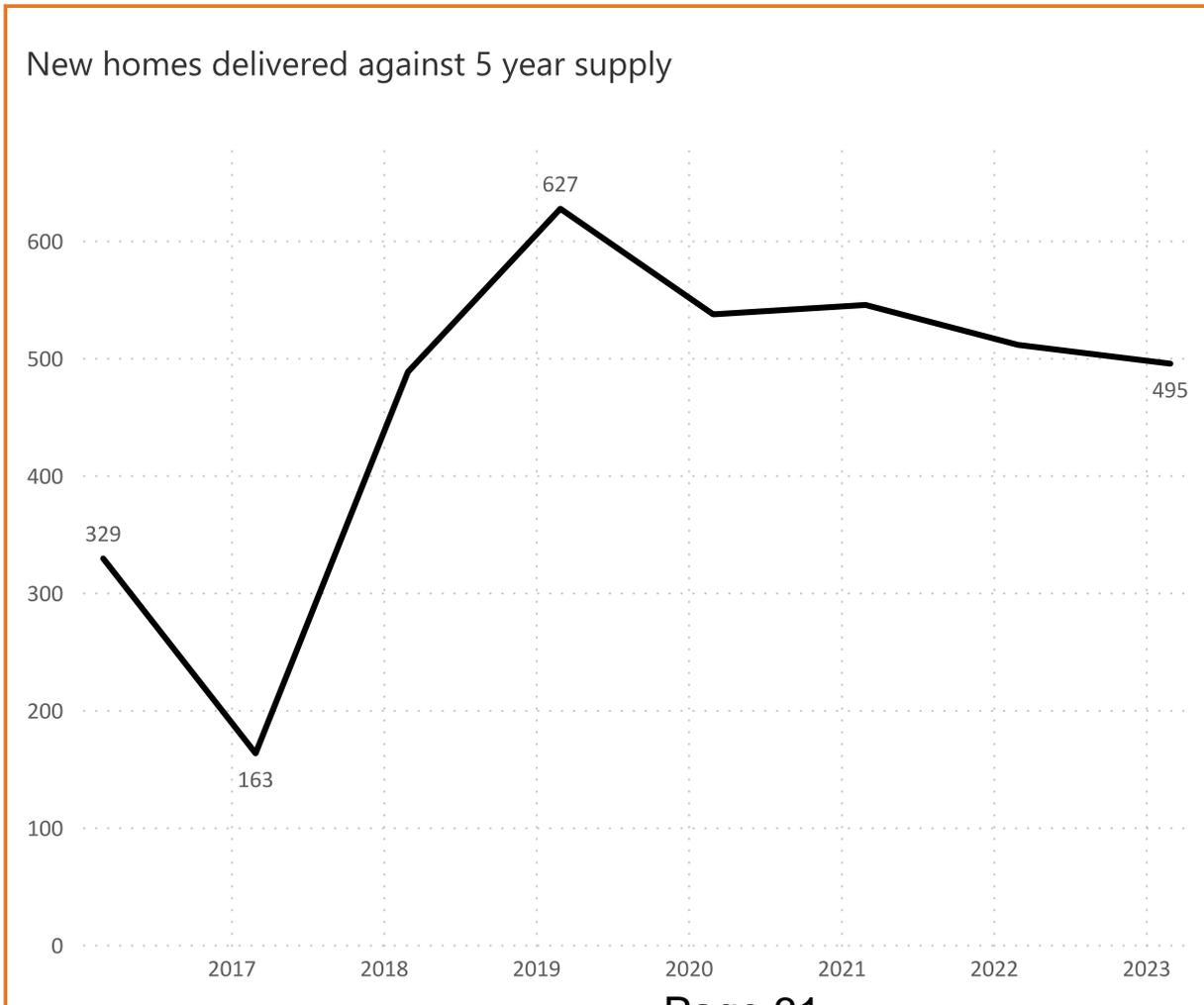
**Delivering - More homes**

Narrative

Housing delivery continues to be strong within the borough despite ongoing challenges with Nutrient Neutrality. Despite not granting any significant new housing permissions in the past financial year housing completions have still exceeded the annual local plan target.

Options to mitigate nutrient pollution from new development are now being applied. Two rounds of Natural England credits have now been issued with a third having recently closed. Darlington fared well in the proportion of credits allocated to developments in Darlington helping to unlock around 2000 homes.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

**FHR 001**

Indicator Name

**DBC number of working days per FTE lost due to sickness (excluding schools)**

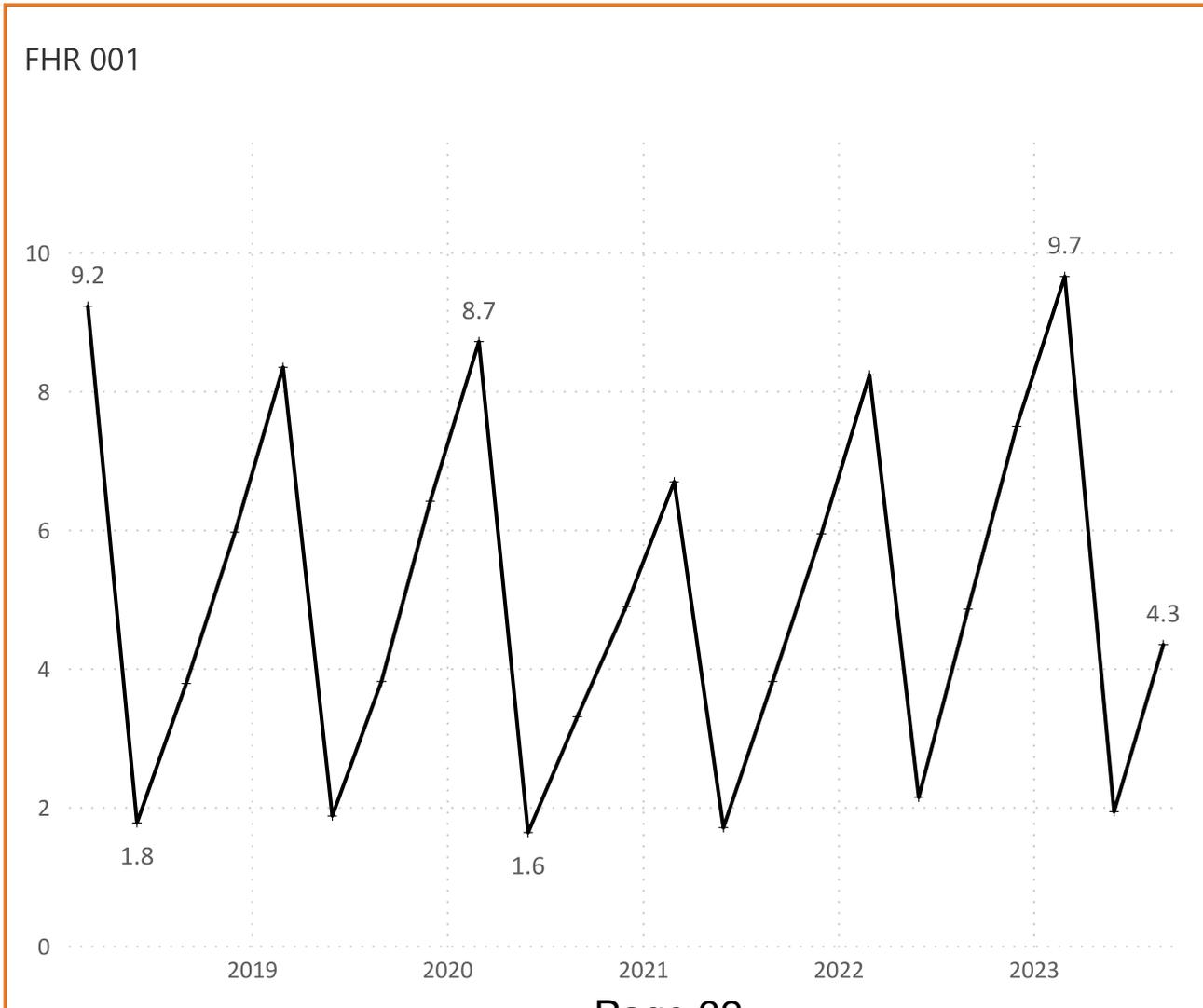
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The number of day lost to sickness at the end of Q2 2023/24 has reduced by 593 days, (0.53 per FTE) when compared to the same period in 2022/23. The projected year end absence rate is 8.61 days lost per FTE (4.41%) a reduction of 1.09 per FTE compared to the 2022/23 outturn. Managers at all levels continue to manage sickness within the Council's sickness management policies supported by HR officers. The Wellbeing programme continues to be a high priority to promote the health and wellbeing of our staff and has produced benefits to our workforce and Council as a whole through a number of activities. The annual flu jab clinics have started and further developments are planned.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

## FHR 003

Indicator Name

### Number of reportable employee accidents / ill health

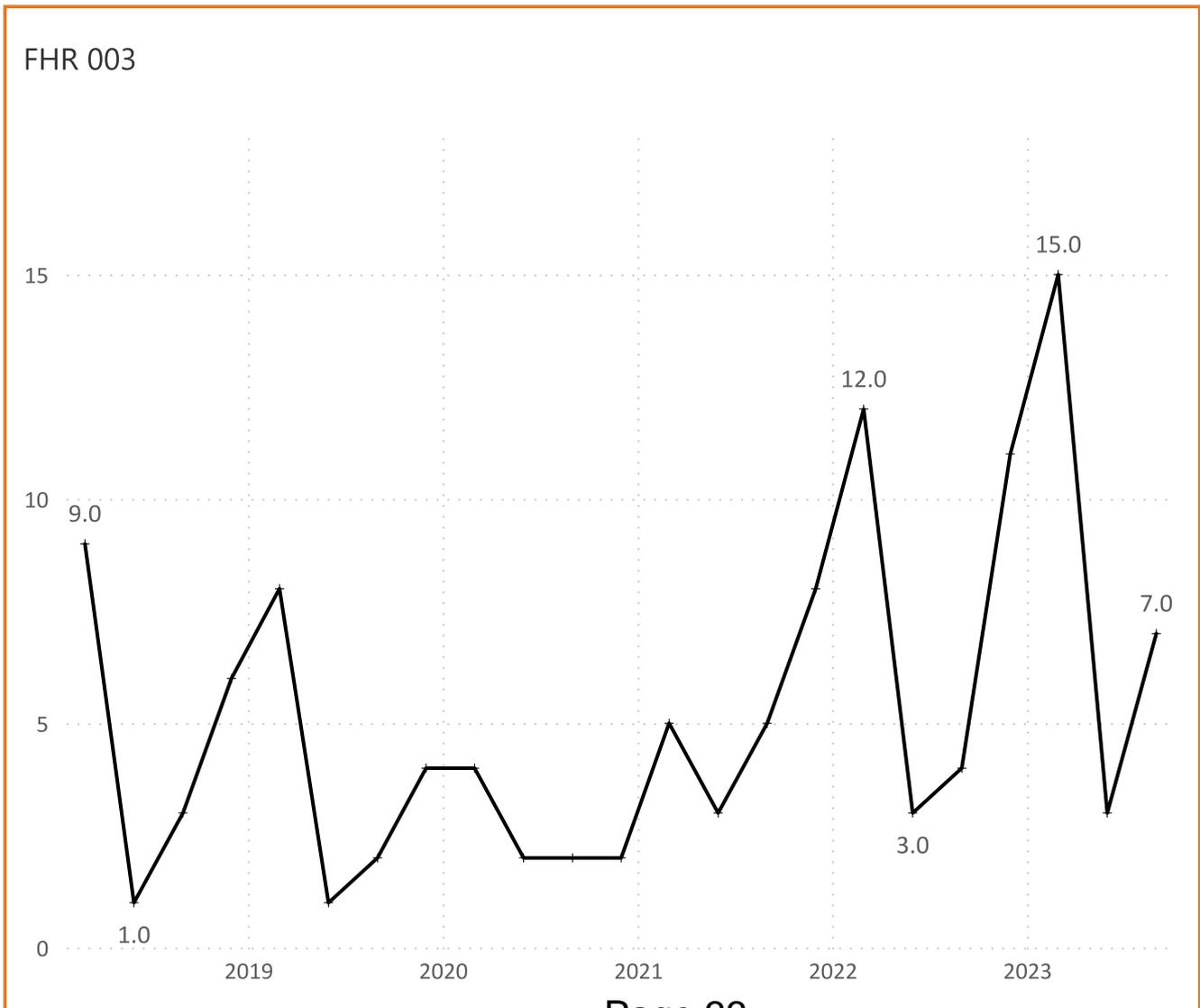
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The total number of reports to the HSE as required by the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) is 7 at Q2 2023/24. There are zero Occupational Ill Health / Disease reports in Q2. Employees were either off work for over 7 days because of the accident, or the accident resulted in a specified injury. All accidents and ill health reports are investigated by management and the Health & Safety team to establish the causes, to identify issues or trends and make recommendations to prevent reoccurrence. Health and Safety is a key priority for the Council at all levels and is promoted through all working practices.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

## FHR 008

Indicator Name

### Number of complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman/Housing Ombudsman

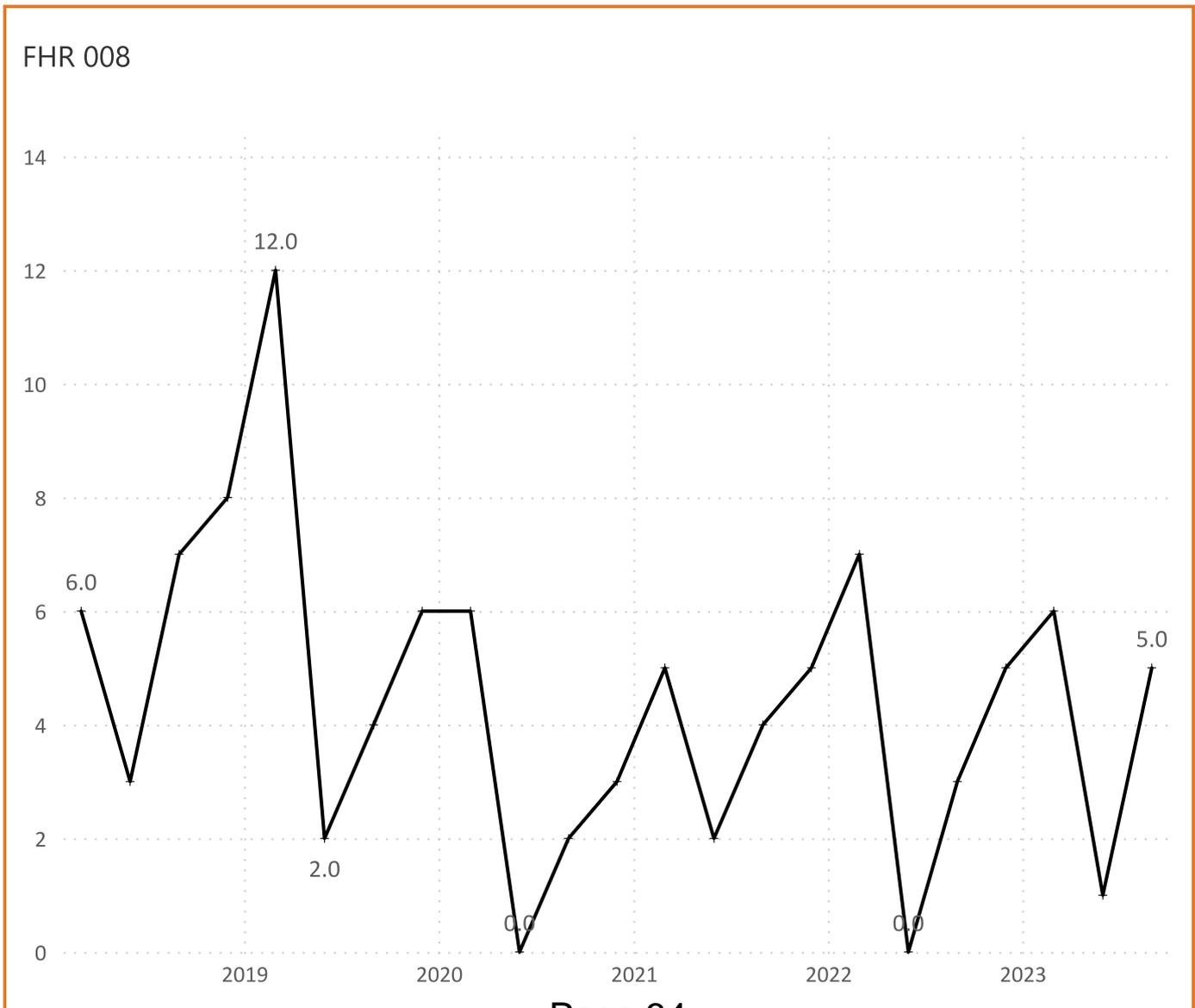
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The number of complaints upheld compared to September 2022 has risen from 3 to 5. The four complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman related to Adult Services (1), Children Services (1) and Education and Inclusion (2). The one complaint upheld by the Housing Ombudsman related to Housing Management Services.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

**FHR 009**

Indicator Name

**Number of complaints upheld by the Information Commissioner's Office**

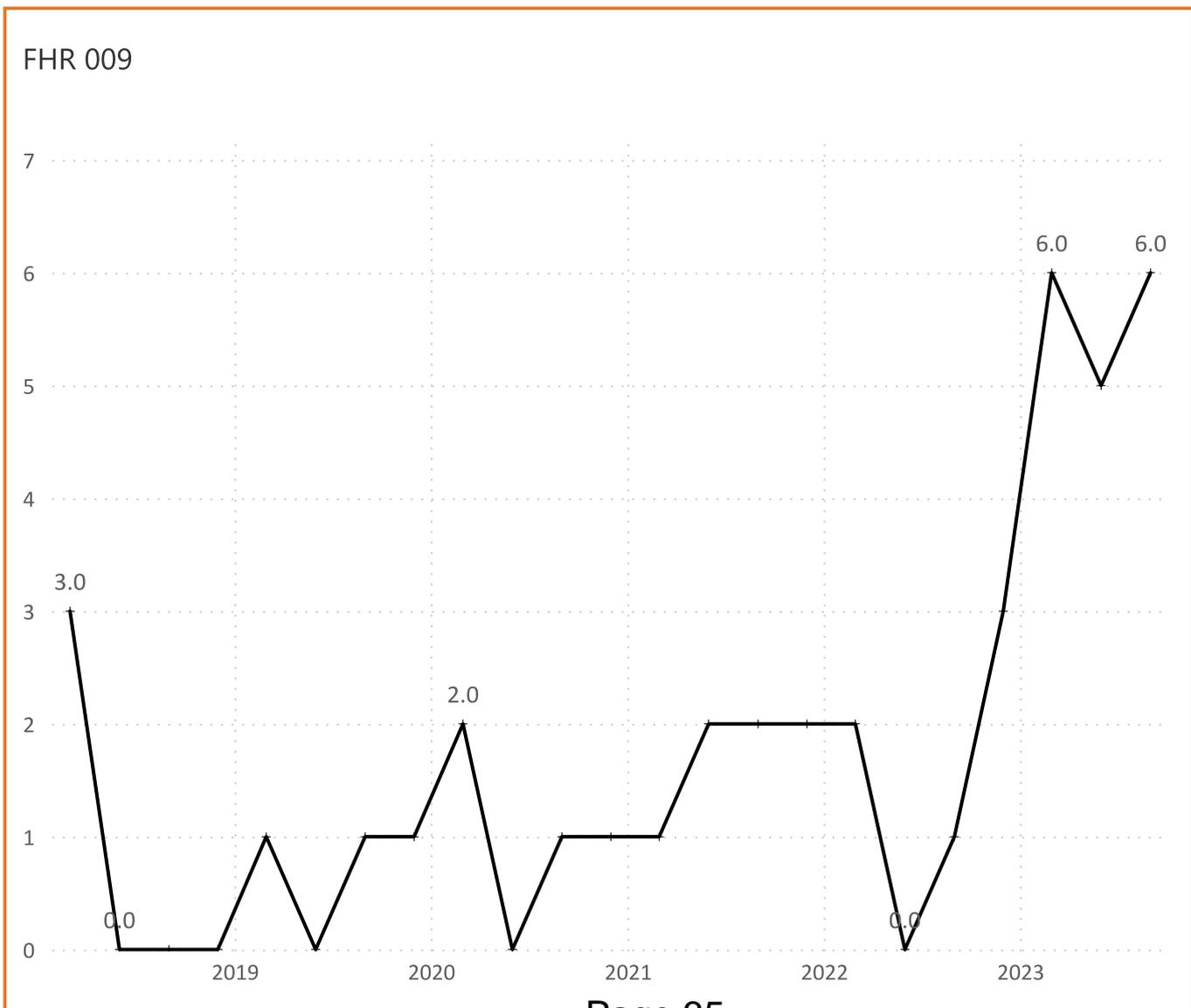
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Four of the six upheld complaints related to delays in responding to Subject Access Requests (SARs). Risk of enforcement action from the ICO in relation to SARs remains an above the line risk on the Council's Risk Register and work is ongoing to reduce that risk below the risk appetite line. This work includes the use of agency staff in the short term to respond to SARs and a project to digitise the Council's historic adult and children's social care records to ensure we are better equipped to deal with SARs in a timely manner in future.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

## FHR 019

Indicator Name

### Staff turnover - Voluntary Leavers (Divided by average number of staff in period)

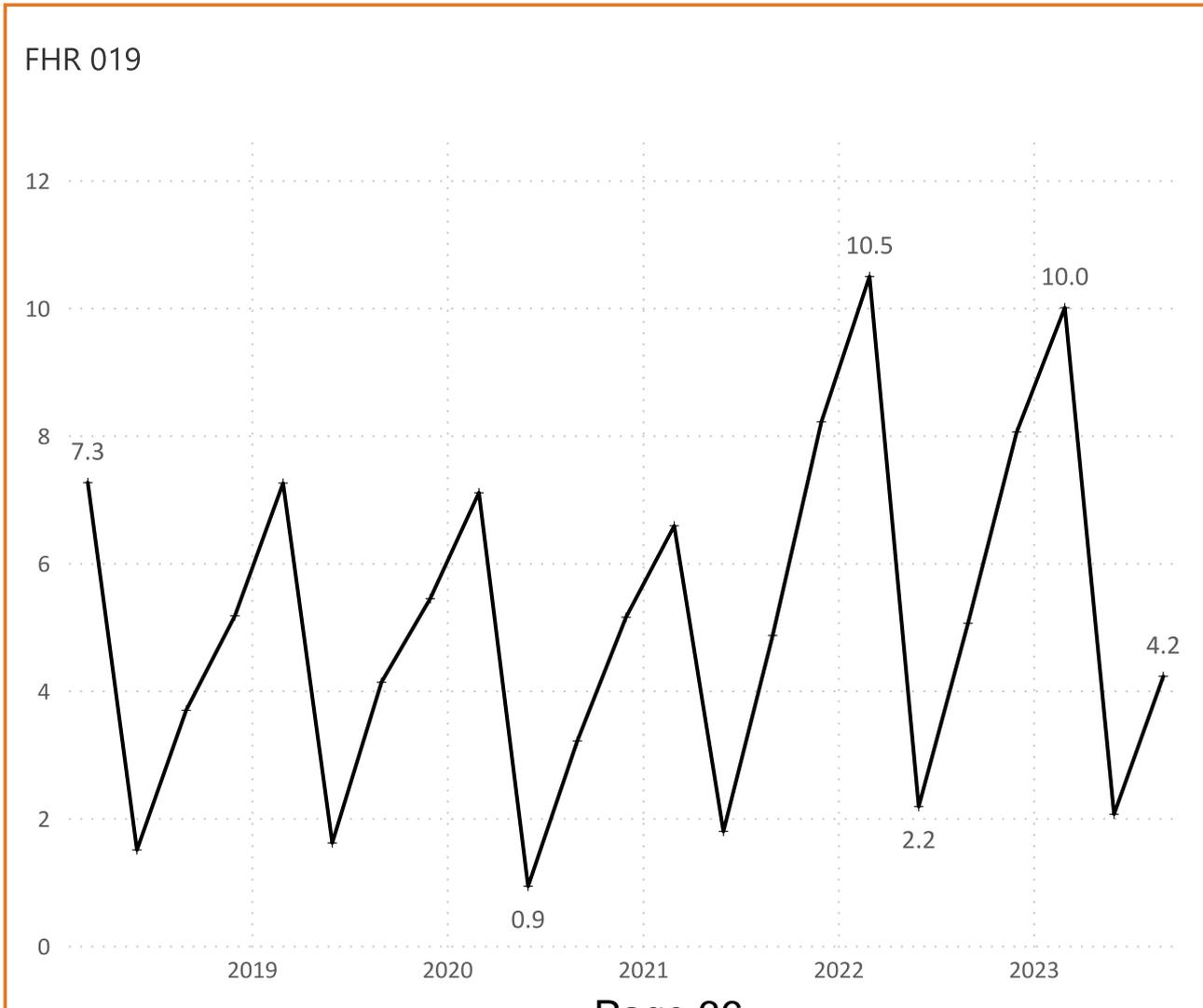
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The number of staff leaving the employment of the Council voluntarily is lower at Q2 2023/24 than at the same point in 2022/23 (84 v 98). We undertake exit interviews and surveys to understand why staff leave and to inform future improvement. 87% of people who completed an exit survey said they would work for the Council again. Work is on going to improve/develop a number of areas including employee engagement, the Performance Development Review process, succession planning and our recruitment processes. We continue to improve our employment package to ensure the Council attracts and retains the best talent in a very competitive employment market.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

**HBS 002**

Indicator Name

**Amount of Council Tax arrears collected (£)**

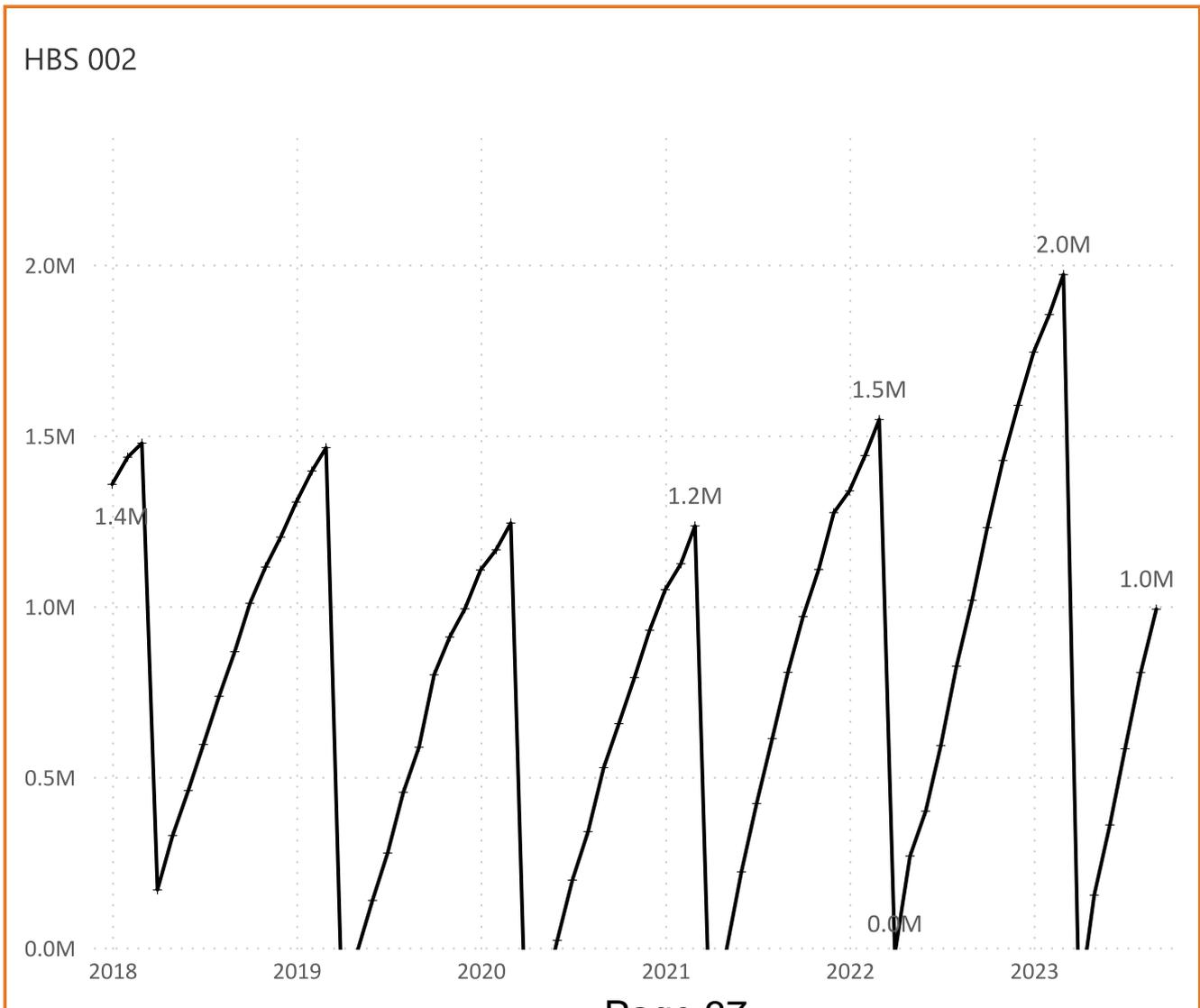
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The amount of Council Tax arrears collected for quarter 2 has exceeded the target for 2023-24, with £0.99 million collected. This is only slightly lower than the £1.00 million collected for the same period in 2022-23; the higher amount last year was due to having restarted recovery action following the Covid pandemic, where most recovery action was suspended. We are still dealing with arrears resulting from Covid and the ongoing economic situation. However, despite these pressures, the amount of outstanding Council Tax arrears has reduced from £5.9 million at the end of quarter 2 in 2022-23 to £5.6 million at the end of quarter 2 in 2023-24.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

**HBS 003**

Indicator Name

**Amount of Housing Benefit overpayments recovered (£)**

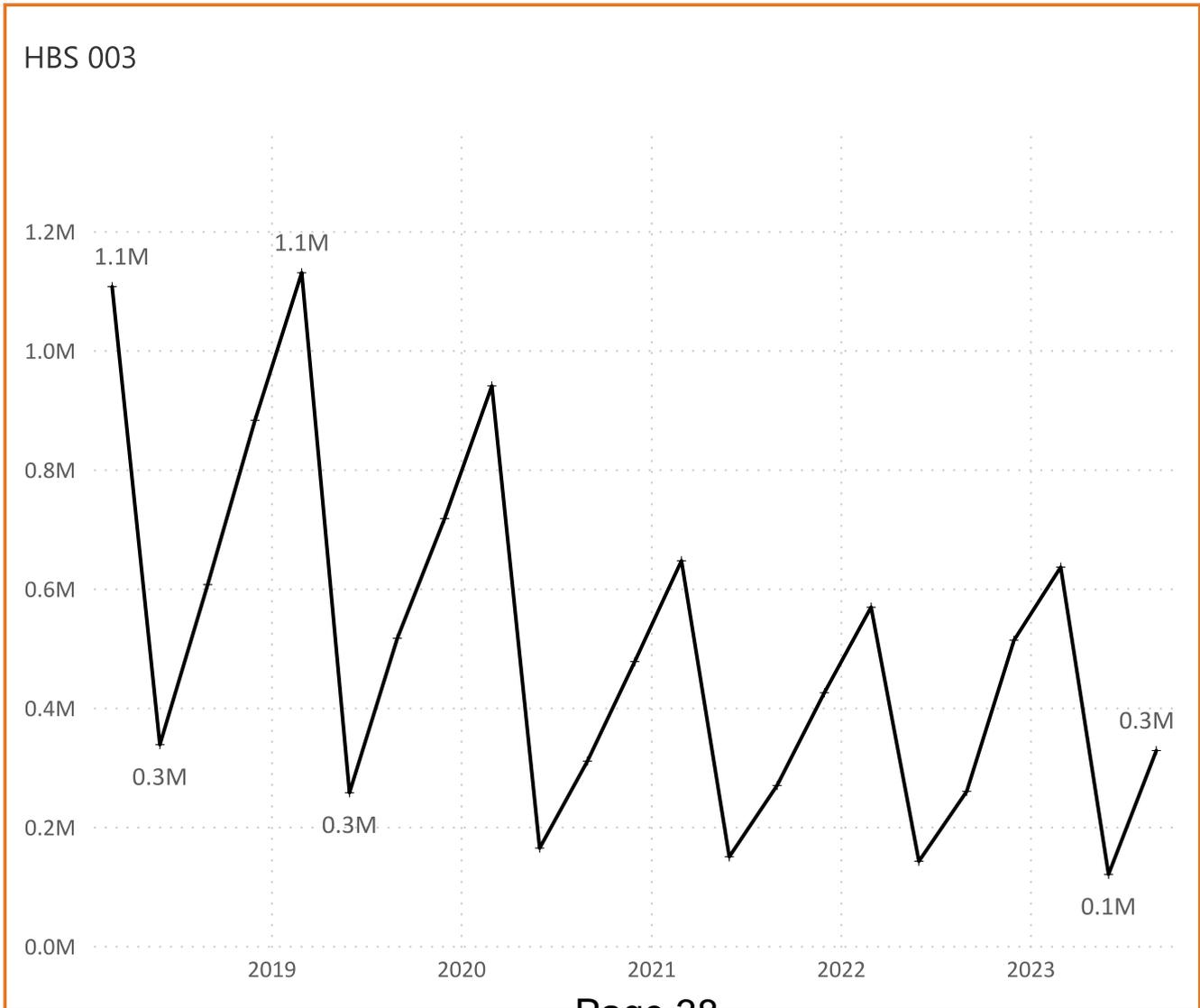
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The amount of Housing Benefit overpayments collected in quarter 2 has exceeded the target for 2023-24. £328k of overpayments were collected, compared to £259k collected for the same period in 2022-23. Collection rates are currently at 118% of the new overpayment debt created (£278k), whilst the overall outstanding debt continues to decrease (currently at £1.51 million). It is likely that as Housing Benefit claims continue to transfer to Universal Credit, the amount of Housing Benefit overpayments created (and therefore the amount collected) will decrease over the next few years.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

**HBS 009**

Indicator Name

**Percentage of Council Tax collected in-year**

Theme or Portfolio

**Resources Portfolio**

Priority or Key Action

**Maximise council tax and business rate income through robust income collection processes**

Narrative

The percentage of Council Tax collected is slightly above the target for quarter 2, with 52.9% of Council Tax collected for 2023-24. The overall amount collected by quarter 2 was £39.8 million compared to £37.8 million by quarter 2 in 2022-23, an increase of 5%. The collection target for 2023-24 is on course to be met, despite the pressures of the current economic situation.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

**HBS 010**

Indicator Name

**Percentage of Business Rates collected in-year**

Theme or Portfolio

**Resources Portfolio**

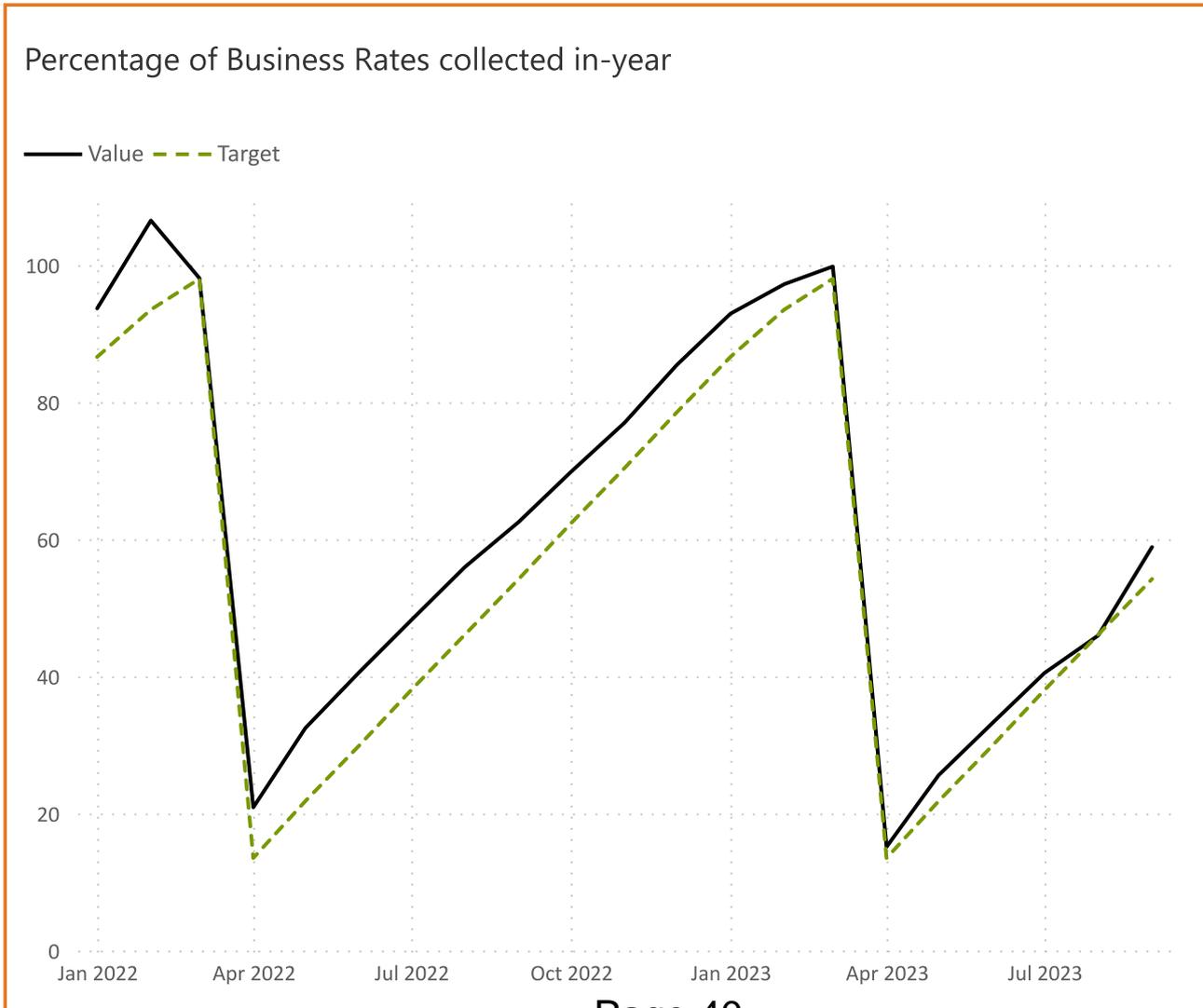
Priority or Key Action

**Maximise council tax and business rate income through robust income collection processes**

Narrative

The percentage of Business Rates collected exceeded the target for quarter 2, with 58.9% of Business Rates collected, compared to 62.5% in quarter 2 of 2022-23. The main reason for this reduction compared to 2022-23 is due to the cessation of the Covid Additional Relief scheme. There has also been a national Revaluation with effect from 1 April 2023 which increased the overall amount of rateable value for Darlington by £2.8 million or 3.2%. The overall amount collected by quarter 2 was £18.5 million compared to £20.2 million by quarter 2 of 2022-23 and we are on course to meet our target for 2023-24.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

## LGP 008

Indicator Name

### Contracted spend as a percentage of total non-salary spend

Theme or Portfolio

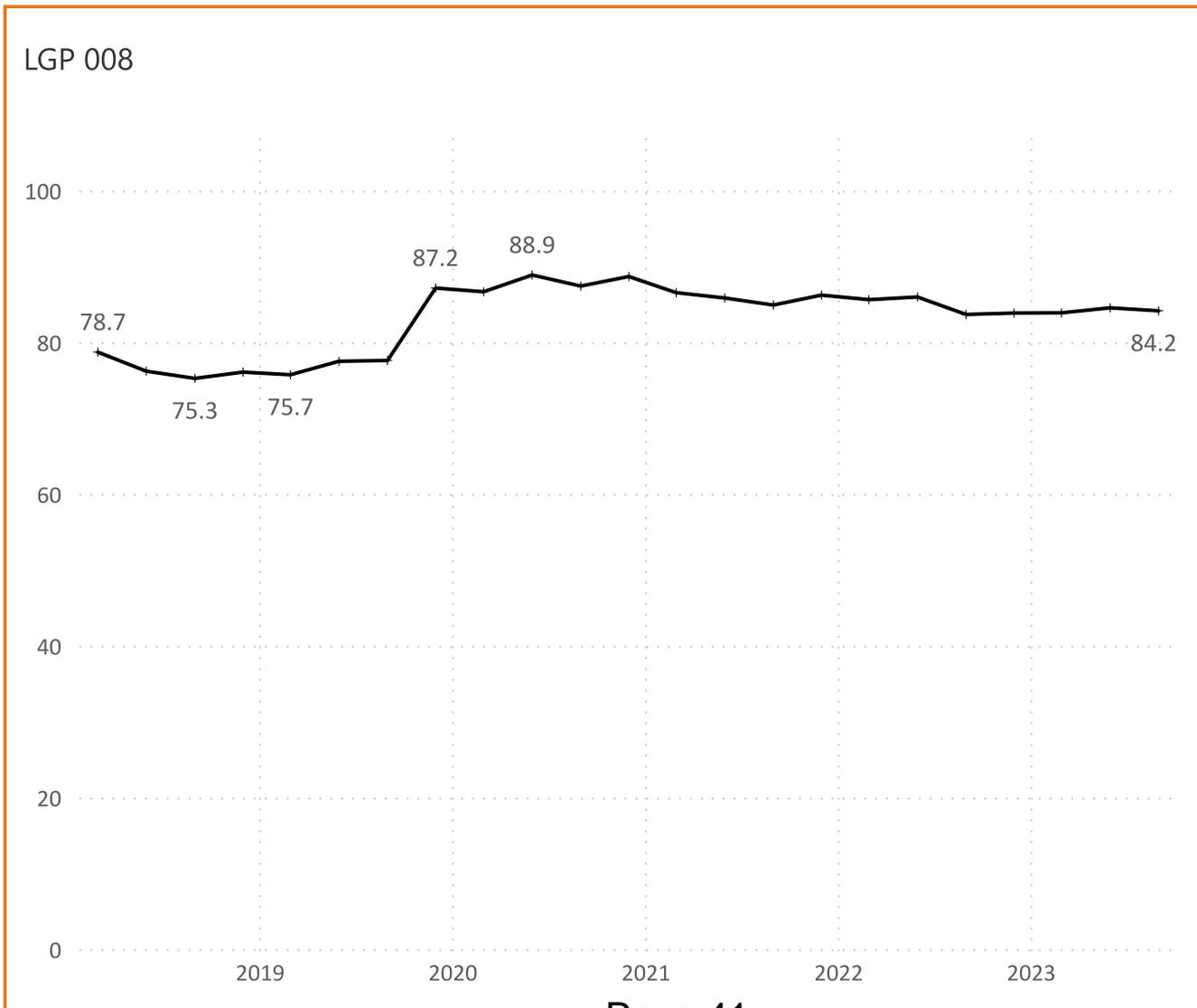
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Increased communication and early engagement and a refreshed intranet page over the past year has helped officers to better understand and the procurement rules which has contributed to the figure remaining just below 85%.

In quarter 2 the figure has remained around 84%. This is due to continued engagement with departments and checking the spend against the Contracts Register on a regular basis.

Graph/Table





DBC Number

## REG 312a

Indicator Name

### Percentage of noise complaints investigated and completed within 6 weeks of the date of receipt (except where diary sheet returned)

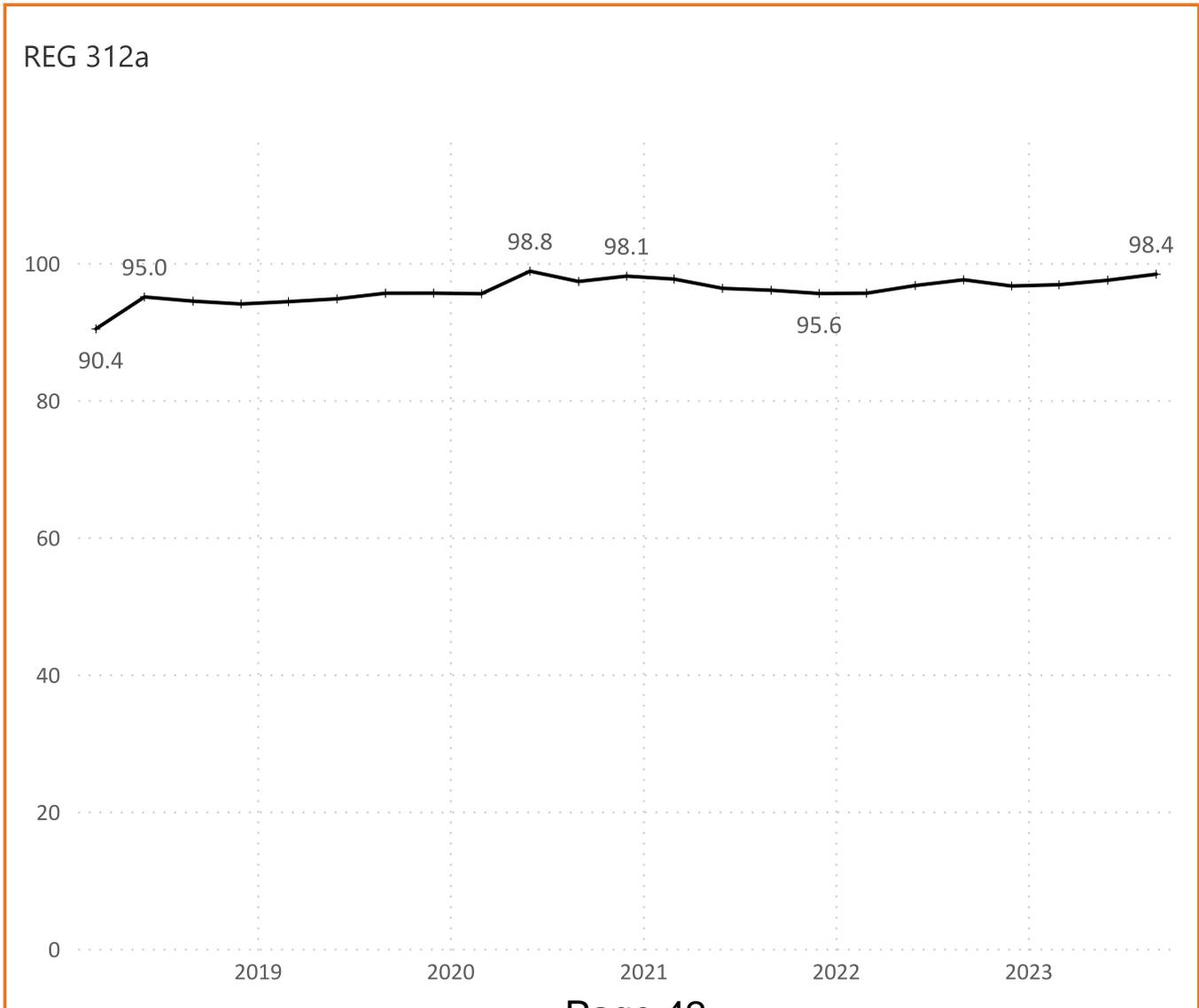
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The 90% target continues to be consistently achieved and work has been carried out by Environmental Health to make the reporting of noise complaints (non council properties) easier for service users. From July 2023 members of the public have been able to report a noise nuisance via a reporting tool on the council website which is proving successful with 32% of noise complaints received by this method in Q2 2023/24.

Graph/Table



**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
1 FEBRUARY 2024**

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**PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING – QUARTER 3  
2023/24**

---

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 3 report.

**Summary**

2. Attached at **Annex 1** is the Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 3 report which is due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 February 2024

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Members consider the Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring – Quarter 3

**Dave Winstanley  
Group Director of Services**

**Background Papers**

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

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no carbon impact implications in this report
Diversity	There are no specific implications for diversity
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	The proposals do not affect any particular groups within the community
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The report does not represent a key decision
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
Council Plan	The Capital Programme referred to in the report supports delivery of the Council Plan through appropriate deployment of the Council's resources
Efficiency	The recommendations support the effective and efficient use of resources.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

**CABINET  
6 FEBRUARY 2024**

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**PROJECT POSITION STATEMENT & CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING  
QUARTER 3 2023/24**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member -  
Councillor Mandy Porter, Resources Portfolio**

**Responsible Directors -  
Dave Winstanley, Group Director of Services  
Elizabeth Davison, Group Director of Operations**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides:
  - (a) A summary of the latest Capital resource and commitment position, to inform monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme.
  - (b) An update on the current status of all construction projects currently being undertaken by the Council.
2. It also seeks approval for a number of changes to the programme.

**Summary**

3. The projected outturn of the current Capital Programme is £324.747m against an approved programme of £324.414m. The investment is delivering a wide range of improvements to the Council's assets and more critically, to Council services. Refurbishment of council homes, improved learning environments in schools, better traffic flows and opportunities for sustainable travel have been achieved and are detailed within the report.
4. The Council has a substantial annual construction programme of work. The current project position statement (PPS) shows there are 41 live projects currently being managed by the Council with an overall projected outturn value of £160.324m. The majority of projects are running to time, cost and quality expectations but are being monitored given the current pressures on resources in the construction sector nationally.
5. The projects are managed either by the Council's in-house management team, a Framework Partner or by Consultants sourced via an open/OJEU tender process.

## Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (a) Note the attached status position on construction projects.
  - (b) Note projected capital expenditure and resources.
  - (c) Approve the adjustments to resources as detailed in paragraph 21.

## Reasons

7. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
- (a) To inform Cabinet of the current status of construction projects.
  - (b) To make Cabinet aware of the latest financial position of the Council.
  - (c) To maintain effective management of resources.

**Dave Winstanley**  
**Group Director of Services**

**Elizabeth Davison**  
**Group Director of Operations**

## Background Papers

- (i) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27
- (ii) Project Position Statement and Capital Monitoring Outturn 2022/23

Brian Robson : Extension 6608  
Steve Wake : Extension 5424

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	Carbon Impact and Climate Change are assessed and reported in individual projects
Diversity	There are no specific implications for diversity
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	The proposals do not affect any particular groups within the community
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The report does not represent a key decision
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.
Council Plan	The Capital Programme referred to in the report supports delivery of the Council plan.
Efficiency	The recommendations support the effective and efficient use of resources.
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

#### 2023/24 Capital Spend and Resources

8. **Appendix 1** is for information and lists all live construction projects and provides details on numbers, type and details of the key individuals responsible for the delivery of the projects. It also provides a statement on the current status position on each project, details of actions being taken, where required and any current issues.
9. **Appendix 2** summarises the Council's capital commitments which are yet to be financed and also shows how it is intended for them to be financed. The total value of commitments, including available resources brought forward from previous years and 2023-24 schemes previously released by Cabinet, is £177.108m.
10. **Appendix 3** shows the Council's projected capital receipts and how they are going to be utilised to help finance the capital programme over the life of the MTFP.

#### Project Position Statement

11. Project management procedures require the production by project managers of a Project Position Statement (PPS) for all projects over £75,000. This report brings together the pertinent data from the current PPS with financial information from the Financial Management System (FMS) and approvals by Cabinet.
12. The Project Position Statement (Appendix 1) details the current live construction projects, up to the end of November 2023, by delivery area, and provides details on numbers, type and details of the key individuals responsible for the delivery of the projects. It also provides a statement on the current status position on each project, details of actions being taken, where required and any current issues. The statement excludes any completed projects or those on hold.
13. The overview of live construction projects is as follows:

	Projects	Current Approved Budget £ / p	Projected Outturn £ / p	Variance %	Variance (Value) £ / p
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	16	36,581,171	36,584,501	0.0	3,330
Operations	15	54,623,222	55,008,080	0.7	384,858
People	1	1,124,000	1,124,000	0.0	0
Services	9	67,300,589	67,607,567	0.5	306,978
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>159,628,982</b>	<b>160,324,148</b>		<b>695,166</b>

14. The table shown above includes a column for current approved budget. In certain cases this budget figure may be different from the original approved budget. This could be as a result of variances identified during construction or other variables not known at the

initiation stage. The original budget and all subsequent changes have been reported to and approved by Cabinet.

15. The live projects are at the following stages:

Department	Brief	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	CP5	Total
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	0	1	5	0	10	0	16
Operations	0	4	2	7	2	0	15
People	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Services	0	0	1	2	3	3	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>41</b>

**Control Point 1 (CP1) – Start Up:** is used to define the position of a project at its conception stage.

- (a) **Control Point 2 (CP2) – Initiate:** defines a project at feasibility stage and will likely include a desktop assessment of a project and the use of informed estimates.
- (b) **Control Point 3 (CP3) – Define:** the point that the project is progressed to RIBA Stage F, i.e. detailed design.
- (c) **Control Point 4 (CP4) – Construction Phase:** is the stage at which work begins on the project, i.e. for a construction project on site through to build completion.
- (d) **Control Point 5 (CP5) – Evaluate:** is the stage post completion of the project at which time the project is reviewed and lessons learned are discussed in order that they can be taken to the next or similar projects.

16. The status on live projects is as follows:

Department	Red	Blue	Green
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	3	11	2
Operations	1	13	1
People	0	1	0
Services	2	7	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>

- (a) Colours (Green better Red worse than) are used to identify projects that have variances which are:
  - (i) More than £5,000, if the variance is also more than 5% of the approved budget for the project, or
  - (ii) More than £50,000 regardless of the percentage variance

- (b) Projects that are within these margins are symbolised with the colour Blue.
- (c) In addition to cost, the same colours are used to indicate similar levels of variances in time and quality/outputs/outcomes.

17. Current projects with the Red colour are as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Reason for Variance</b>	<b>Action</b>
Skinnergate Re-development Housing	A delay was encountered following the production of a revised design to satisfy concerns raised by English Heritage at the planning application stage. It has also been impacted by the Nutrient Neutrality issue which will have an impact on the start on site date.	The design team are working on the Stage 4 design. An application to seek the purchase of 'credits' has been made and has been successful. The final credit certificate is yet to be received and will be forwarded on to planning upon receipt.
Sherborne Close Phase 2	<p>Following the introduction of Nutrient Mitigation requirements in line with changes in national Planning legislation, the project was required to be paused. This delay resulted in the construction design also becoming subject to revised Building Regulations (post June 23).</p> <p>These factors plus considerable inflation over the period 2022 to late 2023 resulted in the project costs increasing significantly.</p>	<p>Nutrient credits were provisionally secured in September 2023.</p> <p>The project's pre-tender cost estimate was recalculated in response to the two planning - related requirements and inflation. The revised cost was duly reported to the project sponsor and Board on 2nd October 2023 who advised that the project was to continue.</p> <p>The project team are currently undertaking a tender exercise with the construction tender cost due to be confirmed in April 2024.</p>
Ingenium Parc Masterplan + Infrastructure	Delays have been encountered due to ground conditions. Phase II works are underway.	The contractor is on site and has completed drainage works. Final fencing and landscaping work is underway and will be complete once the weather allows.
Demolition of 12-18 King Street	The expected outturn cost currently sits above the initial budget.	Forecast outturn cost to be market tested. The scheme is currently paused whilst discussions are being undertaken with an adjoining owner.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Reason for Variance</b>	<b>Action</b>
Darlington Station Demolitions	The historic reduction in the anticipated outturn figure reflects the fact that some of the Council's previous compensation amounts were slightly less than had originally been anticipated for some properties. It should be noted that that does not indicate that all final settlements will be consistent with this trend.	The Council continues to negotiate with the two interests who are yet to agree a compensation amount. This process could continue until c. 2027.
Crown Library Refurbishment	Delays and additional costs have been encountered from the withdrawal of the originally appointed roofing contractor.	No further issues have been experienced and scheme is complete, outturn report to be produced.

### Reconciliation of Project Position Statement to Capital Programme

18. The table shown below reconciles the differences between the Capital Programme (CP) and the Project Position Statement (PPS). Differences occur because the Project Position Statement includes all construction projects over £75,000 in value funded from Capital and Revenue sources. Spending within the Capital Programme is not always of a construction nature, can be of any value and excludes Revenue funded schemes.

	<b>Value £m</b>
<b>Live Projects from Project Position</b>	160.324
Schemes closed or on hold within CP but awaiting PPS post project review.	26.343
Annualised Schemes excluded from PPS - Housing Repairs & Maintenance	9.890
Annualised Schemes excluded from PPS - Highways Maintenance	9.747
Annualised Schemes excluded from PPS - Childrens Services School Maintenance	0.230
Non construction excluded from PPS	16.439
Capital Investment fund excluded from PPS	49.909
Projects under 75k excluded from PPS	3.277
Capital Schemes not yet integrated into PPS reporting	27.564
Included in PPS & CMR	0.000
Funding not yet allocated	21.024
<b>Capital Programme</b>	<b>324.747</b>

19. The table below shows the split of the approved capital programme of £324.414m, between the different service areas and also the various categories of spend. When compared to the table above it shows that there is a projected £0.333m overspend on the approved capital programme. Details of how the overspend is being managed are included in paragraph 17 and will be finalised before construction commences.

Area	Construction				Non construction	Capital investment fund	Housing New Build - not yet allocated	Total
	Live Schemes 75k & Over	Annualised Schemes	Completed Schemes awaiting review	Live Schemes under 75k				
Area	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Housing	60.100	10.020	0.627	0.033	1.455	0.000	15.673	87.908
Economic Growth	33.092	0.080	3.388	0.337	10.817	48.681	3.476	99.872
Highways/Transport	63.161	9.634	14.923	2.257	1.741	1.877	1.512	95.105
Leisure & Culture	29.883	0.000	2.619	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.000	32.757
Education	1.124	0.230	4.161	0.362	0.079	0.000	0.290	6.246
Adult Social Care	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071
Other	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.455	0.000	0.000	2.455
<b>Total</b>	<b>187.360</b>	<b>19.964</b>	<b>25.718</b>	<b>3.244</b>	<b>16.618</b>	<b>50.558</b>	<b>20.951</b>	<b>324.414</b>

### Capital Programme

20. Paragraph 21 shows the movements in the Capital Programme since the approval of the 2023/24 Capital MTFP, some of which have not yet been approved by Members.

21. Adjustment to resources requested by departments:

### Adjustments needing approval release

Department	Scheme	Value £	Reason for adjustment	Resource type adjusted
Services	Micro Asphalt Road Patching	£388,000	Extra pothole funding from LTP	Release
People	Disabled Facilities Grant	£92,787	Additional DFG Funding	Release
People	School Aycliffe	£20,000	S106 - School Aycliffe	Release
Services	Walking Cycling Route MSG Yarm Road Mill Lane	£145,000	S106 - Walking Cycling Route MSG Yarm Road Mill Lane	Release
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	Towns Fund - Victoria Road	£29,400	Victoria Road Facade Improvements	Release
Chief Executive & Economic Growth	Towns Fund - Skinnergate & Yards Project	£579,000	Yard Phase 2	Release
Services	Corporate CCTV Replacement	£21,289	RCCO	Release

Chief Executive & Economic Growth	Skinnergate Housing and Commercial units	£260,000	Homes England Brownfield Housing Programme for Site preparation	Release
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£1,535,476</b>		

### Outcome of Consultation

22. There has been no consultation in the preparation of this report.

Project	CP1 Start Up	CP2 Initiate	CP3 Design	CP4 Delivery	CP5 Review	Status Symbol	Status	Client Dept	Delivery Dept	Internal Project Sponsor	Internal Project Manager	Cost Centre	Feasibility Budget	Original Approved Budget	Increase To Initial Approved Budget	Current Approved Budget	Project Expected Out Turn Cost	Variance (%)	Variance (value)	Original Planned Project Completion Date	Revised Approved Project Completion Date	Anticipated Project Completion Date	Schedule Variation (Days)	CDM Notifiable Project	Principal Designer	Previous Plan Progress	Plan Progress	Budget Progress Report	Issue Status Report
Yards Phase 2							Live	CE & Economic Growth	CE & Economic Growth	Mark Ladyman	Mike Bowron	R0180	£0	£800,000	£0	£800,000	£763,330	-3%	-£36,670	31-Mar-23	29-Mar-24	29-Mar-24	0	Y	Lee Davill	Works to the initial properties within the project are nearing completion. Additional properties by the Client have been identified. Confirmation of resource availability is being made.	It is agreed with the Towns Fund Programme Manager that the spend profiling can move into the financial year 2024/5 without any issues. The additional funding to meet the additional properties / works being identified is being secured.		Works to the currently identified properties are being programmed to completion. Client has identified additional properties and works which impact upon the budget. Confirmation of additional resources is being obtained.
Whinfield School Roof Replacement							Live	People	People	Tony Murphy	Julia McCabe	E1907	£0	£1,124,000	£0	£1,124,000	£1,124,000	%	£0	28-Nov-23	08-Feb-24	08-Feb-24	0	Y	Lee Davill	70 days of lost time (65 days = 5 days inclement weather). Delay due to: Structural calculations, Repricing & procurement, Revising completed areas to install strapping (structural solution) Phase 6 works (critical shared spaces for the school & unable to be decanted. Kitchen/hall/dining hall) was started and completed during the school holiday as required	Scaffold erected w/c 23/10 on next two phases. Half term works; scaffold removed from first three phases, replacement of nicks/boards, drains in car park cleaned. Eight phases in total with four now complete.		Further phases and required classroom decant agreed with the school. Some areas of water damage following summer rain storms. Damage to be recorded and repaired alongside areas of historic water damage - addressed upon completion of the final phase.
Skinnergate Re-development Housing							Live	Services	Services	Anthony Sandys	Brian Robson	H6748	£0	£4,950,000	£0	£4,950,000	£4,950,000	%	£0	31-Mar-23	31-May-25	31-May-25	0	Y	Andrew Burnfey	The scheme has been caught in the Nutrient Neutrality (NN) issue which will have an impact on start on site date. JBA consulting have been appointed to work through the NN calculator process and indicators are some mitigation work will be required. Once the NN work will be complete discussions will be held with Natural England. Due to the NN issue it is unlikely that the foundations can be cast prior to the current Building Regulations deadline of June 2023.	A temporary works design to support the method statement for the partial demolition works required to No. 12 is currently being prepared and will aid the Party Wall process and will be finalised shortly. An application for NN credits was submitted to Natural England on 27th October and has been successful. We are currently awaiting the issuing of the NN Certificate.		Initial surveys undertaken, which reveal major loss of structure to heritage building and adjacent property. 2. Historic England opposition to designs are now addressed but significant delays have ensued.
Sherborne Close Phase 2							Live	Operations	Operations	Anthony Sandys	Ian Stewart	H6749	£0	£2,375,962	£374,057	£2,750,019	£3,622,733	32%	£872,714	08-Mar-23	22-Sep-23	01-Mar-25	526	Y	Lee Davill	Scheme on hold due to Nutrient Neutrality Planning issue.	Nutrient Neutrality credits awarded. DBC awaiting certificates, revised scheme tender information being collated to allow Building Services to reprice updated design		Building Services to reprice scheme based on updated design to comply with Building Regulation changes.
Railway Heritage Quarter							Live	Services	Services	Ian Thompson	Brian Robson	R0155	£210,000	£200,000,000	£15,140,000	£35,140,000	£35,140,000	%	£0	30-Sep-24		30-Sep-24	0	Y	Space Architects	The new Engineering shed on Bonons Way is now complete and the A1 Trust are in the process of moving in to it. Works on the 1861 shed, Goods Shed and Head of Steam are ongoing. The works to Carriage works are due to commence on 08 June.	Works on the 1861 shed, Goods Shed and Head of Steam are ongoing. Some delays have been encountered due to asbestos removal works. The new entrance works from McMay Street are progressing well and the car park is due to commence shortly.		Issues with land acquisition with Network Rail is now resolved
Neasham Rd							Live	Operations	Operations	Anthony Sandys	Ben Walkdie	H6745	£0	£31,069,000	£1,008,203	£32,077,203	£31,589,347	-2%	-£487,856	02-May-25		02-May-25	0	Y	Lee Davill	Phase 1 handover date revised to March 24, due to procurement issues encountered by Building Services. Spend Profiles issued to client along with updated phasing plan.	Progress made to both phases, build programme lost 5 days in November due to heavy snow fall. External windows package now let. Final handovers to Housing are still on track for March 2024.		ESH started working on Plot C following safe. Building Services to coordinate on site logistics. Discussion needed with Transport Planning team due to requirement to have bus route operational by occupation of 100th dwelling.
Innovation Central							Live	CE & Economic Growth	CE & Economic Growth	Anthony Hewitt	Joanne Wood	R0157	£500,000	£50,000	£8,287,854	£8,337,854	£8,337,854	%	£0	31-Dec-21	31-Aug-22	31-Aug-22	0	Y	Napper Architects	The first project review meeting has taken place with DBC, NE BIC and Wilmot Dixon. A latent defect list has been produced. The installation of the telephone mast is due to take place w/c 11th September. This is due to take 3 working days. 3 months commissioning will be required prior to the existing mast on Central Park to be removed.	The installation of the mast was complete in September and the telephone operator has stated that the new site will be fully operational by the end of November. A month is required for the testing period and it is expected that January/February will be the approx. time for the decommissioning of the existing mast on Central Park.		
Ingenium Parc Masterplan + Infrastructure							Live	CE & Economic Growth	CE & Economic Growth	Anthony Hewitt	Joanne Wood	R0144	£0	£611,500	£4,265,593	£4,877,093	£4,877,093	%	£0	31-Aug-18	23-Dec-22	31-Aug-23	251	Y	Noel Walecki	Official handover of the drainage infrastructure works was undertaken on 21st July 2023. Some defects were identified following review of the CCTV survey and these have been provided to the contractor to rectify within 3 weeks. Additional Landscaping works will be taking place from August 2023 with additional install/strip planning from November 2023.	Official handover of the drainage infrastructure works was undertaken on 21st July 2023. Some defects were identified following review of the CCTV survey and these were provided to the contractor to rectify within 3 weeks. The planting has recommenced and subject to the weather, completion will be achieved in Dec 2023 or Jan 2024.		All drainage works and works to the development area are now complete. The only outstanding works are gas planting requirements on the periphery which will commence in Nov 23. Handover to estates has begun.
Eastbourne Sports Pitches & Drainage							Live	CE & Economic Growth	CE & Economic Growth	Ian Thompson	Rebecca Robson	L0154	£0	£1,610,000	£841,843	£2,551,843	£2,551,843	%	£0	31-Jul-23	31-Aug-23	14-Dec-23	105	Y	SPACE	Construction Phases Key dates: Track floodlights renewal - COMPLETE. Track resurfacing works - COMPLETE. 3G pitch - COMPLETE. Changing room installation 11/09/23 - 15/09/23. Drainage works to the Zone 8 and changing units 27/11/23.	All phases now complete, excluding the new electricity meter, which is due for installation on Thursday 14th December, once done the supply will be switched over. Additional works have been approved (extending the project) to address the level differences outside the changing accommodation and an extra access gate is to be installed by SIS as soon as possible.		A draft final account has been received from Building Services which is under review by the scheme QS
Demolition Sports Direct Building							Live	CE & Economic Growth	CE & Economic Growth	Guy Metcalfe	Brian Robson	R0177	£0	£300,000	£0	£300,000	£220,000	-27%	-£80,000	30-Jun-22		30-Jun-22	0	Y	A & N Consultants	Demolition works now complete, perimeter fencing to be installed	Demolition works now complete, perimeter fencing to be installed, likely to be in December		Contractor will be working to DBC Building Services
Demolition of 12-18 King Street							Live	CE & Economic Growth	CE & Economic Growth	Guy Metcalfe	Rebecca Robson	R0163	£0	£220,000	£0	£220,000	£340,000	55%	£120,000	TBC		TBC	0	Y	A & N Consultants	The structural investigation works are all now complete and the demolition pack is due mid-November. Once received we have requested the design to be costed up, along with another option to enable the Client to compare and decide on their next steps. Once we have their preferred option, the appropriate budget and timescales can be set.	The structural investigation works are all now complete and the demolition pack which was due mid-November was received from Scuzator on 28/11/23. The design is now with an external QS to cost up two options that will enable the Client to compare and decide on their next steps. Once we have their preferred option, the appropriate budget and timescales can be set.		Draft CP1 cost plan V6 shows a £120k shortfall, we have been advised to continue until we have the demolition scope of works to enable a pretender estimate to be obtained then a decision can be made.
Darlington Station Enabling Works							Live	CE & Economic Growth	CE & Economic Growth	Anthony Hewitt	Ben Walkdie	R0181	£0	£2,015,190	£295,807	£2,310,997	£2,310,997	%	£0	28-Apr-23		28-Apr-23	0	Y	Graeme Smith Fairhurst	March 23 - DBC Highways works completed now. LNER contractors awaiting ducting completion date station side before works can be completed. Awaiting LNER electrical meter installation date. TVCA require car park operational by 28/04/23 to avoid delays to East Gateway- risk of delay medium.	Project completed. Lease agreed & car park accepted for use by LNER 26/04/23.		Apr 23- Project completed. ESS to gain access via LNER permit to work system to remove existing electrical cabinet. Date to be agreed.







### 2023/24 Capital Resources Summary

Row Ref.		Approved Commitments £M	Virement of Resources £M	Variance £M	Total £M
1	<b>Capital Commitments</b>				
2	Brought forward from 2022/23	131.645			
3	2023/24 Capital Programme (released by Cabinet)	45.463			<b>177.108</b>
4	Projected (Under)/Over Spend				
5	<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>177.108</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>177.108</b>
	<b>To Be Funded By:</b>				
	<b>External and Departmental Resources</b>				
6	External Funding and Departmental Supported Borrowing	12.670	-	-	<b>12.670</b>
7	Departmental Unsupported Borrowing	0.000	-	-	<b>0.000</b>
8	Capital Grants	68.482	-	-	<b>68.482</b>
9	Capital Contributions	0.050	-	-	<b>0.050</b>
10	Revenue Contributions	29.177	-	-	<b>29.177</b>
11	Capital Receipts - HRA	0.303	-	-	<b>0.303</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>110.682</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>110.682</b>
	<b>Corporate Resources</b>				
12	Capital Receipts (General Fund)/ Prudential Borrowing	66.426	-	-	<b>66.426</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>66.426</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>66.426</b>
13	<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>177.108</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>177.108</b>

### Corporate Resources Analysis

	£M	
14	Required Resources to fund 2023/24 expenditure (see above)	66.426
15	<b>Total Planned Use of Corporate Resources</b>	66.426
16	Less: Total Projected net Capital Receipts 23/24 (as per Appendix 3)	(3.254)
17	Add: projects already released and included in the capital commitments above	8.170
18	<b>Corporate Resources required to fund capital programme</b>	<b>71.342</b>

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**Capital Receipts Utilisation - latest projection**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Projected Opening Balance as at 1 April	4.689	6.777	11.144
Projected net Capital Receipts	2.988	5.267	8.900
Total projected Capital Receipts	7.677	12.044	20.044
<b><u>Less (as per approved capital programme)</u></b>			
Capitalisation utilisation as per MTFP	0.000	0.000	0.000
Council funded schemes	(0.400)	(0.400)	(0.400)
Economic Growth Investment Fund	(0.500)	(0.500)	(0.500)
Slippage from previous years	0.000	0.000	0.000
Projected available Capital Receipts as at 31 March	6.777	11.144	19.144

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**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
1 FEBRUARY**

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**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 – QUARTER 3**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 – Quarter 3 report.

**Summary**

2. Attached at **Annex 1** is the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 – Quarter 3 report which is due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 6 February 2024.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Members consider and discuss the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 – Quarter 3 report.

**Brett Nielsen  
Assistant Director Resources**

**Background Papers**

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

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing 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	1. The report does not require a key decision. 2.
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 Council Plan, but this report does not contain new proposals.
Efficiency	The report contains updated information regarding efficiency savings contained in the MTFP.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

**CABINET  
6 FEBRUARY 2024**

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**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 – QUARTER 3**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member -  
Councillor Mandy Porter, Resources Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -  
Elizabeth Davison, Group Director of Operations**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide a forecast of the 2023/24 revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.

**Summary**

2. This is the third revenue budget management report to Cabinet for 2023/24. The latest projections show an overall decline of £0.738m on the 2023-27 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), however this is an improvement of £0.381m on the Quarter 2 projection. This is due to £0.509m of additional balances following the 2022/23 outturn, £1.200m of resources returned to reserves and a £0.225m improvement in corporate resources, offset by £2.672m of projected departmental overspends in 2023/24.
3. The decline relates to the significant demand being placed on our Children's Services, where numbers of children in care during this year have increased by 33% from pre pandemic levels, despite the Council using the Strengthening Families approach, one of the governments social care innovations programmes. Darlington is not alone, the pressure in children's social care is manifesting itself across the country. We continue to highlight to government the disproportionate strain on Darlington's finances from this one service area.
4. All departments continue to scrutinise their budgets in year, reducing spend where possible to assist the financial position and offset the demand pressures within Children's Services and subsequently most divisions are showing an underspend, or an improvement on the quarter two position.

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that:-
  - (a) The forecast revenue outturn for 2023/24 be noted.

- (b) The carry forward of resources referred to in paragraphs 18-20 be noted and approved.
- (c) Further regular reports be made to monitor progress and take prompt action if necessary.

**Reasons**

- 6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-
  - (a) To continue effective management of resources.
  - (b) To continue to deliver services to agreed levels.

**Elizabeth Davison  
Group Director Operations**

**Background Papers**

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

Brett Nielsen : Extension 5403

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing 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 Council Plan, but this report does not contain new proposals.
Efficiency	The report contains updated information regarding efficiency savings contained in the MTFP.
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. This is the third revenue budget management report to Cabinet for 2023/24 and provides the latest forecast of the 2023/24 revenue position as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.
8. To enable timely information to be presented and in accordance with the report publication requirements, this report has been completed before the end of the third quarter. As the Council operates frequent, regular and predictive budget management processes, including quarterly reports to Cabinet, changes in projected outturn, which are inevitable in a large and complex organisation, will be reported to future meetings.
9. The information in this report has been taken from the financial records for November and managers' projections for the remainder of the year, using their knowledge of events affecting the services they manage.
10. The projected General Fund reserves position as at the 31 March 2024 is £16.384m, a decline of £0.738m on the planned balances in the 2023-27 MTFP, however this is an improvement of £0.381m on the position reported at Quarter 2. The decline relates to £0.509m additional underspend in the Council's 2022/23 financial results, £1.200m of resources returned to reserves and a £0.225m improvement in corporate resources, offset by £2.672m of projected departmental overspends in 2023/24.

### Departmental Resources

11. Departmental resource projections are summarised in **Appendix 2** and detailed in **Appendices 2(a) to 2(e)**.
12. The **People Group** budget is projected to be overspent by £3.752m, an improvement of £0.115m on the position reported at Quarter 2. The main changes to the budget position are detailed below:
  - (a) The **Group Director of People** budgets are showing a projected year end overspend of £0.053m an increase of £0.042m on the Quarter 2 position. This is due to increased demand falling on the Child Protection and Review service, with the need to use additional agency workers.
  - (b) **Adults & Childrens Services** budgets are projecting a year end underspend of £0.127m, an improvement of £0.053m, due to savings in staffing vacancies and running costs.
  - (c) **Children's Services** are projecting an overspend of £4.657m at the end of the financial year, an increase of £0.171m on the position reported at Quarter 2. The main changes in projections since Quarter 2 are as follows:
    - (i) Adoption and Placements budgets are forecast to be overspent by £4.607m at the year end, an increase in the period of £0.406m. This is due to three new high-cost residential placements, changes in end dates for two placements and

block bed arrangements (totalling £0.467m). This increase has been offset by other changes in placement budgets, including a reduction of seven Independent Foster Carer placements.

- (ii) The overall children's staffing divisions (Management, Assessment Care Panning & LAC and First Response & Early Help) are projected break even at the year end, an improvement from the Quarter 2 report of £0.295m. This is a combination of staff vacancies, savings in running costs and additional grant funding.
  - (iii) The Disabled Children's division is projected to be overspent by £0.048m, a decline in position from the Quarter 2 report of £0.060m. This increase is due to demand with additional carers allowances and day service provisions (although still projected to underspend) and additional staffing and agency costs.
  - (d) The **Development and Commissioning** division is reporting an underspend of £0.150m, an improved position from the previous report of £0.111m. The movement is mainly due additional grant funding of £0.071m and the overspend on the Financial Inclusion and Community Care budgets being offset by the Cost of Living fund.
  - (e) **Education** is projected to be underspent by £0.045m, an improvement of £0.057m on the Quarter 2 projection. The change in position is from the Transport Unit, due to staffing vacancies and route changes.
  - (f) **Adult Social Care and Health** are forecasting an underspend of £0.636m, which is an improvement of £0.107m from Quarter 2. The main changes are as follows.
    - (i) The underspend on the External Purchase of Care budgets has increased by £0.147m due to additional client contributions, reductions in domiciliary care hours and increased attrition. These reductions have been offset in part by an increase in individuals accessing short break stays.
    - (ii) The Services Development & Integration budgets has a projected overspend of £0.039m a decline of £0.090m on the position reported at Quarter 2, this has resulted from a change in the bad debt provision which has been increased by £0.098m.
13. The **Services Group** is projecting an underspend of £1.138m after new carry forward requests of £0.110m (see paragraph 18 – 20), an improvement of £0.022m from the position reported at Quarter 2. The headline areas are detailed below:
- (a) **Capital Projects, Transport and Highways Planning** is projected to be underspent by £0.626m after new carry forward requests, an improvement of £0.095m on the position reported at Q2. This change is due to increased savings in the Concessionary Fares and Sustainable Transport budgets from additional underspends in general supplies and reduced contributions due to alternative funding.
  - (b) **Community Services** is expected to be overspent by £0.344m after new carry forward requests, an increase of £0.234m from the reported position at Quarter 2 as detailed below:

- (i) **Cemeteries & Crematorium** – overall the position has worsened by £0.168m. This is due to a predicted income shortfall and additional works at the Cemeteries. There are also changes to borrowing costs following the refurbishment of the crematorium.
  - (ii) Following slippage of the introduction of an additional refuse round, **Street Scene** is expected to underspend by £0.163m. While household collections have increased, the additional collections have been managed through extensions to existing rounds during 2023/24.
  - (iii) **Waste Disposal** has seen increases in tonnages associated with the Household Waste Recycling Centre (tip), fly-tipping, street cleansing & bulky lane collections which will see the budget predicted to overspend by £0.150m.
- (c) **Community Safety** overall is projected to be underspent by £0.652m an improvement of £0.102m from Quarter 2, this is mainly due to **Car Parking** where income levels continue to perform better than expected following the end of the free parking offer.
14. The **Operations Group** is projecting a year end underspend of £0.088m, a decline of £0.024m on the position reported at Quarter 2. The main changes to the MTFP position are detailed below:
- (a) **Resources** is projecting a yearend underspend of £0.215m, a decline of £0.013m on the Quarter 2 position. There has been additional savings identified across all service areas including staff vacancies, reduced running costs and additional grant funding. However these additional savings have been offset by an increase in external audit fee costs of £0.135m following the finalisation of the national tender exercise.
  - (b) **Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications** is projecting a year end underspend of £0.059m, an improvement of £0.054m on the Quarter 2 position. The Communications division is reporting an underspend of £0.082m, from a reduction in resources allocated to the roundabouts and the Community Survey, and savings in general running costs and staffing.
  - (c) **Law and Governance** is reported to be overspent by £0.148m, which is a decline in position from Quarter 2 of £0.071m. This is due to increased costs in the Complaints and Information Governance Team to clear the back log of subject access requests, as well as reviewing the Council's historic adult and children's social care records. Once the historic social care records are reviewed, they will be digitised significantly increasing the efficiency with which the Council is able to deal with future requests.
15. The **Chief Executive & Economy Group** is expected to overspend by £0.146m, an increase of £0.183m from Quarter 2. The main changes are detailed below:
- a) Development Management is projecting a fee income shortfall of £0.265m. Challenging market conditions driven by several factors, including the impact of nutrient neutrality, bio-diversity net gain and market saturation has seen a fall in new planning applications by large developers which is impacting on fee income in 2023/24.

- b) Environmental Health is performing well against targets due to the award of additional funding leading to a predicted underspend of £0.049m in 2023/24.
- c) Place Strategy has improved by a further £0.055m due to staff savings from vacant posts and additional income.

16. The school balances and allocations are shown in **Appendix 2(f)**.

### **Council Wide and Corporately Managed Resources**

17. The Council Wide and Corporately Managed Resources budgets are projected to be £0.225m underspent at year end, an improvement of £0.451m on the Quarter 2 position. This includes the previous reported pressure for the Pay Award of £0.550m which is now shown as a contribution from General Fund Reserves rather than within the Council Wide budget. £0.302m of grant income above the 2023/24 MTFP estimate has been identified and is not required in year and so will be returned to general reserves. In addition funding of £0.148m set aside in the contingency budget is not required as funding has been identified through other funding streams.

### **Carry Forward Requests**

18. There are a number of carry forward requests to 2024/25 amounting to £0.110m from the Services Group budgets as detailed below. The requests are categorised into two areas: slippage and assisting in achieving the conditions of the MTFP. Approval is requested to carry these amounts forward into the new financial year.

19. **Slippage** – there are £0.080m of slippage on planned projects in the following areas:

- (a) £0.040m **Hippodrome** – the Hippodrome’s website receives around 700,000 visits per year and over 7.5 million page views. Most bookings and donations are made online. The existing website was launched in 2017 and now the Council requires expertise of a supplier to support the development of a new website using the existing branding and integrating with the existing box office provider, Spektrix. The new website will be designed to actively drive sales and revenue across income streams (tickets, merchandise, food and drink, corporate and event hires and donations) to help the service meet ambitious targets for income and engagement. The website will be built by the Council’s web team but due to conflicting projects impacting on resource the work has slipped into 2024/25.
- (b) £0.030m **Flood & Water Act** – following the cessation of the contract with SBC and the appointment of a new Flood & Water officer, work is required to be carried out to support schemes and projects in 2024/25. This will help fund the Council’s contribution to ongoing drainage studies in partnership with Northumbrian Water Group and the Environment Agency to assess the risk of flood in Darlington and identify any potential schemes that may need to be developed to manage that risk.
- (c) £0.010m **Street Scene** – it was previously identified and agreed to fund a storage solution at the depot for the equipment and supplies used by Street Scene. It was proposed to purchase and install a storage solution in the Street Scene garage.

Following an assessment of the garage the cost of the solution has increased slightly and it is requested that the additional cost be carried forward to allow implementation to be completed in 2024/25.

20. **Assist in achieving the three conditions set out in the MTFP** – there are £0.030m carry forward requests meeting the above criteria:
  - (a) £0.030m **Sustainable Transport** – as previously agreed by Cabinet in September 2022, funding had been identified to support bus route 16. Due to the impact of inflation, it is requested £0.010m is carried forward to supplement the funding already earmarked. Further to this it is also requested that £0.020m is carried forward to allow for a marketing campaign and traffic mapping to be completed in 2024/25.

### **Housing Revenue Account**

21. HRA projections are shown in **Appendix 3** with an overall projected balanced budget. The contribution to balances has improved by £0.316m from Quarter 2, primarily due to £0.474m increased interest income as a result of the increase in the interest rate, offset by additional operational costs from Council Tax payments on void properties (£0.050m), additional system development costs (£0.050m) and additional staffing costs resulting from the agreed pay award.

### **Conclusion**

22. The Council's projected revenue reserves at the end of 2023/24 are £16.384m, a £0.738m decline on the initial 2023-27 MTFP position, however this is an improvement of £0.381m on the position reported at Quarter 2. This reduction in reserves includes a brought forward amount of £0.509m from 2022/23, £1.200m of resources returned to reserves and a £0.225m increase in corporate resources, offset by £2.672m of projected departmental overspends.
23. The increase in Children's Services demand and subsequent cost pressures are of significant concern and are monitored closely. The rise in children presenting to council services, is despite using the Strengthening Families approach, which is one of the governments social care innovations programmes. Darlington is not alone, the pressure in children's social care is manifesting itself across the country.
24. All departments continue to scrutinise their budgets in year, reducing spend where possible to assist the financial position and offset the demand pressures within Children's Services and subsequently most divisions are showing an underspend or an improvement on the reported quarter two position.
25. We are not and cannot be complacent, we continue to review all our services looking to see what efficiencies can be made and how we can generate additional income to protect our services in the future.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

26. No external consultation has been carried out in preparing this report.

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**REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2023/24**

<b><u>Projected General Fund Reserve at 31st March 2024</u></b>		2023-27 MTFP (Feb 2023)
<b>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) :-</b>		£000
MTFP Planned Opening Balance 01/04/2023		23,397
Approved net contribution from balances		(6,275)
<b>Planned Closing Balance 31/03/2024</b>		<b>17,122</b>
Increase in opening balance from 2022-23 results		509
Projected corporate underspends / (overspends) :-		
Council Wide		0
Financing Costs		0
Joint Venture - Investment Return		0
Contingencies		148
Additional Income Received		325
Services Group Rebase		700
People Group Rebase		500
Unallocated Grant Income		302
Pay Award 2023/24		(550)
<b>Projected General Fund Reserve (excluding Departmental) 31st March 2024</b>	<b>at</b>	<b>19,056</b>
<b>Planned Balance at 31st March 2024</b>		<b>17,122</b>
<b>Improvement</b>		<b>1,934</b>

<b><u>Departmental projected year-end balances</u></b>		Improvement / (decline) compared with 2023-27 MTFP £000
People Group		(3,752)
Services Group		1,138
Operations Group		88
Chief Executive & Economy		(146)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>(2,672)</b>

<b><u>Summary Comparison with :-</u></b>		2023-27 MTFP £000
Corporate Resources - increase in opening balance from 22/23 results		509
Corporate Resources - additional in-year Improvement/(Decline)		225
Quarter 1 Budget Rebase		1,200
Departmental - Improvement / (Decline)		(2,672)
Improvement / (Decline) compared with MTFP		<b>(738)</b>
<b>Projected General Fund Reserve at 31st March 2024</b>		<b>16,384</b>

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2023/24**

	<b>Budget</b>				<b>Expenditure</b>		
	Original 2023/24	Approved Adjustments	Approved C/fwds	Amended Approved Budget	Projected Outturn	C/fwds to approve	Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Departmental Resources</b>							
People Group	75,356	2,268	(432)	77,192	80,944	0	3,752
Services Group	27,129	1,912	(1,140)	27,901	26,653	110	(1,138)
Operations Group	12,996	1,344	(266)	14,074	13,986	0	(88)
Chief Executive & Economy	1,535	282	(285)	1,532	1,678	0	146
<b>Total Departmental Resources</b>	<b>117,016</b>	<b>5,806</b>	<b>(2,123)</b>	<b>120,699</b>	<b>123,261</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>2,672</b>
<b>Corporate Resources</b>							
Council Wide	1,359	(1,295)	0	64	64	0	0
Financing Costs	3,477	0	0	3,477	3,477	0	0
Joint Venture - Investment Return	(1,816)	0	0	(1,816)	(1,816)	0	0
Additional Income Received	0	0	0	0	(325)	0	(325)
<b>Contingencies Budget</b>							
Apprentice Levy	202	0	0	202	202	0	0
Pension Fund Triennial Valuation	(439)	439	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Employment Initiative	168	0	0	168	20	0	(148)
<b>Mid Year Savings</b>							
Services Group Rebase	0	700	0	700	0	0	(700)
People Group Rebase	0	500	0	500	0	0	(500)
<b>Total Corporate Resources</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,673)</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>119,967</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>(2,123)</b>	<b>123,994</b>	<b>124,883</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>Contributions To / (From) Reserves</b>							
Planned Contribution to General Fund Reserves (MTFP)	(8,640)	0	0	(8,640)	(8,640)	0	0
Departmental Brought Forwards from 2022/23	0	(4,961)	0	(4,961)	(4,961)	0	0
Already approved Carry Forwards	0	0	2,123	2,123	2,123	0	0
Unallocated Grant Income	0	0	0	0	(302)	0	(302)
Pay Award 2023/24	0	(550)	0	(550)	0	0	550
ASC ILF 2023/24	0	(639)	0	(639)	(639)	0	0
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>111,327</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111,327</b>	<b>112,464</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1,247</b>

**REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24**

	<i>Budget</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>			<i>(Under)/ Over Spend £000</i>
	Original	Approved	Amended Approved	Expenditure	Projected	Total	
	Budget £000	Adjustments £000	Budget £000	to November £000	Spend £000	Projection £000	
<b><u>Council Wide</u></b>							
Corporate Running Costs	4	0	4	4	0	4	0
Cost of Living Fund	100	(40)	60	60	0	60	0
Pay Award	1,255	(1,255)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>In Year Over/(Under) Spend</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>(1,295)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24</b>									
	<b>Budget</b>				<b>Expenditure</b>				<b>(Under)/ Over Spend £000</b>
	<b>Original Budget £000</b>	<b>Approved Adjustments £000</b>	<b>Approved C/fwds £000</b>	<b>Amended Approved Budget £000</b>	<b>Expenditure to November £000</b>	<b>C/fwds to approve £000</b>	<b>Projected Spend £000</b>	<b>Total Projection £000</b>	
<b><u>People Group</u></b>									
<b>Group Director of People</b>	712	(110)	0	602	474	0	181	655	53
<b><u>Adults &amp; Children Services</u></b>									
Transformation & Performance	749	141	(134)	756	488	0	185	673	(83)
Business Support	1,572	55	0	1,627	1,056	0	527	1,583	(44)
	<b>2,321</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>(134)</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>(127)</b>
<b><u>Children's Services</u></b>									
Children's Services Management & Other Services	662	2	0	664	419	0	271	690	26
Assessment Care Planning & LAC	4,327	60	0	4,387	3,163	0	1,893	5,056	669
First Response & Early Help	3,833	139	0	3,972	2,049	0	1,230	3,279	(693)
Youth Offending/ASB	339	(26)	0	313	(178)	0	491	313	0
Adoption & Placements	16,750	37	0	16,787	13,215	0	8,179	21,394	4,607
Disabled Children	1,230	10	0	1,240	552	0	736	1,288	48
Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement	138	0	0	138	(102)	0	240	138	0
	<b>27,279</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,501</b>	<b>19,118</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,040</b>	<b>32,158</b>	<b>4,657</b>
<b><u>Development &amp; Commissioning</u></b>									
Commissioning	2,352	191	(282)	2,261	1,967	0	130	2,097	(164)
Voluntary Sector	294	40	0	334	305	0	43	348	14
	<b>2,646</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>(282)</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>(150)</b>
<b><u>Education</u></b>									
Education	423	77	(16)	484	14,873	0	(14,377)	496	12
Schools	0	0	0	0	3,492	0	(3,492)	0	0
Transport Unit	3,091	42	0	3,133	2,948	0	128	3,076	(57)
	<b>3,514</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>21,313</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(17,741)</b>	<b>3,572</b>	<b>(45)</b>
<b><u>Public Health</u></b>									
Public Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Adult Social Care &amp; Health</u></b>									
External Purchase of Care	32,072	1,352		33,424	13,507	0	19,237	32,744	(680)
Intake & Enablement	677	42		719	1,936	0	(1,206)	730	11
Older People Long Term Condition	1,604	12		1,616	1,492	0	114	1,606	(10)
Physical Disability Long Term Condition	15	0		15	8	0	(6)	2	(13)
Learning Disability Long Term Condition	2,034	54		2,088	1,492	0	639	2,131	43
Mental Health Long Term Condition	1,218	19		1,237	904	0	307	1,211	(26)
Service Development & Integration	1,070	(7)		1,063	525	0	577	1,102	39
Workforce Development	194	138		332	109	0	223	332	0
	<b>38,884</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,494</b>	<b>19,973</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19,885</b>	<b>39,858</b>	<b>(636)</b>
<b>In Year Over/(Under) Spend</b>	<b>75,356</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>(432)</b>	<b>77,192</b>	<b>64,694</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,250</b>	<b>80,944</b>	<b>3,752</b>

REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24									
	Budget				Expenditure				(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Approved C/fwds £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Expenditure to November £000	C/fwds to approve £000	Projected Spend £000	Total Projection £000	
<b>Services Group</b>									
<b>Group Director of Services</b>	174	0	0	174	114	0	60	174	0
<b>Capital Projects, Transport &amp; Highways</b>									
<b>Planning</b>									
AD Transport & Capital Projects	136	(1)	0	135	87	0	34	121	(14)
Building Design Services	54	2	0	56	94	0	(38)	56	0
Capital Projects	352	58	0	410	237	0	173	410	0
Car Parking R&M	583	0	0	583	456	0	100	556	(27)
Concessionary Fares	2774	17	(50)	2,741	1	0	2,152	2,153	(588)
Flood & Water Act	89	160	(160)	89	(260)	30	319	89	0
Highways	4777	(48)	(69)	4,660	1,490	0	3,155	4,645	(15)
Highways - DLO	-478	41	0	(437)	936	0	(1,373)	(437)	0
Investment & Funding	17	543	(370)	190	78	0	110	188	(2)
Sustainable Transport	42	139	(68)	113	(256)	30	359	133	20
	<b>8,346</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>(717)</b>	<b>8,540</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4,991</b>	<b>7,914</b>	<b>(626)</b>
<b>Community Services</b>									
AD Community Services	150	(1)	0	149	86	0	43	129	(20)
Allotments	16	1	0	17	6	0	13	19	2
Building Cleaning - DLO	206	38	0	244	504	0	(260)	244	0
Cemeteries & Crematorium	(974)	14	0	(960)	(459)	0	(44)	(503)	457
Dolphin Centre	919	153	(8)	1,064	352	0	525	877	(187)
Eastbourne Complex	24	7	0	31	47	0	15	62	31
Emergency Planning	103	0	0	103	47	0	42	89	(14)
Head of Steam	291	7	0	298	336	0	(20)	316	18
Hippodrome	221	116	0	337	(916)	40	1,253	377	40
Indoor Bowling Centre	19	12	(12)	19	6	0	6	12	(7)
Libraries	898	30	0	928	636	0	332	968	40
Move More	48	4	0	52	(160)	0	212	52	0
Outdoor Events	567	(18)	0	549	327	0	222	549	0
School Meals - DLO	78	6	0	84	38	0	43	81	(3)
Culture and Heritage Fund	119	6	0	125	53	0	72	125	0
Street Scene	6,048	279	(91)	6,236	2,915	10	3,148	6,073	(163)
Transport Unit - Fleet Management	155	57	0	212	547	0	(335)	212	0
Waste Management	3,606	75	0	3,681	2,369	0	1,462	3,831	150
Winter Maintenance	583	40	0	623	469	0	154	623	0
	<b>13,077</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>(111)</b>	<b>13,792</b>	<b>7,203</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>6,883</b>	<b>14,136</b>	<b>344</b>

REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24									
	Budget				Expenditure				(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Approved C/fwds £000	Amended Approved Budget £000	Expenditure to November £000	C/fwds to approve £000	Projected Spend £000	Total Projection £000	
<b>Services Group</b>									
<b>Community Safety</b>									
CCTV	264	16	0	280	130	0	173	303	23
Community Safety	732	112	(49)	795	203	0	630	833	38
General Licensing	7	3	0	10	(89)	0	99	10	0
Parking	(1,672)	36	0	(1,636)	(1,089)	0	(1,244)	(2,333)	(697)
Parking Enforcement	13	(33)	0	(20)	(40)	0	20	(20)	0
Private Sector Housing	107	28	(27)	108	62	0	28	90	(18)
Stray Dogs	50	1	0	51	31	0	22	53	2
Taxi Licensing	41	22	0	63	(14)	0	77	63	0
Trading Standards	258	1	0	259	110	0	149	259	0
	<b>(200)</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>(76)</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>(696)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(46)</b>	<b>(742)</b>	<b>(652)</b>
<b>Building Services</b>									
Construction - DLO	(344)	50	0	(294)	(3,358)	0	2,964	(394)	(100)
Other - DLO	16	43	0	59	3,113	0	(3,113)	0	(59)
	<b>(328)</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(235)</b>	<b>(245)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(149)</b>	<b>(394)</b>	<b>(159)</b>
<b>Corporate Landlord</b>									
Corporate Landlord	5,821	(104)	<b>(236)</b>	5,481	1,847	0	3,634	5,481	0
<b>General Support Services</b>									
Works Property & Other	114	0	0	114	73	0	1	74	(40)
<b>Joint Levies &amp; Boards</b>									
Environment Agency Levy	125	0	0	125	120	0	0	120	(5)
<b>In Year Over/(Under) Spend</b>	<b>27,129</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>(1,140)</b>	<b>27,901</b>	<b>11,279</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>15,374</b>	<b>26,763</b>	<b>(1,138)</b>

## REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24

	<b>Budget</b>				<b>Expenditure</b>				<b>(Under)/ Over Spend £000</b>
	<b>Original Budget £000</b>	<b>Approved Adjustments £000</b>	<b>Approved C/fwds £000</b>	<b>Amended Approved Budget £000</b>	<b>Expenditure to November £000</b>	<b>C/fwds to approve £000</b>	<b>Projected Spend £000</b>	<b>Total Projection £000</b>	
<b><u>Operations Group</u></b>									
<b>Group Director of Operations</b>	130	2	0	132	132	0	(14)	118	(14)
<b><u>Resources</u></b>									
AD Resources	115	1	0	116	77	0	39	116	0
Financial Services	1,526	139	(30)	1,635	1,048	0	458	1,506	(129)
Financial Assessments & Protection	279	44	(35)	288	223	0	64	287	(1)
Xentrall (D&S Partnership)	1,830	0	0	1,830	1,350	0	553	1,903	73
Human Resources	686	219	(25)	880	457	0	270	727	(153)
Health & Safety	193	2	0	195	130	0	60	190	(5)
	<b>4,629</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>(90)</b>	<b>4,944</b>	<b>3,285</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,444</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>(215)</b>
<b><u>Head of Strategy Performance &amp; Communications</u></b>									
Communications & Engagement	987	221	(74)	1,134	666	0	386	1,052	(82)
Systems	1,007	359	(102)	1,264	1,242	0	45	1,287	23
	<b>1,994</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>(176)</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>(59)</b>
<b><u>Law &amp; Governance</u></b>									
AD Law & Governance	131	4	0	135	89	0	46	135	0
Complaints & FOI	297	3	0	300	229	0	188	417	117
Democratic Services	1,316	27	0	1,343	786	0	544	1,330	(13)
Registrars	(23)	8	0	(15)	(71)	0	56	(15)	0
Administration	595	20	0	615	404	0	120	524	(91)
Legal Services	1,669	9	0	1,678	1,500	0	265	1,765	87
Procurement	183	3	0	186	136	0	71	207	21
Coroners	278	0	0	278	(1)	0	306	305	27
	<b>4,446</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,520</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>4,668</b>	<b>148</b>
<b><u>Xentrall Shared Services</u></b>									
ICT	810	266	0	1,076	100	0	975	1,075	(1)
	<b>810</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b><u>Building Services</u></b>									
Maintenance - DLO	(616)	(26)	0	(642)	3,027	0	(3,669)	(642)	0
	<b>(616)</b>	<b>(26)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(642)</b>	<b>3,027</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,669)</b>	<b>(642)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Housing &amp; Revenues</u></b>									
Local Taxation	488	(8)	0	480	552	0	(87)	465	(15)
Rent Rebates / Rent Allowances / Council Tax	(132)	0	0	(132)	9,408	0	(9,540)	(132)	0
Housing Benefits Administration	413	40	0	453	636	0	(170)	466	13
Customer Services	329	10	0	339	291	0	102	393	54
Homelessness	349	1	0	350	(562)	0	913	351	1
Service, Strategy & Regulation and General	156	0	0	156	(1,728)	0	1,884	156	0
	<b>1,603</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(6,898)</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>In Year Over/(Under) Spend</b>	<b>12,996</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>(266)</b>	<b>14,074</b>	<b>20,121</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(6,135)</b>	<b>13,986</b>	<b>(88)</b>

## REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2023/24

	<b>Budget</b>				<b>Expenditure</b>				<b>(Under)/ Over Spend £000</b>
	<b>Original Budget £000</b>	<b>Approved Adjustments £000</b>	<b>Approved C/fwds £000</b>	<b>Amended Approved Budget £000</b>	<b>Expenditure to November £000</b>	<b>C/fwds to approve £000</b>	<b>Projected Spend £000</b>	<b>Total Projection £000</b>	
<b><u>Chief Executive &amp; Economy</u></b>									
<b><u>Chief Executive</u></b>									
Chief Executive	209	(1)	0	208	141	0	70	211	3
Darlington Partnership	74	0	0	74	86	0	7	93	19
	<b>283</b>	<b>(1)</b>		<b>282</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>22</b>
<b><u>AD Economic Growth</u></b>									
AD - Economic Growth	149	(1)	0	148	97		53	150	2
Building Control	168	2	0	170	119		51	170	0
Consolidated Budgets	146	116	(119)	143	0		143	143	0
Development Management	23	11	0	34	238		61	299	265
Economy	269	42	(58)	253	(138)		392	254	1
Environmental Health	334	22	0	356	83		224	307	(49)
Place Strategy	645	23	(98)	570	(14)		489	475	(95)
Property Management & Estates	(482)	68	(10)	(424)	(977)		553	(424)	0
	<b>1,252</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>(285)</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>(592)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,966</b>	<b>1,374</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>In Year Over/(Under) Spend</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>(285)</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>(365)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>146</b>

**BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2023/24**

<b>SCHOOLS PROJECTED BALANCES 2023/24</b>					
School Name	Opening Balance at 1st April 2023	Formula Budget Allocation*	Total Available	Closing Balance at 31st March 2024	Projected Closing Balance as proportion of Formula Budget Allocation
	£000	£000	£000	£000	%
<b>Primary</b>					
Federation of Darlington Nursery Schools	(12)	942	948	(5)	(1%)
Rise Carr College, Clifton House & Eldon House	305	1,846	2,151	362	20%
Red Hall Primary	221	1,434	1,655	122	9%
Whinfield Primary	416	2,332	2,748	347	15%
Harrowgate Hill Primary	146	2,717	2,863	50	2%
<b>Primary Total</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>9,271</b>	<b>10,365</b>	<b>876</b>	

\*Federation of Darlington Nursery Schools/Rise Carr College original budget. Actual allocation based on attendance.

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2023/24**

	<b>Budget</b>			Total Projection £000	(Under)/ Over Spend £000
	Original Budget £000	Approved Adjustments £000	Amended Approved Budget £000		
<b><u>Housing Revenue Account</u></b>					
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Rents Of Dwellings (Gross)	(21,964)	0	(21,964)	(21,830)	134
Sundry Rents (Including Garages & Shops)	(422)	0	(422)	(428)	(6)
Charges For Services & Facilities	(3,654)	0	(3,654)	(3,905)	(251)
Contribution towards expenditure	(928)	0	(928)	(953)	(25)
Interest Receivable	(6)	0	(6)	(480)	(474)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(26,974)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(26,974)</b>	<b>(27,596)</b>	<b>(622)</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Operational	4,441	0	4,441	4,344	(97)
Service Charges	3,654	0	3,654	3,905	251
Maintenance	5,539	0	5,539	5,590	51
Capital Financing Costs	3,447	0	3,447	3,447	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	12,609	0	12,609	12,609	0
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	250	0	250	150	(100)
In year contribution to/(from) balances	(2,966)	0	(2,966)	(2,449)	517
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>26,974</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,974</b>	<b>27,596</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>HRA Balances</b>	<b>£000</b>
Opening balance 01/04/2023	23,467
Contribution to/(from) balances	(2,449)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>21,018</b>

**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
1 FEBRUARY 2024**

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**ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
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 next Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

**Summary**

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

**Recommendation**

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

**Luke Swinhoe  
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Background Papers**

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

Mike Conway: Extension 6309

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

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

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

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

by delivering

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

9. The vision for the Resources Portfolio is :-

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

### Forward Plan and Additional Items

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

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## ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Scrutiny's Role</b>
<b>RESOURCES</b>				
	Performance Management Framework	Work to be undertaken to look at relevant PI's. Informal meeting to be arranged	Relevant Assistant Directors	To understand/monitor and challenge the indicators
	Sickness Absence Year-end turn out	To be circulated to Members of the Scrutiny Committee as a briefing note	Brett Nielsen	N/A
	Health and Safety Year-end turn out	To be circulated to Members of the Scrutiny Committee as a briefing note	Brett Nielsen	N/A
	Medium-Term Financial Plan - Monitoring	Quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee	Brett Nielsen	To contribute and challenge the Medium-Term Financial Plan and assist with the implementation and development of the required savings
	Capital Programme and project Position Statement	Quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee Most recent – 1 February 2024	Anthony Hewitt	To look at the position

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Scrutiny's Role</b>
	E&R Performance Indicators 2023/24	Most Recent – 1 February 2024	Brett Nielsen	
<b>ECONOMY</b>				
106	Economic Strategy	1 February 2024	Mark Ladyman Andrew Perkin	Development of Strategy
114	Housing Strategy	TBC	David Hand	Development of the Strategy and Actions
209	Climate Change	On-going	Cabinet Member	To update on the work of the Review Group
	Office Demand Study	TBC	Mark Ladyman	Update

<b>Past Items</b>				
	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Scrutiny's Role</b>
	Investment Fund	31 August 2023	Brett Nielsen	To consider progress against the agreed investments being funded through the Investment Fund.
	Customer Services and Digital Strategy	31 August 2023	Anthony Sandys	To brief Members on the work being undertaken
	Complaints, Compliments and Comments - Annual Report 2019/20	31 August 2023	Lee Downey	To look at the position
	Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	31 August 2023	Lee Downey	To consider the outcome of cases which have been determined by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Housing Ombudsman (HO) and forward any view to Cabinet
	Council Tax Support Scheme	2 November 2023	Anthony Sandys	To provide comment to Cabinet on the proposed scheme

	Council Tax Changes to Empty Property Premiums 2024	2 November 2023	Anthony Sandys	To review and provide a response to Cabinet
	Economic Impact Study	2 November 2023	Mark Ladyman	Update
	Markets Update	2 November 2023	Mark Ladyman	To update Scrutiny
	Towns Fund	2 November 2023	Mark Ladyman	To update Scrutiny
	Medium-Term Financial Plan	4 January 2024 Special - 18 January 2024	Brett Nielsen	To provide a response to Cabinet on the proposals in relation to the Medium-Term Financial Plan
	Discretionary Housing Payment Policy	4 January 2024	Anthony Sandys	To review and provide a response to Cabinet
	Council Tax and Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy	4 January 2024	Anthony Sandys	To review and provide a response to Cabinet

	Council Tax and Business Rates Debt Recovery Strategy	4 January 2024	Anthony Sandys	To review and provide a response to Cabinet
	Housing Services Climate Change Strategy	4 January 2023	Anthony Sandys	To update Scrutiny on current strategy

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

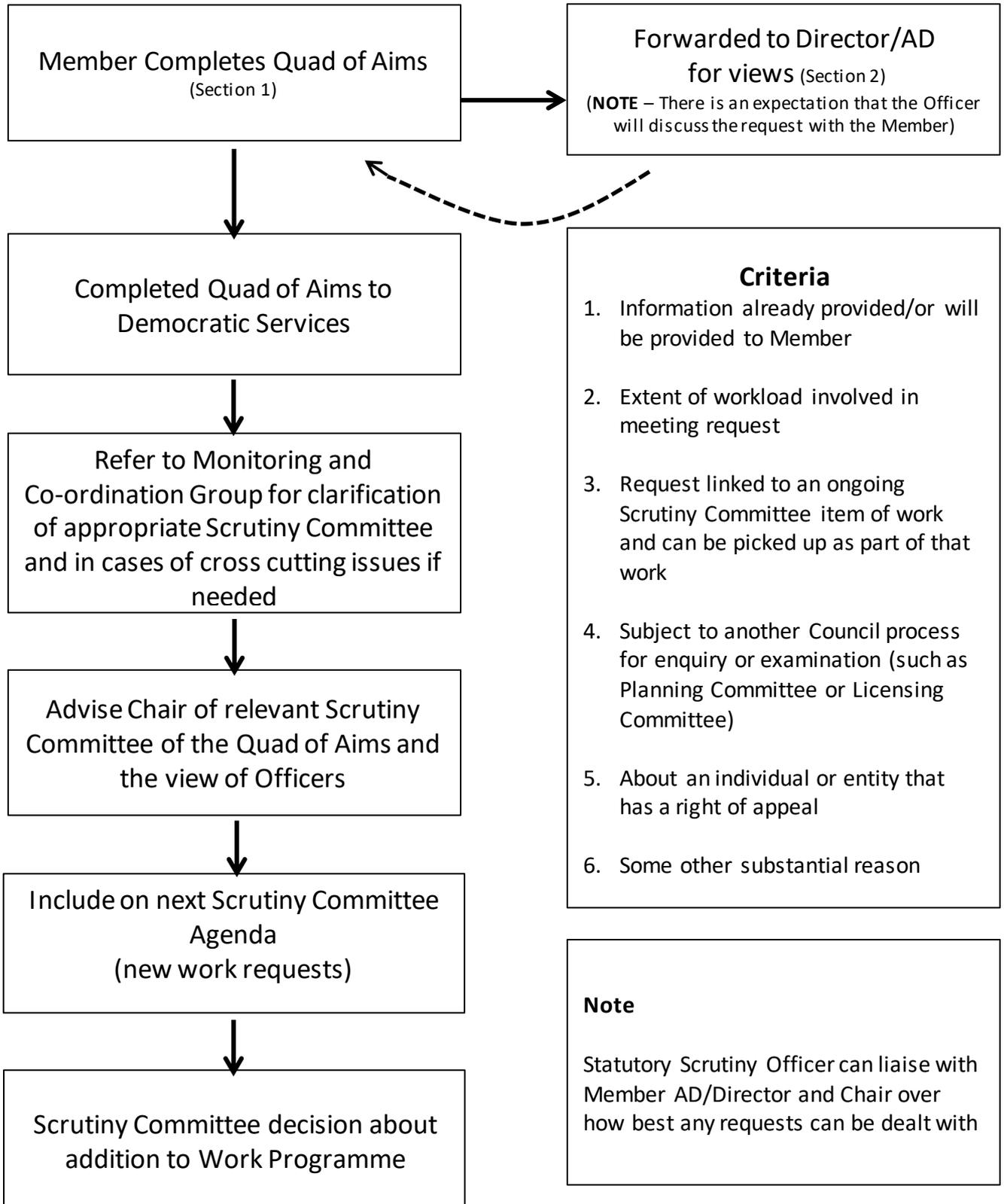
**FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE PERIOD: 3 JANUARY 2024 - 31 MAY 2024**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Council Plan Quarter Two	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Council Tax and Business Rates Recovery Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Council Tax and Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Delivery of New Homes at Blackwell - Joint Venture Proposal	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Discretionary Housing Payment Policy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Housing Services Climate Change Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Land at Central Park – Sale to Network Rail	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Maintained Schools Capital Programme - Summer 2024 and High Needs Capital	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Northern Echo Redevelopment	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Revised Climate Change Strategy	Cabinet 9 Jan 2024
Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings 2024/25	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Housing Revenue Account - Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2026/28	Council 15 Feb 2024
	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/25 to 2027/28	Council 15 Feb 2024
	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Proposed Acquisition of Leasehold Interest, East Street, Darlington	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy	Council 15 Feb 2024
	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Schedule of Transactions - January 2024	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Schools Admissions 2025/26	Cabinet 6 Feb 2024
Council Plan	Council 21 Mar 2024
	Cabinet 5 Mar 2024
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed	Cabinet 5 Mar 2024

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)	
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	Cabinet 5 Mar 2024
Local Transport Plan	Cabinet 5 Mar 2024
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 5 Mar 2024
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 5 Mar 2024
Annual Procurement Plan	Cabinet 9 Apr 2024
Housing Services Asset Management Strategy	Cabinet 7 May 2024
Housing Services Vulnerability Policy	Cabinet 7 May 2024
Revised Climate Change Action Plan	Council  Cabinet

### 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?

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)**

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

**Signed** ..... **Position** ..... **Date** .....

**PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

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