



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Adults Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am, Tuesday, 18 June 2024

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting
2. Appointment of Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/2025
3. Appointment of Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/2025
4. To consider the times of meetings of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/2025 on the dates agreed in the Calendar of Meetings by Cabinet at Minute C106/Feb/24
5. Declarations of Interest
6. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 16 April 2024 (Pages 3 - 6)
7. Work Programme 2024/25 – Report of the Assistant Director, Law and Governance (Pages 7 - 20)
8. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting.
9. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Monday, 10 June 2024

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Anderson, Crumbie, Donoghue, Layton, Mammolotti, M Nicholson, Renton, Storr, Toms and Tostevin

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Democratic and Elections Officer, Operations Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays

ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 16 April 2024

PRESENT – Councillors Crumbie (Chair), Anderson, Donoghue, Layton, Mammolotti, M Nicholson, Toms and Tostevin.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Renton and Storr.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Curry, Holroyd and Porter.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Joss Harbron (Assistant Director - Adult Social Care), Neil Bowerbank (Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications), Paul Dalton (Democratic and Elections Officer) and Olivia Hugill (Democratic Officer).

AD35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AD36 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2024

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 9 January 2024.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of this Committee held on 20 February 2024, be approved as a correct record.

AD37 SOCIAL CARE REFORMS - UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Adult Services, advised Members that there was no further update in relation to Darlington subsequent to the previous meeting, however Members were informed that Adult Services at Durham County Council had now received their inspection date from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and that Adult Services at Northumberland County Council and Gateshead Council had been contacted by the CQC for their self-assessment, with an inspection anticipated in September/October 2024.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

AD38 COUNCIL PLAN 2024-27 - DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

The Chief Officers Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to introduce the draft Council Plan to Members of this Scrutiny Committee and sought comments from Members.

The submitted report stated that the Council Plan outlined the long-term ambitions for Darlington and the priorities the Council sought to deliver over the forthcoming three years (2024-2027). It was highlighted that the Plan gave strategic direction to the Council, defined priorities and shaped delivery, whilst providing clarity to residents, businesses and stakeholders on the Council's values, what the Council identified as important and what the Council would do.

It was reported that the public consultation on the draft Plan was open and ran from 6 March 2024 to 25 April 2024, and that the Council was seeking views from residents, businesses, charities and key stakeholders. The submitted report stated that it was intended that the finalised Plan would be submitted to Cabinet and Council in May for approval and adoption. In introducing the report, the Portfolio Holder for Adults Services outlined the key aims for the 'Living Well' priority within the Plan.

Discussion ensued on the plans and strategies that underpin the Council Plan, and whether any relevant plans and strategies would be presented to this Committee. Members were keen to understand what performance measures were being drafted to enable them to scrutinise the work being undertaken to achieve the priorities identified within the Council Plan. More specifically, Members were keen to see more work undertaken to analyse the provider market and high cost care packages, and were interested to learn more about the support being offered around mental health.

Members wanted to ascertain how the consultation had been publicised more widely, and requested greater focus on improving the lives of the elderly and encouraging healthier lifestyles, both in terms of diet and physical wellbeing.

RESOLVED – That the draft Council Plan 2024-27 be noted.

AD39 ADULT SOCIAL CARE DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC TASK AND FINISH REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

The Assistant Director, Adult Services, submitted a report (previously circulated) which presented the final report of the Review of Adult Social Care during the Covid Pandemic Task and Finish Group, which had been established by this Scrutiny Committee on 20 April 2021.

The submitted report stated that, at a meeting of this Committee on 20 April 2021, Members had given consideration to a Quad of Aims submitted by Councillor Holroyd, and approved the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to ascertain how Adult Social Care services had coped during the Covid pandemic; how service users and their families felt about the services provided; and identify any changes needed in relation to future waves of coronavirus and associated restrictions or lockdowns, or any other future disease outbreak response. The final report of the Task and Finish Group was appended to the submitted report, alongside the notes of the meetings of the Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Holroyd attended this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, and provided a presentation which outlined the work of the Task and Finish Group, highlighting the methodology of the work undertaken, a summary of the findings, and the recommendations of the Group.

RESOLVED – That the work undertaken by the Review of Adult Social Care during the Covid Pandemic Task and Finish Group be recognised and endorsed.

AD40 WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

The Assistant Director, Law and Governance, submitted a report (previously circulated)

which requested that Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2023/24, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

RESOLVED – That the content of the report be noted.

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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
18 JUNE 2024**

WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 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 remainder of the Municipal Year, which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee in the last Municipal Year.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendations

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

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

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

Author: Paul Dalton

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
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

6. 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.
7. In addition, where appropriate, each topic links to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework (PMF) to provide robust and accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake. There are some topics where appropriate PMF indicators have not yet been identified however; these can be added as the work programme for each topic is developed.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

8. 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.
9. A copy of the index of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

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ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role / Notes
CQC Assurance Framework – Update	To be confirmed	Joss Harbron		
Commitment to Carers	To be confirmed	Carers Support		
Hospital Discharges - Update	To be confirmed	Barbara Beadle / Natalie Thompson, with CDDFT and TEWV		
Autism Strategy and Action Plan Update	To be confirmed	Jamie Tood and Dominic Gardener, TEWV and Martin Short and John Stamp, ICB		
Domestic Abuse	To be confirmed	Lorraine Hughes / Christine Shields		<p>To receive an overview to understand what actions the Council are taking in relation to the new legislation around coercive control, and to receive an overview of the Domestic Abuse Policy.</p> <p>(Deferred at the request of Officers whilst a Policy is drafted. Policy will be brought to Scrutiny at a future date for consultation. Permission granted by Chair).</p>
Care Homes in Executive Strategy Measures / Arrangements	27 th August 2024	Rachel Watt / Joss Harbron / Barbara Beadle		Recommendation from the 'Nursing Care Homes in Special Measures Task and Finish Group' – six monthly report to this Committee.

Safeguarding	27 th August 2024	Rachel Watt / Barbara Beadle		
Performance Indicators End of Year Report 2023/24	27 th August 2024	Joss Harbron / Sharon Raine / Wendy Excell	ASC 002 ASC 003 ASC 019 ASC 045 ASC 046 ASC 049 ASC 050 ASC 208 ASC 209 ASC 211	To monitor Key Performance Indicators. To receive six-monthly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2024/2025	22 nd October 2024	Joss Harbron / Sharon Raine / Wendy Excell	ASC 002 ASC 003 ASC 019 ASC 045 ASC 046 ASC 049 ASC 050 ASC 208 ASC 209 ASC 211	To monitor Key Performance Indicators. To receive six-monthly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Care Homes in Executive Strategy Measures / Arrangements	25 th February 2025	Rachel Watt / Joss Harbron / Barbara Beadle		Recommendation from the 'Nursing Care Homes in Special Measures Task and Finish Group' – six monthly report to this Committee.
Hoarding and Self-Neglect	25 th February 2025	Rachel Watt / Barbara Beadle		

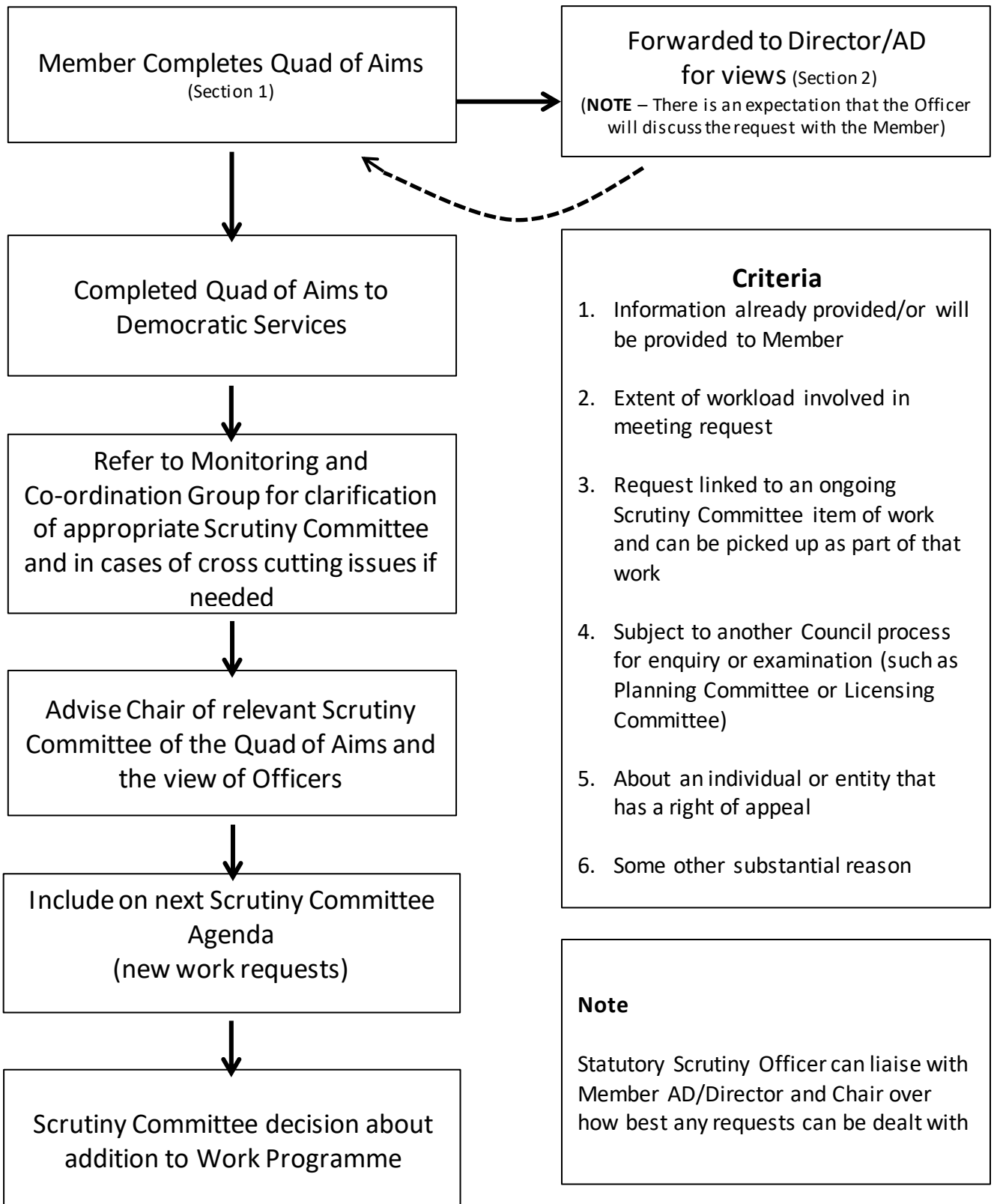
<p>Darlington Safeguarding Partnership - Annual Report</p>	<p>25th February 2025</p>	<p>Ann Baxter / Amanda Hugill</p>	<p>ASC 028 ASC 029 ASC 059 ASC 061 ASC 062 ASC 199 ASC 200 ASC 201 ASC 202 ASC 203 ASC 204 ASC 205 ASC 206 ASC 207 ASC 209 ASC 210 ASC 213 ASC 214</p>	<p>To consider the Annual Report on the work of the Board and to receive reassurance that adult safeguarding is being addressed and an effective approach is in place.</p> <p>To be advised of the key issues for the Board and funding.</p>
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Task and Finish Review Group(s)

- **‘Loneliness and Connected Communities’ Task and Finish Review Group** – To recommence in 2024/25.

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



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)**

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

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Signed **Position** **Date**

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

APPENDIX 3



**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 5 JUNE 2024 - 30 OCTOBER 2024**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Darlington Long Term Plan for Town Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Release of Education Capital Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Representation on Other Bodies 2024/25	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Schedule of Transactions - June 2024	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Wilkinsons Building Acquisition and Procurement of Development Partner	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2023-24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan	Council 25 Jul 2024
	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan Performance Report - Quarter Four	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Disabled Facilities Grant 2024/25	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Domestic Abuse Policy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Gas and Electrical Safety Policies 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Land at Faverdale / Burtree Garden Village 'Cell CH' Feasibility Work	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Public Consultation on Draft Appraisal for the Northgate Conservation Area including Proposed Boundary Extensions	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Climate Change	Council 26 Sep 2024
	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2023/24	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Proposed Middleton St George Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2023/2024	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Waste Collection Arrangements	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Air Quality Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet