



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00 am

Thursday, 24 October 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 the meeting of this Scrutiny held on 29 August 2024 (Pages 3 - 6)
4. Town Centre Events Programme – Report of the Assistant Director – Community Services. (Pages 7 - 40)
5. Environment Act 2021 - Household Waste Management Arrangements – Report of the Executive Director – Environment, Highways and Community Services. (Pages 41 - 64)
6. To receive the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee - 28 May 2024 (Pages 65 - 70)
7. Work Programme – Report of the Assistant Director, Law and Governance. (Pages 71 - 82)
8. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are

of an urgent nature and can be discussed at the meeting.

9. Questions

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

Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 16 October 2024

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

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

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Olivia Hugill, Democratic Officer, Operations Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays
email: olivia.hugill@darlington.gov.uk

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29 August 2024

PRESENT – Councillors McGill (Chair), Coe, Mrs Culley, Garner, Keir, M Nicholson, Snedker and Walters

APOLOGIES – Councillors Cossins and Mahmud,

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors McCollom and Dr. Riley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Olivia Hugill (Democratic Officer), Ian Thompson (Assistant Director Community Services), Andrew Casey (Head of Highway Network Management) and Steve Pryke (Head of Highway Operations and Building Construction)

CLS58 INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

CLS59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CLS60 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON 13 JUNE 2024

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 13 June 2024.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 13 June 2024 be approved as a correct record.

CLS61 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 4 2023/24

The Assistant Director Community Services, Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects and Acting Head of Community Safety submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with an update on performance against key performance indicators at Quarter 4 2023/24.

It was reported that of the 35 indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, 25 were reported six monthly. 31 of the 25 indicators reported have Quarter 4 (year-end) data which can be compared with the same period for 2022/23.

The submitted report gave the performance position in relation to the 31 indicators, of which 24 had increased when compared to the same period last year or from when last reported, whilst 7 had decreased when compared to the same period last year or from when last reported.

Members ensued into conversation around Fly-Tipping, how reports of large fly tipping have decreased but reports of small fly tipping has increased. Members wanted to understand what provision has been put in place for back alleys and rural areas. Members asked in cameras could be an appropriate action to stop the offences of Fly-Tipping. Members wanted

the Committee to send a letter of recommendation to Magistrates supporting the idea to raise the fixed penalty fine.

Members discussed the percentage of principal roads where maintenance should be considered and how on the narrative that a Scanner Vehicle had previously been used, which now a Visual Annual Engineering Inspection now takes place instead. Members wanted clarification on what this process is and asked questions around roads within their wards.

Members discussed the punctuality of buses in Darlington and wanted to understand the main reasons behind this. Members have requested that an invitation for Arriva to attend this Scrutiny Committee would be a sustainable way to understand the issues further.

Conversation then ensued around the incidents and accidents in road traffic accidents, Members have urged for data to be received around speed monitoring in Darlington. Members were reassured that the date is forthcoming.

RESOLVED – That the contents of this report be noted.

CLS62 STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with information on the spend and use of the Stronger Communities Fund during the 2023/2024 financial year.

The submitted report stated that Cabinet agreed the establishment of the Stronger Communities Fund in April 2021, allocating each Councillor £1,000 to deliver the objectives of the fund; and reference was made to the final spend against the £50,000 for the 2023/2024 financial year, together with information on what had been delivered in wards on an individual Councillor basis.

The report included the remaining unspent fund which totalled to £3700.30 being reclaimed by the Council.

It was reported that this Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 11 January 2023, supported the continuation of the pilot scheme in the 2024/25 financial year; reference was made to the agreement which members were required to enter into regarding the use of the funds; and that the agreement for 2024/25 specifically required Members to consider whether the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Members applies and to declare any potential declarations of interest within the signed agreement. Regarding the Scheme for this financial year it has been agreed that all applications will be approved by the Monitoring Officer.

Discussion ensued around the encouragement of all Councillors to use the full amount of the Stronger Community Fund for this year.

RESOLVED – Members noted the final spend for the 2023/24 financial year.

CLS63 WORK PROGRAMME

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

It was mentioned that another item is to be added to the Work Programme once discussed further.

RESOLVED - That Members note the current Work Programme.

CLS64 SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (IF ANY) WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE OF AN URGENT NATURE AND CAN BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING.

CLS65 QUESTIONS

This page is intentionally left blank

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 OCTOBER 2024**

TOWN CENTRE EVENTS PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview to members of the Town Centre Events Programme.

Summary

2. A Review of 2024 events to demonstrate the variety and quantity of animation delivered by the events team in Darlington throughout the year, and the impact events have on Darlington's businesses and visitors

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that
 - (a) Members receive the update on the 2024 events programme and impact on town centre.

Ian Thompson
Assistant Director – Community Services

Background Papers

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

Author: Alex Nicholson:07788 353 397

Council Plan	The Events and Animation programme has a positive impact on a number of the Council’s priorities; in particular, the Economy, Living Well, Communities and Local Environment.
Addressing inequalities	The town centre events programme offers a collection of free and accessible events so all persons can attend and enjoy.
Tackling Climate Change	The events programme works alongside the sustainability team to ensure events are as low carbon as possible with lots of infrastructure in stock to re-use at every event. Local artists and businesses are used where possible to ensure limited travel to events.
Efficient and effective use of resources	Budgets are closely monitored and spend as efficiently as possible to ensure maximum impact and delivery for best possible costs. We strive to produce and deliver our events to be family friendly and not over-priced, using local businesses and artists and programming relevant activity for our audiences.
Health and Wellbeing	Events can have a positive impact on Health and Wellbeing. Events like the 10K, Move More Days, Dance Festival encourage movement. Free music events for well-being and appeal to a variety of socio-economic audiences. Crafts, science and art activities to encourage learning, intergenerational interactions and enjoyment.
S17 Crime and Disorder	Purple Flag Awarded for Safe Evening Economy. Cultural activities can have a positive impact on crime and disorder by engaging individuals in positive activity.
Wards Affected	People from all wards are welcome to all town centre events.
Groups Affected	All people can attend events in Darlington
Budget and Policy Framework	No impact
Key Decision	This report is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This report is not an urgent decision
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No impact

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

4. Throughout 2024 the events team have programmed and delivered a wide variety of animation and events. The aim of the programme is to welcome visitors to the town centre, supporting visitor footfall and dwell time, community engagement and entertainment. All events are programmed to be accessible and welcoming, to ensure visitors feel comfortable to visit and experience these events in Darlington. The team find that the events have developed a reputation of being family-friendly and attract many visitors.

5. The programme has continued to expand and adapt to requirements, encouraging a longer dwell time and exploration of the town centre, with trails, animation and characters around the town centre. More cultural and music genres have been added in 2024 to produce events aimed at new audiences.

Impact of events on Darlington for businesses and visitors

6. The impact of bringing this footfall into Darlington showcases the town centre as a safe and welcoming place to visit; positive experiences from attending events results in repeat visits into Darlington, supported by data attached at **Appendix 1**.
7. Darlington has developed a strong reputation for hosting enjoyable events that are free to attend, ensuring that all demographics are able to access these days. The programme aims to offer diverse, cultural and family friendly events. Diwali was programmed for the first time in November 2023 with a fantastic response and thousands of visitors coming to take part and enjoy. The next Diwali event will be held on Saturday 26 October working with the Indian Cultural Society, Navrang Arts, Punjabi Roots and popular local business, Babul's, building on last year's success to develop the event further for 2024. Connections with the local community, schools and town centre businesses allows the team to create events with more impact and success.
8. Darlington by the Sea offers some children their first opportunity to play in the sand. Families who may not otherwise be able to financially support day trips to the seaside are able to give their children memories and opportunities to play and enjoy, which is evident in the visuals attached at **Appendix 2**.
9. Listening to feedback from town centre businesses, the team have developed town centre animation events to encourage visitors to move around the town centre. Events include Dinosaur Day, Legends and Fairytales, Vintage Car Rally and Ice Sculpture Trails. The team continue to build on these events each year, encouraging repeat visitors, with range of activities for children, including costume events and trails to explore, facilitating movement around different parts of the town and finding new shops.
10. As the events programme evolves, an increasing number of businesses are getting involved to their benefit. The team also aim to programme events on non-payday weekends, attracting people into Darlington, which anecdotal feedback from businesses suggests results in an increase in visitors during less profitable weeks, leading to an increase in secondary spend in shops and cafes supporting the high street. The hospitality bars trialled a new Groovefest weekend of disco, soul and Motown themed music, similar format to the Rhythm and Tunes Weekend. This was venue-based and worked well, so will be considered as part of the development of the 2025 programme and may add a further genre of music weekend into the diary.
11. The programme is continually reviewed, with the team assessing what works well, to develop and deliver for the future. The addition of a marquee this summer allowed for more events to be programmed and continue despite periods of inclement weather.
12. During the autumn/winter months, the team try to offer more animation that is located indoors within the shopping centres, Dolphin Centre and Market Hall to ensure the activities are not affected.

13. The team worked hard to attract sponsorship for the event programme in 2023/2024, attracting a total of £40,160 so far in total sponsorship. Sponsors have included: Freeman Johnson Solicitors, Cummins, Rington's, HC One, PFC, Public Health, Arriva, EE, Durham PCC, Hays Travel, Northumbrian Water, Railpen, Student Loans, Sainsbury's, Darlington Building Society, Darlington College, The Cornmill Shopping, Queen Street Shopping, DL1, Arriva, Hinson Security and TFM Radio.
14. The budget is £196,000 which includes the event direct costs, infrastructure and staffing.
15. Inflationary and additional costs associated with running safe events has increased and this will mean the programme for 2025 will need to be reviewed and developed to absorb these costs within the approved events programme budget that will be set by Council.

2025 Proposed programme of events in Darlington

16. The proposed 2025 programme will be developed over the coming months and learn from the 2024 programme. There will be adaptations to reflect the increased costs in delivering events and will need to be delivered within the budget set for events by Council. This will include developing stronger relationships with businesses and working with Council teams to support with their engagement opportunities.
17. 2025 is a special year for Darlington and in addition to the events programme there will a complementary programme of events to mark the Bicentenary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (S&DR 200). Events will include a Ghost Train Procession on Saturday 20 September 2025 and the recreation of the first passenger railway journey on Saturday 27 September 2025 across the Skerne Bridge at Hopetown.
18. S&DR200 is a 9-month international festival taking place across County Durham and Tees Valley in 2025, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first journey on the Stockton and Darlington Railway (S&DR). This 26-mile journey on the S&DR between Shildon and Stockton via Darlington on 27 September 1825 transformed how the world traded, travelled, and communicated. The S&DR200 Festival will present a series of free large-scale outdoor spectacles, events, exhibitions and new art commissions in the public spaces, libraries and world-class museums of County Durham and Tees Valley from March to November 2025.

APPENDIX 1

		Event day total town centre footfall count (Springboard data)	Increase in average daily footfall count*	Audience Type	Weather**	Average Daily Footfall count - for same day as event (See note below***)
Halloween 31st October 2023	31/10/2023	40977	6051	families all ages		34926
Diwali 11th November 2023	11/11/2023	65581	11865	Indian and cultural families	Evening, quite fine weather	53716
Christmas Lights 19th November 2023	19/11/2023	46929	19674	families all ages	damp and drizzly	27255
Ice Sculpture Trail	09/12/2023	59159	5443	families all ages	damp and drizzly	53716
Chinese New Year**	10/02/2024	44772	-8944	chinese cultural and families	cold, foggy, damp and grey	53716
Superhero Saturday	16/03/2024	55874	2158	families younger	cool, bright spring morning.	53716
Motorsports Day	27/04/2024	48038	-5678	men, families	grey, wet and cloudy	53716
Tractor Tuesday	28/05/2024	37065	2139	families and grandparents	very wet	34926
Eco Fair	08/06/2024	59347	5631	All ages - family, adults	sunshine breezy	53716
Tour of Britain Circuit	21/06/2024	63107	20336	adult audiences	cloudy with sunny spells	42771
World Cultural Event	13/07/2024	58134	4418	families from variety of cultures, school performances, local musicians	very wet	53716
GOLD Tea Dance	17/07/2024	42514	7396	older age range 60yrs +	cloudy with sunny spells	35118
Vintage Car Rally	20/07/2024	68804	15088	men, families, enthusiasts	cloudy but dry	53716
Darlington by the Sea	24/07/2024	44348	9230	families and friends	cloudy with sunny spells	35118
	25/07/2024	46217	9440	families and friends	cloudy with sunny spells	36777
	26/07/2024	56450	13679	families and friends	cloudy with sunny spells	42771
	27/07/2024	55087	1371	families and friends	cloudy with sunny spells	53716
	28/07/2024	36277	9022	families and friends	cloudy with sunny spells	27255
Voices of Darlington	31/07/2024	45107	9989	Voices of Darlington members, families and visitors	cloudy with sunny spells	35118
The Forum Country Music	02/08/2024	53091	10320	Country music fans, 45yrs + main demographic	light rain	42771
Darlington 10K	04/08/2024	47186	19931	Runners with their families all ages including little children for fun run	grey - good running weather	27255
Move More Day	05/08/2024	44658	8398	primary age families		36260
Library Takeover	07/08/2024	35666	548	toddlers, primary children and family	DAY RIOT / PROTEST WAS PLANNED LOTS OF POLICE	35118
Pride	10/08/2024	74468	20752	LGBTQ+, families and friends all demographics	DAY RIOT / PROTEST WAS PLANNED LOTS OF POLICE	53716

Making Sense Together	15/08/2024	40023	3246	Special needs and neurodivergent families, adults with learning difficulties and disabilities.	very damp and grey	36777
Move More Day	19/08/2024	42397	6137	primary age families		36260
S&D Community Day	20/08/2024	39149	4223	enthusiasts, families		34926
Legends and Fairytales	22/08/2024	48643	11866	families, repeat visitors, move around town	grey and damp	36777
Food & Drink Friday	23/08/2024	51042	8271			42771
Food & Drink Saturday	24/08/2024	59428	5712			53716
Food & Drink Sunday	25/08/2024	31943	4688			27255
Food & Drink Monday	26/08/2024	36302	42			36260
Dinosaur Day	29/08/2024	51343	14566	families, repeat visitors, move around town	sunshine breezy	36777
Forum Freshers Event	30/08/2024	55911	13140	teenage audiences for the bands plus parents and adults	Grey	42771
Misfits Market	31/08/2024	67448	13732	misfits demographic audiences, families, adults specialist for Misfits and event visitors	sunny	53716
Misfits Market	01/09/2024	26985	-270	misfits demographic audiences, families, adults specialist for Misfits and event visitors	very grey and damp	27255
R&T Weekend	14/09/2024	55610	1894	adult audience demographic 45yrs, couples, and groups, music enthusiasts	cloudy with sunny spells	53716
R&T Weekend	15/09/2024	32371	5116	adult audience demographic 45yrs, couples, and groups, music enthusiasts	cloudy with sunny spells	27255

***How the increase in average daily footfall is calculated**

***The increase in footfall on event day is calculated as the difference between columns C and G.**

**** Note - the weather can have a significant impact on attendances, positive or negative.**

*** **This figure represents the average daily footfall count of a 'typical day' e.g. Halloween took place on a Tuesday, therefore figure represents the footfall**

Darlington 2023-24 Events Overview

Alex Nicholson

Town Centre Partnership & Events Manager

Page 13



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Halloween Tuesday 31st October 2023

- Town Centre Animation to move visitors around the town centre
- Increase in footfall of 3026



NEW EVENT

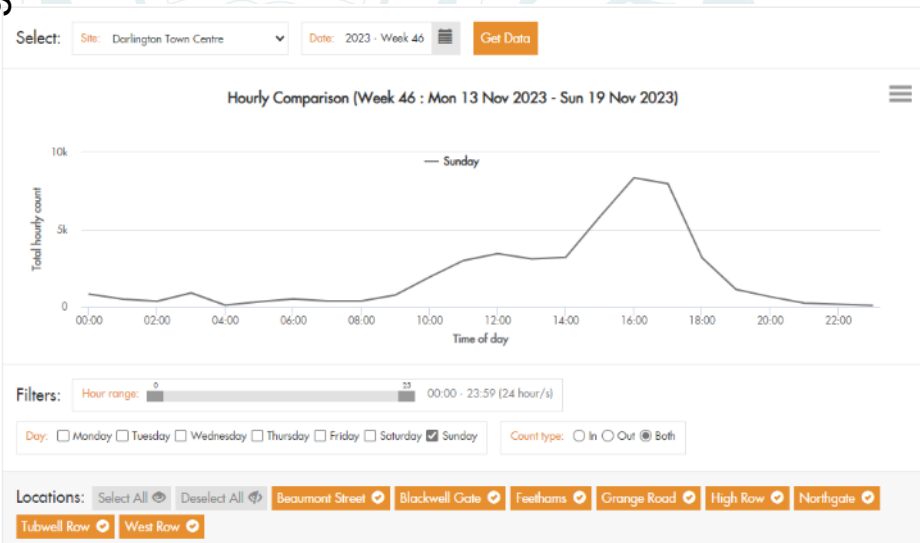
Diwali Saturday 11th November 2023

- Cultural Event
- Attracted the Indian Communities into the town centre
- Footfall up by 5933 on average Saturday
- Weather was good
- Lots of school children, families engaged and joined the event
- Local dancers performing
- Babuls involved and joining for 2024



Christmas Lights Switch On Sunday 19th November 2023

- Town Centre Animation
- Family audience all ages
- Footfall increase of 9837
- Weather was damp and drizzly
- Roundtable Santa's Sleigh
- St Cuthbert's Choir
- Sunday evening event



Ice Sculpture Trail Saturday 9th December 2023

- Town Centre Animation moving people around centre
- Family audience all ages follow the trail
- Reduced back down to one day following COVID
- Weather damp and drizzly
- Sculptures sponsored by local businesses



NEW EVENT

Chinese New Year Celebrations

- Cultural Event
- Family audience all ages
- Weather was very cold and foggy
- Local artist activities
- Dance workshops Dolphin Centre x 200
- TAO and Sing Tea Business support
- Storytelling and crafts in library



NEW EVENT

Superheroes Day 16th March

- Town Centre Animation to move visitors around the town centre
- Family audience
- Cold and sunny spring day
- Located around town centre
- Drop-in activities and meet and greet characters



NEW EVENT

Motorsports Day – organised by local enthusiasts

- Town Centre Animation mainly market square
- Specialist motorsports groups exhibition
- Audience demographic more men with children
- Weather damp, grey with sunny spells
- Organised by Motorsports enthusiasts



Groovfest Weekend May 2024

- 25+ venues booked bands to perform with a Soul, Disco, Motown Theme
- Events team created and promoted the programme
- Booked in mid-month to attract footfall
- The venues want to programme again for 2025
- Indoor and outdoor performance locations
- Venues booked own performers
- 2024 was a trial idea which are looking to build on for 2025
- Weather was one of the sunniest weekends of 2024
- May look to add another music genre weekend in a later month



Tractor Tuesday– June 2024

- Family attraction in May half term
- Collection of tractors and ride on tractors
- Grandparents, parents and childminders with children 0-10yrs
- Timed tractor ride on times to accommodate neurodivergent children
- Weather very wet, rainy and cold
- Visitors dressed for the weather
- Sponsored by Lloyds Ltd
- Fostering Team attended with engagement activities



NEW EVENT

Eco Fair – June 2024

- Promoting sustainable living and eco products
- Approximate footfall – 5000 through the marquee
- Families, adults, all types of visitors
- Climate Change Focus
- Event in marquee rather than Dolphin Centre
- Weather sunshine and breezy
- Supported by Cummins
- Excellent feedback from exhibitors
- Activities in town centre locations
- Science and STEM activities
- Long dwell time for visitors
- Local exhibitors and information stands

Page 24



Emergency Services Day

- Attendance by emergency services
- Returning visitors
- Minimal cost output
- Young families are key audiences
- Visit an ambulance, meet a policeman, get close to fire engines
- Very well attended
- Lovely weather
- Sponsored by Freeman Johnson Solicitors



Proms in the Park– July 2024

- South Park Event
- Inclement weather
- Royal Signals (Northern) Band
- In aid of the Army Benevolent Fund
- Cadets raising money
- Schools performing
- Regular, returning visitor audience



GOLD Tea Dance– July 2024

- Over 60 years demographic
- Social interactions
- Footfall 3000+
- Information stalls and live music and dancing
- Weather cloudy with sunny spells
- Tea and scones served
- Sponsored by HC One
- Supported by Princes Trust Team
- Organised alongside GOLD and CAB
- Texas Toe Tapper local dance group performance
- Care home group visits
- Ringtons provide tea, coffee and biscuits
- Scones baked by Dolphin Centre



Vintage Car Rally

- Organised to attract people to the town centre
- 185+ vehicles on display
- Supported with Rotary marshalls
- Footfall 8000
- Fills whole town centre
- Returning and new visitors
- Great feedback and coverage
- Weather inclement



World Cultural Day– July 2024

- Social interactions
- Live music and dancing from local communities
- Lots of families visited to watch their children performing
- Schools engaged and performed and exhibited
- Variety of musicians and performers
- Community groups joined the event
- Weather was very wet, great and miserable
- Would like more engagement for 2025 from more communities
- Interest from Cummins to be involved
- Market hall stage

Page 29



Love Darlo is at Darlington Town Centre.
13 July · Darlington · 🌐

WORLD CULTURAL DAY
Saturday 13th July
🕒 11am - 5:15pm

🌍 Celebrate the world with music, dances and activities from across the globe in Darlington town centre

- 🎸 Andrew Clegg Flamenco Guitar
🕒 11am - 11:45am
📍 Clarks Yard
- 🎸 Andrew Clegg Flamenco Guitar
🕒 12:15pm - 1:30pm
📍 Blackwellgate

📍 Market Square Stage

- 🥁 RV Narang with Punjabi Dhol Drum (11am - 11:45am)
- 🎭 School performances from Reid Street, Corporation Road and St Aildans (11:45am - 12:15pm)
- 🎭 Darlington Operatic Society (Made in Dagenham Preview) (12:15pm - 12:45pm)
- 🎭 Classical Bharat Natyam dancer from Tamil Nadu in India (1pm - 1:45pm)
- 🎭 Navrang Arts (Bollywood Dancing) (1:45pm - 2:15pm)
- 🎭 Beshia (Steelpan) (2:15pm - 3pm)
- 🎭 Inna and Katie (Ukrainian Singers) (3:15pm - 3:45pm)
- 🎭 Breeze George (Bollywood Dancing) (3:45pm - 4:30pm)
- 🧀 Big Cheese, West Brook - Tampa Florida (4:30pm - 5:15pm)

📍 Market Hall Stage

- 🎭 Mamba Rumba (11am - 11:45am)
- 🎭 Beshia (Steelpan) (12pm - 12:45pm)
- 🎭 Cherie D'Avino (Italian Singer/Songwriter) (1pm - 1:45pm)
- 🎭 Mamba Rumba (2pm - 2:45pm)
- 🎭 World Music Interlude (3pm - 3:45pm)
- 🎭 Inna and Katie (Ukrainian Singers) (4:15pm - 4:45pm)

📍 There will also be a series of activities in the Market Square including:

- 🎭 Pop-up stalls with the Ukrainian community
- 🎭 Babuls - samples and tasters of their cuisine
- 🎭 Polam School - A taste of Polam (11am - 1pm)
- 🎭 Firgun Education Colouring and Activities
- 🎭 Rotary International Display

🎭 African drumming workshops will be taking place in The Dolphin Centre, suitable for children aged five years and over

📍 Places are free and can be pre-booked via the Eventbrite website

🌐 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../world-cultural-day...>



Darlington by the Sea– July 2024

- Increased to 5 days to include weekend
- Families visit and stay most of the day as many children haven't been to the beach
- Returning families
- Mixture of ages of children mainly up to 10 years all playing together
- Entertainment to engage
- S&DR engagements
- Arriva Sponsored some activity



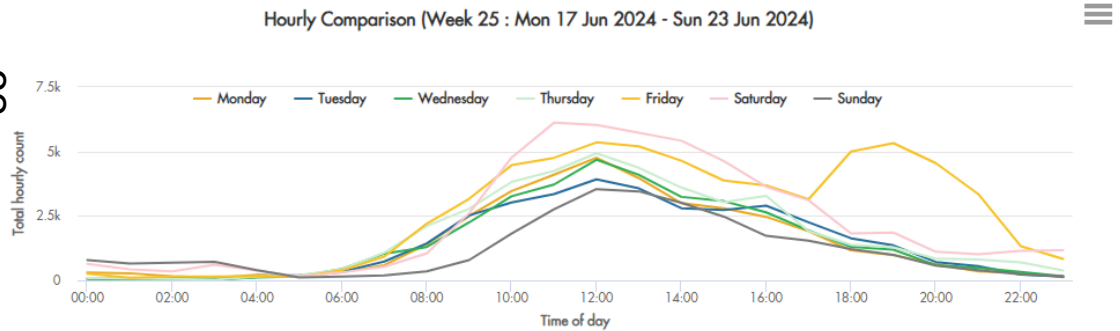
Move More Mondays

- Hosted and planned by the HAF Team
- Activity and sports to engage
- Weather cloudy
- 2000+ each day
- X3 dates scheduled during 2024 April (Easter) and August (Summer)
- 0-13 yrs children are main demographic with their parents/grandparents
- Additional local organisations attended – S&DR, 0-19 Nursing teams



NEW British Cycling 2024 x 2 Events Circuit Race Friday Evening

- National event
- TVCA Supported
- ITV4 Live coverage of Tour
- Welcomed visitors to sporting event
- Great atmosphere
- Worked closely with taxis and bus companies for smooth bus stop relocation
- Big audiences for new events.



Filters: Hour range: 0 to 23 00:00 - 23:59 (24 hour/s)

Day: Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Count type: In Out Both

21st June 2024	63,107
Last week	46,116
Last year	43,651
2 years ago	45,525



Darlington 10K 2024

- 1992 entries to 10K Race
- Great reviews
- Movement and public health support
- Regional audience of runner
- Local and regional running groups
- Family Fun Run and Junior 3K
- Crowd participation and encouragement around the route



Page 33



Pride August 2024

- Town centre programme
- Supported by Durham Constabulary, the Durham PCC, HC One, Cummins, EE, Sainsburys
- LGBTQ+ theme event
- Dry and sunny
- Footfall 10,376 higher than average Saturday
- Pride march around town centre



Page 34



Making Sense Together

- Specifically programmed for neurodivergent families
- Attracts target audience who loved this specialist event
- Sensory activities, space to explore, information stalls and organisations like the parent carer forum.
- Accessible welcome pack was created and shared via the organisations and their contacts in advance of the event.
- Providing a less formal event for parents to engage with organisations
- Very grey and damp day
- Well received
- 2023 Commissioning Team funded the event



Legends and Fairytales 3rd Year

- One day of fairytale character meet and greet locations around town centre
- Performance on the stage for audiences
- Children arrive in costumes
- Footfall
- Returning customers, family audience
- Dwell time in the town centre
- Organisations attend to engage with the audiences including Fostering Team, S&DR, 0-19 Nurses also added local businesses – pamper parties, crown making, teepee parties
- Excellent engagement for those who attended
- Weather grey



Dinosaur Day 3rd Year

- One day of dinosaur walkabouts around town centre
- Performance on the stage for audiences
- Meet and Greet locations to encourage movement around the town
- Footfall up 7283 on average Thursday
- Returning customers, family audience
- Dwell time in the town centre
- Organisations attend to engage with the audiences including Fostering Team, S&DR, 0-19 Nurses.
- Weather sunny spells



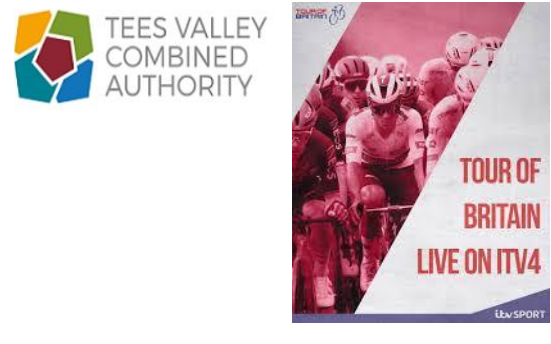
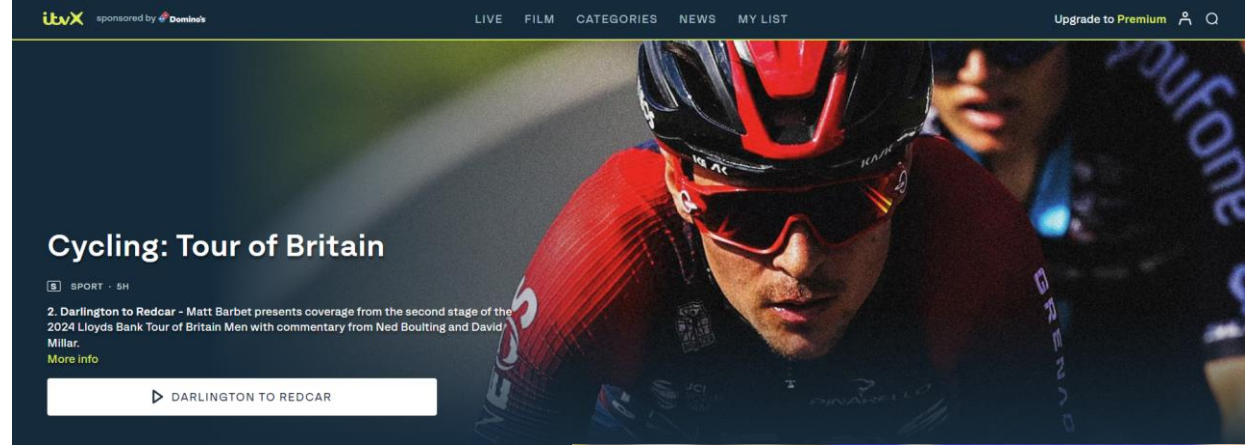
Misfits Mega Market 2 days

- Organised by local independent retailer Rage & Love who already organise the monthly event in market hall.
- New audiences welcomed
- Footfall 6866 higher than Saturday average
- Saturday – sunny and lovely weather
- Traders and exhibitors SOLD OUT of product ranges
- Music, exhibitors were programmed



NEW British Cycling 2024 x 2 Events Start of Stage 2 Men's Race Wednesday morning

- National event
- TVCA Supported
- ITV4 Live coverage of Tour
- Welcomed visitors to sporting event
- Great atmosphere
- Olympians taking part in the race
- Worked closely with taxis and bus companies for smooth bus stop relocation
- Big audiences for new events.



Rhythm and Tunes Weekend

- 20+ venues booked bands to perform
- 25-30 rooms specifically booked at Premier Inn for Blockheads Band (More hotel stay information to be requested)
- DL1 Complex hosted bands on the plaza attracting audiences of around 300 persons at one time – full afternoon of programme.
- Visitors follow the booklet to visit bands performing
- Main stage finishes at 5pm to feed audiences into venues
- Exceptionally busy
- 45yrs + main age range, adults more male audience, music enthusiasts
- One group have been coming from Wrexham for over 8 years
- Groups travel from across the region for this event
- Venues very busy



**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 OCTOBER 2024**

ENVIRONMENT ACT 2021 – HOUSEHOLD WASTE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to outline to scrutiny Members the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 and to provide details on the development of a new statutory weekly food waste collection service.

Summary

2. The Environment Act 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act') has a broad remit to improve air and water quality, protect wildlife and increase recycling and reduce plastic waste. This report provides an overview on the requirements of the Act in relation to waste management and focusses on the requirement to introduce a weekly food waste collection service by April 2026.
3. The main requirements of the Act are:
 - (a) **Food Waste Collection:** from March 2026, local authorities have to collect food waste weekly from all residential properties.
 - (b) **Simpler Recycling:** new Simpler Recycling collections will be introduced with the aim to produce standardisation. This will be applied to local authorities and businesses over the coming years.
 - (c) **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** this element of the Act places the responsibility onto packaging producers to cover the full net cost of dealing with the packaging they place on the market.
 - (d) **Deposit Return Scheme:** will be operational from October 2027 where individuals can return polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, steel, and aluminium cans from 150ml to 3L in size and will receive a refund on the deposit paid. Supermarkets and convenience stores to act as return points.
4. The main report provides more information on the above requirements of the Act.

Food Waste Collection

5. The Council will have to provide residents with the facility to recycle food waste and have it collected weekly from their property.

6. The report outlines the current household waste management arrangements and what actions the Council needs to consider to introduce the weekly food waste collection service.
7. To assist in developing a service the waste composition from refuse has been analysed to understand the volumes and food types that are disposed of currently. There has also been a review of best practice and performance undertaken on authorities already operating a food waste collection and we have engaged the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to inform options for the service.
8. Best practice from Authorities that have been operating food waste collection for a number of years suggests providing a 5-litre or 7-litre internal kitchen caddy and a 23-litre external bin for food waste provides the best arrangement and yield performance.
9. Given the nature of food waste, the provision of compostable caddy liners to manage the food waste within Caddies is also shown to yield better uptake of recycling.
10. There are a number of options on how the food waste could be collected from the properties by the Council and these are presented in the main report. The options compare the cost and performance in terms of recycling activity.
11. The final report to Cabinet and potentially Council will need to recommend an option depending on a range of factors including affordability. Officers are not able to recommend an option at this stage as Government have not provided an indication of how much funding will be provided to develop and deliver the service. The cost of introducing the new requirements was anticipated to be from New Burdens funding from Government, which would mean a cost neutral impact on the Council Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). However, indications are that the funding allocation may not be sufficient to cover costs and, as such, the implications of options need to be considered carefully as they have the potential to add pressure into the MTFP.
12. Officers are progressing preparations where possible but procurement exercises will need to be progressed for equipment and vehicles and there will be additional requirements to manage vehicles and waste management services.
13. There will also need to be a procurement exercise for a provider to treat the waste. Collaborative procurements with other Authorities will be undertaken where practical and possible.
14. The new service will require additional staff as outlined in the main report and a staff recruitment process and training programme will be put in place. There will also be a need to develop a communication and implementation strategy with residents to ensure they are aware of the new requirements to ensure recycling is maximised.
15. The Government have set a deadline of April 2026 for the scheme to be introduced, which is extremely challenging. The Council is preparing for the introduction of the service but cannot make final decisions on options and commit to procurements until final guidance and funding details are provided. Therefore, whilst every effort is being made to progress arrangements there is a risk that the scheme may not be operational by April 2026 given the procurements, lead-in times and processes that need to take place.

Recommendations

16. It is recommended that the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the content of this report and provide feedback to Cabinet to be considered in the development of final proposals.
17. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) To provide information to Members on the requirements of a new food waste collection service as required by the Environment Act 2021 and the issues and risks currently being managed in the development of a weekly food waste collection service.

Dave Winstanley
Executive Director – Environment, Highways and Community Services

Background Papers

Composition Analysis of Darlington Kerbside Residual Waste report.

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) report - An Assessment of Alternative Household Waste Collection Services Design

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) - Darlington Borough Council Benchmarking Report

Ian Thompson: Extension 6628

Council Plan	A positive impact on the core principle of tackling climate change and the Local Environment priority is anticipated by managing waste more sustainably.
Addressing inequalities	There is no adverse impact on diversity as a result of this report. Assisted collections will still be available.
Tackling Climate Change	A high-level assessment of the impact on carbon emissions has been carried out on the different options within this report and presented for members to consider.
Efficient and effective use of resources	To be completed depending on option.
Health and Wellbeing	Collecting and disposing of waste more sustainably has a positive impact on residents' health and wellbeing.
S17 Crime and Disorder	There is no direct impact on crime and disorder resulting from the recommendations of this report. However, there is an indirect impact if refuse and recycling is not collected on regular basis.
Wards Affected	All wards
Groups Affected	There is no impact on any particular group as a result of this report.
Budget and Policy Framework	The impact on budget has yet to be determined. This will be confirmed when the transitional and revenue funding for the implementation of a weekly food waste collection service is provided by Government.
Key Decision	Yes – affects all wards.
Urgent Decision	No
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

18. The main requirements of the Act with regards to waste management introduce the following aspects:
- (a) Statutory Food Waste Collection
 - (b) Simpler Recycling
 - (c) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
 - (d) A Deposit Return Scheme

Food Waste Collections

19. From the end of March 2026, local authorities must collect food waste weekly from all residential properties, unless transitional arrangements have previously been agreed. The analysis and options for providing this new service are detailed later in the report. The date for Darlington to implement this service is 31 March 2026.

Simpler Recycling

20. New 'Simpler Recycling' collections will be introduced with the aim to produce standardisation with the same materials: plastic, metal, glass, paper, card, food waste and garden waste (a charge can be applied for collection of garden waste) collected from homes, workplaces and schools.
21. These changes were introduced in the government's response on 21 October 2023, which also included the following key proposals:
- (a) Subject to consultation, Waste Collection Authorities can co-collect dry recyclables without the need to submit a written assessment.
 - (b) Subject to consultation, a requirement that Waste Collection Authorities collect residual waste at least fortnightly, if not more frequently, to protect local amenities and prevent unintended consequences of cutting residual waste frequency.
22. The above proposals were subsequently included in a private consultation with local authorities earlier this year. The new government is expected to either confirm or amend the above proposals in the form of Statutory Guidance which local authorities are required to have regard to. At the time of writing this report, the above proposals have not been confirmed or set out in regulations.
23. The Environment Act 2021 also places requirements on businesses as well as local authorities. Timescales for implementing the various requirements are as follows.
- (a) By 31 March 2025, businesses, and non-domestic premises (except micro-firms - businesses and non-domestic premises with less than 10 full-time equivalent employees), will be required to recycle all recyclable waste streams: metal, glass, plastic, paper, card, and food waste (excluding garden waste and plastic film).

- (b) By 31 March 2026, local authorities will be required to collect all six recyclable waste streams (excluding plastic film), from all households. Local authorities must collect food waste weekly (except where a transitional arrangement applies, affected local authorities will have a later implementation date set in regulations). The date for Darlington is 31 March 2026.
- (c) By 31 March 2027, micro-firms (businesses and non-domestic premises with less than 10 full-time equivalent employees) will be required to recycle all recyclable waste streams (excluding garden waste). Plastic film collections from all households, businesses and non-domestic premises will also begin.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- 24. This element of the Act places the responsibility onto packaging producers to cover the full net cost of dealing with the packaging they place on the market.
- 25. Local authorities will receive payments from 2025/26 and will be notified in spring 2025 what that payment will be for any packaging they collect; whilst it has not been confirmed, this is unlikely to be new money.
- 26. There will be a scheme regulator appointed to manage the scheme who will also carry out an assessment of a local authority's recycling service based on the efficiency and effectiveness of the service. The criteria for the assessing efficiency and effectiveness have not been agreed to date. However, from 2027/28 a deduction of the payment to local authorities can be imposed if falling below the required benchmark. The maximum deduction will be 20%.

Deposit Return Scheme

- 27. The scheme will be operational from October 2027 where individuals can return polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, steel, and aluminum cans from 150ml to 3L in size and will receive a refund on the deposit paid. Supermarkets and convenience stores will act as return points.

Review of existing Waste Management Services to meet the requirements of the Act

- 28. The requirements of the Act and the provision of a food waste collection service for residents will have implications for the Borough's local waste management. The following section of the report outlines the current arrangements and what will be necessary to meet the requirements of the Act.

Existing Services

29. As background information, the following provides Members with an overview of the current waste management services.
- (a) There are five fortnightly residual waste collection service rounds across the Borough using a 240L wheeled bin (larger 360L bin for larger households).
 - (b) There are six fortnightly dry recycling collection service rounds across the Borough collecting paper, card, glass, plastics and tins. Most properties use a 240L wheeled bin for plastic and tins and internal caddie for paper and card as well as 40L box for glass.
 - (c) Approximately 7,000 properties (mainly terraced properties) use a reusable sack for paper and card, a 40L box for plastic and tins and a 40L box for glass. Families of five or more people can request a larger 360L wheeled refuse bin, which can be swapped for their 240L bin free of charge.
 - (d) The Council operates an optional fortnightly garden waste collection service operating from April to December using a 240L wheeled bin. There are two rounds covering the Borough and there is an annual charge of £45 with 11,000 subscribing to the service in 2024.
30. Residual waste is delivered to the treatment plant where it is bio-dried and any remaining recycling material that can be extracted from dried waste is removed through a mechanical process. The remaining waste is either then used as a refuse derived fuel (RDF) and sent to a suitable facility or waste is landfilled in accordance with the waste management hierarchy.
31. Recycling material is delivered to the transfer station where it is bulked up and then sent onto reprocess.
32. Garden waste is composted through the treatment plant to PAS 100 standard, which can then be spread onto farm fields. PAS 100 is the compost association accreditation scheme and certified by the British Standards Institute.
33. Our existing collection arrangements meet the requirements of the Act, except for the requirement to provide a food waste collection service.
34. Whilst not part of this report, the Council provides a commercial residual waste collection service to 449 businesses within the Borough, including DBC facilities. All businesses have been contacted to inform them of the changes within the Act that affect them. In addition, information has been requested from businesses to enable us to understand how many of our customers meet the requirements and what services they will require from March 2025. We have also included information in One Darlington, on our web site and through the team to try and inform businesses that are not currently DBC customers.

35. The costs associated with the existing household waste collection treatment and disposal services are set out in **Table 1**, below:

Table 1

Description of Expenditure	Cost / £
Vehicle Costs	1,242,000
Employee cover costs including PPE, Training and consumables	2,097,156
Collection containers – replacements and new require	103,034
Waste disposal costs	2,175,306
Income from recycled material and garden waste service	-577,813
Total Costs	5,039,683

36. The annual tonnage from each of the waste streams from the current collection arrangements based on 2022/23 data is as follows:
- (a) Residual waste 22,338 tonnes, an annual household yield of 427kg.
 - (b) Dry recycling 6226 tonnes (including 15% contamination) an annual household yield of 119kg
 - (c) Garden waste 2390 tonnes, an annual household yield of 228kg.
37. This generates an annual total of 30,954 tonnes of waste collected from all households with an annual yield per household of 773kg.
38. From kerbside collection, this equates to a recycling and composting rate of 24.8%.

Performance and Benchmarking

39. The Waste and Resources Action Programme charity (WRAP) have been engaged by DBC officers to support the development of options. WRAP is a government-funded charity that works with and supports local authorities, business and communities, helping them to reduce and manage waste in a sustainable way. They have extensive knowledge of the waste industry and have developed a range of products and tools to support local authorities.
40. A detailed benchmarking exercise of the existing services against local authorities with a similar profile to DBC has been carried out. The comparator groups used were other North East Authorities and WRAP's Rurality Groups 4 and 5 (mixed urban/rural high/medium deprivations). While benchmarking provides an opportunity to compare with others, WRAP provides an objective assessment and understanding of DBC performance and where improvements are required. When compared with the other North East authorities the amount of waste generated by each household annually from the three waste streams (residual, dry recycling and garden waste) the key findings for the borough are:

- (a) The yield per household (annual tonnage) of residual waste from each property is the second lowest of all authorities;
 - (b) The yield per household from recycling and garden waste from each property is low which leads to lower recycling rates;
 - (c) Overall, the total waste yield from the three waste streams is the lowest in the North East and in bottom quartile of local authorities in the UK.
 - (d) For the overall recycling rate (kerbside collected material and HWRC material) for the North East authorities, DBC are slightly above average with a rate of 31.7% with the average being 30.2%. DBC is the fifth highest out of the 12 local authorities.
 - (e) When comparing the overall recycling rate (material collected at kerbside and from the HWRC), DBC performance against rurality group 4 and 5 is bottom quartile at 31.7% as opposed to the average of 42.2% (which for some authorities in the comparator group will include food waste). If performance is compared to dry recycling only collected at kerbside, then DBC's recycling rate of 20.1% is just below the average of 23.2%.
 - (f) Comparing authorities that have similar collection arrangements as DBC in rurality group 4 and 5, DBC have the lowest kerbside recycling rate.
41. The benchmarking data shows that Darlington has a low yield of household waste but overall, below average recycling performance. A completed Waste Composition Analysis, summarised later in the report, has identified a significant amount of dry recycling in the residual waste stream. Using this analysis alongside the benchmarking information highlights the need and capacity to improve performance by maximising kerbside recycling.

Implications of the Act on existing Waste Management Services

42. We have assessed our current services against the requirements of the Act.
- (a) We do not have a food waste collection service. Therefore, a service will need to be designed and implemented.
 - (b) Our current dry recycling and garden waste service does meet the requirements of the Act. However, with the introduction of food waste to collect there are options that need to be considered that could impact on the current arrangements.
 - (c) We will need to review our commercial collection service. From March 2025, we will be able to offer residual waste and dry recycling to customers who are required to separate their waste to meet the Act. However, we will not collect separate food waste from March 2025 and will have to direct customer to other providers.

Waste Composition Analysis

43. To establish how much food waste is within residual waste and help inform the design of a new service, DBC commissioned a specialist company to provide a compositional analysis of residual waste collected within Darlington.
44. The survey took place over a four-day period in November / December 2023 with a total of 200 households selected for the analysis. To ensure representative samples and an accurate reflection across the borough was obtained, samples were collected from a range of households and locations based on a range of socio-demographic groups. 1,592kg of waste was collected for analysis.
45. The key points from the report are as follows, which are shown as a percentage of the overall residual waste and kilograms per household per week (kg/hh/wk).

Food Waste

46. Food waste is classed into the following two categories:
 - (a) Avoidable waste, i.e. food and drink thrown away that was, at some point prior to disposal, edible (e.g., slice of bread, apples, meat).
 - (b) Unavoidable waste, i.e. waste arising from food or drink preparation that is not, and has not been, edible under normal circumstances (e.g., meat bones, eggshells, pineapple skin, tea bags).
47. 34% of the waste collected for analysis was food waste, therefore applying the 34% to 2023/24 residual waste tonnage means there is approximately 7,595 tonnes of food waste in the residual waste stream.
 - (a) 88.1% of food waste was classed as avoidable. This equates to around 6,691 tonnes per year.
 - (b) 11.9% of food waste was classed as unavoidable. This equates to around 904 tonnes per year.
 - (c) Of all avoidable food waste being disposed of, an average of 52.3% was disposed of in its packaging. This equates to around 3,499 tonnes per year.

Existing Recyclable Materials within Residual Waste

48. In terms of the recyclable material found within residual waste:
 - (a) Paper made up 7.5% of residual waste, of which 38% could have been recycled at kerbside using the current service.
 - (b) Card and cardboard items made up 7.6% of residual waste, of which 77% could have been recycled at kerbside using the current service.

- (c) Plastic items made up 14.7% of residual waste, of which 23% could have been recycled at kerbside using the current service.
- (d) Metallic items made up 3.3% of residual waste, of which 73% could have been recycled at kerbside using the current service.
- (e) Glass items made up 2.9% of the residual waste, of which 83% could have been recycled at kerbside using the current service.

49. Therefore, 7,595 tonnes of recyclable material is currently disposed of in the residual waste stream.

Garden Waste

50. 9.7% of residual waste was found to be garden vegetation, which could have been recycled through the garden waste collection service. This represents approximately 2,166 tonnes which will be significantly higher in the growing season as the sample was carried out November/December 2023.

Developing a New Food Waste Collection Service

51. The approach taken to develop options for a new food waste collection service has been as follows.

- (a) A waste composition analysis has been undertaken to understand the composition of our residual waste in a range of socio-economic groups and to understand the volumes that will need to be collected and treated.
- (b) Engaged the services of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to ensure best practice and experience is built into the design process, including benchmarking and performance assessment of existing DBC arrangements.
- (c) Developed a proposal based on best practice and evidence, for a system to be rolled out to residents for collection of food waste within their property.
- (d) Considered numerous options for the collection and transfer of the food waste from the property to the treatment facility, taking into account our requirement to collect residual waste, recycling and green waste.
- (e) Considered the use of the food waste product once collected.

52. The project is complex and there are multiple aspects that must be progressed if the Council are to meet the statutory deadline. Some of the major elements of the project involve:

- (a) Establishing the funding levels to be provided by Government. All Authorities are seeking urgent clarification from the responsible Government Department.
- (b) Agreeing the in-property collection option so that procurement exercises can be designed and undertaken to establish costs and place orders for supply.

- (c) Agreeing the collection and transfer option so that procurement exercises can be designed for vehicles and orders placed for their supply.
- (d) Consideration of adapting or procuring new facilities for the additional fleet.
- (e) Recruitment of staff to collect waste, maintain vehicles and manage new regulated systems.
- (f) Staff training.
- (g) Procurement exercise to manage and treat the food waste collected.
- (h) Communications exercise and roll-out plan to improve recycling rates.

Proposals for the collection of food waste within residential properties

53. The Act requires food waste to be collected weekly and as such there must be a system for residents to collect and store food waste in the property. The food waste that will be collected from households will include:
- (a) All uneaten food and plate scrapings
 - (b) Dairy products
 - (c) Bread, cake, pastries
 - (d) Raw meat, cooked meat, bones
 - (e) Tea bags, ground coffee
 - (f) Raw and cooked vegetables, fruit and peelings
 - (g) Raw and cooked fish, fish bones
 - (h) Rice, pasta, beans
54. There are a significant number of local authorities that already collect food waste and WRAP have experience of best practice. From the evidence gained from long-standing schemes, the system that produces the greatest yield of food waste provides each property with the following:
- (a) An internal kitchen caddie, 5L / 7L
 - (b) An external 23L bin to store waste once the internal caddie is full.
 - (c) The 23L external bin is then placed out to kerbside within curtilage of the property weekly for collection.
55. Food waste can be placed directly into the internal caddie then transferred to the external food waste bin when full. However, there is evidence that if a compostable liner is also provided for the internal caddie, then the amount of food waste generated increases. If liners are issued, we are advised there will be a higher yield of food waste and will be more convenient for residents to adopt food waste recycling.
56. It is anticipated that the internal and external caddie arrangements as detailed above will be the recommended solution.

However, the issue of an initial supply of compostable internal caddy liners is still to be decided.

Options for Food Waste Collection from the kerbside

57. The Council has operated waste collection services the same way with no major changes since 2015, when alternate weekly collections were introduced.
58. The Council must introduce a weekly food waste collection service. Therefore, a review of the collection arrangements has been undertaken to examine how food waste can be introduced to the collection system.
59. Several options have been modelled to comply with the changes that are being implemented nationally in terms of both food waste and recycling. The options range from simply adding a separate food waste collection service to existing arrangements to taking the opportunity to consider a weekly dry recycling collection alongside weekly food waste. Changing the frequency of dry recycling to weekly is anticipated to increase the yield of material collected improving overall performance. The options presented vary by frequency and the way the vehicle is configured to collect the various waste streams.
 - (a) **Option 1:** Same as existing collection arrangements, with the addition of a separate food waste collection service. A series of new rounds and vehicles that only collect food waste.
 - (b) **Option 2:** Residual waste collection fortnightly, dry recycling and food waste weekly utilising a kerbside manual sort vehicle that operatives will hand load from containers/bags, placing materials in separate compartments on the vehicle. This will require new containers and bags at properties. The process of collection is slower as there is more manual intervention at the kerbside and an increased risk of spills from containers during the sorting process.
 - (c) **Option 3:** reduced residual waste capacity by replacing existing 240L bins with a 180L wheeled bin, which will be collected fortnightly. This will mean collecting and recycling the current bins and providing a new smaller bin. Dry recycling and food waste weekly in a similar vehicle to existing recycling vehicle. Food waste in the front pod, split body back with glass collected on one side and co-mingled paper, card, plastic and tins in the other side.
 - (d) **Option 4:** residual waste collection fortnightly as existing, dry recycling and food waste weekly in a similar vehicle to existing recycling vehicle. Food waste in the front pod, the vehicle would have a split body back with glass collected one-side and co-mingled paper card, plastic and tins the other side.
60. The Council's garden waste service would be unaffected by the proposal, and it should be noted that residents would still be able to recycle or dispose of waste at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).
61. Further detailed information and analysis for each option is provided later in this report.

62. The national changes set out in the Act do not have an impact on the procurement process or required capacity of the Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility (TV-ERF), where DBC will be sending its residual waste once the facility is built and operational - expected to be 2028/29. Detailed waste modelling was carried out as part of the business case process to ensure there was adequate capacity and that the plant was not oversized. That detailed modelling included the assumption that all seven councils would be doing all they could to maximise dry recycling and introducing a separate food waste collection service, thereby reducing the amount of residual waste needing to be treated.

Option Analysis and Financial Implications

63. **Table 2** compares the four modelled collection options against the existing collection service. The table shows the operational requirements and arrangements for each option including number of vehicles, staff, frequency and types of containers used.

Table 2

OPERATIONAL OPTIONS			
Option	Residual	Recycling	Food
Existing baseline Refuse collection 5 RCVs, plus 2 spare Recycling 6 vehicles, plus 2 spare 45 FTE, plus 1 team leader	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	N/A
Option 1 <i>Additional food collection service only</i> 9 extra vehicles required: 7 rounds plus 2 spares. Additional 21x FTE Plus 1 additional team leader	Fortnightly As existing service	Fortnightly As existing service	New weekly service. Specific food waste vehicles and rounds. Containers 5-7L internal kitchen caddie and 23L external food waste bin.
Option 2 <i>Weekly dry recycling service including food waste in a kerbside sort vehicle</i> 9 extra vehicles required over the existing fleet. Total of 15 rounds plus 2 spare: 17 vehicles. Additional 21x FTE Plus 1 additional team leader	Fortnightly As existing service	Weekly Recycling & Food Waste Kerbside sort vehicle for dry recycling & food waste at same time. Kerbside manual sort by operative to put waste into correct compartment. Containers: Dry recycling resident has existing box for glass, weighted sack paper and card and second weighted sack for tins and plastic. Existing 240L recycling wheeled bin and caddie to be collected and disposed of. Food Waste 5-7L internal kitchen caddie and 23L external food waste bin.	

Option	Residual	Recycling Food
<p>Option 3 <i>Reduces residual waste capacity smaller bin weekly dry recycling including food waste in similar recycling vehicle as current</i></p> <p>6 extra vehicles required. Total of 12 rounds plus 2 spares: 14 vehicles 24 extra FTE Plus 1 additional team leader</p>	<p>Fortnightly</p> <p>As existing service with a smaller 180L wheeled bin.</p>	<p>Weekly Recycling & Food Waste Similar vehicle to existing recycling vehicles: front pod for food waste, split back body glass on one side and co-mingled paper, card, plastics and tins in the other side</p> <p>Containers: Dry Recycling Existing 240L recycling wheeled bin for co-mingled paper, card, plastics and tins and existing box for glass. For approximately 7,000 terraced properties: bag for paper and card and existing boxes for tins, plastics and glass.</p> <p>Food Waste 5-7L internal kitchen caddie and 23L external food waste bin.</p>
<p>Option 4 <i>Weekly dry recycling, including food waste in similar recycling vehicle as current</i></p> <p>6 extra vehicles required. Total of 12 rounds, plus 2 spares: 14 vehicles 24 extra FTE Plus 1 additional team leader</p>	<p>Fortnightly</p> <p>As existing service</p>	<p>Weekly Recycling & Food Waste Similar vehicle to existing recycling vehicles: front pod for food waste, split back body glass on one side and co-mingled paper, card, plastics and tins in the other side</p> <p>Containers Dry Recycling Existing 240L recycling wheeled bin for co-mingled paper, card, plastics and tins and existing box for glass. For approximately 7000 terraced properties bag for paper and card and existing boxes for tins, plastics and glass.</p> <p>Food Waste 5-7L internal kitchen caddie and 23L external food waste bin.</p>

64. The funding position for delivering this new requirement is complex. The government have stated that new burdens funding will be provided to cover the capital cost, transitional costs and ongoing revenue costs associated with the legislation.

65. At the time of writing, the government have calculated what they believe authorities will need in terms of capital and have announced Darlington will receive £1,182,778 to cover the cost of caddies, bins and vehicles. Based on the options analysis, this will not be sufficient to cover the cost of the vehicles, caddies and bins. This money is provided as a one-off grant and it is highly unlikely that there will be further funding when the vehicles and caddies need replacing. This will add costs into the Council's MTFP. This has been raised with the relevant government Departments and a response to the Council's concerns has not been received at the time of writing this report.

66. The transitional funding to develop and implement the schemes and the ongoing revenue funding has yet to be announced. To meet the statutory deadlines set, councils have had to progress at their own cost and decide whether to commit to procurement. This leaves councils in the wholly unsatisfactory position that they are developing a scheme at cost and committing to it before they know whether the scheme is affordable within what government provide in terms of new burdens or whether it will result in a pressure to council finances. This has been raised with the relevant government departments and again at the time of writing this report a response has not been received.
67. **Table 3** shows the estimated annual revenue collection costs of each option including costs for vehicles, employees and associated costs, containers disposal and income from recycling and garden waste. The lower section of the table sets out a number of one-off project transitional costs. Capital budget shortfalls are detailed in paragraph 72.
68. Financial models for each option have been built from estimated costs associated with vehicles, staffing, containers disposal and income. These will need to be confirmed through procurement processes and as such a contingency will be considered as part of the project costs. All councils are progressing on the same timescale, and this will put pressure on the market and supply chains. This may drive up prices and the availability of products and resources and has been highlighted as a significant risk to government departments. A phased introduction was suggested to government rather than a 'big bang' on the same date for everyone and we are seeking clarification from the new UK government that this remains the case.
69. All options require a significant increase in the waste fleet and staffing. There is not enough space to park the additional fleet vehicles at the depot. Therefore, the project will need to investigate options to extend if possible, reconfiguring the parking arrangements, reducing staff parking significantly or look to acquire additional parking at an alternative site. The increased fleet will also require the creation of an additional pit within the fitting shop with an indicative budget estimated one-off cost of £100,000.
70. As part of the roll out of the changes to waste collection, there is a need to have a communication and engagement programme to maximise the take up of the new services regardless of which option members agree to implement. This will include employment of temporary staff to engage with residents as well as other communication and marketing activities, for which an indicative budget of £120,000 is estimated. In addition, there will be project management and administration costs associated with the roll out at an indicative estimated budget of £50,000. Therefore, there will be a one-off cost of £170,000 to implement the changes. As part of the new burdens transitional funding, an allocation will be provided. However, at the time of writing the report, the level and timing for release of this funding is unknown.
71. In addition to the above, there is the potential of a final payment to make on the existing eight recycling vehicles of £421k in 2026/27 depending on which option is finally chosen. Only Option 1 uses the existing recycling fleet, therefore if any of the other options are taken forward the existing recycling vehicles would not be required, and the final payment would still be due. The vehicles would be sold but it is highly unlikely they would generate anywhere near the £421k. Any deficit in income received from the sale of the vehicles will be a one-off cost.

72. Through New Burdens funding, the government have already allocated DBC £1,182,778 to cover the cost of caddies, bins and vehicles as a one-off Grant and does not account for future replacements. The costing undertaken identifies that the funding is not enough for any option. If the vehicles and containers were to be purchased as a one-off through the capital new burdens grant issued by Government (rather than annualising), then there would be a shortfall of £218k for Option 1, £1.664M for Option 2, £1.978M for Option 3 and £983k for Option 4 that would have to be funded from the MTFP.
73. The funding model is being developed on how this will be funded, i.e the costs below are annualised to ensure there is funding built into the MTFP for ongoing financing costs of vehicles. The detail of this will be developed with finance officers, once the funding and option to be progressed is decided.

Table 3

Project Cost Overview					
Option 1 - Additional food collection service only					
Option 2 - Weekly dry recycling service including food waste in a kerbside sort vehicle					
Option 3 - Reduces residual waste capacity (smaller residual bin) weekly dry recycling including food waste in similar recycling vehicle as current					
Option 4 - weekly dry recycling (uses current residual bin) including food waste in similar recycling vehicle as current					
Projected Operational Costs (Annual)					
Description of Expenditure	Existing	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Vehicle Costs	1,242,000	1,478,625	1,785,000	1,740,000	1,740,000
Employee costs including cover PPE, Training and consumables.	2,097,156	3,081,707	3,060,855	3,173,214	3,173,214
Collection containers – replacements and new requirements	103,034	154,335	215,059	225,175	128,161
Waste disposal costs	2,175,306	1,907,835	1,874,138	1,735,595	1,852,176
Income from recycled material and garden waste service	-577,813	-577,813	-671,223	-669,112	-587,611
Total Costs	5,039,683	6,044,689	6,263,829	6,204,872	6,305,940
Difference		+1,005,006	+1,224,146	+1,165,189	+1,253,170
NEW BURDENS FUNDING		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Potential increased annual cost to MTFP		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Project Transition Costs (One-Off. Transitional Costs)					
	Existing	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Contingency		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Project Management		50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Communication and Engagement Plan		120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Additional Pit within fitting shop		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Depot Space costs		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Collection and disposal of existing bins option 2 recycling bin option 3 waste bin		Nil	TBD	TBD	Nil
Fleet costs (Final payment of 8 recycling vehicles option 2,3,4)		Nil	421,000 (Max.)	421,000 (Max.)	421,000 (Max.)
Transitional FUNDING from Govt.		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Potential Cost to MTFP		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

74. **Table 4** compares the projected kerbside recycling rate from the material collected at kerbside dry recycling, garden waste and food waste for the various options. All options demonstrate a projected increased recycling performance compared to the existing arrangements.
75. Carbon performance is also compared in **Table 4**, this is a very high-level comparator carried out by WRAP based on their carbon waste and recycling metric (Carbon WARM). Carbon WARM applies a set of conversion factors to enable users to express waste management tonnage data in terms of its greenhouse gas emissions measure as carbon dioxide equivalent. This is a high-level assessment and assumes the treatment of residual waste is through the new TV-ERF.

Table 4

Option	Kerbside Recycling rates	Carbon Impact of Operations / tonnes of CO ₂ per annum
Baseline	24.8%	2197
Option 1	35.2%	2067
Option 2	40.3%	730
Option 3	40.7%	1134
Option 4	37.9%	1346
<u>Description of Options</u>		
Option 1 - Additional food collection service only		
Option 2 - Weekly dry recycling service including food waste in a kerbside sort vehicle		
Option 3 - Reduces residual waste capacity (smaller residual bin), weekly dry recycling including food waste in similar recycling vehicle as current		
Option 4 - weekly dry recycling (uses current residual bin) including food waste in similar recycling vehicle as current		

76. **Table 5** sets out the “pros and cons” of the four options, considering the costs, performance and operation for both residents and staff.

Table 5	Pros	Cons
<p>Option 1</p> <p>Additional food collection service only</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to refuse collection (collection points) • No need to change existing recycling vehicles. • New vehicles, purpose-built for food waste. • Simplest to implement and manage • Operators can focus on one collection - food waste only • Minimal change for residents • Greater flexibility to maximise efficiency of food waste collection service as independent of other services. • No impact on dry recycling and residual waste collection services • Lowest financial impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to buy a separate fleet of food waste-only vehicles • Not maximising the opportunity to re-model the service and improve recycling • Dry recycling remains fortnightly, whilst food waste weekly • Less incentive for residents to change behaviour and recycle more • Lowest recycling rate of the four options • Highest carbon impact on the environment of the four options • Potentially an additional, different day for food waste collection for residents to existing collection day
<p>Option 2</p> <p>Weekly dry recycling service including food waste in a kerbside sort vehicle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One vehicle collects all recycling & food waste in one pass • No change to refuse collection (collection points) • Weekly recycling service - step change in waste collection and encourages behavioural change increase recycling • Materials are kerbside sorted and put into individual stillages on vehicle; better-quality recycling material and higher value • Less contamination due to hand sorting and visibility of material for operative obtained • Second highest recycling rate of all 4 options • Lowest carbon impact on the environment of the 4 options due to increased recycling less residual waste and reduced cost for waste treatment • Reduced collection days for residents as all recycling and food waste collected together • May help with OFLOG monitoring as recycling performance a metric about general Council performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More demands on residents for additional containers • Will need to issue new containers / reuseable bags to majority of properties • Need to collect and dispose of all existing recycling wheeled bins from residents which may lead to adverse publicity • Will need to replace existing recycling vehicles one year early at significant cost • Increased manual handling at kerbside by operators to sort material into individual compartments which cannot be designed out and will lead to increased muscular skeletal injuries. • Slower operation due to hand sorting of materials by operative at kerbside therefore more rounds required • Residents require more bags and boxes at property to store for separate waste streams • Third highest cost option

Table 5	Pros	Cons
<p>Option 3</p> <p>Reduces residual waste capacity (smaller residual bin) weekly dry recycling including food waste in similar recycling vehicle as current</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes for the resident for dry recycling apart from food waste added to recycling service and available weekly • Dry recycling and food waste in one pass and one vehicle • No change to refuse collection (collection points) • Weekly recycling service - step change in waste collection and encourages behavioural change to recycle more • Highest recycling rate of all 4 options • Second-lowest option for carbon impact on the environment • Will increase garden waste service take up because of less residual waste capacity; increasing composting rate • May help with OFLOG monitoring as recycling performance is a metric about general Council performance • Reduced treatment costs as less residual waste to treat at more expensive gate fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling materials may be of poorer quality than Option 2 due to co-mingled and therefore less valuable • Resistance of residents to reduced residual waste capacity • Residents may use additional capacity in weekly recycling bin for residual waste therefore potentially higher levels of contamination than other weekly options • Cost of replacement wheeled bins • Will need to replace existing recycling vehicles a year early at significant cost • Costs to collect and dispose of existing 240L bins which may lead to adverse publicity
<p>Option 4</p> <p>Weekly dry recycling (uses current residual bin) including food waste in similar recycling vehicle as current</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes for the resident for dry recycling, apart from food waste added to recycling service and available weekly • One vehicle collects dry recycling & food waste in one pass • Weekly recycling service demonstrates step change in waste collection and encourages behavioural change to recycle more • No change to refuse collection (collection points) • Increased recycling rate as from weekly collection service • May help with OFLOG monitoring as recycling performance a metric about general Council performance • Due to increased recycling less residual waste therefore reduced cost for treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling materials may be of poorer quality than Option 2 due to co-mingled and therefore less valuable • Of the weekly collection options considered this option is the poorest performing in terms of recycling rate and carbon impact and the most expensive. • Will need to replace existing recycling vehicles a year early at significant cost • Residents may use additional capacity in weekly recycling bin for residual waste therefore higher levels of contamination than Option 2

Treatment and Use of Material

77. The final aspect of the project is how the collected material will be treated. The food waste will need to be delivered to a treatment facility.
78. 11 of the 12 North East local authorities carried out a feasibility study on availability of treatment facilities and the capacity in the North East in September 2022. The outcome of that study identified there was adequate treatment capacity in the North East and adequate land available to spread the digestate within acceptable distances from the treatment facilities.
79. Subject to approval, a procurement exercise will commence later this year either with the other Tees Valley Authorities or as standalone DBC contract. There are local facilities that will be able to receive the food waste directly from the collection vehicle without the need to drop off and bulk up at a transfer station, which would be required if there was significant traveling required from Darlington to the treatment plant. It is anticipated there will be a saving in the cost per tonne through the new food waste contract as opposed to the existing residual waste treatment costs. These savings have been factored into the financial model.
80. As part of the treatment process, gas will be produced that will go into the grid network. The waste output from the treatment process is a digestate that would be to the required standard PAS110, which can then be spread onto farmland.

Key Risks & Issues

81. There are a number of risks to implementing any of the options that members need to be aware of.
 - (a) The feasibility work to date suggests the capital allocation from government would appear not to be enough to cover the entire cost of any option presented. The transitional and operational funding may also be inadequate to cover all the costs. Therefore, to hit deadlines, Members are being asked to commit resources in the MTFP to a new statutory service that could create pressures. This is clearly not palatable and as such clarity is being sought, but this does impact and create a risk on being able to deliver the service by the previously set date.
 - (b) The timescale to implement a food waste service is extremely challenging and the delays in receiving clarification from Government on funding has put the deadline at risk. The 31 March 2026 deadline is unlikely to be achieved as the Council cannot progress without understanding the financial implications. However, it is unclear what (if any) penalty will be applied to local authorities if they miss their deadline date, clarity has been requested from Government.
 - (c) The availability of vehicle and containers may be limited due to the number of Councils implementing food waste at the same time and therefore could be significant lead-times that impact on the programme.
82. This is the policy of the previous government, and the new government may change direction, timetable and funding. The Council have written to DEFRA to seek clarity on the

issues above to try and de-risk some of the issues and are awaiting a response. At the time of writing this report a response has not been received.

Conclusion

83. The intention of the Environment Act 2021 is to improve recycling performance and the impact on the environment. The options modelled all have different projected outcomes and there are clear correlations between the cost of the service and what outcomes can be achieved in terms of recycling and environmental impact.
84. Option 1 has the least estimated cost increase on the current arrangements. In the current financial climate cost will have to be a significant factor in determining the option to be progressed, especially if the new burdens funding is not sufficient to cover the additional costs of this statutory service. Any unfunded cost increases will add further pressures into the Council's MTFP, which already has a sustainability gap.
85. Option 1 would not require any change to existing collection services, only the introduction of a stand-alone food waste collection. This has the smallest projected increase in recycling rate performance and highest carbon impact of the options modelled.
86. Options 2, 3 and 4 seek to improve recycling performance by introducing weekly recycling with weekly food waste collection. However, this increases costs. Within these options, Option 3 is the lowest cost option because this will reduce residual waste capacity. This will have an impact on residents' capacity in terms of non-recyclable waste but does drive the recycling performance by forcing more waste into recycling, garden and food waste streams and will reduce disposal costs.
87. There is only a small difference between Option 2 and Option 3 in terms of kerbside recycling rate. However, following further investigation of option 2, there are operational issues that should be considered. The process builds in increased manual handling by operators, which will lead to increased muscular skeletal injuries. Therefore, this option is being discounted by Officers.
88. Without knowledge of the transitional funding and the new burdens funding, it is not possible to provide a definitive financial forecast and recommendation.

Consultation

89. No public consultation has taken place around this report as there is a statutory duty to introduce food waste collection from March 2026. A detailed communications plan will be developed to inform residents of changes to waste collection services once agreed.
90. The Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the content of this report and provide feedback to Cabinet to be considered in the development of final proposals.

This page is intentionally left blank



Minutes

Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee
Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington DL2
1NJ
2pm Tuesday 28th May 2024

Attendees

Members

Councillor Stephen Harker - Chair (Leader of Darlington Borough Council)
Councillor Libby McCollom (Darlington Borough Council)
Councillor Theo Furness (Middlesbrough Council)
Councillor Carl Quartermain (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)
Councillor Nigel Cooke (Stockton Borough Council)

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Sue Little (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Councillor Clare Gamble (Stockton Borough Council) – Substitute Sent

Officers

Tom Bryant - TVCA
Alan Weston – TVCA
Emily Campbell – TVCA
Connor Malone – TVCA
Dave Winstanley - Darlington Borough Council
Craig Cowley – Middlesbrough Council
Ross Asadi – Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Jonathan Kibble – Stockton Borough Council

	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members and officers for their attendance.</p> <p>Apologies for absence noted above, Councillor Cooke substituted for Councillor Gamble.</p>
	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None noted.</p>
TC16/2023	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>The minutes of the Transport Committee held on 23rd January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:- The minutes of the Transport Committee held on 23rd January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
TC17/2023	<p>TEES VALLEY BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (BSIP)</p> <p>Members received an update on the Tees Valley Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). A report was provided to members in advance of the session, which detailed the structure of the BSIP and the process.</p> <p>Members raised questions relating to the bus corridor work and the relationship of Transport Committee in the consideration of the schemes. They were informed that the programme will be subject to public consultation, which would be reported back to Transport Committee.</p> <p>Queries were raised in relation to the improved fare offer, and daily cap limits. Members were informed that operators have separate systems in place for the delivery of fare capping and equally have separate daily caps. Fully integrated multi-modal ticketing is being pursued by government, which TVCA is engaged in. All operators will be required to sign-up to a national back-office system.</p> <p>Discussion was held in relation to the roll-out of electric buses and the quantity expected to be delivered. Members were informed that 62 buses in total would be delivered with 40 for Stagecoach, and 22 for Arriva. They were advised that the bid for the funding was facilitated by TVCA, with the operators making a significant commercial investment alongside the government funding.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:- Transport Committee noted the update.</p>

TC18/2023	<p>TEES VALLEY TIMETABLE UPDATES, BUS SHELTER UPGRADES AND REAL TIME INFORMATION.</p> <p>The Transport Committee received a report which provided an update on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tees Valley Timetable Updates - Tees Valley Bus Shelter Upgrades - Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) <p>A member raised a comment around local authority resourcing and delivery in relation to bus shelter information, wanting to further understand the contract and practicality of delivery. Members were informed that contractors would have additional spares in order to make fixes when replacing timetables and that a condition survey is intended to gather the full scale of the requirements for the bus shelter assets across the Tees Valley region. However, it was emphasised that TVCA does not have a funding stream to support local authorities with the maintenance of their shelters.</p> <p>In relation to timetabling, members wanted to understand accessibility for users with suggestion to include feedback options in the footers to allow service users to feedback. Officers noted this and informed members that accessible timetables can be provided by operators on request.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:- Transport Committee noted the content of the report.</p>
TC19/2023	<p>TEES VALLEY LOCAL BUS SERVICE PERFORMANCE</p> <p>The Committee were provided an update on the Tees Valley Local Bus Service Improvements.</p> <p>Queries were raised in relation to the Tees Flex Service and the future beyond the current contract. Members were informed that providing bus services in areas of low demand is expensive, with the 18-month contract for Tees Flex costing TVCA circa £1.8 million at £100k per month. The authority does not receive any revenue for the service with the cost exclusively being to pay for the service to operate. Tees Flex has an approval rating of 4.9 out of 5, with users supporting the service.</p> <p>Members were informed that across the authority area, subsidy per journey is high. A member stressed that the value for money consideration should factor in the distance travelled.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:- Transport Committee noted the update.</p>
TC20/2023	<p>INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PROGRAMME UPDATE</p>

	<p>The Committee were provided an overview of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Programme. • First Round City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS1) Programme. • Second Round City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS2) Programme. • Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme. • Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding. • Additional Competitively Secured Funding. <p>Members raised questions in relation to the scale of the works and the reasoning for the selection of schemes. The Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone package was noted within questions. Officers informed members that the area is one of the largest brownfield sites within the region, and there was a funding allocation to effectively unlock the development.</p> <p>Questions regarding project costing were raised, both in relation to the proposed budget and existing schemes that have had expenditure over identified costings, particularly in relation to Middlesbrough Station. Members were provided with an explanation and provided insight into the challenges faced with the delivery of the project. Officers noted that the original publicly provided budget was before the establishment of the full business case, meaning it was subject to change.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT the Transport Committer noted the content of the report.</p>
TC21/2023	<p>TEES VALLEY U21 BUS FARE OFFER</p> <p>Committee members were provided with an update on the roll out of the under 21 bus fare offer. Officers noted that the improved fare offer would be similar to the one provided in the North East. The offer would be introduced initially for a year, with operators being provided subsidy on a no better or no worse basis.</p> <p>Cross boundary routes were covered within discussion, noting that journeys starting outside of the region that end in the region would not receive the fare cap.</p> <p>Members welcomed the introduction of the offer and see it as a positive opportunity. They wanted to understand the potential expansion of the service past the year point, with officers informing them that they would</p>

	<p>monitor the scheme to establish viability. Any extension would also be dependent on securing funding beyond 2024/25.</p> <p>Some members of the committee raised concern that they felt the committee had not received advanced communication of the scheme. The Director of Infrastructure highlighted that this was a long standing commitment, with a specific funding ask of government, set out in the Bus Service Improvement Plan since 2022. He highlighted that the under 21 fare offer was a Mayoral press release and not a TVCA release, and that he emailed Transport Committee members when he became aware that the release was being issued.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:- The Committee noted the content of the report.</p>
TC22/2023	<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUSES SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT</p> <p>Members were provided a brief background into the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Buses Sub-Committee. The paper informed members of the outcomes of the review and the subsequent endorsement of the paper by Cabinet.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee noted the content of the report.
	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The forward plan for Transport Committee will be established at AGM.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24 OCTOBER 2024

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 2024/25 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee.
3. Any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).
4. Two Quads of Aims have been received by Members in relation to Customer Relationship System and Accessibility Review. In accordance with the agreed process, these items are still under discussion as to the most effective way to consider them and an update will be given at the next meeting.

Recommendation

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

Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Background Papers

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

Author: Olivia Hugill Ext:5363

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. The Work Programme contains items which enable Members to scrutinise those areas that contribute the priority of 'Communities' – Working together for safer, healthier and more engaged communities and 'Local Environment' – A well-connected, clean and sustainable borough.
Addressing inequalities	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report has no impact on the Council's Efficiency Programme.
Health and Wellbeing	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
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
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.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

7. 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.
8. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

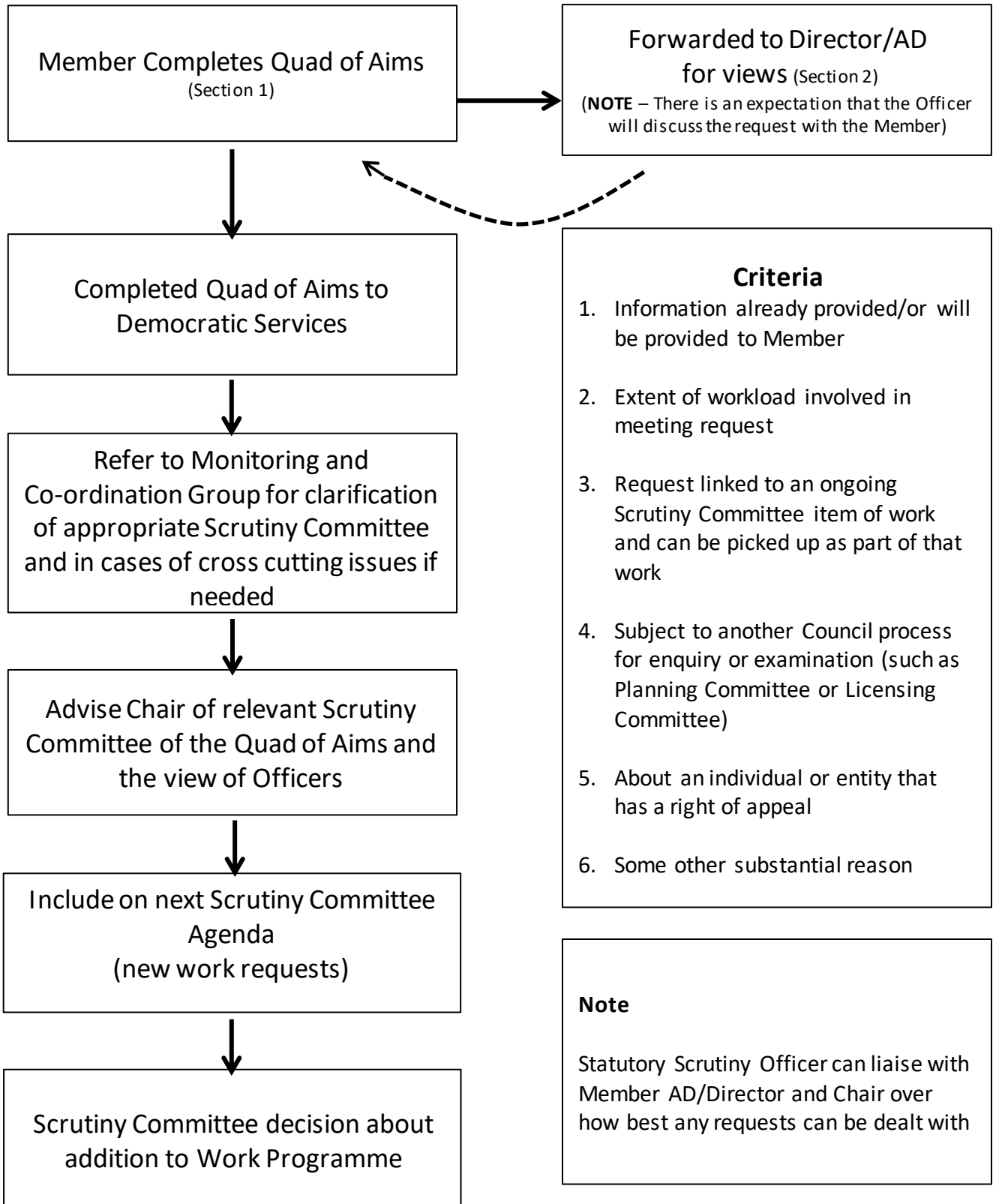
Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management and Regulation/ Management of Change Regular Performance Reports to be Programmed End of Year Performance (including Compliments Comments and Complaints)	16 January 2025 (Q2) Year End August 2024	Relevant AD	Full Performance Management Framework suite of indicators.	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Stronger Communities Fund Update	Year End August 2024 January 2025	Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder		To update Scrutiny Members.
Local Transport Plan	27 February 2025 Last received 22 February 2024	Andy Casey/ Anthony Hewitt		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Public Sector Executive Group 6 Month Review	16 January 2025 Last considered 22 February 2024	Seth Pearson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Tree and Woodland Strategy	April / May 2025 Last considered 18 April 2024	Brian Graham		To receive a yearly review of the strategy.
Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee	Last received on 22 February 2024. To be received when published.	Anthony Hewitt		To receive the Minutes from the Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee
Environment Act 2021 – Waste Management Arrangements	24 October 2024 Last considered 21 October 2021	Ian Thompson		To give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to consider prior to Cabinet.
Darlington Cultural Strategy Action Plan for 2024/25	June 2025 Last considered 13 June 2024	Stephen Wiper		Annual update for Scrutiny Members.
Residents' Parking Permits – Differential Charges	16 January 2025	Anthony Hewitt		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Private Sector Housing	10 April 2025	Christine Booth		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Allotment Strategy Review	27 February 2025	Brian Graham		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Parks and Open Spaces	10 April 2025	Brian Graham		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Town Centre Programme	24 October 2024	Alex Nicholson		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.
Waste Control Review - To look at fly tipping and back lane strategy/bins	27 February 2025	Brian Graham		To scrutinise and undertake any further work if necessary.

This page is intentionally left blank

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?

Page 78

Signed Councillor

Date

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

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

Signed **Position** **Date**

PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

This page is intentionally left blank

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 2 OCTOBER 2024 - 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

Title	Decision Maker and Date	Page
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024	5
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2025/29	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024	6
Schedule of Transactions	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024	7
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	8
Children and Young People's Plan	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	9
Council Tax Support - Scheme Approval 2025/26	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	10
Environment Act 2021 - Waste Management Arrangements	Council 28 Nov 2024 Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	11
Household Support Fund 2025	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	12
Housing Services Tenant Engagement and Involvement Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	13
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 2	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	14
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 2	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	15
Skerningham Masterplan Consideration	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	16
Updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2024/27	Cabinet 5 Nov 2024	17
Council Plan Performance Reporting Update	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024	18
Housing Revenue Account - Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/27 to 2028/29	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024	19
Land at Coniscliffe Road, Darlington	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024	20
Land at Faverdale - Burtree	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024	21

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)		
Mid Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2024/25	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024	22
Proposed Middleton St George Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024	23
Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024	24
Strategic Asset Plan	Cabinet 3 Dec 2024	25
Maintained Schools Capital Programme - Summer 2025	Cabinet 7 Jan 2025	26
Woodland Road Waiting Restrictions	Cabinet 7 Jan 2025	27
Capital Strategy	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	28
Customer Services Strategy 2025/30	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	29
Digital Darlington Strategy 2025-30	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	30
Housing Revenue Account - Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/27 to 2028/29	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	31
Review of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	Council 27 Mar 2025 Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	32
Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025/30	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	33
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	34
Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	35
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	36
Schools Admissions 2025/26	Cabinet 4 Feb 2025	37
Adult Social Care Transport Policy 2024	Cabinet	38
Annual Statement of Accounts 2022/23	Cabinet	39