

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 16 January 2025

PRESENT – Councillors McGill (Chair), Cossins, Coe, Mrs Culley, Keir, Mahmud, Snedker, Walters and Dr. Riley

APOLOGIES – Councillors M Nicholson, Councillor Garner

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors McCollom

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Ian Thompson (Assistant Director Community Services), Mark Ladyman (Assistant Director Economic Growth), Anthony Hewitt (Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects), Brian Graham (Head of Environmental Services) and Olivia Hugill (Democratic Officer)

CLS15 INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

CLS16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CLS17 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2024

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 24 October 2025.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 29 August 2024 be approved as a correct record.

CLS18 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2 2024/25

The Assistant Director Community Services, Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects, Head of Community Safety and Assistant Director of Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with an update on performance against key performance indicators at Quarter 2 2024/25.

It was reported that of the 35 indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, 25 were reported six monthly. 23 of the 35 indicators reported have Quarter 2 (year-end) data which can be compared with the same period for 2023/24.

The submitted report gave the performance position in relation to the 23 indicators, of which 15 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.

Discussion ensued strongly around the Fly Tipping indicators, Members wanted to understand more about the prosecutions and whether the money from the court fines are paid back into the Council. Members wanted further clarification around the new initiatives

and methods detailed in the report for Fly Tipping. Questions were raised over the money that the Council does receive back from the Court Fines cover the costs of Environmental Services call out. Members wanted to understand what other strategies were intercepted to help the reduction in Fly Tipping cases and if rural or urban fly tipping was the worst.

Members then moved onto the Theatre and Library figure and if officers think that figures will be increased further for the Hippodrome. The Committee raised concerns over the leakage from the Crown Street Library Roof and what preventative works had been completed to stop this from happening again. Members also touched on the Hopetown Figures and asked officers if they had performed well against the original business plan.

The committee touched on the road safety figures and asked how involved the Council is on any injuries/fatality cases. Officers explained that the Traffic Management work alongside the police and complete any improvements if necessary.

Members requested if the Crematorium figures should be included in the Performance Indicators going forward.

RESOLVED – That Members note the report.

CLS19 PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVES GROUP

The Partnerships Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform the members about the work of the Public Sector Executive Group (PSEG).

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

Details were provided of recent activity of the group, including the focus on the Long-Term Plan for Town initiative, The Police and Crime Commissioner outlined the emerging Police and Crime Plan, Partners also agreed to explore a data sharing tool to improve collaboration of safeguarding and considered the implications of the Autumn Budget Statement.

RESOLVED - That Members note the report.

CLS20 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.

Members asked if there was an update with regards to the Quad of Aims that was submitted at the beginning of this Municipal Year and whether a Task and Finish Group would be the best solution to look at the Waste Control Review item on the Work Programme.

RESOLVED – That Members note the Work Programme.