



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee Agenda

10.00 am

Thursday, 29 August 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 13 June 2024 (Pages 3 - 6)
4. Performance Indicators - Quarter 4 2023/24 – Report of the Assistant Director Community Services, Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects, Acting Head of Community Safety (Pages 7 - 50)
5. Stronger Community Fund – Report of the Stronger Communities Portfolio Holder (Pages 51 - 64)
6. Work Programme – Report of the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Pages 65 - 76)
7. 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.
8. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Wednesday, 21 August 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 or telephone 01325 405363

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 June 2024

PRESENT – Councillors Coe, Mrs Culley, Garner, Haszeldine, Mahmud, McGill, M Nicholson, Snedker and Walters

APOLOGIES – Councillors Keir

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor McCollom

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Brian Graham (Head of Environmental Services), Stephen Wiper (Creative Darlington Manager) and Olivia Hugill (Democratic Officer)

CLS49 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25

RESOLVED – That Councillor McGill be appointed as Chair of this Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

CLS50 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25

RESOLVED – That Councillor Coe be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

CLS51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CLS52 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25 ON THE DATES AGREED IN THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS BY CABINET AT MINUTE C106/FEB/24

RESOLVED – That the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee in the 2024/25 Municipal Year be held at 10.00am on the dates, as agreed on the calendar of meetings by Cabinet at Minute C106/Feb/24.

CLS53 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON 18 APRIL 2024

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 18 April 2024.

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

CLS54 DARLINGTON CULTURAL STRATEGY ACTION PLAN FOR 2024/2025

The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update to Members on the progress of delivering the priorities in the Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 and the 2023/24 Action Plan.

The submitted report informed Members that the Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 was approved back in 2022/23 and was informed by research, including previous Darlington focused Arts Enquiry Report, development work since that date and discussion with stakeholders including: Arts Council England, Tees Valley Combined Authority, and the Creative Darlington Board.

The report advised that the main drivers for the Darlington Cultural Strategy 2022-2026 was to focus on cultural vision and assist advocacy and fundraising wards cultural priorities within the timespan of the document. The strategy used a definition of culture set out by the department of Culture, Media and Sport which covered the following areas: Arts, Architecture, Crafts, Creative Industries, Design, Heritage, Historic Environment, Museums and Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Film, Broadcasting and Media.

The report notified Members of the five priorities which Darlington Cultural Strategy seeks to address between 2022 and 2026 which were; To creatively celebrate Darlington's contribution to the birth of the modern passenger railway, For Darlington to have accessible, diverse and vibrant culture, encouraging economic growth, For Darlington to champion engagement with culture, particularly amongst children and young people, For culture to thrive within Darlington Borough and attract visitors to the Town Centre, For Darlington to have a thriving theatre offer involving people of all ages.

The report reflected the considerable progress which was made in 2023/24 in addressing particular priorities. One of the priorities which has progressed was the reopening of the Darlington Library post restoration back in September 2023.

Members wanted clarification around the usage of the building known as The Bridge – Centre for Visual Arts and whether Darlington Borough Council arts equipment there may be utilised in future.

The report stated that Darlington promoted an extensive programme of events throughout 2023/24 which attracted visitors of all ages to Darlington Town Centre, in addition to the Eurovision and Coronation Programme, plus children and young people focused events. Members wanted to identify what percentage of children attended these events and how this information can be recorded in future.

Members entered into discussion around the Darlington Borough Council Website and how the Hopetown attraction has not been promoted through this. Members also discussed how to organise events in smaller villages outside of the Town Centre, officers advised works from Darlington Borough Art Collection might be exhibited within buildings owned by Darlington Borough Council subject to locations having display space and facilities.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

CLS55 WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the Municipal Year 2024/25 and to consider any additional areas to be included.

A discussion was held in respect of the current items on the work programme and members proposed a number of items to add the Work Programme 2024/25. Some of the proposed items from Members included the Complaints Logging System for Councillors in their wards, Parking Review Policy, Allotment Strategy, Policy Review on Rubbish/Fly Tipping, Town Centre Programme, and the Parking Review Policy.

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

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COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29 AUGUST 2024

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QTR 4 2023/24

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with performance data against key performance indicators for 2023/24, Quarter 4.

Background

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

April to March 2022/23 comparison to 2023/24

Culture - Hippodrome

6. The number of shows taking place at the theatre decreased (CUL 037 - 251 to 225). The lower number is due to a number of pencilled tours moving into later tour periods.
7. Visits to Darlington Hippodrome have decreased (CUL 038 – 126,357 to 125,429). The year end average attendance per show was 557 which was above the target of 536.
8. The number of shows held at the Hullabaloo have increased (CUL 078 - 122 to 156). Of the 156 shows presented a target of 25 performances was achieved for the year under the Hippodrome brand Hip at the Hullabaloo.
9. Attendances at The Hullabaloo have increased (CUL 079 – 6,908 to 8,957). Programming for the shows organised by the Hippodrome are scheduled alongside the Theatre Hullabaloo's show programme. The awareness of the venue has grown after the Hullabaloo in the Park festivals.

Culture - Head of Steam

10. The number of visits to the Head of Steam decreased (CUL 071 – 40,379 to 10,120). The museum closed to the public at the end of December 2022 to undergo redevelopment. The 'Museum on the Move' outreach initiative promoted the new Hopetown site at different venues and settings, such as schools and community centres.
11. With the agreement of members this will be the final reporting of the indicator visits to the Head of Steam. New indicators are in development for Hopetown.

Culture – Library Service

12. The percentage of reserved stock or stock from another library supplied within 7 days increased (CUL 070 - 64% to 66%), by 3.1%. Reservations are marketed as "Select and Collect" and allow customers to “select” a book or resource from the library catalogue to collect from the branch of their choice, promoting both libraries.
13. The number of library items borrowed, physical books, audio books and digital stock, increased (CUL 100 – 208,702 to 242,842), by 16.4%. Adult and children's fiction are most borrowed items and there is a large rise in digital borrowing.
14. The amount of physical stock borrowed from Darlington Library increased (CUL 101 – 89,785 to 114,021), by 27%. This rise is mainly due to the reopening of the library in September 2023. The home delivery and school customers are included in these figures.
15. The amount of physical stock borrowed from Cockerton Library has increased (CUL 102 – 76,931 to 80,824), by 5.1%. The closure of Darlington Library has had an effect on the number, now it is re-opened there could be a migration back to it as it houses the vast majority of stock.
16. The number of physical visits to the Darlington Library increased (CUL 103 - 24,093 to 160,260). The library reopened in September 2023. The increase in school visits within The Hive brings in many more young people, and the library team are offering a range of activities to encourage differing demographics to visit the library.
17. The number of physical visits to Cockerton Library increased (CUL 104 – 48,333 to 48,961). Visitor numbers have been high whilst Darlington Library was closed. Now both libraries are accessible there is a reduction in those visiting the branch. The team at the library are providing a varied activity programme and creating a positive and welcoming atmosphere for all ages, to try to maintain footfall levels.
18. The total number of group engagements by the library service has increased (CUL 105 - 598 to 989). Engagements include regular in-house activities for adults and children, visits to external venues such as nurseries and schools and presence at external events such as the Tea Dance and Sustainability Event. A variety of audiences are being reached through the groups such as the Ukrainian Hub, Breastfeeding Support, adults with dementia, young children who may be neuro-diverse, and for Looked After children.

19. The number of group engagements by Darlington library has increased (CUL 106 - 83 to 415). Since the reopening of the library in September the focus an effort has gone into planning and delivering a large range of activities, workshops and events such as BookFest, Crossing the Tees, Local History Month and a varied school holiday programme. The Hive continue to develop activities, workshops and events utilising the new digital equipment. There have been 75 school class visits since reopening, engaging over 2,000 pupils.
20. The number of group engagements by Cockerton library has increased (CUL 107 - 415 to 474). The library put on events for adults and children during and after opening times. The library provides a safe and welcoming community space to enjoy for a range of audiences. Events for adults include Musical Memories and Watercolours and for children Lego, rhyme times, Boredom Busting Games, photography, singing and craft activities.
21. The number of educational interactions by the libraries increased (CUL 108 - 167 to 304). The libraries support nurseries and schools with language and literacy through offering visits to the library. The children also learn about the local area with through the Centre for Local Studies. The opening of the Hive has presented an opportunity to support schools with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Nine schools have purchased the school package offered by the library service and taken part in Virtual Reality workshops learning about subjects from Shakespeare to Volcanoes, 3D design and print, robotics and laser cutting.
22. The number of enquiries directed to the Centre for Local Studies increased (CUL 109 – 2,994 to 4,823). Whilst Darlington Library was closed the Local Studies staff dealt with email, telephone enquiries and booked appointments at the Cockerton library to satisfy public enquiries. Requests have increased now that the in-person service has returned to the library.

Community Services

23. The number of Street Champions who are registered as being actively involved in litter picking has increased by 95. (ENV 002 – 522 to 617). The Keep Britain Tidy Spring and Autumn Clean the Litter Free Durham and Darlington campaigns have encouraged new groups, for example Talking Out The Trash, Haughton Wombles, Eastbourne Hubs and The Denes and The Well, to set up regular litter picking events throughout the year supported through Street Champions.
24. The total number of large fly-tips reported has decreased (ENV 006c – 700 to 668).
25. The total number of small fly-tips reported has increased (ENV 006d – 2,491 to 3,048). A large proportion of these are identified as side waste, put out particularly in back lanes at the same time as refuse collection.
26. The overall total number of fly-tips reported has increased (ENV 006e – 3,191 to 3,716). The increase is due to additional reporting of side waste (classed as fly-tipping) by both Enforcement Officers and Fire Service. Overall, 95.4% are being removed within the time scales irrespective of numbers.

27. The percentage of household waste, that is collected that is either reused, recycled, or composted, data up to June, has decreased (ENV 009 – 31.7% to 30.8%) below the England average but in line with the North East. Work continues to be undertaken by Street Scene and communication teams to increase recycling and reduce contamination. Staff are also working with the new waste contractor to maximise the amount of material that is recovered from residual waste and sent for recycling.
28. The percentage of small fly tips removed within target time has increased (ENV 021 – 96.7% to 99.3%). On average 96.6% of these tips were collected within target of 5 days.
29. The percentage of large fly tips removed within target time scales increased (ENV 022 – 93.7% to 100%). On average 94.2% of these tips were collected within target. A longer time can be required due to the complexity of the collection and requirement for special resources (e.g. asbestos).
30. The litter score average percentage increased (ENV 024 - 71% to 84%). Street Scene continue to assist with the Civic Enforcement back lane project, which incorporates litter picking of the front street as well as the back lane.

Community Safety

31. The number of prosecutions for fly-tipping has increased (ENV 023 - 7 to 23). Nine were for when a Fixed Penalty had previously been issued whether for Duty of Care or Fly-Tip and had not been paid to Civil Processing. The additional 14 were for the Environment Act 1995, Section 110 offence. The Environmental Crime Coordinator together with other Civic Enforcement officers continue to explore and implement a range of measures to tackle these problems including bin removals, letter-drops and camera enforcement where circumstances permit.
32. The percentage of high-risk inspections carried out by Trading Standards has increased (REG 803 - 58% to 100%). The number of inspections, mostly on-premises inspections, planned and completed was 65 (100%). Issues identified during inspection have either been corrected immediately or revisits and further advice given.

Highways & Capital Projects

33. The percentage of non-frequent bus services running on time (TCP 101) is no longer reported by National Statistics at local authority level but for the Tees Valley Combined Authority. The figure for the year ending March 2023 was 88% on time. Local data supplied directly by Arriva shows that the 2023/24, the average punctuality has been 76.13% (on time) across services operating in Darlington. With the agreement of members, this local indicator will be reported instead of TCP 101.
34. The percentage of principal roads where maintenance should be considered (A class) (TCP 200) was 7.2%. This percentage was established by a change in method, making it not comparable with previous years. With the agreement of members this new method of recording will be reported instead of TCP 200. Over the past year maintenance was carried out on a total road length of 0.6km of A class roads.

35. The percentage of non-principal roads where maintenance should be considered (B and C class) (TCP 202) was 4.7%. This percentage was established by a change in method, making it not comparable with previous years. With the agreement of members this new method of recording will be reported instead of TCP 202. Over the past year maintenance was carried out on a total road length of 2.3km of B and C class roads.
36. The percentage unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered (TCP 202) was 4.1%. This percentage was established by a change in method, making it not comparable with previous years. With the agreement of members this new method of recording will be reported instead of TCP 203. Over the past year maintenance was carried out on a total road length of 2.4km of unclassified roads.
37. The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents has decreased based on pre-pandemic traffic data and volumes. (TCP 600 – 47 to 37). Of the 37 there has been 3 fatalities.
38. The number of people slightly injured in road traffic accidents has decreased (TCP 601 – 89 to 81), despite traffic volumes recovering to similar levels to that recorded prior to Covid-19, showing a downward trend since the pandemic. The Council's Local Transport Plan outlines the investment in speed management and casualty reduction schemes.
39. The number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents has decreased (TCP 602 – 4 to 1). The Council invest in road safety education. There have been no child fatalities since 2013.
40. The number of children slightly injured in road traffic accidents has decreased (TCP 603 – 17 to 12). The long-term trend shows significant reductions from the 45 recorded in 2012.
41. The overall public satisfaction with Public Transport Theme has decreased (TCP 900 – 56% to 47%), which is below the Highways and Transport Network average of 50%. Tees Valley Combined Authority are the Local Transport Authority responsible for public transport and the Council will continue to work in partnership to steer investment into public transport in Darlington to improve satisfaction levels.

Performance Summary

42. 31 of the 35 indicators reported have Quarter 4 (year-end) data which can be compared with the same period for 2022/23.
43. When taking into consideration what is best performance for each indicator:
 - a) 24 of the 31 indicators have increased when compared to the same period as last year.
 - b) 7 of the 31 indicators have decreased when compared to the same period as last year.

44. A detailed performance scorecard is attached at Appendix 1.

45. Detailed performance and narratives for each indicator is attached at Appendix 2.

Recommendations

46. It is recommended that:

- a) Performance information provided in this report is reviewed and noted, and relevant queries raised with appropriate Assistant Director or Head of Service.
- b) Agreement of the four alternative indicators.

Ian Thompson
AD – Community Services

Anthony Hewitt
AD – Highways and Capital
Projects

Darren Ellis
Acting Head of
Community Safety

Background Papers

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

Council Plan	This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of the key priorities COMMUNITIES – working together for safer, healthier and more engaged communities LOCAL ENVIRONMENT – a well-connected, clean and sustainable borough
Addressing inequalities	This report supports the promotion of diversity There are no specific indicators on inequalities contained within this report
Tackling Climate Change	There is no impact on carbon and climate change as a result of this report There are no specific indicators on climate change contained within this report
Efficient and effective use of resources	Scrutiny of performance is integral to optimising outcomes. This report has no impact on the Council’s Efficiency Programme.
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report supports the Councils Crime and Disorder responsibilities

Wards Affected	This report supports performance improvement across all Wards
Groups Affected	This report supports performance improvement which benefits all groups
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

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Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee 2023 - 2024 QUARTER 4												APPENDIX 1		
												Year End data direction of travel		
Indicator	Title	Return Format	Reported	What is best	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024 - Qtr 1	2023/2024 - Qtr 2	2023/2024 - Qtr 3	2023/2024 - Qtr 4	2021/2022 compared to 2020/2021	2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022	2023/2024 compared to 2022/2023
CUL 037	Number of shows held at the Hippodrome	Number	Monthly	Higher	0	173	251	54	93	180	225	↑	↑	↓
CUL 038	Number of individual attendances at Hippodrome theatre shows	Number	Monthly	Higher	0	83,298	126,357	26,354	43,541	97,626	125,429	↑	↑	↓
CUL 070	Reservations - where an item is reserved from stock or from another library and is supplied within 7 days, shown as a %	Percentage	Annually	Higher	61%	60%	64%	Annual indicator no data to report for these quarters			66%	↓	↑	↑
CUL 071	Number of visits to the Head of Steam	Number	Monthly	Higher	4,216	24,859	40,379	3,609	7,755	10,055	10,120	↑	↑	↓
CUL 078	Number of shows held at the Hullabaloo	Number	Monthly	Higher	0	107	122	17	30	103	156	↑	↑	↑
CUL 079	Number of individual attendances at Hullabaloo shows	Number	Monthly	Higher	0	3,622	6,908	1,441	2,032	5,953	8,957	↑	↑	↑
CUL 100	Number of library items borrowed	Number	Monthly	Higher	172,519	214,027	208,702	48,149	112,480	175,345	242,843	↑	↓	↑
CUL 101	Physical Stock borrowed from Darlington Library	Number	Monthly	Higher	101,553	136,403	89,785	15,507	43,114	78,139	114,021	↑	↓	↑
CUL 102	Physical Stock borrowed from Cockerton Library	Number	Monthly	Higher	12,320	36,748	76,931	22,672	47,808	63,785	80,824	↑	↑	↑
CUL 103	Number of physical visits to Darlington Library	Number	Monthly	Higher	0	62,657	24,093	0	13,722	87,985	160,260	↑	↓	↑
CUL 104	Number of physical visits to Cockerton Library	Number	Monthly	Higher	No data available	11,279	48,333	15,413	30,222	38,788	48,961	NA	↑	↑
CUL 105	Number of group engagements	Number	Monthly	Higher		257	598	183	365	686	989	NA	↑	↑
CUL 106	Number of group engagements at Darlington Library	Number	Monthly	Higher		158	83	0	54	236	415	NA	↓	↑
CUL 107	Number of group engagements at Cockerton Library	Number	Monthly	Higher		80	415	164	270	364	474	NA	↑	↑
CUL 108	Number of educational interactions	Number	Monthly	Higher		55	173	64	106	203	304	NA	↑	↑
CUL 109	Number of enquires directed to the Centre for Local Studies	Number	Monthly	Higher		3,445	2,994	612	1,384	3,140	4,823	NA	↓	↑
ENV 002	Number of Street Champions who are registered as being actively involved in litter picking a minimum of once per month	Number	Quarterly	Higher	174	416	522	562	587	593	617	↑	↑	↑
ENV 006c	Total number of large fly-tips reported	Number	Quarterly	Lower	No data available	825	700	186	386	491	668	NA	↑	↑
ENV 006d	Total number of small fly-tips reported	Number	Quarterly	Lower		2,138	2,491	841	1,535	2,176	3,048	NA	↓	↓
ENV 006e	Total number of fly-tips reported	Number	Quarterly	Lower		2,963	3,191	1,027	1,921	2,667	3,716	NA	↓	↓
ENV 009	% household waste that is collected that is either reused, recycled or composted	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	35.1%	32.4%	31.7%	31.2%	32.7%	32.8%	30.8%	↓	↓	↓
ENV 021	% of small fly tips removed within target time	Percentage	Monthly	Higher	99.5%	93.6%	96.7%	99.2%	83.3%	98.1%	99.3%	↓	↑	↑
ENV 022	% of large fly tips removed within target time	Percentage	Monthly	Higher	100.0%	93.6%	93.7%	93.5%	79.6%	90.3%	100.0%	↓	↑	↑
ENV 023	Number of prosecutions for fly-tipping	Number	Quarterly	Higher	No data available	No data available	7	3	8	17	23	NA	NA	↑
ENV 024	Land Audit Management System - Litter Score	Percentage Value	Quarterly	Higher	No data available	No data available	71.0%	No data available	No data available	79.0%	84.0%	NA	NA	↑

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee 2023 - 2024 QUARTER 4												APPENDIX 1			
												Year End data direction of travel			
Indicator	Title	Return Format	Reported	What is best	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024 - Qtr 1	2023/2024 - Qtr 2	2023/2024 - Qtr 3	2023/2024 - Qtr 4	2021/2022 compared to 2020/2021	2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022	2023/2024 compared to 2022/2023	
REG 803	Trading Standards : % of high risk inspections carried out	Percentage	Quarterly	Higher	100%	100%	58%	48%	75%	94%	100%	↔	↓	↑	
TCP 101	Bus punctuality - % of non-frequent bus services running on time	Percentage	Annually	Higher	93.0%	88.9%	No data available	Annual indicator no data to report for these quarters				No data available	↓	NA	NA
TCP 200	% of principal roads where maintenance should be considered (A class)	Percentage	Annually	Lower	1.87%	1.29%	1.47%					No data available	↑	↓	NA
TCP 202	% of non principal roads where maintenance should be considered (B and C class)	Percentage	Annually	Lower	5.97%	5.42%	5.30%					No data available	↑	↑	NA
TCP 203	% of unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered	Percentage	Annually	Lower	13.1%	15.9%	16.5%					No data available	↓	↓	NA
TCP 600	Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	Number	Annually	Lower	27	41	47					37	↓	↓	↑
TCP 601	Number of people slightly injured in road traffic accidents	Number	Annually	Lower	97	113	89					81	↓	↑	↑
TCP 602	Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	Number	Annually	Lower	2	5	4					1	↓	↑	↑
TCP 603	Number of children slightly injured in road traffic accidents	Number	Annually	Lower	14	8	17					12	↑	↓	↑
TCP 900	Overall Public Satisfaction with Public Transport Theme (National Highways and Transport Survey)	Percentage	Annually	Higher	57%	56%	47%					42%	↓	↓	↓
												Better than =	↑	13	18
									Not as good as =	↓	10	14	7		
									The same as =	↔	1	0	0		
									No comparative data	NA	11	3	4		

DBC Number

CUL 037

Indicator Name

Number of shows held at the Hippodrome

Theme or Portfolio

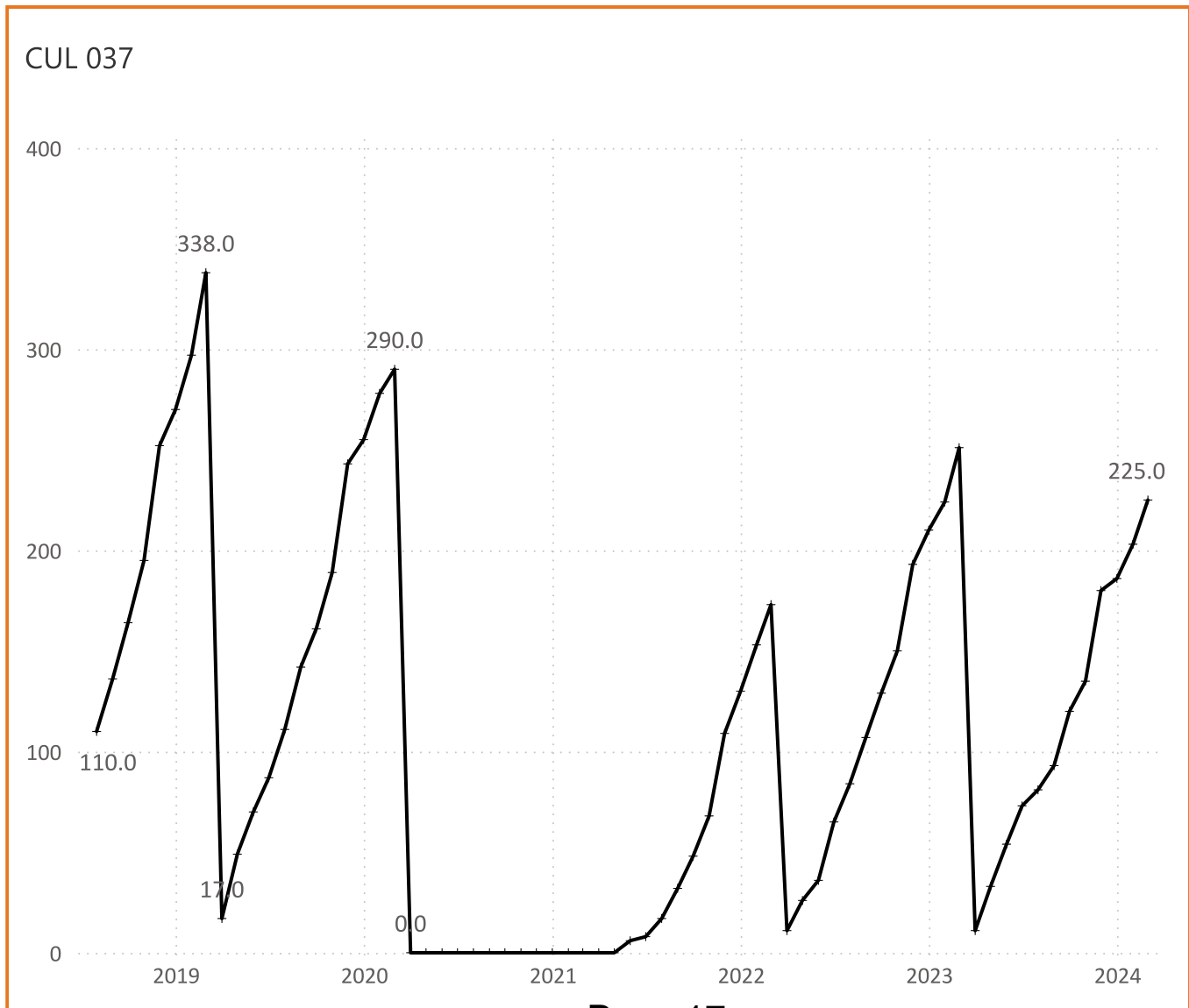
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Highlights for Q4 included Strictly's Giovanni Pernice, The Halle Orchestra, comedians Frankie Boyle & Stewart Lee, Country singer Nathan Carter and Ellen Kent's opera.

The number of performances across Q4 was lower than forecast. January proved to be a difficult programming period with a large number of pencilled tours moving into later tour periods.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 038

Indicator Name

Number of individual attendances at theatre shows

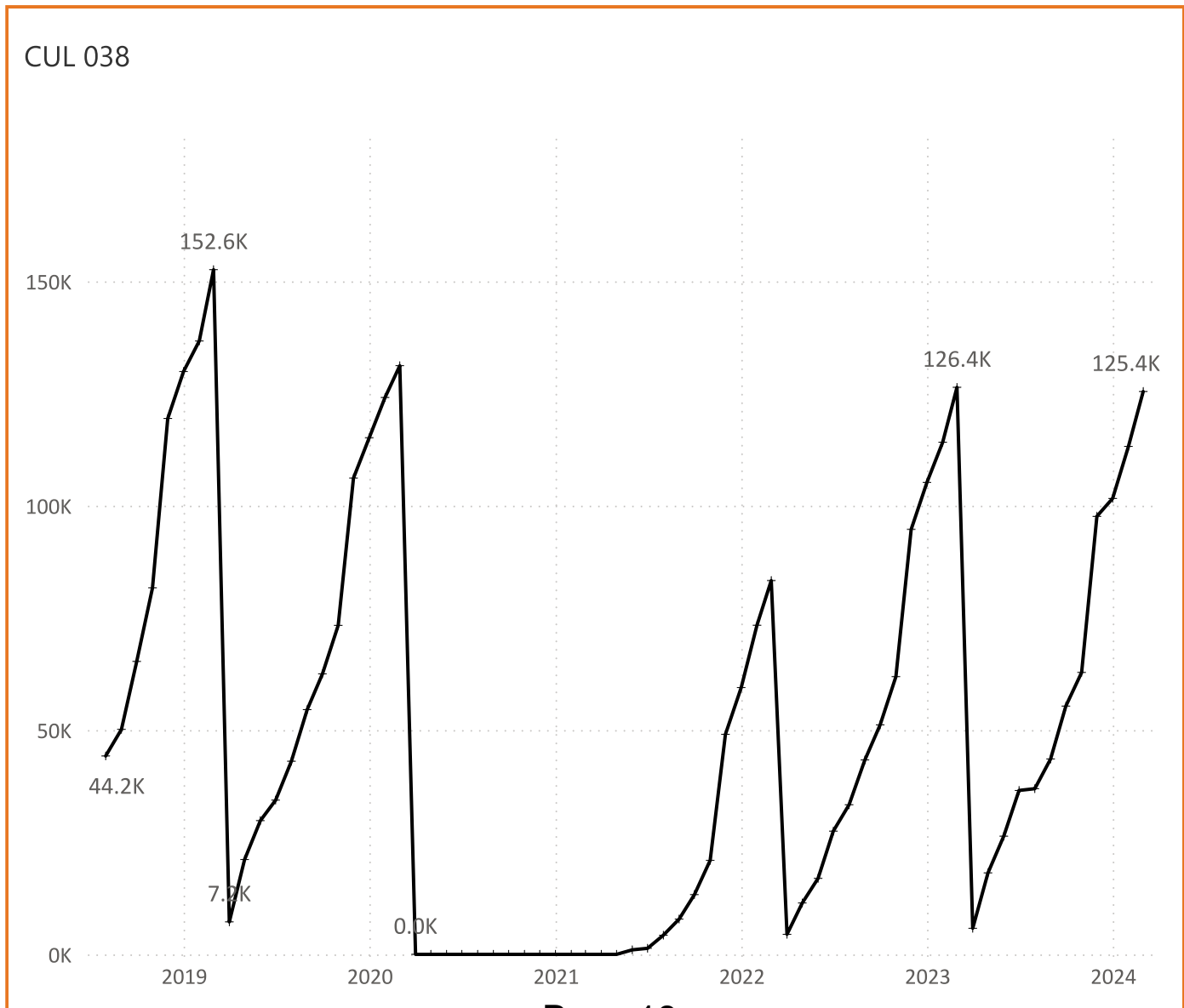
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The lower number of shows in Jan 2024 has impacted the number of overall attendances for Q4. However the average attendances per performance was up across the quarter, evidencing healthy average occupancy as follows, Jan (666 average attendance), Feb (681 average attendance) and March (556 average attendance). Year end average attendance was at 557 v's a target of 536.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 070

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

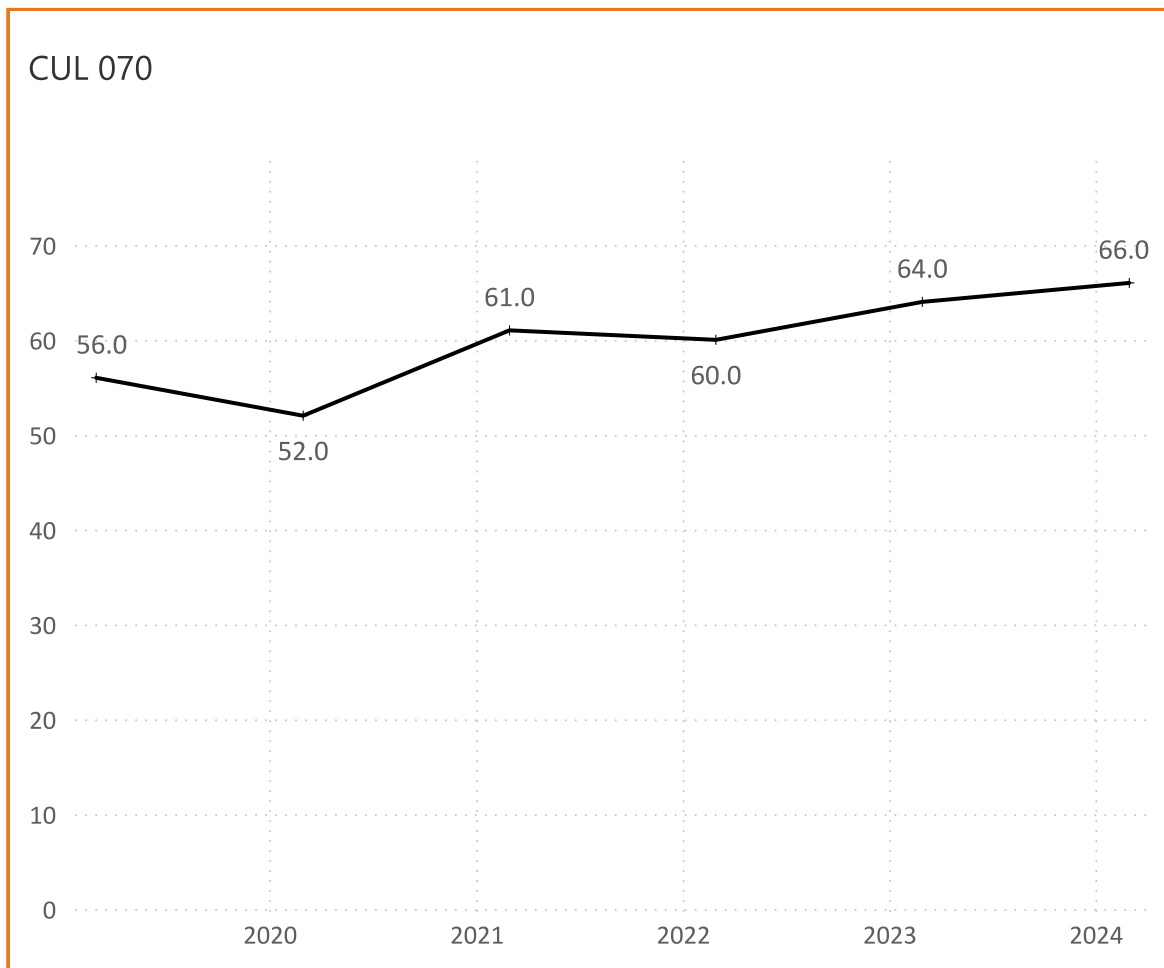
Reservations are marketed as "Select and Collect" and allow customers to "select" a book or resource from the library catalogue to collect from the branch of their choice.

This helps customers to borrow stock and promotes use of both libraries.

Some stock is in store and staff source the books from the stores which are inaccessible to the public and it also allows customers to reserve a book which may be on loan to someone else.

There is a positive increase in this service that is offered at the library.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 071

Indicator Name

Number of visits to the Head of Steam

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The museum closed to the public at the end of December 2022 to undergo redevelopment. All engagement with the public throughout 2023-2024 was through outreach at different venues and settings, such as schools and community centres within Darlington. The 'Museum on the Move' enabled us to engage with over 10,100 people around Darlington and to promote the new Hopetown Darlington site, which will open on 16th July 2024.

New performance indicators will be drafted for approval for the next quarter.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 078

Indicator Name

Number of shows held at the Hullabaloo

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

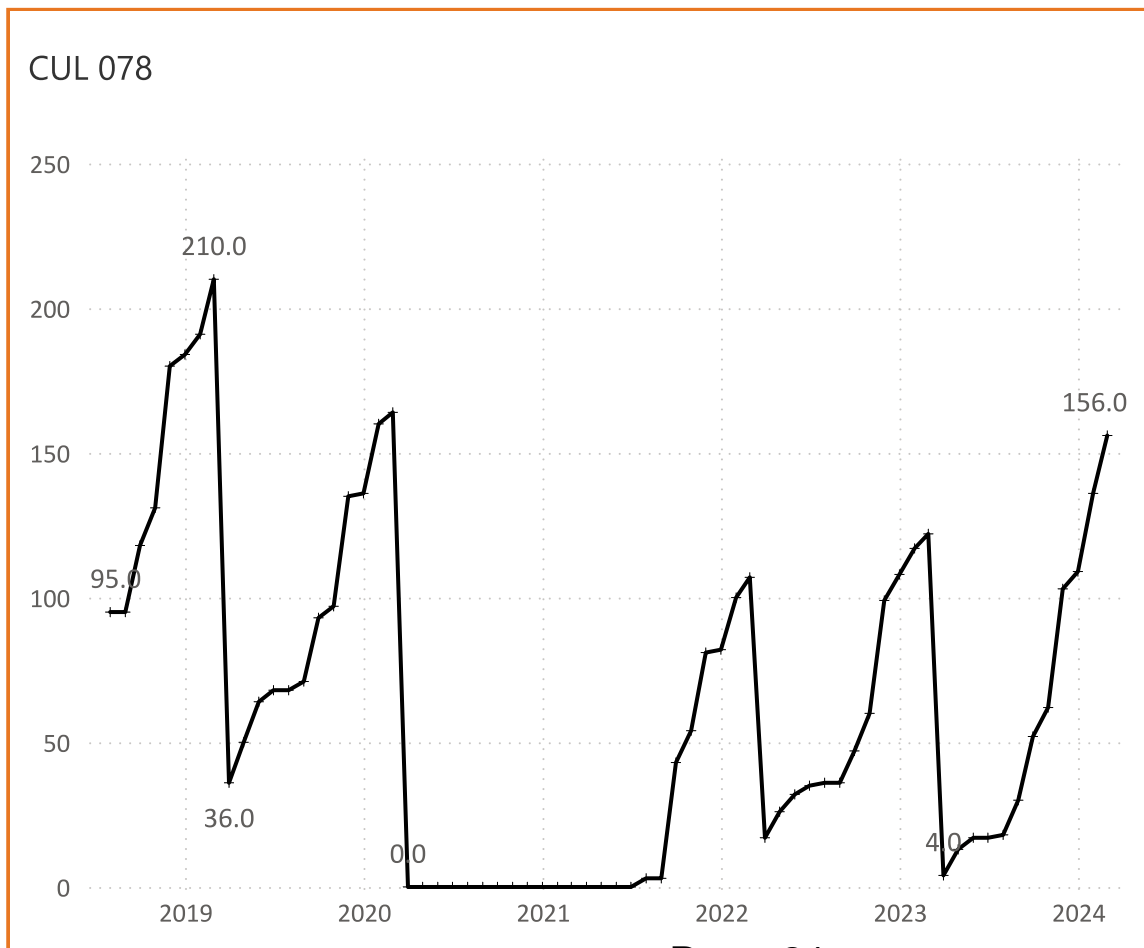
Narrative

Of the 156 shows presented at the Hullabaloo a target of 25 performances was achieved for the year under the Hippodrome brand Hip at the Hullabaloo.

There is plenty of room for growth for 2024/2025, but programming for The Hullabaloo continues to be challenging as shows must be scheduled alongside the Theatre Hullabaloo's show programme which can sometimes conflict with date availability of producers.

Good income levels from Hullabaloo hires across the year with highlights including including Women's X Film Festival and Darlington College Awards and successful shows including Last Train Home festival, Solve-along-A Murder she wrote and Primary School Assembly Bangers, additional performance added for both due to popularity.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 079

Indicator Name

Number of individual attendances at Hullabaloo shows

Theme or Portfolio

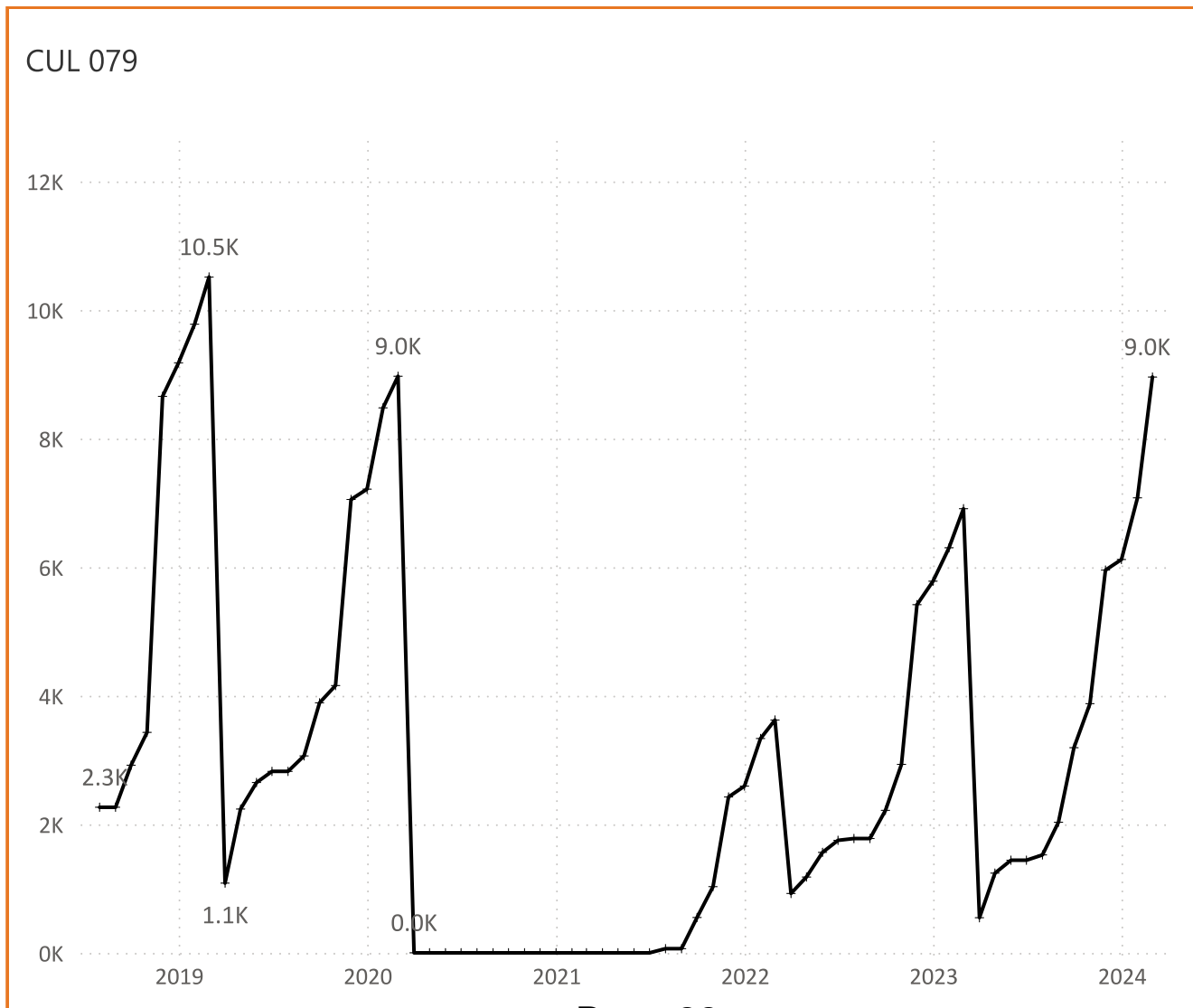
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

There have been strong attendance levels across the Hullabaloo programme. There is a positive trend of increasing attendance at shows over recent years. Attendance has grown by circa 3,000 attendances per year since 2022.

Attendance at Theatre Hullabaloo shows has also risen in the last quarter. It is evident that awareness of the venue has grown after last summers Hullabaloo in the Park festival.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 100

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

Whilst - Valuing our heritage and culture

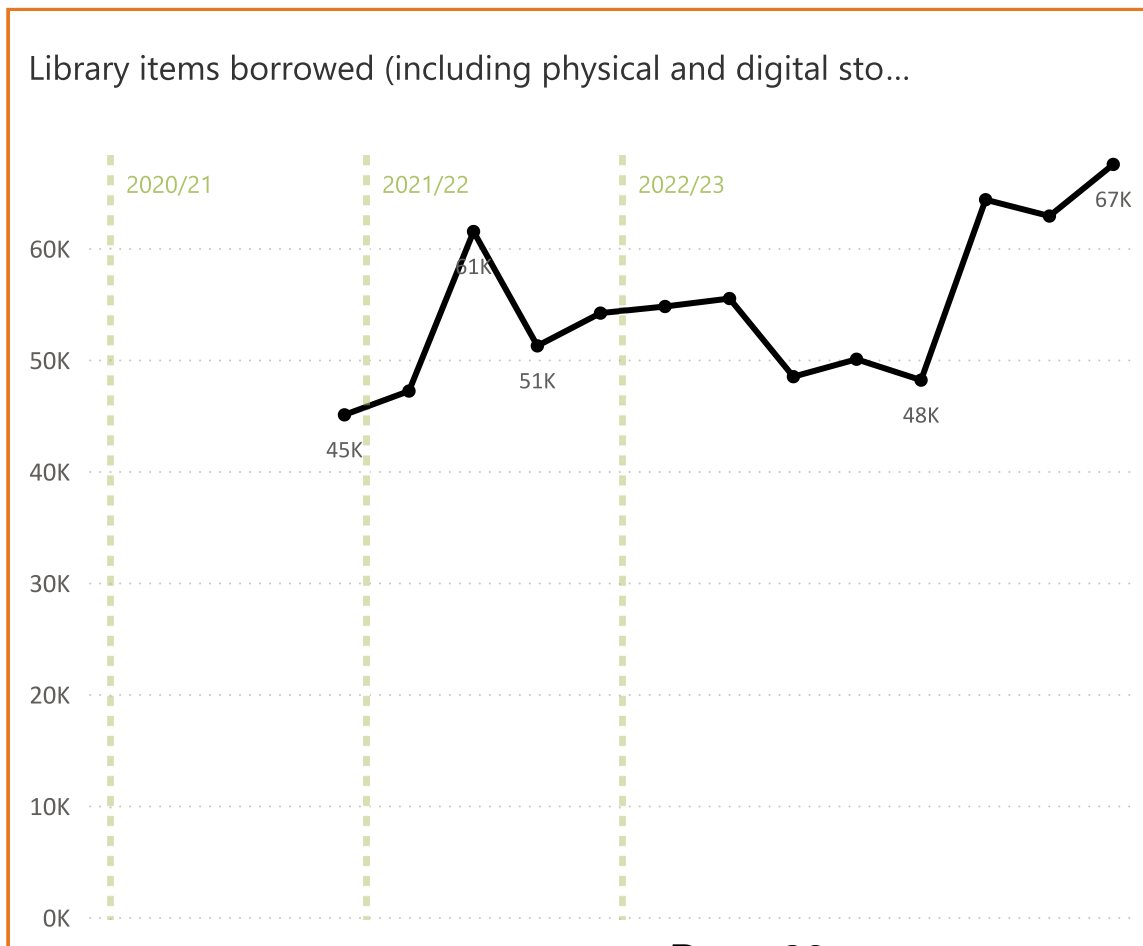
Narrative

Darlington Library reopened in September 2023 and the increase in borrowed items has been very positive. The figure for July to September was 64,331, a 33.6% rise from the 48,149 for April to June. The higher level of item borrowing remained for the rest of the year.

The total number of items borrowed for the year was 242,843, a 16.4% rise from 208,702 in 2022/23. Figures include physical books, audio books and digital stock, with 71% of items borrowed from in branch.

Adult and children's fiction are our most borrowed items. When compared with 2019/20, the last year before the library closure for the pandemic and restoration, children's borrowing is at a similar level, adult borrowing has declined and there is a large rise in digital borrowing.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 101

Indicator Name

Physical Stock borrowed from Darlington Library

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

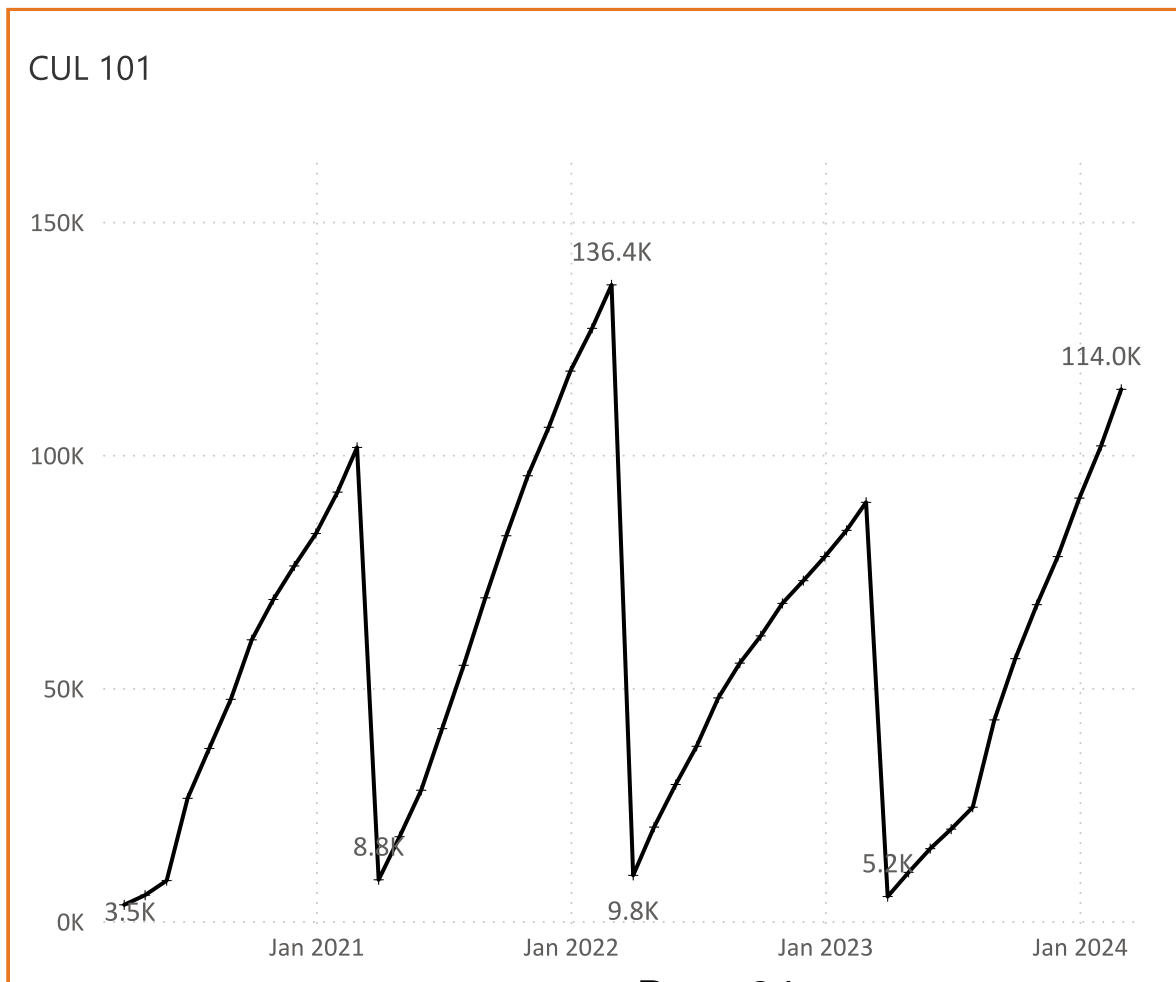
Physical stock is issued on a customers library card when they borrow from Darlington Library. Our home delivery and school customers are also encapsulated in these figures.

We have seen a positive increase in borrowing from Darlington Library since it reopened in September 2023.

In 2023/24 114,021 physical items were borrowed; a 27% increase from last year, when our doors were closed and the service was via Select and Collect with no browsing.

Given the closure and remodelling works it is not surprising this year shows a 43% decrease from 2019/20 figures. We would anticipate a true reflection of figures next year when we can present the impact of a full year of opening.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 102

Indicator Name

Physical Stock borrowed from Cockerton Library

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

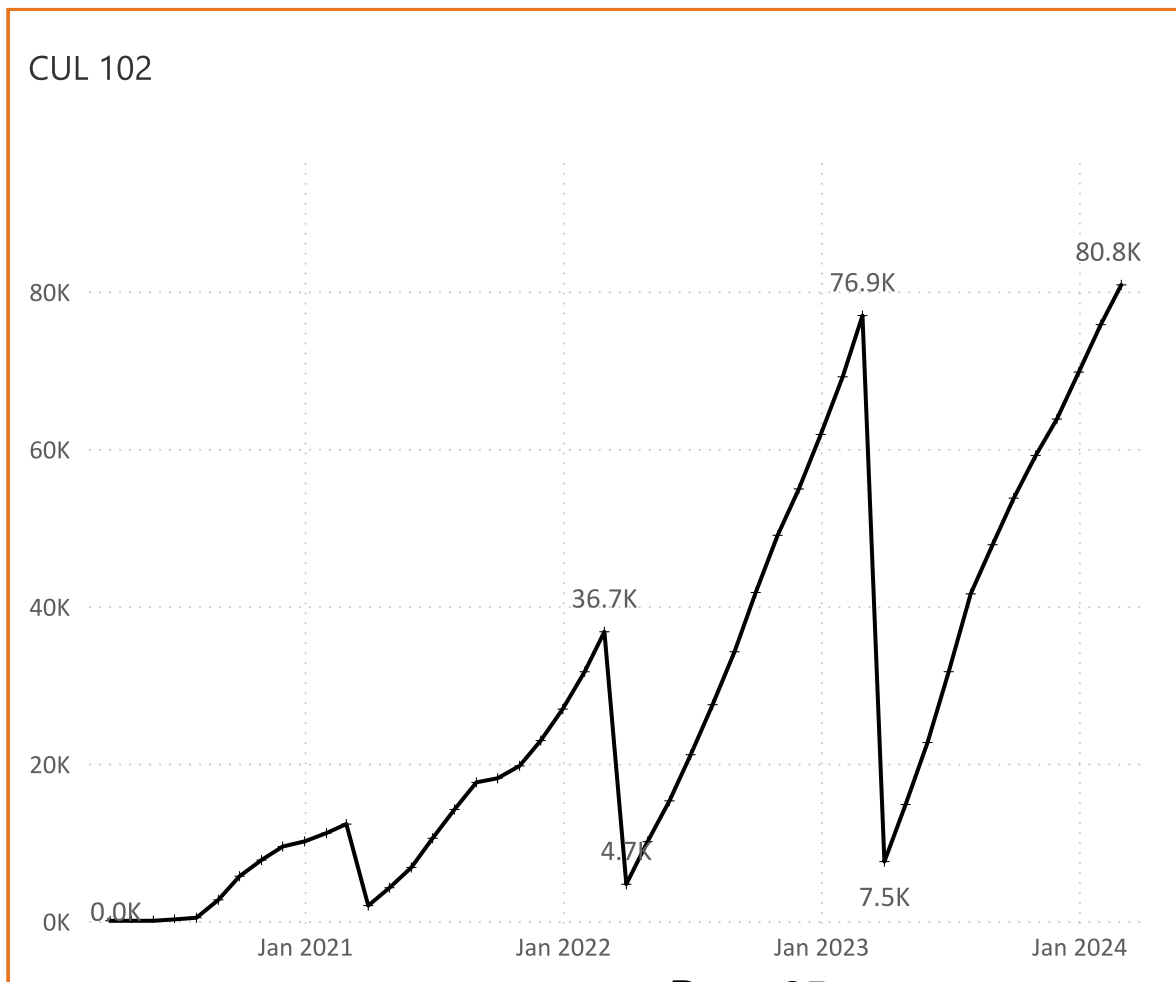
Borrowing from Cockerton Library is predictably high this year due to the partial closure of the town library. This is a 38% rise from 2019/20.

There could be a migration to Darlington Library over the coming year now it is re-opened as it houses the vast majority of stock. However, the increased use of Cockerton has been very positive.

Customers can continue to select and collect at both branches.

*We generally compare our statistics with 2019/20 as this was the last set of figures before the fluctuation caused by the pandemic and then our restoration closures.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 103

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

Whilst - Valuing our heritage and culture

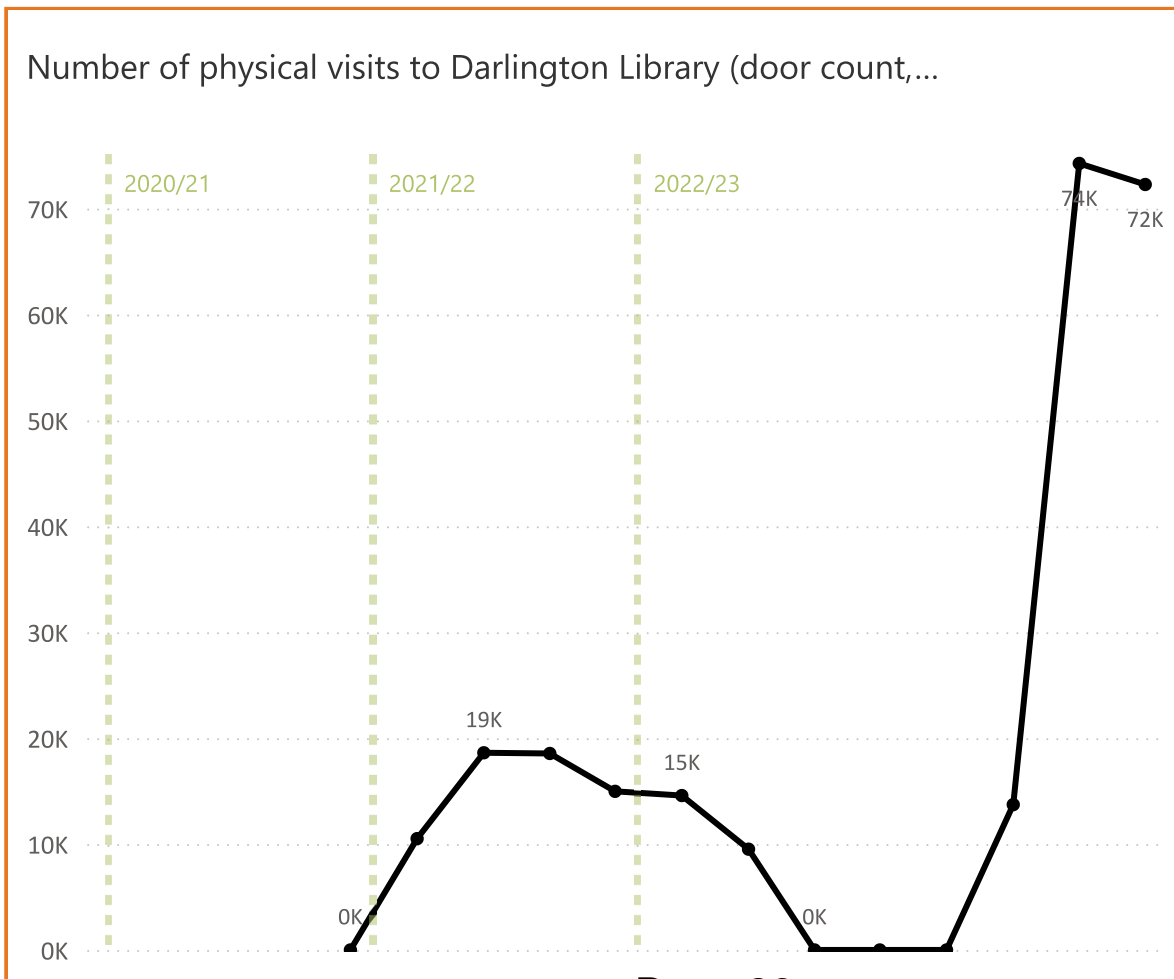
Narrative

Darlington Library footfall has been extremely good with 160,260 through the doors since reopening in September 2023 to March 2024. This compares with 201,562 people during the whole fiscal year of 2019/20, the last year before the library closure for the pandemic and restoration.

The increase in school visits within The Hive brings in many more young people, and the library team are offering a range of activities to encourage differing demographics.

The library feels a more vibrant and welcoming place to be, and we notice a diverse range of customers using the space which is wonderful to see.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 104

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

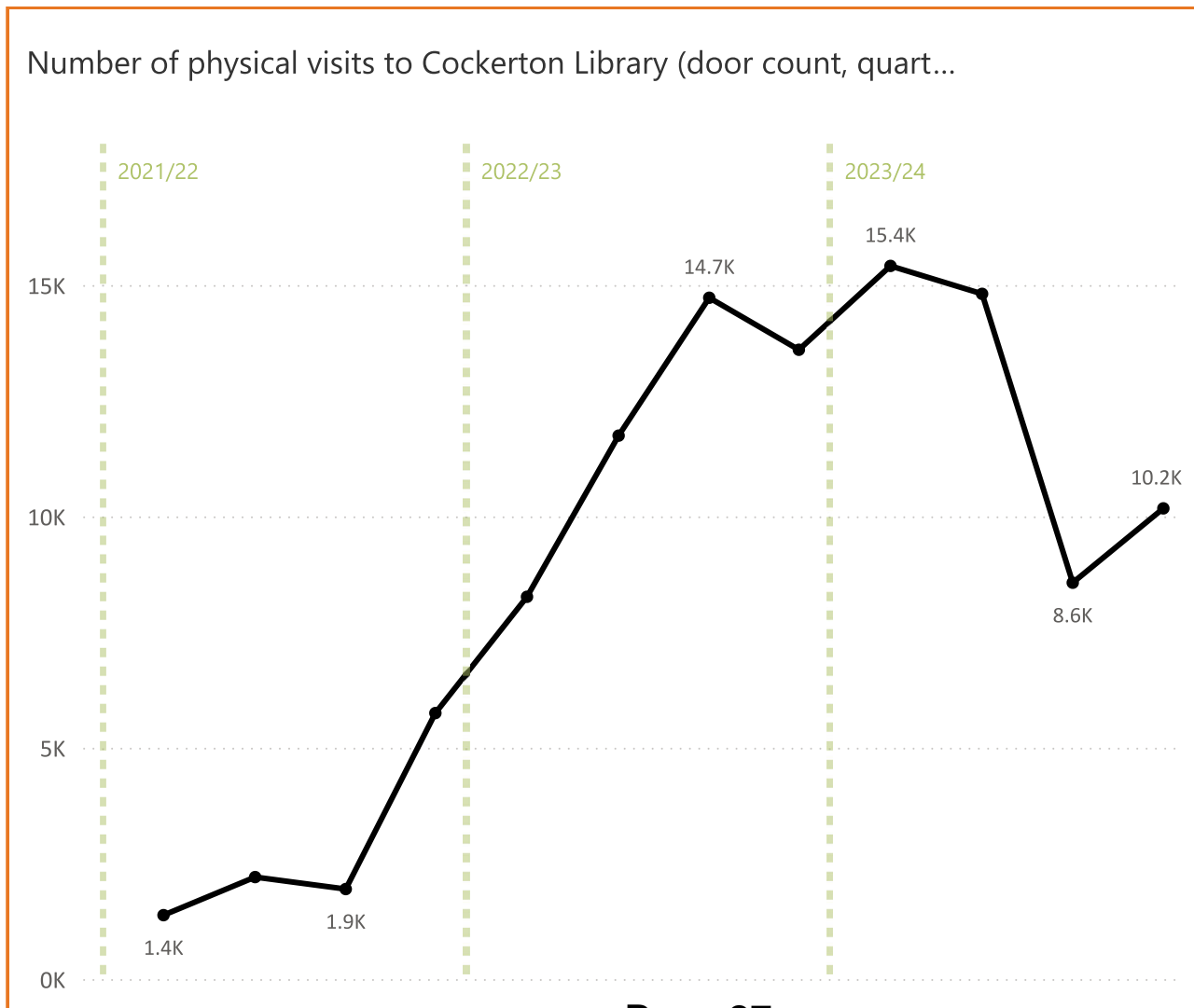
Priority or Key Action

Whilst - Valuing our heritage and culture

Narrative

Visitor numbers were predictably high whilst Darlington Library was closed for restoration, now both libraries are accessible there is a reduction in those visiting the branch. However, the annual total of visitors remains higher than pre-pandemic levels. (37,250 in 2019/20 compared with 48,961 in 2023/24)
The part-time team at Cockerton Library are providing a varied activity programme which is noticeably increasing footfall and creating a positive and welcoming atmosphere for all ages.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 105

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

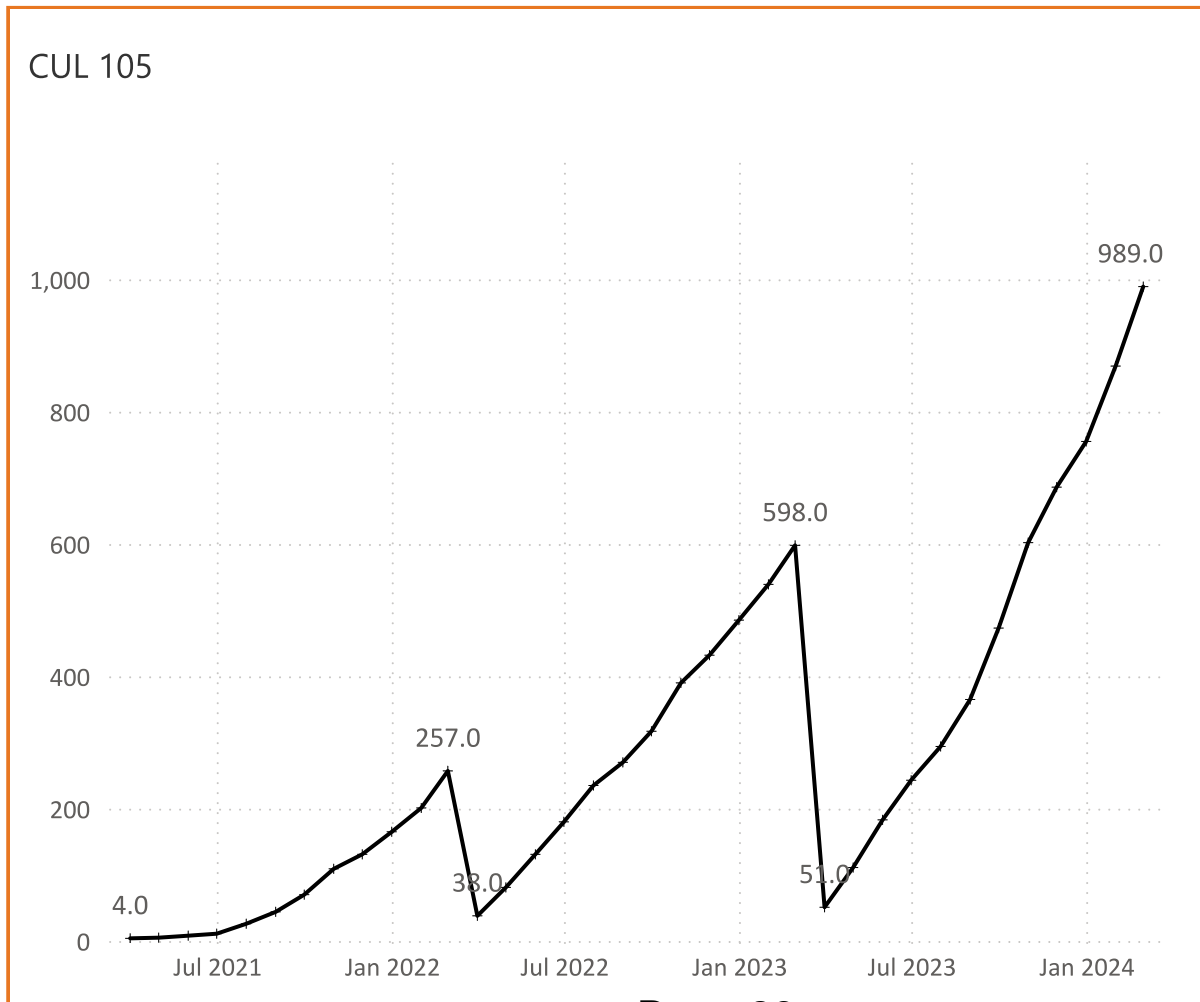
Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The 989 engagements include regular in-house activities for adults and children, our visits to external venues such as nurseries and schools and our presence at external events such as the Tea Dance and Sustainability Event. Reaching a range of audiences we engaged groups including the Ukrainian Hub, Breastfeeding Support groups and have started new groups for adults with dementia, for young children who may be neuro-diverse, and for Looked After children.

The team in The Hive continue to develop activities, workshops and events utilising the new digital equipment. These offer a range of hugely exciting experiences such as Music Production, Digital Art, and designing 3D printable's.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 106

Indicator Name

Number of group engagements at Darlington Library

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Significant focus an effort has gone into planning and delivering a large range of activities, workshops and events after reopening in September.

Highlights include:

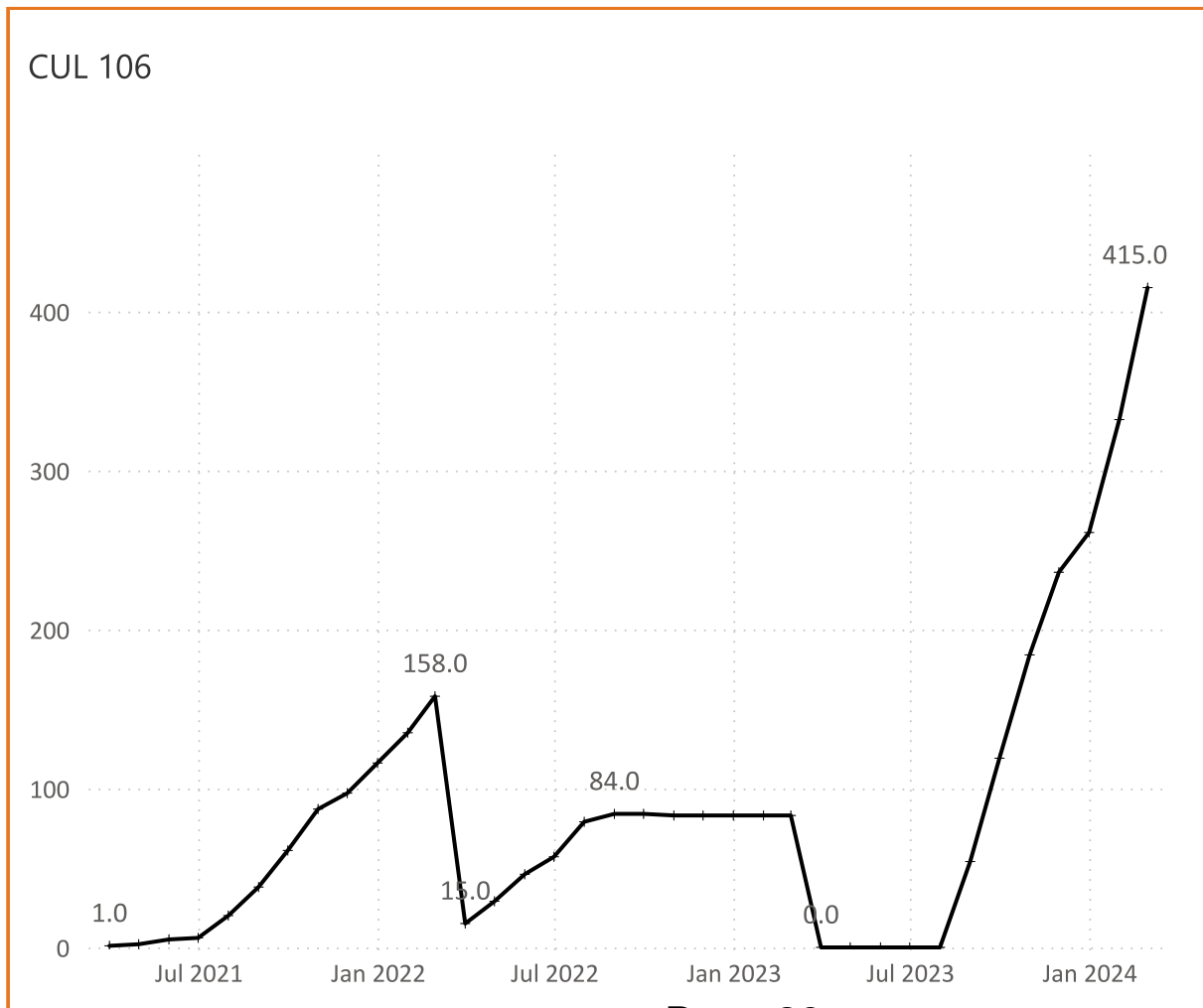
Annual festivals: BookFest (children & families), Crossing the Tees (adults) and Local History Month.

A range of sessions for children including an exciting and varied school holiday programme.

The Hive continue to develop activities, workshops and events utilising the new digital equipment. These offer a range of hugely exciting experiences such as Music Production, Digital Art, and designing 3D printable's.

There have been 75 school class visits since reopening, engaging over 2000 pupils.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 107

Indicator Name

Number of group engagements at Cockerton Library

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

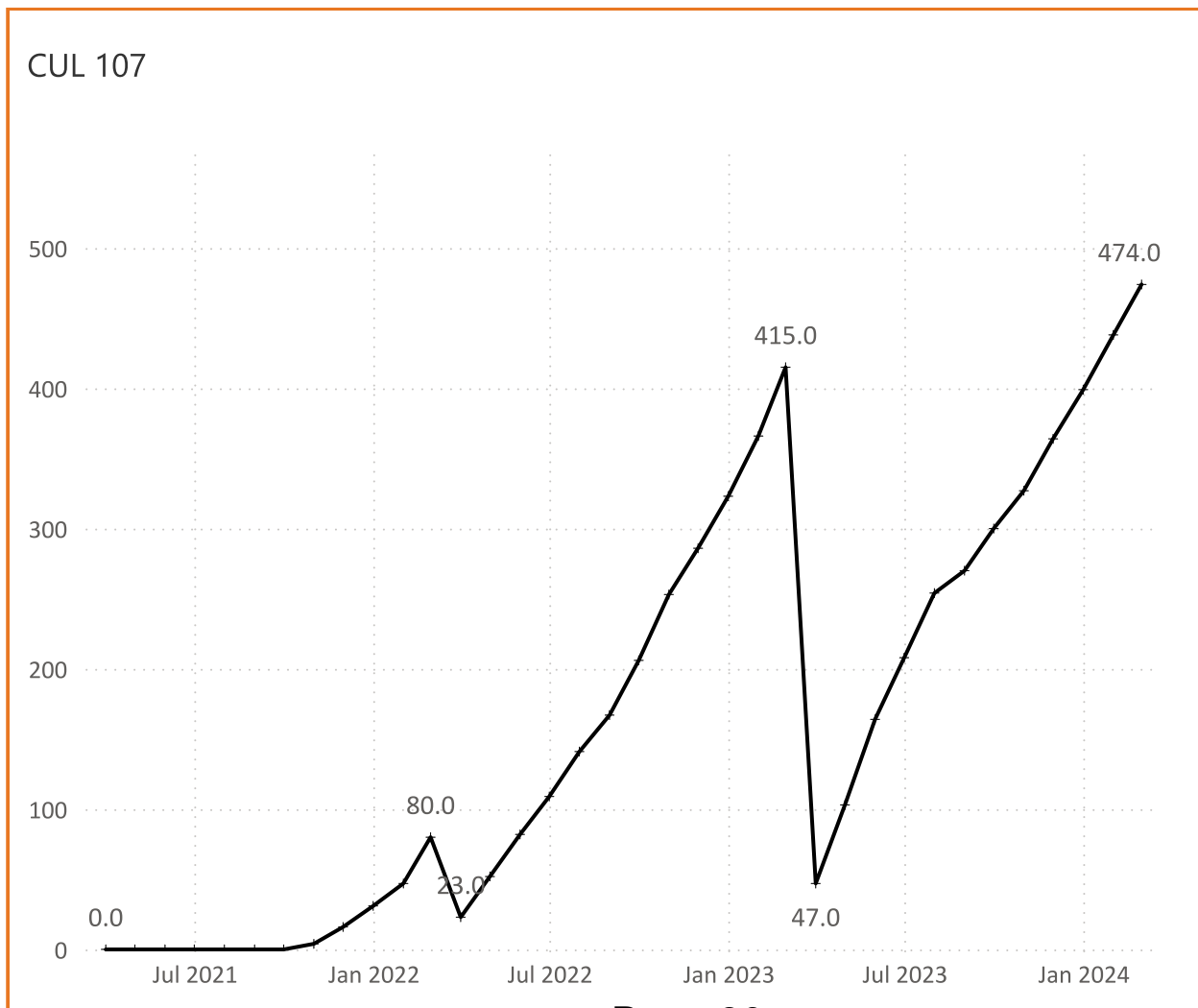
Narrative

Previously during opening hours we offered Musical Memories for older people, and Watercolours for adults. We also offered reading groups and Lego activities for children.

Outside of opening hours we held regular rhymetimes for preschool children to support speech and language development.

In addition to the above we have recently began some regular after school activities for children including Boredom Busting Games, Photography, singing and craft activities. These are rising in popularity and encourage people to stay and dwell for longer and enjoy the community space. As the library is close to several schools it helps to provide a safe and welcoming space for a range of audiences.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 108

Indicator Name

Number of educational interactions

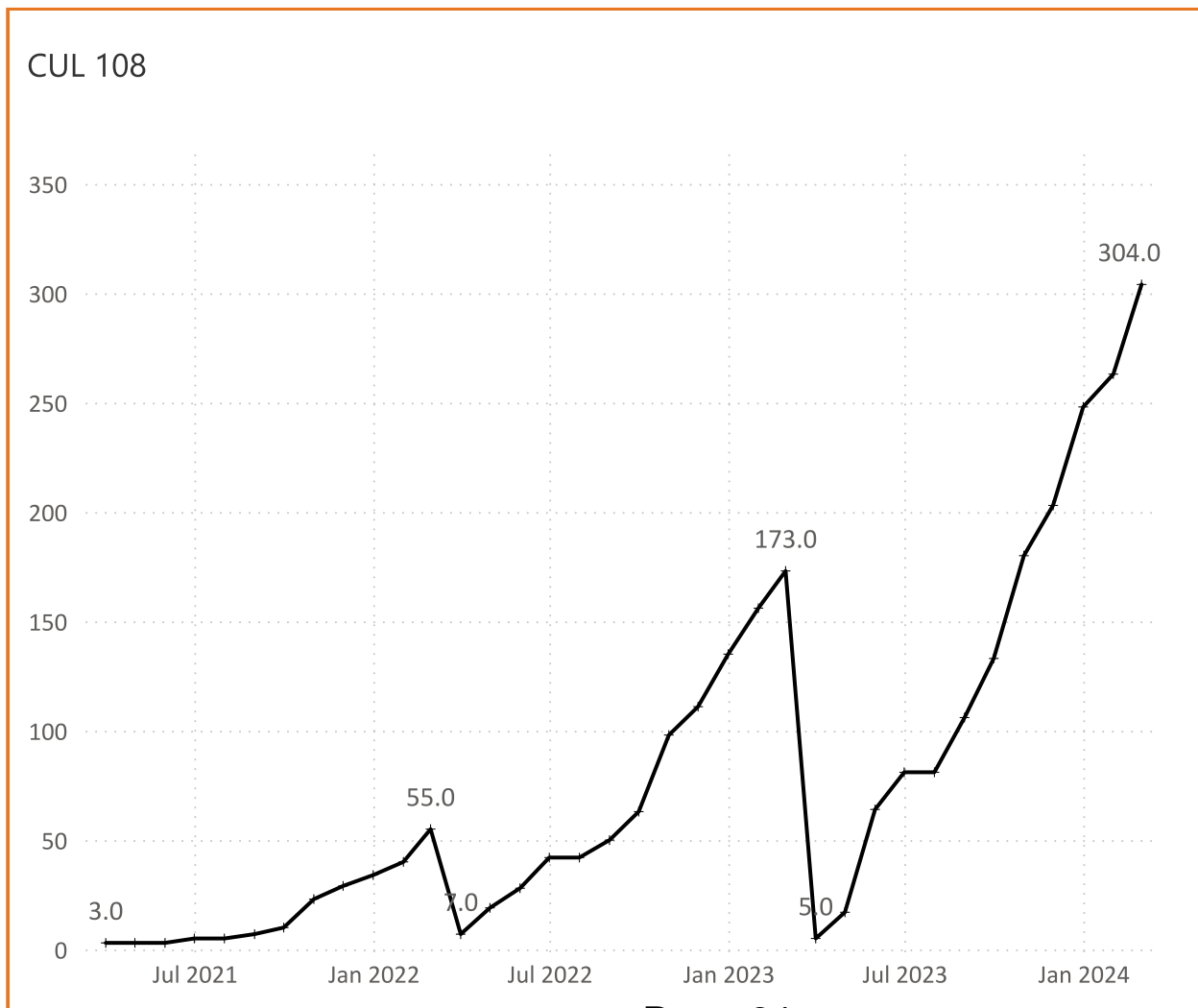
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

This is the largest number of educational interactions seen at our libraries. Whilst we have always offered visits to schools and nurseries to support language and literacy, and visits to the Centre for Local Studies to learn more about the local area, the opening of The Hive has presented an opportunity to support schools with STEM. Our schools package was purchased by Wyvern, Reid Street, Polam, Hummersknott, Abbey, Mowden, Education Village, Healthfield, St Augustine and Corporation Road Schools. They have taken part in Virtual Reality workshops learning about subjects from Shakespeare to Volcanoes, 3D design and print, robotics and laser cutting. Anecdotal feedback is fantastic.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

CUL 109

Indicator Name

Number of enquires directed to the Centre for Local Studies

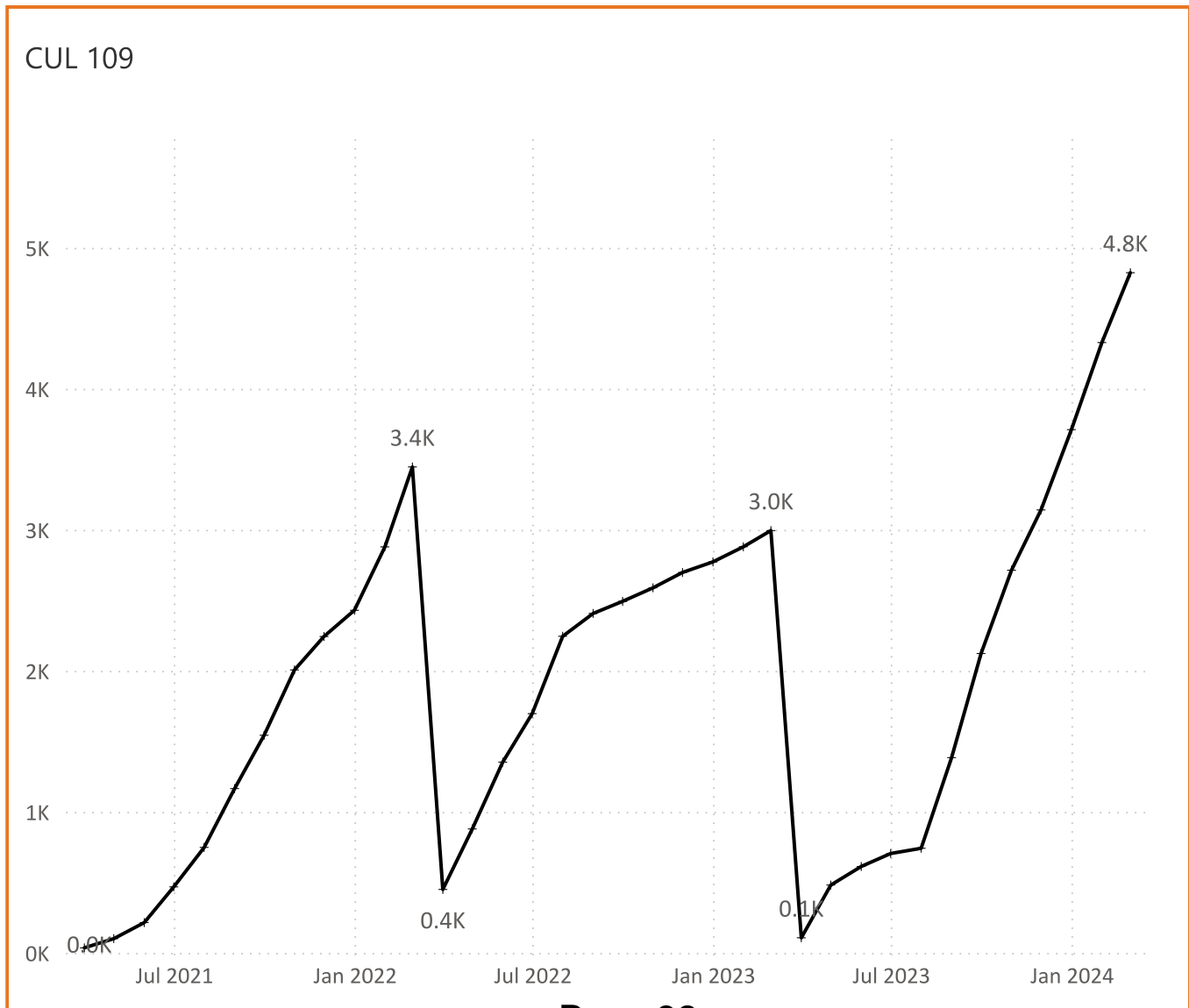
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The team in the Centre for Local Studies worked differently during the closure of Darlington Library, answering enquiries mainly through email and telephone appointments, but also taking the service to Cockerton Library to satisfy customers requests as much as possible. This was appreciated by customers and when planning further activity and events from the team we include Cockerton as a venue. They are now back working at Darlington Library as usual and able to offer in person requests.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

ENV 002

Indicator Name

Number of registered Street Champions

Theme or Portfolio

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO MAXIMISE THEIR POTENTIAL

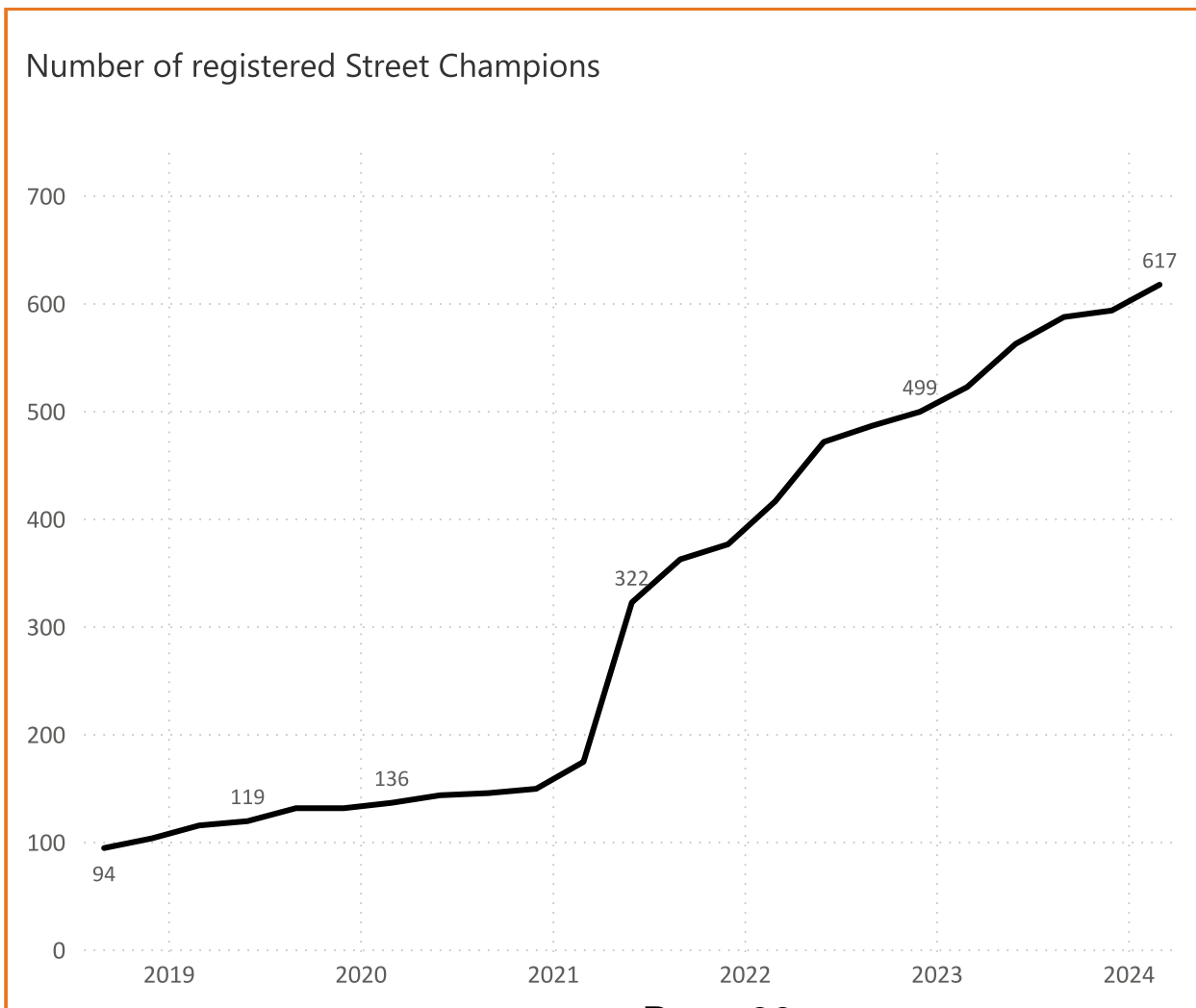
Priority or Key Action

Working with communities

Narrative

The number of street champions has risen by 95 over the last year to 617. The Keep Britain Tidy Spring and Autumn Clean the Litter Free Durham and Darlington campaigns of 2023 and 2024 have all resulted in new volunteers signing up as Street Champions. These campaigns have encouraged other groups, for example Talking Out The Trash, Haughton Wombles, Eastbourne Hubs and The Denes and The Well, and groups at Sadberge, Heighington and Middleton St George, to set up regular litter picking events throughout the year, which are supported through Street Champions. Some of these groups help improve the mental health / wellbeing for individuals, who had become self-isolated during lock downs.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

ENV 006e

Indicator Name

Total number of fly-tips reported

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

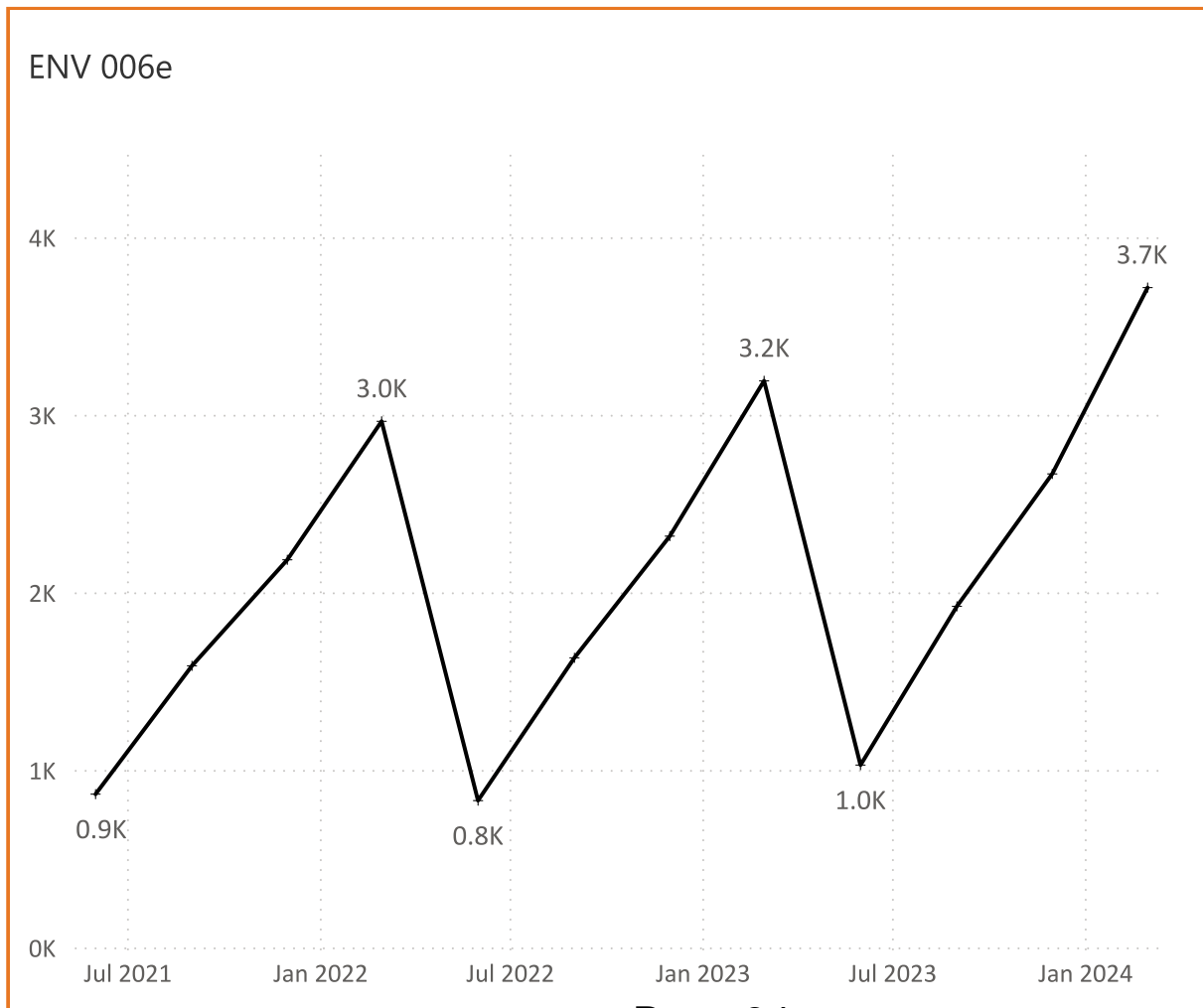
Narrative

When comparing March data for 2023/24 (3,716) to 2022/23 (3,191), the total number of fly tips have increased by 16.5% (525).

Small fly tips, 2023/24 (3,048) and 2022/23 (2,491), have increased by 22.4% (557) over the period, large fly tips, 2023/24 (668) and 2022/23 (700), have decreased by 4.6% (32)

A large proportion of small fly tips is side waste, put out particularly in back lanes at the same time as refuse collection. A significant proportion of these fly tips are being identified as part of the back lanes project, which is achieving success within the areas it is operating. On average over the year 95.4% of fly tips are collected within target time of being reported.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

ENV 006f

Indicator Name

Number of fly-tips reported in quarter

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

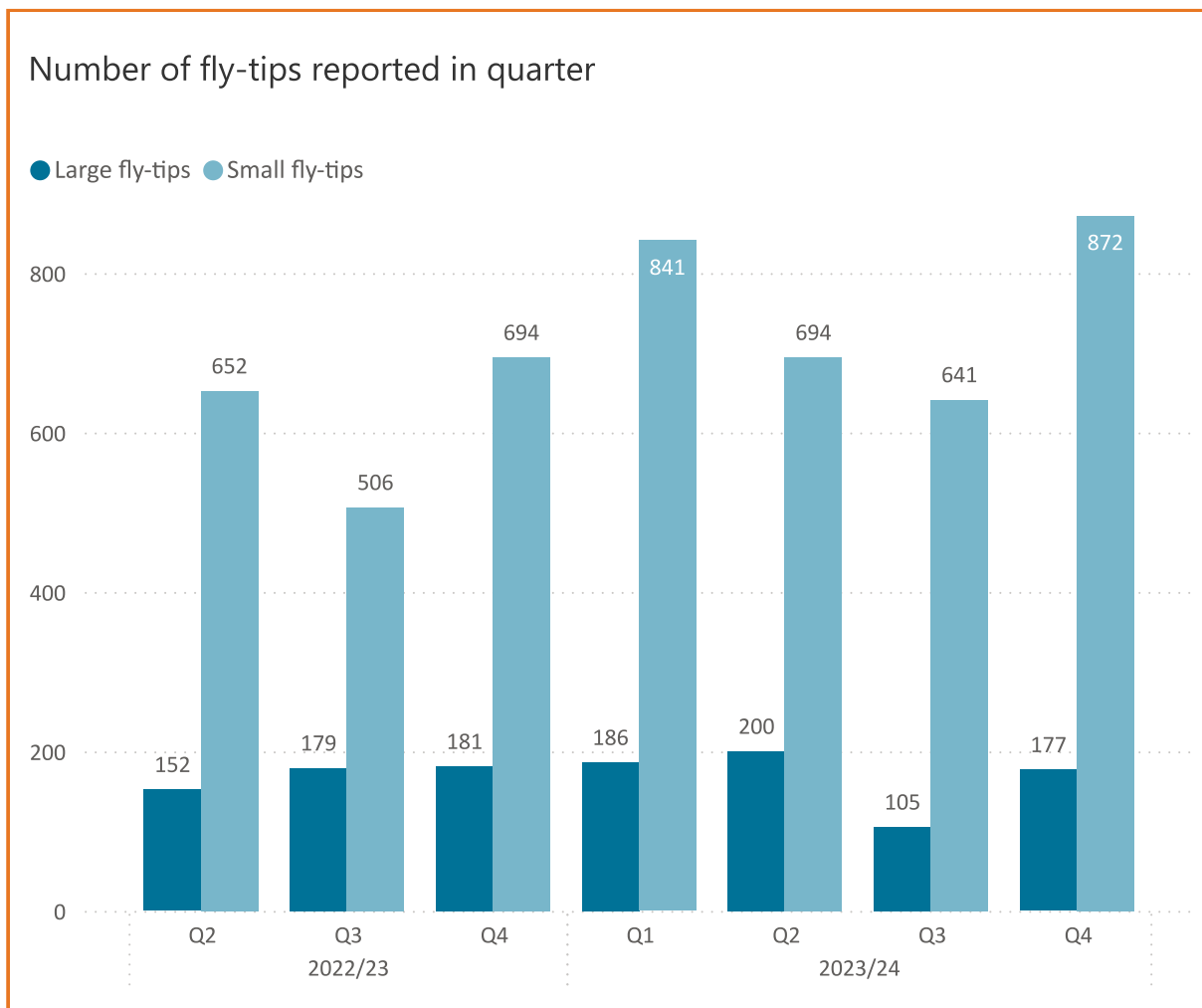
Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

Number of small fly tips rose in all quarters of 2023/24 when compared to 2022/23. Quarter 1 (Q1) by 202, Q2 by 42, Q3 by 135, and Q4 by 178. On average 96.6% of small fly tips were collected within target of 5 days. Number of large fly tips has fallen in three of the quarters during 2023/24 when compared to 2022/23. Q1 fell by 2, Q2 rose by 202, Q3 fell by 74 and Q4 fell by 4. On average 94.2% of large fly tips were collected within target. A longer time can be required due to the complexity of the collection and requirement for special resources (e.g. asbestos). Increased fly-tipping is due to additional reporting of side waste (classed as fly-tipping) by both Enforcement Officers and Fire Service. Overall, 95.4% are being removed within the time scales irrespective of numbers. Hence, the additional crew afforded to clearing rear lanes is working to keep them clean & tidy.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

ENV 009

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

The amount of waste that is recycled, composted or reused has fallen in recent years, the Council's performance (30.8%) is currently in line with the North East (31.5%) average, but below the England (42.2%) average. Work continues to be undertaken by Street Scene and communication teams to increase recycling and reduce contamination. Staff are also working with the new waste contractor to maximise the amount of material that is recovered from residual waste and sent for recycling.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

ENV 021

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

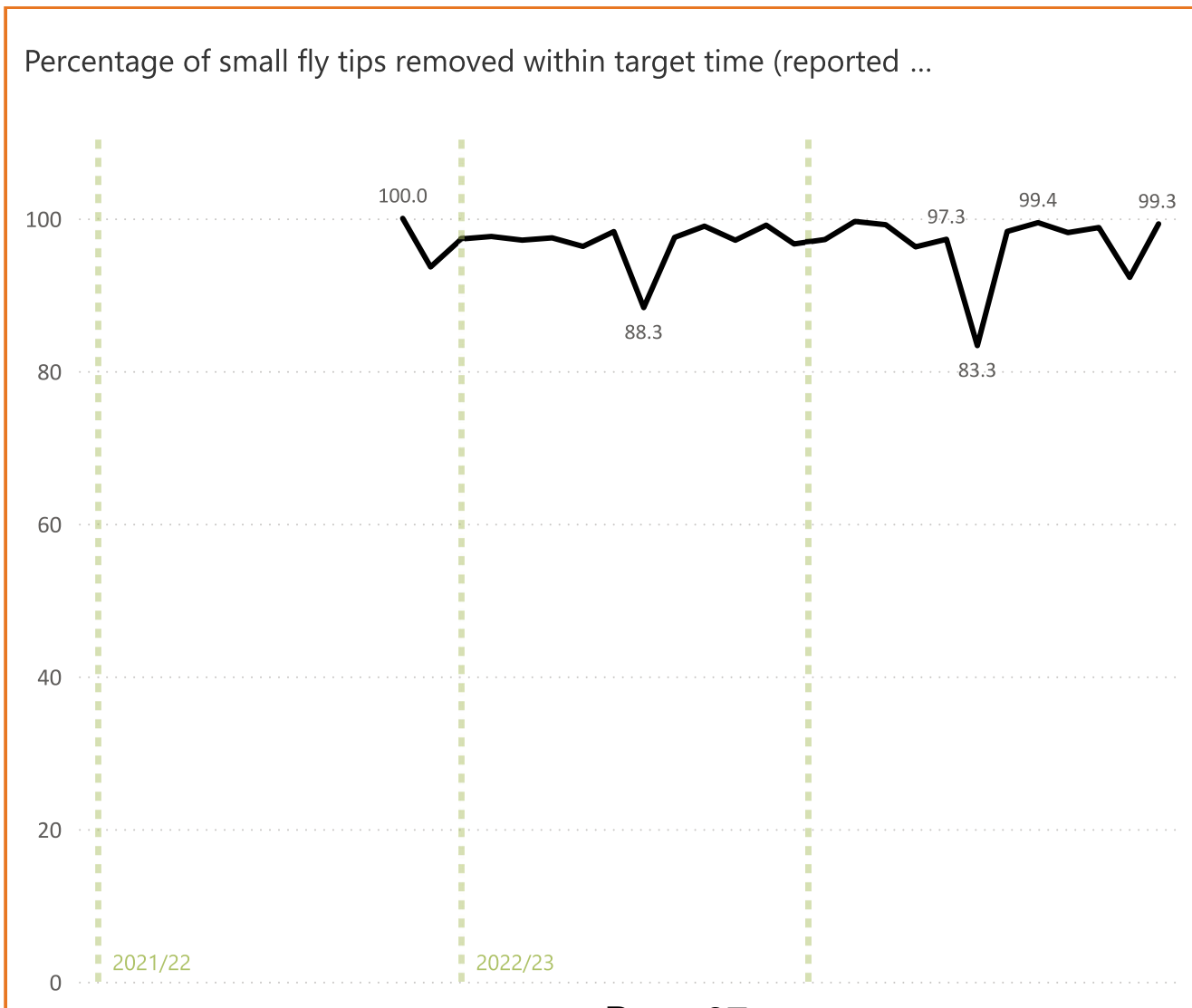
Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

The number of small fly tips reported over the year increased by 557 to 3,048 when compared to 2022/23. The performance of street cleansing teams remains consistently high with the average for 2023/24 of 96.6% of small fly tips removed within their target time, with the majority being collected in under 5 days with a significant number in under 2 days. The reduction in performance in September was as a result of limited resources across the service to inspect and collect fly tips.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

ENV 022

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

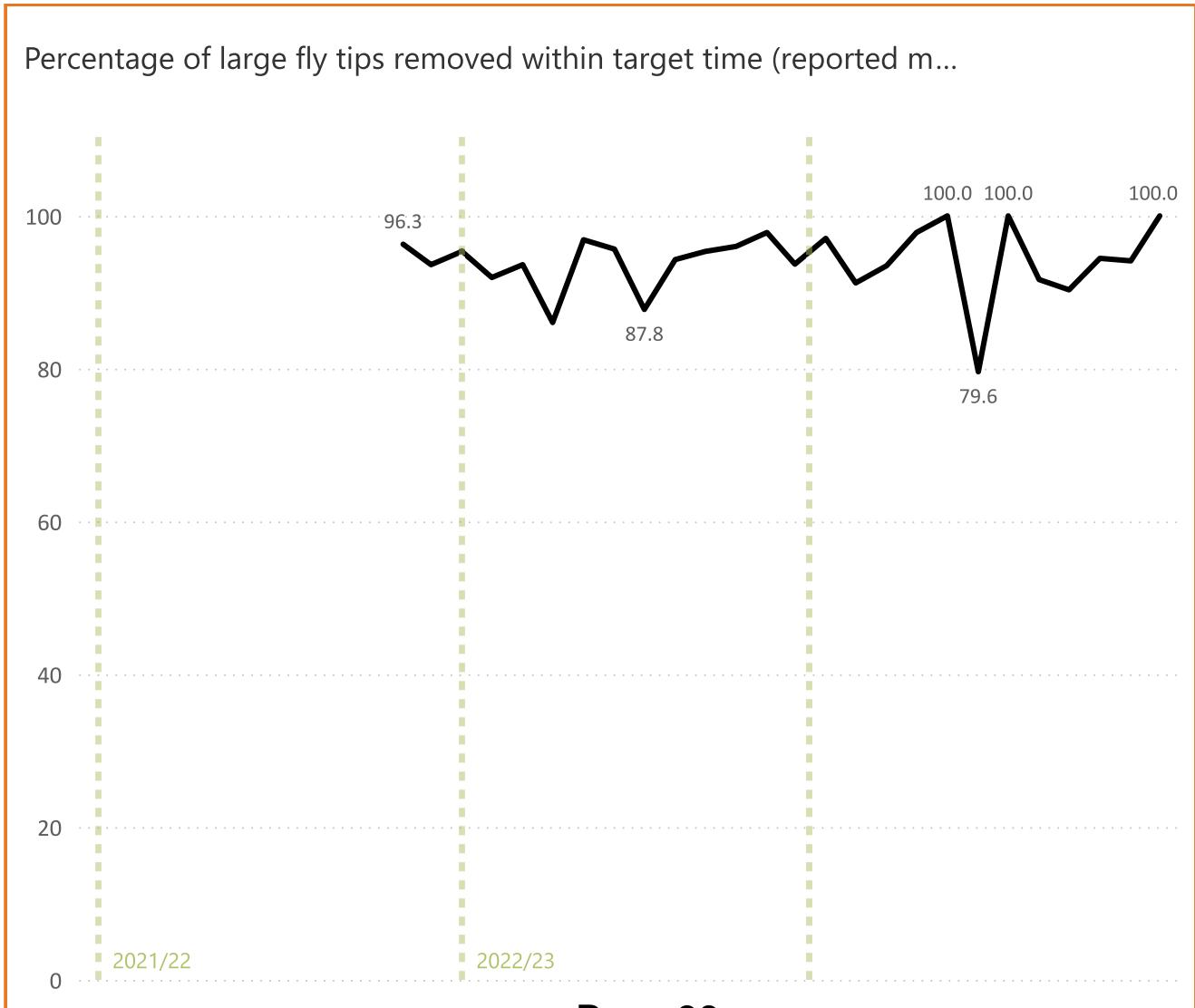
Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

The number of large fly tips reported over the year fell slightly by 32 to 668 when compared to 2022/23. The performance of street cleansing teams remains consistently high with the average for 2023/24 of 94.2% of large fly tips removed within their target time, larger incidents take longer due to the complexity of the items (e.g. asbestos) that require significant resources. The reduction in performance in September was as a result of limited resources across the service to inspect and collect fly tips.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

ENV 023

Indicator Name

Number of prosecutions for fly-tipping

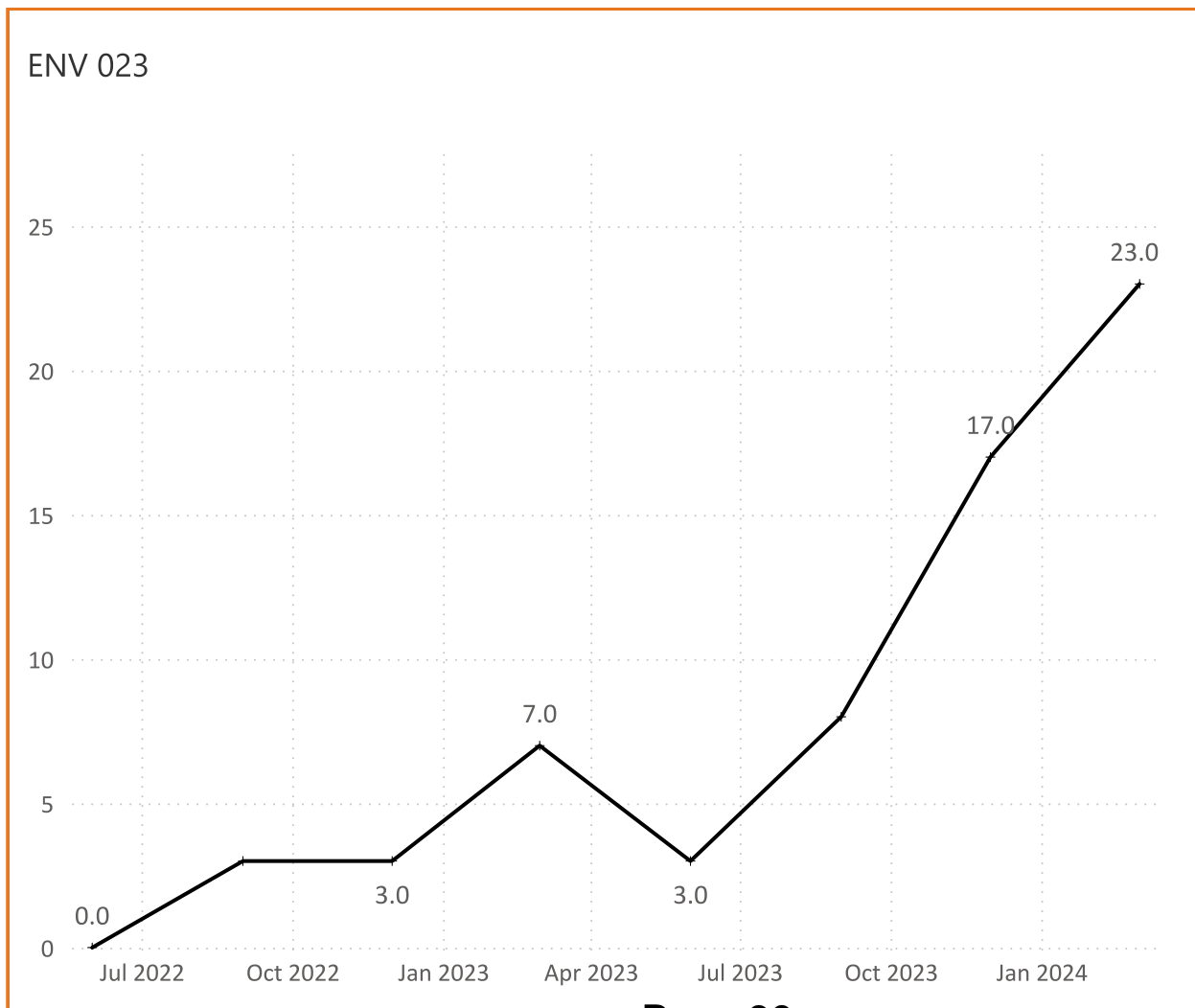
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

There have been 23 successful fly tipping prosecutions over 2023/24. Nine were for when a Fixed Penalty had previously been issued whether for Duty of Care or Fly-Tip and had not been paid to Civil Processing. In these cases, a statement along with the evidence of non-payment is sent to Legal to be dealt with by the Courts. The additional 14 were for the Environment Act 1995, Section 110 offence. This is an offence for a person intentionally to obstruct an authorised person in the exercise or performance of his powers or duties. The Environmental Crime Coordinator together with other Civic Enforcement officers continue to explore and implement a range of measures to tackle these problems including bin removals, letter-drops and camera enforcement where circumstances permit.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

ENV 024

Indicator Name

Land Audit Management System - Litter Score

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

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

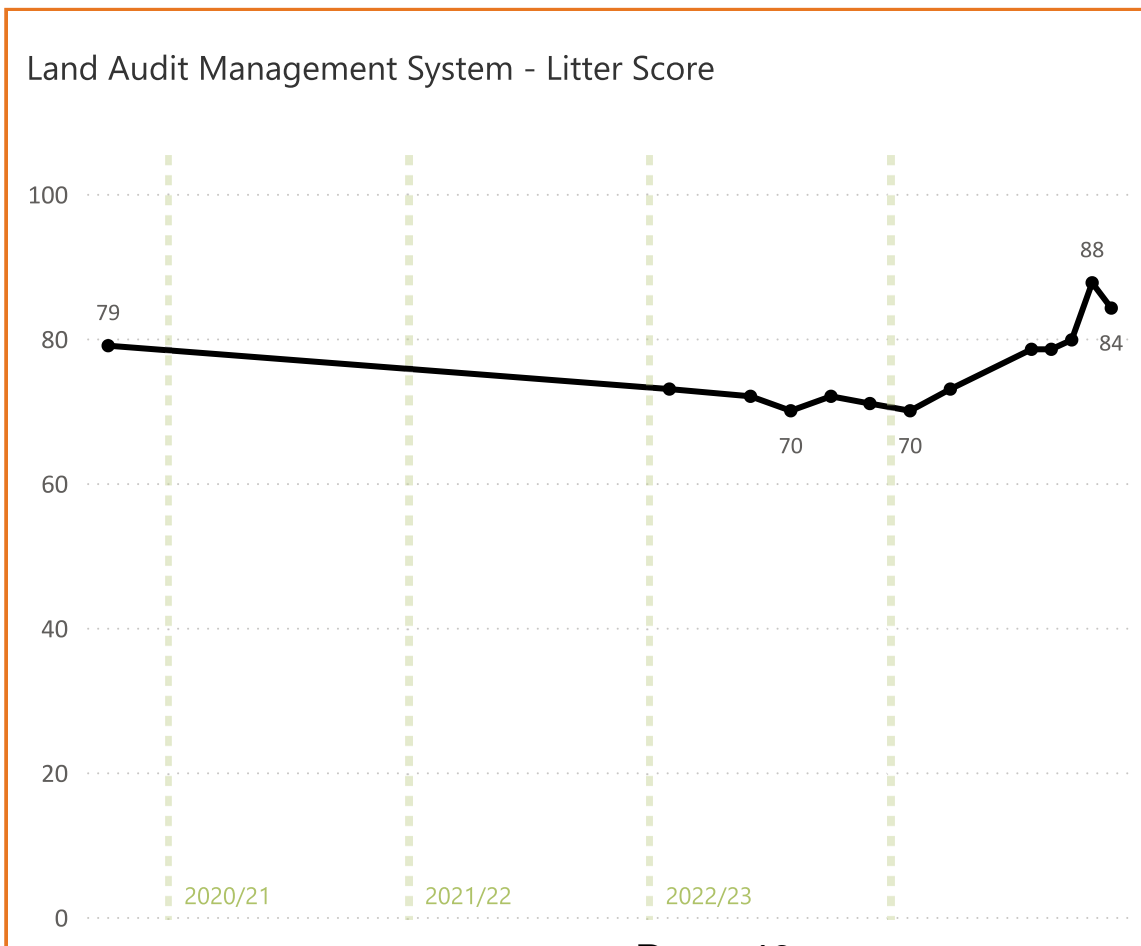
Narrative

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

Refresher training on the grading of cleanliness for inspection staff has taken place over the past year. It has improved the inspection process, resulting in more accurate measurements.

An average of 82 has been recorded over the last five inspections since November 2023. Street Scene has continued to assist with the Civic Enforcement back lane project which incorporates litter picking of the front street as well as the back lane.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

REG 803

Indicator Name

Trading Standards: Percentage of high risk inspections carried out

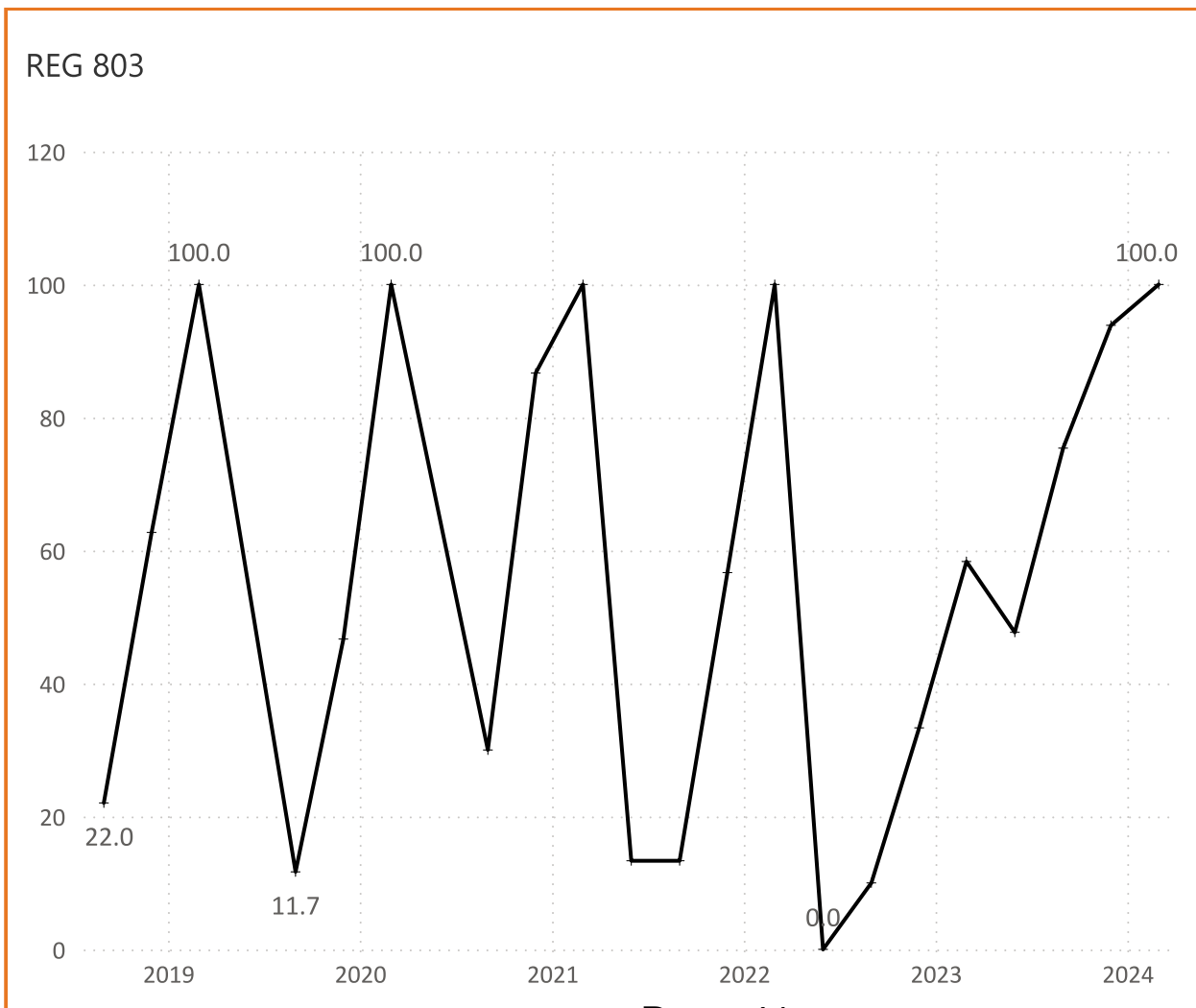
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

Trading Standards plans a programme of intelligence-led business inspections to check that businesses are complying with trading standards legislation, support them into compliance where necessary and investigate areas of non-compliance as required. The number of inspections, mostly on-premises inspections, planned and completed during 2023-24 was 65 (100%). The vast majority (75%) of the visits were carried out before September 2024. The remainder of visits were principally explosives storage inspections to check on firework storage which were carried out during the permitted sales period and were scheduled for late October and early November. All the high-risk inspections received a compliance check visit. Issues identified during inspection have either been corrected immediately or revisits and further advice given.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 101

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

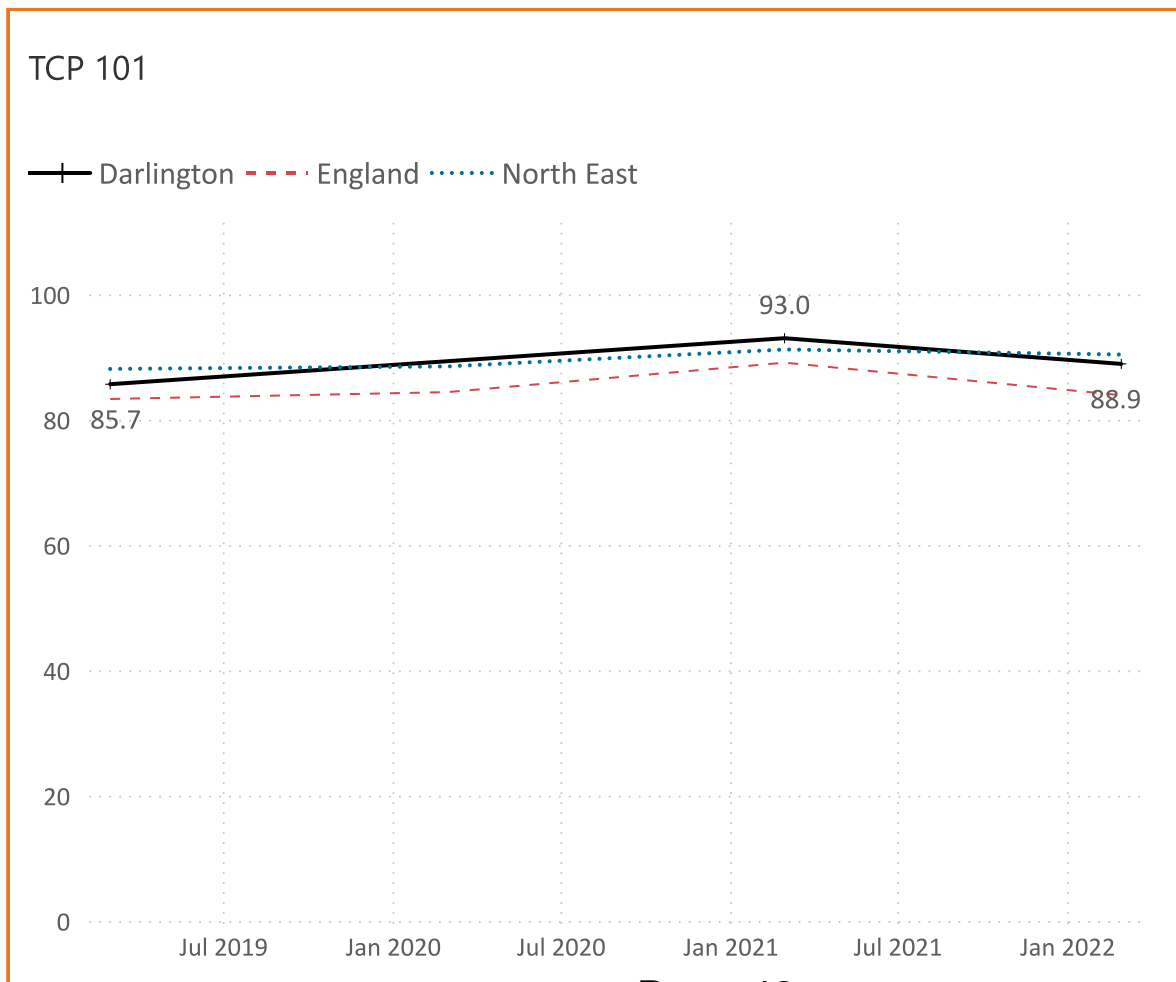
Narrative

The percentage of non-frequent bus services running on time is no longer reported by National Statistics at local authority level but for the Tees Valley Combined Authority. The figure for the year ending March 2023 was 88% on time.

Local data supplied directly by Arriva shows that the 2023/24, the average punctuality has been 76.13% (on time) across services operating in Darlington.

Darlington Borough Council continue to work with Tees Valley Combined Authority and bus operators, to deliver improvements to bus priority, through the Bus Enhanced Partnership. This includes planned infrastructure and Urban Traffic Management Control improvements on key bus priority corridors in Darlington.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 200

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

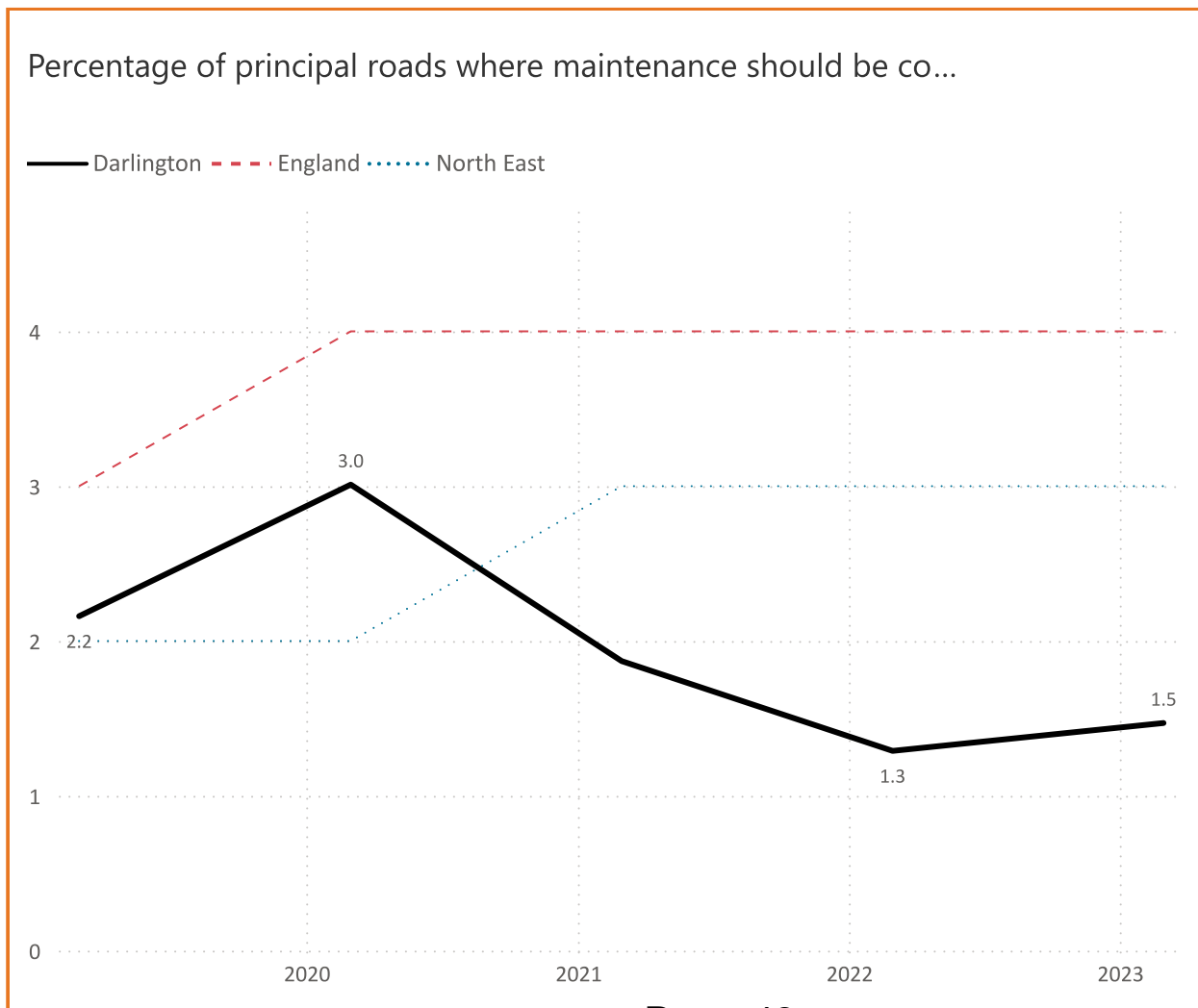
Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

The method used to establish the maintenance needs of the highway network has changed from an automated survey using a SCANNER vehicle to a visual Annual Engineering Inspection. The survey provides the Highway Asset Management with treatment selection information to assist with the planning of five-year highways maintenance schemes. The 2023/24 inspection figure is 7.2% of principal roads needing consideration for maintenance. Due to the change in method, this data is not comparable with previous years. Over the past year maintenance was carried out at the following two A Road schemes, Feethams Roundabout and Merrybent, a total road length of 0.6km.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 202

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

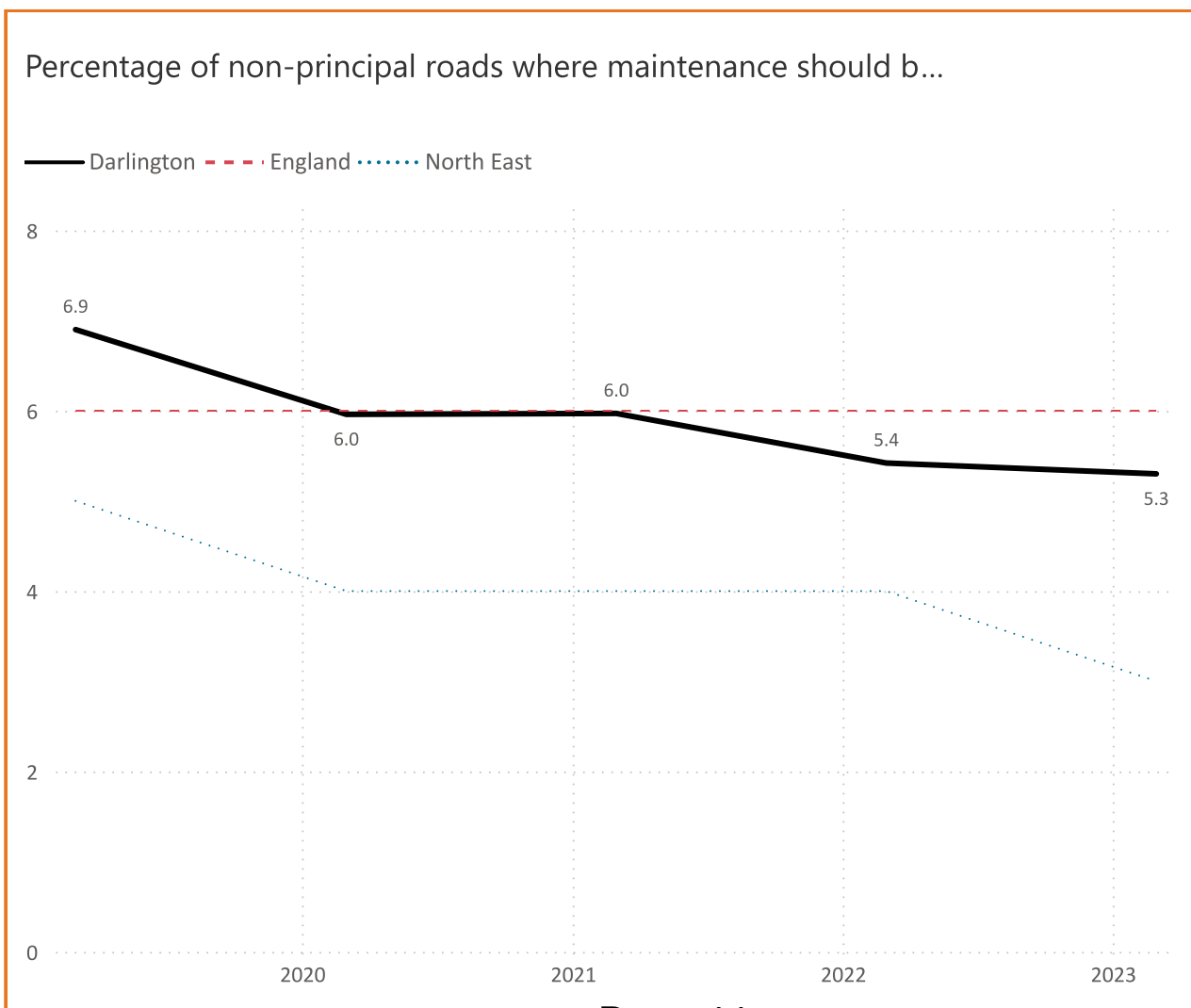
Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

The method used to establish the maintenance needs of the highway network has changed from an automated survey using a SCANNER vehicle to a visual Annual Engineering Inspection. The survey provides the Highway Asset Management with treatment selection information to assist with the planning of five-year highways maintenance schemes. The 2023/24 inspection figure is 4.7% of non-principal roads needing consideration for maintenance. Over the past year maintenance was carried out on six B & C Road schemes, giving a total road length of 2.3km.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 203

Indicator Name

Percentage of unclassified roads where maintenance should be considered

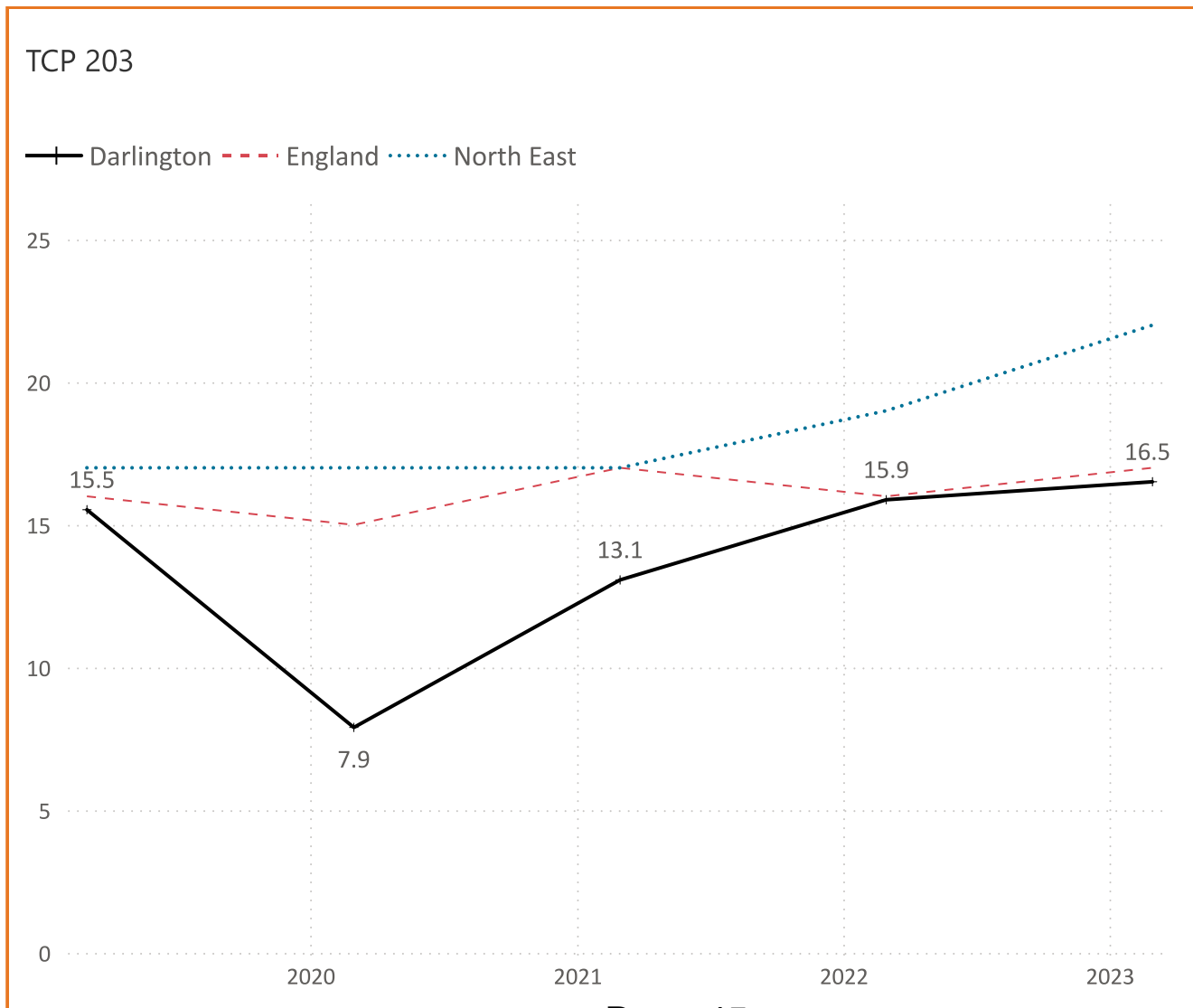
Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

Narrative

The method used to establish the maintenance needs of the highway network has changed from an automated survey using a SCANNER vehicle to a visual Annual Engineering Inspection. The survey provides the Highway Asset Management with treatment selection information to assist with the planning of five-year highways maintenance schemes. The 2023/24 inspection figure is 4.1% of unclassified roads needing consideration for maintenance. Over the past year maintenance was carried out on 31 Unclassified Road schemes, giving a total road length of 2.4km.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 600

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

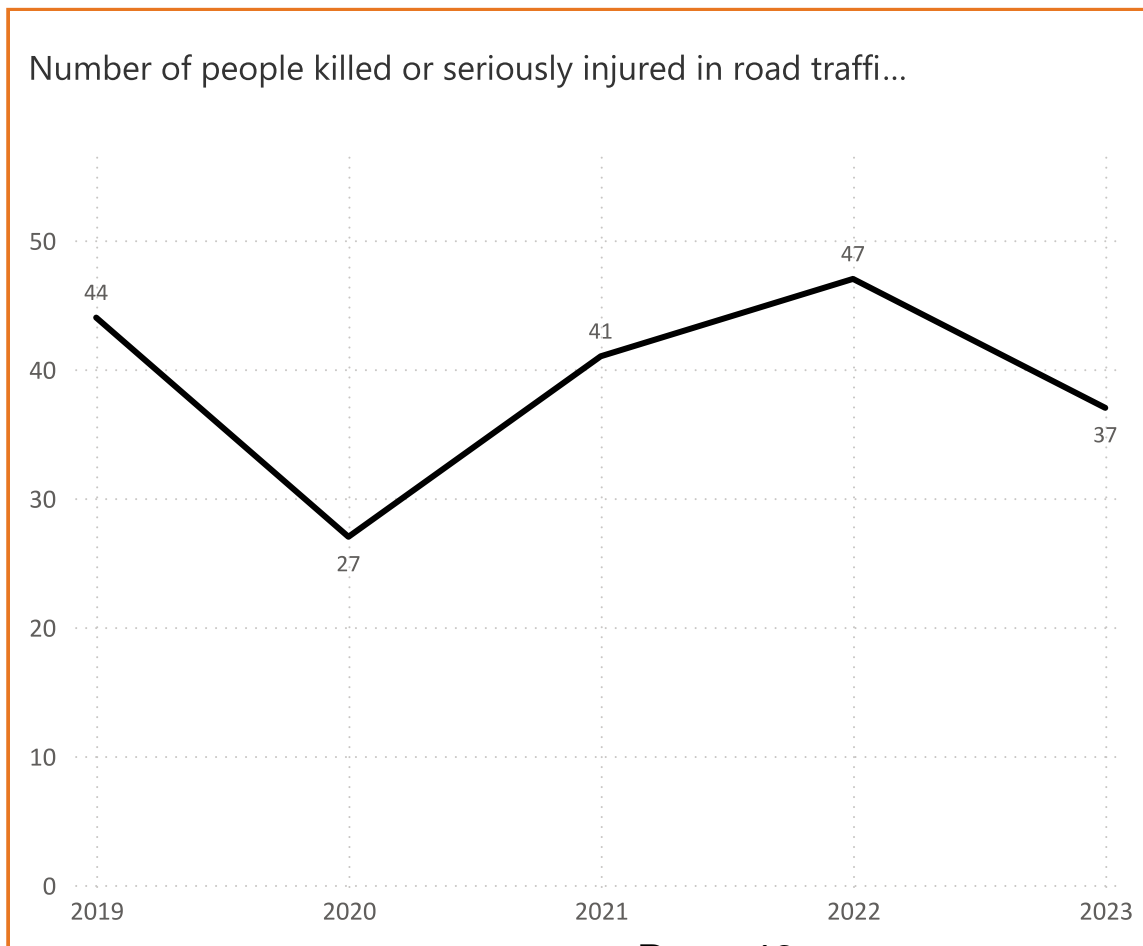
This is an annual indicator based on the 2023-24 calendar year. The data is collected through Durham Police via the Stats 19 reporting system.

Figures for 2023 show a decrease over 2022 although an increase over 2020-21. However, 2020-21 is a statistical outlier due to the impact of Covid-19 on traffic levels (15% of normal traffic levels at its lowest). Since 2020 traffic levels have recovered to similar volumes to that recorded in 2019 prior to Covid-19.

Figures for 2023 show a decrease based on pre-pandemic traffic data and volumes.

Of the 37 Killed or seriously injured on our roads in 2023, there were 3 fatalities.

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 601

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

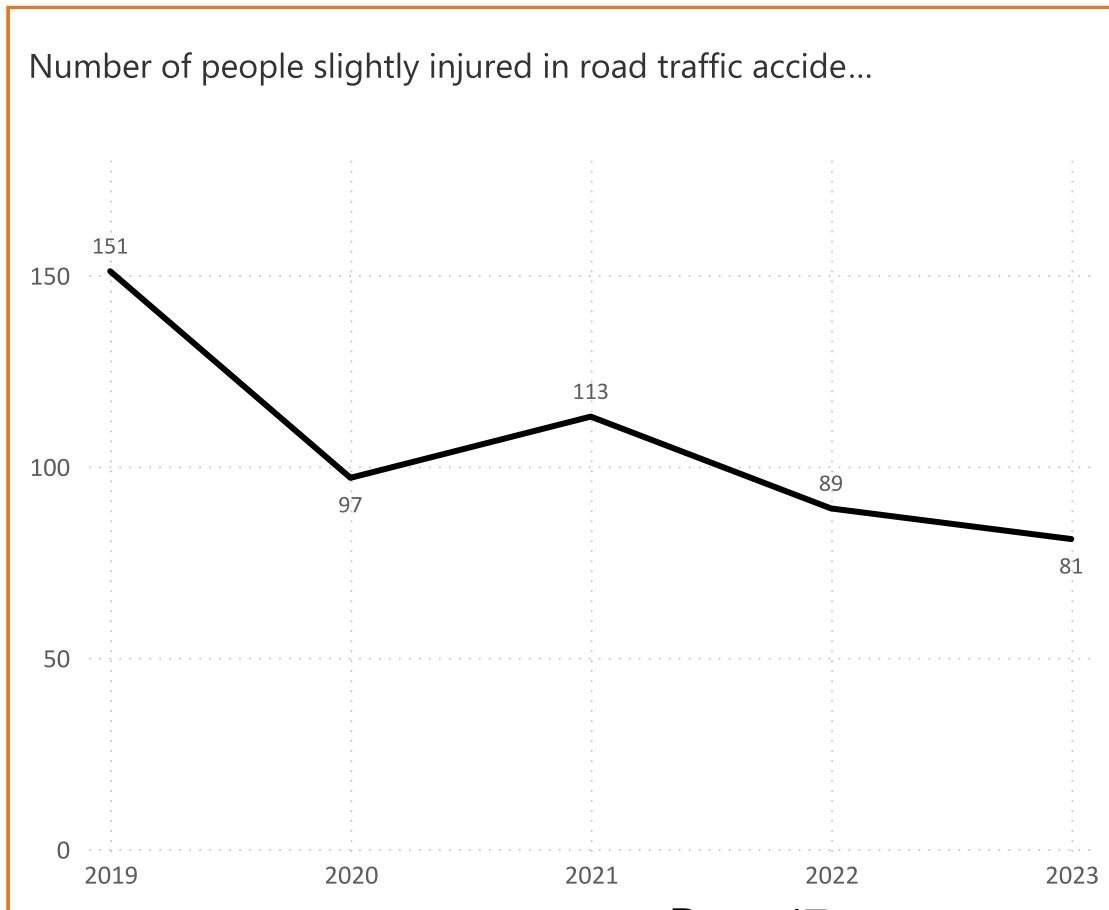
This is an annual indicator based on the 2023-24 calendar year. The data is collected through Durham Police via the Stats 19 reporting system.

Data for 2023 shows a decrease over 2020-22 despite traffic volumes recovering to similar levels to that recorded in 2019 prior to Covid-19 showing a downward trend since the pandemic.

Based on the years prior to Covid-19, we are still seeing a substantial reduction with accidents halving, and this level is significantly below the baseline.

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

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 602

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

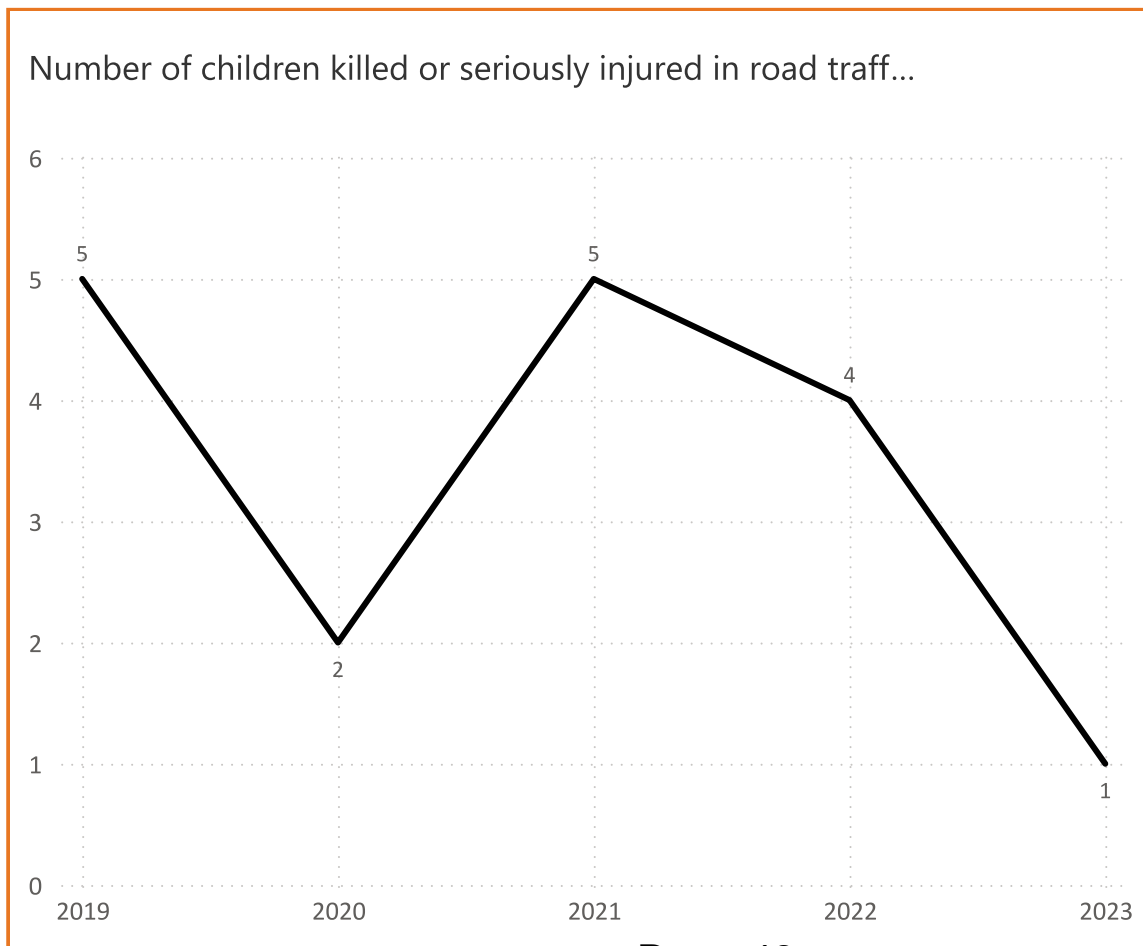
This is an annual indicator based on the 2023-24 calendar year. The data is collected through Durham Police via the Stats 19 reporting system.

Data for 2023 shows a decrease over 2022 despite traffic volumes recovering to similar levels to that recorded in 2019 prior to Covid-19.

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

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

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 603

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

GROWING DARLINGTON'S ECONOMY

Priority or Key Action

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

Narrative

This is an annual indicator based on the 2023-24 calendar year.

Data for 2023 shows decrease over 2021-22 which appears to follow the downward trend before the 2019-20 Covid-19 pandemic. At 12, this is now below the baseline. It should be noted that the long term trend shows significant reductions from the 45 child slight casualties recorded in 2012.

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

Graph/Table



DBC Number

TCP 900

Indicator Name

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

Theme or Portfolio

Priority or Key Action

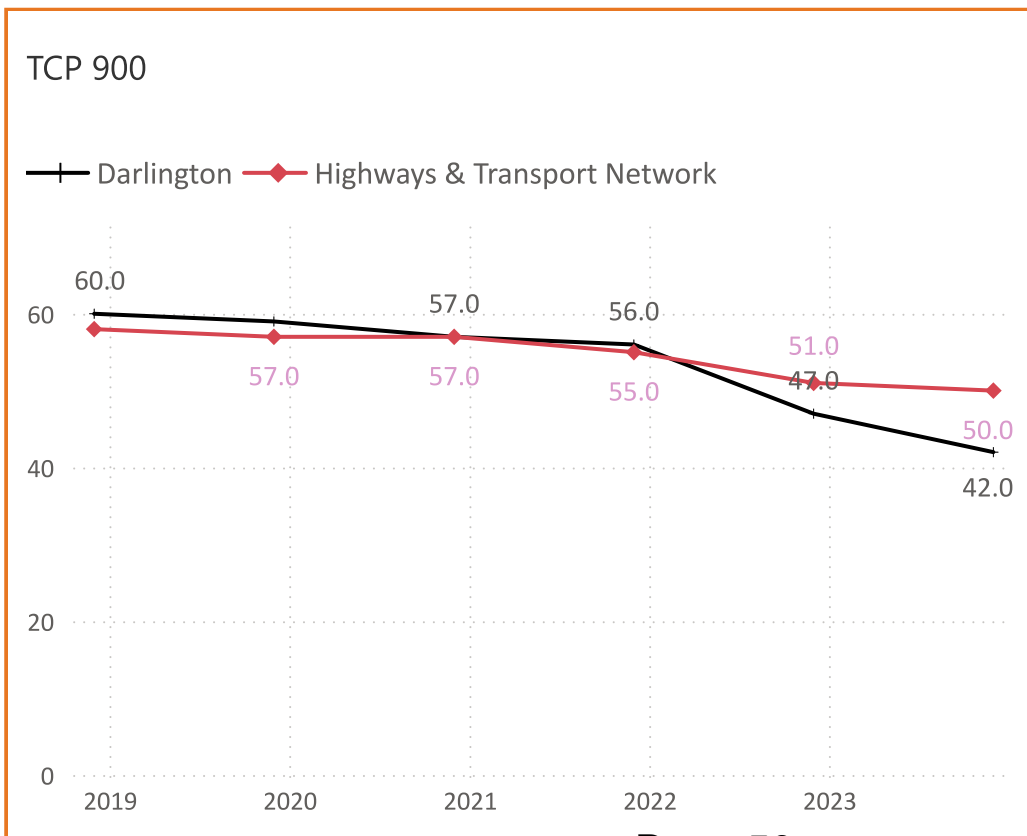
Narrative

The public satisfaction survey results are taken from a survey conducted by the National Highways and Transport Network, an organisation who provide a range of benchmarking services to Local Authorities. The overall public satisfaction with public transport has reduced from 47% in 2022 to 42% in 2023. This is below the Highways and Transport Network average of all the authorities taking part of 50%.

Work will be undertaken over the coming year to try and reinstate confidence through a bus service improvement plan and partnership approach. This will include the introduction of a flat fare arrangement for Under 22's, electric buses on service 2 (Branksome/Red Hall) and a review of supported bus services to ensure that the needs of those travelling in Darlington are being met.

Tees Valley Combined Authority are the Local Transport Authority responsible for public transport and the Council will continue to work in partnership to steer investment into public transport in Darlington to improve satisfaction levels.

Graph/Table



**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 AUGUST 2024**

STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with information on the spend and use of the Stronger Communities Fund (SCF) during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Summary

2. Cabinet agreed the establishment of the Stronger Communities Fund in April 2021. The fund, which is held by the Credit Union, allows Councillors to use an allocated amount of money (£1,000) per annum to deliver the objectives of the Fund.
3. This report sets out the spend against the £50,000 for the 2023/24 financial year, together with information on what has been delivered in wards on an individual Councillor basis **(Appendix 1)**.

Recommendation

4. Members are requested to note the final spend against the £50,000 for the 2023/24 financial year

**Councillor Dr Amanda Riley
Stronger Communities Portfolio**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report other than those referred to.

Shirley Wright: Extension 5998

Council Plan	The report contributes towards the Council Plan through Members allocation of the Stronger Community Fund. The Stronger Community Fund might contribute to 'Communities' – Working together for safer, healthier and more engaged communities' and 'Local Environment' – A well-connected, clean and sustainable borough.
Addressing inequalities	The report does not contain any proposals that impact on diversity issues.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no specific carbon impact issues in this report.
Efficient and effective use of resources	The report contains updated information regarding efficiency savings contained in the MTFP.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and well being which this report needs to address.
S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	No specific groups are particularly affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The report does not require a key decision.
Urgent Decision	The report does not require an urgent decision.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. Following the establishment of the Stronger Communities Fund by Cabinet in April 2021, each Councillor is allocated £1,000 with the aim of :-
 - (a) supporting individuals and groups to enhance access to opportunities to improve health and wellbeing outcomes;
 - (b) investing in environmental improvements that enhance the local area to the benefit of the local community.
6. Prior to the allocation of the funding, each Member is required to enter into an agreement with the Council (**Appendix 2**) regarding the use of the funds which, amongst other things, stipulates that :-
 - (a) the process of awarding grants is open and transparent
 - (b) grants are made without prejudice or favour
 - (c) the funds will not be used for Members' personal or political gain
 - (d) Members will be responsible for ensuring as far as possible that the grant has been used for the purpose that it was provided
7. Appendix 1 sets out the final spend against the £50,000 for the 2023/24 financial year, together on what has been delivered within wards on an individual Councillor basis.
8. There has been good use of the spend, with only £3700.30 of the £50,000 remaining unspent which has been reclaimed by the Council.

2024/25 Fund

9. Council, as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan, agreed to support the continuation of the Stronger Communities Fund in 2024/25, however, all applications are now required to be authorised by the Monitoring Officer to ensure there are no potential conflicts of interest and that the fund is being allocated in accordance with the aim of the scheme.
10. Members have been provided with the 2024/25 Agreement to sign and return (**Appendix 3**) and funding is now being allocated and will be reported to this Scrutiny Committee in January 2025.

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Stronger Communities Fund
Grant Information

Ward	Councillor	Signed Agreement	Recipient - Name of Group	Purpose of Grant	Date Grant Awarded	Amount Allocated (£)	Amount Remaining (£)	Agreement letter Returned	CU Account empty	Receipt Recd	
Bank Top and Lascelles	Andrew Anderson	Y	700 Club	Towards Christmas Shop and Meal	11-Aug-2023	500.00		11/08/23		11/09/23	
			London Hearts	DHSC Public Access Defibrillator and Locked Cabinet for the Eastbourne Park Community Hub	11-Jan-2024	250.00		04/12/23		24/01/24	
Bank Top and Lascelles	Helen Crumby	Y	London Hearts	DHSC Public Access Defibrillator and Locked Cabinet for the Eastbourne Park Community Hub	11-Jan-2024	250.00		04/12/23		24/01/24	
			Eastbourne Community Club	Towards Garden equipment.	20-Mar-2024	272.00					
Bank Top and Lascelles	David Ray	Y	London Hearts	DHSC Public Access Defibrillator and Locked Cabinet for the Eastbourne Park Community Hub	11-Jan-2024	250.00		04/12/23		24/01/24	
			Cleveland Sports and Social Club	Towards the installation of a War Memorial	12-Dec-2023	476.00		07/03/24		07/03/24	
Brinkburn and Faverdale	Rebecca Baker	Y	London Hearts	To install 2 x Defibs - Pricing still tbc		450.00		22/03/24		25/03/24	
				Installation for defib		126.00					
Brinkburn and Faverdale	David Beckett	Y	London Hearts	To install 2 x Defibs - Pricing still tbc		450.00		22/03/24		25/03/24	
				Installation for defib		126.00					
Brinkburn and Faverdale	Scott Durham	Y	Darlington Disability Association	To support the Youth Club	12-Mar-2024	1000.00	/			15/03/24	
Cockerton	Jan Cossins	Y	Cockerton Community and Business Group	To purchase banners for the cockerton area to help with nuisance parking	21-Feb-2024	62.86		25/02/24		27/02/24	
			Cockerton Community and Business Group	Towards Solar christmas lights to benefit the commuity.	21-Mar-2024	137.14		22/03/24			
			Holy Family School	Towards the Nurture Group	18-Mar-2024	200.00				22/03/24	
			GOLD	Towards the cost of seating for the GOLD Tea Dance	18-Mar-2024	200.00					
			Darlington Academy of Performing Arts	Towards costumes for the shows,	18-Mar-2024	200.00		22/03/24		22/03/24	
Cockerton	Jim Garner	Y	Cockerton Business Club	To support a young peoples activity programme (in partnership with CBG and Cockerton Band and Institute)		300.00		10/12/23	Y	Email rec'd	
			Cockerton Business Club	To support the Christmas decorations and activities around the 'village' this year		300.00		10/12/23		Email rec'd	
			St Mary's Food Bank	To support the Food Bank		400.00	/	11/10/23		11/10/23	
Cockerton	Neil Johnson	Y	Cockerton Business Club	To support Christmas activities in Cockerton	12-Dec-2023	300.00		12/12/23		14/12/2023	
College	Bryony Holroyd	Y	Queen Elizabeth Drama Group	To assist with lighting equipment	12-May-2023	500.00		12/08/23		08/12/23	
			Queen Elizabeth College	Towards a Christmas Community Event	12-Dec-2023	250.00					
			Park Benches for College Ward	To purchase benches to benefit College Ward	15-Feb-2024	250.00	/	/		14/03/24	
College	Matthew Snedker	Y	Darlington Community Carnival	To support the carnival and to support the craft activities for young people.	22-Jan-2024	250.00		25/01/24		26/01/24	
			Park Benches for College Ward	To purchase benches to benefit College Ward	15-Feb-2024	566.90		/		14/03/24	
			13th Darlington Scout Group	To benefit the group.	8-Apr-2024	140.00					
				Covering Shortfall for Cllr Mammolotti and Robinson		42.80					05/04/24
Eastbourne	Joe Dillon	Y	Maidendale Nature and Fishing Reserve	To install 6 stone boulders to be utilised for seating around the nature reserve	31-Aug-2023	370.32		Y		£400 allocated £29.68 ret'd	
Eastbourne	Jonathan Dulston	Y	Bravehearts	To support Christmas concert in Darlington	27-Nov-2023	500.00			Y	28/11/2023	
			Maidendale Nature and Fishing Reserve	To support the running costs and improvements to the Nature Reserve	12-May-2023	100.00			Y	08/12/23	
			N-Gage Learning Goup	To buy boxing equipment for the club	10-Jan-2024	400.00	/	12/08/23	Y	22/01/24	
Eastbourne	Kevin Nicholson	Y	Firthmoor Community Association	Towards the Friends of Geneva Road Cemetery	10-Jan-2024	1000.00	/	10/01/24	Y	22/01/24	
Harrowgate Hill	Roz Henderson	Y	Friends of Drinkfield Marsh	To repair the path on the side of the marsh	16-Jan-2024	250.00		15/01/24		24/01/24	
			A Tombling	Towards room hire, materials and tutor time for Art Therapy Clases	16-Feb-2024	400.00		22/02/24		23/02/24	
			Salter's Community Garden	Towards the maintenance of the Garden space.	12-Mar-2024	350.00	/	15/03/24		20/03/24	
Harrowgate Hill	Richard Lawley	Y	Whesoe Parish Council	To support xmas and summer fayre	11-Sep-2023	445.00		11/09/23		13/11/2-23	
			Darlington Allstars Football Club	To install barriers for the football matches.	27-Feb-2024	555.00	/	01/03/24		07/03/24	
Harrowgate Hill	Anna-Maria Toms	Y	The Gateway Club	Towards events of their choosing	28-Feb-2024	300.00		22/03/24			
			The Darlington Armed Forces Veteran Club	Towards events and purchases of their choosing	5-Mar-2024	300.00		11/03/24		12/03/24	
			St Marks Church Friendship Cafe	To support their Cafe	28-Feb-2024	300.00		22/03/24			
			Cruise	To support their services across town	28-Feb-2024	100.00		06/03/24		07/03/24	
Haughton and Springfield	Chris McEwan	Y	Salvation Food Army	To support the Food Bank	21-Dec-2023	333.33		29/01/24		08/02/24	
			St Andrews Food Bank	To support the Food Bank	21-Dec-2023	333.34		30/01/24		08/02/24	
			Haughton School	Towards Student Support	21-Dec-2023	333.33	/	30/01/24		08/02/24	
Haughton and Springfield	Dawn Storr	Y	Salvation Food Army	To support the Food Bank	21-Dec-2023	333.33		29/01/24		08/02/24	
			St Andrews Food Bank	To support the Food Bank	21-Dec-2023	333.33		30/01/24		08/02/24	
			Haughton School	Towards Student Support	21-Dec-2023	333.34	/	30/01/24		08/02/24	
Haughton and Springfield	Nick Wallis	Y	Salvation Food Army	To support the Food Bank	21-Dec-2023	333.34		29/01/24		08/02/24	
			St Andrews Food Bank	To support the Food Bank	21-Dec-2023	333.33		30/01/24		08/02/24	
			Haughton School	Towards Student Support	21-Dec-2023	333.33	/	30/01/24		08/02/24	
Heighington and Coniscliffe	Paul Crudass	Y	High Coniscliffe Parish Council	Provision of tools, equipments and services towards the garden.	18-Mar-2024	1000.00					
Heighington and Coniscliffe	Gerald Lee	Y	Heighington Parish Council	To purchase new play area equipment	10-Mar-2023	1000.00	/	03/102023	Y	E-mail Rec'd	
Hummersknott	Kate Mammolotti	Y	Park Benches for Hummersknott Ward	To purchase benches to benefit Hummersknott ward	14-Mar-2024	1000.00					
Hummersknott	Thomas Robinson	Y	Stanhope Players	Towards equipment and costumes for the production of 12th night	23-Nov-2023	250.00		21/11/23		23/11/23	
			Park Benches for Hummersknott Ward	To purchase benches to benefit Hummersknott ward	14-Mar-2024	750.00					
Hurworth	Lorraine Tostevin	Y	Hurworth Grange	To support the Community Fair and to supply the music for the fair	12-Mar-2024	1000.00	/	13/03/24			
Hurworth	Paul Walters	Y	Hurworth Scout Group	To contribute to a new scout hut		500.00		10/02/23		E-mail Rec'd	
							300.00				06/02/24
			Hurworth Albion Junior Football Club	Towards the purchase/replacement of equipment	12-Feb-2024	200.00	/	23/02/24		23/02/24	
Mowden	Pauline Culley	Y	Marchbank School	Towards the supply and installation of a greenhouse	8-Feb-2024	600.00		08/02/24	Y	12/02/24	
			1st Darlington Brownies	Towards Rent and Day trip	20-Feb-2024	400.00	/	21/02/24		21/02/24	
Mowden	Alan Marshall	Y	Marchbank School	Towards the supply and installation of a greenhouse	8-Feb-2024	600.00		08/02/24	Y	12/02/24	

			1st Darlington Brownies	Towards Rent and Day trip	20-Feb-2024	400.00	/	21/02/24		21/02/24	
North Road	Hilary Allen	Y	Menshed Group	Towards room rent	12-Feb-2024	173.33		14/02/24		21/02/24	
			North Riverside Residents Association	Towards a new shed and compost supplies	18-Mar-2024	156.67		22/03/24			
			Papercraft Group	Towards craft materials	27/02/24	192.07				29/02/24	
			Arts and Crafts Group - Havelock Centre	Towards the equipment for the group	12/03/24	477.93	/				
North Road	James Coe	Y	Menshed Group	Towards room rent	12-Feb-2024	173.33		14/02/24		21/02/24	
			North Riverside Residents Association	Towards a new shed and compost supplies	18-Mar-2024	156.67		22/03/24			
			Papercraft Group	Towards craft materials	27-Feb-2024	192.06		29/02/24		29/02/24	
			Games and Sports Group - Havelock Centre	Towards new games and furniture/equipment	12-Mar-2024	477.93	/				
North Road	Anne-Marie Curry	Y	Menshed Group	Towards room rent	12-Feb-2024	173.34		14/02/24		21/02/24	
			North Riverside Residents Association	Towards a new shed and compost supplies	18-Mar-2024	156.66		22/03/24			
			Papercraft Group	Towards rent, materials and Insurance cover	27-Feb-2024	192.07		29/02/24		29/02/24	
			Richard Court Residents Association	Towards supplies for the group	12-Mar-2024	477.93	/				
Northgate	Sajna Ali	Y	Focussed Fitness	Towards running costs of commuity gym project and replacement equipment	15-Dec-2023	500.00		18/12/2023	Y	19/12/2023	
			Babuls Restaurant	Towards 8th Feed the Need Christmas Dinner	21-Dec-2023	500.00	/	21/12/2023	Y	21/12/23	
Northgate	Sonia Kane	Y	Focussed Fitness	Toards runnig costs of commuity gym project and replacement equipment	15-Dec-2023	500.00		18/12/2023		19/12/2023	
			13th Darlington Scouts	Towards the latest fundraising mission	12-Mar-2024	500.00	/	13/03/24		15/03/24	
Park East	Libby McCollom	Y	Scout Group			1000.00					
Park East	Michael Nicholson	Y	St Columbas Church	Christmas Concert. Costs towards the Band	28-Nov-2023	100.00		28/11/2023		E-mail rec'd	
			Gold	Christmas Party	28-Nov-2023	150.00		29/11/2023		19/12/2023	
			Skerne Park Youth and Community Cen	Towards a bus trip for local residents	28-Nov-2023	200.00		12/11/23		12/12/23	
			Borough Road Nursery School	Towarded the renovation of the garden room	2-Feb-2024	550.00	/	09/02/24		28/02/24	
Park East	Matthew Roche	Y	27th Darlington Scouts	To replenish the arts and crafts supplies and to invest in first aid training supplies.	5-Feb-2024	500.00		06/02/24		06/02/24	
			Parkside Nursery School	Towards the role play/kitchen/home care area for the children.	5-Feb-2024	500.00	/	16/02/24		16/02/24	
Park West	Bob Donoghue	Y	Abbeyfield Society	Towards the provision of 2 seats	6-Feb-2024	400.00		01/02/24		08/02/24	
			Rotary Club	Towards the installation of a Defibrillator @ Blackwell Post Office	6-Feb-2024	600.00		29/02/24		29/02/24	
Park West	Heather Scott	Y	Abbeyfield Society	Towards the provision of 2 seats	6-Feb-2024	400.00		01/02/24		08/02/24	
			Rotary Club	Towards the installation of a Defibrillator @ Blackwell Post Office	6-Feb-2024	600.00		29/02/24		29/02/24	
Pierremont	Stephen Harker	Y	Cockerton Library	Towards a park bench, for kids competition	21-Mar-2024	500.00		22/03/24		25/03/24	
			Darlington Bee Keeper Association	To support the aviary in the Denes Park	21-Mar-2024	500.00		22/03/24			
Pierremont	Mary Layton	Y	Reid Street School	Provide support to families.	8-Apr-2024	1000.00		16/04/24			
Pierremont	James McGill	Y	George Dent Nursery	To support a number of projects at the Nursery	8-Apr-2024	1000.00		17/04/24		18/04/24	
Red Hall and Lingfield	Mandy Porter	Y	St Herberts Church	Towards a new roof.	21-Jan-2024	250.00		23/01/24		08/02/24	
			Red Hall Community Centre	To supply and install a Defibrillator.	21-Jan-2024	750.00	/				
Red Hall and Lingfield	Dr Amanda Riley	Y	St Herberts Church	Towards a new roof.	21-Jan-2024	250.00		23/01/24		08/02/24	
			Red Hall Community Centre	To supply and install a Defibrillator.	21-Jan-2024	750.00	/				
Sadberge and Middlton St. George	Deborah Laing	Y	Middleton St George Community Fund	Towards the Meet and Eat for pensioners - awaiting auth		500.00				18/04/24	
			Community Centre Teenage Fitness Classes	To cover costs for an eight -week period - awaiting auth		200.00				18/04/24	
			Girl Guides	To cover trips for who can not afford. - awaiting auth		150.00				18/04/24	
			Brownies	Cover costs		150.00					
Sadberge and Middlton St. George	Colin Pease	Y	St George's Academy	To provide a School Garden at St George's Academy	12-Oct-2023	500.00		10/12/23	Y	Email Rec'd	
Sadberge and Middlton St. George	Yvonne Renton	Y	Sadberge Village Hall	Towards any upgrades and repairs/equipment	16-Jan-2024	500.00			Y	22/01/24	
			Bishopton Village Hall	Towards any upgrades and repairs/equipment	16-Jan-2024	500.00	/	22/01/24		26/01/24	
Stephenson	Ian Haszeldine	Y	Gurney Pease	Enhancing Learning oppotunities for pupils		200.00				24/01/24	
			Wesley Court Community Centre	Towards the Christmas Social Event		100.00		18/12/23		18/12/24	
			7th Darlington Sea Scouts	To improve and maintain the campsite		250.00				24/01/24	
			Darlington Railway Athletics Club	Girls football team		450.00					
Stephenson	Mohammad Mahmud	Y	Gurney Pease	Enhancing learning opportunities for pupils		200.00				24/01/24	
			Wesley Court Community Centre	Towards the Christmas Social Event		100.00		18/12/23		18/12/24	
			27th Darlington Scouts	Towards the funding of Adventure Day	21-Mar-2024	200.00		21/03/24		22/03/24	
		Y	7th Darlington Sea Scouts	To improve and maintain the campsite		250.00				24/01/24	
			Arthur Wharton Foundation	To purchase Flag Poles.		250.00					
Whinfield	Jamie Bartch	Y	Whinfield Yarn Bombers	To purchase wool and materials for displays and to build up supplies	13-Feb-2024	50.00		14/02/24		16/02/24	
			Whinfield Residents	Benches, Fenching, Flowers etc..		600.00				18/04/24	
			DBC	Trees for the Ward		339.85					
Whinfield	Andy Keir	Y	Whinfield Yarn Bombers	To purchase wool and materials for displays and to build up supplies	13-Feb-2024	50.00		14/02/24		16/02/24	
			Whinfield Residents	Benches, Fenching, Flowers etc..		600.00				18/04/24	
			DBC	Trees for the Ward		339.84					
Total Spent						46299.70					
Grant Allocation											
Remaining						3700.30					



Stronger Communities Fund Agreement

2023/24

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

The Fund

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

Awarding the Funding

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

Releasing the Funding

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

Publicity

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

Monitoring of the Scheme

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

Declaration and Acceptance of Grant Conditions

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

Member of the Council for :

Ward

Name :

Signature :

Authorised Signatory for the Council :

Name : S Wright, Democratic Manager

Signature :

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Stronger Communities Fund Agreement

2024/25

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

The Fund

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

Awarding the Funding

7. The Member is not required to publicise the availability of the Funding within their ward, however, they may wish to do so through newsletters, notice boards etc.
8. The Funding shall be allocated by 31 March 2025
9. The Member must also consider whether the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Members will apply before agreeing to award any of the Funding. Decisions to award Funding to an organisation that a Member works for, or is in a position of management or control, may be considered to be a pecuniary interest, and, as such, the Member must declare any potential conflict in section 19 below and seek advice about this from the Council's Monitoring Officer.
10. In utilising the funding, in accordance with paragraph 11 below, the Member must not commit the Council to any future spend, for example, on-going maintenance.
11. In using the Funding, the Member shall ensure that :-
 - (a) the process of awarding Funding is open and transparent;
 - (b) the funding will not be used for the Members' personal or political gain;
 - (c) no aspect of the Funding may be, or appear to be, party political in intention, use or presentation
 - (d) the Funding has been used for the purpose that it was provided; and
 - (e) funding shall only be made to individuals or 'not for profit' organisations that are resident in the Borough of Darlington.

Releasing the Funding

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

Publicity

- 16. Details of the Scheme will be proactively promoted by the Council at the commencement of each financial year via social media.
- 17. The Member should arrange for appropriate publicity in relation to the spend of their individual allocation to improve transparency and to promote how the money has been used to the benefit of the Ward.

Monitoring of the Scheme

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

Declaration and Acceptance of Grant Conditions

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

NOTE – Any potential areas of conflict about the allocation of the fund will be referred to the Chief Executive for consideration prior to allocation of the funding.

Member of the Council for : Ward

Name :

Signature :

Authorised Signatory for the Council :

Name : S Wright, Democratic Manager

Signature :

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COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29 AUGUST 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

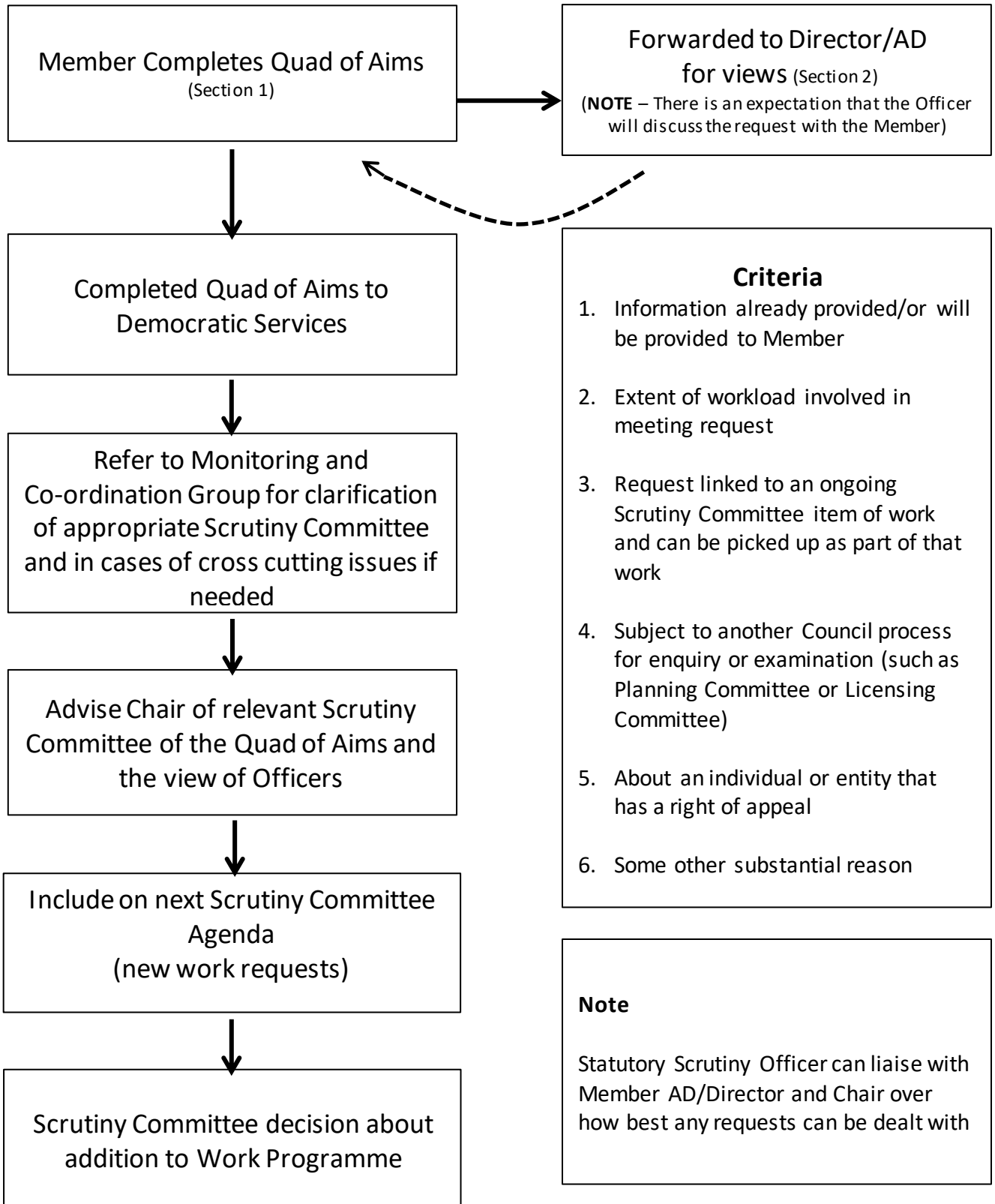
Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer/ Organisation Involved	Link to Performance Management Framework (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management and Regulation/ Management of Change Regular Performance Reports to be Programmed End of Year Performance (including Compliments Comments and Complaints)	16 January 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	Special Scrutiny Meeting – 26 September 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.

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



PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

NOTE – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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Signed Councillor

Date

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

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

Signed **Position** **Date**

PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

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

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Darlington Long Term Plan for Town Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Release of Education Capital Funds	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Representation on Other Bodies 2024/25	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Schedule of Transactions - June 2024	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Wilkinsons Building Acquisition and Procurement of Development Partner	Cabinet 11 Jun 2024
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2023-24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan	Council 25 Jul 2024 Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Council Plan Performance Report - Quarter Four	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Disabled Facilities Grant 2024/25	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Domestic Abuse Policy 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Housing Services Gas and Electrical Safety Policies 2024/29	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Land at Faverdale / Burtree Garden Village 'Cell CH' Feasibility Work	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Public Consultation on Draft Appraisal for the Northgate Conservation Area including Proposed Boundary Extensions	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 9 Jul 2024
Annual Review of the Investment Fund	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Climate Change	Council 26 Sep 2024 Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2023/24	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Proposed Middleton St George Conservation Area - Consultation	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2023/2024	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Waste Collection Arrangements	Cabinet 10 Sep 2024
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Offset Strategy	Cabinet 8 Oct 2024
Air Quality Strategy 2024/29	Cabinet