



# Adults Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am Tuesday, 6 January 2026

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT

**Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.**

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting (Pages 3 - 4)
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 28 October 2025 (Pages 5 - 8)
4. Darlington Association on Disability – Report of the Assistant Director – Adult Social Care. (Pages 9 - 10)
5. Medium term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2026/27 - 2029/30 – Report of the Assistant Director – Resources. (Pages 11 - 92)
6. Domestic Abuse Report. (Pages 93 - 106)
7. Day Services Commissioning Report – Report of the Assistant Director - Commissioning, Performance and Transformation. (Pages 107 - 160)
8. Work Programme 2024/25 – Report of the Assistant Director, Law and Governance (Pages 161 - 174)
9. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting.
10. Questions

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'A. C. Wennington'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom of the 'n'.

**Amy Wennington**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Monday, 29 December 2025**

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

**Membership**

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

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact James McAllister ([james.mcallister@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:james.mcallister@darlington.gov.uk)), Democratic Officer, Resources and Governance 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

**Briefing for scrutiny committees**

Climate change can affect anyone, but some people have the potential to be more affected than others. How badly a person or group will be affected will depend not just on their exposure to the event, but on their social vulnerability – that is, how well they are able to cope with and respond to events like floods and heatwaves. People and communities experiencing multiple causes of vulnerability are the most extremely socially vulnerable.

Tackling climate change is a shared responsibility. It is deeply connected to other policy issues and local action is necessary for sustainable solutions. We need to be clear how any proposal/project impacts on our carbon emissions and how it affects our resilience. It is also important that the decisions we make do not prevent other people from reducing their own emissions or improving their own resilience.

Scrutiny has a critical role to play in these cross-cutting issues. Climate change as a stand-alone issue sits in the purview of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, but everything we do either has an impact on, or is impacted by, climate change so it is important for all scrutiny committees to also ensure that everything that comes in front of them has considered it.

The Council Plan now includes climate change as a key principle underpinning everything we do. The guidance notes for cabinet and decision papers have also been updated so the “carbon impact” box should never say no impact. Clearly, proposals or projects will differ, depending on what is being discussed, and not all of the questions below will apply to everything that comes to a scrutiny committee, but they should help to tease out how the officers have come to that decision.

**Questions for scrutiny committee members to ask**

1. Will the proposal/project result in an increase in carbon emissions?
  - How have you ensured that energy is not wasted or lost through poor insulation, heating the wrong areas or inefficient lighting?
  - Will there be an increase in business travel or commuting?
  - How easy will it be for people to travel by public transport, bicycle or walking?
  - Is there a need for travel at all?
  - Will there be an increase in waste disposal?
2. How will you reduce emissions?
  - How can you reduce energy use?
  - How can you reduce use of natural resources?
  - How can you ensure suppliers are working in a sustainable way?
  - How can you reduce waste?
  - How can you improve energy efficiency?
3. Will the proposal have any impacts on biodiversity (positive or negative)?
  - Will there be a net reduction in trees?
  - Are there opportunities for planting?
  - Are there other habitats or wildlife considerations?

4. Does the proposal incorporate/promote the development of renewable energy?
  - How can you increase the use of renewable energy in your project?
5. How can you minimise emissions from transport?
  - How can your project enable and encourage active travel?
  - How can you reduce the need for travel at all?
6. How will you make the proposal/project resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as more frequent severe weather, floods and heatwaves?
  - How can your project be designed to be resilient to these occurrences?
  - How can you ensure the building does not overheat in summer?
  - How will your service travel during these events?
  - How can communities using your service be protected?

#### Supplementary questions

- Does any procurement consider the impact on the environment?
- How does the project/proposal support the climate change strategy, tree and woodland strategy and sustainable communities strategy?
- How does the project/proposal support local businesses and employers to be sustainable?
- How can the project/proposal help develop local skills?

## **ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 28 October 2025

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

**APOLOGIES** – Councillor Renton.

**ABSENT** – Councillor Crumbie.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillor Curry.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Joss Harbron (Assistant Director - Adult Social Care) and James McAllister (Democratic Officer)

### **AD16 INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

### **AD17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

### **AD18 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2025**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 26 August 2025, be approved as a correct record.

### **AD19 AUTISM STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care submitted a report (previously circulated) which provided an update to Members of this Scrutiny Committee on the development of Darlington's Autism Strategy. The report outlined the key aims of the strategy (in line with the national strategy) and reported on the strategies progress to date.

The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, noted that a concrete 'Darlington' Autism strategy had not existed previously, and thus described how co-production is being used to shape the strategy. The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, requested that Members provided feedback to the report and accompanying presentation, with such feedback informing implementations to the strategy.

Members were provided with a 'Progress Timeline' which outlined how co-production has been undertaken from inception to delivery, and Members were also informed that each organisation included in formulating the strategy have provided funding. The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, informed Members that a first-year delivery plan will start to be developed in November 2025.

Within the delivered presentation The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, first discussed the 5 key aims of the strategy: (a) Improving understanding and acceptance of autism. (b)

Enhancing access to education, employment, and health services. (c) Reducing health inequalities and improving physical and mental health outcomes. (d) Supporting autistic people to live independently and safely. (e) Strengthening community inclusion and reducing isolation.

The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, then outlined the first year objectives of the strategy – such as the establishment of a Darlington Steering Group to represent the community with purpose of developing an autism strategy, the surveying of Darlington residents on key areas relating to autism, the reviewal of feedback to inform the development of strategy, the drafting of the strategy and consultation period, finalising the strategy, and finally development of the delivery plan.

Members were informed that a survey had already been carried out by Inclusion North on what stakeholders feel the strategy needed to incorporate. The findings of such outlined the following themes: Education, Employment, Involvement, Access to Support, Financial Support, Sensory/ Quiet Spaces, Healthcare, Safety & Housing, Community & Belonging, and Celebrating Autism. The inclusion of Autism Celebration was requested to be included by the Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, to acknowledge both the work that has been undertaken to date, and to celebrate the contribution to the community by those with Autism.

The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, finalised her report by outlining the logistics leading to the production of a draft strategy, and welcomed questions from the Committee. Members therefore posed questions on employer engagement with the strategy, and whether employers have engaged with the Council already to receive advice on implementing changes. Furthermore, Members suggested that unions should be liaised with to contribute to the draft, and The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, agreed with this suggestion.

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report and subsequent presentation be noted.

## **AD20 ADULT SOCIAL CARE BUDGET AND OUT-TURN**

The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, submitted a report (previously circulated) which provided Members with an overview of the Adult Social Care (ASC henceforth) budget for Darlington Borough Council including financial outturns, current pressures and challenges, and the transformation plans in place to address these issues and improve service delivery.

Members were informed that ASC in Darlington continues to face significant financial and operational pressures - driven by demographic changes, increasing demand for services, workforce challenges, and the need to modernise service delivery. The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, assured Members that the Council remains committed to delivering high-quality, person-centred care and support, with a strong focus on prevention, early intervention, and community-based solutions.

The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, informed the committee that the gross budget for ASC for 2025/26 is £64,900,000 – and broke down the figure by service area (outlined on page 29 of the submitted report). Members were then provided with the figures received and the avenues the income is received from, notably £14,000,000 generated and a further

£3,000,000 in grants. The submitted report reflected the budget and out-turn of Q1, which demonstrated a £18,000 underspend.

Members were then provided with an insight into the reductions and pressures of the budget, in addition to the savings made thus far in the financial year. With regards to debt, The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, broke this down into Residential, Nursing, and Non-Residential debt and informed the committee of the efforts to reduce this, such as the improvement to Direct Payments, staff training, and employment of debt recovery officers.

The Assistant Director – Adults Social Care, welcomed questions on the submitted report, and Members posed questions on time periods for carrying debt, transferring of money between budgets, and amounts received from debt recovery efforts.

#### **AD21 WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26**

The Assistant Director – Law & Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) which invited Members to consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this scrutiny Committee during the 2025/26 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

The Democratic Officer spoke to this report, and informed Members that the Q2 Performance Report Initially scheduled for the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 6 Jan 2026 has been deferred to 24 February 2026.

Additionally, the Democratic Officer informed Members that the annual Hospital Discharges Update has been omitted from the existing work programme, and asked Members to consider a date to hear this item.

The Democratic Officer also noted that the Principal Social Worker Feedback Report currently did not have a date affixed on the work programme and therefore requested that a date be provided.

**RESOLVED** – That the Hospital Discharges Update and the Principal Social Worker Feedback report be added to the agenda of the meeting of this scrutiny committee held on 14 April 2026.

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## ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 6 JANUARY 2026

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### DARLINGTON ASSOCIATION ON DISABILITY (DAD)

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#### SUMMARY REPORT

##### Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) service commissioned by the Council.

##### Summary

2. Darlington Borough Council has commissioned services with DAD since 2018.
3. DAD currently provide the following services:
  - a) **Consolidated Advocacy Service:** Advocacy helps to ensure that people's voices, wishes, and preferences are heard. In addition, that their rights are upheld, their needs are met, particularly when they have difficulty in speaking up for themselves or are concerned that they are not being heard. These include Care Act (2014), IMCA (Independent Mental Capacity Advocate), IMHA (Independent Mental Health Advocate), General Advocacy (e.g. assistance with Assessments), 1.2 rule representative as appointed by the Court of Protection and RPR (Relevant Person's Representatives) which supports people subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS) authorisation. In 2024/25, DAD supported 1653 people.
  - b) **Direct Payments Support Service:** Provides eligible individuals (who are able to arrange and pay for their own care arrangements) support to manage their Direct Payment accounts, including Payroll, Recruitment, support & information etc. DAD supported approximately 489 people 2024/25. This service commenced on 10 April 2022.
  - c) **Independent Living Hub:** provide personalised packages of independent living support linked to statutory assessment, currently supporting 12 people through individual "spot" purchase arrangements.
  - d) **Short Break Stays Framework** including Independent Living Hub and DASH Play scheme which is commissioned on a sessional rate and is accessed by the individual linked to statutory assessed need. This includes daytime short breaks in school holidays. This framework arrangement started on February 2020. The DASH scheme currently works with 49 children and 10 adults. DAD is the only provider for this type of activity.

## Recommendation

4. It is recommended that :-

- (a) Note the contents within the report.
- (b) A presentation is delivered by Lauren Robinson, Chief Executive of DAD at Scrutiny Committee.

**Joss Harbron**  
**Assistant Director of Adult Social Care**

## Background Papers

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

Joss Harbron: 5278

Council Plan	The report and the activity is aligned to the Council Plan priorities.
Addressing inequalities	This report has specific impact on protected groups and the services supports people with disabilities and experiencing inequalities.
Tackling Climate Change	This report has considered climate impact and change. All consideration was undertaken with sustainability in mind and aim to reduce the carbon footprint, and re-use energy and environmental resources where possible.
Efficient and effective use of resources	Key aims with Adult Services is to deliver efficient, effective and person-centred care which supports a strength-based approach aligned to the requirements of the Care Act and includes effective use of resources. Services commissioned by Adult Services are expected to meet the requirements.
Health and Wellbeing	The service outlined in this report will continue the Council's drive to deliver services and support that enhance people's life chances and opportunities to thrive.
S17 Crime and Disorder	N/A
Wards Affected	All Darlington Wards.
Groups Affected	All adults with social care needs in Darlington.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not impact on the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This report is an update.
Urgent Decision	N/A
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	The proposed projects have no specific impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
6 JANUARY 2026**

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**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/27 – 2029/30**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2026/27 to 2029/30.

**Summary**

2. Attached at **Appendix 1** is the MTFP report which has been approved by Cabinet as a basis for consultation at their meeting on 2 December 2025.
3. Members received a briefing on the MTFP by the Assistant Director Resources, on 10 December 2025.

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that:
  - (a) Members are requested to consider the MTFP 2026/27 to 2029/30 and forward any views and comments, in particular those in relation to the services and finances within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee, to a Special meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
  - (b) That the Chair, in consultation with the Lead Scrutiny Officers supporting this Scrutiny Committee, be given authority to agree the Minutes of this Scrutiny Committee, to enable the Minutes to be considered at a Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee scheduled to be held on 20 January 2026.

**Brett Nielsen  
Assistant Director Resources**

**Background Papers**

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

Brett Nielsen: Extension 5403

Council Plan	The Council's MTFP contributes to all priorities in the Council Plan. Consultation with Members in the MTFP contributes to the delivery of the Plan.
Addressing Inequalities	The report does not contain any proposals that impact on equality issues.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no specific climate change impact issues in this report.
Efficiency & Resources	This report contains updated information regarding efficiency savings and use of resources contained in the MTFP.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no specific issues relating to health and wellbeing in this report.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder.
Wards Affected	This report has no specific impact on individual wards.
Groups Affected	This report has no specific impact on individual groups.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This report does not require a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This report does not require an urgent decision.
Impact of Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. Cabinet at its meeting held on 2 December 2025, approved the attached Medium Term Financial Plan as a basis for consultation.
6. As part of consultation process, the MTFP will be presented to each of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to discuss and consider the overall contents of the MTFP, particularly those contents in relation to the services and finances falling within the remit of that Scrutiny Committee.
7. Members are asked to forward any views and comments from this Committee to a Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
8. Once all the Scrutiny Committees have met, a Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee will be held on 20 January 2026, to agree a formal response to Cabinet on behalf of all the Scrutiny Committees as part of the consultation process. The Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees will be invited to attend this meeting to present their findings and answer any questions.

9. In view of the timescales involved in responding to the consultation, it is not possible for the individual Scrutiny Committees to formally approve their Minutes prior to the Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 20 January 2026, and it is therefore being suggested that authority be given to the Chairs, in consultation with the Lead Scrutiny Officers, to agree the Minutes in advance of the next Ordinary Meetings. The Minutes will still be an item on the agenda of the next meeting for formal approval as usual.

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**Adults Scrutiny Committee**  
**6 January 2026**

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**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP)**  
**FOR CONSULTATION**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker**  
**Leader and all Cabinet Members**

**Responsible Director – Strategic Leadership Team**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To propose a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2026/27 to 2029/30 for consultation, including setting a budget and Council Tax increase for 2026/27.

**Summary**

2. After years of austerity the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan remains in a fragile position. The reduction in public spending between 2010 and 2019 where the Council's budget was reduced by £46m in real terms, the significant increase in demand for services in the aftermath of Covid along with the unstable economic climate where the country saw the cost of living increasing, high inflation and poverty rising, is a challenge for all. The Council is facing a spiralling increase in cost and demand for services in Children's and Adults' Social Care which have a direct impact on the Council's contracted expenditure.
3. The Council has previously met the challenges faced head on through value for money service delivery, shared services, economic growth, and strong financial management and has utilised built up reserves to continue to provide vital services for the residents of Darlington.
4. The Government has recognised the inherent unfairness in the current funding model for local government along with the significant pressures faced in public services, and on 20 June 2025 published a comprehensive consultation on the reform of local government funding. The Government have committed to a policy statement at the end of November which will outline final policy positions, however, the draft local government finance settlement will not be published until late December, which is not helpful for planning purposes. Encouragingly, the Government has committed to a three-year finance settlement which will allow for more effective planning in the future.
5. Analysis of the consultation indicates Darlington should benefit from the redistribution of funding given our low Council Tax base and relative needs.

These changes are long overdue, and the Council has been lobbying for these reforms for many years, so the funding reforms are welcome news. Whilst initial assessments are encouraging, the position remains challenging with reserves required over the next two years to meet the sustainability gap and continued demand pressures need to be stemmed.

6. Over two thirds of our expenditure is on Adult and Children's Social Care, looking after our most vulnerable residents and children. Inflation, the national living wage and interest rate levels directly impact on the cost of our adult care contracts; in addition, there has been a continual rise in the demand for children's care services. We are seeing more vulnerable children with increasingly complex needs requiring help and support; last year we saw a 50% increase in contacts from partner agencies and people concerned for a child's welfare, a 45% increase in referrals and an 11% increase in children in our care since pre pandemic levels. These are our largest budgets, and we have a statutory requirement to provide these services. This consequently impacts on the funding available for all other Council services, in particular discretionary areas which keep our town clean, vibrant and safe.
7. Darlington is not alone in facing these pressures, councils across the country are struggling with the same issues, which have been widely reported in the media over the last year with a significant percentage indicating the inability to balance their books. The Government acknowledge the pressures councils are facing, and fair funding reforms are a step to improving the position.
8. In addition to the anticipated increase in government funding and to protect services as far as possible, the Council continues to review its cost base and challenge all service areas to ensure Value for Money. The transformation programmes identified in the 2025/26 MTFP are progressing well and the savings anticipated have been realised. In addition, further transformation programmes have been identified and if agreed will progress on a spend to save basis.
9. As part of the funding reform consultation, the Government confirmed the intention and expectation that councils would increase their Council Tax by 5% per annum, including the Adult Social Care precept. This MTFP therefore proposes a Council Tax increase of 2.99% and an Adult Social Care precept of 2% which will generate £2.126m and £1.422m respectively. Adult Social Care is by far our largest overall budget with a spend of £59.7m and the precept is crucial to meet the overall costs and pressure faced in this service area.
10. The Council Plan vision is for Darlington to be one of the best places to live, learn, work and invest in the UK, with a strong and sustainable economy, healthy and thriving communities and opportunities for all. There are three core principles running through everything we do: addressing inequalities, tackling climate change and the efficient and effective use of resources. The Council's priorities are:
  - (a) Economy – a strong and stable economy and highly skilled workforce with opportunities for all.
  - (b) Homes – affordable and secure homes that meet the current and future needs of residents.
  - (c) Living Well – a healthier and better quality of life for longer, supporting those who need it most.



- (d) Children and Young People – the best start in life, realising the potential and raising aspirations.
  - (e) Communities – safer, healthier and more engaged communities.
  - (f) Local Environment – a well-connected, clean and sustainable borough.
11. This MTFP is shaped to help meet these priorities, despite the financial challenges faced, by directing the resources available to the areas where most impact can be made. Darlington has some significant inequalities across the borough from a financial as well as a health perspective. The best thing you can do to improve health is to have a good home, a good job, and a good friend. The Council is determined to address inequalities, and to have the best possible chance of doing this we need to continue to grow the Darlington economy, attract businesses and companies to the area helping to create more better paid jobs and to provide a good mix and range of homes for our residents to benefit from.
  12. However, this ambition is not an overnight fix, inclusive economic growth takes time, particularly in this economic climate. Over the last decade, the structural landscape of Darlington has changed, new businesses and government departments have relocated to the town bringing high quality jobs, and 365 new Council houses have been built providing good quality affordable housing. Significant investment has gone into Darlington station paving the way for improved rail services for the town and wider area, as well as a significant development occurring across the borough, all of which boosts regeneration, job opportunities and revenue. But more needs to be done and we will allocate the resources we do have into realising this ambition.
  13. This report has necessarily been prepared before the Chancellor's budget announcement on the 26 November 2025, and the 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS), consequently, several assumptions have been made in this draft. The fair funding consultation offers a direction of travel, however, the proposals are open to interpretation with regards to the scale of the reforms to be implemented. There is a commitment to implement the reforms from 1 April 2026, although they are likely to be phased in across three years given the funding envelope is not increasing and some councils by necessity will see a reduction in funding levels.
  14. The MTFP has an eye to future years but does not seek to presume what the future will look like. It aims to ensure that the Council can set a legal budget in 2026/27 and continue to provide our core offer level of services to the residents of Darlington.
  15. The Council operates a core offer which is at a statutory service level with a small provision for discretionary services and this is the base level the new MTFP has been prepared on. Reserves have been maintained for medium term stability, and this is now a crucial component of the budget strategy given the pressures faced in the coming year. It is proposed general fund reserves are utilised to meet the 2026/27 and 2027/28 funding gap whilst the full effect of the reforms come into play.
  16. This is a prudent position to ensure our statutory services are maintained along with a small proportion of discretionary services, which are important to the vitality of the town and residents in the borough and continue some preventative services which stop the need for more costly service provision in the future.

At this juncture it would be unwise to reduce much needed discretionary and preventative services, which are key to enabling our Council Plan priorities, before funding levels are clarified.

17. In summary, if the recommendations are agreed, the Council can deliver a 2026/27 budget which will allow net revenue investment in Darlington and its residents of £149m and new capital investment of £84m to add to the current capital programme of £340m.

### **Recommendations**

18. It is recommended that Cabinet approve for consultation the Revenue MTFP as set out in **Appendix 6** and the Capital Programme as set out in **Appendix 7**, including the following:
- (a) A Council Tax increase of 2.99% plus a 2% Adult Social Care Precept to help fund social care for 2026/27.
  - (b) The Schedule of Charges as set out in **Appendix 3**.
  - (c) The efficiency savings and transformation programme proposed.

### **Reasons**

19. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons:
- (a) The Council must set a budget for the next financial year.
  - (b) To enable the Council to continue to plan services and finances over the medium term.
  - (c) To ensure decisions can be made in a timely manner.
  - (d) To reduce the pressures on the MTFP in the medium term.
  - (e) To ensure investment in our assets is maintained.

### **STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM**

### **Background Papers**

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

Elizabeth Davison: Extension 5830

Council Plan	The MTFP proposals direct resources to the priorities of the Council Plan.
Addressing inequalities	The MTFP proposals direct resources to assist in reducing inequalities.
Tackling Climate Change	The MTFP proposals seek to continue to support the Council's responsibilities and ambitions to reduce carbon impact in the Council and the Borough.

Efficient and effective use of resources	The MTFP proposals include savings to ensure the efficiency and effective use of resources.
Health and Wellbeing	The report contains proposals to continue to allocate resources in support of the Council's Health and Well Being responsibilities.
S17 Crime and Disorder	The report contains proposals to continue to allocate resources in support of the Council's Crime and Disorder responsibilities.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	All groups are affected by the Council Tax increase.
Budget and Policy Framework	The MTFP, Budget and Council Tax must all be decided by full Council.
Key Decision	The MTFP, Budget and Council Tax must all be decided by full Council.
Urgent Decision	The MTFP, Budget and Council Tax must all be decided by full Council.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Children's social care continues to be resourced to provide good outcomes for Looked after Children or Care Leavers.

## MAIN REPORT

### Background and context

20. After years of austerity the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan remains in a fragile position. The reduction in public spending between 2010 and 2019 where the Council's budget was reduced by £46m in real terms, the significant increase in demand for services in the aftermath of Covid, along with the unstable economic climate where the country saw the cost of living increasing, high inflation and poverty rising, is a challenge for all. The Council is facing a spiralling increase in cost and demand for services in Children's and Adults' Social Care, which have a direct impact on the Council's contracted expenditure.
21. Over two thirds of our expenditure is on Adult and Children's Social Care, looking after our most vulnerable residents and children. Inflation, the national living wage and interest rate levels directly impact on the costs of our adult care contracts, in addition, there has been a continual rise in the demand for children's care services. We are seeing more vulnerable children with increasingly complex needs requiring help and support, last year we saw a 50% increase in contacts from partner agencies and people concerned for a child's welfare, a 45% increase in referrals and an 11% increase in children in our care since pre pandemic levels. These are our largest budgets, and we have a statutory requirement to provide these services, this consequently impacts on the funding available for all other Council services, in particular discretionary areas which keep our town clean, vibrant and safe.
22. The Council has previously met the challenges faced head on through value for money service delivery, shared services, economic growth, and strong financial management and has utilised built up reserves to continue to provide vital services for the residents of Darlington.
23. Darlington is not alone in facing these pressures, councils across the country are struggling with the same issues, which have been widely reported in the media over the last year, with a significant percentage indicating the inability to balance their books.
24. The Government has recognised the significant pressure in public services and on 20 June 2025 published a comprehensive consultation on the reform of local government funding. The Government have committed to a policy statement at the end of November, which will outline final policy positions, however, the draft local government finance settlement won't be published until late December, which is unhelpful for planning purposes. Encouragingly, the Government has committed to a three-year finance settlement which will allow for more effective planning in the future.
25. Analysis of the consultation indicates Darlington should benefit from the redistribution of funding given Council Tax equalisation and relative needs. These changes are long overdue, and the Council has been lobbying for these reforms for many years. Whilst initial assessments are encouraging, the position remains challenging with reserves required over the next two years to meet the sustainability gap and continued demand pressures to stem.

26. Income and resource levels are discussed in detail later in this paper, however, as the Local Government Financial Settlement will not be received until late December, it makes it challenging to predict expenditure and income levels moving forward. Consequently, best estimates have been used and assumptions made on the impact of inflation and demand in 2025/26 going into 2026/27 and the income and resources we will receive in future years.

## Financial Analysis

### Projected Expenditure

27. As noted previously the core offer budget is the level of service provision the MTFP is based upon. Estimates attached at **Appendix 1** have been prepared based on current service levels and include known pressures and the savings proposed which are summarised below and detailed in **Appendix 2**. The most significant are discussed in the following paragraphs. The assumptions used when preparing the estimates are set out at **Appendix 4**.

<u>Summary of Pressures</u>	<b>2026/27 £m</b>	<b>2027/28 £m</b>	<b>2028/29 £m</b>	<b>2029/30 £m</b>
Service Demand	4.989	4.810	2.724	1.979
Price Inflation	0.344	0.499	0.581	2.169
Reduced Income	0.420	0.345	0.345	0.345
Pay Award	0.980	1.002	1.024	1.059
Other	1.044	0.823	0.538	0.883
Total	7.777	7.479	5.212	6.435

### Pressures

28. There are some significant pressures emerging which fall into one of five categories, being: increased service demand, price inflations, reduced income, pay award and other.
29. **Service Demand** – the largest pressure area regarding increased demand in 2026/27 is Children’s Social Care, accounting for £3.928m in 2026/27 and £10.618m across the MTFP. This is a continuation of the pressure we are seeing in the 2025/26 budget, in particular the growth in children with complex cases and the significant rise in the cost of residential placements. The children’s sufficiency programme is helping to alleviate these costs, however, there is a fundamental and nationwide issue regarding the availability and cost of children’s residential placements.
30. The second largest pressure is in the Adult Social Care budget where there has been an increase in the number of residential and care packages required at a cost of £0.855m in 2026/27 and £3.329m across the MTFP. A spend to save transformation programme is proposed which will review care for working age adults, with the aim of improving outcomes as well as providing savings to the MTFP.

31. **Price Inflation** – the main driver of inflation in the 2026/27 budget is energy costs, whilst gas prices are holding the electricity charges have increased above the 2% provided for.
32. **Reduced Income** - the main area of reduced income is at Hopetown where the anticipated car parking income is £0.220m lower than the original business case. Now the main celebrations are finished, a full review of the Hopetown business case is being undertaken to see how this pressure can be mitigated.
33. There will also be reduced income at the Dolphin Centre whilst the Phase 3 Mechanical and Electrical works are completed during next year.
34. **Pay Award** – the 2025/26 pay award was settled at 3.2%, 0.2% higher than budgeted for creating an in-year pressure. In addition, given the current inflation rate it is felt prudent to budget for a 3% pay award in 2026/27 as opposed to the 2% currently in the estimates.
35. **Other** – this includes several pressures across all service areas, however, the largest is financing costs with a pressure of £0.801m in 2026/27. This is due to interest rates remaining at higher levels than previously forecast, which impacts on the cost of borrowing for new capital schemes such as the Dolphin Centre refurbishment. In addition, the closure of one of the Council's property funds has reduced dividend income, however, the funds returned have been used to repay maturing loans, therefore saving on interest whilst options are considered for future investment opportunities.

## Savings

<b>Summary of Savings</b>	<b>2026/27 £m</b>	<b>2027/28 £m</b>	<b>2028/29 £m</b>	<b>2029/30 £m</b>
Back-Office Efficiencies	(0.422)	(0.301)	(0.274)	(0.298)
Energy Savings	(0.085)	(0.085)	(0.085)	(0.085)
Increased Income	(0.190)	(0.197)	(0.339)	0.328
Other	(2.040)	(2.124)	(2.133)	(2.135)
Pressure Offset	(0.200)	(0.200)	(0.160)	(0.160)
Transformation Review	(0.000)	(0.750)	(0.750)	(0.750)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2.937)</b>	<b>(3.657)</b>	<b>(3.741)</b>	<b>(3.100)</b>

36. To protect front line services to our residents as far as possible we continually work to maximise savings and efficiencies across the Council. In total £2.937m has been identified in 2026/27 totalling, £13.435m across the MTFP.
37. **Back Office** - by reducing costs in back office, general housekeeping and process review, £0.422m has been identified in 2026/27, and £1.295m over the life of the MTFP. These savings come from staffing vacancies through redesign of service provision, removal of historic underspends and reduction in general running costs.
38. **Energy** – whilst electricity prices are rising there is a slight reduction in gas through pricing and usage.

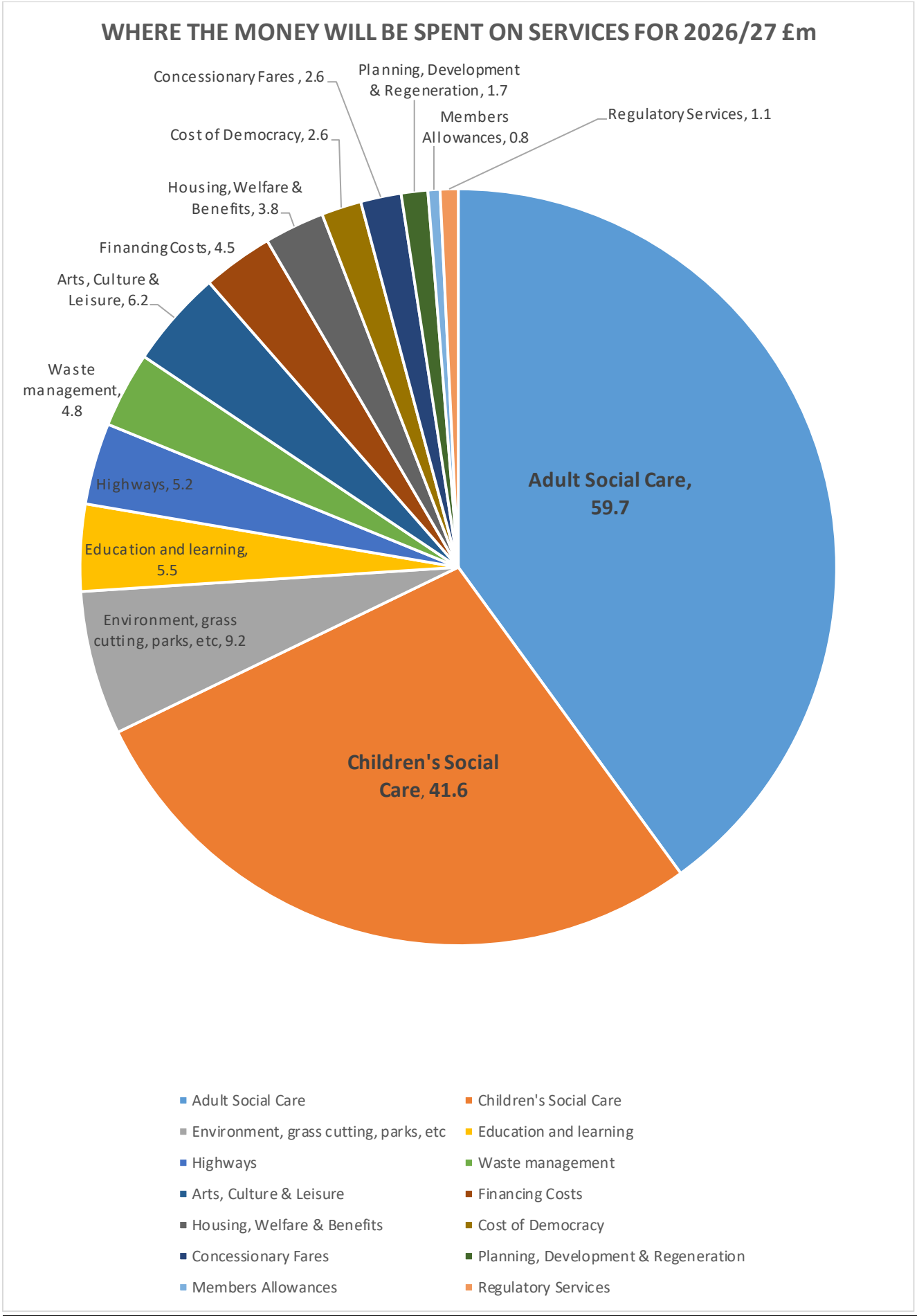
39. **Increased Income** - income returns from our Joint Venture companies have been slightly increased and reprofiled due to the demand for the homes and sales earlier than anticipated.
40. **Other** – following a triannual review of the Durham Pension fund, the actuaries have reduced the contributions the Council needs to make for pension provisions providing a general fund saving of £1.9m per annum. In addition, there has been a reduction in contributions required for concessionary fares of £0.140m per annum.
41. **Transformation** – in addition to the programmes initiated last year, all of which are progressing well, there is a spend to save transformation proposal in Adult Social Care which is discussed in detail earlier on the Cabinet agenda.

### **Total Expenditure**

42. Taking the above savings, pressures and the transformation proposal into account the summarised projected expenditure is shown in the table below:

<b>Service</b>	<b>2026/27 £m</b>	<b>2027/28 £m</b>	<b>2028/29 £m</b>	<b>2029/30 £m</b>
Chief Executives Office	0.342	0.349	0.356	0.364
People Services	100.743	102.676	104.215	106.665
Economy & Public Protection	2.208	2.145	2.052	2.124
Environment, Highways and Community Services	27.792	28.319	28.888	29.818
Resources & Governance	16.824	17.339	17.823	18.184
Financing costs	4.507	4.057	4.157	4.473
Investment Returns - Joint Venture	(2.188)	(1.942)	(1.855)	(1.188)
Council Wide Savings	(1.169)	(1.153)	(1.137)	(1.120)
Council Wide Contingencies	0.278	0.202	0.202	0.202
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>149.337</b>	<b>151.992</b>	<b>154.701</b>	<b>159.522</b>

43. This proposed net investment in services of £149m in 2026/27 covers a wide range of areas from adult residential care to refuse collection, from children's services to street lighting and grass cutting to our leisure and culture provision. The chart below shows the split of investment and as can be seen social care, both children's and adults, are the most significant proportion of funding, accounting for two thirds of the overall budget.





## **Projected Income**

### **Fair Funding Review 2.0 (FFR 2.0) and the Local Government Finance Settlement**

44. The Government has recognised the inherent unfairness in the current funding model for local government and on 20 June 2025 published a comprehensive consultation on the reform of local government funding. The consultation was referred to by the Government as Fair Funding Review 2.0 which distinguishes it from the previous Government's review in December 2018 which did not result in any meaningful change to local authority funding allocations. The changes represent the first major overhaul to the funding formula since 2013/2014, and one Darlington has been calling upon for years.
45. The Government have committed to a policy statement at the end of November which will outline final policy positions, however, the draft Local Government Finance Settlement will not be published until late December, which is once again unhelpful for planning purposes. The consultation papers do however confirm that local authorities will receive a 3-year settlement covering the period 2026-27 to 2028-29, which is the first time this will have occurred for ten years and is welcome from a financial planning perspective.
46. The consultation contains a large amount of detail around the new relative needs and weighting of different components of the proposed new formula but does not include the detail that underpins the calculations of relative needs, rather it provides an outline of the datasets and formulae being applied. The consultation is however reasonably transparent on the proposed methodology to be used to distribute funding in 2026-27 and over the next 3 years, with the proposal being under-written by a commitment to try and simplify the formulae through a combination of consolidating a range of specific grants into the general grant formula and by simplifying and reducing the number of Relative Needs Formulae used to distribute funding.
47. Significantly, the proposals include a commitment to 100% Council Tax resource equalisation, the first time this will have been reset since 2013/14.
48. The consultation does not include any provisional allocations at local authority level at this stage. However, officers have worked through the principles and details that have been set out in the FFR 2.0 Consultation documents to estimate the allocation Darlington could receive. This work has been informed by colleagues at Pixel, the Society of Municipal Treasurers and through discussions with colleagues across the region.
49. The funding reforms as set out are likely to have significant implications for local government, with some winners and losers at a regional and national level and in different types of authorities across the sector. There is an emphasis on linking funding to deprivation and to account for Council Tax bases given the huge variation across the country.
50. Analysis of the consultation indicates Darlington should benefit from the redistribution of funding, however, whilst initial assessments are encouraging, the position remains challenging with reserves required over the next two years to meet the sustainability gap and continued demand pressures to stem.

51. The broad principles of the FFR 2.0 proposals are

- (a) **Needs Assessments:** The Government will use Relative Needs Formulae (RNF) to assess differences in demand between councils for different functional service areas. Some of these service areas are existing and there are some new proposed ones. As with previous reviews of funding allocations, an Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) is then be applied to each RNF to account for the different costs of delivering services in different places. The RNFs and ACAs are then combined to give each council an overall “relative needs share”, by weighting each RNF according to the size of (national) expenditure on that functional service area.
- (b) **Resources Adjustment:** In order to account for differing Council Tax raising abilities by councils, the Government is proposing to multiply each council’s tax base (the number and band of properties) by a notional level of Council Tax. The notional Council Tax available to be raised is added to the current quantum of grant funding available to local government and the level of retained business rates available nationally, to give the total notional amount of funding available to local government. This funding resource is then allocated according to each council’s needs share. Each council’s notional tax contribution is deducted from their resources, to give each council a Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA), which indicates how much a council needs relative to one another.

52. A local authority’s Settlement Funding Assessment is driven by a combination of the strength of their taxbase and their measure of relative need.

**Transitional Support**

53. As there will be winners and losers in the redistribution of funding, the government have proposed that the transition to the new formula will take place over 3 years. The consultation papers refer to this time-period being “*gradually over 3 years*” and in one third increments across that period.
54. The Government is proposing to fund the cost of the transition by top slicing the national funding and through scaling-back gains expected by other authorities. This means it may take up to three years for the Council to see the benefits of this funding transition perpetuating the current inequities for a further two years. The Council has argued in its consultation response that it is unfair to scale back the gains of councils in the first two years (2026/27 and 2027/28) to pay for the phasing for those councils losing out, and these transition costs should be funded separately.
55. Our funding assumptions have assumed the phasing will happen over three years so any changes following consultation would be of benefit.

**Core Grant funding to Local Government**

56. **Revenue Support Grant (RSG)** - after years of significant reductions, the RSG will become the second largest revenue stream for the Council after Council Tax. This grant has increased to reflect resource adjustments through the fair funding reforms consultation and also will subsume a number of grants currently received, including the Recovery Grant, Social Care Grant and the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund.

57. **Better Care Fund (BCF)** - the fund supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers. The BCF grant is pooled with the NHS BCF grant and is agreed annually by the Health and Wellbeing Board and signed off by the Department of Health and Social Care.
58. **Extended Producer Responsibility Grant (EPR)** – to try and reduce packaging the Government introduced an EPR levy on organisations responsible for producing packaging in the first place. Fees are paid by those organisations with the revenue being passed to local authorities to help mitigate the cost of waste collection and disposal of household waste from kerbside and communal collections, brought to Household Recycling Centres. Darlington has received a draft allocation of £2.7m for 2026/27 and it has been estimated to reduce by 20% per annum as producers make changes to their packaging.
59. **Children and Families Grant** - this grant was paid outside of the Core Spending Power calculations in 2025/26 and consolidated a number of previous Department for Education grants including the Supporting Families, Virtual Headteacher grants. Within the fair funding reforms consultation this grant is expected to be consolidated with other Children's grants to be paid as one grant for children in addition to the RSG. It has been assumed that this funding will remain at the 2025/26 allocation level.

## **Council Tax Income**

60. Council Tax is the largest single funding stream to provide Council services in Darlington and will increase further as a percentage over the coming years representing 56% of projected resources anticipated by 2029/30. The ongoing increases reflect the Cabinet's view that income from Council Tax needs to increase to protect key service provision and enable investment in vital services. Members will recall that a 1% increase in Council Tax equates to an annual revenue of circa. £0.711m.
61. As part of the consultation on the reform of local government funding, the Government confirmed the intention and expectation that councils increase their Council Tax by 5% per annum, including the Adult Social Care precept. This MTFP therefore assumes a Council Tax increase of 2.99% across the life of the MTFP and an Adult Social Care precept of 2%. As can be seen in the chart in paragraph 43, Adult Social Care is by far our largest overall budget with a spend of £59.7m. The precept will raise circa. £1.422m which is crucial to meet the overall costs and pressure faced in this service area.
62. Darlington currently has the second lowest Council Tax in the North East. To put this in perspective, if Darlington had the average North East Band D level, the Council would generate an additional £3.3m per annum, and if we had the average England band D level, we would generate an additional £8.7m per annum.
63. Darlington has a low Council Tax Base with 43% of our properties in Band A and 78% of our homes in Band A – C, which means significantly less Council Tax is generated for each 1% raised than in some other more affluent areas and highlights the disparity in how local government is funded. However, as mentioned previously, the Government is looking to adjust resource levels to take this into account and this adjustment has been included in our RSG assumptions.

64. Despite some turbulent years in house building due to Covid, Nutrient Neutrality and high interest rates, Darlington's house building remains stable. Planning estimates anticipate growth levels to be an average of 461 Band D equivalent properties over the period of this plan, which is a growth on the tax base of 1.25% per annum. This growth is helping to address the national housing shortage and the increasing demand for homes in Darlington. These figures have been used to prepare the estimates; clearly should this be any different, income levels will differ. The collection rate (of collectable debt) is anticipated to remain at 99% in 2026/27.

### **National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)**

65. The Council retains 49% of NNDR collected and can gain or lose depending on whether the net tax collected increases or decreases. The Government via the valuation office sets rateable values and the rate paid in the pound is increased each year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The business tax-base is far more volatile than the Council Tax base and requires very close monitoring. In addition to the potential to "lose" income due to business closures, the Council also carries the risk of losing appeals by businesses against valuations.
66. Growing the economy is a key priority for the Council and the Economic Strategy gives priority to increasing business within the borough and significant effort has been put into achieving growth. This has been rewarded with a positive net increase in NNDR collection. Sites such as Symmetry Park and Central Park are all contributing to the growth and work has begun on the new Darlington Economic campus at Brunswick Street which will house His Majesty's Treasury Department along with several other government departments including the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. This is providing a boost to the town with other employers looking to relocate to Darlington.
67. Notwithstanding these major developments, attracting businesses into the town by their very nature takes time and upfront investment and therefore is an area which needs continued prioritisation and pump prime funding so growth can continue. It needs to be remembered that net growth in NNDR collected relies on growth outstripping revaluations and reductions which can be very challenging in the current economic climate.
68. As anticipated, along with FFR 2.0 the Government have also announced plans to undertake a full reset of the baselines for the Business Rates Retention Scheme, which will result in a resetting of the target collection baseline for the Council's Business Rates and an associated adjustment of the Council's Top-up Grant. The estimated impact of these changes is reflected in the financial planning assumptions set out in this report, with further clarity required from Government on these impacts over the coming months.
69. The in-year collection rate target for NNDR is 98.0% and as at the end of October 2025 is 66% and on track to achieve the target.

### **Collection Fund**

70. The Collection Fund account reflects the statutory requirements for the Council to maintain a separate fund in relation to the operation of Council Tax and the Business Rates Retention Scheme (BRRS).

The Fund records all the transactions for billing in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) and Council Tax, exemptions and discounts granted, provision for bad debts and appeals and payments made to the Council's General Fund, the Police and Fire and Rescue precept authorities and Central Government.

## Other Grants

71. Set out below are the estimated specific grants which as the title suggests are for specific areas of expenditure as dictated by the Government and cannot be used for other areas; the main areas being the Dedicated Schools Grant which funds Darlington's maintained schools, special educational needs and early years provision and Public Health Grant, both which are ring-fenced. These grants are included in service estimates at Appendix 1.

Description	2026/27 £m
Housing Benefits	0.410
Public Health Grant	10.343
PFI Grant	3.200
Youth Justice Board	0.292
Local Reform & Community Voices	0.071
Adult & Community Learning	0.992
Garden Village	0.093
Pupil Premium	1.130
Dedicated Schools Grant	37.767
Heritage Lottery Fund	0.127
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children	1.026
Homeless	0.594
War Pensions	0.060
DFE Phonics	0.004
Children's Prevention Grant	0.617
Bikeability	0.028
	56.754

## Fees and charges

72. The proposed fees and charges of the Council are set out in **Appendix 3**. The increases proposed are based on the cost of providing the services and take account of inflation and market conditions. Overall, the proposed increases are anticipated to generate approximately £0.213m of income to help offset the cost of service provision.

## Total Income

73. The table below summarises the Council's estimated income for the period of this plan, which thanks to continued economic growth and house building activity, and the subsequent increases in Council Tax and NNDR, confirms a much-needed increase in income given our expenditure pressures.

Resources - Projected and Assumed	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	2029/30 £m
Council Tax	74.633	79.308	84.334	89.671
Business Rates	25.886	26.202	26.544	26.884
Revenue Support Grant	35.376	36.302	37.431	37.157
Better Care Fund	5.537	5.537	5.537	5.537
Extended Producer Responsibility Grant	2.704	2.163	1.730	1.384
Children and Families Grant	0.922	0.922	0.922	0.922
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>145.058</b>	<b>150.434</b>	<b>156.498</b>	<b>161.555</b>

## Projected MTFP

74. Set out in the table below are the projections based on the income and expenditure analysis discussed in the previous sections, as can be seen there is a funding gap for the next two years whilst the funding reforms are fully established. We are anticipating having £6.517m reserves which can be utilised to support the plan over that period, however, it is clear the financial position is fragile and reliant on the funding reform predictions along with Council Tax increases to ensure sustainability.

75. It is encouraging that predictions for future years put the finances back on an even keel, however, caution should be taken at this juncture given the continued demand pressures placed on the Council.

	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	2029/30 £m
Projected Total Expenditure	149.337	151.992	154.701	159.522
Projected Total Resources	(145.058)	(150.434)	(156.498)	(161.555)
Projected budget deficit	4.279	1.558	(1.797)	(2.033)

## Revenue Balances

76. The projected revenue outturn for 2025/26 is detailed at **Appendix 5**, and after taking into account the Risk Reserve of £6.0m, it is anticipated we will have £6.517m of usable reserves which will be required to cover the sustainability gap in 2026/27 and 2027/28. As previously mentioned, this is a fragile position and not a sustainable if funding reform estimates do not come to fruition. Savings and efficiencies have been found for 2026/27 which will continue into future years, through transformation, back office efficiencies, economic and income growth and a review of fees and charges.

<b>Revenue Balances</b>	<b>2026/27 £m</b>	<b>2027/28 £m</b>	<b>2028/29 £m</b>	<b>2029/30 £m</b>
Opening balance	6.517	2.238	0.680	2.477
Contribution to/(from) balances	(4.279)	(1.558)	1.797	2.033
Closing balance	<b>2.238</b>	<b>0.680</b>	<b>2.477</b>	<b>4.510</b>

## Capital Expenditure

77. The Council has an extensive capital programme with significant resources invested to purchase, improve, protect, and maintain our assets, to enable the Council to deliver its priorities, for example purchasing land to enable road improvements or investing in modernising school buildings and housing. The Council continues to deliver a significant capital investment programme in the main funded from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and grant or other external funding which is targeted at specific schemes and programmes such as Transport and Schools. Furthermore, investment from the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) along with other external funding sources are being used for economic growth initiatives.
78. The Council can also supplement these funding sources with its own resources such as capital receipts or prudential borrowing where there is a need, however, as capital receipts are limited, and prudential borrowing comes with future revenue implications there must be a strong case for doing so.
79. In recent years there has been acceleration of economic investment some of which is funded or has been pump primed by the Council; examples of such schemes include key road infrastructure that facilitated developments at Symmetry Park, and Central Park that now house the College, two University buildings, the National Biologics Centre and two Business Incubator buildings with further developments on the horizon. The Council owned and funded Feethams House in the Town Centre has been the catalyst in attracting the Darlington Economic Campus, and recent Town Centre investment funded from the Towns Fund and Indigenous Growth Fund are both reinvigorating key parts of the Town Centre and, importantly, enabling the Council to be well positioned for the future and to reshape the Town through its next phase of private sector redevelopment.

The Council's Investment Fund is vital in helping to stimulate more private sector economic investment across the town that ultimately increases business rates and contributes to the finances of the Council, thereby helping to fund vital services

80. The current capital programme stands at £340m as summarised in Table 1 below. The programme is monitored monthly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis; the latest available monitoring report for 2025/26 was presented to Cabinet on 4 November 2025 and noted there was a projected £0.607m underspend on the approved capital programme.

**Table 1**

	Construction				Non construction	Capital investment fund	Housing New Build - not yet allocated	Total
	Live Schemes 75k & Over	Annualised Schemes	Completed Schemes awaiting review	Live Schemes under 75k				
Area	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Housing	43.551	26.945	0.000	0.033	2.097	0.000	15.925	88.551
Economic Growth	33.057	0.099	0.440	0.348	8.284	77.834	3.476	123.538
Highways/Transport	50.023	15.687	2.756	1.304	2.418	17.977	1.512	91.677
Leisure & Culture	22.026	0.125	2.545	0.310	0.000	3.974	0.000	28.980
Education	3.768	0.509	1.061	0.177	0.079	0.000	0.000	5.594
Adult Social Care	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071
Other	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.581	0.000	0.000	1.581
<b>Total</b>	<b>152.425</b>	<b>43.365</b>	<b>6.802</b>	<b>2.172</b>	<b>14.530</b>	<b>99.785</b>	<b>20.913</b>	<b>339.992</b>

81. In addition to the current agreed programme the Council looks ahead to future capital requirements based on the principles of the capital strategy. A four-year timeframe has been adopted to fall in line with the revenue Medium Term Financial Plan. Attached at **Appendix 7** are the priority proposals for addition to the plan along with the funding methods. Most schemes are focused on 'Housing and Transport, funded via the HRA and government grants respectively; there are also a number of Council funded corporate schemes that have already been approved.
82. The following paragraphs describe the major elements of the capital programme priorities for approval. Specific scheme funding release will be subject to detailed reports to Cabinet.

#### **Corporate Schemes – funding required.**

83. As noted previously, the Council can supplement government capital funding, albeit options are limited in the current financial climate. Funding can come from prudential borrowing, repaid via revenue, which puts additional pressure on the revenue account or from capital receipts. Given the financial position of the Council, only schemes that are a health and safety risk or that are self-funding have been considered while there is uncertainty over the overall funding envelope.
84. The risk assessed usable capital receipts over the next four years are in the region of £11m although they are not guaranteed so caution needs to be taken when allocating.



85. There are likely to be many competing priorities against the available resources for both regeneration and refurbishment these schemes will emerge over the coming year/s. At this stage, Members are requested to make capital provision for three schemes with a total value of £2.050m, which will be subject to full reports to Cabinet in due course, these are:

- (a) **Capitalised Repairs - £0.250m** – capitalised repairs of £0.250m have been included in the MTFP until for repairs on the Council building stock until 2028/29 to ensure it is fit for purpose, however it is clear with inflation and the age of some of our building that this is not sufficient. An additional £0.250m has been included for the next three years and the full £0.500m continue into 2029/30. This is a rolling programme and details on specific areas of spend will be brought to Cabinet for consideration.
- (b) **Energy Performance Certification compliance - £0.200m** - the Council has an extensive commercial estate which generates income from rents and leasing. Energy performance regulations which are to be introduced in 2028 will mean works are likely to be required in some of our commercial buildings. EPC surveys will need to be undertaken before any work is carried out, so this is a provisional estimate at this stage.
- (c) **Advanced Design Fees - £0.150m** - per annum is requested to ensure that resources are available to work up any new schemes brought forward in relation to Economic Growth including site investigations on development sites, industrial and housing land. This funding has been invaluable in the past in enabling the Council to be site ready and without this it is likely schemes would stall and not progress.

## Government Funding

86. Set out below are details of the levels of Government funding available for investment by the Council in 2026/27 and an outline of the proposed use of these funds.

	<b>2026/27 £m</b>
<b>Children's Services</b>	
School Condition Allocation	0.154
<b>Transport</b>	
Local Transport Plan	3.068
<b>Other</b>	
Disabled Facilities Grant	1.319
<b>Total Capital Grant Available</b>	<b>4.541</b>

## **School Condition Allocations**

87. The Local Authority now only receives school condition funding for Maintained Schools. Maintenance funding for Academies is available through other routes. The funding received by the Local Authority will be spent in line with key priorities identified with each maintained school through the locally agreed asset management planning (LAMP) process, carried out each January. There are no strict spend deadlines for these small-scale condition related projects, which are prioritised and completed as funding becomes available.

## **Transport and Highways**

88. A Local Transport Plan for the Tees Valley was endorsed by the Tees Valley Cabinet in 2021. This will help set the spending plans for the funding allocations from the Department for Transport and from the Devolution deal. The Integrated Transport Programme (ITP) of TVCAs Investment plan identifies £256.7m of investment over the next 10 years. There will be projects and initiatives delivered in Darlington from this fund.
89. The Tees Valley Local Transport Plan has several accompanying documents that set the strategy and vision for different modes of transport. Each Local Authority is required to produce a Local Implementation Plan, which will effectively replace the Local Authority Local Transport Plan. In Darlington, the Darlington Transport Plan 2022-2030 was approved by Council in November 2022 and covers local priorities and maintenance requirements. Previously the Council received funding via TVCA that was based on needs formula. However, all the funding has now been merged into the new City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), which is a 5-year allocation of funding. The Tees Valley have been allocated £310m. The details of this allocation have been finalised, and the Council has been awarded £15.340m over the 5 years to 2026/27. The annual amount of £3.068m is based on the following breakdown which includes £0.893m for the Integrated Block, £1.206m for the Highways Maintenance Block plus £0.969m for the Pothole action programme. In the Budget 2024 a further £500m was pledged nationally for Road Maintenance, of which Darlington were awarded £0.902m. Currently no additional Road Maintenance funding has been confirmed for 2026/27. From 2027/28 highway maintenance funding will form part of the Transport for City Regions (TCR) funding to TVCA. TVCA have been allocated £978m and in January 2024 TVCA Cabinet approved £83m for Local Highway Authority Consolidated Funding, of which Darlington will receive £15.340 over the five year period.

## **Disabled Facility Grants**

90. These grants are available if you are disabled and need to make changes to your home, with examples being:
- (a) widen doors and install ramps;
  - (b) improve access to rooms and facilities – e.g., stair lifts or a downstairs bathroom;
  - (c) provide a heating system suitable for your needs, and
  - (d) adapt heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use.

## Housing

91. All Housing capital schemes are funded fully from the Housing Revenue Account. The priorities identified through the Housing Business Plan will be funded from the estimated capital resources for 2026/27. Further detail is given in the Housing Revenue Account financial plan but in summary includes:

- (d) Adaptations and lifts - £0.153m
- (e) Heating Replacement - £1.352m
- (f) Structural Works - £0.250m
- (g) Lifeline Services - £0.379m
- (h) Repairs before Painting - £0.069m
- (i) Roofing and Repointing work - £1.000m
- (j) Garages - £0.329m
- (k) External Works - £0.214m
- (l) Pavements - £0.028m
- (m) Window & Door Replacement - £2.025m
- (n) Internal planned maintenance (IPM) - £3.672m
- (o) Communal Works - £0.204m
- (p) Energy Efficiency Improvements - £5.237m
- (q) New Build and acquisitions - £1.000m
- (r) Fees - £0.386m

## Consultation

92. This report will be available for public viewing from the 25 November 2025 with official consultation running from 3 December 2025 to 21 January 2026.

## Conclusion

93. The Council has faced significant financial challenges over the last decade, with substantial reductions in government funding followed by the financial instability during the pandemic, but to date has risen to these challenges well which has previously enabled a balanced MTFP. 2025 has presented further challenges with increased demand for services particularly in social care where complexity and costs are rising significantly.
94. Until the outcome of the Fair Funding Reform 2.0 is known, the future of local government financing remains uncertain; there have been several councils issuing a Section 114 notice and even more requesting exceptional financial support with evidence of more to come if funding isn't forthcoming.
95. However, on current assumptions, the Council can deliver a balanced MTFP, by achieving the savings and transformation programmes in train and by utilising reserves in 2026/27 and 2027/28 as per our financial strategy, followed by an in year balanced position in the following years.
96. In summary, the Council continues to face significant budget pressures, however, the savings identified in this MTFP and proposed Council Tax rise have reduced the sustainability gap.

Due to the previous actions to protect reserves where possible, the Council can afford a 2026/27 budget and have reserves available to meet the funding requirement until the Government's FFR 2.0 is initiated. If estimates prove incorrect and no funding is forthcoming, making savings to meet the gap will be extremely challenging. There are no easy options without significantly reducing our discretionary services and preventative services which, as previously highlighted, assist towards making our town, clean, safe, vibrant and a place where people want to live and work, and businesses want to relocate to.

97. As the Council's Statutory Chief Financial Officer, the Executive Director of Resources and Governance must advise the Council on the robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves. In assessing the robustness of the estimates, the Chief Finance Officer has considered the general financial standing of the Council; the underlying budget assumptions in the financial strategy; the adequacy of budget monitoring and financial reporting in place; the assumptions made on budget pressures and savings proposals; the adequacy of the Council's internal control systems relying on the assurance statements provided in the Annual Governance Statement for the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts; and the level of reserves to cover any potential financial risks faced by the Council.
98. The budget presented to Members in this report has been based on the most accurate information available at the time of writing and the assumptions made based on the interpretation of the Government's Fair Funding Reform 2.0. On that basis, the Director is confident that they are an accurate reflection of the Council's financial position. Notwithstanding this there is a significant degree of uncertainty about the future economic position and Local Government funding, so the position presented whilst as accurate as possible will change, however, at this juncture I cannot be sure if that will be for the better or worse.
99. General Fund reserves are adequate for the coming financial year; however, the position is fragile and if funding is not forthcoming changes in service provision and/or increased income will be required. It is essential we maximise income where possible, ensure we are providing our services in the most efficient manner, and address the growing pressures in social care through transformation.

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1	Detailed Revenue Estimates 2026/27
Appendix 2	Budget Pressures/Savings
Appendix 3	Fees and Charges Proposals 2026/27
Appendix 4	Assumptions used to prepare estimates
Appendix 5	Projected Revenue Outturn 2025/26
Appendix 6	Proposed MTFP 2026/27 to 2029/30
Appendix 7	Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 – 2029/30

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## REVENUE ESTIMATES 2026/27 -SUMMARY

## Appendix 1

	2025/26 Net Budget	2026/27			
		Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive's Office	349	423	(81)	0	342
People Services	92,248	178,242	(21,997)	(55,502)	100,743
Environment, Highways & Community Services	28,217	66,570	(38,623)	(156)	27,792
Resources & Governance	16,101	48,740	(30,913)	(1,003)	16,824
Economy & Public Protection	2,299	4,936	(2,635)	(93)	2,208
<b>Service Total</b>	<b>139,214</b>	<b>298,911</b>	<b>(94,249)</b>	<b>(56,754)</b>	<b>147,909</b>
Financing Costs	4,028	4,507	0	0	4,507
Investment Returns - Joint Ventures	(1,977)	(2,188)	0	0	(2,188)
Council Wide	(15)	(1,169)	0	0	(1,169)
Contingencies	272	278	0	0	278
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>141,522</b>	<b>300,339</b>	<b>(94,249)</b>	<b>(56,754)</b>	<b>149,337</b>

## PEOPLE SERVICES - Revenue Estimates 2026/27

	2025/26 Net Budget	2026/27			
		Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Executive Director of People</b>	195	205	0	0	205
<b><u>People Support Services</u></b>					
Transformation & Performance	820	910	(68)	0	842
Business Support	1,767	1,744	(14)	0	1,730
<b><u>Children's Services</u></b>					
Children's Services Management & Other Services	679	700	0	0	700
Assessment Care Planning & LAC	4,449	4,525	0	0	4,525
First Response & Early Help	4,303	5,071	(30)	(617)	4,424
Adoption & Placements	21,981	26,333	0	(1,026)	25,307
Disabled Children	1,643	1,775	(239)	0	1,536
Youth Offending	312	768	(142)	(292)	334
Quality Assurance & Practice Improvement	101	200	(99)	0	101
<b><u>Development &amp; Commissioning</u></b>					
Commissioning	2,373	2,854	(213)	0	2,641
Voluntary Sector	292	355	0	(57)	298
<b><u>Education</u></b>					
Education	992	42,911	(2,884)	(39,053)	974
Schools	0	4,040	0	(4,040)	0
Transport Unit	3,416	3,452	(52)	0	3,400
<b><u>Public Health</u></b>					
Public Health	0	10,343	0	(10,343)	0
<b><u>Adult Social Care &amp; Health</u></b>					
External Purchase of Care	40,860	60,838	(15,280)	(60)	45,498
Intake & Enablement	762	3,101	(2,338)	0	763
Older People Long Term Condition	2,117	2,483	(327)	0	2,156
Physical Disability Long Term Condition	6	30	(24)	0	6
Learning Disability Long Term Condition	2,361	2,449	(24)	0	2,425
Mental Health Long Term Condition	1,252	1,544	(249)	(14)	1,281
Service Development & Integration	966	1,063	0	0	1,063
Workforce Development	601	548	(14)	0	534
<b>Total People Services</b>	<b>92,248</b>	<b>178,242</b>	<b>(21,997)</b>	<b>(55,502)</b>	<b>100,743</b>

**ENVIRONMENT, HIGHWAYS & COMMUNITY SERVICES - Revenue Estimates 2026/27**

	2025/26 Net Budget	2026/27			
		Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Executive Director - Environment, Highways &amp; Comm. Services</b>	191	195	0	0	195
<b><u>Highways &amp; Capital Projects</u></b>					
AD - Highways & Capital Projects	117	119	0	0	119
Building Design Services	(14)	621	(643)	0	(22)
Capital Projects	468	710	(302)	0	408
Car Parking R&M	613	597	0	0	597
Concessionary Fares	2,767	2,591	(2)	0	2,589
Flood and Water Act	323	91	0	0	91
Highways	4,347	5,476	(1,217)	(28)	4,231
Highways - DLO	(344)	9,131	(9,568)	0	(437)
Investment and Funding	503	177	(70)	0	106
Sustainable Transport	127	161	(62)	0	99
<b><u>Community Services</u></b>					
AD - Environmental Services & Community Safety	173	147	0	0	147
Allotments	21	27	(8)	0	19
Building Cleaning - DLO	37	446	(446)	0	(0)
Cemeteries and Crematorium	(711)	1,185	(1,927)	0	(742)
Street Scene	7,361	10,509	(2,197)	0	8,312
Transport Unit - Fleet Management	6	0	0	0	0
Transport Unit - Fleet Management, MOT & Private	(14)	33	(69)	0	(36)
Waste Management	4,492	4,572	0	0	4,572
Winter Maintenance	645	708	(26)	0	682
<b><u>Community Safety</u></b>					
CCTV	341	421	(107)	0	314
Community Safety	926	898	(83)	0	815
Parking	(2,424)	357	(2,927)	0	(2,570)
Parking Enforcement	17	318	(294)	0	24
<b><u>Leisure and Culture</u></b>					
Dolphin Centre	1,219	4,726	(3,762)	0	964
Eastbourne Complex	75	306	(254)	0	52
Hippodrome	220	5,908	(5,818)	0	90
Hopetown Darlington	498	2,430	(1,635)	0	795
Stockton & Darlington Railway NLHF	2	127	0	(127)	(0)
Indoor Bowling Centre	32	17	0	0	17
Libraries	1,065	1,117	(21)	0	1,096
Move More	0	116	(116)	0	0
Outdoor Events	492	443	(30)	0	413
Community Catering	0	358	(358)	0	0
Culture and Heritage Fund	133	127	0	0	127
<b><u>Building Services</u></b>					
Construction - DLO	(346)	4,599	(4,871)	0	(272)
<b><u>Corporate Landlord</u></b>					0
Corporate Landlord	4,649	6,593	(1,808)	0	4,785
<b><u>General Support Services</u></b>					
Works Property & Other	78	79	0	0	79
<b><u>Joint Levies &amp; Boards</u></b>					
Environment Agency Levy	132	135	0	0	135
<b>Total Environment, Highways &amp; Community Services</b>	<b>28,217</b>	<b>66,570</b>	<b>(38,623)</b>	<b>(156)</b>	<b>27,792</b>



**RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE - Revenue Estimates 2026/27**

	2025/26 Net Budget £000	2026/27			
		Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
		£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Executive Director Resources &amp; Governance</b>	142	241	(94)	0	147
<b>Resources</b>					
AD Resources	129	135	0	0	135
Financial Services	1,689	2,448	(773)	0	1,675
Financial Assessments & Protection	325	432	(43)	0	389
Xentrall (D&S Partnership)	2,144	2,965	(734)	0	2,231
Human Resources	846	896	(161)	0	735
Health & Safety	213	254	(47)	0	207
<b>Head of Strategy Performance &amp; Communications</b>					
Communications & Engagement	1,125	1,276	(188)	0	1,088
Systems	1,344	1,332	(3)	0	1,329
<b>Law &amp; Governance</b>					
AD Law & Governance	142	128	0	0	128
Complaints & FOI	387	331	0	0	331
Democratic Services	1,593	1,681	(17)	0	1,664
Registrars	(33)	272	(318)	0	(46)
Administration	445	478	(54)	0	424
Legal	1,912	2,122	(153)	0	1,969
Procurement	257	316	(40)	0	276
Coroners	334	394	0	0	394
<b>Xentrall Shared Services</b>					
ICT	768	1,301	(204)	0	1,097
<b>Maintenance</b>					
Maintenance DLO	(718)	8,228	(9,039)	0	(811)
<b>Housing &amp; Revenues</b>					
Local Taxation	517	1,197	(584)	0	613
Rent Rebates / Rent Allowances / Council Tax	1,061	18,033	(16,834)	0	1,199
Housing Benefits Administration	728	1,093	(10)	(410)	673
Customer Services	261	471	(201)	0	270
Homelessness	334	2,404	(1,262)	(593)	549
Service, Strategy & Regulation and General Services	156	312	(154)	0	158
<b>Total Resources &amp; Governance</b>	<b>16,101</b>	<b>48,740</b>	<b>(30,913)</b>	<b>(1,003)</b>	<b>16,824</b>

**CHIEF EXECUTIVES OFFICE - Revenue Estimates 2026/27**

	2025/26 Net Budget £000	2026/27			
		Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive	225	233	0	0	233
Darlington Partnership	124	190	(81)	0	109
<b>Total Chief Executives Office</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>(81)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>342</b>

**ECONOMY & PUBLIC PROTECTION - Revenue Estimates 2026/27**

	2025/26	2026/27			
	Net Budget	Gross Budget	Income	Grants	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Executive Director of Economy and Public Protection	196	200	0	0	200
Emergency Planning	97	99	0	0	99
Building Control	174	429	(257)	0	172
Development Management	73	809	(727)	0	82
Economy	389	345	0	0	345
Environmental Health	380	411	(27)	0	384
Place Strategy	697	734	(26)	(93)	615
Property Management and Estates	(225)	934	(1,195)	0	(261)
Head of Public Protection	78	83	0	0	83
Private Sector Housing	128	185	(45)	0	141
General Licensing	32	192	(157)	0	35
Taxi Licensing	2	226	(196)	0	30
Trading Standards	278	290	(6)	0	284
<b>Total Economy &amp; Public Protection</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>4,936</b>	<b>(2,635)</b>	<b>(93)</b>	<b>2,208</b>

APPENDIX 2

<b><u>Analysis of Pressures/Savings</u></b>				
	<b>Estimate 26/27 £m</b>	<b>Estimate 27/28 £m</b>	<b>Estimate 28/29 £m</b>	<b>Estimate 29/30 £m</b>
<b><u>SAVINGS</u></b>				
<b>Savings - Back Office</b>				
People Services - Reduced running costs across services	(0.276)	(0.225)	(0.241)	(0.260)
Resources & Governance - Reduced running costs across services	(0.138)	(0.068)	(0.025)	(0.030)
E,H & CS - Reduced running costs across services	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.008)
	<b>(0.422)</b>	<b>(0.301)</b>	<b>(0.274)</b>	<b>(0.298)</b>
<b>Savings - Energy</b>				
Corporate Landlord - Reduced gas prices	(0.085)	(0.085)	(0.085)	(0.085)
	<b>(0.085)</b>	<b>(0.085)</b>	<b>(0.085)</b>	<b>(0.085)</b>
<b>Savings - Increased Income</b>				
Investment Returns - Reprofile JV income	(0.182)	(0.189)	(0.331)	0.336
Registrars - Increased fee income from weddings	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.008)
	<b>(0.190)</b>	<b>(0.197)</b>	<b>(0.339)</b>	<b>0.328</b>
<b>Savings - Other</b>				
Concessionary Fares - Reduced contributions to TVCA	(0.140)	(0.140)	(0.140)	(0.140)
Democratic Services - Reduction in Councillors following review	0.000	(0.084)	(0.093)	(0.095)
Council Wide - Reduction in pension fund contributions	(1.900)	(1.900)	(1.900)	(1.900)
	<b>(2.040)</b>	<b>(2.124)</b>	<b>(2.133)</b>	<b>(2.135)</b>
<b>Savings - Offset Pressures</b>				
Waste Management - Reduced Tonnages	(0.200)	(0.200)	(0.160)	(0.160)
	<b>(0.200)</b>	<b>(0.200)</b>	<b>(0.160)</b>	<b>(0.160)</b>
<b>Savings - Transformation Projects</b>				
People Services - Review of working aged adult packages of care	0.000	(0.750)	(0.750)	(0.750)
	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.750)</b>	<b>(0.750)</b>	<b>(0.750)</b>
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>				
	<b>(2.937)</b>	<b>(3.657)</b>	<b>(3.741)</b>	<b>(3.100)</b>

	Estimate 26/27 £m	Estimate 27/28 £m	Estimate 28/29 £m	Estimate 29/30 £m
<b><u>PRESSURES</u></b>				
<b>Increased Demand</b>				
Adults - Packages of Care - Increased overall packages costs	0.841	0.748	0.842	0.842
Adults - Other service demand pressures	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014
Children's - Packages of Care - Increased overall packages costs	3.590	3.596	1.404	0.630
Children's - Other service demand pressures	0.338	0.347	0.353	0.360
Homeless - Loss of Housing Benefit Subsidy	0.115	0.014	0.019	0.007
Waste Disposal - Increased growth from new builds	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.024
Community Safety - Abandoned cars removal and disposal	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030
Street Scene - Changes in the law to introduce food waste collection	0.036	0.036	0.037	0.037
Street Scene - Increased service to new build property	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.010
Tree Team - Borough wide tree inspections.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
	<b>4.989</b>	<b>4.810</b>	<b>2.724</b>	<b>1.979</b>
<b>Price Inflation</b>				
Adults - Change in budgeted inflation from 25/26 MTFP	(0.236)	(0.140)	(0.112)	1.094
Economic Growth - Contractual inflation & fixed rental income	0.007	0.010	0.010	0.039
Children's - Change in budgeted inflation from 25/26 MTFP	0.025	0.114	0.204	0.233
Corporate Landlord - Water charges	0.018	0.032	0.047	0.063
Coroners - Increase recharges from Durham CC	0.049	0.051	0.052	0.053
Resources & Governance - Revised inflation from 25/26 MTFP & contractual inflation	0.047	0.047	0.050	0.050
E, H & CS - Contractual inflation & fixed rental income	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.120
Waste Disposal - Contractual inflation	0.089	0.085	0.082	0.128
Corporate Landlord - Increased electricity prices	0.290	0.250	0.197	0.336
Estates - Increased electricity prices	0.021	0.015	0.015	0.016
Corporate Management - Impact of NI changes	0.034	0.035	0.036	0.037
	<b>0.344</b>	<b>0.499</b>	<b>0.581</b>	<b>2.169</b>
<b>Reduced Income</b>				
Hopetown - Lower car parking patronage	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220
Licensing - Lower take up of licenses	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065
Land Charges - Realignment of budget based on previous receipts	0.028	0.027	0.027	0.027
Dolphin Centre - Reduced room hire and income during Phase 3 M&E works	0.107	0.033	0.033	0.033
	<b>0.420</b>	<b>0.345</b>	<b>0.345</b>	<b>0.345</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Adult Services - Staff changes	0.112	0.134	0.137	0.164
Street Scene - Vandalism to play areas	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020
Estates - Feethams House - Reprofile of income	0.000	0.131	0.034	0.034
Financing Costs - Capital financing and lower property fund returns	0.801	0.425	0.232	0.548
Audit Fees - Increases following PSSA	0.043	0.044	0.045	0.045
Cultural Services - Staff changes	0.068	0.069	0.070	0.072
	<b>1.044</b>	<b>0.823</b>	<b>0.538</b>	<b>0.883</b>
<b>Pay Award</b>				
Pay Award 2025/26 - Additional cost of agreed award	0.199	0.205	0.211	0.229
Pay Award 2026/27 - Additional 1% to cover estimated pay award	0.781	0.797	0.813	0.830
	<b>0.980</b>	<b>1.002</b>	<b>1.024</b>	<b>1.059</b>
<b>TOTAL PRESSURES</b>	<b>7.777</b>	<b>7.479</b>	<b>5.212</b>	<b>6.435</b>
<b>TOTAL NET PRESSURES</b>	<b>4.840</b>	<b>3.822</b>	<b>1.471</b>	<b>3.335</b>

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES 2026/27				
Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed				
<b>LEARNING SKILLS - LEARNING FOR LIFE</b>				
Fees Policy: August 2025 to July 2026 (Next Review July 2026)				
Full Fees (including enrolment and tuition fees) per hour	L	3.00	3.00	NIL
Please see APPENDIX 3a for full Fees Policy 2025 - 2026				
<b>REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS</b>				
The following fees do not incur VAT				
<b>Marriages</b>				
Entering a Notice of Marriage or Civil Partnership	N			
For a Registrar to attend a Marriage at the Register Office	N			
Civil Partnership Registration	N			
Incumbents for every Entry Contained in Quarterly Certified	N			
Copies of Entries of Marriage	N			
Registrars fee for attending a marriage at a registered building or for the housebound or detained	N			
Superintendents Registrar fee for attesting a notice of marriage away from his office for housebound or detained	N			
Superintendents Registrar fee for attending the marriage of the housebound or detained	N	These charges set nationally by Statute and will be charged at the advised rate for 2025/26	These charges set nationally by Statute and will be charged at the advised rate for 2026/27	
<b>Certification for Worship and Registration for Marriages</b>				
Place of Meeting for Religious Worship	N			
Registration of Building for Solemnisation of Marriage	N			
<b>Certificates issued from Local Offices</b>				
Standard Certificate (SR)	N			
Standard Certificate (RBD) (at time of Registration)	N			
Standard Certificate (RBD) (after Registration)	N			
Short Certificate of Birth (SR)	N			
Short Certificate of Birth (RBD)	N			
Certificates of Civil Partnership (at time of Ceremony)	N			
Certificates of Civil Partnership (at later date)	N			
General Search fee	N			
Each Verification	N			
<b>Civil Partnership Ceremony</b>	N			
<b>All Ceremonies – Approved Premises</b>				
Application Fee for licence as an approved venue (valid for 3 years)	N	1,925.00	2,020.00	
Fee for Attendance - All days including Bank Holidays	L	670.00	705.00	
Non-refundable booking fee (inclusive of VAT)	L	55.00	55.00	
<b>All Ceremonies – Town Hall</b>				
The Oak Room (Monday to Saturday)	L	360.00	380.00	
The Council Chamber Foyer (Monday to Saturday)	L	165.00	175.00	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>REGISTER OF ELECTORS, OPEN REGISTER AND MONTHLY UPDATES - SALE</b>				
The following fees do not incur VAT.				
Register – Printed Form	N	10.00	10.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Printed	N	5.00	5.00	
Register – Data Form	N	20.00	20.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Data	N	1.50	1.50	
<b>LIST OF OVERSEAS ELECTORS – SALE</b>				
The following fees do not incur VAT.				
List – Printed Form	N	10.00	10.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Printed	N	5.00	5.00	
List – Data Form	N	20.00	20.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Data	N	1.50	1.50	
<b>MARKED COPY OF THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS AND MARKED ABSENT VOTERS LIST - SALE</b>				
The following fees do not incur VAT				
Register – Printed Form	N	10.00	10.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Printed	N	2.00	2.00	
Register – Data Form	N	10.00	10.00	
Per 1,000 Names – Data	N	1.00	1.00	
Proof Life Certificate - for those who claim pension abroad	L	20.00	20.00	
				<b>8,000</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>TOWN HALL</b>				
Hire of Committee Rooms – all charges shown exclusive of VAT. Charges will be made plus the appropriate VAT rate.				
All rooms are to be charged by the hour, rather than by session				
Committee Rooms per hour	L	38.00	38.00	
Counci Chamber per hour	L	48.00	48.00	
				<b>NIL</b>
<b>LAND CHARGES</b>				
<b>The following fees are inclusive of VAT</b>				
<b>Con 29 Required</b>				
<b>Residential Property</b>				
CON29	L	87.60	111.00	
Additional Parcels	L	26.28	30.00	
<b>Commercial Property</b>				
CON29	L	139.20	156.00	
Additional Parcels	L	26.28	30.00	
<b>Con 29 Optional</b>				
Optional Questions	L	8.40	15.00	
Own Questions	L	8.40	30.00	
Personal Search	L	No charge	No charge	
				<b>Minimal</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>FINANCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES</b>				
<b>Category</b>				
Work up to and including the date upon which the court makes an order appointing a deputy for property and affairs	N	944.00	944.00	
Annual management fee where the court appoints a local authority deputy for property and affairs, payable on the anniversary of the court order:				
a) for the first year	N	982.00	982.00	
b) for the second and subsequent years	N	824.00	824.00	
c) where the net assets are below £20,300, the local authority deputy for property and affairs will take an annual management fee not exceeding 3.5% of the net assets on the anniversary of the court order appointing the local authority as deputy	N	See Description	See Description	
d) Where the court appoints a local authority deputy for health and welfare, the local authority will take an annual management fee not exceeding 2.5% of the net assets on the anniversary of the court order appointing the local authority as deputy for health and welfare up to a maximum of £703.	N	See Description	See Description	
Annual property management fee to include work involved in preparing property for sale, instructing agents, conveyancers, etc or the ongoing maintenance of property including management and letting of a rental property	N	380.00	380.00	
Preparation and lodgement of an annual report or account to the Public Guardian	N	274.00	274.00	
Conveyancing Costs	N	See Description	See Description	
Travel Rates are allowed at a fixed rate per hour for travel costs	N	51.00	51.00	
Please note that these rates are set by The Office of Public Guardian and are the rates as of 1st April 2025, these may be amended during 2026/27				
<b>Adminstration Fee</b>				
Adminstration fee for arranging the care and support needs for those with capital in excess of the upper capital limit or those who have chosen not to disclose their financial information.	L	133.00	140.00	
				<b>Minimal</b>
<b>DEFERRED PAYMENT FEES</b>				
Administration cost for setting up a Deferred Payment Agreement	L	410.00	425.00	
plus cost of valuation (this will be dependant on property type)	L	Actual cost of valuation	Actual cost of valuation	
				<b>Minimal</b>



Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>LIBRARIES</b>				
<b>Fines On Overdue Items</b>				
Adults – per day	L	No charge	No charge	
Maximum charge per book	L	No charge	No charge	
Senior Citizens – per day	L	No charge	No charge	
Children – per day	L	No charge	No charge	
<b>Reservation Fees for Books Obtained from Outside the Authority</b>				
Single charge for all books obtained from other libraries	L	6.00	7.50	
<b>Repeat Fee for Renewal of Books from Outside the Authority</b>				
Single Charge for all books obtained from other local authorities	L	6.00	6.00	
<b>Replacement Tickets</b>				
Adults	L	1.50	1.50	
Senior Citizens	L	1.50	1.50	
Children/Unemployed	L	1.50	1.50	
<b>Local History Research</b>				
Look Up Service	L	5.00	5.00	
<b>Photocopies</b>				
A4 B&W	L	0.20	0.20	
A3 B&W	L	0.40	0.40	
A3 Colour	L	N/a	1.20	
<b>Printing</b>				
A4 B&W	L	0.20	0.20	
A3 B&W	L	0.40	0.40	
A4 colour	L	0.60	0.60	
<b>Reproduction of Images from Stock</b>				
Digital copies for Private/Study purposes – per photo	L	5.50	5.50	
Digital copies for small local commercial use – per photo	L	5.50 + 2 copies of publications	5.50 + 2 copies of publications	
Digital copies for local commercial use - per photo	L	10.50 + 2 copies of book	10.50 + 2 copies of book	
Digital copies for national/international commercial	L	110.00	110.00	
<b>Internet Use</b>				
Library members First 60 minutes FREE, £1.00 per 30 minutes hereafter	L	1.00	1.00	
<b>Lost &amp; Damaged Items</b>				
	L	Full current Replacement Cost (non-refundable)	Full current Replacement Cost (non-refundable)	
<b>Room Hire</b>				
Per hour	L	20.00	20.00	
Partner organisations per hour	L	15.00	15.00	
				<b>Minimal</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>PLANNING FEES</b> Planning fees are set nationally				
<b>PLANNING – PRE APPLICATION ADVICE</b> All charges include VAT at 20%				
Large Major Development (200+) for a written response, including up to 2 meetings	L	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Small Major Development (10-199) for a written response, including up to 2 meetings	L	800.00	800.00	
Minor Development for a written response to include a meeting if necessary	L	400.00	400.00	
<b>Other Developments</b>				
Minerals Processing	L	Based on areas above	Based on areas above	
Change of use for a written response to include a meeting if necessary	L	50.00	50.00	
Householder developments	L	50.00	50.00	
Advertisements	L	25.00	25.00	
Listed Building consents (to alter/extend/demolish)	L	50.00	50.00	
Certificates of lawful development	L	Application advice not appropriate	Application advice not appropriate	
Telecommunications Notifications	L	126.00	126.00	
<b>Other Charges</b>				
Pre-Application meeting involving Planning Committee Members	L	2,000.00	2,000.00	
				<b>NIL</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>LICENSING The following fees do not incur VAT</b>				
<b>Prosecution Costs</b>				
Hourly rate for Preparation of Case Reports	L	62.00	65.00	
<b>General Licensing</b>				
Pavement Café Licence, per person				
1-20	L	210.00	210.00	
21-40	L	242.00	242.00	
41-60	L	273.00	273.00	
61-80	L	305.00	305.00	
81-99	L	320.00	320.00	
100 or over	L	350.00	350.00	
Duplicate licence fee	L	53.00	53.00	
Transfer of licence	L	53.00	53.00	
Change of detail	L	32.00	32.00	
Variation of Covers	L	105.00	105.00	
Goods on Highway Licence	L	163.00	163.00	
Sex Shop Grant of application	L	4,080.00	4,080.00	
Sex Shop Renewal	L	1,323.00	1,323.00	
Sex Shop transfer	L	1,323.00	1,323.00	
<b>Cosmetics</b>				
Premise Grant	L	309.00	309.00	
Personal Grant	L	71.00	71.00	
Variation	L	71.00	71.00	
<b>Scrap Metal Dealers</b>				
Collectors Licence (3 years) - grant	L	166.00	166.00	
Collectors Licence (3 years) – renewal	L	166.00	166.00	
Major Variation	L	56.00	56.00	
Minor Variation	L	17.00	17.00	
Site Licence (3 years) Grant	L	386.00	386.00	
Additional Sites (per site per year of licence)	L	215.00	215.00	
Site licence (3 years) – renewal	L	298.00	298.00	
Additional sites (per site per year of licence)	L	215.00	215.00	
Minor Variation Site	L	17.00	17.00	
		56.00 + 72.00	56.00 + 72.00	
Major Variation Site	L	per additional site per year	per additional site per year	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>Caravan Sites</b>				
New Application for a permanent residential site licence;	L			
1-5 pitches	L	220.00	220.00	
6-20 pitches	L	248.00	248.00	
21-50 pitches	L	265.00	265.00	
Greater than 50 pitches	L	287.00	287.00	
Annual Fees associated with administration and monitoring of site licences;				
1-5 pitches	L	No charge	No charge	
6-50 pitches	L	243.00	243.00	
Greater than 50 pitches	L	287.00	287.00	
Cost of Laying Site Rules	L	27.00	27.00	
Cost of Variation/Transfer	L	110.00	110.00	
<b>Zoo Licensing Act</b>				
New Application (4 years) or renewal (6 years) for a Zoo Licence (excluding the inspection costs of appointed inspector)	L	497.00	497.00	
<b>Animal Welfare</b>				
Breeding of Dogs - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	271.00	271.00	
2 Year Licence	L	320.00	320.00	
3 Year Licence	L	370.00	370.00	
Breeding of Dogs - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	237.00	237.00	
2 Year Licence	L	287.00	287.00	
3 Year Licence	L	336.00	336.00	
Pet Vending Commercial - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	278.00	278.00	
2 Year Licence	L	328.00	328.00	
3 Year Licence	L	377.00	377.00	
Pet Vending Commercial - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	245.00	245.00	
2 Year Licence	L	294.00	294.00	
3 Year Licence	L	343.00	343.00	
Pet Vending Home - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	271.00	271.00	
2 Year Licence	L	320.00	320.00	
3 Year Licence	L	370.00	370.00	
Pet Vending Home - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	237.00	237.00	
2 Year Licence	L	287.00	287.00	
3 Year Licence	L	336.00	336.00	
Keeping or Training Animals for Exhibition - Grant of Licence				
3 Year Licence	L	259.00	259.00	
Keeping or Training Animals for Exhibition - Renewal of Licence				
3 Year Licence	L	237.00	237.00	
Hiring Out of Horses - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	292.00	292.00	
2 Year Licence	L	341.00	341.00	
3 Year Licence	L	391.00	391.00	
Hiring Out of Horses - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	259.00	259.00	
2 Year Licence	L	309.00	309.00	
3 Year Licence	L	358.00	358.00	
Boarding of Dogs and Cats Commercial - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	337.00	337.00	
2 Year Licence	L	386.00	386.00	
3 Year Licence	L	436.00	436.00	
Boarding of Dogs and Cats Commercial - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	303.00	303.00	
2 Year Licence	L	353.00	353.00	
3 Year Licence	L	402.00	402.00	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
Boarding of Dogs and Cats Home - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	271.00	271.00	
2 Year Licence	L	320.00	320.00	
3 Year Licence	L	370.00	370.00	
Boarding of Dogs and Cats Home - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	237.00	237.00	
2 Year Licence	L	287.00	287.00	
3 Year Licence	L	336.00	336.00	
Boarding of Dogs Day Care Up to 7 Dogs - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	271.00	271.00	
2 Year Licence	L	320.00	320.00	
3 Year Licence	L	370.00	370.00	
Boarding of Dogs Day Care Up to 7 Dogs - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	237.00	237.00	
2 Year Licence	L	287.00	287.00	
3 Year Licence	L	336.00	336.00	
Boarding of Dogs Day Care 8+ Dogs - Grant of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	336.00	336.00	
2 Year Licence	L	385.00	385.00	
3 Year Licence	L	435.00	435.00	
Boarding of Dogs Day Care 8+ Dogs - Renewal of Licence				
1 Year Licence	L	303.00	303.00	
2 Year Licence	L	353.00	353.00	
3 Year Licence	L	402.00	402.00	
Dog Boarding Franchise in Darlington - Grant of Licence	L	144.00 + 12.00 per host + 71.00 per host inspection fee + 49.00 annual enforcement fee per year	144.00 + 12.00 per host + 71.00 per host inspection fee + 49.00 annual enforcement fee per year	
Dog Boarding Franchise in Darlington - Renewal of Licence	L	105.00 + 11.00 per host + 68.00 per host inspection fee + 47.00 annual enforcement fee per year	105.00 + 11.00 per host + 68.00 per host inspection fee + 47.00 annual enforcement fee per year	
Dog Boarding Franchise out of Darlington - Grant of Licence	L	66.00 + 66.00 per host	66.00 + 66.00 per host	
Dog Boarding Franchise out of Darlington - Renewal of Licence	L	61.00 + 66.00 per host	61.00 + 66.00 per host	
Additional Fees				
Cost per additional licensable activity - Grant and Renewal (each)	L	71.00	71.00	
Mandatory mid licence inspection fee - Grant and Renewal (each)	L	34.00	34.00	
Variation of licence where no inspection is required (each)	L	39.00	39.00	
Variation of licence where inspection is required (each)	L	100.00	100.00	
Application for Re-Rating (each)	L	78.00	78.00	
Copy Licence	L	17.00	17.00	
Administration Fee	L	39.00	39.00	
Dangerous Wild Animals (not including vets fee)	L	132.00	132.00	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>Street Trading</b>				
November / December - Full Calendar Month	L	1,075.00	1,075.00	
- Week	L	424.00	424.00	
- Day (minimum of 4 days)	L	93.00	93.00	
January / October - Full Calendar Month	L	728.00	728.00	
- Week	L	298.00	298.00	
- Day (minimum of 4 days)	L	66.00	66.00	
Note- The above to apply to Itinerant traders. For regular all year round traders - fees as follows				
Annual Consent - Town Centre	L	7,717.00	7,717.00	
If Paying Monthly	L	684.00	684.00	
If Paying Weekly	L	188.00	188.00	
Buskers selling CD's – Half Day	L	26.00	26.00	
Full Day	L	47.00	47.00	
Mobile vehicles (moving or lay-by)	L	287.00	287.00	
New Vendor Permits	L	37.00	37.00	
<b>Skips, Scaffolding and Hoardings</b>				
Place a skip on the highway (less than 3 days notice)	L	42.00	42.00	
Place a skip on the highway (more than 3 days notice)	L	26.00	26.00	
Erection of scaffolding	L	63.00	63.00	
Hoardings	L	63.00	63.00	
Administration Charge (per hour or part thereof)	L	39.00	39.00	
<b>Statutory Fees</b>				
<b>Petroleum Licences</b>				
Less than 2,500 litres	N	48.00	48.00	
2,500 – 50,000 litres	N	65.00	65.00	
More than 50,000 litres	N	137.00	137.00	
<b>Gambling Act</b>				
<b>Statutory Fees- The following gambling fees are set within statutory bands and will be revised as changed nationally.</b>				
Adult Gaming Centres – Annual Fee	N	600.00	600.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Betting Shops - Annual Fee	N	550.00	550.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Bingo Halls - Annual Fee	N	600.00	600.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Family Entertainment Centres – Annual Fee	N	550.00	550.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	950.00	950.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	950.00	950.00	
Betting (tracks) – Annual Fee	N	550.00	550.00	
New Application	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Variation	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Transfer	N	950.00	950.00	
Provisional Statement	N	1,300.00	1,300.00	
Licence Reinstatement	N	950.00	950.00	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b><u>Permit Type – The following fees are set by statute and will be revised as changed nationally</u></b>				
Small Society Lottery Registration	N	40.00	40.00	
Small Society Annual Fee	N	20.00	20.00	
FEC gaming machine – Renewal fee	N	300.00	300.00	
FEC gaming machine – Change of name	N	25.00	25.00	
Prize gaming – Application fee	N	300.00	300.00	
Prize gaming – Renewal fee	N	300.00	300.00	
Prize gaming – Change of name	N	25.00	25.00	
Prize gaming – Copy permit	N	15.00	15.00	
Gaming machines (3 or more) - application Fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Gaming machines (3 or more) - variation Fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Gaming machines (3 or more) - transfer Fee	N	25.00	25.00	
Gaming machines (3 or more) - annual Fee	N	50.00	50.00	
Change of name	N	25.00	25.00	
Copy Permit	N	15.00	15.00	
Notice of intent 2 or less gaming machines available	N	50.00	50.00	
Club Premises cert (S 72f Licencing Act 2003) application fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Club Premises cert (S 72f Licencing Act 2003) renewal fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Other applicants - application fee	N	200.00	200.00	
Other applicants - renewal fee	N	200.00	200.00	
Variation fee	N	100.00	100.00	
Annual fee	N	50.00	50.00	
Copy permit	N	15.00	15.00	
Initial fee	N	40.00	40.00	
Annual fee	N	20.00	20.00	
Temporary use notice	N	500.00	500.00	
Copy/replacement/endorsed copy of notice	N	25.00	25.00	
<b>Licensing Act Fees</b>				
<b>Statutory Fees- The following gambling fees are set within statutory bands and will be revised as changed nationally.</b>				
<b>Premises Licences</b>				
Band A (RV £0 - £4,300) - Initial fee	N	100.00	100.00	
- Annual fee	N	70.00	70.00	
Band B (RV £4,301 - £33,000) - Initial fee	N	190.00	190.00	
- Annual fee	N	180.00	180.00	
Band C (RV £33,001 - £87,000) - Initial fee	N	315.00	315.00	
- Annual fee	N	295.00	295.00	
Band D (RV £87,001 - £125,000) - Initial fee	N	450.00	450.00	
- Annual fee	N	320.00	320.00	
Band E (RV > £125,001) - Initial fee	N	635.00	635.00	
- Annual fee	N	350.00	350.00	
Band D with Multiplier - Initial fee	N	900.00	900.00	
- Annual fee	N	640.00	640.00	
Band E with Multiplier - Initial fee	N	1,905.00	1,905.00	
- Annual fee	N	1,050.00	1,050.00	
<b>Club Premises Certificates</b>				
Band A (RV £0 - £4,300) - Initial fee	N	100.00	100.00	
- Annual fee	N	70.00	70.00	
Band B (RV £4,301 - £33,000) - Initial fee	N	190.00	190.00	
- Annual fee	N	180.00	180.00	
Band C (RV £33,001 - £87,000) - Initial fee	N	315.00	315.00	
- Annual fee	N	295.00	295.00	
Band D (RV £87,001 - £125,000) - Initial fee	N	450.00	450.00	
- Annual fee	N	320.00	320.00	
Band E (RV > £125,001) - Initial fee	N	635.00	635.00	
- Annual fee	N	350.00	350.00	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>Large Scale Events</b>				
5,000 to 9,999 - Initial fee	N	1,000.00	1,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	500.00	500.00	
10,000 to 14,999 - Initial fee	N	2,000.00	2,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	1,000.00	1,000.00	
15,000 to 19,999 - Initial fee	N	4,000.00	4,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	2,000.00	2,000.00	
20,000 to 29,999 - Initial fee	N	8,000.00	8,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	4,000.00	4,000.00	
30,000 to 39,999 - Initial fee	N	16,000.00	16,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	8,000.00	8,000.00	
40,000 to 49,999 - Initial fee	N	24,000.00	24,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	12,000.00	12,000.00	
50,000 to 59,999 - Initial fee	N	32,000.00	32,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	16,000.00	16,000.00	
60,000 to 69,999 - Initial fee	N	40,000.00	40,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	20,000.00	20,000.00	
70,000 to 79,999 - Initial fee	N	48,000.00	48,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	24,000.00	24,000.00	
80,000 to 89,999 - Initial fee	N	56,000.00	56,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	28,000.00	28,000.00	
> 90,000 - Initial fee	N	64,000.00	64,000.00	
- Annual fee	N	32,000.00	32,000.00	
<b>Other Licensing Act 2003 Fees &amp; Charges</b>				
Minor Variations	N	89.00	89.00	
Personal Licence	N	37.00	37.00	
Provisional Statement	N	315.00	315.00	
Temporary Event Notice (TEN)	N	21.00	21.00	
Theft / Loss of Licence / Notice	N	10.50	10.50	
Variation of DPS	N	23.00	23.00	
Transfer of Premises Licence	N	23.00	23.00	
Change of Name / Address	N	10.50	10.50	
Notification of Interest	N	21.00	21.00	
Notification of Alteration of Club Rules	N	10.50	10.50	
Interim Authority Notice	N	23.00	23.00	
Explosives Act/Fireworks Annual Registration	N	52.00	52.00	
				<b>Minimal</b>



Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>HACKNEY CARRIAGES</b>				
<b>Taxi Licencing</b>				
Taxi licensing fees are agreed annually by licensing committee and will be published separately as part of this process. Existing licence holders will be notified accordingly.				
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>				
Pest Treatment Charges – All charges shown exclusive of VAT. Charges will be made plus the appropriate VAT rate				
Insects – per Treatment	L	58.50	58.50	
Rodents in Private Premises	L	8.33	8.33	
Re-rating Food Hygiene Inspections	L	150.00	180.00	
<b>Prosecution Costs</b>				
Hourly Rate for preparation of case reports and carrying out works in default of legal notices	L	62.00	65.00	
<b>Environmental Searches</b>				
Environmental search includes environmental information held by the Council on a site (additional charges apply for sites larger than 10,000m2 and distance buffer greater than 250m radius)	L	90.00	90.00	
Additional photocopying for example copies of site investigation reports;				
A4 B&W	L	0.10	0.10	
A3 B&W	L	0.20	0.20	
A4 Colour	L	1.00	1.00	
A3 Colour	L	2.00	2.00	
Scanned Copy	L	Free	Free	
<b>LAPPC and LAIPPC Permits</b>				
Charges are set by Defra and are subject to change. Current charges as known are;				
<b>LAPPC Charges</b>				
Application Fee;				
Standard process (includes solvent emission activities)	N	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Additional fee for operating without a permit	N	1,188.00	1,188.00	
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners	N	155.00	155.00	
PVR I & II combined	N	257.00	257.00	
VRs and other Reduced Fee Activities	N	362.00	362.00	
Reduced fee activities: additional fee for operating without a permit	N	71.00	71.00	
Mobile plant**	N	1,650.00	1,650.00	
for the third to seventh applications	N	985.00	985.00	
for the eighth and subsequent applications	N	498.00	498.00	
Where an application for any of the above is for a combined Part B and waste application add an extra to the above amounts	N	310.00	279.00	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
Annual Subsistence Charge;				
Standard process Low*	N	772.00	772.00	
Standard process Medium*	N	1,161.00	1,161.00	
Standard process High*	N	1,747.00	1,747.00	
		(+207.00)	(+207.00)	
*the additional amounts must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation				
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners Low	N	79.00	79.00	
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners Medium	N	158.00	158.00	
PVRI, SWOBs and Dry Cleaners High	N	237.00	237.00	
PVR I & II combined Low	N	113.00	113.00	
PVR I & II combined Medium	N	226.00	226.00	
PVR I & II combined High	N	341.00	341.00	
VRs and other Reduced Fees Low	N	228.00	228.00	
VRs and other Reduced Fees Medium	N	365.00	365.00	
VRs and other Reduced Fees High	N	548.00	548.00	
Mobile plant, for the first and second permits Low**	N	626.00	626.00	
for the third to seventh permits Low	N	385.00	385.00	
eighth and subsequent permits Low	N	198.00	198.00	
Mobile plant, for the first and second permits Medium**	N	1,034.00	1,034.00	
for the third to seventh permits Medium	N	617.00	617.00	
eighth and subsequent permits Medium	N	316.00	314.00	
Mobile plant, for the first and second permits High**	N	1,551.00	1,551.00	
for the third to seventh permits High	N	924.00	924.00	
eighth and subsequent permits High	N	473.00	473.00	
Late payment fee	N	52.00	52.00	
Where a Part B installation is subject to reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation add an extra to the above amounts	N	104.00	104.00	
Transfer and Surrender;				
Standard process transfer	N	169.00	169.00	
Standard process partial transfer	N	497.00	497.00	
New operator at low risk reduced fee activity	N	78.00	78.00	
Surrender: all Part b activities	N	0.00	0.00	
Reduced fee activities: transfer	N	0.00	0.00	
Reduced fee activities: partial transfer	N	47.00	47.00	
Temporary transfer for mobiles;				
First transfer	N	53.00	53.00	
Repeat following enforcement or warning	N	53.00	53.00	
Substantial change;				
Standard process	N	1,050.00	1,050.00	
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new PPC activity	N	1,650.00	1,650.00	
Reduced fee activities	N	102.00	102.00	
**Not using simplified permits				

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>LA-IPPC charges</b>				
Every subsistence charge below includes the additional £103 charge to cover LA extra costs in dealing with reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation				
Application	N	3,363.00	3,363.00	
Additional fee for operating without a permit	N	1,188.00	1,188.00	
Annual Subsistence Low	N	1,447.00	1,476.00	
Annual Subsistence Medium	N	1,611.00	1,610.00	
Annual Subsistence High	N	2,334.00	2,333.00	
Late Payment Fee	N	52.00	52.00	
Variation	N	1,368.00	1,368.00	
Transfer	N	235.00	235.00	
Partial Transfer	N	698.00	698.00	
Surrender	N	698.00	698.00	
Subsistence charges can be paid in four equal quarterly instalments paid on 1st April, 1st July, 1st October and 1st January. Where paid quarterly the total amount payable to the local authority will be increased by £38.00				
Newspaper adverts may be required under EPR at the discretion of the LA as part of the consultation process when considering an application. This will be undertaken and paid for by the LA and the charging scheme contains a provision for the LA to recoup its costs				
				<b>Minimal</b>
<b>TRADING STANDARDS</b>				
Please note that VAT may be added to some charges. Check with the service before the work is agreed.				
<b>Prosecution Costs</b>				
Hourly rate for Preparation of Case Reports	L	62.00	65.00	
<b>Measures</b>				
Linear measures not exceeding 3m each scale	L	16.50	16.50	
Not exceeding 15kg	L	44.00	44.00	
Exceeding 15kg but not exceeding 100kg	L	76.50	76.50	
Exceeding 100kg but not exceeding 250kg	L	91.50	91.50	
Exceeding 250kg but not exceeding 1 tonne	L	159.00	159.00	
Exceeding 1 tonne but not exceeding 10 tonnes	L	254.50	254.50	
Exceeding 10 tonnes but not exceeding 30 tonnes	L	533.50	533.50	
Exceeding 30 tonnes but not exceeding 60 tonnes	L	792.00	792.00	
Charge to cover any additional costs involved in testing incorporating remote display or printing facilities based on the above fee plus a charge per hour (minimum charge of 2 hours)	L	76.00 per hour	76.00 per hour	
<b>Measuring Instruments for Intoxicating Liquor</b>				
Not exceeding 150ml	L	25.50	25.50	
Other	L	29.50	29.50	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>Measuring Instruments for Liquid Fuels and Lubricants</b>				
Container Type (un-subdivided)				
Multi-grade (with price computing device):	L	110.50	110.50	
Single Outlets	L	151.00	151.00	
Solely Price Adjustment	L	275.50	275.50	
Otherwise				
Other Types – Single Outlets				
Solely Price Adjustment	L	121.00	121.00	
Otherwise	L	164.00	164.00	
Other Types – Multi Outlets:				
1 Meter Tested	L	176.00	176.00	
2 Meters Tested	L	288.50	288.50	
3 Meters Tested	L	394.00	394.00	
4 Meters Tested	L	502.00	502.00	
5 Meters Tested	L	606.50	606.50	
6 Meters Tested	L	712.50	712.50	
7 Meters Tested	L	805.00	805.00	
8 Meters Tested	L	929.50	929.50	
Charge to cover any additional costs involved in testing ancillary equipment such as payment acceptors based on the above fee plus a charge per hour (minimum of 2 hours)	L	76.00 per hour	76.00 per hour	
<b>Special Weighing and Measuring Equipment</b>				
For all specialist work undertaken by the service which is not included above a charge per hour on site (minimum charge of 2 hours) plus cost of provision of testing equipment applies	L	76.00 per hour	76.00 per hour	
Discounts				
Fees from Measures to Certification Calibration will be discounted as follows :-				
a) Where more than a single item is submitted on one occasion the second and subsequent fees will be reduced by 20%				
b) Where tests are undertaken using appropriately certified weights and equipment not supplied by the Borough Council the fees will be reduced by 20%				
c) Special rates can be negotiated for multiple submissions or where assistance with equipment or labour is provided				
NB – Where different fees are involved the highest fee will be charged in full and any discounts calculated from the remaining lesser fees				
<b>Licensing – VAT not applicable</b>				
<b>Explosives and Fireworks Licences (Statutory Fee)</b>				
Licence for the storage of explosives	N	**See Note	**See Note	
Licence for the sale of fireworks all year round	N	**See Note	**See Note	
**These are statutory rates that are set centrally in April				
				<b>Minimal</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>PARKING – all off-street charges are inclusive of VAT at 20%</b>				
<b>Car Parks (Short Stay) – per hour (Mon to Sun)</b>				
Abbotts Yard, Commercial Street East & West, Feethams MSCP, Winston Street North & South & West				
1hr	L	1.20	1.20	
2hrs	L	2.40	2.40	
3hrs	L	3.60	3.60	
4hrs	L	4.80	4.80	
5hrs	L	5.00	5.00	
6hrs	L	6.00	6.00	
7hrs	L	7.00	7.00	
8hrs	L	8.00	8.00	
9hrs	L	9.00	9.00	
10hrs	L	10.00	10.00	
<b>Car Parks – (Long Stay) (Mon to Sat)</b>				
Archer Street, Garden Street, Kendrew Street East & West, Hird Street, St Hilda's & Park Place East & West				
1hr	L	1.20	1.20	
2hrs	L	2.40	2.40	
3hrs	L	3.60	3.60	
All day	L	5.00	5.00	
2 days	L	10.00	10.00	
3 days	L	15.00	15.00	
7 days	L	20.00	20.00	
Sunday	L	2.00	2.00	
<b>Car Parks – Long Stay (Mon to Sat)</b>				
Park Lane				
All day	L	5.00	5.00	
Sunday	L	2.00	2.00	
East Street MSCP				
Per hour	L	1.20	1.20	
All day	L	3.00	3.00	
Sunday	L	2.00	2.00	
Chestnut Street				
All day	L	2.00	2.00	
7 days	L	8.00	8.00	
Sunday	L	2.00	2.00	
<b>On Street Parking Mon to Sun (up to 2 hours no return within 1 hour EXCEPT for Grange Road &amp; Northumberland Street up to 3 hours no return within 1 hour and East Row 30 minutes maximum no return within 1 hour)</b>				
Per 30 mins	L	0.70	0.70	

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>Car Parks – Contract Parking – all charges are inclusive of VAT at 20%</b>				
Parking locations as determined by the Director of Services.				
Per year one space	L	950.00	950.00	
Per year two spaces	L	900.00	900.00	
Per year three spaces	L	860.00	860.00	
Per year four spaces	L	830.00	830.00	
Per year five to nine spaces	L	800.00	800.00	
Per year ten or more spaces	L	700.00	700.00	
Four Riggs				
Per calendar month	L	64.00	64.00	
Morton Palms				
Per year one space	L	300.00	300.00	
Silver Street				
Per year one space	L	600.00	600.00	
<b>Car Parks – Staff &amp; Members per year</b>	L	173.04	173.04	
<b>Residents Parking Permits (excluding Town Centre)</b>				
3 month temporary permit	L	12.00	12.00	
6 month permit	L	24.00	24.00	
12 month permit	L	40.00	40.00	
<b>Residents Parking Permits (Town Centre only)</b>				
12 month permit	L	350.00	350.00	
<b>Tradesmen Parking Permits</b>				
Daily Waiver	L	5.00	5.00	
3 month permit	L	100.00	100.00	
6 month permit	L	150.00	150.00	
12 month permit	L	250.00	250.00	
				<b>NIL</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>BUILDING CONTROL</b>				
Items inclusive of VAT at 20%				
Letter confirming exemption	L	20.00	20.00	
Letter confirming enforcement action will not be taken	L	20.00	20.00	
Copy of historic completion/approval certificates	L	20.00	20.00	
<b>Decision/Approval Notice (Building Control)</b>				
Responding to request for historical information from electronic databases (email response)	L	20.00	20.00	
Responding to request for historical information from electronic databases (letter response)	L	20.00	20.00	
Responding to request for historical information from manually recorded data (email response)	L	20.00	20.00	
Personal searches (email response)	L	20.00	20.00	
<b>The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 plus VAT at the appropriate rate</b>				
Work charged on individual job basis	L	As agreed with client	As agreed with client	
				<b>NIL</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>DOLPHIN CENTRE</b>				
Pricing based on the introduction of a leisure card.				
<b>Swimming</b>				
Adult swim				
Card holder	L	4.85	5.00	
Non card holder	L	5.40	5.55	
Concession	L	3.70	4.15	
Junior Swim	L	3.10	3.25	
Family swim junior rate discount (up to 4 children accompanying 1 adult)				
Per card holder	L	2.45	2.55	
Per non card holder	L	2.75	2.85	
Under 12 months	L	Free	Free	
Lessons	L	55.00	60.00	
<b>Fitness Areas</b>				
The Gym				
Card holder	L	5.95	6.10	
Non card holder	L	6.55	6.75	
Concession	L	4.60	5.05	
Junior Gym	L	4.60	4.70	
Concession	L	3.50	3.60	
<b>Health &amp; Fitness Classes</b>				
Health & Fitness Classes				
Card holder	L	5.15	5.40	
Non card holder	L	5.70	6.00	
Concession	L	4.30	4.50	
<b>Half Main Hall</b>				
Adult				
Card holder	L	49.50	50.00	
Non card holder	L	55.00	56.00	
Junior (1 hour courts only)	L	33.50	34.50	
Weekday lunchtime				
Card holder	L	40.00	41.00	
Non card holder	L	45.00	46.00	
<b>Badminton</b>				
Adult				
Card holder	L	9.65	9.90	
Non card holder	L	10.70	11.00	
Concession	L	8.05	8.25	
Junior (1 hour courts only)	L	5.65	5.80	
Concession (1 hour courts only)	L	5.00	5.00	
<b>Equipment Hire</b>				
Football	L	Free	Free	
Football – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	
Badminton	L	Free	Free	
Badminton – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	
Table Tennis Bats	L	Free	Free	
Table Tennis Bats – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	
Pram Lock	L	Free	Free	
Pram Lock – Deposit (FOC for card holders)	L	5.00	5.00	



Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>Children's Activities</b>				
Soft play admissions	L	5.95	6.25	
Parent/toddler (Soft play)	L	5.95	6.25	
<b>Other Activities</b>				
Showers				
Card holders	L	3.00	3.10	
Non card holders	L	3.00	3.10	
<b>Fit 4 Life Packages</b>				
12 month Full Membership	L	299.40	323.40	
12 month Seniors	L	228.00	252.00	
12 month Student	L	180.00	204.00	
6 Month Full	L	195.00	205.00	
12 Month Upfront	L	275.00	296.50	
<b>Swimming Pools</b>				
Main Pool - per hour	L	120.00	130.00	
Diving Pool - per hour	L	70.00	76.00	
Teaching Pool - per hour	L	70.00	76.00	
<b>Gala - per hour</b>				
Swimming Galas - whole complex				
Normal opening hours - per hour	L	370.00	400.00	
Outside normal opening hours - per hour	L	195.00	211.00	
<b>Swimming Galas - Schools, Junior Clubs and Organisations</b>				
Main Pool - Peak	L	257.00	277.00	
Main Pool - Off Peak	L	185.00	200.00	
Main Pool and Teaching Pool - Peak	L	216.00	233.00	
Main Pool and Teaching Pool - Off Peak	L	222.00	240.00	
Electronic Timing	L	110.00	119.00	
<b>Ten Pin Bowling</b>				
Adult Standard - 1 game	L	7.95	8.25	
Juniors (under 16) - 1 game	L	6.30	6.60	
Students & Seniors - Off Peak - 1 game	L	6.30	6.60	
Family Package - Peak - 1 game	L	26.00	28.00	
Family Package - Off Peak -1 game	L	24.00	26.00	
Adult, Students, Seniors - Peak - 2 game	L	15.90	16.50	
Adult, Student, Seniors - Off Peak - 2 game	L	12.30	12.50	
Juniors (under 16) - Peak - 2 game	L	12.60	13.20	
Juniors (under 16) - Off Peak - 2 game	L	12.10	12.50	
Disabled and carer - Off Peak - 1 game (per person)	L	5.50	5.70	
Disabled and carer - Off Peak - 2 game (per person)	L	11.00	11.40	
<b>Dry Sports Hall</b>				
Main Sports Hall - per hour	L	121.00	127.00	
Special Events - per hour Weekends	L	385.00	405.00	
Preparation - per hour Weekends	L	204.00	215.00	
Special Events - Schools - per hour off peak	L	55.00	58.00	
Function Room	L	30.00	31.50	
Seminar Room/Stephenson Suite meeting rooms	L	41.00	43.00	
Pease Suite/Studio	L	51.00	53.55	
<b>Central Hall</b>				
All Events (except commercial, exhibitions and local societies)	L	127.00	135.00	
Exhibitions - commercial - per hour	L	165.00	175.00	
Local Societies event - per hour	L	88.00	95.00	
				<b>88,000</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>EASTBOURNE SPORTS COMPLEX</b>				
<b>3G Pitch</b>				
Non Charter Standard Pay and Play				
1/2 3G Pitch - Adult (1 hour)	L	55.00	60.00	
1/2 3G Pitch - Junior (1 hour)	L	45.00	50.00	
Full 3G Pitch - Adult (1 hour)	L	85.00	90.00	
Full 3G Pitch - Junior (1 hour)	L	60.00	65.00	
Charter Standard and Partner Clubs				
1/2 3G Pitch (1 hour)	L	30.00	30.00	
Full 3G Pitch (1 hour)	L	55.00	60.00	
<b>Grass Pitch Matches - Club</b>				
Adult per match 11 v 11	L	30.00	32.50	
Junior per match 9 v 9	L	20.00	22.50	
Junior per match 7 v 7	L	20.00	22.50	
Junior per match 5 v 5	L	15.00	17.50	
<b>3G Matches - Club</b>				
Junior per match 5 v 5	L	20.00	22.50	
Junior per match 7 v 7	L	25.00	27.50	
Junior per match 9 v 9	L	30.00	32.50	
Junior per match 11 v 11	L	30.00	32.50	
Changing room	L	20.00	25.00	
<b>3G Matches - Adults</b>				
AGP 1 without changing rooms	L	45.00	50.00	
AGP 1 with changing rooms	L	65.00	70.00	
AGP 2 without changing rooms	L	65.00	70.00	
AGP 2 with changing rooms	L	105.00	110.00	
<b>Athletics Track</b>				
Non club rate				
Adult	L	5.20	5.40	
Junior	L	4.20	4.40	
Full track per hour	L	120.00	120.00	
Club rate				
Adult	L	4.20	4.40	
Junior	L	4.20	4.40	
Full track per hour	L	85.00	90.00	
<b>Other</b>				
Shower	L	2.60	2.80	
Function room and pavilion hire per hour (exclusive of VAT)	L	24.00	25.00	
Multi Purpose Studio per hour (exclusive of VAT)	L	18.00	19.00	
				<b>10,000</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>HIPPODROME &amp; HULLABALOO</b>				
Restoration Levy (per ticket excluding children's shows)	L	2.00	2.00	
Booking Fee (per ticket)	L	1.00	1.00	
Hire & Conferencing (all pricing exclusive of VAT)				
John Wade Group Lounge - max capacity 40 (theatre style) - per hour	L	38.75	38.75	
John Wade Group Lounge - max capacity 40 (theatre style) - day hire**	L	231.75	231.75	
Living Water Tower Room - max capacity 18 - per hour	L	33.25	33.25	
Living Water Tower Room - max capacity 18 - day hire**	L	198.50	198.50	
Hippo Lounge - max capacity 70 - per hour	L	46.25	46.25	
Hippo Lounge - max capacity 70 - day hire**	L	277.75	277.75	
Hippo Education Space - max capacity 40 (workshop of approx. 25) - per hour	L	38.75	38.75	
Hippo Education Space - max capacity 40 (workshop of approx. 25) - day hire**	L	231.75	231.75	
Hullabaloo Rehearsal Space - max capacity 35 - per hour	L	38.75	38.75	
Hullabaloo Rehearsal Space - max capacity 35 - day hire**	L	231.75	231.75	
Hullabaloo Café - max capacity 70 - per hour	L	46.25	46.25	
Hullabaloo Café - max capacity 70 - day hire**	L	277.75	277.75	
Hippodrome Theatre Hire - max capacity 1,000 - w/end full day	L	2,310.00	2,425.50	
Hippodrome Theatre Hire - max capacity 1,000 - w/end half day	L	1,155.00	1,212.75	
Hippodrome Theatre Hire - max capacity 1,000 - w/day full day	L	2,126.25	2,232.50	
Hippodrome Theatre Hire - max capacity 1,000 - w/day half day	L	1,065.00	1,118.25	
Hullabaloo Theatre Hire - max capacity 150 - per hour	L	75.00	78.75	
Hullabaloo Theatre Hire - max capacity 150 - day hire**	L	546.25	573.50	
**day hire - 9am to 5pm				
Community Rate may be applicable for charities, NHS, children's groups and local artists if qualifying criteria met. This equates to 30% reduction on the above charges.				
				<b>5,000</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>HOPETOWN DARLINGTON</b>				
<b>General Admission</b>	L	Free	Free	
Donations welcome				
<b>Wagon Woods Adventure Play</b>				
Children over 1 - 1 hour peak (weekends & school holidays)	L	5.00	5.00	
Children over 1 - 1 hour off peak (weekdays term time)	L	3.50	3.50	
<b>Experiment! immersive ride</b>	L	5.00	5.00	
<b>Private Hire</b>				
The Stephenson Room - per hour	L	50.00	50.00	
The Pease Room - per hour	L	38.75	38.75	
The Carriage Works - half day	L	300.00	300.00	
The Carriage Works - full day	L	500.00	500.00	
The Carriage Works - per hour, after hours	L	100.00	100.00	
The Goods Shed/Clocktower Café - 3 hours 6-9pm	L	500.00	500.00	
The Goods Shed/Clocktower Café - per hour after 9pm	L	100.00	100.00	
Charity/Partner rate on all above hires - 30% discount	L			
<b>Study at The Stores</b>				
Historical research by Collections Manager - per hour	L	30.00	30.00	
Family history short research - up to 10 mins (including scans)	L	5.00	5.00	
Photographic reproduction - private use	L	6.50	6.50	
<b>Commercial Photographic Reproduction</b>				
Small local charitable, educational incl. websites	L	6.50	6.50	
Local commercial incl. websites	L	15.00	15.00	
Specialist magazines, journals & newspapers incl. websites	L	30.00	30.00	
Regional TV/Video/Film/DVD	L	50.00	50.00	
National/international TV/Video/Film/DVD	L	100.00	100.00	
<b>School Visits</b>				
<b>Package 1</b> - Price per pupil	L	4.00	4.00	
Includes led workshop, Wagon Woods play, self guided time in museum and stores plus dedicated lunch area				
<b>Package 2</b> - Price per pupil	L	7.50	7.50	
Includes led workshop, Wagon Woods play, Experiment! immersive ride, self guided time in museum and stores plus dedicated lunch area				
<b>Both packages reduced by £2 per child for Darlington school children on free school meals</b>				NIL
<b>STRAY DOGS</b>				
<b>Dog held at Allington Way</b>				
Statutory Fee	L	25.00	25.00	
Kennelling Fee	L	20.00	20.00	
<b>Dog held offsite</b>				
Fees incurred at Allington Way (as above) plus				
Kennelling Fee per day	L	30.00	30.00	
Handling Fee	L	50.00	50.00	
				NIL

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL</b>				
Refuse sacks (per 25) (Exclusive of VAT)	L	131.50	137.60	
Garden Waste Sacks (Non VATable) (for collection of 10 bags)	L	14.20	14.90	
Bulky Household Collection up to 6 items	L	23.80	24.90	
Garden Waste Service	L	47.00	48.00	
Cost of replacement (inclusive of 20% VAT)				
360L Wheeled Bin	L	67.20	70.30	
240L Wheeled Bin	L	26.60	27.80	
Caddie	L	8.80	9.20	
Glass Box	L	6.50	6.80	
55L Box	L	6.50	6.80	
Lid for recycling box	L	2.60	2.70	
Lid for 240L bin	L	7.80	8.20	
Wheeled bin wheel	L	2.10	2.20	
				<b>13,000</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>CEMETERIES</b>				
Burial fees without exclusive right of burial (these fees will be tripled where the deceased is a non-resident of Darlington at time of death)				
Individual foetal remains	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Stillborn or child not exceeding 12 months	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Person over 12 months up to 18 years	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Person over 18 years	L	1,160.00	1,250.00	
Burial fees with exclusive right of burial (these fees will be doubled where the deceased is a non-resident of Darlington at time of death)				
Individual foetal remains	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Child not exceeding 12 months	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Person over 12 months up to 18 years	N	No Charge	No Charge	
Person over 18 years	L	1,160.00	1,250.00	
Cremated remains	L	250.00	300.00	
Exclusive rights of burial (these fees will be doubled if the purchaser is a non-resident of Darlington if not purchased at time of first interment).				
Exclusive burial rights (50 years) - Full Plot	L	1,200.00	1,300.00	
Exclusive burial rights (50 years) - Half Plot	L	600.00	650.00	
Exclusive burial rights (50 years) - Quarter Plot	L	300.00	325.00	
Exclusive burial rights for a bricked grave	L	2,400.00	2,600.00	
Extension to burial rights (20 years)	L	N/a	500.00	
Extension to burial rights (30 years)	L	N/a	700.00	
Extension to burial rights (40 years)	L	N/a	850.00	
<b>Other charges</b>				
Scattering of cremated remains	L	50.00	50.00	
Indemnity form (to produce duplicate grant)	L	50.00	50.00	
Transfer of burial rights	L	N/a	30.00	
Use of Cemetery Chapel	L	150.00	150.00	
Use of Crematorium Chapel for burial/memorial service	L	300.00	300.00	
After post mortem remains	L	250.00	300.00	
Exhumation of a body (excl. re-interment)	L	2,500.00	2,700.00	
Exhumation of cremated remains (excl. re-interment)	L	600.00	600.00	
<b>Grave Maintenance (inclusive of 20% VAT)</b>				
Initial payment	L	60.00	70.00	
Annual Maintenance	L	45.00	50.00	
<b>Memorials (fees will be doubled where the deceased to whom the memorial/inscription refers was non-resident of Darlington at time of death)</b>				
Memorial rights including first inscription (30 years)	L	250.00	250.00	
Provision of kerbs – traditional sites only)	L	120.00	120.00	
Vases not exceeding 300mm	L	100.00	100.00	
Additional inscription	L	100.00	100.00	
<b>Total financial effect for Cemeteries</b>				<b>15,000</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>CREMATORIUM</b>				
Crematorium fees (inclusive of certificate of cremation, use of organ and scattering of remains in Gardens of Remembrance at an unreserved time)				
Individual foetal remains	N	No charge	No charge	
Hospital arrangement – foetal remains	L	250.00	300.00	
Stillborn or child not exceeding 12 months	N	No charge	No charge	
Person over 12 months up to 18 years	N	No charge	No charge	
Person over 18 years	L	1,160.00	1,200.00	
Direct Cremation	L	580.00	600.00	
After post mortem remains	L	250.00	300.00	
<b>Other charges</b>				
Postal Carton	L	25.00	25.00	
Metal Urn	L	60.00	60.00	
Wooden Casket	L	70.00	70.00	
Biodegradable Urn	L	85.00	85.00	
Baby Urn	L	10.00	10.00	
Extended use of Crematorium Chapel	L	300.00	300.00	
Scattering of remains at reserved time	L	50.00	50.00	
<b>Webcasts (inclusive of VAT at the appropriate rate)</b>	L	60.00	65.00	
<b>Tributes (inclusive of 20% VAT)</b>				
Single Photo	L	15.00	15.00	
Basic Slideshow	L	55.00	60.00	
Slideshow set to music	L	85.00	90.00	
Themed Tribute to music	L	100.00	100.00	
Family supplied Tribute	L	30.00	35.00	
For every additional 25 images	L	25.00	25.00	
Tribute Download link	L	20.00	20.00	
Webcast Keepsake (DVD, Blu-ray, USB or audio CD)	L	60.00	70.00	
Extra copies	L	30.00	35.00	
Video Book	L	100.00	120.00	
Extra copies	L	60.00	60.00	
Memory Box	L	130.00	140.00	
Extra copies	L	70.00	70.00	
<b>Book of Remembrance (inclusive of 20% VAT)</b>				
Single Entry (2 lines)	L	80.00	90.00	
Double Entry (3 or 4 lines)	L	120.00	140.00	
Additional lines	L	25.00	25.00	
Low rate emblem	L	N/a	100.00	
High rate emblem	L	120.00	140.00	
<b>Memorial Cards (inclusive of 20% VAT)</b>				
Single entry card (2 lines)	L	35.00	35.00	
Double entry card (3 or 4 lines)	L	45.00	45.00	
Additional lines	L	10.00	10.00	
Low rate emblem	L	N/a	100.00	
High rate emblem	L	100.00	140.00	
<b>Other Memorial Schemes</b>				
Replacement kerb vase plaque	L	300.00	300.00	
Replacement flower holder	L	5.00	5.00	
Wall plaques	L	270.00	270.00	
Planter plaques	L	380.00	380.00	
Lease of space for memorial plaques (per annum)	L	27.00	28.00	
<b>Total financial effect for Crematorium</b>				<b>50,000</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>ALLOTMENTS &amp; STABLES</b>				
Rent per year	L	200.00	200.00	
				<b>NIL</b>
<b>HIGHWAYS</b>				
Private apparatus in the Highway (Section 50 Licence, new installations)	L	550.00	650.00	
Private Road Openings (repair existing)	L	225.00	250.00	
Vehicle Crossings – estimate fee (taken as part of payment if go ahead with the works)	L	25.00	25.00	
Vehicle Crossings (plus actual construction costs)	L	100.00	100.00	
Vehicle Crossings if planning permission required on a classified road (plus actual construction costs)	L	150.00	150.00	
Section 184 Application for private vehicle crossings		150.00	150.00	
- Domestic dwelling	L	150.00	150.00	
- Commercial and industrial	L	150.00	300.00	
Temporary Traffic Regulation Notices (road closures etc)	L	214.00	222.50	
Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (road closures etc) (plus advertising)	L	332.00	345.00	
Urgent Traffic Regulation Notices	L	173.00	180.00	
Application to Secretary of State for TTRO extension (plus advertising)	L	135.00	140.50	
Personal Search - Highways (by email) per question	L	6.00	8.40	
Street Naming Royal Mail Income (per address, Nationally agreed price LGIH)	L	1.00	1.00	
Street Naming & Numbering of Properties:				
- Per road name (developer suggests)	L	186.00	193.50	
- Per road name (council names)	L	226.00	235.00	
- Per plot	L	16.50	17.00	
Street Naming & Numbering of Properties:				
- Per plot or renaming of a property	L	38.00	39.00	
Rechargeable Works	L	Actual cost + 10%	Actual cost + 10%	
Temporary Traffic Light Applications	L	No Charge Individually priced based on requirements	No Charge Individually priced based on requirements	
Section 50 Licence associated bond costs	L			
Access protection markings	L	No charge	No charge	
Tourist Sign (plus actual cost of sign)	L	£75.00 + VAT	£75.00 + VAT	
Accident Data Requests	L	£75.00 + VAT	£75.00 + VAT	
Traffic Count Data	L	75.00	75.00	
Street Lighting Design Service	L	Individually priced based on charge out rate	Individually priced based on charge out rate	
Oversailing Licence	L	No charge	No charge	
Banner Licence	L	No charge	No charge	
Placing Goods on the Highway	L	155.00	155.00	
Deposits upon the Highway	L	No charge	No charge	
Temporary Development Signs – Admin Fee	L	200.00	200.00	
Temporary Development Signs – DBC undertake work on behalf of developer	L	Actual costs	Actual costs	
Switch off / on traffic signal / pelican crossings – per visit	L	150.00	150.00	
Unauthorised marks or affixing of signs to street furniture	L	No charge	No charge	



Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
Section 278 Highway works agreement	L	8% of works + legal if delivered by developer	8% of works + legal if delivered by developer	
Section 116 Stopping Up of the Highway	N	Actual Costs	Actual Costs	
Section 38 Road Adoption agreement	L	8% of works + legal if delivered by developer	8% of works + legal if delivered by developer	
NRSA Defect Charges	N	Nationally set scale of charges	Nationally set scale of charges	
NRSA Road Opening Inspection Charges (sample)	N	Nationally set scale of charges	Nationally set scale of charges	
Section 74 – charges for overstay	N	Nationally set scale of charges	Nationally set scale of charges	
				<b>2,000</b>
<b>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY</b>				
Public Path Orders (HA 80 S 118 and 119, TCPA 90 s247, 257)				
Actual cost based on charge out rate plus advertising and legal costs		3,066.00 (minimum)	3,192.00 (minimum)	
PROW Temporary Closures – as Highways fees and charges				
Landowner Rights of Way Statement and Declaration s31.6				
One parcel of land, includes 2 notices	L	256.00	267.00	
Additional parcel	L	51.00	53.00	
Additional notice	L	51.00	53.00	
Authorisation for installing a new gate or stile (HA 80 s147)	L	102.00	106.00	
Path Orders under Deregulation Act				
Actual cost based on charge out rate plus advertising and legal costs, to include but not restricted to pre-application advice, processing the application, resolving objections, making the order, confirmation of the order, and any subsequent Public Inquiry or Hearing				
				<b>NIL</b>
<b>SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT</b>				
Charges for Concessionary Travel (ENCTS);				
Replacement pass for lost/stolen without a CRN	L	10.00	10.00	
Production, placement and retrieval of notices when bus stops are temporarily per bus stop	L	60.00	60.00	
Production and placement of bus timetable information when bus services have to be re-registered due to road closures – up to 6 timetables	L	84.00	84.00	
				<b>NIL</b>

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>TRANSPORT SERVICES</b>				
Charges for Taxi Licensing;				
Taxi Vehicle Test	L	56.00	56.00	
Taxi Vehicle Test and MOT	L	66.00	66.00	
Failure to attend (less than 48 hours' notice)	L	56.00	56.00	
Re-test	L	27.00	27.00	
Re-test including emissions	L	39.00	39.00	
Re-test emissions only	L	12.00	12.00	
Charges for General Public;				
MOT for Standard Car Class IV	L	38.00	40.00	
MOT for Class V Vehicles	L	45.00	47.00	
MOT for Class VII Vehicles	L	45.00	47.00	
				<b>Minimal</b>
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING</b>				
Works in default & statutory activities per hour	L	62.00	65.00	
Housing inspections & consultancy per hour (inclusive of VAT)	L	62.00	65.00	
Charge for the service relevant Housing Act 2004 legal notice	L	465.00	465.00	
Administration cost for the securing empty homes (addition of VAT if completed by agreement)	L	310.00	310.00	
Houses in Multiple Occupation Activities;				
HMO licence fee per letting/let/tenancy	L	N/a	N/a	
Part A Licence Application	L	217.00	217.00	
Part B 5 year HMO licence per letting	L	155.00	155.00	
Other relevant HMO activities per hour	L	62.00	65.00	
Variation of HMO licence	L	124.00	124.00	
Housing Immigration Inspections;				
Within 10 working days (excluding VAT)	L	155.00	155.00	
Fast Track within 5 working days (excluding VAT)	L	217.00	217.00	
General Enforcement Activities;				
Hourly rate for preparation of case reports/prosecutions	L	62.00	65.00	
Additional copies of legal notices via post	L	10.00	10.00	
Additional copies of legal notices - Scanned copy by Email	L	Free	Free	
<b>Energy Company Regulation</b>				
ECOflex declarations (excluding VAT)	L	93.00	93.00	
<b>The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (Amendment) Regulations 2022</b>				
Fines for failing to provide a working smoke or carbon monoxide alarm. Offence by the same individual or organisation;				
First	N	500.00	500.00	
Second	N	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Third	N	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Fourth	N	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Fifth or more	N	5,000.00	5,000.00	
The Redress Schemes for Letting Agency Work and Property Management Work (England) Order 2014;				
Fines for failing to join an approved letting and management redress scheme;				
Businesses that have been served with a notice of intent and failed to join an approved scheme	N	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Businesses that have joined an approved scheme following the service of the notice of intent	N	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Businesses that have joined an approved scheme prior to enforcement action being taken, after the 1st October 2014	N	3,000.00	3,000.00	
<b>**The Redress Scheme is currently undergoing a national review and may be replaced prior to April 2024 by a new civil penalty policy</b>				

Description	Type*	Existing Charge £	New Charge £	Financial Effect £
<b>*KEY for basis of fee and charges setting, L - Locally Agreed, N - Nationally Agreed</b>				
<b>Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015</b>				
Penalty (less than 3 months in breach) renting a non-compliant property	N	Up to 2,000.00 and/or publication penalty	Up to 2,000.00 and/or publication penalty	
Penalty (3 months or more in breach) renting out a non-compliant property	N	Up to 4,000.00 and/or publication penalty	Up to 4,000.00 and/or publication penalty	
Providing false or misleading information on the PRS Exemptions Register	N	Up to 1,000.00 and/or publication penalty	Up to 1,000.00 and/or publication penalty	
Failing to comply with a compliance notice	N	Up to 2,000.00 and/or publication penalty	Up to 2,000.00 and/or publication penalty	
<b>Housing and Planning Act 2016</b>				
Failure to comply with an Improvement Notice (under section 30 of the Housing Act 2004)				
Failure to comply with a Prohibition Order (under section 32 of the Housing Act 2004)				
Breach of a banning order made under section 21 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016	N	Civil penalties of up to 30,000 per offence as an alternative to prosecution	Civil penalties of up to 30,000 per offence as an alternative to prosecution	
Using violence to secure entry to a property (under section 6 of the Criminal Law Act 1977)				
Illegal eviction or harassment of the occupiers of a property (under section 1 of the Protection from Eviction Act 1977)				
<b>COST OF REVENUE COLLECTION</b>				<b>Minimal</b>
<b>Council Tax – All Charges do not incur VAT</b>				
Issue of Summons for Liability Order	L	41.00	42.00	
Issue of Liability Order	L	51.00	53.00	
Issue of Summons for Committal Hearing	L	264.00	264.00	
Issue of Statutory Demand	L	187.00	194.00	
Schedule 3 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992				
Penalty where				
- A person is requested to supply information and fails to	L	70.00	70.00	
- A person knowingly supplies inaccurate information	L	70.00	70.00	
- A person fails to notify a material change without a reasonable excuse	L	70.00	70.00	
Where a penalty has been imposed and there is a further request for the same information a further penalty				
- A person fails to supply information	L	280.00	280.00	
- A person knowingly supplies inaccurate information	L	280.00	280.00	
				<b>21,000</b>
<b>Business Rates (NNDR) – All Charges do not incur VAT</b>				
Issue of Summons for Liability Order	L	41.00	42.00	
Issue of Liability Order	L	51.00	53.00	
Issue of Summons for Committal Hearing	L	264.00	264.00	
Issue of Statutory Demand	L	187.00	194.00	
				<b>1,000</b>

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## APPENDIX 4

**KEY ASSUMPTIONS USED IN PROJECTED  
RESOURCES, EXPENDITURE AND INCOME 2026/27-2029/30**

Factor	Assumption
<b>Resources</b>	
Council Tax Base	Variable depending on projected additional properties.
Council Tax	2.99% increase in 2026/27 and future years in line with Government Core Spending Power.
Adult Social Care Precept	2% increase in 2026/27 and future years in line with Government Core Spending Power.
Council Tax collection	99% collected
Business Rates	Business Rates as per estimates from the Council's specialist advisors of the Government's Fair Funding review.
Government Grants	Provisional awaiting draft Local Government Finance Settlement.
	Revenue Support Grant increased to include Fair Funding reforms and consolidation of grant streams, as per estimates from the Council's specialist advisors of the Government's Fair Funding review.
	Better Care Grant (previously BCF) consolidated with Delayed Discharge Grant (previously shown in Departmental net expenditure) at 2025/26 financial settlement flatlined to 2029/30.
	Social Care Grant, assumed consolidated into Revenue Support Grant as per Fair Funding consultation.
	Homeless Prevention Grant, Temporary Accommodation element assumed consolidated into Revenue Support Grant as per Fair Funding consultation. Balance of grant in Department net expenditure flatlined at 2025/26 allocation.
	National Insurance Offset Grant, assumed consolidated into Revenue Support Grant as per Fair Funding consultation.
	Children's Social Care Prevention Grant, in Departmental net expenditure flatlined at 2025/26 allocation.
	Recovery Grant, assumed rolled into Revenue Support Grant as per Fair Funding consultation.
	Children & Families Grant as per financial settlement 2025/26, flatlined and assumed to continue to 2029/30.
	New Homes Bonus Grant ended as per 2025/26 final settlement
	Extended Producer Responsibility Grant as per 2026/27 provisional allocation. Assumed to reduce in future years as industry reduces packaging.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Pay inflation	2026/27 3% and thereafter 2% in line with national scheme.
Price inflation	Only contractual inflation on running costs.
Local Government Pension Scheme	Contribution rate of 14.5% for 2026/27 and all years to 2029/30.
<b>Financing Costs</b>	
Interest rates payable	Average rate on existing debt, 2026/27 of 3.59%, 2027/28 of 3.29%, 2028/29 of 3.15% and 2029/30 of 2.97%
Interest rates payable on new debt – 10 year rate	2026/27 of 4.83%, 2027/28 of 4.70%, 2028/29 of 4.60% and 2029/30 4.60%.
Interest rates receivable	3.50% in 2026/27, 3.50% in 2027/28, 3.50% in 2028/29 and 3.50% in 2029/30
<b>Income</b>	
Inflationary increases	Various based on individual service considerations.

**REVENUE BUDGET MANAGEMENT 2025/26****Projected General Fund Reserve at 31st March 2026**

	2025-29 MTFP (Feb 2025)
<b>Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) :-</b>	£000
MTFP Planned Opening Balance 01/04/2025	11,458
Approved net contribution from balances	(3,069)
<b>Planned Closing Balance 31/03/2026</b>	<b>8,389</b>
Increase in opening balance from 2024-25 results	1,489
Projected corporate underspends / (overspends) :-	
Council Wide	(146)
Financing Costs	(192)
Changes in grant income received	(143)
<b>Projected General Fund Reserve (excluding Departmental)</b>	<b>at 9,397</b>
<b>31st March 2026</b>	
<b>Planned Balance at 31st March 2026</b>	<b>8,389</b>
<b>Improvement</b>	<b>1,008</b>

**Departmental projected year-end balances**

	Improvement / (decline) compared with 2025-29 MTFP
	£000
People Group	(2,969)
Environment, Highways & Community Services Group	125
Resources and Governance Group	(28)
Chief Executive	(8)
Economy & Public Protection	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(2,880)</b>

**Summary Comparison with :-**

	2025-29 MTFP
	£000
Corporate Resources - increase in opening balance from 24/25 results	1,489
Corporate Resources - additional in-year Improvement/(Decline)	(481)
Departmental - Improvement / (Decline)	(2,880)
Improvement / (Decline) compared with MTFP	<b>(1,872)</b>
<b>Projected General Fund Reserve at 31st March 2026</b>	<b>6,517</b>

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**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL TERM 2026/27 TO 2029/30**

	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>	<b>2029/30</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Chief Executives Office	0.342	0.349	0.356	0.364
People Services	100.743	102.676	104.215	106.665
Economy & Public Protection	2.208	2.145	2.052	2.124
Environment, Highways and Community Services	27.792	28.319	28.888	29.818
Resources & Governance	16.824	17.339	17.823	18.184
Financing Costs	4.507	4.057	4.157	4.473
Investment Returns - Joint Venture	(2.188)	(1.942)	(1.855)	(1.188)
Council Wide	(1.169)	(1.153)	(1.137)	(1.120)
Contingencies	0.278	0.202	0.202	0.202
Contribution to/(from) revenue balances	(4.279)	(1.558)	1.797	2.033
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>	<b>145.058</b>	<b>150.434</b>	<b>156.498</b>	<b>161.555</b>
<b><u>Resources - Projected and Assumed</u></b>				
Council Tax	74.633	79.308	84.334	89.671
Business Rates Retained	25.886	26.202	26.544	26.884
Revenue Support Grant	35.376	36.302	37.431	37.157
Better Care Grant	5.537	5.537	5.537	5.537
Children & Families Grant	0.922	0.922	0.922	0.922
Extended Producer Responsibility Grant	2.704	2.163	1.730	1.384
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>145.058</b>	<b>150.434</b>	<b>156.498</b>	<b>161.555</b>
<b><u>Balances</u></b>				
<b>Opening Balance</b>	6.517	2.238	0.680	2.477
Contribution to/(from) Balances	(4.279)	(1.558)	1.797	2.033
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>2.238</b>	<b>0.680</b>	<b>2.477</b>	<b>4.510</b>

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Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 - 2029/30					Appendix 7
	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	2029/30 £'000	Total £'000
<b>Children, Families &amp; Learning</b>					
School Condition Allocations	<i>154</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>154</i>	<b>616</b>
	<i>154</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>154</i>	<b>616</b>
<b>Housing</b>					
Adaptations / Lifts	153	156	159	162	<b>630</b>
Heating replacement programme	1,352	1,379	1,406	1,434	<b>5,571</b>
Structural works	250	255	260	265	<b>1,030</b>
Lifeline Services	379	380	382	73	<b>1,214</b>
Repairs before painting	69	134	136	139	<b>478</b>
Roofing	1,000	1,020	1,040	1,061	<b>4,121</b>
Garages	329	25	26	26	<b>406</b>
External Works (footpaths, fencing, etc.)	214	218	223	227	<b>882</b>
Pavement Crossing	28	29	30	30	<b>117</b>
Window and Door Replacement Programme	2,025	2,065	1,607	1,639	<b>7,336</b>
IPM works	3,672	3,745	3,820	3,897	<b>15,134</b>
Energy Efficiency	5,237	5,200	1,500	1,530	<b>13,467</b>
Communal Works	204	208	212	216	<b>840</b>
Capital Schemes approved in previous years	5,821	0	0	0	<b>5,821</b>
New build (net of HE grant)/regeneration	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	<b>4,000</b>
Fees	386	396	402	412	<b>1,596</b>
	<i>22,119</i>	<i>16,210</i>	<i>12,203</i>	<i>12,111</i>	<b>62,643</b>
<b>Transport</b>					
Highway Maintenance	<i>1,206</i>	<i>1,206</i>	<i>1,206</i>	<i>1,206</i>	<b>4,824</b>
Integrated Transport	<i>893</i>	<i>893</i>	<i>893</i>	<i>893</i>	<b>3,572</b>
Pothole Funding	<i>969</i>	<i>969</i>	<i>969</i>	<i>969</i>	<b>3,876</b>
	<i>3,068</i>	<i>3,068</i>	<i>3,068</i>	<i>3,068</i>	<b>12,272</b>
<b>Other Capital Programmes</b>					
Disabled Facility Grants	<i>1,319</i>	<i>1,319</i>	<i>1,319</i>	<i>1,319</i>	<b>5,276</b>
	<i>1,319</i>	<i>1,319</i>	<i>1,319</i>	<i>1,319</i>	<b>5,276</b>
<b>Council funded Schemes</b>					
Advanced Design Fees	150	150	150	150	<b>600</b>
EPC Surveys in Council Commercial estate	100	100	0	0	<b>200</b>
Capitalised Repairs (Already approved to 2028/29 at £0.250m)	500	500	500	500	<b>2,000</b>
	<i>750</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>650</i>	<b>2,800</b>
<b>Total Spending Plans</b>	<b>27,410</b>	<b>21,501</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>17,302</b>	<b>83,607</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>					
Capital Grants	5,861	5,824	4,541	4,541	<b>20,767</b>
HRA Revenue Contributions	12,261	12,210	11,903	11,811	<b>48,185</b>
HRA Capital Receipts	300	300	300	300	<b>1,200</b>
Borrowing	8,238	2,417	0	0	<b>10,655</b>
Corporate Resources	750	750	650	650	<b>2,800</b>
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>27,410</b>	<b>21,501</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>17,302</b>	<b>83,607</b>
<b>Commitments - see above</b>	<b>27,410</b>	<b>21,501</b>	<b>17,394</b>	<b>17,302</b>	<b>83,607</b>
<b>Resources Available for Investment</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Figures shown in italics are estimates based on current allocations, awaiting confirmation of future allocations.

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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**28 OCTOBER 2025**

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**Adult Social Care Budget and Projected Outturn 2025/26**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an overview of the Adult Social Care (ASC) budget for Darlington Borough Council, including financial outturns, current pressures and challenges, and the transformation plans in place to address these issues and improve service delivery.

**Summary**

2. ASC in Darlington continues to face significant financial and operational pressures. These are driven by demographic changes, increasing demand for services, workforce challenges, and the need to modernise service delivery. Despite these pressures, the Council remains committed to delivering high-quality, person-centred care and support, with a strong focus on prevention, early intervention, and community-based solutions.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that Members of the Adults Scrutiny Committee:
  - a) Note the current budget position and financial pressures.
  - b) Endorse the transformation plans outlined in the report.
  - c) Support ongoing engagement with partners, providers, service users, and carers to shape future service delivery.

**Joss Harbron**  
**Assistant Director Adults Social Care**

**Background Papers**

- a) [Council Plan 2024–2027](#)
- b) [Market Position Statement and Commissioning Strategy 2024–2027](#)
- c) [Medium-Term Financial Plan](#)
- d) [Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024–2028](#)
- e) <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/q4couxmc/vision-for-adult-social-care-in-darlington.pdf>

Joss Harbron: 5278

Council Plan	This report contributes to the Council Plan by involving Members in the scrutiny of performance relating to the delivery of key outcomes with regards to ASC.
Addressing inequalities	This involves members in the scrutiny of the level to which ASC contributes to ensuring that opportunities are accessible to everyone, with a focus on ensuring a good life, good health, home and/or social connections for all.
Tackling Climate Change	This report does not identify any issues relating to climate change.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report allows for the scrutiny of performance which is integral to optimising outcomes and ensuring efficient use of resources.
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports performance improvement relating to improving the health and wellbeing of residents.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report does not represent a change in S17 Crime and Disorder.
Wards Affected	This report related to all wards within Darlington.
Groups Affected	This report supports people with care and support needs eligible under the Care Act 2014.
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

4. In December 2021, the Government published a set of mutually reinforcing reforms which include the Health and Care Bill, Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations - a white paper which is part of the government's commitment to transform the delivery of care in England, the Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care and the ASC reform white paper- People at the Heart of Care.
5. These reforms resulted in a focus on the refreshing of Darlington's ASC priorities and, through a series of workshops with teams across the People group, we developed a new vision for ASC that reflected the new Health and Social Care Act 2022 with the purpose of pulling together all activity into a single transformation plan that linked to the vision.
6. This transformation plan incorporates Commissioning, Quality, Practice and Workforce development into a single plan along with the service reviews/redesigns that sat within the previous 2019 transformation plan. Adult Services have worked closely with the Commissioning and Contracting and transformation team to ensure there is a strong commitment to strength based approaches within the provider market, clear outcome focused approaches and a plan to meet the needs of local people.

7. The new transformation plan is also mindful of the demands, pressures post Covid e.g.:
  - a) Demographics, impact of Covid, workforce retention and capacity of the national cost of living situation, budget pressures, health inequalities loneliness, mental health, changing partnerships arrangements through development of the Integrated Care Board (ICB), Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and place-based commissioning and the need to manage increasing demand.

### **The new Vision for Adult Social Care in Darlington 2023-2026**

8. The ASC vision builds on the overall aims of the Council's strategic vision of THRIVE i.e.:
  - a) Together and Inclusive
  - b) Healthy and Safe
  - c) Resilient and Strong
  - d) Independent and Innovative
  - e) Valued and Respected
  - f) Educated and Aspirational
9. ASC will work together with residents, partners, and communities to enable the citizens of Darlington to maximise their independence (to be resilient, strong and healthy), their wellbeing (healthy, safe and inclusive), to have care and support when they need it (together, valued and respected and safe) and to empower them to contribute to and feel valued in their communities (independence, innovation, valued, inclusive and educated).
10. The vision is grouped under a number of key themes and strategic objectives to produce a delivery plan:

### **The Transformation delivery plan 2023-2026**

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Strategic objectives</b>
❖ <b>Amazing practice</b> through strength-based working and strength based workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service user/carers engagement, feedback and co-production (the person's voice is central to everything we do).</li> <li>• Ensuring Strength based approaches and practice (working with partners and the community).</li> <li>• Highly trained and skilled workforce working in line with internal strategies and procedures.</li> <li>• Ensuring people can maintain independence or are re-abled to regain their independence.</li> <li>• Ensuring we support the prevention, reduction of delay of social care needs.</li> <li>• Assess, support and commission support and care where and when needed.</li> </ul>
❖ <b>Creating the right conditions</b> through Market developing, shaping and commissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning Services to meet current and future need.</li> </ul>

Themes	Strategic objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working wider community assets providing outcomes and making a real difference.</li> <li>• Work with partners in the system to develop, deliver and achieve positive outcomes for people within our community.</li> </ul>
❖ Ensuring safety and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective Safeguarding - Ensuring safety for person, safe systems of practice and working.</li> <li>• Ensuring continuity of care including supporting young people through to adulthood.</li> </ul>
❖ Enabling delivery  ❖ Ensuring quality is everyone's business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will ensure there is strategic leadership and a learning workforce enabling successful delivery of our statutory responsibilities.</li> <li>• We will ensure we are a learning organisation; we will listen, improve and know our services and ensure we achieve positive outcomes for people.</li> <li>• Systems, policies, procedures, practice guidance and governance (that support effective social work and social care practice).</li> <li>• Inspection readiness- baselines, evidence collation.</li> <li>• Efficient, well managed budgets delivering services and support within the budget, being response to pressures and anticipating demand.</li> <li>• Intelligence led Service development and planning.</li> <li>• Intelligence Led Business Planning.</li> <li>• Improved Digital and Communications (inc. web, information, self-service, use of technology).</li> </ul>

11. The Council's transformation strategy is guided by the Market Position Statement and Commissioning Strategy 2024–2027, which outlines the following priorities:

- a) Prevention and Early Intervention: Investing in digital technology, aids, and adaptations to support independence.
- b) Community-Based Support: Expanding housing options and care at home to reduce reliance on residential care.
- c) Integrated Working: Strengthening partnerships with health, housing, and VCSE organisations.
- d) Carer Support: Enhancing access to information and support for unpaid carers.
- e) Market Engagement: Building strong relationships with providers to co-design services and ensure quality assurance.



## Budget Overview

12. Darlington Borough Council has allocated a significant portion of its overall budget to ASC. However, the service continues to operate under considerable financial strain. The Council has identified savings of £3.651 million in 2025/26 and £21.4 million over the next four years, with ASC identified as a key area of pressure.
13. Budget for 2025/2026 based on the most recent data from Darlington Borough Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and Adults Scrutiny Committee reports, the gross ASC budget for 2025/26 is approximately £64.9 million, and it is broken down across the following key service areas:

### Adult Social Care Budget Breakdown by Service Area (2025/26)

Service Area	Budget (Gross) (£m)	Description
<b>Older People Services</b>	26.7	Residential, nursing, and home care for older adults.
<b>Learning Disabilities</b>	21.8	Supported living, day services, and residential care.
<b>Mental Health Services</b>	3.9	Community and residential support for adults with mental health needs.
<b>Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment</b>	7.8	Support for adults with physical disabilities and sensory needs.
<b>Carers Support and Direct Payments</b>	0.3	Support for unpaid carers and personal budgets.
<b>Management and Overheads</b>	4.4	Staffing, ICT, training, and operational costs.

Total gross expenditure	Income	Grant Income	Net Budget
£64.9M	£14M	£3M	£47.9M

14. Current Budget Position at Quarter One (June 2025): Overall project variance is an underspend of £18k.
15. External Packages of Care (EPC) movement of approximately £69k.
  - (a) Reductions:
    - i. £175k due to delays in hospital discharges
    - ii. £442k additional grant income
  - (b) Pressures:
    - i. £447k for residential placement

ii. £110k new home care provisions

16. Learning Disability Long Term Conditions budget pressure of approximately £40k:
  - (a) Holicote – pressure of £32k due to additional agency costs and repair costs.
  - (b) Supported Living – Pressure of £26k due to agency costs
  - (c) Day Services – saving of £17k, due to additional income
17. Mental Health Long Term Condition – Saving of £8k due to staffing.
18. Older People Long Term Condition – Pressure of £8k due to maternity cover.
19. Service Development and Integration – Saving of £5k for reduction in phones charges, replaced with Wavenet.
20. Current Debt Position – June 2025

The total outstanding debt is broken down into two categories: Residential & Nursing and Non-Residential, with further segmentation by the age of the debt.

	<b>Residential &amp; Nursing</b>	<b>Non-Residential</b>
<b>60–89 Days:</b>	£229,047	£37,163
<b>90–180 Days:</b>	£428,044	£85,117
<b>180–365 Days:</b>	£1,005,341	£140,015
<b>Over 365 Days:</b>	£2,273,330	£1,185,044
	Total: £3,935,762	Total: £1,447,339

21. Some of the outstanding debt is attributed to specific circumstances:
  - a) Individuals lacking mental capacity, now managed by the Financial Protection Team.
  - b) Direct payment recipients.
  - c) Debt escalated to legal recovery.
  - d) Executors awaiting probate.
  - e) Cases on hold due to complaints or disputes.
  - f) Individuals under safeguarding.
  - g) Awaiting family to apply for appointeeship or deputyship.
22. These situations can delay debt recovery for months or even years.

23. ASC and the Finance team are working together to reduce debt and improve processes through the transformation programme by:

a) Strengthening Financial Capacity & Support:

- i. Early identification of individuals lacking mental capacity and prompt referral to the Financial Protection Team.
- ii. Proactive engagement with families to encourage timely applications for appointeeship or deputyship.
- iii. Provide clear guidance and support for navigating financial responsibilities, especially for carers and families.

b) Improved Direct Payment Oversight:

- i. Introduce regular audits and check-ins for individuals receiving direct payments.
- ii. Use prepaid cards or managed accounts to improve transparency and reduce misuse.
- iii. Offer training and support to help individuals manage their budgets effectively.
- iv. Delivering co-produced training to ASC teams on Direct payment usage.

c) Legal and Probate Processes

- i. Work closely with legal teams to streamline debt recovery once cases are escalated.
- ii. Maintain a tracking system for executor cases to ensure timely follow-up.

d) Tackling Aged Debt Proactively

- i. Identified an aged debt recovery role focused on debts over 180 days.
- ii. Use predictive analytics to identify cases at risk of becoming long-term debt.
- iii. Prioritise high-value cases for early intervention.

e) Enhanced Communication & Engagement

- i. Improve billing clarity and frequency to reduce confusion and disputes.
- ii. Use multi-channel reminders (letters, calls, emails) for overdue payments.
- iii. Offer flexible payment plans to encourage partial repayments.

f) Strengthened Internal Processes

- i. Ensure timely financial assessments and invoicing.
  - ii. Reduce delays caused by complaints or safeguarding investigations through faster resolution pathways.
  - iii. Invest in staff training and digital tools to improve efficiency.
- g) Monitoring and Reporting
- i. Regularly review debt data to identify trends, problem areas and monitor progress.
  - ii. Share monthly dashboards with operational teams to drive accountability.

### **Key Pressures and Challenges**

- 24. Demographic Change: Darlington has an aging population, with 20.5% aged 65+, higher than the national average. This trend is expected to continue, increasing demand for care services.
- 25. Workforce Shortages: Recruitment and retention of care staff remain challenging, impacting service capacity and quality.
- 26. Financial Constraints: Rising costs, inflation, increases in national living wage and employer national insurance contributions have increased ASC costs.
- 27. Complex Needs: There is a growing need for services that support people with complex needs, including supported living and transitions to adulthood.
- 28. Market Sustainability: Ensuring a diverse and resilient provider market is critical, especially in light of post-pandemic recovery and economic uncertainty.
- 29. Integrated care Board structure changes including exploration of tightening the Continuing Health care eligibility could shift the financial burden to local authorities, delegation of healthcare tasks whilst ICB's focus on strategic commissioning.

### **Consultation**

- 30. Ongoing engagement with partners, Members, people using services, carers, and providers is central to the transformation approach.
- 31. Feedback mechanisms are embedded in commissioning processes to ensure services reflect local needs and preferences.

## **ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 6 JANUARY 2026**

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### **DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE REPORT**

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#### **SUMMARY REPORT**

##### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Scrutiny Committee with an update in relation to the requirements on the Local Authority under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and how Darlington is supporting victims of Domestic Abuse.

##### **Summary**

2. The Domestic Abuse Act came into force in 2021 which brought in new requirements which Local Authorities must fulfil. The Act created the first statutory definition of domestic abuse to ensure that "domestic abuse is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across statutory agencies and in public attitudes".
3. The Domestic Abuse Act was implemented to help ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experience, safe in the knowledge that the justice system and other agencies will do everything they can both to protect and support them and their children and pursue their abuser. This supports a whole family approach.
4. Domestic Abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer. In the vast majority of cases, it is experienced by women and is perpetrated by men.
5. Domestic abuse can include, but is not limited to the following:
  - (a) Coercive control (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence).
  - (b) Psychological and/or emotional abuse.
  - (c) Physical or sexual abuse.
  - (d) Financial or economic abuse.
  - (e) Harassment and stalking.
  - (f) Online or digital abuse.

6. Since the Domestic Abuse Act came into force the statutory requirements on the Local Authority are:
  - (a) To provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
  - (b) Establish a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.
  - (c) Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims (and their children) who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area.
  - (d) Publish a domestic abuse strategy.
  - (e) Give effect to the strategy through commissioning/decommissioning.
  - (f) Produce an annual return detailing the effectiveness of the strategy.
7. As part of the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024 Darlington set out six priorities (see below). The strategy was jointly produced with Durham County Council, with Durham officers leading this work.
  - a) Priority One: Survivor/Victim Voice will be at the heart of our decision making.
  - b) Priority Two: Early identification, intervention and prevention of domestic abuse.
  - c) Priority Three: Effective support for vulnerable groups Priority.
  - d) Priority Four: Prioritising the needs of children and young people effected by domestic abuse within safe accommodation.
  - e) Priority Five: Improve the use of data and intelligence in order to better understand and respond to demand and levels of need.
  - f) Priority Six: Improve the workforce knowledge and skills in responding effectively to domestic abuse.
8. These priorities are reported on at our Partnership Board Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG).
9. To shift to a more integrated governance model, approval is still required from the Safer Durham Partnership to rename DASVEG to the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (VAWDASV), aligning with national VAWG strategy. (For the purpose of this report the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will be referred to as VAWDASV).
10. There will also be a new subgroup structure that will consist of three groups, working to the pre-existing themes of prioritising prevention, supporting victims and tackling those who harm, but that each group will work on both domestic abuse and sexual violence as their topic areas and a partnership risk register will be produced to support governance and accountability across the multi-agency system.
11. All of this will reflect the system's aims, improve efficiency, and strengthen delivery across the broader violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence system.

12. The Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy is currently being refreshed in partnership with Durham County Council. This work is being led by Durham County Council officers on behalf of VAWDASV and is due to be finalised in late January 2026.

### **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that: -
- (a) Scrutiny note and agree joint working arrangements on Domestic Abuse.
  - (b) The updated Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy be shared with Scrutiny.
  - (c) Update reports be given to Scrutiny on an annual basis.

**Christine Shields**  
**Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation**

### **Background Papers**

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

Christine Shields - Extension 5851

Council Plan	This report contributes to the priorities agreed in the Council Plan.
Addressing inequalities	There are no implications arising from this report.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report supports the efficient use of resources through shared partnership priorities.
Health and Wellbeing	This plan supports the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This plan will support measures to reduce crime and disorder.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	There are no implications for the Budget or 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 supports measures to reduce the number of Looked After Children.

## **MAIN REPORT**

### **Information and Analysis**

14. Before the Domestic Abuse Act, the Local Authority commissioned 2 Domestic Abuse support services, the Women's Refuge (Family Help) and an Outreach Support Service (Harbour).
15. As part of the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act, funding was made available to Local Authorities in the form of the Burdens Fund. Initial funding received allowed Darlington to commission the following additional services, which were highlighted as being required following a needs assessment.
  - (a) 2 Dispersed properties
  - (b) Domestic Abuse Housing Options officer
  - (c) Counselling for adults
  - (d) Outreach support and therapy for children
  - (e) Additional children's workers based with the children's team for a multi-agency approach.
  - (f) Domestic Abuse Navigator worker
  - (g) Domestic Abuse Navigator emergency crash pad
  - (h) Prevention scheme for perpetrators
  - (i) Sanctuary scheme for accommodation
  - (j) 2 therapy workers for children in The Refuge (part time)
16. In addition to the services funded through the Burdens Fund, the following services are also commissioned:
  - (a) The Refuge
  - (b) Harbour outreach services - jointly commissioned by DBC, the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Public Health
  - (c) Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDVA) service - funded by the PCC

### **Governance Arrangements**

17. Local governance arrangements have been reviewed recently to strengthen the implementation of the Act at a local level. These are outlined below:

#### **Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (LDAP)**

18. The Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (LDAP) is a partnership group responsible for supporting Durham County Council (DCC) and Darlington Borough Council (DBC) in meeting their duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act. The LDAP is known locally as the County Durham and Darlington Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group VAWDASV) and has developed a three-year plan on a page, which is regularly refreshed and the new three year plan and plan on a page for 2025 – 2028 demonstrates a strategic realignment of the DASVEG across County Durham and



## **Darlington. (Appendix 1)**

### **Darlington Domestic Abuse Local Working Group**

19. The purpose of the Officer Working Group is to raise awareness across all Council departments ensuring that 'Domestic Abuse is everyone's business' and to ensure that work being undertaken locally is coordinated and reported into VAWDASV (Terms of Reference is provided in **Appendix 2**).

### **County Durham and Darlington Violence Against Women and Girls Provider Forum**

20. The purpose of the Forum is to:
  - (a) To support the continued development of community-based, 'by and for' and specialist voluntary and community sector organisations in County Durham and Darlington.
  - (b) Increase communication and collaboration between practitioners operating in County Durham and Darlington who are part of the system preventing harm, supporting victims, and pursuing perpetrators of violence against women and girls.
  - (c) Provide a platform which uses a problem-solving approach encouraging members to share barriers, challenges, and good practise.
  - (d) To support the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group agenda which include information sharing between operational and strategic professionals and organisations.

### **Communications Campaign**

21. The Council supported the White Ribbon Day 2025: We Speak Up on 25 November 2025, which marks the beginning of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.
22. The social media campaign included reels of support to speak up, clips of a victim's story and information and support advice from our providers.

### **Quality Assurance Arrangements**

23. Services are monitored on a quarterly basis by officers in the DBC Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage team through contract monitoring meetings. These meetings focus on performance data and qualitative feedback received from service users.
24. Currently the Police and Crime Commissioning team are involved in quarterly monitoring meetings for those services they jointly commission with the Council.

### **Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy**

25. The Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy is currently being refreshed in partnership with Durham County Council. This work is being led by Durham County Council officers on behalf of VAWDASV and is due to be finalised in late January 2026.

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# The **DRAFT** County Durham and Darlington Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group Three Year Plan on a Page 2025 -2028

Logos of plan owners  
(DCC/DBC/Police/OPCC)  
(ICB or NHS)

Prioritising Prevention	Supporting Victims	Tackling Those Who Harm	
<b>Education &amp; Early Intervention</b> Strengthen (where possible) Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) across all education settings, including alternative provision and home-educated learners, with a focus on healthy relationships.  Strengthen early intervention by identifying opportunities for prevention across universal services, developing integrated referral pathways for those at risk, and expanding family-focused programmes that build resilience and break the cycle of abuse.	<b>Safe Accommodation &amp; Crisis Response</b> Ensure access to a range of safe accommodation options, including specialist provision for different needs (e.g. gender, disability, families, LGBTQ+), aligned to local demand and satisfaction data.  Strengthen the systems crisis response during high-risk incidents and including out-of-hours pathways, links with emergency services and providers and the use of Operation Encompass.	<b>Criminal Justice &amp; Enforcement</b> Promote consistent and early use of civil protection orders, disclosure schemes, and other enforcement tools to disrupt harmful behaviour and reduce risk.  Strengthen coordination across police, courts, and probation to ensure timely interventions, improved outcomes for victims, and reduced attrition in the justice process.	Must Do
<b>Workforce Development</b> Develop a shared, multi-agency training framework to promote consistent understanding, language, and practice in identifying and responding to all forms of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and VAWG.  Equip frontline practitioners and their managers with the skills and confidence to engage safely and effectively with those at-risk including understanding trauma, coercive control, and the complex dynamics of abuse.	<b>Victim-Centred Services (inc MARAC)</b> Continue to strengthen the partnership and governance for MARAC to ensure timely, multi-agency action planning that promotes partnership working, victim safety, voice, and outcomes.  Promote consistency and quality in victim support by embedding trauma-informed, person-centred practice across all commissioned and partner services.	<b>Risk Management</b> Enhance multi-agency risk management partnership working and processes (e.g. MATAAC, MAPPA) to ensure proactive identification, tracking, and disruption of serial and high-harm perpetrators.  Improve the use of shared intelligence, risk assessment tools (DASH & DARA with Homicide & Suicide Timeline) and offender data to support more accurate and evidence based decision-making and targeted interventions.	Should Do
<b>Culture &amp; Systems Change</b> Co-produce a communications plan that helps deliver public facing and targeted prevention messaging to raise awareness, promote help seeking behaviour and challenge attitudes that normalise violence.  Use victim survivor voice and data-led learning to drive a public health approach prevention across strategic planning, commissioning, and policy developments.	<b>Pathways, Access &amp; Inclusion</b> Map and improve referral pathways to ensure that all victims, especially those from underrepresented or high-risk groups can access the right support at the right time.  Embed equity, accessibility, and intersectionality into service design and commissioning, with a focus on overcoming language, cultural, health, or digital barriers to support.	<b>Perpetrator Accountability</b> Expand the availability and quality of evidence-based behaviour change programmes, tailored to different levels of risk, need, and readiness to engage.  Embed accountability across the system by ensuring that those who harm are consistently challenged, monitored, and offered pathways to change without shifting responsibility onto victims.	Could Do

System Enablers: Data and Governance / Commissioning and Survivor Voice / Standards and Judiciary links

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**Darlington Domestic Abuse Local Working Group**  
**Terms of Reference**

**1. BACKGROUND**

**1.1 Most recent national guidance:**

The implementation of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) created new statutory responsibilities, particularly around support for victims in safe accommodation and the recognition of children as victims in their own right.

The aims of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are to improve the national response to Domestic Abuse by:

- Protecting and supporting victims, including children and young people
- Transforming the justice system
- Improving performance; and
- Promoting awareness.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a responsibility on Tier 1 local authorities to introduce the following:

- Appoint a local domestic abuse partnership board.
- Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the area.
- Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.
- Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning/de-commissioning decisions).
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
- Report back to central government.
- Require the Secretary of State to produce statutory guidance, having consulted the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, local authorities and such as other persons as considered appropriate.
- Require local authorities to have regard to the statutory guidance in exercising their functions.
- The Act does not place a requirement on authorities to provide domestic abuse victims with accommodation

Part 4 of the Act places a duty on local authorities to provide accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

Local authorities will need to ensure all victims of domestic abuse have access to the right support within safe accommodation when they need it. Support within safe accommodation is to be available to local and out of area victims and their children. Provision cannot include safe accommodation already in place under duties imposed under alternative legislation (the Housing Act 1996, the Homeless Act 2002 and the Homeless Reduction Act 2017).

## 1.2 Other national guidance that also relates to the domestic abuse prevention agenda:

### [Housing Act 1996](#)

Domestic abuse is explicitly addressed in the Housing Act 1996, particularly under Part VI (Allocation of Housing) and Part VII (Homelessness). The Act has evolved over time, especially with amendments introduced by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to better protect and support victims.

### [Care Act 2014](#)

The Care Act 2014 brought together social care legislation and placed a series of new duties and responsibilities on local authorities about care and support for adults.

Under **Section 42** of the Care Act 2014, local authorities have a **duty to make enquiries** if they suspect an adult:

- Has **needs for care and support**,
- Is **experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect**, and
- Is **unable to protect themselves** due to those needs

(Domestic abuse is one of the **ten types of abuse** listed in the Act, alongside physical, sexual, emotional, financial, and other forms)

### [Homeless Reduction Act 2017](#)

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) amended the Housing Act 1996 to strengthen protections and support for victims. Those who have experienced domestic abuse are considered to have priority need under homelessness legislation if they are vulnerable due to having to leave accommodation because of violence or threats likely to be carried out.

## 1.3 Local arrangements:

To fulfil our responsibility Darlington and County Durham Local authorities and partners created a local domestic abuse partnership board DASVEG (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group).

DASVEG develops a three-year plan on a page, which is regularly refreshed and the new three year plan and plan on a page for 2025 – 2028 demonstrates a strategic realignment of the DASVEG across County Durham and Darlington.

Domestic abuse remains a significant challenge nationally and locally. In County Durham and Darlington, over 20,000 incidents and crimes related to domestic abuse were recorded in 2023/24, placing local rates above the national average.

To respond effectively, the County Durham and Darlington Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) commissioned a SafeLives system review and hosted a face-to-face development session with over 20 agencies. This work has helped inform the refreshed three-year plan aligned to four key areas: prioritising prevention, supporting victims, tackling those who harm, and addressing sexual violence.

Key priorities emerging from engagement include improving Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), workforce training, safe accommodation, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) governance and expanding perpetrator interventions.

A shift to a more integrated governance model, DASVEG will be renamed to the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (VAWDASV), and aligning with national VAWG strategy.

The sexual violence agenda remains a key priority within the [Darlington Community Safety Partnership](#) and the Safe Durham Partnership plan. Three options were considered for a restructure of the DASVEG subgroups to ensure wider VAWG and sexual violence is given adequate profile and is fully represented within governance arrangements.

The new subgroup structure will consist of three groups, working to the pre-existing themes of prioritising prevention, supporting victims and tackling those who harm, but that each group will work on both domestic abuse and sexual violence as their topic areas and a partnership risk register will be produced to support governance and accountability across the multi-agency system.

All of this will reflect the system’s aims, improve efficiency, and strengthen delivery across the broader violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence system.

Darlington’s working Group should reflect the subgroup structure and remove local priorities, to demonstrate the partnership approach to the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence across County Durham and Durham.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of the Local Working Group is to develop robust actions for achieving compliance with local authority duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to:
- identify domestic abuse services available in Darlington
  - identify gaps in service provision in line with the authority’s responsibilities under the Act
  - identify potential solutions, both internal to and external from the authority, in order to adhere to service requirements
  - identify internal training provisions available to support the authority’s duties
  - identify training gaps and potential solutions from both internal and external sources
  - ensure appropriate referral processes are in place to utilise provisions currently available as well as future provisions commissioned in response to the authority’s new duties under the Act
  - ensure that there is a Darlington presence at all of VAWDASV’s Sub Groups and that feedback/updates are shared at every meeting of the Working Group

3. GOVERNANCE



#### 4. APPROACH TO WORKING UNDER A SHARED 3 YEAR STARTEGY OF VAWDASV

4.1 Members of the Local Working group shall represent Darlington on all of VAWDASV's Sub Groups and shall feedback to this meeting:

- **Prioritising Prevention** – key themes are education and early intervention; workforce development and culture and systems change.

**Membership: Abbie Kelly (Vice Chair), Martin Webster, Alison Lavender/Alisha Lynas, Amanda Hugill, Stef Hurren (OPPC).**

- **Supporting Victims** – key themes are safe accommodation and crisis response, victim-centred services (including MARAC), pathways, access and inclusion.

**Membership: Janette McMain, Rachel Watt/Steph Simpson, Alison Moffat, Hailey Tinson (OPPC), Tonya Pattison.**

- **Tackling those who cause harm** – key themes criminal justice and enforcement, risk management and perpetrator accountability.

**Membership: Chris Knox, Liane Green, Alisha Lynas.**

4.2 Working under a partnership arrangements enable Darlington to participate in and benefit from

- Joint Safer Accommodation Strategy for County Durham and Darlington
- The Health Needs Assessment

#### 5. MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL WORKING GROUP

5.1 Membership of Local Working Group:

**Lorraine Hughes** - Director of Public Health, DBC

**Christine Shields** - Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation, DBC

**Chris Knox** - Head of Community Safety, DBC

**Amanda Hugill** – Safeguarding Boards Business Manager, DBC

**Liane Green** – Detective Inspector for Safeguarding, Police

**Hailey Tinson** – Policy & Commissioning Officer, Police Crime Commissioning

**Rachel Watt/Steph Simpson** – Adult Social Care nominated representative, DBC

**Alison Lavender/Alisha Lynas** – Head of Service Childrens Services, DBC

**Tonya Pattison** - Voice of the Victim Champion, Police Crime Commissioning

**Janette McMain** - Housing Manager, Options and Lifeline, DBC

**Martin Webster** - Workforce Development Manager, DBC

**Sarah Lochrane** - Performance Coordinator, DBC

**Sharon Cable** - Commissioning Officer, Working Aged Adults, DBC

**Kimberley Icton** - Commissioning Officer Childrens, DBC

**Abbie Kelly** - Public Health Portfolio Lead, DBC

5.2 Delegation to an appropriate member of staff should be made when a member is unable to attend.



5.3 Internal or external persons may be invited to attend the meetings at the request of the Chairperson on behalf of the group to provide advice and assistance where necessary.

## **6. CHAIRPERSON and / or VICE CHAIR**

6.1 Lorraine Hughes and Chris Shields will co-chair the group. Their responsibilities include:

- Scheduling and agenda meetings and notifying members.
- Inviting specialists to attend meetings when required by the Group.
- Guiding the meeting according to the agenda and time available.
- Applying equality, fairness and diversity of all members.
- Ensuring all discussion items end with a decision, action or definite outcome.
- Review and approve the draft minutes before distribution.
- Ensure feedback from Darlington and Durham VAWDASV to the task and finish group; and
- Agree representation at all appropriate internal and external stakeholder groups.

6.2 Coordination support for the group will be provided by DBC Commissioning Officers

## **7. MINUTE TAKER**

7.1 A volunteer for minute taking is required at the beginning of each meeting.

7.2 The role of the minute taker is to:

- record action notes during the meeting.
- distribute minutes as a link within the meeting chat facility at the end of the meeting

## **8. DURATION OF MEETINGS**

8.1 Meetings shall be held on Teams bimonthly for up to 1 hour. Additional meetings may be arranged as required to facilitate completion of all tasks required under the Act within timescales.

8.2 Attendance or delegated attendance is required at all meetings to ensure effective key decision making and information sharing.

## **9. LEVEL OF INFORMATION PROTECTION**

9.1 The information and discussion topics provided by the group may be deemed at times to be sensitive.

9.2 All members are to take full responsibility for the management of the minutes and any information being circulated from the group.

## **10. AMENDMENTS**

10.1 The terms of reference shall be reviewed annually from the date of approval. They may be altered to meet the current needs of all group members or any amendment in statutory guidance.

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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
6 JANUARY 2026**

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**OUTCOME OF REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES & FUTURE COMMISSIONING PLANS**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To present to Scrutiny the outcome of a review of Day opportunities in Adult Services.

**Summary**

2. Day opportunities (also known as day services) provide a range of services and activities available to adults with an eligible social care need. They can include social, educational, practical or physical activities, as well as more specialist support such as counselling, physical therapy or help with personal care. Day opportunities meet a range of needs including older people, people with physical disabilities, people with learning disabilities and/or Autism, young adults with SEND preparing for transition to adulthood.
3. Day opportunities play a key role in promoting independence and control in people's lives and are an essential element in the Council's preventative offer. Prevention is referenced in the Council's Market Position and Commissioning Strategy (2024-27) in the tiered care continuum of care from prevention to more specialist support. Day Opportunities assists the Council to discharge its Care Act (2014) duties to "reduce, prevent and delay" the development to more acute care and support needs.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that Members: -
  - (a) Consider the outcome of the Council's review of Day Opportunities
  - (b) Note the next steps for development.

**Christine Shields**  
**Assistant Director-Performance, Transformation and Commissioning**

## Background Papers: Healthwatch Engagement Report

Sukhdev Dosanjh (Head of Service - Commissioning & Contracts): Extension 07384 459139

Council Plan	This work contributes to the priorities agreed in the Council Plan.
Addressing inequalities	There are no implications arising from this report.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Efficient and effective use of resources	Key aims with Adult Services is to deliver efficient, effective and person-centred care which supports a strength-based approach aligned to the requirements of the Care Act and includes effective use of resources,
Health and Wellbeing	This work supports the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Wards Affected	All wards.
Groups Affected	All groups.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not impact on 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

5. The purpose of this review is to consider how the Council can continue to meet assessed eligible need in the most efficient and cost-effective way that promotes independence, social inclusion and positive outcomes for individuals and carers. The aim is to put forward recommendations on future options for the delivery of day opportunity services in Darlington informed by determining:
  - (a) If the Day opportunities offer for Darlington residents meets assessed eligible needs both now and in the (forecasted) future.
  - (b) The current balance between building based and community-based services.
  - (c) The future role of in-house services in providing day opportunities.
  - (d) If commissioned Day Opps Services meet assessed eligible needs now and in the (forecasted) future.
  - (e) If we could further maximise Direct Payments or self-directed support.

(f) If other funding models could be used i.e. Individual Support Funds.

(g) Value for Money Opportunities with no future MTFP pressures.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

6. The review has indicated there are inter-connected tasks and priorities covering short and longer-term options for in-house provision, external commissioned day services; other community daytime opportunities; education and skills opportunities; training and work opportunities/supported employment; and social enterprise development opportunities.
7. The outcome of the review identified a strong case for change and the requirement for a co-produced Darlington Strategy for day opportunities which builds on Healthwatch's Engagement Project. The implementation of this strategy and associated recommendations would need to be incorporated in the Adult Services Transformation which has been accepted by the People Group.

### **Commissioned Services & In House Services**

8. One of the key areas that the Strategy would need to address is the interrelationship between any future reconfiguration of in-house services to future commissioning intentions. For example, in-house services could be reconfigured to meet complex eligible need for people with comorbidities and physical disabilities thereby offsetting the requirement for relatively more expensive out of area day opportunities.
9. The People Group's expenditure on "off contract" spot purchasing day opportunities in 24/25 was £820, 011; **£389,395** was spent on 26 placements off framework within Darlington (an average unit cost from £190 to £1,090 day per person per day) and **£430,616** was spent on 23 OOA placements (an average unit cost of £98.00 per person per day).
10. In 2024/25, a further **£102,443** was paid to two VCSE contracted providers who supported 29 people.
11. The review identified that the in-house services were operating at 80% of their capacity (i.e. Capacity 92 with an occupancy of 74). Average costs range from £95.34 per day (Community Arts Project) to £194.44 per day (Foundations).

### **Re-tendering of Day Opportunities**

12. The Day Opportunities framework must be re-tendered by 1.4.27 under procurement regulations and no further extensions are allowed. An indicative timetable requires an agreed model and specification to be completed by March 2026. Consequently, the Day Opportunities Strategy is required to be completed by this date in order to inform the new specification.

### **Building based services and Community Offer**

13. The review has recognised that the day opportunities provision is traditional and has remained unchanged, being predominantly building based. It does need to make the transition to a more flexible and person-centred model aligned with the strength-based practice and ethos in the People group. The Day Opportunities Strategy will provide the scope for determining whether the current eligible cohort is correctly placed (including exploring whether out of area placements can be returned to Darlington based provision including in-house services). A review of the community offer, as set out in the LivingWell Directory. In addition, forecasting future demand for community-based services and building based services and the appropriate pathway.

### **Next Steps for Development**

14. Several recommendations have been agreed by the People Group regarding day opportunities which will form part of the Adult Services Transformation Programme and includes the future model of day opportunities commissioned arrangements:
  - (a) The development of a day opportunities strategy to determine the level of need and inform future commissioning intentions.
  - (b) A revised service delivery model for in house services and future commissioning intentions.
  - (c) Investigate the potential to remodel the in-house day opportunity service delivery model.
  - (d) Agree and implement Commissioning and Procurement arrangements for external day opportunities services.
  - (e) Review current charging arrangements for day opportunity placements.
  - (f) Review high-cost placements in Darlington and out of area.
  - (g) Review the transport policy/strategy.
  - (h) Review the function of the Brokerage Team to support day opportunity placement arrangements.

# **The Day Care Opportunities Engagement Project**

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# Executive Summary

The Day Care Opportunities Engagement Project, a collaboration between Healthwatch Darlington (HWD) and Darlington Borough Council (DBC), sets out to improve day care services for adults in Darlington by making them more personal, meaningful, and accessible. By engaging with service users, carers, and stakeholders through surveys and focus groups, the project gathered valuable feedback to inform future improvements. The findings highlight the strengths of current services while identifying significant gaps and opportunities for development.

Participants widely praised the social benefits of day opportunities, which foster connections and combat isolation. Structured activities such as arts and crafts, cooking, and exercise programs provide enjoyment, routine, and purpose, while supportive staff are seen as key to the services' success. However, feedback also revealed challenges. Services currently cater predominantly to individuals with learning disabilities, leaving gaps for underserved groups, such as those with dementia, neurodivergence, and mental health needs. Transport barriers, limited activity diversity, and affordability issues further restrict access for many, particularly those in rural areas or requiring specialised support. Additionally, a lack of information about available services creates confusion for carers and potential users.

The recommendations focus on addressing these gaps while building on the service's strengths. Expanding creative and physical activities, increasing group outings, and introducing tailored programs for underserved groups can make services more inclusive and engaging. Addressing transport challenges and affordability will help remove key barriers to participation. Enhanced communication efforts are needed to raise awareness of available options, particularly during periods of transition, such as when young adults move from education to adult services. Finally, offering greater flexibility through extended service hours, drop-in sessions, and holiday programming will better meet the needs of carers and participants.

By prioritising accessibility, inclusivity, and participant-centred planning, this project provides a clear pathway for evolving day care services to better support the diverse needs of Darlington's community.

## Introduction

The Day Care and Accommodation with Care and Support Engagement Project is a partnership between Healthwatch Darlington (HWD) and Darlington Borough Council (DBC) Adult Social Care Team. This project aims to improve day care services and accommodation with care and support for adults in Darlington. The focus was on making services more personal and meaningful to help improve the quality of life for people with different needs and at different stages of life.

The project involved talking to and working with people who use these services, their families, and other important groups, to make sure their opinions were heard and taken into account. By looking at both national trends and the specific needs in Darlington, the project aims to help create better services that work for everyone.

## Engagement Method

The project used a step-by-step approach to gather feedback and ensure that people's views helped shape the final recommendations:

### Preparation:

Healthwatch Darlington, working with DBC, reviewed national policies and best practices, and collected data about local services and users' needs.

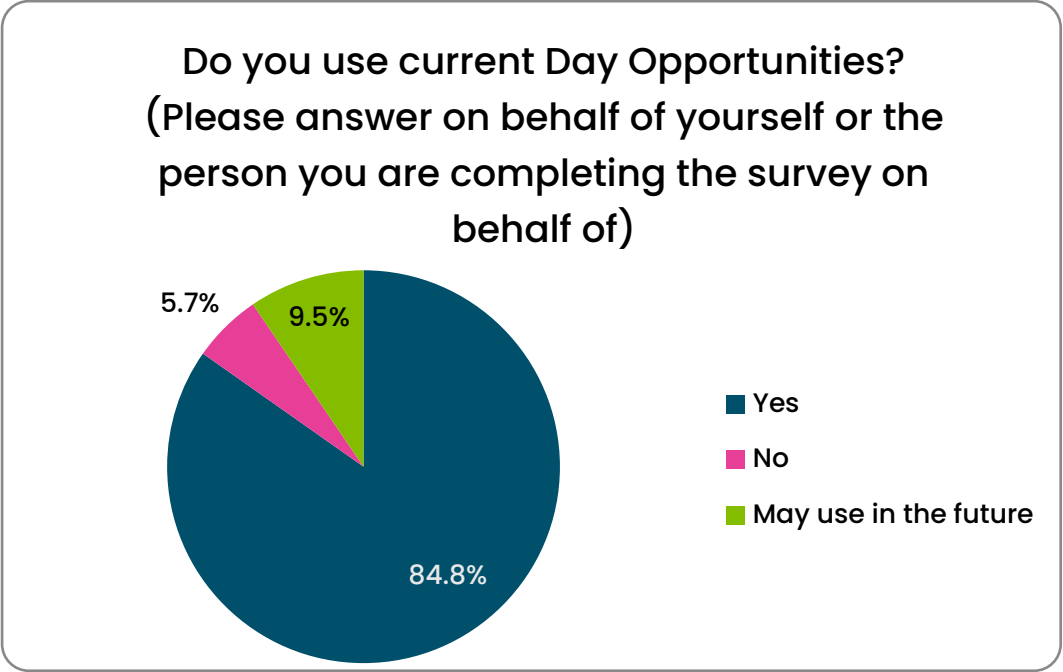
### Engagement on Day Opportunities:

- **Surveys online:** Simple and clear surveys were created for people who currently use day services, as well as for those who may need them in the future, and their carers.
- **Surveys in person:** Surveys were completed with people who currently use day services, whilst attending their day services in person.
- **Focus Groups:** Group discussions were held to hear people's thoughts on what works well with services and what needs to be improved.
- **Verbal discussion:** Healthwatch staff members chatted with Day Opportunities staff members about current services, asking about what is working well and what might help make things even better for those accessing current day opportunities.

# Feedback on services

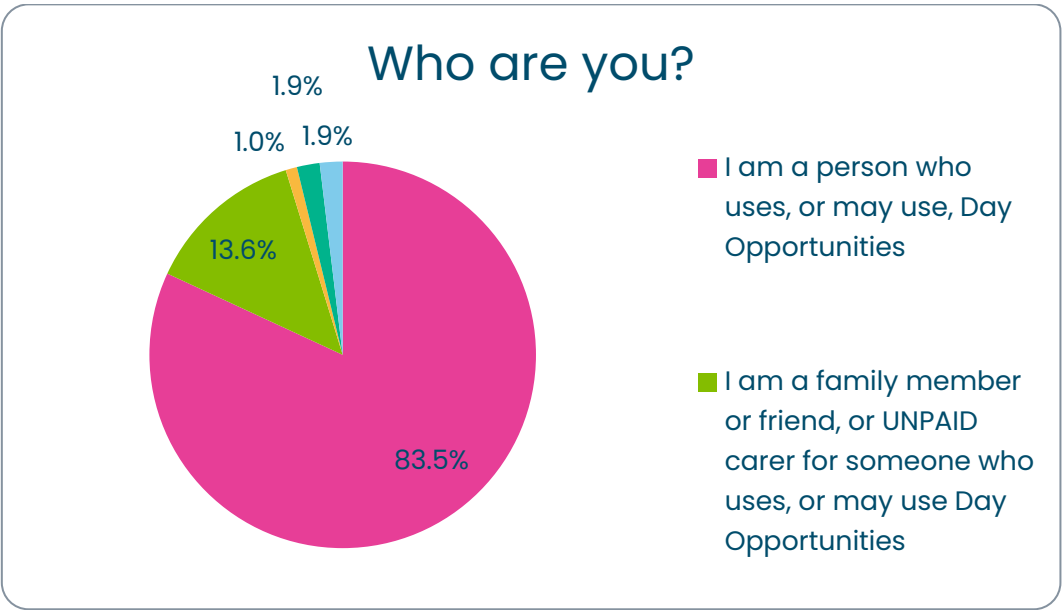
## Question 1:

105 people answered and 2 people skipped this question.



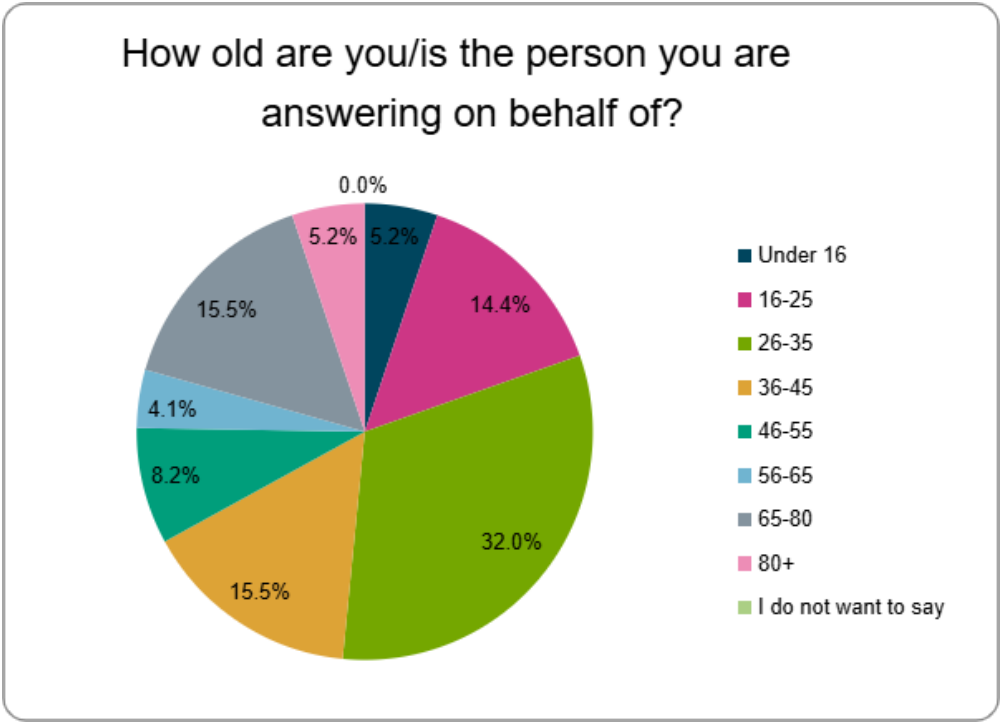
## Question 2:

103 people answered and 4 people skipped this question



**Question 3:**

97 people answered and 10 people skipped this question

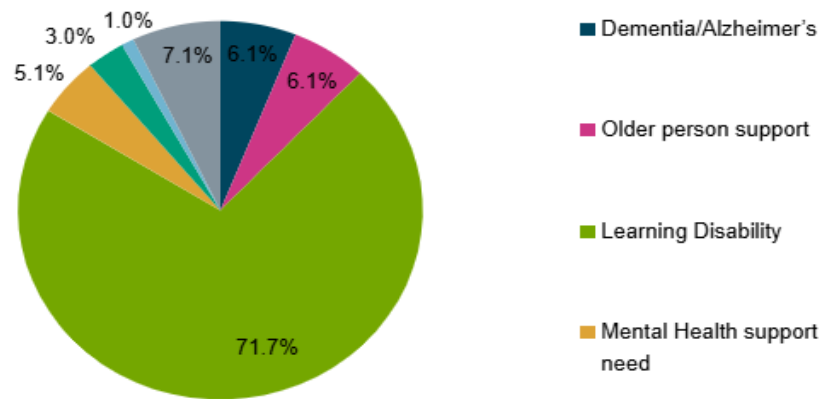


**Question 4**

99 people answered and 8 people skipped this question



What is the main need of the person using Day Opportunities, or who may use them in the future? - (Choose one)



This question asked respondents to identify the primary need of the person using or potentially using Day Opportunities. The results show a significant skew towards certain needs:

1. **Learning Disability:** 71.7% (71 responses) – This was the overwhelming majority, indicating that services for individuals with learning disabilities are the most in demand.
2. **Dementia/Alzheimer's:** 6.1% (6 responses) – A small but notable portion of respondents identified this as the main need.
3. **Older Person Support:** 6.1% (6 responses) – Equal in proportion to dementia-related needs, highlighting an aging population in need of support.
4. **Mental Health Support Need:** 5.1% (5 responses) – This group is smaller but indicates an essential area for consideration.
5. **Physical Disabilities:** 3.0% (3 responses) – Representing a small yet important category.
6. **Sensory Impairment:** 1.0% (1 response) – A minimal proportion of respondents identified this need.
7. **Other Needs:** 7.1% (7 responses) – Additional needs were outlined, highlighting the diverse challenges faced by some participants.
  - a) **Autism and Neurodiversity:** Multiple entries, including mentions of Autism, ADHD, and DCD (Developmental Coordination Disorder), reflect the need for tailored services for neurodivergent individuals.
  - b) **Emotional and Social Isolation:** One respondent highlighted the impact of loneliness and a lack of a local support network.

*"Bit lonely; family live abroad. Lost lots of friends."*

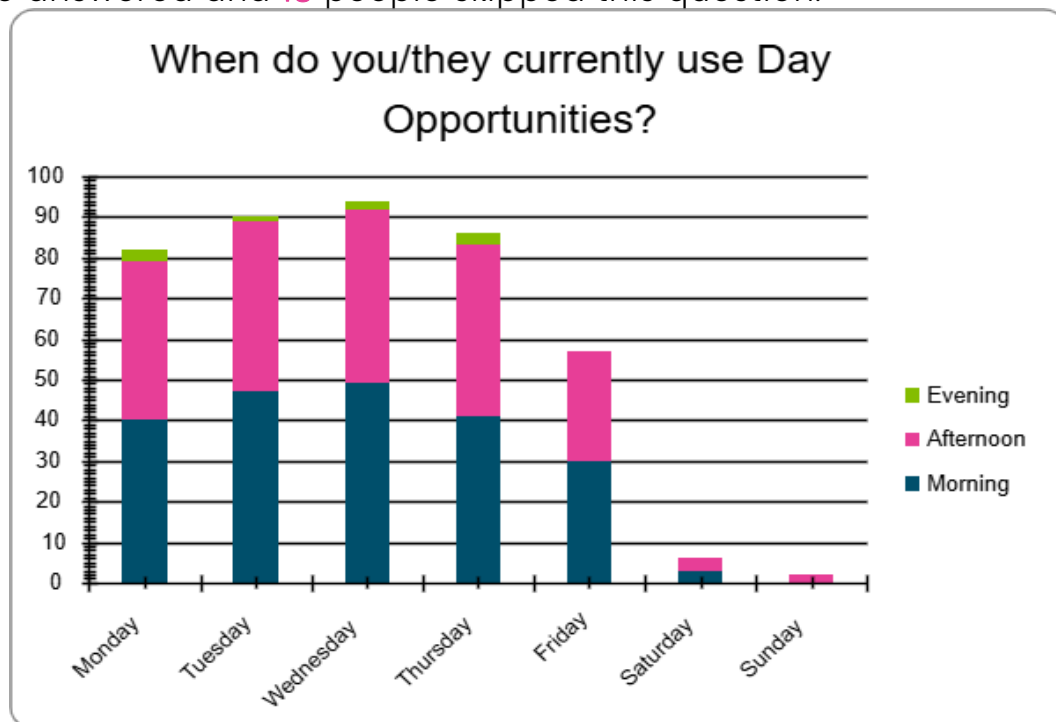
- c) **Complex Health Conditions:** A detailed entry outlined an individual with multiple physical and mental health challenges, including learning disabilities, chronic conditions, and mental health needs.

*"Diagnosed with chromosome 12 deletion... ADHD, behaviour problem, emotional problems, type two diabetes... dissociative seizures due to trauma."*

- d) **Developmental Disabilities:** Down Syndrome and related needs were noted by respondents.

## Question 5

89 people answered and 18 people skipped this question.

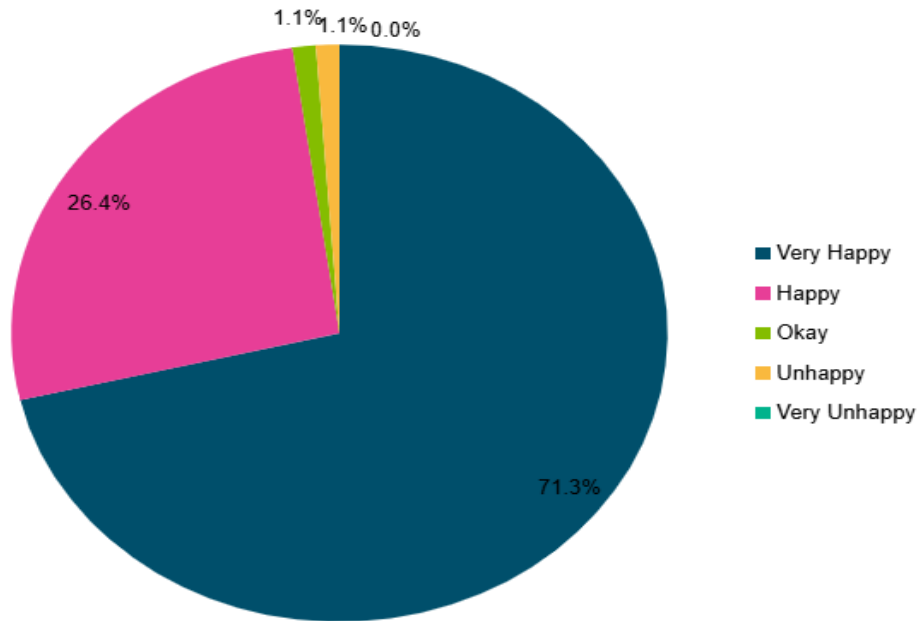


## Question 6

87 people answered and 20 people skipped this question.



### How happy are you/they with the Day Opportunities?



#### Overview

The responses provide a mix of feedback reflecting the positive aspects of Day Opportunities services, areas for improvement, and unique individual experiences. While many comments express satisfaction, there are mentions of unmet needs and logistical barriers.

#### Key Themes

##### 1. High Satisfaction with Services

Many respondents expressed happiness and appreciation for Day Opportunities services, highlighting specific aspects they enjoy:

*"Carers are so lovely."*

*"Staff are amazing."*

*"Growing things, art."*

*"Cooking sweet stuff cakes."*

*"Washing up, serving tea and coffee."*

*"I have said this because in these Day Opportunities I can do lots of activities and see my friends."*

*"Love it."*

*"Very happy."  
"I get on very well here."  
"Happier here than not being here."*

---

These comments indicate that many users find the services enriching, supportive, and enjoyable, with meaningful activities and social interaction being highly valued.

## 2. Recognition of Practical Benefits

Some comments emphasised the use of Day Opportunities for carers and service users:

---

*"Excellent service at Age UK."  
"The flexibility of Direct Payments allowed me to look at a wide range of services over a wide area."  
"Has no option about it to give carer a break – Dad."*

---

This feedback reflects how Day Opportunities provide essential relief for carers and enable service users to engage in structured activities.

## 3. Concerns and Suggestions for Improvement

While overall sentiment is positive, some respondents identified areas needing attention:

---

*"Not much variety that I know of."  
"Like to come more often but can't afford it. I'm just sat in on my own."  
"I'm unsure what the current Day Opportunities are. My youngest children will require day services post-education and full adult support."*

---

These comments suggest the need for:

- Expanded activity options to ensure diversity and inclusivity.
- Financial support or affordability programs to make services more accessible.
- Improved communication about available services to increase awareness among potential users.

## 4. Anticipation of Future Needs

Some responses reflect individuals planning for future engagement with Day Opportunities:

**The Day Care Engagement Project**





*"At present not using Day Opportunities; however, I can see that in the very near future, I will need to do so for a family member."*

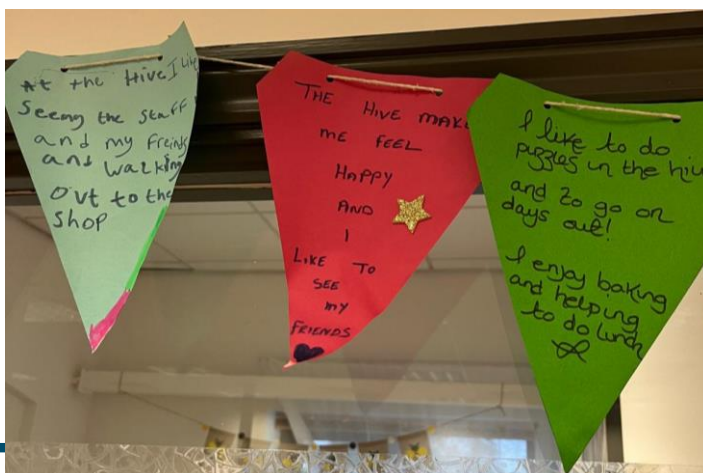
*"Currently, my husband and I are unpaid parent carers. We hope to seek employment in the future, with the knowledge that our children will have opportunities as they become adults."*

This emphasises the importance of strategic planning to ensure services are ready to meet the future needs of diverse populations.

### Question 7 – What do you/they like best about Day Opportunities?

78 people answered and 29 people skipped this question

The following word cloud provides a visual representation of the most common themes and words mentioned in responses about Day Opportunities services:





## 1. Social Interaction and Friendships

- Words like *"friends," "Seeing," "people," "Meeting," "others,"* and *"socialising"* dominate the cloud.
- **Insight:** Social interaction is a critical benefit of Day Opportunities, with many participants emphasising the importance of building and maintaining friendships and spending time with others.

## 2. Engaging Activities

- Prominent mentions of *"activities," "art," "crafts," "maths," "drawing," "colouring,"* and *"music."*
- **Insight:** Creative and stimulating activities are highly valued, suggesting these programs help participants stay engaged and develop skills or hobbies.

### 3. Enjoyment and Positivity

- Words like *"fun," "amazing," "like," "enjoy," "nice,"* and *"happy"* highlight the joy and satisfaction participants derive from these services.
- **Insight:** Participants perceive the services as positive and enriching experiences.

## 4. Staff Support

- The word "**staff**" appears prominently, often associated with words like "**amazing**" and "**kind.**"
- **Insight:** Staff members are seen as a cornerstone of these services, providing essential support and contributing to the overall happiness of participants.

## 5. Opportunities for Growth



- Words such as "*learning*," "*skills*," "*develop*," and "*opportunities*" emphasise personal development and acquiring new skills.
- **Insight:** Participants value the chance to grow and engage in meaningful activities that enhance their lives.

## 6. Daily Routine and Structure

- Terms like "*day*," "*busy*," and "*working*" suggest the importance of structure in participants' daily lives.
- **Insight:** Day Opportunities provide a sense of purpose and routine, which may be particularly beneficial for individuals who thrive on stability.

## Question 8: What activities do you/they like to do during Day Opportunities?

83 people answered and 24 people skipped this question

The responses reveal a wide range of activities enjoyed by individuals accessing Day Opportunities provided by the local authority:

### Key Themes and Insights

#### 1. Social Activities

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Chatting, socialising, working with friends, helping others, and waiting.*
- **Insight:** Social interaction is a major appeal of Day Opportunities, with participants enjoying both structured and informal opportunities to connect with peers.

#### 2. Creative Activities

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Arts and crafts, drawing, painting, colouring, knitting, and poetry.*
- **Insight:** Creative outlets are highly valued, providing participants with ways to express themselves and develop artistic skills.

#### 3. Music and Performing Arts

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Guitar playing, singing, dancing, karaoke, and drumming.*
- **Insight:** Music and performing arts are popular choices that provide joy and entertainment, while also supporting confidence-building and social bonding.

#### 4. Cooking and Food Preparation

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Baking, cooking, making sandwiches, serving food and drinks, waiting, and learning recipes.*
- **Insight:** Activities related to food are both enjoyable and practical, offering opportunities to learn life skills while engaging in fun and rewarding tasks.

#### 5. Physical and Outdoor Activities

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Swimming, bowling, gardening, walking, trampolining, basketball, and gym activities.*



- **Insight:** Physical activities are important for both health and enjoyment. Gardening and animal care were also highlighted as fulfilling outdoor pursuits.

## 6. Skill Development and Independence

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Life skills (ironing, shopping, communication), computing, learning BSL, practicing independence, and helping others.*
- **Insight:** Many participants value opportunities to develop practical skills that contribute to their personal growth and independence.

## 7. Mental and Emotional Wellbeing

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Meditation, mental health support, relaxing activities, inspirational quotes, and sensory stories.*
- **Insight:** Activities that promote mental and emotional wellbeing are important to participants, highlighting the need for spaces to relax and focus on self-care.

## 8. Hobbies and Recreation

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Quizzes, jigsaws, games, word searches, and sports.*
- **Insight:** Recreational activities provide entertainment and help participants unwind while engaging in stimulating tasks.

## Activity Categories Breakdown

Category	Example Activities	Frequency
<b>Creative</b>	Arts and crafts, painting, poetry, drawing, knitting	Very Common
<b>Social</b>	Chatting, socialising, working with friends, waiting	Very Common
<b>Music and Performance</b>	Singing, dancing, music sessions, karaoke, drumming	Common
<b>Cooking and Food</b>	Baking, cooking, serving, shopping, food preparation	Common
<b>Physical and Outdoor</b>	Swimming, bowling, gardening, walking, sports	Common
<b>Skill Development</b>	Life skills, computing, BSL, communication, independence	Fairly Common
<b>Mental Wellbeing</b>	Meditation, mental health support, relaxing activities	Moderate
<b>Hobbies and Recreation</b>	Games, quizzes, jigsaws, word searches, sports	Moderate





# The Day Care Engagement Project



## Question 9: Is there anything we can do to make the current Day Opportunities better for you/them?

48 people answered and 59 people skipped this question

### Key Themes and Insights

#### 1. Overall Satisfaction

- **Frequent Mentions:** *No issues, happy as it is, satisfied with the service, 10/10 service.*
- **Insight:** A significant number of participants and caregivers are content with the current Day Opportunities, appreciating the friendliness of staff and quality of activities.

#### 2. Flexibility in Services

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Drop-in opportunities for those with anxiety, flexibility in attendance requirements, one-to-one support.*
- **Insight:** A more flexible approach to attendance, scheduling, and support could better accommodate individuals with specific needs, such as anxiety or varying abilities to commit to sessions.

#### 3. Support for Independence

- **Frequent Mentions:** *More independence, personal care skills, ongoing learning opportunities equivalent to employment hours.*
- **Insight:** There's a desire for structured programs that support skill development for independence and personal care, especially for young adults transitioning to adulthood.

#### 4. Enhanced Activities

- **Frequent Mentions:** *More gardening, singing and dancing, toy making, baking, woodwork, overnight trips.*
- **Insight:** Participants would like to see an expansion of current activities to include more creative, physical, and experiential options, including full-day trips and overnight stays.

#### 5. Improved Resources and Funding

- **Frequent Mentions:** *More funding, access to equipment, transport support.*
- **Insight:** Resource limitations are recognised as a barrier to further improving services, with calls for better funding, access to specialised equipment, and assistance with transport to activities.

## 6. Specialised Support

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Peer support for people with dementia, availability of vetted carers, properly trained staff, and professional chats.*
- **Insight:** There's a need for targeted support for specific groups, such as dementia patients, caregivers, and those requiring professional emotional support or counselling.

## 7. Physical and Facility Improvements

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Better Wi-Fi, bigger kitchen, more computers, finishing projects.*
- **Insight:** Improvements in physical infrastructure and technology could enhance the quality of activities and services offered.

## 8. Transport and Accessibility

- **Frequent Mentions:** *Help with transport to activities.*
- **Insight:** Transport remains a key issue for participants, with many requiring support to access Day Opportunities.

## Activity Categories Breakdown

Category	Suggestions	Frequency
Flexibility	Drop-in sessions, reduced attendance commitments	Fairly Common
Skill Development	Life skills, independence training, personal care skills	Common
Expanded Activities	Gardening, woodwork, baking, overnight trips	Common
Resources	More funding, equipment, transport	Common
Specialised Support	Dementia peer support, vetted carers, professional chats	Moderate
Facility Improvements	Wi-Fi, larger kitchen, more computers	Moderate
Transport	Assistance to attend activities	Moderate





## Question 10

55 people answered and 52 people skipped this question

What would make Day Opportunities even better?

- more awareness <sup>or what day services are</sup> better understanding
- understanding what you are paying
- Fitting around the support already in place
- Person Centered

Are there any problems with Day Opportunities now?

You don't know what you are paying for

What things do you most enjoy doing?

Keeping fit.  
Seeing friends  
Get out of Darlington  
pet care  
Day trips  
Holidays

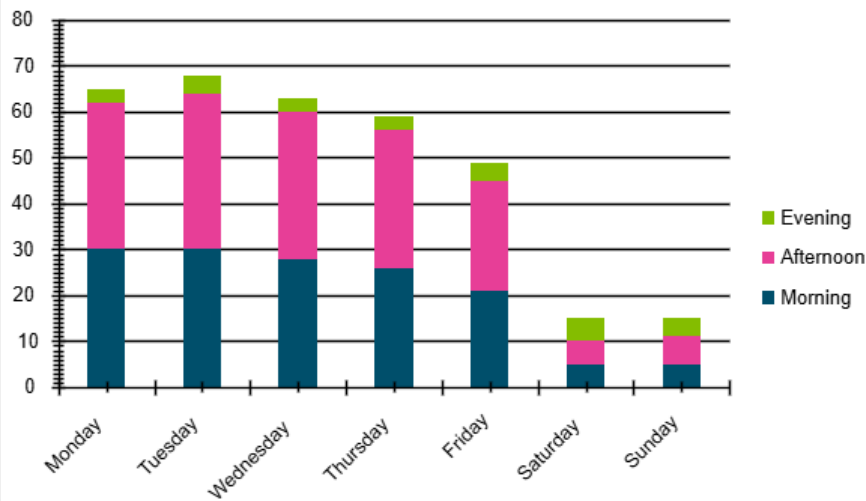
Are there any new things you would like to do or learn?

Drive  
College  
Catering course for everyone  
Fly in an airplane





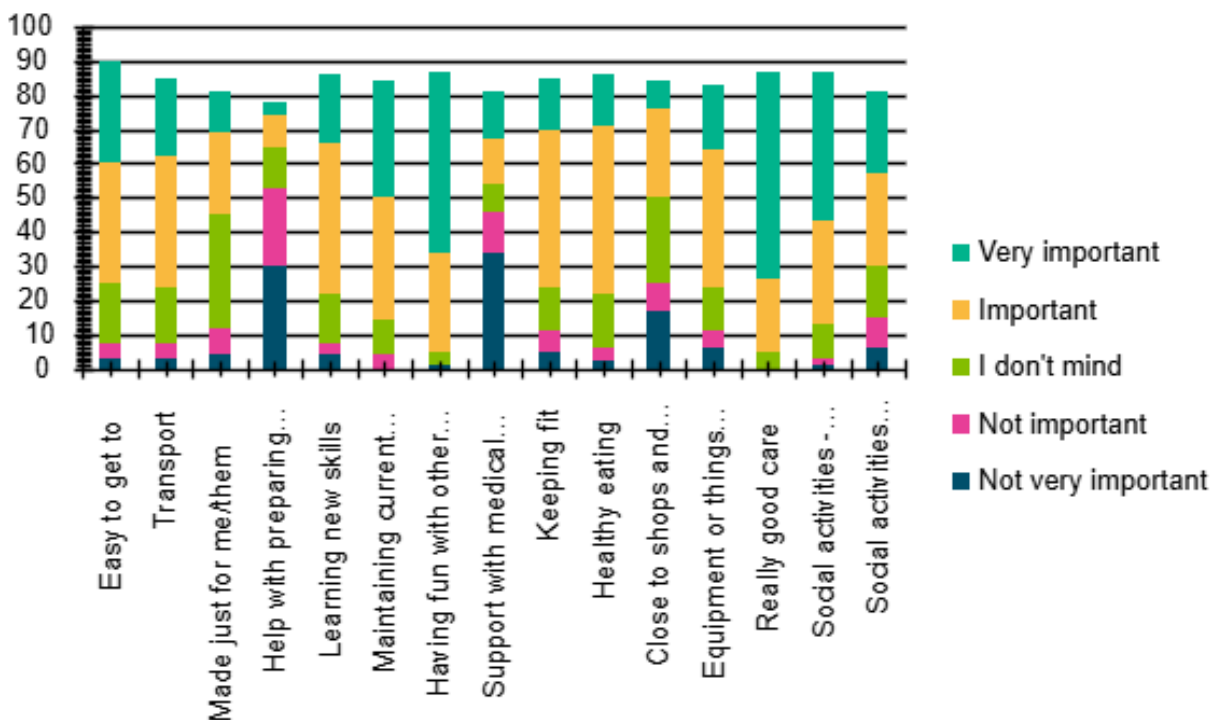
### When would you/they like to use Day Opportunities in the future?



### Question 11

95 people answered and 12 people skipped this question

### How important are these things for the Day Opportunity you/they use?



## Top Priorities

### A. Social Connection and Fun

Many participants value social opportunities such as *pub outings, cinemas, football matches*, and group activities (e.g., acting, dancing, Gateway club). Specific interests include *Gary Barlow, Take That, horror films*, and *playing football*. Social settings like *cafés and restaurants* are frequently mentioned, highlighting the importance of casual and accessible group environments.

**Implication:** Social interaction is not only about group activities but also about creating opportunities for shared interests, tailored to individual and group preferences.

### B. Accessibility

Accessibility is achieved through *mobility cars, buses, taxis, and personal vehicles*.

The need for *proximity to shops* for specific dietary requirements (e.g., gluten-free) and food availability during activities was highlighted. Some participants rely on family members, support workers, or their own resources to attend activities. Locations like *Gateway clubs* and *local venues* are frequently noted.

**Implication:** While some participants have their own transport, others depend on support, so ensuring accessible venues and reliable transportation is essential.

### C. Outings and Experiences

Many participants enjoy activities like *bowling, gym visits, going to football matches, and day trips*. Specific mentions of *theatre, horror films, and Baileys at the pub* show the diversity in preferences. Several comments reflect the joy participants feel from these outings, e.g., "I really enjoy the outings," "Enjoy days out."

**Implication:** Offering a variety of outings, aligned with participants' preferences, fosters engagement and satisfaction.

## Moderate Priorities

### A. Health and Fitness

Activities like *gym visits* and *football* are mentioned, showing interest in physical activities. Comments about *salad preparation* suggest that healthy

eating initiatives are valued in interactive settings. A few participants highlighted challenges, such as disliking staff changes at gyms or physical limitations, which can hinder participation.

**Implication:** Fitness and health activities should be tailored to individuals' physical abilities and preferences, with minimal disruption from staffing changes.

## B. Skill Development

Activities like *cooking (salad preparation), acting, and dancing* show interest in skill-building programs. A parent's comment about their son maintaining a full life after school highlights the importance of continuity in skill-building and personal development.

**Implication:** Programs should aim to equip participants with life skills while also fostering long-term personal growth and independence.

## Lower Priorities

### A. Preparing for Work

Parents of younger participants or those with severe disabilities noted that employment-focused programs are not always applicable. However, some comments highlight the desire for continuity in skills that could translate to meaningful engagement in adulthood, e.g., "I would like for when he leaves school...to have a full life."

**Implication:** While employment preparation may not suit all participants, programs could focus on fostering independence and meaningful engagement for those with different capabilities.

### B. Proximity to Shops

Proximity to shops is vital for those needing food alternatives (e.g., gluten-free) or when food is unavailable during activities.

**Implication:** Ensure venues close to shops or provide food options that cater to dietary restrictions.

## Additional Insights from Comments

### 1. Stability and Familiarity

Comments like **"don't like staff changes"** and **"friends on a Monday"** suggest that participants value routine and stable relationships with staff and peers.

## 2. Personalisation and Inclusion

Specific mentions like **"Gary Barlow," "radio station back,"** and **"football with my cousin"** reflect the importance of tailoring activities to individual interests. Comments like **"10/10 staff"** and **"incredible"** indicate strong satisfaction with existing services, reinforcing the need to maintain high standards.

## 3. Accessibility Challenges

Comments like **"Had to put don't mind...due to severity of my daughter's disability"** and **"find it difficult"** highlight that accessibility is not only about transport but also about ensuring activities are inclusive for all levels of ability.

## Question 12 : "What things do you/they like doing that makes you/them have a good day?"

77 people answered and 30 people skipped this questions

The feedback provided indicates a wide range of activities and experiences that contribute to a positive day for the participants. The responses reflect the importance of social interaction, physical activity, creative expression, routine, and personal preferences in shaping a fulfilling day.

### 1. Social Interaction and Relationships

#### Key Activities:

Comments like **"Seeing friends"** and **"Having fun with my friends"** highlight the importance of companionship. The value of familiar faces and meaningful interactions, such as *having fun and laughing with people who care or talking to people about worries*, was also emphasised.

**Implications:** Socialising with familiar people, making new friends, and creating a sense of community are crucial to participants' emotional well-being. The feedback suggests that ensuring opportunities for group activities and friendly, supportive environments should be a priority.

### 2. Physical Activity and Exercise

#### Key Activities:

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Comments like "Go on a walk," "Swimming with support," and "Karate Monday/Friday" suggest that physical activities are highly valued. Many participants mention activities that provide both physical exercise and social interaction, such as *group exercise classes* and *sports* like *football*.

**Implications:** Physical activities contribute to participants' sense of well-being and are important for maintaining both physical and mental health. Providing regular opportunities for exercise and movement, especially those that can be done in a group or with support, should be encouraged.

### 3. Creative and Sensory Activities

#### Key Activities:

Several comments highlighted creative pursuits, such as *painting*, *art groups*, *making sticky pictures*, and *singing/dancing*. Sensory activities also feature prominently, including *sensory items*, *sensory play*, and *music therapy*. Engaging with sensory experiences, such as *water play*, *cooking*, and *playing with textures*, was noted as enjoyable for some participants.

**Implications:** Creative expression through art, music, and crafts is a key element of positive engagement. Providing opportunities for participants to express themselves creatively and experience sensory activities can enhance their quality of life and emotional health.

### 4. Structured and Routine Activities

#### Key Activities:

Comments such as "Routine, knowing what's going to happen" and "The activities on offer and the structure to the day" reflect the importance of a predictable and organised schedule. Many participants value having a set routine, which gives them a sense of security and reduces anxiety.

5. **Implications:** A well-structured day that includes planned activities is crucial for many participants. Ensuring that programs are predictable and consistent can help participants feel safe and supported.

### 6. Relaxation and Leisure

#### Key Activities:

Activities like *watching TV* (e.g., *James Bond*, *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Mr. Bean*), *relaxing music*, and *having a cup of tea/coffee* suggest that relaxation is essential to participants' well-being.

For some, taking time for relaxation and enjoying quiet activities, like *reading magazines* or *playing games* (e.g., *dominos*, *bingo*), is a way to unwind.



**Implications:** Leisure and downtime activities, such as watching TV, listening to music, or simply having a cup of tea, are vital for relaxation and emotional recovery. Incorporating these opportunities into programs can support overall well-being.

## 7. Food and Cooking

### Key Activities:

Some participants enjoy activities related to food, such as *food prep, making a brew*, and *eating lunch* with others. There are also mentions of *baking* and *cooking*. Specific preferences for certain foods or activities, such as *enjoying a hot chocolate* or *eating at the pub*, were noted.

**Implications:** Food-related activities, whether cooking or eating with others, are important social and sensory experiences. Programs could focus on providing opportunities for participants to engage in food-related activities, promoting both social interaction and independent living skills.

## 8. Personal Interests and Hobbies

### Key Activities:

Participants mentioned interests such as *sports (football, karate, and swimming)*, *gardening*, *watching movies (e.g., James Bond, Strictly Come Dancing)*, and *photography*. Personalised activities such as *writing poems*, *watching washing machines in the launderette*, and *correcting TV shows* reflect the individuality of some participants' interests.

**Implications:** Providing opportunities for participants to engage in their personal hobbies and interests helps promote individual choice and satisfaction. Tailoring activities to personal preferences can enhance engagement and foster a sense of accomplishment.

## 9. Well-being and Emotional Support

### Key Activities:

Many participants emphasise the importance of feeling accepted and valued, mentioning *positivity, praise*, and *being liked*. The need for emotional support is reflected in comments about being around people who understand specific needs or worries.

**Implications:** Emotional well-being is fundamental to having a good day. Ensuring a supportive environment where participants feel accepted, valued, and understood is crucial. Positive reinforcement and attention to emotional needs will enhance the quality of participants' experiences.



## Question 13 "Are there any new things you/they would like to do?"

49 people answered and 58 people skipped this question

### 1. Interest in Creative and Craft Activities

#### Key Activities:

Some participants expressed an interest in exploring new creative pursuits such as *pottery* or revisiting old hobbies like *woodwork*. Craft-related activities such as *crochet* and *art and craft* were also mentioned.

**Implications:** Providing opportunities to engage in hands-on, creative activities could meet participants' interests in exploring their artistic sides. Activities like pottery or woodworking could also support skill-building and self-expression.

### 2. Desire for Physical and Fitness Activities

#### Key Activities:

Many participants expressed interest in physical activities, ranging from general fitness classes to specific activities like *trampolining* and *horse riding*.

**Implications:** Expanding the variety of physical activities offered can help participants explore new ways to stay active and healthy. Including both structured classes and casual opportunities could cater to different levels of interest and ability.

### 3. Interest in Social and Group Experiences

#### Key Activities:

Participants highlighted the importance of social experiences, such as *meeting new people*, *going out with friends*, or participating in group-based activities.

Group trips, such as *beach trips* or *museum trips*, were also suggested.

**Implications:** Organising outings and group activities can provide participants with enriching social experiences and opportunities to build friendships.

### 4. Exploration of New Skills and Learning Opportunities

#### Key Activities:

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Some participants expressed an interest in acquiring new skills, such as *learning to drive, learning a language, or trying a musical instrument* like the violin. Practical life skills like *meal preparation and self-care* were also mentioned as areas of interest.

**Implications:** Offering skill-development programs that focus on practical, creative, and personal growth could be highly beneficial. This could also support participants in achieving greater independence.

## 5. Desire for Trips, Outings, and New Environments

### Key Activities:

Suggestions like *trips out to new places* or *exploring different environments (e.g., farms or allotments)* indicate a desire to expand horizons and experience new settings.

**Implications:** Organising day trips or outings to varied locations can provide new experiences and foster a sense of adventure.

## 6. Individualised and Unique Interests

Key activities included *people watching, ninja warrior* (possibly a creative or cultural interest), *becoming a YouTuber, watching the washing machines at the laundrette*. These responses highlight the unique preferences of some participants, reflecting highly individualised interests.

**Implications:** Tailoring activities to align with unique and niche interests could enhance engagement and allow for personalised experiences.

## 7. Contentment and Preference for Routine

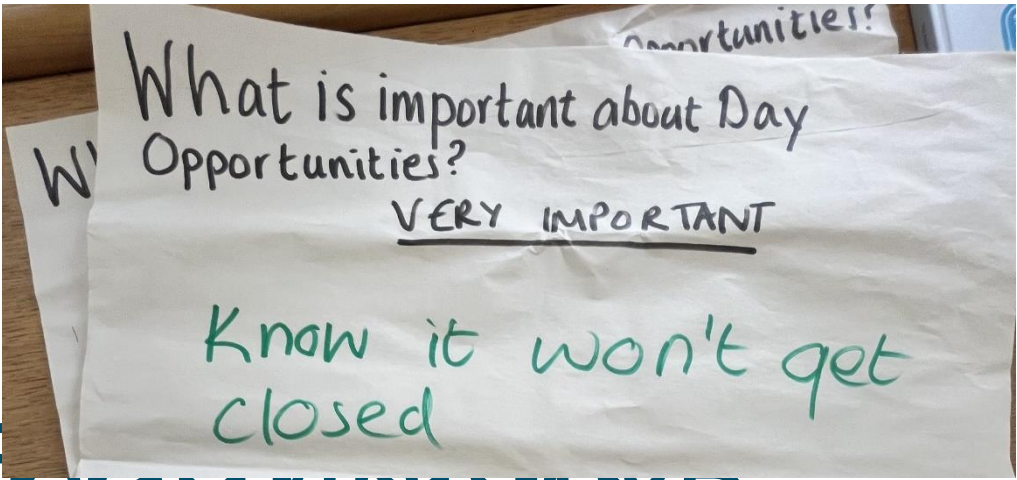
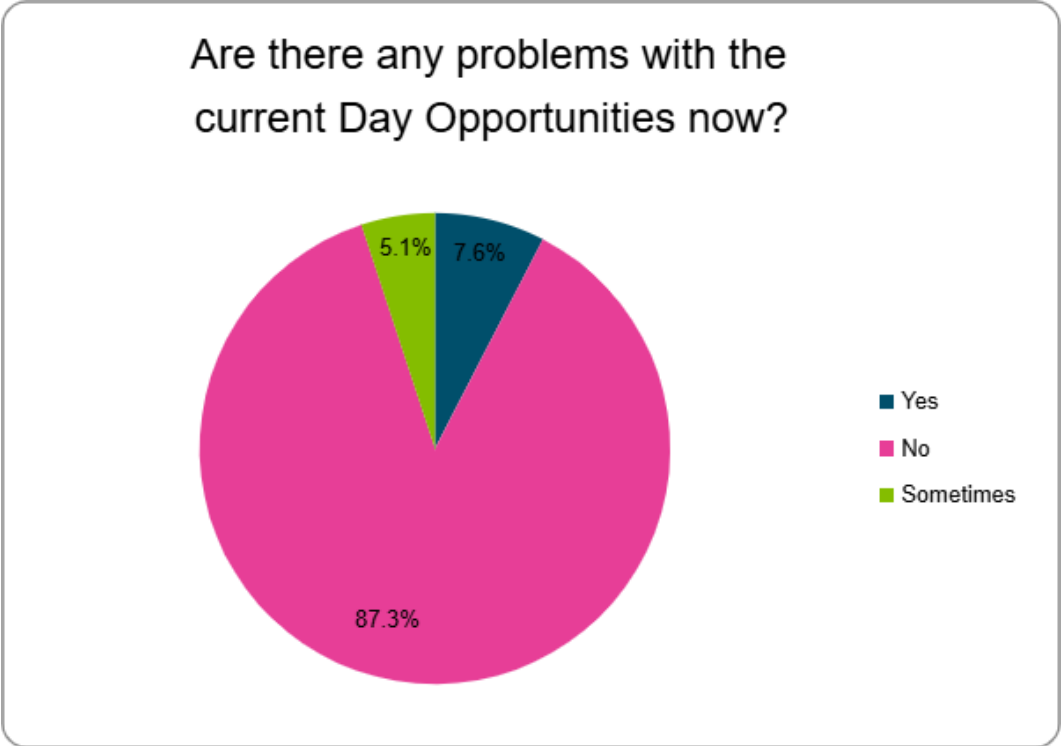
A significant number of participants expressed contentment with their current activities and routines, indicating that they do not feel the need for new experiences at this time.

**Implications:** Maintaining consistency and ensuring that current programs are fulfilling and well-structured is just as important as introducing new opportunities. Participants who prefer routine may benefit from gradual changes rather than sudden new additions.



**Question 14: "Are there any problems with the current Day Opportunities now?"**

79 people answered and 28 people skipped this questions



## Comments included:

### 1. Transport and Accessibility Issues

**Key Feedback:** Participants highlighted difficulties with transportation, particularly for wheelchair users and those reliant on accessible vehicles or buses.

---

*"Transporting wheelchair users as we have few drivers to drive their cars,"  
"currently no bus so struggle getting into the car."*

---

**Implications:** Limited transport options significantly impact individuals' ability to access day opportunities, especially for those with mobility challenges.

### 2. Limited Opportunities for Specific Groups

**Key Feedback:** Some participants feel that current offerings do not cater adequately to individuals living with dementia, leaving this group underserved.

---

*"Not enough for people living well with dementia,"  
"very few opportunities for those living well with dementia."*

---

**Implications:** Expanding programs and services tailored to people living with dementia can provide meaningful engagement for this demographic.

### 3. Staffing and Resource Constraints

**Key Feedback:** Limited staff availability and lack of resources like Wi-Fi and printers were noted as barriers to enhancing the quality of day opportunities.

---

*"Would benefit from more 1-to-1 – not enough staff at the moment."  
"No Wi-Fi, printer at stage."*

---

**Implications:** Resource and staffing constraints may reduce the ability to provide personalised support and limit access to digital or administrative tools.

#### 4. Social and Emotional Challenges

**Key Feedback:** Emotional well-being and interpersonal dynamics within groups can negatively affect participants' experiences.

---

*"When people tell me what to do upsets me,"  
"sometimes upset – personality clashes in group."*

---

**Implications:** Supporting positive group interactions and addressing personality clashes are crucial to maintaining a welcoming and inclusive environment.

#### 5. Communication and Awareness Gaps

**Key Feedback:** Lack of clear communication about available activities and the desire for more flexible, drop-in opportunities were highlighted.

---

*"More information to be provided on exercise classes,"  
"as outlined above about more drop-in groups."*

---

**Implications:** Improving communication and providing comprehensive, easily accessible information can help participants and carers make the most of available services.

#### 6. Gaps in Services During Holidays

**Key Feedback:** Families of young people in full-time education expressed frustration about the lack of day opportunities during school holidays.

---

*"Currently unable to access anything like this from social services... it  
would be nice if there were some services for her when school is closed,  
especially in the six weeks holidays."*

---

**Implications:** Expanding holiday-specific services could help families who require additional support during these periods.

## 7. Positive Feedback

**Key Feedback:** Some participants expressed satisfaction with the current day opportunities, indicating that the program meets their needs well.

---

*"Brilliant"*

---

**Implications:** Retaining and building on successful aspects of the program is essential to maintain positive experiences.

## Question 15: "What help is most needed as the young person you care for grows up?"

23 people answered and 84 people skipped this question.

The feedback highlights key areas of concern and support needs for young people as they transition into adulthood. These responses are grouped into recurring themes, offering insights into the challenges faced by carers and young people.

### 1. Personal Care and Hygiene Support

**Key Feedback:** Support with personal care and hygiene was highlighted as a primary need for some young people.

**Implications:** Providing consistent and compassionate personal care services is essential to maintain dignity and health as individuals transition to adulthood.

### 2. Consistency and Quality of Carers

**Key Feedback:** Reliable and consistent carers who understand the individual's needs were identified as critical.

---

*"Carers that come regular and are getting better. Mostly in the evening because they want to go out sometimes in the evening."*

---

**Implications:** Ensuring continuity of care and fostering relationships with regular carers can improve young people's quality of life and confidence.

### 3. Socialisation and Building Relationships

**Key Feedback:** Socialisation was frequently mentioned, with an emphasis on forming meaningful relationships and participating in group activities.

---

*"To continue socialising, accessing life skills," "i like making new friends,"  
"good group of people."*

---

**Implications:** Opportunities for social engagement in safe and supportive environments should be prioritised to prevent isolation and foster personal growth.

### 4. Life Skills Development

**Key Feedback:** Building life skills such as communication, independence, and practical abilities was seen as vital for preparing young people for adulthood.

---

*"Gaining life skills confidence and independence in doing a variety  
amount of things in a safe environment,"  
"a range of opportunities for them to develop skills."*

---

**Implications:** Programs that teach everyday skills, like cooking, budgeting, and transportation use, can empower young people to lead more independent lives.

### 5. Transition from Education

**Key Feedback:** Several respondents expressed anxiety about the lack of opportunities and services once young people leave full-time education.

---

*"The concern will be what happens when they are no longer in  
education. What services and opportunities will there be for her then,"  
"post-college there is very little out there."*

---

**Implications:** There is a critical need to bridge the gap between education and adulthood by offering vocational training, employment support, and social programs tailored to young people with additional needs.

## 6. Access to Information and Services

**Key Feedback:** Difficulty accessing information about available support and services was noted as a barrier.

---

*"Where do you go for information. The only contact I have with social services is for reviews."*

---

**Implications:** Providing clear and accessible guidance to carers about resources and support options can alleviate stress and improve outcomes for young people.

## 7. Emotional Support and Well-Being

**Key Feedback:** Emotional support, positive interactions, and a safe, sensory-friendly environment were identified as crucial.

---

*"Love and attention,"  
"communication and high sensory needs,"  
"lovely people."*

---

**Implications:** Ensuring young people feel valued and understood can enhance their emotional well-being and overall quality of life.

## 8. Employment and Independence

**Key Feedback:** Some respondents mentioned the importance of linking young people to employment or other meaningful activities that promote independence.

---

*"Links is important for people like me – special needs,"  
"opportunities for them to develop skills."*

---

**Implications:** Collaborating with local businesses and organisations to create tailored job opportunities could provide a pathway to independence for young adults.

## 9. Positive Experiences with Current Services

**Key Feedback:** Some participants praised the existing services, particularly staff and activities, which contribute to a positive experience.

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---

*"Lovely to come along well treated staff are great,"  
"girls are fabulous (staff),"  
"fun,"  
"everything fine with me."*

---

**Implications:** Retaining and expanding these positive elements can further enhance the support provided to young people.

## **Question 16: "What help/training would you like to help you support someone who is growing up?"**

9 people answered and 98 people skipped this question.

The responses highlight specific areas where carers feel they need additional help or training to better support young people transitioning into adulthood. Key themes include:

### **1. Respite and Support for Carers**

**Key Feedback:** Carers expressed the need for respite services, especially during the evenings, to alleviate stress and give them time to recharge.

---

*"Evening help to give carer a break."*

---

**Implications:** Introducing more flexible respite care options can significantly benefit carers' mental and emotional well-being, enabling them to provide better support.

### **2. Transition Support**

**Key Feedback:** Carers highlighted a lack of guidance during key transitions, such as moving from college to daycare.

---

*"I don't need help now but at the transition stage from College to Daycare there is very little information and support to help parents/carers."*

---



**Implications:** Developing structured transition programs and better communication between services can ease the process for carers and young people.

### 3. Access to Information

**Key Feedback:** Some carers felt they lacked awareness of available resources and options for the young person in their care.

---

*"Knowing what's available, having a variety of options, them getting fulfilment."*

---

**Implications:** Providing clear, centralised information about services and opportunities can empower carers to make informed decisions.

### 4. Specialised Training

**Key Feedback:** Training in areas such as occupational therapy techniques, puberty management, communication skills, and fostering independence was requested.

---

*"OT help re breaking tasks down, managing puberty,"*

*"communication skills, how to stay safe, learning emotions, independence skills."*

---

**Implications:** Offering specialised workshops or courses in these areas can equip carers with practical strategies to better support the young person's growth and development.

### 5. Emotional and Relational Support

**Key Feedback:** One respondent emphasised the emotional aspect of providing love and attention, reflecting the importance of relationship-building alongside practical skills.

---

*"Love."*

---

**Implications:** While not a "training" need, this feedback underlines the importance of empathy and emotional connection in caregiving.



## 6. Situational Needs

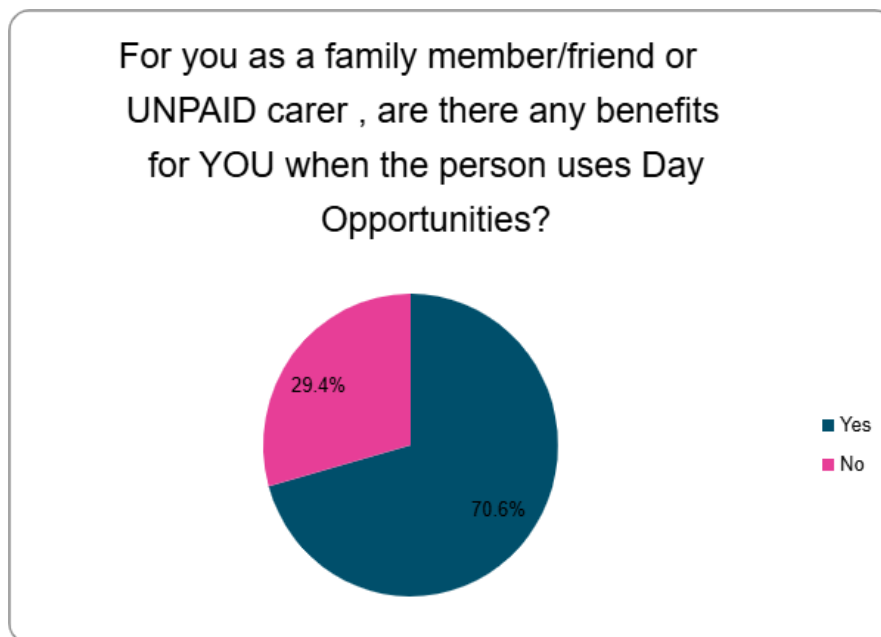
**Key Feedback:** Some carers indicated that they do not currently need additional training due to their specific circumstances.

*"My son is in supported living, I believe that the training is adequate,"  
"n/a as my children are not yet young adults."*

**Implications:** Tailoring training programs to address different caregiving situations (e.g., supported living, younger children) ensures resources are appropriately targeted.

## Question 17

17 people answered and 90 people skipped this question.



The feedback to this question highlights significant benefits for family members, friends, and unpaid carers when the individuals they support participate in Day Opportunities. These benefits are grouped into recurring themes, emphasising the value Day Opportunities bring to the broader support network.

## 1. Respite and Personal Time

**Key Feedback:** Many respondents emphasised the opportunity to take a break from caregiving responsibilities, allowing time for rest, relaxation, and personal interests.

*"Gives me a well-deserved break, time to maybe catch up on sleep and relax, a mental and physical break,"*  
*"I am able to get some down time,"*  
*"Better ability to do things I enjoy."*

---

**Implications:** Day Opportunities serve as a critical form of respite care, helping carers recharge and maintain their mental and physical health.

## 2. Practical Benefits

**Key Feedback:** Carers mentioned the practical advantages of having time to manage household responsibilities, errands, and other obligations.

---

*"Time to complete other important tasks such as life admin, shopping, other errands,"*

*"It means I have time to do things with other family members, to do the day-to-day things involved in running a house."*

---

**Implications:** By reducing the day-to-day pressures on carers, Day Opportunities help them balance their caregiving roles with other responsibilities.

## 3. Peace of Mind

**Key Feedback:** Carers appreciate the reassurance that the person they care for is safe, active, and engaged in meaningful activities.

---

*"Knowing that my son is out safely, experiencing different opportunities means I've been able to pursue a career,"*

*"Piece of mind that my son is active and engaged,"*

*"Knowing they are in a safe place."*

---

**Implications:** The structured and supervised nature of Day Opportunities reduces stress and anxiety for carers, allowing them to focus on other aspects of their lives.

#### 4. Social Inclusion and Enrichment

**Key Feedback:** Carers value the social and educational opportunities that Day Opportunities provide, which enhance the lives of those they care for.

---

*"Person is engaged in activities and with others,"*

*"Knowing that our young people are accessing a stimulating environment outside of the home,"*

*"As a parent, I want to see my son having an enriched and fulfilled life."*

---

**Implications:** Seeing their loved ones thrive in a stimulating and inclusive environment improves carers' emotional well-being and satisfaction.

#### 5. Support for the Whole Family

**Key Feedback:** Carers noted the broader impact on family dynamics, enabling them to spend time with other family members and improve overall household harmony.

---

*"Day Opportunities support the whole family,"*

*"It means I have time to do things with other family members."*

---

**Implications:** By easing caregiving demands, Day Opportunities allow carers to strengthen relationships within the family.

#### 6. Career and Independence

**Key Feedback:** For some carers, Day Opportunities provide the freedom to maintain employment or engage in independent pursuits.

---

*"This has also been my son's routine. The daily break from each other is healthy...means I've been able to pursue a career."*

---

**Implications:** The flexibility offered by Day Opportunities enables carers to sustain their careers, contributing to financial stability and personal fulfilment.

## 7. Emotional Well-Being

**Key Feedback:** Carers take emotional comfort in knowing that their loved ones are living fulfilling and meaningful lives.

---

*"Having an enriched and fulfilled life for my son would be the benefit to me,"*

*"Mum has a day where she is out and stimulated."*

---

**Implications:** The emotional relief gained from seeing loved ones thrive helps carers feel more confident and supported in their roles.

## Question 18: "What would improve Day Opportunities from your perspective as a family member, friend, or unpaid carer?"

13 people answered and 94 skipped this question.

The responses reflect a combination of practical suggestions, emotional needs, and systemic concerns, providing valuable insights into how Day Opportunities can better meet the needs of participants and their families or carers.

### 1. Accessibility and Information

**Key Feedback:** Difficulty accessing services and understanding the transition from education to adult services is a significant concern.

---

*"If they were more accessible and if information on how to access the services were more readily available,"*

*"Currently feel like you get passed from pillar to post,"*

*"Unsure what the pathway looks like post-education."*

---

**Implications:** Improving communication and providing clear, centralised information about services and pathways would alleviate stress for families and carers.

### 2. Respite and Flexibility for Carers

**Key Feedback:** Carers emphasised the need for more flexibility in service hours and additional respite options to accommodate their schedules and reduce stress.

*"Home an hour later (5 pm instead of 4 pm) would have been very helpful whilst working,"*  
*"Support the whole family."*

---

**Implications:** Extending service hours and introducing flexible care options could help carers balance caregiving with work or personal responsibilities.

### 3. Additional Services and Options

**Key Feedback:** Respondents highlighted the need for increased availability of services, such as drop-in sessions, exercise classes, and additional daycare facilities.

---

*"Drop-in sessions,"*  
*"Exercise classes as he is getting worse to keep up morale,"*  
*"More days,"*  
*"More Day Care Facilities."*

---

**Implications:** Expanding service offerings and creating new facilities or programs could address gaps in availability and ensure diverse needs are met.

### 4. Cost and Financial Burden

**Key Feedback:** The financial burden of topping up payments for services is a concern for some families.

---

*"Cost. Direct payments doesn't cover the daily rate and it has to be topped up. I'm sure for some people this would be a financial burden."*

---

**Implications:** Reviewing funding models and ensuring that direct payments adequately cover service costs can ease financial pressures on families.

### 5. Emotional and Family-Centred Support

**Key Feedback:** Respondents expressed the need for both shared activities and confidence in the safety and quality of care.

---

*"I would like to join in the activities with my son to have fun together,"*

# The Day Care Engagement Project

*"I would also like to feel comfortable to leave him somewhere safe as I do when he's at school."*

---

**Implications:** Incorporating family-inclusive activities and ensuring high standards of safety and trust can improve carers' experiences and emotional well-being.

## 6. Contingency and Sustainability

**Key Feedback:** Concerns about the lack of alternative facilities highlight a need for contingency planning and service sustainability.

---

*"If for any reason the one my children attend was to close there is nothing else suitable out there."*

---

**Implications:** Ensuring the availability of multiple facilities and programs can provide families with reliable options in case of closures or disruptions.

## Question 19: "Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your/their Day Opportunities?"

18 people answered and 89 people skipped this question.

The responses to this question offer a mix of positive feedback, personal reflections, and suggestions for improvement. Recurring themes are as follows:

### 1. Overall Satisfaction and Positive Experiences

**Key Feedback:** Many respondents expressed high levels of satisfaction, with enthusiastic praise for the service, staff, and overall experience.

---

*"Mama day opportunity is absolutely excellent,"*

*"Love it love it love it, staff are incredible,"*

*"Everything about it is good,"*

*"It's fun to attend."*

---

**Implications:** The overwhelmingly positive responses highlight that Day Opportunities are meeting the needs of participants effectively, creating a supportive and enjoyable environment.

## 2. Appreciation of Staff

**Key Feedback:** The quality and dedication of the staff were frequently praised, with many participants emphasising the positive relationships they have with staff members.

---

*"Love all the staff,"  
"I like everybody and all the staff at xxxx,"  
"Staff are incredible."*

---

**Implications:** The staff's role is central to the success of the program. Providing ongoing training and recognition will ensure staff continue to deliver high-quality support.

## 3. Social Connection and Loneliness

**Key Feedback:** One respondent highlighted feelings of loneliness and the need for someone to talk to during difficult moments.

---

*"I am a bit lonely, sometimes I get a bit upset and would like to talk to somebody."*

---

**Implications:** While the program is highly valued, addressing individual emotional and social needs could improve the experience for participants who feel isolated.

## 4. Enjoyment of Activities and Outings

**Key Feedback:** Participants enjoy the activities provided, particularly outings and group events, which are often highlighted as a highlight of the program.

---

*"I enjoy doing what I do now,"  
"I also like how we sometimes go out for day trips, which is one of my favourite things to do."*

---

**Implications:** Maintaining a variety of engaging activities, including outings, will continue to enhance participant satisfaction.



## 5. Suggestions for Improvement

**Key Feedback:** Specific suggestions included adding new activities (e.g., a pinball machine) and addressing transport challenges.

---

*"Wanted pinball machine, activity,"  
"Transport issues at the moment."*

---

**Implications:** Listening to participants' suggestions and addressing logistical issues such as transport will show responsiveness and further improve the service..

## 6. Gratitude and Acknowledgment

**Key Feedback:** Respondents expressed gratitude for the service and its positive impact on their lives.

---

*"Thank you so much to all,"  
"Really good opened this fantastic service. Relaxed."*

---

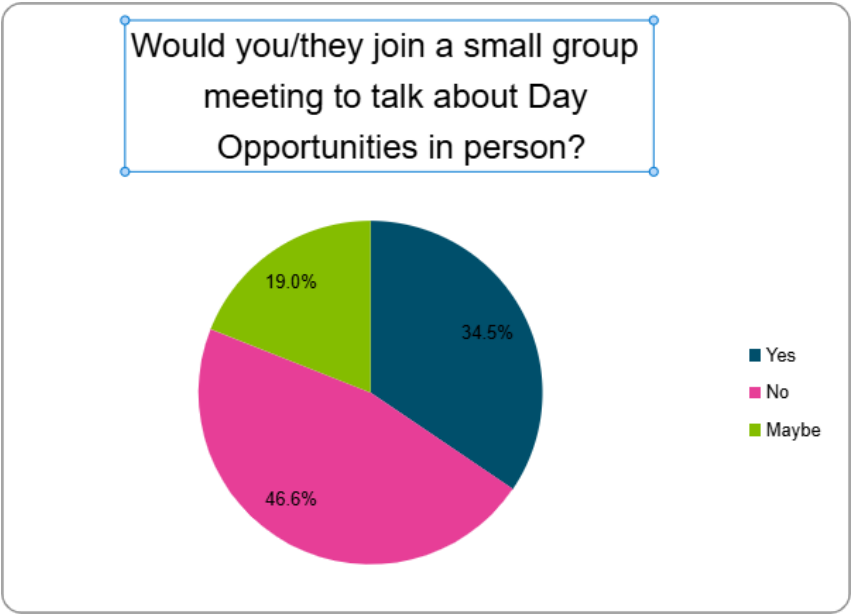
**Implications:** Regularly celebrating successes and showing appreciation for staff and participants can foster goodwill and continued satisfaction.





**Question 20**

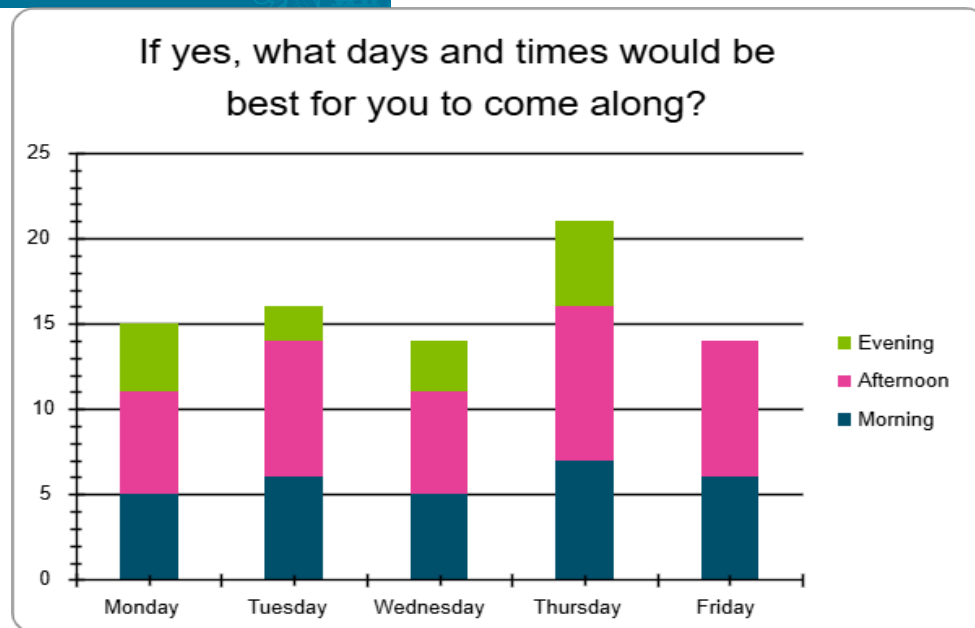
58 people answered and 49 people skipped this question



**Question 21: If yes, please give us your contact details to get in touch. (We will not share this data with Darlington Borough Council) (GDPR)**

30 people answered and 77 people skipped this question

**Question 22:**



# Conclusions

1. **High User Satisfaction:** Many participants and carers expressed appreciation for current day opportunities, valuing social interaction, supportive staff, and meaningful activities. However, feedback also highlighted unmet needs and barriers to access.
2. **Critical Needs:** Services are most in demand for individuals with learning disabilities, representing 71.7% of respondents. Other key groups include those with dementia, physical disabilities, and mental health support needs. The growing need for tailored support for neurodiverse individuals and those experiencing isolation was evident.
3. **Barriers to Participation:** Challenges include transport difficulties, affordability issues, limited activity variety, and gaps in service availability during holidays or for underserved groups. These barriers prevent full accessibility and engagement.
4. **Transportation:** Day opportunities struggled with transportation sharing. Vehicles were at times difficult to find availability for. Some of the vehicles were not fit for purpose when wheelchair transportation was required and sometimes did not have enough seats to transport full groups, meaning some people could be left out.



5. **Finance:** Many of the services would love to open up to more people but funding is often an issue. Participants would like to attend sessions on a more regular basis, but funding is often a barrier. Some participants with a learning difficulty were no longer able to attend sessions due to changes to the way their care is funded. Having a personal budget was sometimes felt to be paying for a service that used to be funded separately and therefore they felt it was free of charge to them in the past.
6. **Importance of Routine and Structure:** Many participants value predictable routines and familiar environments, while others seek opportunities to explore new activities and skills.
7. **Role of Staff:** Supportive and well-trained staff are central to the program's success, with participants frequently praising their positive interactions with staff members.

# Recommendations

## 1. Expand Activity Options:

- Introduce creative pursuits like pottery, woodworking, and music programs.
- Add more physical activities, including gym classes, team sports, and pool-based exercises.
- Provide opportunities for group outings to beaches, museums, or city landmarks.

## 2. Address Accessibility and Transport:

- Enhance transport services, including options for wheelchair users and rural participants.
- Increase funding for transport support to reduce barriers to access.

### **3. Support for Underserved Groups:**

- Develop targeted programs for neurodivergent individuals and those with dementia.
- Incorporate mental health and sensory-friendly activities.

### **4. Foster Independence and Skill Development:**

- Offer programs focusing on life skills, employment readiness, and practical abilities like cooking and budgeting.
- Provide structured support for young adults transitioning from education to day care services.

### **5. Enhance Communication and Awareness:**

- Improve outreach to raise awareness of available services, especially among carers and potential users.
- Create accessible resources that guide users through service options and transitions.

### **6. Increase Flexibility and Accessibility:**

- Introduce drop-in sessions and more flexible attendance requirements to accommodate varying needs.
- Expand service hours, particularly during holidays and evenings, to support carers and working families.

### **7. Focus on Staff Development:**

- Ensure ongoing training and adequate staffing levels to maintain high-quality care and support.
- Address gaps in one-on-one support for participants requiring additional assistance.

### **8. Build on Successes:**

- Retain and enhance well-received elements, such as engaging activities, friendly staff interactions, and social opportunities.

- Gather regular feedback to continually refine and improve services.

### **9. Prioritise Emotional Well-Being:**

- Develop programs that address loneliness, provide emotional support, and encourage positive group dynamics.

### **10. Ensure Financial Sustainability:**

- Review and adapt funding models to reduce the financial burden on participants and carers.
- Explore partnerships and grants to enhance service offerings and infrastructure.
- Look at models for making sessions more financially affordable to the wider population.
- Ensure those in charge of their own budgets, fully understand payments for Day Opportunities.

# DBC Response



# The Day Care Engagement Project



Healthwatch Darlington  
c/o Tandem Hub  
Morton Park Business Training Centre  
Morton Park Way  
Darlington  
DL1 4PJ

[www.healthwatchdarlington.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchdarlington.co.uk)  
t: 01325 380145/07525237723  
e: [info@healthwatchdarlington.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchdarlington.co.uk)  
📱 @HealthwatchDton  
📘 [Facebook.com/HealthwatchDton](https://www.facebook.com/HealthwatchDton)

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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**28 October 2025**

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**WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2025/26 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

**Summary**

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the Municipal Year, which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and discussions held at the Adults Scrutiny Committee Annual Briefing which took place on 23 May 2025.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

**Recommendations**

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

**Amy Wennington**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Background Papers**

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

Author: James McAllister

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 Living Well – a healthier and better quality of life for longer, supporting those who need it most, and Communities - working together for safer, healthier and more engaged communities.
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.
7. The Council Plan was adopted on 18 July 2024, and outlines Darlington Borough Council's long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities for action over the next three years. It gives strategic direction to the Council and Council services, defining priorities, identifying key actions, and shaping delivery.
8. The Council Plan identifies six priorities, one of which is 'Living Well', which states that more years in good health leads to more fulfilling lives, and a better standard of living, however the Plan highlights that there are inequalities in Darlington across all stages of life which are influenced by broader social factors including education, employment, housing and income. Seven key deliverables are identified as part of this priority.
9. The Council believes that all residents should have the opportunity to live longer, healthier lives, and wants to support residents of every age to live well. The Council has committed to improving our contact with carers and working to create a network of support for better health and wellbeing outcomes. The Council will support those who need it most and signpost for access to other provision and support, where appropriate.

### **Forward Plan and Additional Items**

10. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a Quad of Aims.
11. A copy of the index of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

### **Climate Considerations**

12. Pursuant to Minute AD22/Oct/2024, any matters pertaining to climate considerations will be outlined in the individual reports submitted to Committee.

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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26**

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role / Notes
Safeguarding	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Rachel Watt / Barbara Beadle		
Assessment of Services Commissioned from Out of Area	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Sukhdev Dosanjh		
Performance Indicators End of Year Report 2024/25	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Joss Harbron / Sharon Raine / Wendy Excell	ASC 002 ASC 003 ASC 019 ASC 045 ASC 046 ASC 049 ASC 050 ASC 208 ASC 209 ASC 211	To monitor Key Performance Indicators.  To receive six-monthly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
CQC Assurance Framework Update	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Joss Habron		
Adult Social Care Budget and Outturn	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Joss Habron		
Autism Strategy and Action Plan Update	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Jo Butler ( <a href="mailto:jo.butler@inclusionnorth.org">jo.butler@inclusionnorth.org</a> ), Joss Harbron.		
Domestic Abuse Strategy - Update	6 <sup>th</sup> January	Christine Shields		
Medium Term Financial Plan	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Brett Nielsen		

Current day service provision for adults with learning disabilities in Darlington and future commissioning plans	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Joss Habron/Sukhdev Dosanjh		
Darlington Association on Disability (DAD)	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Lauren Robinson		
Performance Indicators Quarter 2 2025/2026	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Joss Harbron / Sharon Raine / Wendy Excell	ASC 002 ASC 003 ASC 019 ASC 045 ASC 046 ASC 049 ASC 050 ASC 208 ASC 209 ASC 211	To monitor Key Performance Indicators.  To receive six-monthly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary.
Care Homes in Executive Strategy Measures / Arrangements	24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Rachel Watt / Joss Harbron / Barbara Beadle		

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership - Annual Report	24th February 2026	Amanda Hugill	ASC 028 ASC 029 ASC 059 ASC 061 ASC 062 ASC 199 ASC 200 ASC 201 ASC 202 ASC 203 ASC 204 ASC 205 ASC 206 ASC 207 ASC 209 ASC 210 ASC 213 ASC 214	To consider the Annual Report on the work of the Board and to receive reassurance that adult safeguarding is being addressed and an effective approach is in place.  To be advised of the key issues for the Board and funding.
Overview by Commissioning Services on Shared Lives	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Christine Shields		
Principle Social Worker Feedback Report	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Joss Harbron / Gary Jones		
Hospital Discharges - Update	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Barbara Beadle/Sarah Appleby		

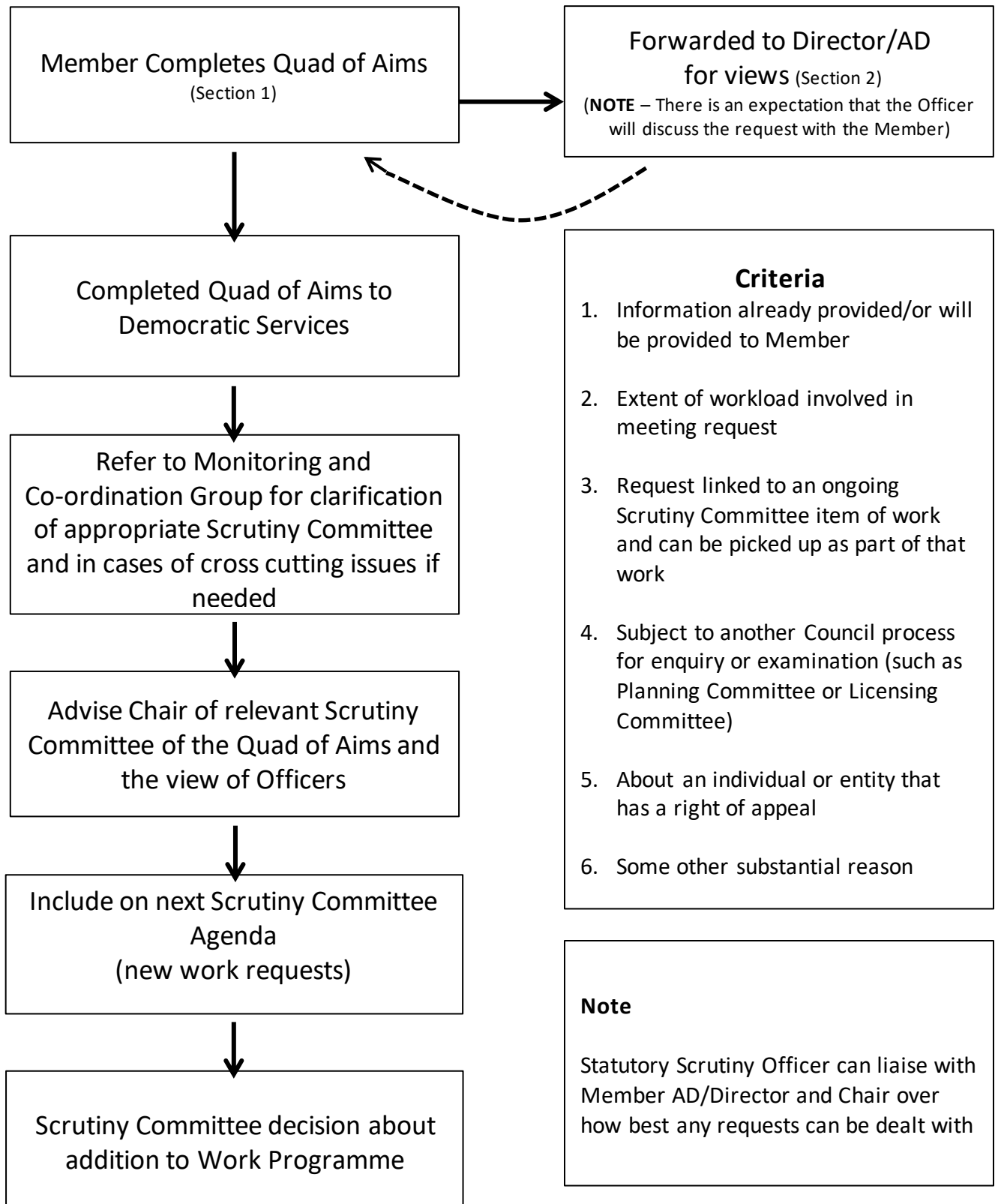
#### **Task and Finish Review Group(s)**

- **‘Loneliness and Connected Communities’ Task and Finish Review Group** – commenced Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020. **CURRENT STATUS**: Awaiting response from independent working group, and findings will be circulated to Members via a briefing.

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



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

### SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

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

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

Signed Councillor .....

Date .....

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

<div>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) ..... (b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so? .....</div> <div>2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff? .....</div> <div>3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that? .....</div> <div>4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway? .....</div> <div>5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal? .....</div> <div>6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme ? .....</div>	<div>Criteria</div> <div>1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member</div> <div>2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request</div> <div>3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work</div> <div>4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)</div> <div>5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal</div> <div>6. Some other substantial reason</div>
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**Signed** ..... **Position** ..... **Date** .....

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

**APPENDIX 3**



**FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE PERIOD: 3 NOVEMBER 2025 – 30 APRIL 2026**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Decision Maker and Date</b>
<b>Housing Revenue Account MTFP</b>	<b>Cabinet 2 Dec 2025</b>
<b>Housing Services Tenancy Policy 2025-2030</b>	<b>Cabinet 2 Dec 2025</b>
<b>Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management 2025/26</b>	<b>Cabinet 2 Dec 2025</b>
<b>MTFP for consultation</b>	<b>Cabinet 2 Dec 2025</b>
<b>Pride in Place</b>	<b>Cabinet 2 Dec 2025</b>
<b>Working Age Adults Transformation Project</b>	<b>Cabinet 2 Dec 2025</b>
<b>Climate Change Progress</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Council Plan Performance Report - Quarter 4</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Council Tax Calculation of Tax Base 2026/27</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Consultation on Victoria Embankment Conservation Area Appraisal</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Consultation on West End Conservation Area Appraisal</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Hopetown Darlington Access Statement Policy 2025-2030</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Hopetown Darlington Collections Management Framework 2025-2030</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Hopetown Darlington Forward Plan 2025-2030</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Land at Morton Palms Business Park - Proposed sale of plot</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Maintained Schools Capital Programme Summer 2025</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Release of S106 Education Capital Funds</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Schedule of Transactions</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Objections to Traffic Order – Lowson Street</b>	<b>Cabinet 6 Jan 2026</b>
<b>Biodiversity Duty Reporting</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Capital Strategy</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Land at Ingenium Parc and Morton Palms - Development Proposal</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Land at Salters Lane, Cummins - Proposed sale of plot</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>MTFP 2025/26 - Final Version Post Consultation</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Schools Admissions 2025/26</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Town Centre Regeneration and STEM Centre Development</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Feb 2026</b>
<b>Darlington Transport Plan</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Mar 2026</b>
<b>Town Centre Regeneration and East Street Development</b>	<b>Cabinet 3 Mar 2026</b>

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**