

# Council Agenda



**6.00 pm Thursday, 19 July 2018**  
**Council Chamber, Town Hall,**  
**Darlington. DL1 5QT**

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

1. Introductions / Attendance at Meeting.
2. Minutes - To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of this Council held on 10 May 2018 and 17 May 2018 (Pages 1 - 6)
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Sealing.
5. Announcements.
6. Questions - To answer questions (where any appropriate notice has been given from):-
  - (a) The Public;
  - (b) Members to Cabinet/Chairs;
  - (c) Members to the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington.
7. Council Reports.
8. Cabinet Reports.
  - (a) Overview Report of the Adult Social Care Portfolio; (Pages 7 - 10)
  - (b) Overview Report of the Children and Young People Portfolio; (Pages 11 - 16)
  - (c) Overview Report of the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio; (Pages 17 - 22)

- (d) Overview Report of the Efficiency and Resources Portfolio; (Pages 23 - 24)
- (e) Overview Report of the Housing, Health and Partnerships Portfolio; (Pages 25 - 28)
- (f) Overview Report of the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio; and (Pages 29 - 36)
- (g) Overview Report of the Leader Portfolio. (Pages 37 - 42)
- (h) Cabinet Urgent Decisions –  
Report of the Managing Director  
(Pages 43 - 46)

9. Scrutiny Reports - To consider Scrutiny Overview Reports:-

- (a) Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 47 - 48)
- (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 49 - 52)
- (c) Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee; (Pages 53 - 54)
- (d) Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee; and (Pages 55 - 58)
- (e) Place Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 59 - 62)

10. Notice of Motions

- (a) To consider a Motion to be moved by Councillor Curry, and seconded by Councillor Wallis. –

That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Council's Cabinet to:-

- (i) Look at options to end the use of unnecessary 'Single Use Plastics' within the Council; and
  - (ii) Encourage businesses; those who contract with the Council; residents; and organisations in Darlington to go 'Plastic' free to assist in reducing street litter and contribute to the global campaign against marine pollution.
- (b) To consider a Motion to be moved by Councillor Knowles, and seconded by Councillor S. Richmond. –
    - (i) That, as this Council believes that action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery (and the fact that it is happening all over the UK and that the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the Government), it agrees it has an important role to play in ensuring Darlington Borough Council's contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern slavery and exploitation.

- (ii) That this Council adopt and as far as is practicable implement the Co-operative Party's Charter (appended) against Modern Slavery to ensure Darlington Borough Council's procurement practices don't support slavery.

11. Leader of the Council –

- (a) Resignation of the Leader of the Council.
- (b) Election of Leader of the Council.

12. Membership Changes - To consider any membership changes to Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies.



**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Wednesday, 11 July 2018**

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

**Membership**

The Mayor, Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Cartwright, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Galletley, Grundy, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Kane, Kelley, Kelly, Knowles, Lawton, Lee, Lister, Lyonette, Marshall, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Nutt, Rahman, S Richmond, E A Richmond, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Storr, C Taylor, J Taylor, Tostevin, Wallis, Wright and York

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Elections Manager, Resources Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays Email: [paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:paul.dalton@darlington.gov.uk) or Telephone 01325 405805

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## ITEM NO. 2 (a)

### **COUNCIL** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**PRESENT** – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Copeland, Cossins, Coultas, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Galletley, Harker, Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Johnson, Kane, Kelley, Lawton, Lee, Lister, Lyonette, Marshall, McEwan, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Nutt, Rahman, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, Tostevin, Wallis, Wright and York. (41)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Knowles, Mills, Regan and Mrs. H. Scott. (6)

**ABSENT** – Councillors Cartwright, Grundy and Kelly. (3)

**58. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council, held on 22 March 2018.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

**59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**60. ORDER OF SEALING DOCUMENTS** – Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

**61. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – The Mayor advised Members that the meeting would be the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council attended by the Chief Executive prior to her retirement, after nearly 13 years of service to the Council.

**RESOLVED** - That the formal thanks of this Council are due, and hereby tendered, to the Chief Executive, Ms. Ada Burns, for her outstanding service to the Council during her time in post.

**62. QUESTIONS – TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN) FROM – (1) The Public** – There was one question, with notice, from a member of the public, who received an answer thereon.

**(2) Members to Cabinet/Chairs** – There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

**(3) Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington** – The Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington, had submitted his apologies for the meeting.

**63. COUNCIL REPORTS – (a) Constitutional Update** - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval of changes to the Council's Constitution with effect from 1 June 2018.

The submitted report stated that following the senior management restructure, agreed by Council in January 2018, internal restructuring and organisational change had been underway, and that amendments to the Constitution were subsequently required to address the changed roles and areas of responsibility for the Managing Director, Directors and Assistant Directors.

The submitted report stated that a number of other updates and amendments were also proposed to ensure that the Constitution remained up-to-date and fit for purpose.

**RESOLVED –** (a) That the changes to the Constitution and the Scheme of Indemnity for Members and Officers and other updates, as detailed in the Appendices to the submitted report, be approved, and take effect from 1 June 2018.

(b) That the Monitoring Officer is delegated to update the Constitution to reflect the changes identified.

**REASONS –** (a) To accommodate the organisational changes and reallocated responsibilities following the senior management restructure and consequential structural changes.

(b) To ensure that the Constitution is accurate and up-to-date.

(c) To give effect to legislative changes.

**(b) Request for an Extension of Non-Attendance – Councillor Regan** - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to enable Members to consider an application on behalf of Councillor Regan for an extension to the six-month period of his non-attendance at meetings, due to ill health.

The submitted report outlined that Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a Member of a Local Authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his or her last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he or she shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of that authority.

It was reported that Councillor Regan had not attended any Council or Committee meetings since 13 December 2017, and consequently would cease to be a Member of the Council on 12 June 2018, unless the Council approves the reason for the failure to attend before that date.

**RESOLVED** – That an extension of six months be agreed, with a further review at that time.

**REASON** – To ensure compliance with a request from a Member under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**64. CABINET REPORTS – (a) Overview Reports of Cabinet Members** – The Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings. Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

**(b) Cabinet Urgent Decisions** – The Director of Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing decisions taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

**RESOLVED** – That the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet be noted.

**REASON** – To comply with the Council's Constitution.

**65. SCRUTINY REPORTS – OVERVIEW REPORTS** – The five Scrutiny Committee Chairs each submitted a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings

**66. NOTICE OF MOTION** - The following Motion was moved by Councillor L. Hughes, and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Culley:

'That, as Period poverty is a reality and forces many women to choose between putting food on the table and buying sanitary products (as detailed in a recent survey by Plan International UK when it was found that 10 per cent of 14 to 24 year olds surveyed had been unable to buy sanitary products and that there are girls missing out on their education because they cannot afford a sanitary protection); this Council believes that no woman in the Tees Valley should be forced into poverty due to her periods.

This Council pledges its full support for the Tees Valley 'Free Period' Campaign.

This Council will commit to further work and explore how a similar scheme would work in Darlington.'

The Motion was put to the meeting and carried.

**67. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES** – There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.

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**ANNUAL COUNCIL**

17th May 2018

**PRESENT** – The Mayor, Councillors Baldwin, Carson, Copeland, Cossins, Crichlow, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Dixon, Donoghue, Galletley, Harker, Haszeldine, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Kane, Kelley, Kelly, Lawton, Lee, Lister, Lyonette, Marshall, McEwan, Mills, Newall, M. Nicholson, Nutt, E. A. Richmond, S. Richmond, A. J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Storr, C. Taylor, Tostevin and Wallis. (41)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Grundy, Knowles, K. Nicholson, Rahman, Regan and York. (6)

**ABSENT** – Councillors Cartwright, Coultas and Wright. (3)

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**2. MAYOR** - Consideration was given to the election of a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor Veronica Copeland be elected Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

Following her election, the Mayor, made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and:-

- (i) signed the 'Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Record Book';
- (ii) was invested with the Chain of Office;
- (iii) tendered her thanks to the Members of the Council for having elected her;
- (iv) announced her decision to support Darlington Association on Disability, the 700 Club and the Royal British Legion during her term of Office; and
- (v) announced that her Escort for the Mayoral Year would be her husband, Mr. David Copeland.

**3. RETIRING MAYOR - VOTE OF THANKS** - A vote of thanks was proposed to the retiring Mayor and Escort.

**RESOLVED** - That the cordial thanks of the Council are due, and are hereby tendered, to Councillor Jan Taylor and her Escort, Councillor Chris Taylor, for the exemplary manner in which they have discharged the duties of the high office of Mayor and Escort of this Borough during the past Municipal Year.

In recognition of their services, the Mayor presented the retiring Mayor and Escort with a medallion and a badge respectively.

**4. DEPUTY MAYOR** - Consideration was given to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

**RESOLVED** - That Councillor Galletley be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – There were no announcements made.

**6. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES 2018/19** - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the membership of the various Committees for the 2018/19 Municipal Year, and the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the appointment of Members to the various Committees, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, be approved, and in addition that Councillor Cossins be appointed to the vacancy on the Rights of Way Panel.

(b) That the Chair and Vice Chairs to the Scrutiny Committees, General Licensing Committee, Licensing Act 2003 Committee, Planning Applications Committee, and Audit Committee, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, be approved.

(c) That the appointment of Cabinet Members and their respective Portfolios, and the changes to the Adult Social Care and Housing and the Health and Partnerships Portfolio, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, be noted.

(d) That any consequential changes be made to the Council's Constitution.

**REASON** – To comply with the nominations received.

**7. REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2018/19** - The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to representation on other bodies for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** – That the nominations to the other bodies, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the submitted report, be approved.

**REASON** – To comply with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

**8. PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR** - Submitted – A programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** - That the programme of ordinary meetings be approved.

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## **OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Social Care since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Social Care.

### **Strategic Commissioning**

2. During May and June 2018, the Commissioning and Contracts team has worked closely with the administrators of a residential care home for older people in Darlington to manage its closure. The home closure was achieved within the agreed timescales, with both the individuals affected and their families being involved in the de-commissioning, having a reassessment carried out by social work staff and being offered a choice of alternative care homes.
3. Throughout the process, communication with the individuals and their families was maintained and a safe and dignified transition to alternative care homes was achieved for all of the residents.

### **Carers Week**

4. Carers Week took place from 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June. A number of activities took place including an information day at Firthmoor Community Centre, hosted by Darlington Carers Support and attended by a range of partners including Darlington CAB, Age UK Darlington and North Yorkshire, NECA, the Alzheimer's Society and Darlington Young Carers. Carers were able to obtain benefit and other advice and enjoy a light lunch. A first aid course also took place, which was very well received and a drop in session was also held at Blacketts Medical Centre.
5. The new national Carers Action Plan 2018-20 was published in June. This covers 5 main areas for action:
  - (a) Services and systems that work for carers
  - (b) Employment and financial wellbeing
  - (c) Supporting young carers
  - (d) Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society
  - (e) Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers

The national Action Plan will be considered by Darlington Carers' Strategy Steering Group and our local plan will be reviewed in line with the recommended areas for action.

## **Operational Developments**

6. Agile working is being rolled out within all adult service teams. To support new ways of working, staff within the service are being provided with mobile IT equipment. This equipment enables them to access IT systems and complete work from a variety of community settings. Early feedback has been very positive, with colleagues stating that access to the IT equipment has allowed them to be more flexible and efficient in their role. The benefits of agile working are being actively promoted amongst teams to ensure that we share any learning identified.
7. Operational staff attended a workshop on 11 June 2018, with a wide variety of colleagues and stake holders, including health, police, fire service and the voluntary sector, in relation to social isolation and loneliness. The workshop highlighted recent research that social isolation is becoming an increasingly concerning issue which impacts on adults across the age span and in particular older adults. The workshop is part of a series of initiatives aimed at mapping the issue out in the town and identifying what current and future support could be provided. This included a table top exercise where ideas for community initiatives were explored. Operational staff will continue to contribute to the development of these initiatives in future planned workshops.

## **Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board**

8. The Board met on 17 April and 4 June, 2018. Members were informed of the findings of the biennial safeguarding audit. The audit was an opportunity for organisations across Darlington to carry out a health check on their safeguarding arrangements to recognise their strengths and weaknesses. The Board was advised that the responses to the audit were positive and the findings, analysis and moderation gave a good level of assurance that multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Darlington are clear and effective. Further work will be carried out on the themes that were highlighted as well as to encourage more responses from the third sector and faith organisations.
9. The Safeguarding Adults Board has produced a leaflet to explain abuse and neglect and how to report concerns and what action will be taken. The leaflet explains that the views and wishes of the adult at the centre of the enquiry will always be sought and no decisions made without their involvement. A poster is also being developed to deliver the same message which will be circulated across the partnership.
10. At the meeting in June, the Board received a presentation from the Police, Crime and Victim Commissioner (Durham and Darlington) on the work in bringing together agencies with responsibility for delivering criminal justice services in the two areas and the interface with the Safeguarding Boards. The purpose is to ensure that criminal justice agencies work effectively together to deliver positive outcomes for both victims and witnesses of crime and people who offend. A joint collaborative criminal justice team has been formed to work across Cleveland and Durham to support the partnership and undertake analysis to better understand how to improve services collectively and develop innovative services.

11. A report was presented to Board advising of the multi-agency strategies to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in Darlington, including the co-ordinated response on prevention, support and protection services. Members had been encouraged to attend the Big Conversation on 6 June, Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Darlington which, combined with the report, defined roles and responsibilities of the key strategic partnerships and organisations across Darlington to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

**Councillor Sue Richmond**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care**

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## **OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Children and Young People Portfolio.

### **Update on Children's Services Improvements and Outcomes of Single Inspection Framework Re-Inspection**

2. Cabinet received an update on the outcome of the Single Inspection Framework re-inspection conducted during February and March 2018. These findings were published in a report on 21 May 2018, which cited considerable improvements since the original inspection in 2015 when the service was found to be inadequate. The report concluded that overall, Children's Services in Darlington are now 'Requires improvement to be good'. Ofsted have made recommendations for the continued improvement of Children's Services and, in response, an improvement plan is now being developed.
3. The Council is now subject to inspection regulation under the Inspection of Local Authority Childrens Services Framework (ILAC), which replaces the Single Inspection Framework (SIF). This is a three year programme designed to be proportionate and more continuous in nature by way of an ongoing dialogue with the Council to assess performance rather than relying on a single inspection in a three-year period. For Council's judged as requires improvement to be good, the programme (over a three-year period) consists of:
  - (a) An annual engagement meeting with Ofsted; this is based on the Council's own self-evaluation, previous inspection findings, the broader issues affecting children's services, and is used to inform themes for subsequent focussed visits. A letter confirming the outcome of the engagement meeting will be sent to the Council but it will not be published.
  - (b) Up to two focused visits, which involve two day visits with Inspectors onsite, looking at one or more aspects of service, themes or cohorts of children. Findings from visits are published but graded judgements are not made.
  - (c) A possible Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI), which would replace a focussed visit, which is a multi-agency inspection of a specific themed area, with findings published.
  - (d) One standard two week inspection, which will cover the full range of Childrens Services. Graded judgements are made on the four point scale of inadequate, requires improvement to be good, good and outstanding.

## **The Children's Trust**

4. The Health and Wellbeing Board (which acts as the Children's Trust) met on the 12 July. Representatives from education were in attendance and participated in discussions about actions to promote and improve health. The agenda followed the theme of 'Living Well', which built upon the previous Health and Wellbeing Board meeting with a focus on 'Starting Well', i.e. promoting the 'best start in life'. Areas of particular focus for 'starting well' included promoting a childhood healthy weight and oral health.

## **Corporate Parenting Panel**

5. The Panel met on 24 April 2018. Members were updated on the activities of the Child in Care Council and the Darlington Foster Care Association. Discussions also took place with regard to the range of accommodation available to Care Leavers and the role of the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) and Independent Visitors for children looked after. The Panel also received quarter three performance information regarding Children in Care, Care Leavers and the Fostering Service.

## **Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**

6. The Board met on 24 April and 5 June. Members held a dedicated session on the findings from the Ofsted Inspection and considered partnership working in relation to addressing the recommendations. Board Members identified actions where they could support delivery against the recommendations either as a single organisation or in partnership, these are being incorporated into the Childrens Services Improvement Plan and will be subject to ongoing monitoring by the Board.
7. Members held a further session on Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI). These have been in place since 2016, and to date have focussed on specific themes. The current theme is a revisit of Child Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Abuse. It was highlighted that Board partners need to have a strong knowledge of strengths and areas of further development with an overall position statement in place to ensure partners are able to respond to any challenges during a JTAI. Partners were asked to contribute to what they felt was currently working well, what isn't working well and what needs to happen next against each of the JTAI themes. The information provided is being collated to inform the development of an improvement action plan which will be monitored by the Board.
8. Members were updated on key themes arising from discussions with the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board at Practitioner Forums. The Forums create opportunity for practitioners to gain a better understanding of the role and function of the Safeguarding Board and for the Independent Chair to hear perspectives from the front line.
9. Members were informed of the findings of the biennial safeguarding audit. The audit was an opportunity for organisations across Darlington to carry out a health check on their safeguarding arrangements to recognise their strengths and weaknesses. Board were advised that the responses to the audit were positive and



the findings of the analysis and moderation reassured the Board that multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Darlington are clear and effective. A challenge was raised regarding the poor return rate for sports and voluntary organisations which also reflected discussions at the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was agreed that further discussions should take place with those organisations to highlight the importance of the audit which will allow them to demonstrate they have appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place. It has been agreed to keep the audit process open throughout the year to allow organisations (including sports and voluntary organisations) to complete audits. Further submissions can therefore be submitted in the forthcoming months.

10. A report was presented to Board advising of the multi-agency strategies to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in Darlington including the co-ordinated response on prevention, support and protection services. Members were reminded of the Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Darlington – The Big conversation event held on 6 June which, combined with the report, will define roles and responsibilities of the key strategic partnerships and organisations across Darlington to ensure a coordinated approach.

### **School Forum**

11. The Forum met on 22 May and was presented with regular updates on the budget and high needs. Forum was notified that the high needs pressures for 2017/18 were £1.6 million and it was agreed to roll this forward against the 2018/19 Dedicated Schools Grant allocation.

### **School Governors**

12. A meeting for Darlington School Governors was held on 11 June. A presentation was given regarding training and support for schools with transgender pupils and the potential for schools to gain the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) + Friendly award. Governors were also made aware of the Learning and Skills offer for Family Learning and Parenting courses which can be delivered in schools.
13. Governors had a discussion around the inconsistency regarding penalties for unauthorised absence and the impact of unauthorised absence on both pupils and vulnerable families. Issues regarding the implementation of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in schools was also discussed.

### **School Inspections**

14. The following Ofsted Inspections have taken place:
  - (a) Skerne Park Academy was inspected in May 2018. The school received a grade of 'Requires Improvement' for Overall effectiveness. Personal development, behaviour and welfare and Early Years strands were both graded 'Good'. The report recognises that 'Leaders, including governors, are united in their desire to improve pupils' outcomes'.

- (b) Also in May, Hurworth Primary School was inspected and it was reported that 'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection'. This was the first short inspection carried out since the school was judged to be good in February 2014 and was graded as 'Good' again.
- (c) Polam Hall School received its first inspection on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April since becoming a Free School. The school received a grade of 'Requires Improvement' for Overall effectiveness. The Early Years strand was graded 'Good'. The Inspection reported 'The new principal has wasted no time in identifying weaknesses at school and dealing with them. She is tenacious and effective. Aply supported by her senior team, leaders are improving provision at a rapid pace'.
- (d) Rise Carr College and the Home and Hospital Teaching Service were inspected on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 and judged to continue to be 'good'. Inspectors reported that 'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. Members of the management committee (the governors) are ambitious for the pupils and the school, and also that members of the management committee, including two officers from Darlington local authority, oversee the HHTS conscientiously and well.'

### **Early Help**

- 15. During June, Early Help staff alongside Durham Constabulary, Anti-Social Behaviour Teams, and substance misuse services carried out Stay Safe operations in respect of the use of alcohol by young people. During the operation some teenagers were found under the influence of alcohol and taken to a place of safety and directed to support services.
- 16. Early Help along with children's social care, wider council teams and schools were involved in supporting a national social media campaign #purple summer to raise the awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation. The event took place on 15 June in the market square it was well supported by partner agencies and received much traffic on social media.

### **Child Protection/Looked After Children Statistics –**

- 17. As at 31 May 2018 the following statistic figures were reported on Child Protection and Looked After Children:
  - (a) 104 Children were registered on a Child Protection Plan.
  - (b) 227 Children were Looked After Children.

18 Comparator data is provided in the table below:

Child Protection Plans 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17yrs				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 (provisional)	April 2018	May 2018
Darlington	59.5	30.6	50.8	49.3	46.2
Last year monthly				34.5	35.8
England	43.1	43.3	Not available		
North East	59.5	60.6	Not available		
Stat Neighbour	53.2	53.9	Not available		

Looked After Children 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17yrs				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 (submitted)	April 2018	May 2018
Darlington	90.0	96.8	95.0	100.8	100.8
Last year monthly				95.5	93.3
England	60.0	62.0	Not available		
North East	84.0	92.0	Not available		
Stat Neighbour	83.5	89.4	Not available		

### Children's Commissioning and Contracts

18. A second workshop on partnership and complementary working between the statutory, and voluntary and community sectors took place on 14 June 2018. This workshop focused on how local organisations could work together to develop and deliver innovative and responsive community-based approaches which would support vulnerable families with children living in Darlington. This work will complement the Council's Early Help Offer.
19. The Council has lead responsibility for the management of the new NE12 Residential Care contract for Children and Young People. The first round of contract monitoring has been completed and no issues of contractual compliance were identified.
20. Work is being undertaken regionally to look at the potential benefits of wider collaborative approaches for Independent Foster Agency (IFA) service provision in order to meet current service demands and gaps in provision. A series of engagement events are being undertaken with IFA providers, and following these events, recommendations will be made regarding entering into a future Regional contract with all 12 Councils in the North East Region.

## Meetings

21. Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended :

- (a) The Health and Wellbeing Board;
- (b) A Meeting with the Carmel Teaching School;
- (c) The Best of Darlington Awards Ceremony;
- (d) Monthly Advice Centre/ Surgery specifically for young people;
- (e) Darlington Celebration of 100 Years of Women's Votes;
- (f) Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board;
- (g) Weekly briefings with the Director of Adults and Children's Services and various officers (depending on the agenda);
- (h) Domestic Abuse/ Sexual Violence Multi-Agency Discussion;
- (i) Scout taster event at Skerne Park Academy;
- (j) Big Project Finals (Enterprise/ Skills work with Jacobs);
- (k) Student Art Exhibition at Carmel College;
- (l) Met with Bishops from across the region at Longfield Academy to discuss activities for children and young people in Darlington;
- (m) The launch of the Tees Valley Adoption Agency in Stockton;
- (n) The Great Get Together in South Park;
- (o) The 'Fly the Flag' event on Armed Forces Day in the Market Square;
- (p) The Darlington Partnership Executive meeting;
- (q) Corporate Parenting Panel;
- (r) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee;
- (s) North East Child Poverty Commission in Gateshead;
- (t) North East Migration Partnership ;
- (u) The Schools Forum;
- (v) Darlington Partnership Board; and
- (w) A Tees Valley Adoption Agency Partners Meeting

**Councillor Cyndi Hughes**  
**Children and Young People Portfolio**

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## **OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio.

### **Town Centre**

2. In June I, along with Officers and the local MP, met with representatives of Marks and Spencer (M & S) PLC and with owners of the House of Fraser building to discuss the situation regarding the announcements made by these two national retailers.
3. It is with extreme disappointment that M&S PLC has decided to close its store on Northgate Road in August and was unwilling to consider options for its retention. Whilst it has confirmed that the Faverdale Simply Food outlet will open in August, we will continue to seek discussions about Town Centre presence. We have been assured that staff will be offered redeployment opportunities where possible and we will maintain dialogue over this and its future intentions for the building.
4. In light of the House of Fraser CVA agreement on 22 June 2018 the Darlington store has been earmarked for closure in February 2019. We continue to press management at House of Fraser to open dialogue and we are discussing options with the current building owner on its future. The store recently underwent a major refurbishment programme and it is devastating that despite trade and performance levels being positive, House of Fraser management has decided that it is, along with neighbouring Middlesbrough, part of the national closure list of 31. We will continue to work to examine all possibilities and if closure is implemented the Council will, with partners, support those employees affected by the House of Fraser decision.
5. The current Town Centre Strategy was adopted in 2012 and we will be refreshing our existing Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and consult on a vision for the future of the Town Centre that responds to a rapidly changing retail environment. The Council recognises the need to work with the community and business to tackle these emerging challenges and to seize on the opportunities that exist. I will update on that process in due course.

## **Darlington Borough Local Plan 2016/36 – Draft Local Plan Consultation**

6. Cabinet gave approval to the commencement of a six week period of consultation on the draft Local Plan 2016/36 which will involve writing to all parties on the Local Plan consultation database, Parish Councils and Statutory Consultees. A series of drop in sessions where members of the public can meet with Officers have also been arranged.
7. The Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services was also granted delegated power, in consultation with myself, to make any minor changes to the documents before they are finally published.
8. Local Planning Authorities must prepare a Local Plan that sets out the local planning policies for their local planning authority area. Government guidance requires that Local Plans must be positively prepared, justified and effective and be consistent with national policy, in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
9. The plan preparation process should fully involve everyone with an interest in the document or area and they should have had the opportunity to comment.
10. The Draft Local Plan is currently out for consultation. The consultation runs for six weeks until 2 August 2018. Officers are carrying out a number of drop in sessions and engaging with educational establishments. Drop in sessions remaining are:-
  - (a) Saturday 28 July 11am – 3pm Dolphin Centre; and
  - (b) Monday 30 July 3pm – 7pm Dolphin Centre.

### **Housing Delivery**

11. In the financial year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 there was 488 net dwellings completed.
12. The following sites have been granted planning permission since the last report to Members:
  - (a) Twelve houses on land adjacent to Oaktree Inn, Middleton St George;
  - (b) 75 dwellings at Walworth Road, Heighington;
  - (c) Outline permission for 95 dwellings at Roundhill Road, Hurworth;
  - (d) Mixed-use development comprising shopping and convenience store and residential development of ten dwellings on land at Acorn Close, Middleton St George;
  - (e) Outline permission for 370 houses at land at Berrymead Farm, Coatham Mundeville; and
  - (f) Outline permission for 380 houses at Burtree Lane, Darlington.
13. In addition, detailed approval following previous outline planning permission for a significant distribution facility near Lingfield Point has been granted planning permission.

## **Investment and Funding**

14. The Council has secured £450,000 development funding from Tees Valley Combined Authority to work with Darlington Mowden Park Rugby Football Club to investigate the feasibility of creating a Sports Village on land adjacent to and incorporating Darlington Arena.
15. The Council has secured £1,080,000 funding from Homes England towards the construction of 30 new affordable homes on Allington Way North. The overall investment for these homes, including Council contributions, will be £4.028m.
16. The Council has appointed Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) to undertake the final piece of finance work on Feethams House in order to enable the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to make a decision on European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding. The PWC work was completed at the end of June 2018. It is hoped to secure a decision on the ERDF by the end of this month.

## **Business Investment Team**

17. There have been 91 property searches year to date generated from the Invest in Darlington website managed by the Business Investment Team.
18. Currently there are 51 live investment projects on the pipeline which, if land, and are converted to success, will generate in excess of 500 jobs. This is in addition to a large single occupier on the Symmetry Park site which has been granted planning permission and if secured will create circa 3000 jobs.
19. Small independent operators are being encouraged to take occupation of empty units in the Town Centre by means of a business rate relief scheme, utilising surplus monies awarded from the Government revaluation relief pot. To date, the Team has supported four new businesses who have, as a result, moved into empty premises 3 on Post House Wynd and 1 on Duke Street.
20. The Team has now assisted three businesses to date in securing grant awards from the Tees Valley Capital Grant scheme totalling £920,000 to accelerate growth and aid job creation.
21. Business Central at Central Park is now 100 per cent occupied, with additional small businesses awaiting offices becoming available. There is currently a lack of provision for suitable grade A office accommodation which has contributed to the success of Business Central.
22. There have been ten new business start enquiries since the beginning of the year, which have now been referred into partner organisations and being supported to set up businesses.
23. A new scheme has been brought online with North East Enterprise Agency Limited which is now offering £10,000 capital grants for new businesses being created in priority sectors in the Tees Valley. Two new start businesses in Darlington have been referred into the scheme.

24. Employment rates in the North East have reached a record high according to the latest Office of National Statistics figures released. Between February and April 2018, the unemployment rate in the North East fell below 5 per cent for the first time. The number of people out of work in the region is down by 11,000 over the same period last year and is now at half the level of four years ago.

### **New Licensing Laws Houses in Multiple Occupation**

25. Darlington has approximately 500 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and this type of accommodation is typically used by the most vulnerable people and often represents the worst housing conditions in the private rented sector. Fire safety is a particular concern in HMO's and regulations ensure that adequate fire detection provisions are in place. Currently only 23 of the largest HMOs require a licence from the Council but from 1 October 2018 licensing will be extended to many more HMOs. All HMOs regardless of the number of the storeys with five or more occupiers, representing two or more households will need to apply for a licence from the Council. Early estimates could mean that up to 100 additional more HMOs will need a licence from October. This figure could increase further as more inspections are carried out.
26. Additional licensing will mean that landlords and their properties will be subject to stricter regulations and inspections. Landlords will need to be 'fit and proper' to hold a licence and not have any relevant convictions such as fraud, dishonesty or any sexual offences. Properties will need to reach minimum legal standards including fire safety and higher management standards will also need to be maintained. A licence fee will be payable to the Council and the licence will expire after five years. Licences can be revoked by the Council if standards are not maintained and legal action can be taken against offending landlords.
27. The Private Sector Housing Team is currently identifying properties that will require a licence, working with landlords and landlord organisations. Landlords have a period of grace until October to apply for a licence and are being encouraged to apply for a licence early and before the deadline. After such time it will become an offence not to have a licence, or not to have applied for a licence. Standards in HMOs will be improved as inspections and regulation increases. Tenants will benefit as the quality and standards of their homes in the private rented sector improves. This is the primary reason for the new legislation being introduced.

### **Energy**

28. After convening a meeting of the five Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Local Councils to discuss a coordinated policy suite in late 2017 a comprehensive piece of work has been commissioned to support the development of a Tees Valley wide Energy Strategy. Funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy this builds on the current Circular Economy strand within the Strategic Economic Plan and has an emphasis on tackling fuel poverty and embedding best international practice into the residential sector. Covering such matters as energy efficiency measures and advice, Local Plan policy review, feasibility studies for battery storage and innovative funding and financing



mechanisms, this Strategy is due to report in the Autumn. The Tees Valley Energy Strategy will be supported by an action and delivery plan for specific bankable projects.

## **5G Update**

29. Two projects will be taken forward by TVCA in 2018 including activity in Darlington:

- (a) Local full fibre network to support 5G for the Tees Valley (Wave 3 Bid for Summer 2018) based on fibre and 5G infrastructure delivery with Private Sector for the Tees Valley.
- (b) 5G testbed and trial programme (Urban Connect Communities Project) (Expression of Interest submitted early June 2018) based on selective added benefit economic sector application.

**Councillor Chris McEwan**  
**Economy and Regeneration Portfolio**

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## **OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Efficiency and Resources Portfolio.

### **Revenue Outturn 2017/18**

2. The Council's draft revenue position at the end of 2017/18 is £20,763 million, which is £0.530 million better than the initial 2018-19 MTFP position. The £0.530 million consists of an improvement of £0.322 million in departmental resources and an overall improvement in corporately managed resources of £0.208 million.
3. An additional £1.189 million has been requested to be carried forward into 2018/19 to meet future commitments on top of the £0.709 million already approved. Whilst this improved position is helpful it does not change the financial context in which the Council is currently planning. The additional reserves of £0.530 million are welcome, particularly in the context of the significant savings required over the coming months.

### **Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2017/2018**

4. Cabinet has received information on the delivery of the Council's Capital Programme, together with the financial outturn position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, and the proposed financing of the 2017/18 capital expenditure.
5. The Council has a substantial annual construction programme of work, with the current project position statement showing that there are currently 32 live projects currently being managed with an overall project outturn of £67.999 million. The majority of projects are running to time, cost and quality expectations with no foreseeable issues.

### **Cockerton Ward By-Election – 12 July 2018**

6. Following the death of Councillor David Regan, a 'Notice of Vacancy' was published on 1 June 2018, advising of a casual vacancy in the Office of Councillor for the Cockerton Ward. A request to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy was received by the Returning Officer on 7 June 2018, and a by-election was subsequently held on 12 July 2018.

### **Annual Canvass (Electoral Registration)**

7. This year's Annual Canvass commenced on 2 July 2018, and Household Enquiry Forms (HEFs) were delivered to every property in the Borough. Residents were

provided with a number of different options as to how they could respond, including on-line, by telephone, by text, or by completion and return of the form itself.

8. A Press Release encouraging completion of the HEF was released on 29 June 2018, alongside a proactive social media campaign.
9. Where appropriate, reminders will be issued to those electors who do not respond, with the initial set of reminders due to be issued at the end of July, and Visiting Officers will be visiting properties throughout August, September and October to encourage the completion of outstanding forms.

#### **National Democracy Week – 2–8 July 2018**

10. The inaugural National Democracy Week took place between 2 July and 8 July 2018, with key messages in relation to registering to vote being repeated on the Council's social media platforms throughout the week.

**Councillor Stephen Harker**  
**Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio**

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## **OVERVIEW OF HOUSING, HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS PORTFOLIO**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the main areas of work under my Housing, Health and Partnerships Portfolio were as follows:-

### **Public Health**

2. I supported World No Tobacco Day on 31 May 2018 by tweeting messages about the impact from cigarettes and exposure to second hand smoke.
3. On 6 June 2018 I co-hosted a 'Big Conversation' about tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence in Darlington. This discussion was on behalf of the Chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board, The Community Safety Partnership and both Safeguarding Boards. The subsequent report is being shared across all of the above groups as it is a significant area of common interest.

### **Darlington Partnership**

4. I attended the Best of Darlington Awards ceremony on 18 May which was organised by Darlington Partnership. The event was held at the Dolphin Centre and was attended by over 400 guests making it the largest ever Best of Darlington. There were new categories this year which recognised the efforts of Darlington Cares volunteers. On behalf of Darlington Borough Council I presented the award for Contribution to the Community.

### **Health and Well Being Board**

5. At the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board held in March 2018 the priorities of the Board were discussed and an action plan was agreed for future meetings of the Board, to address those priorities through a focused 'life course' approach. The meeting of the Board held on 12 July 2018, which I Chaired, was the second meeting to follow this approach and the agenda focused on the priority of 'Living Well', with a presentation being given on 'Routes to Work' together with a number of reports and plans relating to that priority including Healthy New Towns, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health in the workplace.
6. Other issues considered at the meeting included a verbal update by the NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group on the Integrated Care Systems (formerly Sustainable Transformation Plan) and an update report on the work of Healthwatch Darlington.

## **Housing Services**

### **Universal Credit**

7. Staff within Housing and Revenues and Benefits services worked tirelessly to ensure that the full roll-out of Universal Credit in Darlington was successfully completed on 20 June 2018.
8. From that date, most people of working age making a new claim for benefit (including Housing Benefit paid by the Council) will now claim Universal Credit from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This has started the process to move everyone onto Universal Credit which is due to be completed by 2023.
9. The DWP planned the implementation of Universal Credit in Darlington to ensure that residents have received the right information, advice and support. Training has been delivered to front-line staff, Members, private landlords and local voluntary and community groups.
10. Additional resources have been brought in to assist Council Tenants in making their claim to Universal Credit and to provide budgeting support to ensure they can pay their rent and sustain their tenancies.

### **Red Hall**

11. The Friends of Red Hall Group are in the final stages of planning a Summer Festival that will take place on 12 August 2018. The Friends Group have entered into a partnership with Stockton Riverside Festival in order to run this event which is the first large scale event the Friends will have run independently. They have also developed outline plans for a Community Garden which was inspired by a visit to Todmorden to see the Incredible Edible project. The Friends plan to grow a mixture of vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers which will be free to pick. As well as plans to engage more people in the community in gardening it is hoped that this will encourage healthy eating.
12. As part of the regeneration of Red Hall and in partnership with the Healthy New Towns project a new walking route, to include specially designed benches, is being developed in Red Hall. A designer worked with children from Red Hall Primary School and the benches will be installed in four locations at the beginning of July. The benches are 1000 paces apart and each Bench will reflect the history and wildlife of its immediate area.

### **Holiday Hunger**

13. The Department for Education has set up a fund for a holiday hunger programme this Summer. The aim of the programme is to identify the need for this type of initiative. Children North East obtained funding for last Summer and has once again been successful in its bid for this Summer. Children North East will lead one of eight projects across England and Darlington has been invited to participate in this year's programme. The focus of the programme will be the impact on educational attainment and therefore the delivery will be through schools with

Darlington being asked to nominate one secondary and two primary schools to participate. These schools have not yet been confirmed as the success of the bid has only recently been announced.

### **Lifeline Services - Activities**

14. Staff in the Lifeline Service are working to build a range of activities to help address the needs of the older and vulnerable residents in sheltered and extra care schemes and in local communities.
15. Social isolation can have a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of older and vulnerable people, which in turn places pressures on other services including Health and Adult Social Care and in particular GP and emergency services.
16. Activities include:
  - (a) A dedicated team called Move More which visits schemes and provides activities for the residents and the local community, including chair based and gentle exercises through to archery and darts;
  - (b) Residents in one scheme have applied for a social fund for a 'Hen Power' project. Hen Power encourages elderly residents to become involved in the day-to-day raising, care and feeding of hens;
  - (c) Students from local colleges visit schemes which helps the students have practical experience for their education, raises moral and improves communication for the residents and local community and
  - (d) Volunteers are being recruited to share their skills and bring value to themselves and the residents. There are currently four volunteers going into the schemes delivering programmes such as flower arranging and ancestry research.

**Councillor A Scott**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Partnerships**

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## **OVERVIEW OF LEISURE AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio.

### **Proposed Residents Parking – Objections**

2. Cabinet has considered the two objections received to a residents parking proposal in Mowden Terrace, Mowden Street and Westbrook Terrace and agreed to set it aside and authorise Officers to proceed with the proposal to introduce the residents parking and no waiting at any time as advertised.
3. Cabinet has also considered the objection received to a residents parking proposal in Cleveland Avenue and agreed to set it aside and authorise Officers to proceed with the proposal to introduce residents parking as advertised.

### **Schemes of Work**

4. Highway Maintenance Schemes complete:-
  - (a) A6072 Redworth Phase 2: Carriageway Reconstruction and Resurfacing; and
  - (b) A167 Croft Road Phase 7: Carriageway Resurfacing.
5. Highway Maintenance Scheme due to start:-
  - (a) A68 West Auckland Road (John Fowler Way Junction): Carriageway Resurfacing
  - (b) Haughton Green/Stockton Road – A1150 Stockton Road Roundabout to Salters Lane North: Carriageway Resurfacing
  - (c) A67 High Coniscliffe, throughout 30mph zone: Carriageway Resurfacing
  - (d) Linton Gardens: Carriageway Reconstruction and Resurfacing
  - (e) Faverdale North to Faverdale West: Carriageway Resurfacing.

### **National Productivity Investment Fund**

6. We were successful with a bid submitted to the Department for Transport to improve the highway infrastructure on the eastern side of the Town. A total of £4.8m will be invested. The first project is improvements to the Yarm Road/McMullen Road roundabout. Further phases include a signal controlled junction at Lingfield Way, improvements to the B6279 Haughton Road throughabout and development of a new industrial access road into Ingenium Parc to the south of Cummins. These improvements should be complemented by a new access road that is intended to be built to link B6279 Tornado Way (Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor (DETC)) with Morton Way at Morton Park. This forms

part of the DB Symmetry Link 66 development.

7. Works have commenced to improve Yarm Road/McMullen Road roundabout. The first phase of work involves the diversion of statutory undertakers equipment (gas, electrics, water, etc.) to enable the carriageway to be widened. The main phase of the work is programmed to commence this month and be complete by March 2019.

### **Hird Street Car Park**

8. Work has been completed on the refurbishment of Hird Street car park. This has included the creation of a footpath between Hird Street and Parkgate; resurfacing and relining of the car park bays; and additional lighting.

### **TeesRider SmartZone Ticket**

9. In June a campaign was launched to promote the TeesRider SmartZone ticket. This is a multi-operator bus ticket which covers all Arriva, Stagecoach and Go North East buses in Tees Valley (including the Darlington 'town zone'). It is currently available as a weekly or monthly ticket. Discussions are ongoing to further improve the ticket including a young person's discount, a day ticket, extending the scheme to smaller operators, and reviewing cross boundary travel into County Durham and North Yorkshire.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour and Restorative Justice**

10. The Police, the Council's Anti-social Behaviour and Sustainable Transport Teams and Arriva have worked together to tackle the increase in anti-social behaviour on buses and in the town centre, causing damage to buses and bus shelters (and other property) as well as intimidating passengers, drivers and members of the public. Youths that have been caught have been cleaning bus shelters, including the removal of graffiti and this has received positive feedback from passengers and local residents. A reparation session is also being organised with Arriva, where young people will sit down with drivers to find out how their actions have affected drivers and other passengers.

### **Parkgate**

11. Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new walking and cycling bridge over Parkgate between Central Park and the Neasham Road access into the Rail Station. The bridge will be constructed off site and lifted into place by the end of the year. The Council has secured funding from Tees Valley Combined Authority for this project.

### **Walk to School**

12. May was National Walking Month and the Let's Go Tees Valley team developed a campaign to encourage walking to school. Before Easter, Bauer Media worked with five schools across the Tees Valley to develop materials including sound recordings and pictures. These have then been used in a radio campaign and on-line to promote walking to school. A competition to win a set of bikes was run in

parallel and by mid-June over 700 entries had been received. This has successfully extended the reach of the Let's Go Tees Valley brand across the Tees Valley and amongst families.

### **Big Summer**

13. The Big Summer campaign was launched on 28 June with the aim of getting more families across the Tees Valley out walking and riding their bikes. This is in conjunction with the active travel hubs which includes Bike Stop in Darlington, who deliver a programme of cycle rides, cycle maintenance courses and recycling of bikes. Bike Stop works in partnership with Groundwork to deliver a programme of walks. All of these programmes rely on volunteers.

### **Dolphin Centre Special Recognition Award**

14. The Dolphin Centre gained special recognition in May for its pioneering academy that promotes staff excellence and entrepreneurship. The Centre was the first Local Authority organisation to become an Institute and Entrepreneurs (IOEE) Enterprise Academy in the UK and received an IOEE Special Recognition Award at the House of Commons. The accolade was presented as part of the Celebrating Enterprise Awards, hosted by IOEE and the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative. The Centre's Business Development Manager, Lisa Soderman, was also presented with the IOEE Entrepreneur of the Year Award, for leading the work to secure the Enterprise Academy status.

### **Red Hall Healthy New Towns Project**

15. Groundwork has now completed its consultation work with over 100 residents at Red Hall responding on our new positive activity timetable. Activities will concentrate on working with families, especially mothers with young children, teenagers and older adults. Activities have included: Zumba, Family Archery, Yoga, Family Boxcercise, Outdoor Bootcamp, Fit Mamas, Tinybox and Tinykix. So far 167 residents from Red Hall have been engaged.

### **Best of Darlington Awards Evening**

16. The Best of Darlington Awards Evening took place on 18 May at the Dolphin Centre and saw the number in attendance rise to 450 this year. The event ran smoothly with some great finalists and worthy winners. Entertainment was provided by Darlington Operatic Society.

### **All Square Event**

17. Darlington Borough Council's Events Team facilitated the development of a new music event for the Town, delivered by external partners and with the aim of evolving into a yearly occurrence. The event ran over three days, offering a different concept on each day: multi-focussed bingo on Friday, tribute acts on Saturday and a dance music feel on Sunday. The event was a success and the Team plan to do it again next year.

## **Round 50 Cycle Ride**

18. The first of the four tourist cycle rides took place on 3 June, with over 150 participants joining in on the second consecutive year for this particular ride.

## **Race for Life**

19. In partnership with Cancer Research Race for Life, Darlington Borough Council's Events team offered support in the lead up to this national event; providing space for promotion in the Town, staffing on the day, traffic management and the venue for the event itself in South Park. Weather conditions were good and people came in their thousands to run and raise awareness.

## **Armed Forces Day**

20. The raising of the flag took place in the Market Square, accompanied by a military parade from the Town Hall forecourt to the square, with schoolchildren and members of the public invited to attend.

## **Darlington Dance Festival**

21. This year's Dance Festival was extended to a two-day event which took place on 19 and 20 May. It entertained the public throughout the Town Centre, whilst Darlington's dance schools performed in Joseph Pease Place to promote the 'Mass Dance in the Market Square' on the Sunday, which attracted approximately 700 participants. The theme 'Express Yourself for Mental Health' attracted performers from local dance schools, schools, mental health charities and members of the public, as well as professional dancers who contributed to the afternoon by delivering dance workshops and demonstrations. This year's event was the most successful to date, organised by Darlington Dance Festival Association with assistance from Darlington Borough Council's Events team.

## **Darlington Food and Drink Festival, 'Darlo Dines Out'**

22. Market Asset Management (MAM) in partnership with the Town Centre Partnership and Events Team, held its first food festival over the May Bank Holiday weekend, 25 to 28 May. The event, which took place across the Market Square, Blackwellgate and West Row, was heralded a huge success, with traders and the general public revisiting the festival each to sample the food, demonstrations, cocktails, street theatre, face painting, children's entertainers and the "Perfect Sunday Roast, provided by the participating local businesses and Celebrity Chefs in attendance, including: BBC's Aasam Ahmad and Michelin award winning, Jean-Christophe Novelli.

## **Participation and Engagement**

23. The Engagement Team is continuing a series of work experience placements for young people from local schools during which they will achieve their Arts Award. Amongst the young people taking part are students from Beaumont Hill School, who visit the Theatre regularly and took part in a 'Careers in the Arts' day on 7 June.
24. Young people from our senior youth theatre group performed 'Zero for the Young Dudes' in early May. They were able to stage the production in the Hullabaloo, which meant higher production values and a much more polished performance than could have been previously achieved in their former school hall base.
25. The Engagement Team has been working in partnership with the Talking Newspaper to improve awareness of the Theatre's access offer.
26. The Theatre partnered with the National Council of Women to present a one day conference to mark the centenary of votes for some women, in the Hullabaloo. The conference was attended by 150 people and the Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Veronica Copeland, was also in attendance. Young people from two Darlington primary schools also took part in craft and poetry sessions during the day.

## **Premieres**

27. The Theatre hosted the national premiere of the production of '84 Charing Cross Road' in May, which starred the Hollywood actress, Stefanie Powers. We also opened the tour of Jane McDonald, with rehearsals taking place here, followed by the opening night which was sold out.

## **Pantomime**

28. Further casting has been announced for this year's pantomime, 'Aladdin'. Zoe Birkett will be returning as Princess Jasmine, while the role of Abanazar will be played by Robin Askwith, alongside Eric Potts, who returns as director and dame, joined by Liam Mellor and celebrity dance star, Louie Spence.

## **Creative Darlington**

29. Creative Darlington has supported the marketing and promotion of Darlington Arts Festival 2018, including the production of print and banners to promote their programme. The festival took place from 19 May to 3 June and is the sixth arts festival led by Darlington for Culture. The festival programme included general events, comedy, music and dance, theatre, film and literature events. Highlights included an event co-ordinated by the National Council of Women to mark the 100th anniversary of votes for some women and a Literary Day held at the Friends Meeting House.
30. As part of the festival, Creative Darlington supported seven events in the gallery space at Crown Street Library, including: performances of 'Great Expectations', by Hogarth Partnership; 'Under Milk Wood', by Green Theatre; and 'Night Mother', by

Applause Theatre. Also included was a reading of poems created by Vane Women, alongside a film commissioned by that group in the 'Tell Her Story' event.

31. Pell Ensemble is undertaking work with children, young people and members of the public in Darlington, around its new production, 'Upload Unplug', which explores gaming, technology and data through dance. Pell Ensemble has secured Grants for the Arts support to bring this activity to a variety of locations in the Tees Valley, including Darlington.

## **Visual Art**

32. 2,201 visits were made to the Spring Exhibition by the Community Arts Project at Crown Street Library, which ran between 31 March and 17 May. Positive comments from visitors included, 'Wonderful use of vibrant colours and shapes' and 'Clever and inspirational'. The solo 'Different Facets' exhibition by Alison Hill, was showcased at Crown Street Library between 19 May and 5 July, followed by the 'Commonplace' exhibition, by Gilkes Street Artists – a Middlesbrough-based studio group – which will run until 27 August 2018.
33. A solo exhibition by Darlington based artist Adam Plumb, exploring the Tibetan art of Thangka, was on display at Darlington Town Hall until 6 July and has been promoted as part of Darlington Arts Festival 2018.

## **Outreach**

34. A range of outreach activities took place during May and June, including a talk given at the WW1 in the Tees Valley Conference at Teesside University on 19 May, a stall at the National Council for Women event (in recognition of the suffrage centenary) at the Hullabaloo on 21 May, and a stall at a regional event for newly qualified teachers at Middlesbrough Football Club on 20 June.

## **Events**

35. Over 1500 visitors attended the Vintage Vehicle Rally, along with 230 vehicles, including: commercial vehicles, motorbikes, pedal cycles and sand track bikes. The number of vehicles was the highest seen in the ten years since the event started.

## **Visitor Figures**

36. During the month of May there were 5,306 visitors to the museum and over the period of April-May 2018 10,004 visitors attended; a 33 per cent increase on the same period last year.

## **Exhibitions**

37. A new exhibition of railway posters opened at the museum on 19 May. Curated by a student from Northumbria University, the exhibition showcases posters from the museum's own collection, with the exhibition itself being the result of a cataloguing and storage project funded by the Small Grants Scheme, organised by Museum

Development North East.

### **Volunteers**

38. The museum has 25 active volunteers who provide an average of 130 hours per month.

### **Dementia Cafe**

39. The re-launched Dementia Café runs on the third Wednesday of every month and has regular attendees.

### **Libraries**

40. Over 200 people visited the 'Memories of Whessoe' Open Day at the Centre for Local Studies, to celebrate Darlington's industrial heritage. The event showcased Darlington's archive of material, while employees of Whessoe past and present enjoyed looking at hundreds of photos of the works and its staff, as well as other items of interest. Positive feedback was widely received, with one visitor commenting, 'Has been well worth the trip', after travelling from Southport especially for the event.
41. The Library celebrated National Bookstart Week with an event in South Park aimed at children aged 0-five years. The Library worked in partnership with local businesses, South Park's café and the rangers, to promote the Library's summer activities and provide every child with a goody bag. Over 1,000 people attended.

### **Grounds Maintenance**

42. Members will be aware that additional resources were allocated to the Grounds Maintenance Service to facilitate the cutting of grass, reducing from a 25/30 working day cycle to a 15 working day cycle. Grass cutting commenced later this year due to the inclement weather in late March/early April; however, despite the initial surge of growth, teams managed to achieve the 15 day cycle.

### **Street Cleansing**

43. The additional resources that have been allocated to Street Cleansing to enhance the cleanliness of the Borough, following cuts the previous financial year, have now been implemented. It is envisaged that the additional resources will ensure that areas are cleaner; in particular the problem of waste deposited in rear lanes, which should be minimised.

### **Tree Planting**

44. In recent years the Council, working with partners, schools, Friends Groups, residents and other organisations, planted in excess of 5,000 trees at different sites within the Borough. A significant number of the trees have come from The Woodland Trust who provide trees free of charge to community groups who then

take on responsibility for planting and looking after the area.

45. The offer for free trees from The Woodland Trust is still available and I would like any Friends Group or other community group, who believes there is an area of Council land that would benefit from tree planting, to make contact with me and working together we can assess the suitability of a site and work together in putting in an application for a tree pack. There are a variety of types of packs including different number of trees and species, from 30 trees up to 120, which would be enough to cover an area the size of a football pitch.

### **Town Centre Car Parking Charges**

46. Car parking charges in the town centre have been reviewed in response to feedback and views from the public and traders.
47. To assist town centre trading, an offer of two hours free car parking will be introduced in the town centre car parks on the outside of the ring road; in addition East Street car park within the ring road will have an offer all day parking for £2.00.
48. On street car parking will not be changed and remains at 50 pence for 30 minutes up to a maximum of £2.00 for two hours with the exception of Grange Road and Northumberland Street which is £3.00 for a maximum of three hours.
49. The potential cost of the offer is £120,000 but this will depend on usage and other factors and this will be kept under review. The cost will be funded by the Town Centre Futures Fund.

**Councillor Nick Wallis**  
**Cabinet Member with Leisure and Local Environment Portfolio**



## **LEADER'S OVERVIEW**

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### **Cabinet**

1. Cabinet has given its consent to the making by Parliament of a statutory instrument to enable responsibility for the Adult Education Budget to transfer to the Tees Valley Combined Authority.
2. The powers of the Combined Authority have been established by the devolution of powers from central government and formalised by a number of statutory instruments which prescribe and delineate the powers granted. The process followed in the making of a statutory instrument requires the consent of the local authorities within the area of the combined authority before an order can be made.
3. Cabinet has appointed the Council's representation on other bodies for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.
4. Cabinet has agreed to make a one-off payment of £50,000 from the Council's Futures Fund to the Darlington Credit Union to assist in its work to improve the financial wellbeing of the community.
5. The Council has continued to support the Darlington Credit Union and since it was founded in 2009, membership has risen from 400 to over 6,500 and increasing on a monthly basis. The Council also undertakes to encourage other public service organisations and businesses to make capital investments with the Darlington Credit Union and to promote payroll saving.

### **Darlington Partnership**

6. The Partnership facilitated a workshop for voluntary and public sector agencies on the full roll out of Universal Credit. The intention of the workshop was to raise awareness and ensure all agencies were better placed to work together to minimise negative impacts on Darlington residents of changes to the benefit regime.
7. At the Partnership Board I strongly supported the proposal that there should be an assembly held to review the overall impact of the Welfare Reforms on Darlington since legislation was introduced in 2012. To understand the impact of Universal Credit in this context it has been agreed that the assembly is held in autumn this year.

## Regional and Tees Valley Combined Authority Updates

8. I attended a workshop on 31 May at Cavendish House in Stockton on Tees, to develop an Expression of Interest for the region to become a 5G Testbed and Trail area with a potential to attract circa £50m to support the development of test beds across the region.

### Community Safety

9. **Operation Stay Safe** - Darlington Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour, CCTV and Social Work teams, worked in cooperation with Darlington Special Constabulary, YMCA Youth Outreach Workers and members of staff from SWITCH, to deliver 'Operation Stay Safe'; aimed at locating and disrupting alcohol and substance misuse related anti-social behaviour. Several young people were given verbal warnings by officers and dispersed from the Town Centre and other public spaces in the community.
10. The aim of the operation was to protect the public from anti-social behaviour at the potentially problematic end of school term; to identify, support and protect potentially vulnerable young people and recover them to a place of safety (if discovered under the influence). Follow-up work involved the diversion from engaging in future anti-social conduct and alerting parents to their responsibility to safeguard their children.
11. Further operations are planned for later in the year.
12. **New Legislation – Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) Licensing** - A positive step forward as a result of the start of additional HMO licensing is that the most vulnerable occupiers, in the poorest quality housing, will benefit from increased regulatory scrutiny.
13. **Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) – Town Centre** - The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team secured an 18 month Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) against a 15 year old male who was responsible for persistent crime and anti-social behaviour, affecting businesses and members of the public for a sustained period of time. Outlined below are the conditions he must adhere to:
  - (a) Not threaten, intimidate or use threatening, offensive or abusive language or gestures.
  - (b) Enter Darlington Town Centre as defined by the inner ring road or any Town Centre retail or commercial premise, either accompanied or not.
  - (c) Enter any commercial or retail premise in the Borough of Darlington outside the above area, unless accompanied by an appropriate adult member of his family or a member of staff from the Local Authority.
  - (d) Associate with 4 named others.

- (e) Be in company with anyone behaving in an anti-social or criminal manner.
  - (f) Leave his home address between the hours of 21:00 and 7:00.
  - (g) Carry or throw litter or missiles.
14. A CBO is available on conviction for any criminal offence by any criminal court, introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (ABCPA 2014, s.22) with effect from 20 October 2014. It replaced the former powers of the court to make orders such as an ASBO or a drinking banning order on conviction.
  15. A CBO is an order designed to tackle the most serious and persistent anti-social individuals, where their behaviour has brought them before a criminal court.
  16. Four CBO's have been granted against young people in Darlington over the past 18 months resulting in improved citizenship and reduced levels of offending.
  17. **Motorcycle Nuisance** - Following increased levels of complaints concerning young people and off-road motor cycles in Darlington, the YMCA supported by members of Darlington Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Longfield Academy and Durham Constabulary introduced a unique seven-week themed educational programme to promote safe and responsible motor-cycling in Darlington.
  18. The programme called 'Back on Track' is funded by Tees Valley YMCA and the Durham Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg.
  19. The programme delivers a series of core modules around first aid, graphic design, motorcycle maintenance, health and safety, anti-social behaviour and the role of the Police and Fire & Rescue, and initially involved eight young people between the ages of 14 to 16 years.
  20. The aims of the scheme are to engage young people to enhance learning and understanding of motorbikes, promote and develop young people's skills, engage young people in creative development and emotional wellbeing work, reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour and breakdown barriers, and build on positive relationships with youth workers, the Police and ASB Team.
  21. The training sessions were delivered by various professionals (nominees) and visits were arranged to the Cleveland and Durham Road Policing Unit at Wynyard, Cleveland and Darlington Fire and Rescue, which students found most informative, enjoyable and stimulating.
  22. The first course concluded on 27 April and a special event was held at Longfield Academy to celebrate the achievements of the students and present them with certificates, stickers they had designed in school and motorcycle helmets that were kindly donated by MSG Motorcycles.
  23. Significant outcomes for the young people included: improved self-esteem, self-respect, confidence and future aspiration. The scheme has proved extremely popular with young people in Darlington and there are now plans to extend the

initiative to other schools throughout the Borough.

24. **Community Engagement Programme (MutualGain)** - Durham Constabulary, partners including the Council, local councillors and members of the community have recently commenced a programme of activity designed to increase social capital and reduce dependency on local services in Bank Top, Darlington. The programme facilitated by MutualGain involves a series of activities including community engagement, personal coaching, participatory budgeting, focus groups, action learning sets and structured events which are aimed at building social capital which can have a positive impact on the health and well-being of a community.
25. Part of the engagement phase involved the completion of a community survey which confirmed area priorities as tackling rubbish and fly-tipping, Eastbourne Park, youth related anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, motorcycle nuisance, speeding and repairing pot-holes. Partners will now work to address the priorities of the public.
26. Members will receive further updates in relation to reductions in crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

### **Meetings**

27. I attended HS2 East Meeting on 11 May in Leeds to receive an update on developments for the East Coast Mainline.
28. I met with Councillor Iain Malcolm, Leader of South Tyneside Council who has recently been appointed as North East Representative of the Local Government Association (LGA).

### **Transport**

29. On 17 May 2018 I attended a Darlington Station Project Board in which we collectively work to strengthen and transform rail links in the Tees Valley.
30. On 18 May 2018 I attended the launch of the Bishop Auckland Train/Bus Product to celebrate the introduction of an integrated transport link. A new Station Running Board was unveiled, outlining the town's connections with the Auckland Project and Kynren. Arriva promoted a Sapphire bus advertising Kynren which is scheduled to have 17 performances running from 30 June to 15 September. This joint venture will allow visitors to travel to Bishop Auckland by train and travel back by bus to Darlington. This has not been offered at previous events and allows travellers the ease of using public transport rather than cars.
31. I attended Transport for the North Board meeting on 28 June.

## **Amiens**

32. I visited Amiens between 13 and 14 June 2018 and during my visit I presented a street sign 'Darlington Square' to mark 65 years of friendship between Amiens and Darlington.

## **Resignation**

33. As you will be aware, I have advised the Labour Group of my intention to stand down as Leader of the Council following this meeting of Council. I will continue to be Councillor for Eastbourne Ward.
34. By May 2019 I will have served 40 years as a Councillor and over 27 of those years as either Leader or Deputy Leader. For personal reasons I will also not be standing in next year's elections but will continue as a Member of the Council until then. I think that it more appropriate that a new Leader committed to standing for election next year should take over now.

**Bill Dixon**  
**Leader**

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**COUNCIL**  
**19 JULY 2018**

**ITEM NO. 8 (b)**

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## **CABINET URGENT DECISIONS**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Bill Dixon, Leader of the Council**

**Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Managing Director**

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### **SUMMARY REPORT**

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

1. To report the urgent decisions made by Cabinet to which the procedure for calling-in could not be applied, as contained in this Council's Constitution.

**NOTE –** The topics of the reports outlined below are not to be the subject of debate by Council. However, Councillors may ask technical or factual questions to the relevant Director as to the reason(s) for urgency.

#### **Recommendation**

2. That the urgent decisions taken be noted.

#### **Reasons**

3. To comply with this Council's Constitution.

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Managing Director**

#### **Background Papers**

Report to Cabinet entitled 'Delivery of New Homes at Heighington Joint Venture Proposal' submitted on 29 June 2018.

Paul Dalton: Extension 2387

S17 Crime and Disorder	The contents of this report has been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its areas. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.
Health and Well Being	Any impact in relation to Health and Well Being are referred to in the individual reports submitted to Cabinet.
Carbon Impact	Any impact in relation to Carbon Impact is referred to in the individual reports submitted to Cabinet.
Diversity	Any impact in relation to Diversity is referred to in the individual reports submitted to Cabinet.
Wards Affected	Any impact in relation to Wards Affected are referred to in the individual reports submitted to Cabinet.
Groups Affected	Any impact in relation to Groups Affected are referred to in the individual reports submitted to Cabinet.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is a non Executive decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Any impact in relation to One Darlington: Perfectly Placed are referred to in the individual reports submitted to Cabinet.
Efficiency	Any impact in relation to Efficiency is referred to in the individual reports submitted to Cabinet.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Any impact in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers is referred to in the individual reports submitted to Cabinet.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

4. Contained within this Council's Constitution is a procedure for Scrutiny Committees to call-in decisions of Cabinet. This call-in procedure does not apply where the decision being taken by Cabinet or an Officer is urgent.
5. A decision will be urgent if any delay, which is likely to be caused by the call-in process, would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest.



6. The Constitution states that decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency and, given below, are details of such decisions taken since the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 10 May 2018:

C23	Delivery of New Homes at Heighington Joint Venture Proposal	As the land purchase is subject to a contractual requirement to be completed by no later than Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2018 in default of which the Landowner will be able to market the property to other developers and the development may not be delivered in accordance with this report including the loss of affordable housing delivery and potential profit
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### **Outcome of Consultation**

7. No formal consultation was undertaken in the preparation of this report.

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## **OVERVIEW OF ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

### **Healthy New Towns**

2. Scrutiny received a presentation on Healthy New Towns (HNT), a NHS England sponsored programme which is about building healthy communities through the built environment, community empowerment and new models of health and social care supported by digital technology.
3. Darlington is one of ten Healthy New Town sites across England and is the only one in the North East, with the initial focus of work being on the eastern growth zone, including Red Hall, Burdon Hill and Lingfield Point, which had been chosen because of the economic and housing development opportunities the area presented, along with the significant challenges in terms of health inequalities compared to the rest of Darlington.
4. The presentation covered the progress on the three workstreams within the programme of regeneration and housing, new models of care and digital empowerment, with particular reference being made at our Scrutiny Committee to the regeneration and housing workstream and the work being undertaken to encourage the building of homes which met the lifetime home principles, enabling houses to be adapted to meet the changing needs of residents over their life course, keeping them as independent as possible for as long as possible.
5. Reference was made to how the HNT initiative fitted in with the Red Hall Masterplan and we were advised of the significant regeneration work on the Red Hall Estate to improve the image and attractiveness of that estate, the work and community initiatives undertaken to date within that community and the partnership work with Keepmoat Homes for the development of the stables site that reflected the revised design principles of lifetime homes.
6. The potential of the programme stretches beyond the health and care sector. Digitally-enabled 'smart' towns and neighbourhoods, supported by integrated and effective public services, are attractive places to live and work in and they are also attractive to businesses and entrepreneurs, offering to encourage innovation and economic growth. This third year of the Healthy New Towns is focussed on delivery but also on the legacy of the programme.

## **Quality Assurance – Domiciliary Care Contract**

7. We have been updated on the new Home Care and Support Contract which commenced on 2 October 2017.
8. The Contract is a three-year contract, operating within a new model, with the Borough being divided into two geographical zones (east and west) with a single prime provider delivering support within each zone.
9. The successful providers are Careline and Positive Life Choices (PLC), however, there is also a safety net of ten additional framework providers who are offered packages, in instances where either of the prime providers are unable to meet the demand, with a further four framework agreements in place to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and dementia, autism and vulnerable families with children.
10. It is pleasing to note that a smooth transition to the new contract had been achieved and that the Officers were, overall, pleased with the performance of the providers to date.

## **Homeless Reduction Act**

11. Scrutiny was also advised of the implications of delivering homeless related services following the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, which came into force on 3 April 2018.
12. The Homeless Reduction Act, amends the existing Homelessness legislation, and requires Council's to try and prevent people from becoming homeless, intervening early and encouraging other public sector bodies to actively assist in identifying and referring those at risk of homelessness.
13. Actions are being taken by the Council to address the provisions, together with the challenges faced.

## **Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2017/18**

14. Members examined the outturn against key performance indicators under the remit of our Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18 and gave consideration to the proposed basket of performance indicators for 2018/19, together with the proposed schedule of performance reporting for 2018/19.

**Councillor Marjory Knowles**  
**Chair of Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee**

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## **OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

### **Work Programme**

2. We continue to give consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee and taking into account the ambitious programme of change across the Council and the key role of Scrutiny in ensuring that the programme is able to deliver the service improvements and the budget savings necessary.

### **Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2017/18 and Proposed Indicators for 2018/19**

3. Members examined the outturn performance data against key performance indicators for 2017/18 and gave consideration to the proposed basket of performance indicators for 2018/19. We also note the proposed schedule of performance reporting for 2018/19.
4. Areas that were performing well were contacts completed within one working day which had exceeded the target of 95 per cent at 96.7 per cent and only 0.6 per cent of contacts were completed in more than three working days; 96 per cent of referrals during quarter four were completed within one working day above the target of 90 per cent; the percentage of assessments completed within 45 working days was 93.3 per cent which had consistently exceeded the target of 90 per cent and was higher than our statistical neighbours and the England average; 100 per cent of child protection reviews have been completed within timescale; 100 per cent of Looked After Children reviews completed within timescale; and 93.4 per cent of Looked After Children statutory visits were completed within timescale.
5. We were also pleased to note that 100 per cent of all Children in Need, Children Protection and Children in Care had been allocated a Social Worker and had been consistently sustained; and 32.2 per cent of Care Leavers were not in employment, education or training (NEET) which was above the target of 33 per cent and of the 19 Care Leavers currently NEET, 12 were not available to work due to illness, pregnancy or parenting.
6. Areas where there was a need for further improvement included the number of re-referrals within 12 months of a previous referral at 247, which, although showing an improvement, still remained higher than the local target of 20 per cent; the percentage of children who had been in their current placement for two years or more and who had been in care for two and half years or more had increased to 65.1 per cent at the end of March 2018 reaching the target of 65 per cent, however

performance remains behind benchmarks and therefore remains an area for improvement; the percentage of children placed 20 miles or more away from homes has increased to 12 per cent at the end of March compared to the 2016/17 year end performance at 7.8 per cent; and at the end of March there were 87.5 per cent (140/160) of children with an up to date dental check in the past 12 months although there were an additional 12 children (7.5 per cent) who had refused a dental check this showed an increase on previous year-end performance which was 75.9 per cent.

7. We were concerned at the number of children who had refused a dental check and these were the older children 16/17 years but were reassured to hear that Officers were looking at different ways to engage with these young people to ensure that they have regular dental and health checks.

### **Early Interventions for Looked After Children Missing From Care**

8. Members, at the meeting held on 16 April 2018, requested further information regarding children who are Looked After and who experience missing from home episodes. We received a report that outlined some of the reasons children and young people may go missing; the link between children and young people who go missing and exploitation; and Ofsted feedback regarding the management of children and young people who go missing from home and care.
9. We also considered the interventions in place to address and reduce missing episodes for children and young people including this authority's procedures for managing children and young people who go missing; placement stability and the duty on the local authority to place a child or young person in the most appropriate placement; and a Secure Order which can be obtained from the Court if all other options for the child or young person have been exhausted.
10. We were also interested to know if the authority kept data on how many of the children and young people who go missing (across the board and not just LAC) have a diagnosis of autism or any other learning disability as the Members felt that they were more at risk of sexual exploitation.

### **Appointment of Co-opted Members**

11. Kate Chisholm, Chair of the Primary School Forum and Head Teacher of Skerne Park Academy and Nick Lindsay, 11-19 Partnership and Head Teacher of Longfield Academy have been formerly appointed to be co-opted Members of this Scrutiny Committee and will be invited to attend all future meetings of this Scrutiny Committee.

### **Childhood Obesity and Dental Health Care**

12. The Members of the Joint Review Group, established by this Scrutiny Committee to examine Childhood Obesity and Dental Health Care and any associated Mental Health Links submitted a report to make an interim recommendation in relation to any prospective water fluoridation scheme in Darlington. The submitted report outlined the investigations of the Joint Review Group in relation to poor dental

health outcomes in Darlington with strong links between the highest obesity rates and the poorest dental health being most prevalent in the most deprived areas of the Borough.

13. At the meeting we heard from Joy Warren, Joint Co-ordinator, UK Freedom from Fluoride Alliance; and Alan Hall and Michael Watson, members of the public who expressed their concerns at the introduction of a water fluoridation scheme in Darlington.
14. Dr David Landes, Public Health England also attended the meeting and advised the Members that there was a long history of residents who drink fluoride naturally and that Hartlepool have had fluoridated water since the 1840's and that there was a large body of evidence to show a reduction of dental disease in those areas; and areas which had a water fluoride scheme. He advised that there was also a 59 per cent reduction in general levels of anaesthesia. He also advised Members that a water fluoridation scheme would benefit those in the most deprived areas of the Borough.
15. Members agreed to support the joint work underway to gather information required for consideration about any prospective water fluoridation scheme in Darlington and recommended to Cabinet that it undertake a technical appraisal for consideration of a water fluoridation scheme in Darlington and/or the Tees Valley.

**Councillor Chris Taylor**  
**Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

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## **OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

### **Outturn Position - 2017/18**

2. At our meeting held on 12 July 2017, we considered the revenue outturn 2017/18; the performance, at quarter 4, of those key indicators within the remit of our Scrutiny Committee, the year-end sickness absence figures and the health and safety results.
3. We also considered the 2018/19 Quarter 1 Revenue budget Management position and received a presentation from the Assistant Director Law and Governance on how the council procures its contracts and the processes and procedures in place.
4. As the meeting had not taken place at the time of the Council agenda dispatch, I will give a verbal update to Council on all of these items.

**Councillor Ian Haszeldine  
Chair Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee**

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## **OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

### **Voluntary Sector Funding**

2. Scrutiny welcomed an update on the current position relating to Voluntary Sector Funding. We were advised that a series of Workshops had been held during March and April followed by further Workshops held in June.
3. The workshops had been attended by 50 to 60 people from various organisations, including Police, Fire Brigade, Health Organisations and schools as well as Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations currently not operating in Darlington and Members of the Darlington Organisations Together network.
4. Two focus areas have been identified namely, Social Isolation for Adults and Support for Vulnerable Families with Children. A series of community based projects will be established across these two focus areas which will run as pilots for 18 months from September. The projects will link with the Mutual Gain work currently being undertaken by Police colleagues as well as Neighbourhood Renewal Fund proposals and work being undertaken within GP Practices.
5. It was reported that there had previously been no appetite to apply for one-off funding or non-recurrent funding as it was a time-consuming exercise. Work was ongoing with Community Groups to have sustainability plans in place as there is no longer a guarantee of statutory funding.
6. The community based projects are to be considered for short term voluntary sector funding and it was envisaged that County Durham Community Fund would be linked to the next stage of the process thereby opening another avenue of funding opportunities. It was hoped that all Groups would become self-funding in the future.
7. Scrutiny was pleased with the progress being made around Voluntary Sector Funding and look forward to receiving details of projects at a future meeting.

### **Children's Vision Screening Pathway**

8. Members were informed that the Children's Vision Screening Pathway is to change on 3 September 2018 following a review which highlighted that 11 per cent of Darlington reception aged children were referred to hospital eye service orthoptists for further management following failed vision screening and that a significant

number of those referrals were not necessary.

9. Children who currently fail vision screening have suspected amblyopia (lazy eye) or are considered to have other pathology, for example, squint and are referred to hospital eye services for further management. Onward referral costs are subsequently picked up by the respective CCG for which the child has a registered GP practice.
10. We noted that health commissioners have worked closely with colleagues from the Council, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust and the Local Optical Committee (LOC) to review the current pathway which was contributing towards the overall increasing number of referrals to hospital eye services and Darlington CCG has agreed to commission a Children's Community Optometry Service which will eliminate the requirement for onward referral to hospital services for failed vision screening or suspected amblyopia.
11. Children who have failed vision screening or suspected amblyopia will now have their care delivered by a community optical practice at a time and place suitable for the parent/guardian to attend. This includes weekends which ensures that children are not taken out of school and parents/guardians need not necessarily take time off work to attend appointments with their children.
12. Members welcomed his new pathway which will make the best use of public funds, ensuring the health care needs of local children are met; reducing health inequalities by delivering a clinically effective quality service close to home.

#### **Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2017/18 and Proposed Committee Indicators for 2018/19**

13. Members gave consideration to the outturn performance data against key performance indicators for 2017/18, the basket of performance indicators and schedule of performance reporting for 2018/19.
14. We noted that of the five Community Services indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee two had achieved target for the year and performance was better than at the end of last year and three had not achieved target and were worse than at the end of last year.
15. Public Health indicators are produced in response to the diversity of information and scale of budgets involved and we noted two key performance indicators reported at Quarter 4 in line with the National reporting schedule. The two indicators relate to the National Child Measurement Programme.
16. Members recognised that 23 other Public Health indicators were reported to Scrutiny at other Quarters throughout the year.
17. We gave particular consideration to PBH 020 and PBH 021 Excess weight in primary school children in Reception and Year 6 and to PBH 013c relating to infants due a six to eight week check that are totally or partially breastfed.

## **Childhood Obesity and Dental Health Care**

18. This Scrutiny together with Children and Young People are undertaking a joint review to examine Childhood Obesity and Dental Health Care and any associated Mental Health Links.
19. The Review Group has made an interim recommendation to Cabinet in relation to any prospective water fluoridation scheme in Darlington, following its investigations, in relation to poor dental health outcomes in Darlington and the strong links between the highest obesity rates and the poorest dental health being most prevalent in the most deprived areas of the Borough.
20. Members agreed to support the joint work underway to gather information in relation to any prospective water fluoridation scheme in Darlington.
21. We also agreed to recommend to Cabinet that it agrees to carry out a technical appraisal for consideration of a water fluoridation scheme in Darlington and/or the Tees Valley.

## **Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Financial Plan 2018/19**

22. Scrutiny received a PowerPoint Presentation from Darlington NHS CCG which provided an update on the final allocations - money the CCG has to spend; summary financial plan – what the CCG is planning on spending; efficiency plan - what savings the CCG have to make to balance the books; and risk and mitigations – scenarios if the planned spend worsens.
23. Members were advised that the CCG cannot spend above the allocation it receives from National Health Services England. The allocation is split into three areas of programme for patient care, primary care delegated for GP practices and running costs for the management of the CCG.
24. We noted the CCG's expenditure and demands for services which outweigh the allocations received resulting in an efficiency programme, developed by benchmarking against peers and looking for areas where the spend is significantly higher, to balance the books.
25. Once the Efficiency Plan has been developed it is assessed by the CCG to identify how it would manage the financial risk if certain scenarios, for example, increased activity in the acute Trust, were to happen.
26. Overall Members were pleased with the financial position of Darlington NHS CCG and have requested regular updates on its financial position.

**Councillor Wendy Newall**  
**Chair of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**

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## **OVERVIEW OF PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Place Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

### **Darlington Borough Local Plan 2016 - 2036**

2. At a Special meeting of Scrutiny Committee Members gave consideration to the Consultation Draft of the Local Plan 2016 to 2036 prior to its consideration by Cabinet and approval to move to the next stage of the Local Plan process.
3. We were informed that the consultation period would be from 21 June to 2 August and that any responses received would be considered during September and October. The Plan would then be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in January 2019 with public examination taking place during Summer 2019. Following potential modifications the Local Plan would be adopted in Autumn 2019.
4. Members raised several queries and concerns within the document and were satisfied with Officers' responses. We sought clarification on some parts of the document and made some suggestions for inclusion within various sections.
5. We look forward to receiving a further report in approximately eight weeks' time following the consultation period.

### **Fly-tipping and Waste in the Borough's Back Lanes**

6. Scrutiny received a report providing an updated position on the level of fly-tipping across the Borough, actions taken, comparisons with Tees Valley and the Council's future strategies. Members were informed that fly-tipping was a national problem and all Councils had to report fly-tipping data through FlyCapture, a National database.
7. Scrutiny recognised that resources had significantly reduced within Street Scene from both staff collecting and clearing fly-tips to enforcement staff. Due to the reductions back lanes were cleansed fortnightly and not weekly and response time to fly-tips has been reduced.
8. We received a breakdown of performance over the last three years and noted that the number of fly-tips recorded through FlyCapture was more in 2017/18 than in previous years; the land most deposited on was back alleyways; and the majority of waste came from households and included black bags and furniture.

9. We noted that large fly-tips would normally be dumped from trucks and that these had increased significantly during 2017/18 and small fly-tips of black bags contained general household waste deposited by residents. Members welcomed the increase in prosecutions even though there had been a reduction in resources.
10. Members noted the comparisons with neighbouring Tees Valley Authorities which showed that Redcar and Cleveland had the highest number of fly-tips; Darlington had prosecuted considerably more than the other four authorities; and Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland had issued more Fixed Penalty Notices
11. Scrutiny was pleased that additional resources of £300,000 had been allocated to Street Scene as part of the MTFP 2018/19 and that this would be split between street cleaning and grounds maintenance.
12. Members supported the establishment of a new Community Safety Unit operating between the hours of 8am to 9/10pm which was to include a new function of Civic Enforcement covering nuisance parking, civil parking enforcement, environmental crime, focussing on fly tipping, waste out in back lanes, abandoned vehicles and addressing incidents of anti-social behaviour.
13. In relation to litter and dog fouling enforcement Members were informed that a tendering exercise would be undertaken with the successful contractor being expected to commence in late September 2018.

#### **Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2017/18 and Proposed Committee Indicators for 2018/19**

14. Members gave consideration to the outturn performance data against key performance indicators for 2017/18 and the proposed basket of performance indicators schedule of performance reporting for 2018/19.
15. Members noted that of the 31 indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee 15 were reported annually, 15 reported quarterly and one reported six-monthly at Quarters 2 and 4.
16. As one quarter is reported quarterly in arrears we scrutinised the 30 indicators for which outturn data was available of which 18 had year-end targets with nine achieving or exceeding target and nine not achieving year end targets. Of the twelve indicators with no year-end targets seven had exceeded out-turn performance and five showed performance worse than out-turn performance last year.
17. Members sought clarification on the calculation of CUL 065 Number of visits to the Library and expressed concerns that developers could land bank after receiving planning permissions.
18. Several Members also raised concerns that ENV 001 Number of Ward Members leading or involved in litter or grounds maintenance based projects was inaccurate and were assured by the Assistant Director Community Services that alternative



monitoring methods were being investigated.

19. In relation to TCP 900 Overall public satisfaction with Public Transport Theme we welcomed the attendance of a Tees Valley Combined Authority representative to a future meeting of Scrutiny to consider the Tees Valley Combined Strategic Transport Plan.
20. Members also requested that a further indicator be added to include pot hole repairs as part of TCP 200.

### **Creative Darlington Capacity**

21. We welcomed the report of the Managing Director on the current Creative Darlington Board resources including current spend and future opportunities.
22. The Creative Darlington Board, established in 2011/12, comprises Darlington Borough Council Officers and Members, and other parties from the private, public and voluntary sectors.
23. Members noted that Creative Darlington had reviewed its strategic priorities and a draft Culture Strategy and action plan has been prepared and will be presented to Cabinet with a request to agree and promote the strategy in 2018/19. We welcomed the emerging opportunities which included extending the development of Darlington's reputation as a Theatre Town, creatively exploring Darlington's railway heritage leading up to 2025 and opportunities for Darlington to contribute to the Tees Valley UK City of Culture 2025 programme.
24. Scrutiny noted that although The Bridge was operated by an independent Charity, Creative Darlington had responsibility for the Council's Borough Art Collection; management of the exhibitions programme at both Crown Street Library and the Town Hall Exhibition space; management of the delivery of programmes in receipt of external funding including the Heritage on Track programme; and assessment of applications to Darlington for Culture's small arts grant programme.
25. We noted that funding of £10,000 received from Creative Darlington and a Council Grant of £65,000 from Arts Council for England had supported a variety of theatre activity within the Town leading up to the opening of Darlington Hippodrome and Theatre Hullabaloo and that the Council has confirmed a Culture and Heritage budget for 2018/19 to 2020/21 to support arts development and progress Creative Darlington work.
26. Members learnt that the future requirements and opportunities included considerable progress against the Theatre Town priority building on the 'pioneering' work of Theatre Hullabaloo and supporting the developing profile of The Hullabaloo as a national centre of excellence; the creative exploration of railway heritage and the approaching bi-centenary of the first modern railway passenger journey, which is expected to be a cultural event of national and international significance; the Heritage on Track programme, which is one part of the Tees Valley Combined Authority led Greater Tees programme; commissioning original work marking the countdown to the bi-centenary event in 2025 which enhances the public realm and

strengthens Darlington's profile as a railway Town, particularly around key rail heritage sites and stations within Darlington; and development of the UK City of Culture 2025 alongside other Tees Valley local authorities.

27. We queried the inclusion of school children and college and university students and were pleased to note there is dedicated capacity to work with children and that the Council's Head of Education and Inclusion now sat on the Creative Darlington Board alongside Culture Bridge North East, an organisation that connected cultural organisations and the education sector so that children and young people can have access to great arts and excellent cultural opportunities.

**Councillor Bob Carson**  
**Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee**