

FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD: 1 MARCH 2023 - 31 JULY 2023

What is a Forward Plan?

The Forward Plan is a list of the key decisions, which are due to be taken, by the Cabinet, a Member of the Cabinet or a designated Officer in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulation 2012. It also gives notice of the decisions that are likely to be taken in private. These decisions need to be published on the Forward Plan at least 28 clear days before the decision is to be taken. The Plan is updated on an ad hoc basis, but at least once a month. It can be accessed on the Council website www.darlington.gov.uk.

What is a Key Decision?

A key decision in the Council's constitution is defined as to:

- 1. result in the Borough Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- 2. be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the Borough.

What are the reasons that a report can be held in private?

Whilst the majority of the Executive decisions listed in this Forward Plan will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will inevitably be some decisions to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially or personal information.

The Forward Plan is a formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 that some of the decisions listed in this Forward Plan will be held in private because the report will contain exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (set out below) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

- 1. Information relating to any individual
- 2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
- 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
- 4 Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority

- 5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
- 6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:-
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
- 7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Council's constitution, key decisions are taken by Cabinet.

Are only Key Decisions listed in the Forward Plan?

The Council only has a statutory obligation to publish key decisions and decisions that are to be heard at a private meeting.

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The Plan gives information about:

- What key decisions are coming up
- When those decisions are likely to be made
- Which decisions will be held in private
- Who will make those decisions
- The relevant Scrutiny Committee that the decision relates to
- What consultation will be undertaken
- Whether the decision will be a open or closed report (and the reason why) (public and press are not allowed to access closed reports and will not be able to stay in the Cabinet meeting when a closed report is being considered)
- Who you can contact for further information

How to make representations

Members of the public have a right to make representations to the Council, including whether they think that any items we are proposing to consider in private should be dealt with in public. The Council will consider any representations before a decision is taken.

Anyone who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a particular matter should do so in writing, at least a week before it is due to be considered, either by letter or email to Lynne Wood using the contact details set out below.

How and who do I contact?

Each entry in the Plan indicates the names of all the relevant people to contact about that particular item.

For general information about the decision-making process and for copies of any documents outlined in the Forward Plan please contact Lynne Wood, Elections Manager, Democratic Services, Resources Group, Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QT. Tel: 01325 405803. Email: lynne.wood@darlington.gov.uk.

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Title

Delivery of New Homes at Neasham Road - Land Disposal and Joint Venture Proposal

Brief Description

To note the intention to sell land at Neasham Road, Cell C, to the a new Joint Venture Company using the Council's Joint Venture framework (to be established subject to a further Cabinet report and approvals).

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department People

Wards Affected Hurworth

Consultation Process None

Title Equality Policy Policy and Objective Refresh

Brief Description To consider and approve an updated Equality Policy.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Internal consultation

Document to be submitted Report and updated Equality Policy

Title Housing Services Allocations Policy

Brief Description To approve the Housing Services Allocations Policy.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Meetings with Tenants Panel and written comments.

Document to be submitted Report and Housing Services Allocations Policy

Title

Housing Services Damp, Mould and Condensation Policy

Brief Description

To approve the Housing Services Damp and Mould Policy. Damp and mould issues were already covered in the Housing Management Policy but The Regulator of Social Housing has recently written to all social housing providers expecting a separate policy on damp and mould.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Meetings with Tenants Panel and written comments.

Document to be submitted

Report and draft Housing Services Damp and Mould Policy.

Title

Housing Services Low Cost Home Ownership Policy

Brief Description

To approve the Housing Services Low Cost Home Ownership Policy.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Meetings and written comments from Tenants Panel.

Document to be submitted Report and Policy

Title

Local Transport Plan

Brief Description

To update the 2022/23 delivery of the Transport Programme including annual monitoring data, Transport Programme for 2023/24 and progress on the Local Implementation Plan.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Barbara Strickland, PA Manager Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Document to be submitted Report and Local Transport Plan

Title

Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)

Brief Description

To inform and update Members about issues relevant to the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and developments and recent developments.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Title

Release of Capital Funds - Whinfield Primary Roof and Hurworth Schools Section 106 Funding

Brief Description

Report requesting the release of capital funding for the replacement of the roof at Whinfield Primary School and the release of Section 106 funding for Hurworth Primary and Hurworth Secondary Schools capital works.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Children and Young People Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Sarah Foster sarah.foster@darlington.gov.uk

Department People

Wards Affected Whinfield; Hurworth

Consultation Process None

Title

Schedule of Transactions - March 2023

Brief Description

To consider terms negotiated by the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, to enable contractually binding contract(s) to be completed.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Mar 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Barbara Strickland, PA Manager Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted Report and schedule of transactions

Title Household Support Fund 2023/24

Brief Description

To consider a programme of support as part of the Household Support Fund 2023/24

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Apr 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Children and Young People Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Title

Introduction of a Civil (Financial) Penalty Policy and Enforcement Protocol – Electrical Safety Standards

Brief Description

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to utilise the powers within the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020, to be adopted as a means of enforcement where electrical safety conditions fall short of requirements and private sector landlords do not take steps to improve standards. The powers allow local authorities to issue a Notice of the intention to impose a Civil Penalty of up to a maximum of £30,000. Decision to utilise the powers within the Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Apr 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Stronger Communities Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Charleen Dods Charleen.Dods@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Document to be submitted

Report

Title

Introduction of the Use of Civil Penalty Notices under the Housing and Planning Act 2016

Brief Description

The powers conferred by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 allow local authorities to issue a Notice of the intention to impose a Civil Penalty of up to a maximum of £30,000 as an alternative to prosecuting a number of offences under the Housing Act 2004. The purpose of this report is to seek the agreement of Members for these new powers to be adopted as a means of enforcement. Decision on whethre to impose the Civil Penalty in the Housin Planning Act 2016.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Apr 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Stronger Communities Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Charleen Dods Charleen.Dods@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Document to be submitted

Report

Title

Release of Capital 2023/24 - Essential Repairs to Play Areas and Skerne River Bridge

Brief Description

To request the release of Capital for essential repairs to play areas and Skerne River Bridge.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Apr 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Barbara Strickland, PA Manager Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Title Adaptation Plan

Brief Description

Action plan for ensuring that the Council is resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 25 Apr 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Barbara Strickland, PA Manager Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted Report and action plan

Title Annual Procurement Plan

Brief Description

To consider the Annual Procurement Plan for the 2023/24 Financial Year and to agree direct contract awards.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 25 Apr 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Document to be submitted Report and Annual Procurement Plan

Title

Commercial Loan for The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust to fund the private siding at the Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter

Brief Description

To request a commercial loan of a drawdown of a maximum of £500,000 to The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust to fund the private siding at the Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter. To be repaid over ten years.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 25 Apr 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Local Services Portfolio, Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Charleen Dods Charleen.Dods@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected Northgate

Consultation Process N/A

Title

Schedule of Transactions - April 2023

Brief Description

To consider terms negotiated by the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, to enable contractually binding contract(s) to be completed.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 25 Apr 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Barbara Strickland, PA Manager Barbara.Strickland@darlington.gov.uk

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted Report and schedule of transactions

Title Representation on Outside Bodies 2023/24

Brief Description

To appoint Members to the various outside bodies to which Cabinet can appoint.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 13 Jun 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Leader of the Council

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lynne Wood, Elections Manager Lynne.Wood@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Consultation with political groups.

Title

Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2022-23

Brief Description

To advise on collection rates for Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent and to seek approval for the write-off of irrecoverable debts.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Jul 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Title

Council Plan 2020/23 Performance Report - Quarter 4

Brief Description

Report detailing progress and performance against the actions and priorities outlined in the Council Plan in Quarter 4.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Jul 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Gail Banyard, PA Manager

Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Title

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2022/23

Brief Description

To provide information on the delivery of the Council's Capital Programme, the financial outturn position, financing of Capital expenditure and update on projects.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Jul 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Title

Revenue Budget Outturn 2022/23

Brief Description

To present the Revenue Outturn to allow consideration of the results in light of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and to consider the Council's Collection Fund and Housing Revenue Account outturn.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Jul 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Title Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report

Brief Description

Review of progress and performance of Xentrall Shared Services, the Stockton and Darlington partnership.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Jul 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Gail Banyard, PA Manager Gail.Banyard@darlington.gov.uk

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None