

FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD: 2 AUGUST 2023 - 31 DECEMBER 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 Dolphin Centre Pool Repairs

Brief Description To consider extending the Dolphin Centre Pool Project to undertake additional works.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision Yes

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 11 Aug 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

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

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Title Annual Audit Letter 2020/21

Brief Description

High Level summary from the results of the audit work undertaken by Ernst & Young the Council's External Auditors.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 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 Audit Letter

Title Annual Review of the Investment Fund

Brief Description

To provide an update on the schemes and projects agreed by Cabinet to be funded from the £50m investment fund.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 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 Asset Management Plan

Brief Description To seek endorsement of the draft Asset Management Plan.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 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

Title Climate Change

Brief Description

Annual report to provide Members with an update on the Climate Change Action Plan

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 2023

Council

28 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Leader of the Council

Leader of the Council

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

Complaints Made to Local Government Ombudsman

Brief Description

To provide Members with an update of the outcome of cases which have been determined by the Local Government, Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and the Housing Ombudsman (HO).

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

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

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Title

Complaints, Compliments and Comments Annual Reports 2022/23

Brief Description

To consider the annual complaints, compliments and comments annual reports for Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Corporate, Housing and Public Health.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 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 Reports.

Title Disabled Facilities Grant 2023/24

Brief Description

Permission to release fund to enable the adaptations for those individuals who are eligible to receive the Disabled Facilities Grant

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Adults Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Adults Portfolio

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

Department People

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Title Dolphin Centre Repairs

Brief Description

To consider additional works required in the Dolphin Centre and the release of funding to undertake those works.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 2023

Council

28 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Health and Housing Portfolio

Health and Housing 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

Title

Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement

Brief Description

To consider a proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement for land at Faverdale.

Decision Type 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 5 Sep 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 Brinkburn and Faverdale

Consultation Process None

Document to be submitted Report and draft agreement

Title Land at Neasham Road - Cell A

Brief Description To consider proposals for land at Neasham Road (Cell A).

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Part exempt

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Economy Portfolio, Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

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

Department Services

Wards Affected Hurworth

Consultation Process N/A

Title

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter One 2023/24

Brief Description

To provide a summary of the latest Capital resource and commitment position, to inform monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 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

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 5 Sep 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 Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter One

Brief Description

To provide an up to date forecast of the revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 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

Schedule of Transactions

Brief Description

To consider the terms negotiated by the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, to enable contractually binding contract(s) to be 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 5 Sep 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 Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted

Title School Term Dates 2025/26

Brief Description

To consider and set the school term date arrangements for Darlington Maintained Schools for the Academic Year 2024/25.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 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 All Wards

Consultation Process Consultation with all schools.

Title

Skerningham Garden Village Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

Brief Description

Report submitted to Cabinet to enable consideration to be given to the Planning Policy Final Supplementary Planning Document

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 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

Brinkburn and Faverdale; Harrowgate Hill; Haughton and Springfield; Sadberge and Middleton St. George; Whinfield

Consultation Process Consultation previously been undertaken on the document.

Document to be submitted

Report and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

Title

Treasury Management Annual Report and Outturn Prudential Indicators 2022/23

Brief Description

Report providing information on the regulation and management of the Council's borrowing, investments and cash-flow and requesting approval of the Prudential Indicators.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Sep 2023

Council

28 Sep 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy 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

Title

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 - Fixed Penalty Notices

Brief Description

To provide an update on Defra's announcement that on-the-spot fines for litter, graffiti and fly-tipping are set to rise, and how this Council will proceed.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 10 Oct 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Stronger Communities Portfolio

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

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Title Procurement Plan Update

Brief Description

To consider and approve an update to the Annual Procurement Plan 2023/24

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 10 Oct 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 with Departments.

Document to be submitted Report and updated Procurement Plan

Title Special Free School at West Park, Darlington

Brief Description

To consider the development of a special Free School at West Park, Darlington.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 10 Oct 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 Brinkburn and Faverdale

Consultation Process Meetings

Title Council Tax Changes to Empty Property Premiums from 2024

Brief Description

To approve the Council Tax Changes to Empty Property Premiums from 2024.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Nov 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 Online consultation with residents via online feedback form.

Title

Council Tax Support - Scheme Approval 2024/25

Brief Description

To consider and approve a draft Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Nov 2023

Council

30 Nov 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

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

Department

Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted Report and Council Tax Support Scheme

Title Housing Services Climate Change Strategy

Brief Description To approve the Housing Climate Change Strategy.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Nov 2023

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Health and Housing Portfolio, Resources Portfolio

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

Department Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Meeting with Tenants Panel and written representation.

Document to be submitted Report and Strategy

Title Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy

Brief Description To approve the Housing Services Repairs and Maintenance Policy.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Nov 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 Meeting with Tenants Panel and written comments

Document to be submitted Report and Policy

Title

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter Two 2023/24

Brief Description

To provide a summary of the latest Capital resource and commitment position, to inform monitoring of the affordability and funding of the Council's capital programme.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Nov 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 N/A

Title

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter Two

Brief Description

To provide an up to date forecast of the revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management process.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 7 Nov 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 N/A

Title

Mid-Year Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management 2023/24

Brief Description

To consider the revised Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and providing a half-yearly review of the Council's borrowing and investment activities.

Decision Type

Кеу

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Dec 2023

Council

25 Jan 2024

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

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

Department

Operations

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted

Report

Items deferred since the publication of the last Forward Plan

Title

Offset Strategy

Brief Description

To consider a document setting out the Council's approach to dealing with residual carbon emissions after all energy efficiency and other actions have been taken.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 5 Mar 2024

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

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

Department Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Internal consultation