

FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD: 5 FEBRUARY 2025 - 30 JUNE 2025

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

Adoption of Finalised Appraisal for the Stockton and Darlington Railway: Northgate Conservation Area Including Changes to its Boundary and Name

Brief Description

Following Consultation, consideration to the adoption of the Amended Northgate Conservation Area.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Mar 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Economy and Public Protection

Wards Affected

Brinkburn and Faverdale; North Road; Northgate; Pierremont; Stephenson

Consultation Process

Six seek consultation undertaken - results of the consultation detailed within the Appraisal at Appendix 1.

Document to be submitted Report and Conservation Area Appraisal

Title Adult Social Care Transport Policy 2024

Brief Description

To consider an overview of the updated Adult Social Care Transport Policy.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Mar 2025

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 Consultation with Adults Scrutiny Committee

Document to be submitted Report and updated Adult Social Care Transport Policy.

Title

Consideration of the Use of Ingenium Parc, Maidendale Farm and part of Morton Palms for Residential Use

Brief Description

Consideration of use of employment land at Ingenium Parc for residential purposes.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Mar 2025

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 Economy and Public Protection

Wards Affected

Eastbourne; Hurworth; Sadberge and Middleton St. George

Consultation Process None

Title Customer Services Strategy 2025/30

Brief Description To approve the Customer Services Strategy 2025-30.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Mar 2025

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 Resources and Governance

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process On-line consultation with all residents.

Document to be submitted Report and Customer Services Strategy

Title

Darlington Transport Plan

Brief Description

Update on the 2023/24 delivery of the Transport Programme inc annual monitoring data, Transport Programme for 2024/25 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 4 Mar 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms

Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Title Digital Darlington Strategy 2025-30

Brief Description To approve the Digital Darlington Strategy 2025/30.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Mar 2025

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 Resources and Governance

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted Report and Strategy

Title Land at Coniscliffe Road, Darlington

Brief Description

To consider the strategic acquisition of land at Coniscliffe Road, Darlington

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 4 Mar 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Chief Executive and Economic Growth

Wards Affected Hummersknott

Consultation Process N/A

Title

Land at Faverdale - Burtree Garden Village - Proposed Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA)

Brief Description

To seek approval to enter into an Infrastructure Development Agreement (IDA) with Homes England.

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 4 Mar 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Chief Executive and Economic Growth

Wards Affected Brinkburn and Faverdale

Consultation Process None

Document to be submitted Report and draft agreement

Title

Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025/30

Brief Description

To consider and approve the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025/30.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Mar 2025

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 Resources and Governance

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Consultation with Scrutiny Committee.

Document to be submitted Report and Strategy

Title

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and Renewal of Town Centre Order

Brief Description

To consider Public Space Protection Orders and the renewal of the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 4 Mar 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Stronger Communities Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Consultation with public and partners

Title

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (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 4 Mar 2025

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 Resources and Governance

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Title

To consider the Use of Land at Faverdale including the Former St Modwen Land for Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality Credits

Brief Description

To consider the potential of using the former St Modwen site at Faverdale for Biodiversity Net Gain mitigation and assess the financial implications

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 4 Mar 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected Brinkburn and Faverdale

Consultation Process N/A

Title Annual Procurement Plan Update

Brief Description To consider the Procurement Plan and to agree direct contract awards.

To consider the Procurement Planand to agree direct contrac

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

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 Resources and Governance

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process None

Document to be submitted Report and Plan

Title Dolphin Centre – Invest to Save Projects

Brief Description

Update report on the Invest to Save Projects at the Dolphin Centre.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected Park East

Consultation Process N/A

Title Household Support Fund

Brief Description

To consider a programme of support as part of the Household Support Fund 2025.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

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 Resources and Governance

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Title

Long Term Plan for Towns

Brief Description

To update Cabinet on the allocation of £20m from the Government's Long Term Plan for Towns fund to spend on Darlington's urban core over the next 10 years.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

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 Resources and Governance

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Title North East Smokefree Declaration

Brief Description To consider the Council signing the North East Smokefree Declaration.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Health and Housing Portfolio

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

Department People

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted Report and Declaration.

Title Physical Activity Strategy

Brief Description To consider the adoption of a Physical Activity Strategy.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Health and Housing Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Resources and Governance

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process Scrutiny and Health and Well Being Board

Document to be submitted Report and Strategy

Title

Schedule of Transactions

Brief Description

To consider the terms negotiated by the Director on behalf of the Council to enable contractually binding contracts 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 8 Apr 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted Report and Schedule of Transactions.

Title

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy

Brief Description

To present the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2025-2029 following the completion of the public consultation. It details the key elements of the Strategy and the planned implementation with partners.

Decision Type Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

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 Public consultation.

Document to be submitted Report and SEND Strategy

Title Strategic Asset Plan

Brief Description

Public document setting out the Asset Management Strategy, Policy and Action Plan 2024-2029.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected All Wards

Consultation Process N/A

Document to be submitted Report and Asset Plan

Title Woodland Road Waiting Restrictions

Brief Description

To consider setting aside objections to proposed waiting restrictions on Woodland Road.

Decision Type Non-Key

Decision Status For Determination

Urgent Decision No

Anticipated Restriction Open

Decision Maker Cabinet Date of Decision 8 Apr 2025

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author Lucy Simms Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected College; Pierremont

Consultation Process N/A