



FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2026 - 31 MAY 2026

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

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

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.

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN

For general information about the decision-making process and for copies of any documents outlined in the Forward Plan please contact Olivia Hugill, Democratic Officer, Democratic Services, Resources and Governance, Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QT. Tel: 01325 405363. Email: olivia.hugill@darlington.gov.uk.

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**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Climate Change Progress

Brief Description

(annual report July (with figures) / six month update January (no figures) - for 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

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Margaret Enstone, Sustainability and Climate Change Lead Officer

Margaret.Enstone@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Chief Executive and Economic Growth

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Council Plan Performance Report - Quarter 4

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lynne Davies, Strategy and Policy Manager

Lynne.davies@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Council Tax Calculation of Tax Base 2026/27

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Judith Murray, Finance Manager
Judith.Murray@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Hopetown Darlington Access Statement Policy 2025-2030

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Jade-Lauren North, PA

jade-lauren.north@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected

Northgate

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Hopetown Darlington Collections Management Framework 2025-2030

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Jade-Lauren North, PA

jade-lauren.north@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected

Northgate

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Museum Accreditation Policies 2026

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Louise Neale, Transport Policy Officer, Jade-Lauren North, PA

Louise.Neale@darlington.gov.uk, jade-lauren.north@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected

Northgate

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Land at Morton Palms Business Park - Proposed sale of plot

Brief Description

Request to dispose of circa 1.5 acres of land for use as car parking to facilitate the refurbishment and extension of Stephenson House on the Business Park

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lucy Simms

Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economy and Public Protection

Wards Affected

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Maintained Schools Capital Programme Summer 2026

Brief Description

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Contact Officer/Report Author

Sarah Foster

sarah.foster@darlington.gov.uk

Department

People

Wards Affected

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Objections to Traffic Order – Lowson Street

Brief Description

Proposed waiting restrictions and change to loading bay days/time. The restrictions are required to improve the visibility/road safety and allow local businesses to load/unload goods in accordance with the Council's statutory duty as set out in the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lynsey Cottam

Lynsey.Cottam@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected

Harrowgate Hill

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Release of S106 Education Capital Funds

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

6 Jan 2026

Relevant 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

Sadberge and Middleton St. George

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

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

6 Jan 2026

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.

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings

Brief Description

Consideration of a Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings for the Municipal Year

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Contact Officer/Report Author

Rebecca Willoughby, PA Manager
Rebecca.Willoughby@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Capital Strategy

Brief Description

To consider the Council's proposed Capital Strategy.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Rebecca Willoughby, PA Manager
Rebecca.Willoughby@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Land at Salters Lane, Cummins - Proposed sale of plot

Brief Description

Request to dispose of circa 12 acres of land for the development of an extension to Cummins.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lucy Simms

Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economy and Public Protection

Wards Affected

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

MTFP 2025/26 - Final Version Post Consultation

Brief Description

To propose a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to Council for approval.

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Rebecca Willoughby, PA Manager
Rebecca.Willoughby@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3

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

3 Feb 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Rebecca Willoughby, PA Manager
Rebecca.Willoughby@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy

Brief Description

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

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Rebecca Willoughby, PA Manager
Rebecca.Willoughby@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Relignment of Economic Growth Related Service

Brief Description

Enhancement of Economic Growth-related service within Economy and Public Protection directorate to better align with Councils ambition and objectives to facilitate economic growth

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant 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

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3

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

3 Feb 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Rebecca Willoughby, PA Manager
Rebecca.Willoughby@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Schedule of Transactions

Brief Description

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

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lucy Simms

Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economy and Public Protection

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Schools Admissions 2027/28

Brief Description

To consider the Local Authority's Admission Arrangements for the 2025/26 academic year for maintained schools.

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant 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

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Special Free School

Brief Description

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Feb 2026

Relevant 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

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Biodiversity Duty Reporting

Brief Description

Statutory report to Defra on progress towards our biodiversity duty

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Mar 2026

Relevant 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

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Darlington Transport Plan

Brief Description

Update 2020-20 delivery of the Transport Programme incl annual monitoring data, Transport Programme for 2021/22 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

3 Mar 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Local Services Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lynsey Cottam

Lynsey.Cottam@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Town Centre Regeneration and East Street Development

Brief Description

Gateway approval to proceed with development at East Street

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Mar 2026

Relevant 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

Park East

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Town Centre Regeneration and STEM Centre Development

Brief Description

To consider entering into a development agreement

Decision Type

Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

3 Mar 2026

Relevant 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

North Road; Park East; Stephenson

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Annual Procurement Plan

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Apr 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Rebecca Willoughby, PA Manager
Rebecca.Willoughby@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Annual Statement of Accounts 2025/26

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Apr 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Rebecca Willoughby, PA Manager
Rebecca.Willoughby@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

All Wards

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Blackwell Parkland - Proposed Village Green Registration

Brief Description

To seek approval to register the Blackwell Parkland as Village Green

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Apr 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio, Economy Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Lucy Simms

Lucy.Simms@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economy and Public Protection

Wards Affected

Park West

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Land at Ingenium Parc and Morton Palms - Development Proposal

Brief Description

Report seeking approval for feasibility fees to be incurred , to submit a planning application to bring forward land for development

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

7 Apr 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Economy Portfolio, Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Guy Metcalfe, Head of Service for Asset Management and Investment

Guy.Metcalfe@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Economy and Public Protection

Wards Affected

Hurworth; Sadberge and Middleton St. George

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted