



FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD: 1 MARCH 2026 - 31 JULY 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.

Title	Decision Maker and Date	Page
Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings	Cabinet 3 Mar 2026	4
Consultation on Local Plan Review	Cabinet 3 Mar 2026	5
Darlington Transport Plan	Cabinet 3 Mar 2026	6
Delivery of the Stem Centre	Cabinet 3 Mar 2026	7
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)	Cabinet 3 Mar 2026	8
Annual Procurement Plan	Cabinet 7 Apr 2026	9
Audit of Accounts 2024/25	Cabinet 7 Apr 2026	10
Consultation on a Draft Supplementary Document on Houses in Multiple Occupation Guidance	Cabinet 7 Apr 2026	11
Crisis and Resilience Fund	Cabinet 7 Apr 2026	12
Darlington Community Safety Plan 2026-2029	Cabinet	13
Introduction of the Renters Rights Act 2025	Cabinet 7 Apr 2026	14
Blackwell Parkland - Proposed Village Green Registration	Cabinet 5 May 2026	15
Education Capital Projects	Cabinet 5 May 2026	16
Land at Sparrow Hall Drive - Development proposal	Cabinet 5 May 2026	17
Schedule of Transactions	5 May 2026	18
Town Centre Regeneration and East Street Development	Cabinet 9 Jun 2026	19
Land at Ingenium Parc and Morton Palms - Development Proposal	Cabinet 7 Jul 2026	20

**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 Mar 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

Consultation on Local Plan Review

Brief Description

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)

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

Delivery of the Stem Centre

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

Regulatory 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

3 Mar 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Resources Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Jim Langley, Principal Lawyer - Litigation
jim.langley@darlington.gov.uk

Department

Resources and Governance

Wards Affected

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

Audit of Accounts 2024/25

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

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

Consultation on a Draft Supplementary Document on Houses in Multiple Occupation Guidance

Brief Description

To seek approval to consult on a Draft Supplementary Document on Homes in Multiple Occupation Guidance

Decision Type

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)

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

Crisis and Resilience Fund

Brief Description

To agree the deployment of a Government Grant

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

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 Community Safety Plan 2026-2029

Brief Description

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Contact Officer/Report Author

Department

Environment, Highways and Community Services

Wards Affected

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Introduction of the Renters Rights Act 2025

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)

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

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

5 May 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

Education Capital Projects

Brief Description

Release of Capital Funds for Education Projects

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Open

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 May 2026

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Children and Young People Portfolio

Contact Officer/Report Author

Head of Education and Inclusion

Department

People

Wards Affected

Hurworth; Sadberge and Middleton St. George

Consultation Process

Document to be submitted

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Title

Land at Sparrow Hall Drive - Development proposal

Brief Description

request to release Council land for residential development and to grant access to neighbouring land in private ownership to facilitate residential development, subject to planning permission

Decision Type

Non-Key

Decision Status

For Determination

Urgent Decision

No

Anticipated Restriction

Part exempt

Decision Maker

Cabinet

Date of Decision

5 May 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

Whinfield

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

Date of Decision

5 May 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

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

9 Jun 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

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 Jul 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

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**