

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 December 2021

**PRESENT** – Councillors Tait (Chair), Allen, Cossins, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Haszeldine, B Jones, McCollom and Willis

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Bartch and Wallis,

**ABSENT** –

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors Keir

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Ian Thompson (Assistant Director Community Services), Anthony Hewitt (Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects), Ian Stewart (Capital Programme Manager), Brian Graham (Head of Environmental Services) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

### **CLS23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

### **CLS24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2021**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 21 October 2021.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 21 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

### **CLS25 BANK TOP MASTERPLAN**

The Assistant Director – Highways and Capital Projects gave a presentation (previously circulated) updating Members on the Bank Top Masterplan and in doing so outlined the project objectives to transform Darlington Train Station into a modern transport hub; to provide more frequent and faster local and national services and futureproof the station for future services; and to support and enhance the wider Darlington Regeneration initiatives.

The presentation outlined the component parts of the project which included Darlington Station, Victoria Road Interchange, Cattle Market, Victoria Road improvements, New Station, Multi-storey car park and Interchange and link to Central Park; details were provided of the key feature of Station East, Darlington Station and the Transport Interchange – Victoria Road; and delivery timescales were outlined.

The presentation provided a number of graphics, including the station entrance, multi-storey car park and interchange; and Members were provided with details of the latest position of the project.

Discussion ensued on the toilet and changing facilities for the new station; the availability of bicycle parking; and following a question on the anticipated impact of timetable changes, Members were advised that a net overall increase in footfall was predicted, with faster services and an increased number of trains per hour which would assist in futureproofing the station for future services.

**RESOLVED** – That the presentation be noted.

## **CLS26 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 2 2021/2022**

The Assistant Director Community Services and Assistant Director Highways and Capital Projects submitted a report (previously circulated) together with detailed performance scorecards (also previously circulated) advising Members of the Quarter 2 performance against those key indicators for 2021/2022 which were within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that of the 25 indicators that were reported six monthly at quarter 2, seven were showing performance better than the same period in the previous year; one indicator was showing performance the same; four indicators were showing performance not as good as the same period in the previous year; and five indicators did not have comparative information from last year due to Coronavirus restrictions.

In relation to the Culture indicators, particular reference was made to CUL 037 – Number of shows held at the Hippodrome and CUL 038 – Number of individual attendances at theatre shows which had both started to see an increase as restrictions were eased ; and reference was made to ENV 002 – Street Champions, which had seen a significant increase in the number of active Street Champions.

Particular reference was also made to the performance indicators relating to Road Traffic Accidents, with the majority seeing a reduction; this was attributed to significantly less traffic as a result of the pandemic and periods of lockdown.

Discussion ensued on fly tipping and the need for improved monitoring via cameras; Members were assured that whilst there were some resource constraints, a significant amount of work was being done to tackle fly tipping, this included the use of covert and overt cameras and the Back Lanes Project. Reference was made to the My Darlington App which could be used by residents to report fly tipping; it was suggested that Members be provided with a presentation on the new My Darlington app and that the use of incentives to encourage usage by the public, be explored.

In light of the changes to the management of large fly tips, Members were informed that work was being undertaken to review the performance indicators and that two separate targets, Civic Enforcement to investigate and Street Scene to clear, may be reported in the future.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be received.

## **CLS27 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously approved work programme.

Councillor B Jones requested that an item on the availability of wheelchair accessible taxis be included in the work programme and a Quad of Aims would be submitted for Members consideration; and Members were informed of a safety campaign that was being run over the festive period to address safety concerns in relation to taxi availability for the night time economy.

It was suggested that the Darlington Cultural Strategy be brought to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee, prior to consideration by Cabinet.

**RESOLVED** – That the work programme be updated to reflect discussions.