

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
17 FEBRUARY 2022**

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**WORK PROGRAMME**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2021/22 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be added to the previously approved work programme.

**Summary**

2. Members are requested to consider the attached work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the 2021/22 Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee.
3. A request has been received (**Appendix 2**) from a Member to investigate options to increase the number of wheelchair accessible taxis in Darlington and improve on the current situation.
4. In accordance with the agreed procedure (**Appendix 3**), the request was forwarded to the Group Director of Services for a view on its merits, using the identified criteria. The response of the Group Director of Services is attached (**Appendix 2**).

**Recommendation**

5. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme and consider any additional areas of work they would like to include.
6. In accordance with the agreed procedure, taking into account the views of the Group Director of Services, this Scrutiny Committee is requested to make a decision about whether the item on the wheelchair accessible taxis should be added to its work programme and, if so, how it wishes to proceed.

**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author : Hannah Miller 5801

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Wellbeing	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

7. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
8. The Council Plan sets the vision and strategic direction for the Council through to May 2023, with its overarching focus being 'Delivering success for Darlington'.
9. In approving the Council Plan, Members have agreed to a vision for Darlington which is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.
10. The visions for the Stronger Communities and Local Services portfolios are:-  
  
    'to build Stronger Communities that are resilient, sustainable and safe to ensure everyone has the best opportunities to succeed' and 'a borough that is attractive, green and clean, with a wide variety of activities to be enjoyed, and a transport offer that facilitates efficient movement and reduced carbon emissions in the borough'.

### Forward Plan and Additional Items

9. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims.
10. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 4** for information.