

**LEADER'S OVERVIEW**

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**Cabinet**

1. Cabinet has given its consent to the making by Parliament of a statutory instrument to enable responsibility for the Adult Education Budget to transfer to the Tees Valley Combined Authority.
2. The powers of the Combined Authority have been established by the devolution of powers from central government and formalised by a number of statutory instruments which prescribe and delineate the powers granted. The process followed in the making of a statutory instrument requires the consent of the local authorities within the area of the combined authority before an order can be made.
3. Cabinet has appointed the Council's representation on other bodies for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.
4. Cabinet has agreed to make a one-off payment of £50,000 from the Council's Futures Fund to the Darlington Credit Union to assist in its work to improve the financial wellbeing of the community.
5. The Council has continued to support the Darlington Credit Union and since it was founded in 2009, membership has risen from 400 to over 6,500 and increasing on a monthly basis. The Council also undertakes to encourage other public service organisations and businesses to make capital investments with the Darlington Credit Union and to promote payroll saving.

**Darlington Partnership**

6. The Partnership facilitated a workshop for voluntary and public sector agencies on the full roll out of Universal Credit. The intention of the workshop was to raise awareness and ensure all agencies were better placed to work together to minimise negative impacts on Darlington residents of changes to the benefit regime.
7. At the Partnership Board I strongly supported the proposal that there should be an assembly held to review the overall impact of the Welfare Reforms on Darlington since legislation was introduced in 2012. To understand the impact of Universal Credit in this context it has been agreed that the assembly is held in autumn this year.

## Regional and Tees Valley Combined Authority Updates

8. I attended a workshop on 31 May at Cavendish House in Stockton on Tees, to develop an Expression of Interest for the region to become a 5G Testbed and Trail area with a potential to attract circa £50m to support the development of test beds across the region.

### Community Safety

9. **Operation Stay Safe** - Darlington Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour, CCTV and Social Work teams, worked in cooperation with Darlington Special Constabulary, YMCA Youth Outreach Workers and members of staff from SWITCH, to deliver 'Operation Stay Safe'; aimed at locating and disrupting alcohol and substance misuse related anti-social behaviour. Several young people were given verbal warnings by officers and dispersed from the Town Centre and other public spaces in the community.
10. The aim of the operation was to protect the public from anti-social behaviour at the potentially problematic end of school term; to identify, support and protect potentially vulnerable young people and recover them to a place of safety (if discovered under the influence). Follow-up work involved the diversion from engaging in future anti-social conduct and alerting parents to their responsibility to safeguard their children.
11. Further operations are planned for later in the year.
12. **New Legislation – Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) Licensing** - A positive step forward as a result of the start of additional HMO licensing is that the most vulnerable occupiers, in the poorest quality housing, will benefit from increased regulatory scrutiny.
13. **Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) – Town Centre** - The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team secured an 18 month Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) against a 15 year old male who was responsible for persistent crime and anti-social behaviour, affecting businesses and members of the public for a sustained period of time. Outlined below are the conditions he must adhere to:
  - (a) Not threaten, intimidate or use threatening, offensive or abusive language or gestures.
  - (b) Enter Darlington Town Centre as defined by the inner ring road or any Town Centre retail or commercial premise, either accompanied or not.
  - (c) Enter any commercial or retail premise in the Borough of Darlington outside the above area, unless accompanied by an appropriate adult member of his family or a member of staff from the Local Authority.
  - (d) Associate with 4 named others.

- (e) Be in company with anyone behaving in an anti-social or criminal manner.
  - (f) Leave his home address between the hours of 21:00 and 7:00.
  - (g) Carry or throw litter or missiles.
14. A CBO is available on conviction for any criminal offence by any criminal court, introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (ABCPA 2014, s.22) with effect from 20 October 2014. It replaced the former powers of the court to make orders such as an ASBO or a drinking banning order on conviction.
  15. A CBO is an order designed to tackle the most serious and persistent anti-social individuals, where their behaviour has brought them before a criminal court.
  16. Four CBO's have been granted against young people in Darlington over the past 18 months resulting in improved citizenship and reduced levels of offending.
  17. **Motorcycle Nuisance** - Following increased levels of complaints concerning young people and off-road motor cycles in Darlington, the YMCA supported by members of Darlington Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Longfield Academy and Durham Constabulary introduced a unique seven-week themed educational programme to promote safe and responsible motor-cycling in Darlington.
  18. The programme called 'Back on Track' is funded by Tees Valley YMCA and the Durham Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Ron Hogg.
  19. The programme delivers a series of core modules around first aid, graphic design, motorcycle maintenance, health and safety, anti-social behaviour and the role of the Police and Fire & Rescue, and initially involved eight young people between the ages of 14 to 16 years.
  20. The aims of the scheme are to engage young people to enhance learning and understanding of motorbikes, promote and develop young people's skills, engage young people in creative development and emotional wellbeing work, reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour and breakdown barriers, and build on positive relationships with youth workers, the Police and ASB Team.
  21. The training sessions were delivered by various professionals (nominees) and visits were arranged to the Cleveland and Durham Road Policing Unit at Wynyard, Cleveland and Darlington Fire and Rescue, which students found most informative, enjoyable and stimulating.
  22. The first course concluded on 27 April and a special event was held at Longfield Academy to celebrate the achievements of the students and present them with certificates, stickers they had designed in school and motorcycle helmets that were kindly donated by MSG Motorcycles.
  23. Significant outcomes for the young people included: improved self-esteem, self-respect, confidence and future aspiration. The scheme has proved extremely popular with young people in Darlington and there are now plans to extend the

initiative to other schools throughout the Borough.

24. **Community Engagement Programme (MutualGain)** - Durham Constabulary, partners including the Council, local councillors and members of the community have recently commenced a programme of activity designed to increase social capital and reduce dependency on local services in Bank Top, Darlington. The programme facilitated by MutualGain involves a series of activities including community engagement, personal coaching, participatory budgeting, focus groups, action learning sets and structured events which are aimed at building social capital which can have a positive impact on the health and well-being of a community.
25. Part of the engagement phase involved the completion of a community survey which confirmed area priorities as tackling rubbish and fly-tipping, Eastbourne Park, youth related anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, motorcycle nuisance, speeding and repairing pot-holes. Partners will now work to address the priorities of the public.
26. Members will receive further updates in relation to reductions in crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

### **Meetings**

27. I attended HS2 East Meeting on 11 May in Leeds to receive an update on developments for the East Coast Mainline.
28. I met with Councillor Iain Malcolm, Leader of South Tyneside Council who has recently been appointed as North East Representative of the Local Government Association (LGA).

### **Transport**

29. On 17 May 2018 I attended a Darlington Station Project Board in which we collectively work to strengthen and transform rail links in the Tees Valley.
30. On 18 May 2018 I attended the launch of the Bishop Auckland Train/Bus Product to celebrate the introduction of an integrated transport link. A new Station Running Board was unveiled, outlining the town's connections with the Auckland Project and Kynren. Arriva promoted a Sapphire bus advertising Kynren which is scheduled to have 17 performances running from 30 June to 15 September. This joint venture will allow visitors to travel to Bishop Auckland by train and travel back by bus to Darlington. This has not been offered at previous events and allows travellers the ease of using public transport rather than cars.
31. I attended Transport for the North Board meeting on 28 June.

## **Amiens**

32. I visited Amiens between 13 and 14 June 2018 and during my visit I presented a street sign 'Darlington Square' to mark 65 years of friendship between Amiens and Darlington.

## **Resignation**

33. As you will be aware, I have advised the Labour Group of my intention to stand down as Leader of the Council following this meeting of Council. I will continue to be Councillor for Eastbourne Ward.
34. By May 2019 I will have served 40 years as a Councillor and over 27 of those years as either Leader or Deputy Leader. For personal reasons I will also not be standing in next year's elections but will continue as a Member of the Council until then. I think that it more appropriate that a new Leader committed to standing for election next year should take over now.

**Bill Dixon**  
**Leader**