

**COUNCIL**  
**12 MAY 2022**

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**OVERVIEW OF LOCAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Local Services Portfolio.

**Climate Change**

2. The Tees Valley Combined Authority have been awarded £310m through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. This will deliver a programme of work across the Tees Valley over the next five years with investment in rail, bus, active travel and decarbonisation amongst others. Officers are working with TVCA to develop schemes for Darlington. A high-level programme of areas to be investigated has been identified. These will all be subject to further development and consultation.

**Highway Maintenance Programme**

3. Highway Maintenance schemes ongoing:
  - (a) A167 Croft Road (Tees View): Carriageway Reconstruction (0.448km)
  - (b) A68 Rotary Way: Carriageway Resurfacing (0.673km)
  - (c) Unc. Lingfield Way: Carriageway Reconstruction (0.225km)
4. Highway Maintenance schemes due to start:
  - (a) Unc. Huntley Street: Carriageway Resurfacing (0.05km)
  - (b) Unc. Hammond Drive: Carriageway Reconstruction (0.144km)
  - (c) C40 Newbiggin Lane: Carriageway Recycling (2.250km)
5. Highway Maintenance Schemes completed:
  - (a) Unc. Clifton Road: Footway Reconstruction (0.432km)

**Highway Improvement Schemes**

**Woodland Road LCWIP**

6. Work on the first phase of the walking and cycling route linking West Park to the town centre via Cockerton continues on Woodland Road. The scheme will provide a segregated cycle lane on each side of the road between the junctions with Hollyhurst Road and Outram Street. Consultation has been carried out on the second phase which will continue the route from Hollyhurst Road junction to the roundabout at Woodland Road/B6279 (Staindrop Road) and the design is currently being reviewed.
7. A Public Inquiry was held on 30 March to consider objections to the proposed changes to Duke Street. The Inspector's report is expected between four and eight weeks after the Inquiry and the outcome will determine the final scheme.

### **A68 Transport Improvement**

8. We received over 200 responses to the consultation on the A68 roundabout improvement schemes. We are currently reviewing all the comments and suggestions and will brief Ward Councillors on the outcome. We will continue to work with residents and businesses.

### **Head of Steam**

9. 'From Steam to Green' opened on 19 March 2022 and explored the sustainability of railways in the past, present and future. The exhibition was created by reusing and recycling as many materials as possible and was decorated with recycled flowers created by children from seven Darlington primary schools and nurseries.

### **Libraries**

10. Darlington Library remains open with limited services from the East Street entrance, where a platform temporary lift has been installed for accessibility. Mechanical and electrical work has begun as well as work to the roof.
11. Arrangements for students studying have tried to be incorporated into the temporary arrangements. Five public PC's have been provided in the temporary library and Local Studies remains open with study space available. We also loan iPads as part of the Council's Lets Do Digital scheme.

### **Town Centre Partnership and Events**

12. Darlington has entered Northumbria in Bloom 2022 and lots of preparation for the judges visits on 27 April 2022 and 20 July 2022 has been programmed. This award showcases Darlington town centre, looking specifically at plants, street furniture and the cleanliness of the town centre, and it involves officers from a variety of departments.

### **Environmental Services**

13. Significant damage was experienced to the tree stock throughout the town during the recent storms and approximately 230 trees were felled during this time. All of these trees have now been attended to and the appropriate remedial work undertaken.

**Councillor Andy Keir**  
**Local Services Portfolio**