

**COUNCIL**  
**12 May 2022**

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**OVERVIEW OF ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Young People and the Environment**

2. Joanne Shutt, the Young People's Opportunity and Involvement Worker gave a presentation on the work of the Youth Partnership in Darlington, which aims to take forward issues which children and young people from the Borough have identified and campaign about for change to happen.
3. We were advised of the Make your Mark consultation, which is an annual nationwide consultation, which gives all young people aged 11-18, the opportunity to shortlist the topics they feel are the most pressing issues facing young people in the UK, giving them the opportunity to have their say and influence the Government and local decision makers.
4. This national consultation took place during February 2022 and the young people were presented with seven topics which they cared about the most, with the three topics receiving the most votes becoming the campaigns that Members of the Young Parliament will work on throughout their two-year term.
5. Seven schools and the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form and Darlington College from Darlington were involved in this consultation, with 3,477 votes being cast and it is pleasing to note that, in Darlington, the environment came third out of these seven topics. Health and Well-Being and education and learning being first and second.
6. The presentation covered some of the environmental projects which are currently being undertaken in schools and it was interesting to note that three young people from Darlington are also taking part in a virtual meeting in June 2022, with young people from Mulheim, one of the Council's twin towns, to discuss various topics, one of which being the environment and climate change

**Towns Fund**

7. Our second presentation by Mark Ladyman, the Assistant Director Economic Growth, gave us an update on the projects within the Towns Fund.
8. To date, the Council has received £8,757,500 capital funding from the Government to fund projects to revitalise and improve the Town with £341, 029 revenue funding. A business case for each of the nine Towns Fund intervention projects has been completed with a business case summary for each one submitted to Government, following agreement by

the Towns Board.

9. All of the submitted business cases have now been approved by Government which has enabled initial funding to be released. As part of this, work is progressing with the design and commissioning of the required design and surveys for the acquired Northern Echo building, the Skinnergate and the Yard project is progressing with public realm improvement proposals and the design and delivery of shopfront/property improvements within the area and the T Levels project working alongside Darlington College is progressing.
10. We were also given an update on the progress against the further six projects within the programme which included the Rail Heritage Quarter, Bank Top, Linear Park, North Road and Northgate House, Edward Pease House and Victoria Road.

**Councillor Mike Renton**  
**Chair Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee**