

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9 FEBRUARY 2023**

PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVES GROUP

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the committee about the work of the Public Sector Executive Group.

Summary

2. This report describes the Public Sector Executives Group and outlines the work it has been undertaking.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that this report is received for information and discussion.

**Ian Williams
Chief Executive**

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	Crime and Disorder will be duly considered where appropriate
Health and Wellbeing	Health and wellbeing are key issues considered by the Public Sector Executives Group
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	Hasn't been considered to date by the Public Sector Executives Group
Diversity	The Public Sector Executives Group has due regard for diversity
Wards Affected	all
Groups Affected	all
Budget and Policy Framework	The Public Sector Executives Group has due regard for the Budget and Policy Framework.
Key Decision	No

Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	Supports the delivery of the Council Plan
Efficiency	Collaboration of public sector agencies as detailed in this report is a means of achieving greater efficiency
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

Background

4. At its meeting of 15 July, Council agreed the formation of the Public Sector Executives Group (PSEG) as one of the arrangements that replaced the Darlington Partnership.
5. The PSEG includes senior officers from key public sector bodies with the purpose of co-ordinating the broader efforts of the Public Sector to Deliver Success for Darlington.
6. The key aims are to :-
 - (a) Gain a common understanding of the issues facing Darlington
 - (b) Collective 'horizon scanning' 3
 - (c) Maximise the benefits of the public sector resources
 - (d) Review and plan initiatives to deliver success
 - (e) To advise their own Governance on issues raised at the partnership and seek approval from them where appropriate
 - (f) To work and support the private and voluntary sector to deliver programmes and projects to deliver success for Darlington.
 - (g) To act as the Programme Board for key initiatives.
7. The group meets regularly includes the following:
 - (a) Chief Executive, DBC
 - (b) Executive Director of Place Based Delivery – Tees Valley & Central, NHS
 - (c) Chief Constable
 - (d) Chief Fire Officer
 - (e) Director of Teesside University
 - (f) Chief Executive of Durham & Darlington Health Trust
 - (g) Principal of Darlington College
 - (h) Chief Executive of the Police Victim and Crime Commissioners office.
 - (i) Chief Officer of the Primary Care Network
 - (j) Acting Permanent Secretary and Director General, Tax and Welfare HM Treasury

Other relevant officers attend as necessary.
8. The group is supported by the Director of the Darlington Partnerships who acts as programme/project lead for many of the initiatives together with support from the Council's Policy & Performance Manager in respect of evidence and policy matters.
9. Partners continue to financially support PSEG as they did the Darlington Partnership and lend their support as needed.
10. As outlined in the aims above the group works with the private sector engaging through existing, issues focused forums such as the Towns Fund Board and Darlington Cares.

11. The Board also looks to work with the newly established voluntary sector engagement group to ensure they are aware of emerging challenges and opportunities.
12. Key features which distinguish the PSEG from the Darlington Partnership are that it is chaired by the Council's Chief Executive and whilst it has agreed terms of reference it has no decision making authority out with its membership.

Recent Activity

13. As public sector agencies recovered from the impact of the pandemic, the PSEG has been a useful forum to share with others issues and pressures each has been facing and to discuss solutions.
14. Similarly how the cost of living is impacting on agencies has usefully been shared between agencies.
15. The group has supported the development of the Levelling Up Darlington Plan. Firstly as a point of consultation with the public sector and now it acts as a means of engaging the public sector in its delivery. At its last meeting the group considered how public sector agencies could become 'Youth Friendly' employers.
16. Also at its last meeting members of the group agreed to act as referral points for residents they come into contact with needing support from the Household Support programme.

Outcome of Consultation

17. The Public Sector Executives Group was formed with the full involvement of the public sector agencies involve. It was also considered by Cabinet and its formation was ratified at Council at its meeting of 15 July 2021.