

HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23 OCTOBER 2024

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 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 2024/25 Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee.
3. Any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 3**).
4. A request has been received (**Appendix 2**) from a Member of this Committee, requesting that consideration be given to an item in relation to mental and psychological support for residents in Darlington who are living with long term conditions and chronic illnesses.
5. In accordance with the agreed procedure (**Appendix 3**), the request was forwarded to the Public Health Specialist on behalf of the Director of Public Health, for a view on its merits, using the identified criteria.
6. The response of the Public Health Specialist is attached (**Appendix 2**).

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that;
 - a) Members note the current status of the Work Programme and consider any additional areas of work they would like to include.
 - b) In accordance with the agreed procedure, taking into account the views of the Public Health Specialist, this Scrutiny Committee makes a decision about whether an item in relation to mental and psychological support for residents in Darlington who are living with long term conditions and chronic illnesses be added to its work programme, and, if so, how it wishes to proceed.

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Assistant Director Law and Governance

Background Papers

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

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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. The Work Programme contains items which enable Members to scrutinise those areas that contribute the priority of 'Homes' - affordable and secure homes that meet the current and future needs of residents and 'Living Well' – a healthier and better quality of life for longer, supporting those who need it most.
Addressing inequalities	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report has no impact on the Council's Efficiency Programme.
Health and Wellbeing	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
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
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

8. 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.
9. The Council Plan was adopted on 18 July 2024, and outlines Darlington Borough Council's long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities for action over the next three years. It gives strategic direction to the Council and Council services, defining priorities, identifying key actions, and shaping delivery.
10. The Council Plan identifies six priorities, including 'Homes', which states that good housing should be affordable, safe, secure and of decent quality and that good housing is important for the health and wellbeing of residents and communities, it revitalises communities and encourages businesses to locate and create jobs; and 'Living Well', which states that more years in good health leads to more fulfilling lives, and a better standard of living, however the Plan highlights that are inequalities in Darlington across all stages of life which are influenced by broader social factors including education, employment, housing and income. These priorities are supported by eight and seven key deliverables respectively.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

11. 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.
12. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 4** for information.