



Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Date **Friday 16 September 2016**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend. Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's agreement.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 17 June 2016 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Declarations of interest, if any
5. Implications for Durham County Council of the Government's Policy Programme - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 7 - 46)
6. Update on the Delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 6 - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 47 - 50)
7. County Durham Partnership Update - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 51 - 68)
8. Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Management Report - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 69 - 132)
9. Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan (7) - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 133 - 136)
10. Notice of Key Decisions - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 137 - 148)
11. Information update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 149 - 154)
12. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
8 September 2016

To: **The Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**

Councillor J Armstrong (Chairman)
Councillor P Stradling (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Adam, A Batey, R Bell, H Bennett, J Blakey, D Boyes,
K Corrigan, R Crute, B Graham, K Henig, J Hillary, A Hopgood, P Lawton,
J Lethbridge, T Nearney, M Nicholls, C Potts, L Pounder, J Robinson,
A Shield, M Simmons, W Stelling, J Turnbull and S Wilson

Faith Communities Representatives:

M Elliott

Parent Governor Representatives:

Mr R Patel

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

At a Meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 17 June 2016 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor P Stradling in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, A Batey, R Bell, J Blakey, B Graham, A Hopgood, J Lethbridge, T Nearney, C Potts, J Robinson, J Turnbull and N Martin (substitute for M Simmons)

Also Present:

Councillor N Foster

The Chairman informed the Board that the Council had won a Municipal Journal Achievement Award for 'Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny' and congratulated everyone involved in achieving such a prestigious national award.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Corrigan, R Crute, J Hillary, P Lawton, M Nicholls, L Pounder and A Sheild.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor N Martin, substitute for Councillor M Simmons.

3 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 22 March 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Referring item 7 of the minutes of the meeting held on the 22 March 2016, the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that Councillor R Bell and Councillor Adam had received the breakdown figures requested for obesity and suicide rates.

4 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Update on the Delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 5

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided confirmation that the 2015/16 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP5) had been successfully delivered (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Policy and Communications reported that the MTFP5 was agreed by Council in February 2015 and for 2015/16 the savings target was just over £16m. This forms part of the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2019/20 of around £257 million.

Through a robust approach in managing the programme to deliver savings required, the plans for 2015/16 had now been successfully delivered. £1.7 million of savings were made during the last quarter of 2015/16 to deliver MTFP5, mainly from proposals that had already been put in place during the year including: children's centres; looked after children care provision; restructuring of environmental health and consumer protection; street lighting's 'invest to save' programme; and a review in finance. Since 2011, £153 million of savings had now been made.

Councillor R Bell referred to staff redeployment and enquired whether enough had been done regarding retraining and reskilling employees. The Head of Policy and Communications responded that there was a more flexible approach regarding matching job descriptions that would allow scope for training and trial periods.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report and the progress made in delivering the MTFP5 be noted.

6 Update on the Future Arrangements for the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Collection

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update on the implementation of future arrangements of the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) collection. A presentation was given by the Head of Culture and Sport (for copy of report and slides, see file of minutes).

The Head of Culture and Sport gave a detailed presentation highlighting the following areas:-

- Previous Decision and Background
- Project Delivery
- DLI Collection Update
- Wider DLI/WW1 Programme
- Next Steps

Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration updated members on the Somme event that took place on palace green on the 16 June 2016 and advised that the feedback recorded in the visitor book was very positive. A small number of concerns were raised that required reassurances and clarification of plans regarding family

collections. Residents were to be encouraged to come forward and be involved in the stories they would want to be told over the next 4 years.

Councillor Hopgood was delighted with the recent exhibitions and events taking place. She asked for clarification regarding exhibit items as she was under the impression that exhibit items were not leaving the County. The Head of Culture and Sport responded that no items would leave the County, however due to the size and weight limitations on temporary exhibitions sites the Wakenshaw gun would be housed at the Sevenhills site and the Bren Gun carrier and name plates at Shildon Locomotion. A replica jeep which does not form part of the collection was in storage as no interest had been generated at the present time.

Councillor Nearney queried when the qualitative data would be available to reflect the priorities of the people who visited the Somme exhibition. The Head of Culture and Sport advised that visitor numbers were tracked and the Somme exhibition was on target. He added that the figures for the centenary of the Somme would be an exception and that next year would produce more secure figures that would be reported back to the Board.

Councillor Martin was impressed with the activity, however struggled to see how the £70,000 allocated would cover costs, even with careful budgeting. The Head of Culture and Sport explained that the £70,000 included arrangements with the University for curatorial expertise and exhibition and permanent gallery space, Sevenhills site and the education programme with additional resources from capital money accrued and funding grants.

Councillor Adam had attended the very emotional Somme event and commented on the considerable amount of work carried out resulting in the smooth transition. After speaking to trustees and friends of the DLI there were still some concerns, however overall the comments had been very positive. He added that the educational programme and online service would broaden the field and be beneficial for collection and future of the DLI.

Councillor R Bell welcomed digitising material and questioned links to the County Records Office. He appreciated that it was not the responsibility of the Council, however, queried the plans for the £10,000 raised by the 'Save the DLI' Campaign. Councillor Foster commented that written records were part of a wider collection that would be kept in the County Records Office and the digitalisation would help to join records together. The Head of Culture and Sport understood that large donations had been returned and advised that the Ogilby Trust would administer small donations ensuring appropriate use of money with the sole purpose to preserve the memory and promote the DLI collection.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report and presentation be noted.

7 Quarter Four 2015/16 Performance Management Report

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and reported other performance issues for the 2015/16 financial year. A presentation was given by the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager (for copy of report and slides, see file of minutes).

Councillor Hopgood expressed concern regarding the period of time covered by the fuel poverty figures which only go up to 2014. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager explained that the indicators were compiled nationally through the Office for National Statistics and suggested it could be possible to set proxy indicators around issues that were more immediately available.

Councillor Martin referred to the garden waste charging policy as part of the savings programme and commented on the land fill tax savings due to the 3.1% reduction going to land fill. He asked how the cost of policy charging compared to the savings on landfill tax. Councillor Graham suggested that she raise the issue at Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager added that regular waste updates were reported and he would ask the Head of Projects and Business Services to look at this.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

8 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided information on the work of all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2015/16 for comment and approval prior to its submission to County Council on the 20 July 2016 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager highlighted several key achievements from the scrutiny review activity and site visits including:-

- Skills Development;
- Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger;
- 20 mph Speed Limit Zones;
- Alcohol and the Demand of Emergency Services;
- Attendance Management;
- Customer Relationship Management System (CRMS);
- Parking on Council Land;
- Hitachi and South West Durham Training at Newton Aycliffe, New College Durham, Infinite Learning and Development at Peterlee Site Visits as part of the Skills Development Working Group;
- Durham City Centre Night time Economy and Ambulance Crew Observation;
- Civil Contingency Live Exercise;
- School meal with pupils at Seaham School of Technology;
- School Road Safety Assembly at Etherley Lane Primary School.

Resolved:

That the report be presented to County Council on the 20 July 2016.

9 Notice of Key Decisions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that provided a list of key decisions that were scheduled to be considered by the Executive (for copy see file of minutes).

The Senior Committee Services Officer reported that since the last update there had been the following movement in items being considered at Cabinet:-

- County Durham Plan Issues and Options – moved from the 11 May and would be considered at Cabinet on the 15 June 2016;
- Durham Key Options Letting Policy – new to the plan for September 2016.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

10 Update in Relation to Petitions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that provided an update on the current situation regarding various petitions received by the Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

The Senior Committee Services Officer reported that since the last update, 5 new paper petitions had been received, and 8 petitions had completed the process. 4 new e-petitions had been submitted and currently there was 1 live e-petition on the council's website collecting signatures relating to Save Startforth School that would run until 23 June with the final numbers being passed to the service as part of a consultation.

Councillor J Robinson referred to e-petitions that did not qualify under the Councils petition scheme. He previously suggested that the criteria be reviewed to determine if the scheme was user-friendly and asked if the procedure was on the Council's website. The Senior Committee Services Officer confirmed that all the information was available on the Councils website and explained that petitions that were the same or similar to a petition considered by the Council within a 12 month period would not be accepted and the reason would be explained to the petitioner in the acknowledgement of the petition.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

11 Information Update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The Board considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that provided an update of overview and scrutiny activity from the 22 March to 17 June 2016 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report be noted.

The Chairman agreed that in order to keep members informed, the next item of business could be reported.

12 Carer Concessionary Bus Pass

Councillor Hopgood referred to the carer concessionary bus pass scheme and advised that at present Durham County Council issues bus passes to parents/carers of disabled children who are unable to travel unaccompanied on public transport, however these passes are only issued to the parent/carer if the child is over 5 and therefore has a bus pass in their own right. Interpretation of the guidance is that the Council should only issue a pass to a parent/carer alongside the child's pass.

This provides an anomaly for under 5's in that they do not need a pass as travel is already free so therefore a parent/carer cannot obtain a pass until their child reaches the age of 5, a child with a disability whether they are under or over 5 years of age can still not travel unaccompanied.

Councillor Hopgood asked that the relevant Scrutiny Committee look at the scheme and establish a case either for or against the issues of passes.

Councillor Potts, Chairman of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny agreed that the feasibility and costing of the scheme requires examination.

Resolved:

That Children and Young People's Scrutiny examine the Carer Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

16 September 2016

Cabinet

13 July 2016

Implications for Durham County Council
of the Government's policy programme



Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 On 16 December 2015, Cabinet considered the most recent report on the implications of the government's policy programme. This report provides Members with an update on the major policy developments and announcements since then and analyses the implications for the council and County Durham.

Executive Summary

- 2 Since the last report to Cabinet, the most significant announcements from the government which will affect the county, have been the immediate next steps following the European Union membership referendum, the 2016 Budget, devolution, and the white paper on education and schools.
- 3 The policy announcements since the last report to Members, covered in this report include:
 - European Union exit next steps;
 - Budget 2016;
 - Queen's speech;
 - Education White Paper;
 - National funding formula for schools;
 - Devolution;
 - Planning and housing;
 - Adoption;
 - Health and social care funding;
 - Benefit Cap;
 - Modern crime strategy;
 - Parliamentary boundary changes review;
 - Local Government Transparency Code.
- 4 The government under the current leadership has continued to maintain several elements of the previous coalition government policy programme, with

financial austerity, welfare reform and decentralisation retained as policy priorities.

- 5 The continuation of austerity and the emerging policy proposals in relation to the council's role in education will have major implications for the council and its ability contribute to the 'altogether better Durham' agenda.

Background

- 6 Cabinet considers regular reports on government policy, the most recent of which was on 16 December 2015. Where necessary, Cabinet also receives further policy reports on specific topics, such as changes to the NHS, health and social care and welfare reform. This report builds upon these previous briefings and complements the more specific report on children's services which is also on the agenda for this meeting of Cabinet.
- 7 The most significant announcements since the last report to Members are outlined below.

European Union next steps

- 8 On 23 June 2016, the referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union (EU) took place, with 51.9 percent of electors voting to leave the EU.
- 9 Following the outcome of the referendum, the Prime Minister announced that he will stand down to make way for new leadership within the government to take forward negotiations with the EU about the timescales and terms for the United Kingdom's exit.
- 10 The intention is that the new leadership will negotiate with the European Council and member states and then decide when to invoke Article 50 of the European Treaty, which would set a two-year timeframe for the country's withdrawal from the EU.
- 11 The Prime Minister said that he intends to continue in office for three months and that the new leadership will be in place by the time of the Conservative Party Conference in October.

Budget 2016

- 12 On 17 March 2016, the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his second budget since the general election last year.
- 13 Compared with the last budget, the Office for Budget Responsibility provided a more sombre growth forecast, downgrading growth estimates since the Spending Review last November:
 - 2016 2.0 percent (down from 2.4 percent)
 - 2017 2.2 percent (down from 2.5 percent)
 - 2018 2.1 percent (down from 2.4 percent)

- 2019 2.1 percent (down from 2.3 percent)
 - 2020 2.1 percent (down from 2.2 percent)
- 14 As a consequence, the deficit/surplus forecast was re-profiled with a slower rate of return to structural surplus. It is now expected that the economy will run a deficit of £21.4 billion in 2018/19 (compared with an estimate of £4.6 billion at the time of the spending review) before returning to surplus in 2019/20.
 - 15 As a result of the poorer growth forecasts, the government announced that it would need to make a further £3.5 billion of public sector spending reductions by 2020, but provided little detail as to where they would fall. It was confirmed however, that there would be no further increases to the spending reduction targets already set for local government.
 - 16 The government sought to maintain its approach of tightening spending on welfare and initially proposed £4.4 billion of cuts to disability benefits (Personal Independence Payments). The proposal was heavily criticised and prompted the resignation of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The government then announced that it would drop the proposal and would confirm in the autumn statement later this year how the £4.4 billion gap would be met.
 - 17 In relation to local government finance, the government confirmed its intention that councils would retain 100 percent of the revenue from business rates generated from their area by 2020, as part of a general move to local government services being self-financing.
 - 18 However, at the same time the Chancellor announced that future business rates increase would be linked to the lower Consumer Price Index as opposed to the Retail Price Index, alongside various business rates discounts and threshold changes, designed to ease the burden of business rates on businesses, and smaller enterprises in particular.
 - 19 The other major announcement affecting local government was that all remaining local authority maintained schools would be required to convert to academies by 2022 at the latest. This is covered in more detail in the section on the education white paper below.
 - 20 Appendix 2 provides a more detailed summary of the main announcements made in the Budget. Following the Budget, the government updated the National Infrastructure Plan which includes details on a wide range of projects across the North East as well as nationwide programmes.

Queen's speech

- 21 On 18 May 2016, the government outlined its latest legislative programme through the Queen's speech at the state opening of parliament. Twenty one new bills were announced including:
 - a) Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill (England and Wales);
 - b) Digital Economy Bill (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland);

- c) Better Markets Bill (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland);
- d) Modern Transport Bill;
- e) Bus Services Bill (England);
- f) Local Growth and Jobs Bill (England);
- g) Criminal Finances Bill;
- h) NHS (Overseas Visitors Charging) Bill;
- i) Children and Social Work Bill (England);
- j) Education for All Bill (mainly England);
- k) Higher Education and Research Bill (mainly England);
- l) Prison and Courts Reform Bill (England and Wales);
- m) Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill (England and Wales);
- n) National Citizen Service Bill (discussion with devolved administrations);
- o) Bill of Rights (subject to consultation);
- p) Pensions Bill;
- q) Lifetime Savings Bill (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland);
- r) Small Charitable Donations Bill (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland);
- s) Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill;
- t) Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Bill;
- u) Draft Law of Property Bill.

22 Appendix 3 provides a summary of the new legislative proposals and other announcements made in the speech.

Education White Paper

23 Alongside the budget, the government published *Educational Excellence Everywhere*, its white paper for education.

24 The government contends that while progress is being made in improving educational attainment in many areas, there remain too many pockets of educational underperformance which need to be tackled. It therefore proposes to extend the reach of what it considers to be the most successful leaders in education, while acting promptly to reduce the influence of those that it considers aren't delivering for children.

25 The government describes its approach as 'supported autonomy': putting the best leaders at the heart of the school system, with the support to thrive;

recruiting and developing great leaders wherever they are needed; setting high expectations for all – supported by fair, stretching accountability measures; and enabling pupils, parents and communities to demand more for their schools.

- 26 In line with the above, the white paper set out seven elements which the government intends to pursue.

‘Great teachers, everywhere they’re needed’

- 27 In order to improve recruitment, the government intends to reform the National College of Teaching and Leadership to enable it to deliver well-targeted incentives, teacher recruitment campaigns and opportunities to attract high quality people into the profession.

- 28 It also proposes to reform initial teacher training (ITT) so that it is delivered by what it considers to be the best higher education institutions and school-led providers, with a greater proportion of ITT delivered by the best schools. It also intends to strengthen the content of training so that new teachers are better equipped to improve performance in the classroom.

- 29 Teacher accreditation is to be changed with the introduction of more challenging accreditation based on a teacher’s effectiveness in the classroom as judged by great schools. The best headteachers will be in charge of accrediting new entrants to the profession and schools will be given more scope to bring in experts from other fields and put them on a pathway to accreditation, where their skills can be recognised.

- 30 The new National Teaching Service will continue to be developed in order to ensure that the best teachers and school leaders work in the most challenging areas and a new standard for Teachers’ Professional Development is to be introduced to help schools improve the quality and availability of continuing professional development.

- 31 The government says it will also continue to address some of the main issues which cause teachers to leave the profession and will support the establishment of a new independent College of Teaching, as a professional body to share best practice, along the lines of the Royal medical colleges.

‘Great leaders running our schools and at the heart of our system’

- 32 The government wants to give more power to the best schools and system leaders in order to extend their reach and build capacity in the areas that it thinks need it most.

- 33 It considers that multi-academy trusts (MATs) expand the reach and influence of the most successful leaders and envisages an expansion of MATs and teaching school alliances across the country and in areas ‘where they’re most needed’, in part funded by a new Excellence in Leadership Fund.

- 34 MAT chief executive officers, leading headteachers and other experts will be trusted to design new voluntary national professional qualifications, against which licenced providers can develop leadership development programmes.

35 The National Teaching Service and ‘rebalanced incentives’ will encourage great leaders to work in challenging schools and ‘improvement periods’ will be introduced during which schools will not be inspected by Ofsted, to allow school leaders more time to turn schools around. In addition, changes to the national funding formulae will give schools facing the toughest challenges a ‘fair chance’ of recruiting strong leaders.

36 The government envisages that as more schools become academies and operate under the governance of MATs, the best governing boards will assume responsibility for more schools and the weakest boards will be removed from the system ‘through sharper accountability’.

‘A school-led system with every school an academy, empowered pupils, parents and communities and a clearly defined role for local government’

37 The government argues that teachers can be most effective if they work in ‘great schools, supported by great leaders’. It believes that the academy system is now sufficiently mature to take the next step and end the ‘two-tier system’ by converting all remaining local authority maintained schools into academies.

38 The government intends to take new powers to direct all state schools to become academies. This will apply to all schools across the country and not just those in areas which are under-performing or where the local authority is judged to no longer have the capacity to maintain its schools.

39 Schools which have not started the process of becoming an academy by 2020 will be directed to do so, such that by the end of 2022 all state schools will be academies and local authorities will no longer maintain any schools. Instead, local authorities will be expected to act as advocates for their electorate, challenging school providers to deliver high educational standards and better outcomes for children.

40 It is envisaged that when every school is an academy, groups of schools will be able to span geographic boundaries which will enable the best multi-academy trusts to run schools in the most difficult areas, in a way that no high-performing local authority could.

41 The government expects most schools to form or join MATs so that ‘proven educational models can spread and grow and the best leaders can extend their influence by running multiple schools’.

42 The smallest schools will have to form or join a MAT, however in exceptional circumstances successful sustainable schools will be able to continue as single academy trusts.

43 Regional schools commissioners, who are responsible to government for the performance of academies, will be able to intervene where MATs underperform and parents will be able to petition the schools commissioner

for their school to move to a different MAT where it is underperforming or in other exceptional circumstances.

- 44 Devolving power to schools and school leaders means that the role of local authorities and combined authorities will be reviewed and changed.
- 45 The government proposes that local authorities should no longer be responsible for school improvement or maintaining some schools. Instead their educational duties will focus upon:
- a) **ensuring every child has a school place** - including that there are sufficient school, special school and alternative provision places to meet demand. Local authorities will retain responsibility for school places and the government will continue to provide 'substantial' funding to allow local authorities to deliver sufficient places, as well as by creating places through the free schools programme. Local authorities will be expected to use their strong relationships with local schools to deliver the places needed in a local area, including planning ahead where necessary to support applications through the central free schools programme or to seek proposals for presumption free schools. Where local authorities fail in this duty, the government will intervene. Local authorities will also work with schools and parents in developing local school transport policies, giving schools the opportunity to provide school transport services where that makes sense locally; and take a lead in crisis management and emergency planning;
 - b) **ensuring the needs of vulnerable pupils are met** - including identifying, assessing and making provision for children with special educational needs and disability and looked after children; promoting school attendance and tackling persistent absence; ensuring that alternative provision is available for headteachers to commission for children and young people excluded from school or otherwise unable to attend a mainstream school; leading on safeguarding responsibilities for all children, including those in un-regulated settings, educated at home and children missing education, as well as children at risk of radicalisation; working with schools to ensure that they understand and discharge their safeguarding duties; and supporting vulnerable children, for example, acting as the 'corporate parent' for looked after children, using the statutory Virtual School Head role to work with schools and other agencies on promoting their educational achievement and progress, and deciding how to spend the Pupil Premium Plus;
 - c) **acting as champions for all parents and families** - including listening to and promoting the needs of parents, children and the local community – working alongside elected mayors; supporting parents in navigating the system through a continuing role in admissions; supporting children, young people and parents to navigate local SEND arrangements (such as providing information, advice and support) and engaging them in designing and co-producing local SEND policies, service commissioning and delivery; and championing high standards

locally for all pupils, for example, by encouraging high performing providers to establish new school places and where necessary calling for action from the regional schools commissioner to tackle underperformance.

- 46 The review of local authority functions and responsibilities will include the roles of the Director of Children's Services and the lead Member for children.

'Preventing underperformance and helping schools go from good to great: school-led improvement, with scaffolding and support where it's needed'

- 47 Responsibility for school improvement will be transferred from local authorities to schools and school leaders, including 300 more teaching schools, 800 more National Leaders of Education appointed by the government and other designated system leaders.
- 48 The government says that it will ensure that there are enough strong academy sponsors from businesses, charitable organisations and existing strong schools to help transform schools where it is needed most.
- 49 Where schools are performing well, they will be trusted to organise their own school improvement and support. Only where schools are underperforming or do not have an improvement plan or the means to improve, will regional schools commissioners intervene.
- 50 In areas affected by 'chronic, persistent underperformance', the government will establish 'Achieving Excellence Areas' to accelerate and provide an intensive focus on school improvement.

'High expectations and a world-leading curriculum for all'

- 51 The government intends to embed recent curriculum and assessment reforms to establish a 'knowledge-based curriculum' as the cornerstone of education up to the age of 16, with the majority of pupils studying the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).
- 52 More support will be provided to schools to expand the range of evidence-based, character-building opportunities they provide to pupils, with additional funding made available to support 25 percent of secondary schools to extend their school day to include a wider range of activities, such as sport, arts and debating. The National Citizen Service is also to be expanded such that every pupil has the opportunity to take part.
- 53 The government intends to reform the alternative provision system so that mainstream schools remain accountable for the education of pupils in alternative provision and are responsible for commissioning high quality provision.

54 In addition, the government wants to ensure that schools stretch both their lowest-attaining and most academically able pupils and that support for children with special educational needs and disabilities is improved.

'Fair, stretching accountability, ambitious for every child'

55 The government intends to embed existing reforms to primary, secondary and 16-19 accountability, giving greater emphasis to the progress of children at every level of attainment and their destination, so that schools with high-attaining intakes are challenged to improve further and school leaders are not disincentivised from taking on the most challenging schools.

56 The inspection regime is to be reformed so that it is targeted at tackling under-performance and adding most value. A proportionate risk-based approach to assessment will be taken to good and outstanding schools and Ofsted will consult on combining the separate grading judgements on teaching, learning and assessment, to reduce burdens on teachers and schools and to give more emphasis to outcomes rather than processes.

57 Performance tables will be published for MATs alongside performance data at individual school level.

58 The government will rely upon the expert educational judgement of regional schools commissioners where it needs to take a view on how to respond to school performance and headteacher boards, comprised of top headteachers elected by their peers or appointed for their track records will scrutinise and challenge the decisions of the commissioners.

'The right resources in the right hands: investing every penny where it can do the most'

59 Amongst its educational reforms, the government is placing a priority on the design and implementation of a new national funding formulae for schools, which is intended to reflect the circumstances of children and local costs, so as to weight the level of funding by the challenges a school faces, as opposed to being based on 'arbitrary historical factors'.

60 It has pledged to continue with the pupil premium and to provide schools with the necessary training, tools, guidance and access to better national procurement frameworks so that they are able to deliver better value for money and to manage their finances more effectively.

61 In relation to school properties, the government has pledged to continue to rebuild and refurbish schools in the worst condition across the country and to ensure that the bodies responsible for school buildings get a fair share of funding according to their needs.

Developments since the publication of the white paper

62 The proposal to enforce the academisation of all schools, regardless of performance, drew immediate and widespread opposition amongst MPs, teaching unions and local government bodies.

- 63 Whilst the Prime Minister and Secretary of State initially sought to maintain the government's policy stance, in the face of mounting opposition, the Secretary of State announced on 6 May 2016 that the government would modify its proposals around enforced academisation.
- 64 While still committed to all schools becoming academies, the government confirmed that it would not compel schools to convert by 2022, unless:
- a) there were significant concerns about a school's performance which necessitated intervention (which is the current approach);
 - b) there are so many schools which have already converted to academy status in a local authority area that it makes sense for the remainder to convert;
 - c) there are concerns about a local authority's capacity to support schools and achieve the standards expected.
- 65 Whilst the policy change in effect allows local authorities to continue to maintain and support community schools where they are performing well, the government confirmed that it is still committed to supporting all schools to convert, where they want to do so.
- 66 The government announced that it has allocated £300 million to support schools to convert and in particular, to support sponsors to turn around failing schools. A further £300 million will support multi-academy trusts to grow and improve and funding will also be provided to local authorities and church dioceses in recognition of the costs they face.
- 67 The government made no further comment on the associated proposal in the white paper to change the statutory responsibilities of local authorities in relation to school improvement.
- 68 In the Queen's speech, the government provided some more detail on the proposed Education for All Bill, the synopsis for which included:
- a) moving towards a system where every school is an academy through powers to convert schools to academies in under-performing and unviable local authorities;
 - b) making the process of becoming an academy swifter and smoother for schools and local authorities;
 - c) setting out a new role for local authorities, by shifting responsibility for school improvement from the local authority to great heads and others in the school system.

National funding formula for schools

- 69 As part of the Spending Review 2015, the government announced its intention to introduce a national funding formula (NFF) for schools, early years and high needs with the intention of 'matching funding directly and transparently to need'.

- 70 The level of funding for schools through the schools and high needs block varies between local authorities largely as a result of historic spending decisions by local authorities at the time the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding levels were set.
- 71 The government published NFF consultation proposals with the stated intention of providing funding that is more closely matched to need rather than historic spending decisions. The council submitted a response to the consultation proposals.
- 72 At this stage, the government has consulted on the key principles and building blocks the Department for Education (DfE) intends to use to construct the NFF. In due course, a second stage consultation will cover how the DfE proposes to balance the distribution of funding between the different factors in the national funding.
- 73 The main elements of the government's proposals are:
- a) to have a national funding formula by 2019/20, which determines funding for all mainstream primary and secondary schools, in place of local formulae (this effectively removes any local authority discretion and role in schools funding decisions);
 - b) to implement a national formula to distribute funding to local authorities in 2017/18 and 2018/19, with local formulae used to distribute funding to schools during this period;
 - c) transitional protection through a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to limit any reductions in local authority allocations in 2017/18 and 2018/19 before the new national formula is introduced in 2019/20;
 - d) to continue to provide the Pupil Premium separately (for Durham schools this equates to approximately £21 million);
 - e) to create a new Central Schools Block, for centrally retained funding, removing this from the Schools Block and allocating this on a per pupil basis;
 - f) to require authorities to pass on the whole of the Schools Block allocation to their mainstream primary and secondary schools, removing the local discretion to move funding to or from other blocks (currently, in consultation with the Schools Forum, funding is moved between the blocks in Durham to meet local pressures);
 - g) to end de-delegation by 2019/20, with any services being provided through service level agreements thereafter;
 - h) that schools forums will continue to operate until 2018/19, and their role will be reviewed prior to the introduction of the national formula in 2019/20.
- 74 In addition, there are proposals in respect of a review of local authority statutory duties (education welfare; school improvement; schools asset management; and other statutory and regulatory duties) and the funding currently provided through the Education Services Grant (ESG) to fund these duties.

- 75 It is proposed that ESG funding will be combined with the centrally held funds in the DSG but only after making a national cut of £600 million, announced in the 2015 spending review.
- 76 The government also consulted on NFF proposals in relation to 'high needs' and children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Rather than basing funding on historic spend, the government proposes to use a formula which will include factors for:
- a) a basic unit of funding for pupils and students in specialist SEN institutions;
 - b) population;
 - c) Disability Living Allowance;
 - d) children in bad health;
 - e) low prior attainment at Key Stages 2 and 4;
 - f) deprivation;
 - g) area cost adjustment;
 - h) current spending levels (to provide transitional support similar to the Minimum Funding Guarantee).
- 77 It is not intended to remove any local authority statutory responsibilities for high needs SEN provision or control over the High Needs funding block as part of these proposals.

Devolution

- 78 On 29 January 2016, the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act received Royal Assent. The legislation paves the way for powers, controls, and responsibilities to be devolved from central to local government and allows for directly elected mayors to be created in areas which have formed combined authorities and agreed to a change in governance, in return for powers over transport, health, skills, planning, and job support.
- 79 Alongside the passage of the legislation, the government has been negotiating devolution mayoral deals in a number regions including Greater Manchester, the Sheffield City Region, the North East, the Tees Valley, the Liverpool City Region, the West Midlands.
- 80 As Members will be aware, Cabinet considered the council's involvement in the North East Combined Authority devolution agreement on 11 May 2016 and agreed to move to the next stage of the proposed devolution agreement process, subject to several conditions, which would not leave the county in a detrimental position in relation to the government's proposals on highways and transport funding. Other stipulations included mayoral powers and governance and continuing dialogue with government to ensure the region receives fair funding.

- 81 A final decision was made on 17 May 2016 by the North East Combined Authority (NECA) Leadership Board, which consists of the region's council leaders, to approve the proposed devolution agreement, which includes the introduction of an elected mayor. The agreement, has the potential to provide more control over funding, more control over spending on adult skills and employment support programmes, alongside other proposals and an opportunity for further devolution in the future.
- 82 Decisions made on behalf of NECA would be executed through a Cabinet made up of the region's council leaders with an embedded elected mayor. North East electors will be asked to vote for the mayoral candidates in May 2017.

Planning and housing

- 83 The Housing and Planning Act was enacted on 12 May 2016. Amongst other things, the Act introduces a general duty for local planning authorities to promote the supply of starter homes. A starter home is defined as a new dwelling, available for purchase by qualifying first time buyers only and is to be sold at 20 percent of market value. Qualifying first time buyers are defined as an individual who is a first time buyer and is at least 23 years old but is under 40 years old. There is a price cap of £250,000 for starter homes outside of Greater London. The council responded to the consultation on the Act.
- 84 The government consulted on the regulations for starter homes between 23 March 2016 and 17 June 2016. The regulations will supplement the Housing and Planning Act and set out measures for the implementation of starter homes as part of the statutory framework. The consultation sought responses as to whether a proposed 20 percent requirement for starter homes on all housing sites would be appropriate and whether a viability model should be introduced as part of the regulations. The consultation also considered whether there should be proposed restrictions on the sale of starter homes following occupancy, with the government suggesting that at most it did not support extending the restricted period beyond the first eight years of occupation.
- 85 The consultation also sought views on whether any flexibility should be provided in relation to the under 40 age restriction, with exemptions being proposed in respect of joint purchasers, where one party is under 40 and one party is over 40, and for injured military service personnel or those whose partner has died in military service. The council responded to the consultation and the government's response is awaited.
- 86 The government consulted on proposed changes to National Planning Policy between 7 December and 22 December 2015. The consultation included proposals to amend the definition of affordable housing to include a wider range of low cost home ownership options. This would be achieved by removing the present national policy requirement that affordable housing products have to be subject to 'in perpetuity' restrictions or have recycled subsidy.

- 87 The proposed amendment would mean that starter homes would fall within the scope of the proposed definition of affordable homes. In seeking to support the delivery of starter homes, the proposed changes seek to ensure that unviable or underused commercial and employment land is utilised for starter homes. On this basis, it is proposed that local planning authorities could adopt a policy with a limit on the length of time (such as three years) that commercial or employment land should be protected if unused and there is not significant and compelling evidence of market interest of it coming forward within a two year timeframe. Again, the council responded to the consultation and the government's response and next steps are awaited.

Adoption

- 88 On 27 March 2016 the Secretary of State for Education unveiled a new four year strategy '*Adoption: a vision for change*', which sets out how the government plans to address challenges in the adoption system.
- 89 The strategy details how, by 2020, the government intends to deliver a system where all children are matched with adoptive parents without delay and includes a drive to boost the educational success of adopted children. To end delay in adoption for vulnerable children, larger local pools of approved adopters will be developed by making sure every single council is part of a regional adoption agency by 2020. To support the change, the government will provide up to £14 million across 2016/18.
- 90 The strategy also sets out how the government will provide vital therapeutic services to all adopted young people up to the age of 21, as well as family and friends who care for them, backed by a new commitment totalling over £49 million.
- 91 The government will also make sure social workers have the skills to make the right decisions for adoptive families by clearly setting out how social workers must prioritise adoption where it is in the best interest of the child.
- 92 To support the spreading and development of excellent practice in regional adoption agencies and on a national scale, the government will also introduce two new funding streams totalling up to £16 million over 2016/18.

Health and social care funding

- 93 In 2016/17, the Better Care Fund will be increased to a mandated minimum of £3.9 billion to be deployed locally on health and social care through pooled budget arrangements between local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The local flexibility to pool more than the mandatory amount will remain. From 2017/18, as part of the Spending Review, the government will also make funding available to local authorities, worth £1.5 billion by 2019/20, to be included in the Better Care Fund. This will be linked to compensation to local authorities with a low tax raising capacity.
- 94 The Spending Review clarified that the public health grant to local authorities will be ring fenced for a further two years, but that it will be subject to real term annual savings of 3.9 percent over the next five years whilst the remainder of the NHS budget will receive annual real terms increases. On 11 February

2016, the Department of Health confirmed that in 2016/17 there will be a reduction in total grant of 2.2 percent and a further reduction of 2.5 percent in 2017/18, which is on top of the 6.2 percent already cut in 2015/16.

- 95 In December 2015, the NHS Shared Planning Guidance 2016/17–2020/21, outlined a new approach to help ensure health and care services are built around the needs of local populations. Forty four planning footprints have been established, bringing together local health and care systems to produce and work towards a multi-year Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), showing how local services will evolve and become sustainable over the next five years – ultimately delivering the Five Year Forward View vision of better health, better patient care and improved NHS efficiency.
- 96 The Better Health Programme (BHP) focuses on continuous improvement across health and social care provision to enable services to meet patient needs now and in the future. The BHP wants to enable the delivery of high quality services which make best use of resources and staff to support longer term sustainability. Key outcomes focus on delivery of more services within the community on a seven-day basis, reducing the need for hospital visits with the aim of improving results for patients, life expectancy and quality of life.

Benefit Cap

- 97 Since 2013 there has been a limit on the total amount of benefits that any working age (age 16-64) claimant can receive, known as the 'Benefit Cap'.
- 98 The government announced in the summer budget of 2015, that it intended to further reduce the Benefit Cap, from this autumn. The further reduction will see a claimant's housing benefit reduced if their total amount of benefit income exceeds the amount of the new cap. From autumn 2016, the total amount a household will be able to claim in benefits will be capped at:
- £385 a week (£20,000 per annum) for couples (with or without children living with them) and for single parents whose children live with them;
 - £257.69 a week (£13,400 per annum) for single adults who do not have children, or whose children do not live with them.
- 99 The cap is applied through a reduction in Housing Benefit, so other benefits will not be affected, even where reduction of Housing Benefit still leaves claimants receiving more than the cap in other qualifying benefits.
- 100 The DWP has written to customers identified as 'potentially impacted' by the benefit cap reduction, advising customers to make contact with the DWP so that they are able to make appointments at their local JobCentre Plus office to receive employment support, if required.

Modern crime strategy

- 101 On 26 March 2016 the government published its Modern Crime Prevention Strategy which focuses on what evidence suggests are the six key drivers of crime - opportunity, character, the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System, profit, drugs and alcohol - and sets out proposals that make crime

harder to commit, and less attractive to criminals. The strategy also focuses on data and new technology as powerful tools for preventing crime. The strategy sets out a range of measures under each driver that will make crime harder to commit and less attractive to criminals. These include, for example:

- a) introducing legislation to ban the sale of so-called 'zombie-killer' knives;
- b) making more information available to consumers on how secure their smartphone is; and
- c) keeping people safe from high harm crimes of abuse through implementing the actions in the 2016 Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

102 A key driver of crime is tackling drugs and the government will publish a new drug strategy later this year to prevent and tackle drug misuse, which builds on the current balanced approach to reduce demand, restrict supply and build recovery.

103 To reduce the burden of drunkenness on the Police and accident and emergency (A&E) departments, as well as to enable people concerned for their safety to take action to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of crime, local authorities alongside the police, health partners and local business, will need to create safe spaces and devise local solutions and strategies for preventing alcohol-related crime and disorder.

104 To protect children and young people from the risk of child sexual exploitation the government will work with local areas to introduce rigorous taxi and private hire licensing regimes.

105 To strengthen the capacity and capability of local areas to build effective partnerships and to address alcohol-related harms areas will be able to bid for inclusion in a new round of Local Alcohol Action Areas which will be launched in autumn 2016.

Parliamentary boundary changes review

106 On 24 February 2016, the Boundary Commission announced a review of parliamentary constituencies in England. As part of the review, the Commission will look at current constituencies and local government patterns in redrawing the map of boundaries, before making a recommendation to Parliament in September 2018. This involves regularly consulting the public for their views and refining proposals in a number of stages.

107 Parliament has specified that the review must reduce the number of constituencies, and therefore MPs, in the UK, to 600. It has asked the Boundary Commission to consider where the boundaries of the new constituencies should be, ensuring that every new constituency has roughly the same number of electors - no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507. England will have 501 constituencies, 32 fewer than there are currently. With regards to the North East, the Commission proposes to reduce the number of constituencies from 29 to 25.

108 Initial proposals for how the reduction in the number of constituencies could be achieved will be published in the autumn.

Local Government Transparency Code

109 On 12 May 2016, the government consulted on proposed changes to the Local Government Transparency Code.

110 The code was first introduced in May 2014, and has been updated on a number of occasions since, as the government has added more detail and extended the scope of what information should be disclosed and published as a matter of course.

111 The latest proposals include:

- d) changes to the way that local authorities record details of their land and property assets;
- e) new requirements about information on parking charges and enforcement;
- f) new requirements about publishing information about procurement, contracts and the delivery of some services including in-house services;
- g) requirements to publish data sets in a shared, central location and changes to the way that transparency data is published and presented;
- h) recommendations that local authorities publish information about their dealings with small and medium-sized enterprises.

112 The consultation ran until 20 June 2016 and officers submitted a response on behalf of the council.

Implications

113 The government's policy proposals have many implications for the county and the council, its role and function and the way it works with and relates to local communities and strategic partners. Below, we provide a commentary against the strategic themes of the Council Plan and County Durham Sustainable Community Strategy.

Altogether better council

114 The referendum outcome that the United Kingdom should leave the European Union, will have significant consequences for the county, and the council as an organisation. The county will be affected by national and international economic reactions to the decision, which will affect the county's economic prospects and the state of public finances, which fund public services including the council.

115 We will have to wait for new leadership within the government, before the exit negotiations commence, and clarity begins to emerge over the timescales and

details for the change, including structural and institutional reforms, which will affect the county.

- 116 While it will take some time for the economy and public finances to adjust to the decision, the re-profiling of the government's deficit reduction programme announced in the Budget in March means that the council will have to achieve more savings in the short term, before it can expect to see an end to austerity. A more detailed report on the financial outlook for the council and its next medium term financial plan is also on the agenda for this meeting of Cabinet.
- 117 At the time of the Budget, the government expected the economy to return to surplus in 2019/20, at which point the Chancellor said he would begin to increase public spending again. However, this all hinges on the performance of the economy and is contingent on sustained economic growth.
- 118 While local government was assured at the budget that its spending reduction targets were not to be increased, even though a further £3.5 billion of public spending reductions would need to be made by 2020, many commentators remain concerned that local authorities will be impacted by spending reductions made in other departments and in particular in relation to welfare.
- 119 Following the u-turn on cuts to disability payments, a further £4.4 billion will need to be found and we will need to wait until the autumn statement to see how this affects other welfare payments and or local government.
- 120 The changes to business rates will also have a significant implication for the council, as government grant support is to be reduced, to be replaced by local authorities retaining all locally-generated business rates revenue by 2020. Currently, the council retains 50 percent of business rates revenue and receives top-up grants from the central business rates pot.
- 121 The various measures to discount business rates and in particular, the decision to link business rates to the lower Consumer Price Index as opposed to the higher Retail Price Index, will reduce the amount of revenue generated and in effect, inhibits the annual increases in business rates yield once the business rates are passed to local government.
- 122 cuts the amount of funding the government will be able to devolve when full business rates retention is implemented in 2020.
- 123 The proposed changes to education funding and the policies to encourage all schools to become academies, while also changing the statutory responsibilities of local authorities in relation to schools and education, will have significant financial, staffing and commercial implications for local schools, the council and other local authorities.
- 124 While we need to wait for the second stage of consultation on the proposed National Funding Formula to learn the specific financial implications for the council and local schools, the fact that Durham has a higher than average lump sum to support smaller schools with their fixed costs means that we are likely to be affected by any move which seeks to equalise funding between schools in the interests of 'fairness'.

- 125 As part of the consultation, the DfE is to review what costs are allowable as being centrally retained and met by the proposed 'Central Schools Block'. However, it has already made clear that redundancy costs for schools in deficit, which currently are funded from a centrally retained element of the Dedicated Schools Grant, will need to be funded by the council. Currently, the retained funding set aside for this purpose is £475,000.
- 126 The proposed requirement to pass on the whole of the Schools Block allocation to mainstream primary and secondary schools, in effect removes local discretion to move funding to meet local priorities and pressures. Currently, in consultation with the Schools Forum, the council is able to move funding between the blocks to meet mutually agreed and recognised local spending pressures.
- 127 The proposed ending of 'de-delegation' by 2019/20 means that all centrally-provided services would need to be funded through service level agreements with schools. Currently, the Schools Forum in Durham de-delegates £1.1 million to contribute towards important centrally provided services such as school improvement and Looked After Children educational support.
- 128 In addition, the government also proposes to review local authority statutory responsibilities in relation to education and the funding currently provided to support these through the Education Services Grant
- 129 This is to be combined with the centrally held funds in the Dedicated Schools Grant, but only after a national cut of £600 million is made, as announced in the 2015 spending review. Durham's share of this reduction equates to approximately £4.4 million, which will need to be taken into account as the council develops its next medium term financial plan.
- 130 While the DfE recognises that it will need to continue to provide some financial support for those statutory responsibilities local authorities will retain – it has been suggested that it would allow some 'de-delegation' or top-slicing of school budgets to fund these – the actual detail of what will be funded and to what extent is not yet known.
- 131 While the government has pulled back from enforced academisation, it still expects and wants all schools to become academies in due course. This will have substantial implications for services across the council that are currently provided to schools under service level agreements.
- 132 It could also impact on business rates income for the council, as academies receive 80 percent mandatory relief from business rates, whereas the business rates liabilities of maintained schools are currently met by the Dedicated Schools Grant. If all maintained schools were to convert, it is estimated that the council's business rates income could reduce by around £1.7 million a year, based on current prices.
- 133 The council is particularly concerned about the potential impact of the government's funding proposals on small schools. The government consultation makes it clear that in some cases schools will close as a result of funding changes. The education white paper also suggests that the regional schools commissioners will be able to order the closure of schools where they are not viable (although more recent policy statements talk about a 'double-

lock' in which local and national government has to agree to the closure of a small rural school if it has converted to academy status, before a decision can be taken).

- 134 Where academies do close, local authorities will still be responsible for home to school transport and there are growing concerns that local authority transportation costs will increase, let alone the possible detrimental impact on children and young people if they need to go to different schools further afield.
- 135 Given the significant financial implications for local schools and the council, officers submitted a response to the funding formula consultations, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders.
- 136 An officer working group has also been established to consider and anticipate how the council should respond to the funding and policy changes outlined in the education white paper. As further detail emerges from government, more detailed briefings and reports will be provided to Members.
- 137 The proposed changes to the Local Government Transparency Code raise a number of issues for the council.
- 138 The 2015 Code currently requires local authorities to publish details of any contract, commissioned activity, purchase order, or framework agreement with a value that exceeds £5,000.
- 139 It is now proposed that local authorities are required to publish information about 'in-house' services so that a council is 'able to demonstrate a clear and transparent approach to service and cost evaluation using robust data, quality comparators and a clear options assessment and therefore be able to justify to its residents why its services are being provided in-house rather than a private company'. It is suggested that this should be re-assessed and reported at an appropriate time period (possibly every seven years). The government is consulting on whether this should apply to all services or just specific services (for example waste services or leisure services) and whether it should be limited to services above a threshold, for example, contracts in excess of £500,000.
- 140 It is also proposed that the Code is updated to require data to be published in a standardised format and to a central source to facilitate easier analysis, comparison and benchmarking of that data. This would require a significant amount of work to update existing datasets to ensure they meet the standardised format and headings as required.
- 141 In addition, the government is seeking views on how compliance with the Code might be measured and enforced.

Altogether wealthier

- 142 Clearly, the outcome of European Union membership referendum will have profound economic implications for the county, and the council in terms of the legal framework it operates within and the funding of its work.
- 143 The council continues to work closely with local authorities and NECA to inform and support the proposed developments as part of the devolution

agreement. A governance review, and scheme and implementation plan are being finalised to set out clearly the governance arrangements and legal requirements for each individual ask. Cabinet will continue to be kept informed of progress through separate update reports.

- 144 There are also a number of infrastructure projects across the North East that will improve the region's road and water infrastructure, as well as renewable energy projects, which will secure the region's energy supply. Although there are few projects in County Durham, the county will benefit indirectly.
- 145 The changes to the Benefit Cap will increase the number of people in the county affected by this particular welfare reform.
- 146 Initial indications from the DWP indicate that approximately 630 households in the county (mainly in the private rented sector) will be affected, of which approximately 70 are already subject to the current Benefit Cap. When the Benefit Cap was first introduced the number affected was just over 100. In total it is estimated that the change will lead to a further reduction of £1.4 million in Housing Benefit in the county.
- 147 The Poverty Action Steering Group is overseeing the council's response to the change and officers are working closely with the DWP to understand who is affected, the level of impact and the dates when the changes will be introduced. This will ensure that the council can build on the good work currently being done by housing providers and the council's Housing Solutions service to ensure that we support those customers affected, through our 'triage' process and the use of Discretionary Housing Payments to provide short term financial support, where required.
- 148 The Housing and Planning Act, proposed regulations, and changes to national planning policy, all introduce a requirement for the delivery of starter homes. There are concerns that that the ability to deliver other types of affordable housing would be substantially diminished by the proposed introduction of starter homes. Owing to viability constraints, a requirement to deliver of a proportion of starter homes as part of all new housing development, would be likely to preclude the delivery of other forms of affordable housing.
- 149 This is a concern as there are groups in housing need in the county who would not be eligible for a starter home. In particular, a substantial portion of those currently in housing need within the county are older people. The housing needs of this group would not be met by starter homes, given the targeted age groups set out in the proposed regulations. Furthermore, owing to viability constraints, if a requirement for starter homes is imposed on all housing developments, this may mean that development in parts of the county may become unviable.
- 150 There is concern that the measure within the proposed changes to National Planning Policy to introduce a time limit on the protection of commercial or employment land, could potentially prejudice future opportunities for economic growth. The proposed policy may have the unintended consequence of incentivising landowners to resist commercial development, which would support the council's economic growth objectives, and instead, encourage them to wait for sufficient time to elapse for the land to be acceptable for residential development. Such a policy could lead to employment land in

good locations being lost to residential development in unsustainable housing locations.

Altogether healthier

- 151 In looking ahead to 2016/17, the government has stressed the importance of ensuring that Better Care Fund plans are aligned to other programmes of work, including the new models of care as set out in the NHS Five Year Forward View and delivery of seven-day services.
- 152 Councils will face significant spending reductions to their public health budget up to 2020/21. The forecast for Durham is approximately £8.4 million across the period 2016/17 to 2019/20. This will be rolled into the Fair Funding Formula under 100 percent business rates retention from 2020.
- 153 Reductions to the public health budget will have a significant impact on the essential prevention and health protection services provided by councils.
- 154 The Sustainability and Transformation Plan and Better Health Programme are part of the move towards integrating health and social care. This will be extremely challenging for Durham given the significant financial challenges facing local government, the increased demand for healthcare and rising costs of delivering services particularly in the provision of community services.
- 155 Each health and care system has been required to submit a full Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) and Durham has worked with health and care organisations within the geographic Sustainability and Transformation Plan footprint to develop STPs that help drive genuine and sustainable transformation in patient experience and health outcomes in the longer-term.
- 156 The County Durham, Darlington and Teesside STP includes two major transformational change projects that have been progressed through the Better Health Programme which incorporates the Emergency and Urgent Care Project and the Not in Hospital project.

Altogether safer

- 157 With regards to the Modern Crime Strategy, further information for local authorities and partners is expected to be issued by the Home Office over the coming year including a new drug strategy to help prevent and tackle drug misuse as well as the introduction of rigorous taxi and private hire licensing regimes to protect children and young people for child sexual exploitation.
- 158 The government has also announced a new round of Local Alcohol Action Areas which will launch in autumn 2016, which offers the prospect of funding to strengthen capacity and capability of local areas to build effective partnerships and address alcohol-related harms. However, as with all these types of funding, applications will be considered on a competitive basis.

Altogether better for children and young people

- 159 While the government has pulled back from its policy of enforced academisation outlined in the white paper, it still expects and wants all schools to become academies in due course.
- 160 Its vision is of an education system in which the government backs the best school leaders and head teachers to drive improvement in schools, with local authorities playing a relatively limited role, compared with now.
- 161 Multi-academy trusts would be expected to tackle under-performance within their chains, expanding the influence of the best headteachers to address performance issues in individual schools. The system would be overseen by regional schools commissioners who would be able to intervene where there are concerns or where parents petition for change.
- 162 The council's view is that the evidence that academy status in itself plays a significant role in improving standards in schools is not proven. This is supported by the House of Commons Education Committee report into Academies and Free Schools in 2015 and the study carried out for the Local Government Association that compared the attainment of pupils at academy schools with those at maintained schools which had similar characteristics. This found that progress made by students in sponsored and "converter" academies was no greater than that of children at maintained schools.
- 163 There is also growing evidence that some academies are suffering from performance-related problems and the performance of some multi-academy trusts has been called into question.
- 164 The premise in the white paper that conversion 'frees' schools from local authority control ignores that fact that since the inception of Local Management of Schools (LMS) in 1988, maintained schools are not controlled by local authorities and have been free to make choices on curriculum content and teaching and have fully autonomous financial control.
- 165 Although the government has retreated from compelling all schools to convert to academies, it still proposes to promote the development and expansion of 'multi-academy trusts', as a vehicle to achieve full academisation. Trusts would be allowed to take all decisions for how the schools they manage are run, including shifting funding from one school to another. As such, they will be able to exert far more control over schools than local authorities currently do, which in effect will reduce the freedom that individual schools have enjoyed since LMS and the start of delegation in the 1990s. Given the significant role that multi-academy trusts already play in the education system and their likely continued growth, the House of Commons Select Committee has launched an inquiry into their influence, performance and scrutiny.
- 166 At this stage, it is not clear what role local authorities will have in relation to the scrutiny of academies or multi-academy trusts operating in their area. In addition, there are concerns about the future role of school and parent governors, given that there is no obligation on multi-academy trust boards to have either and the government's clear policy preference is to favour 'school leaders' over community representatives.

- 167 The white paper proposals to transfer responsibility for school improvement from local authorities to schools and ‘school leaders’, overseen by the regional schools commissioners, is not accompanied by any formal transfer of the significant capacity and infrastructure that exists in local authorities to support school improvement. The government acknowledges that the expertise that currently exists in local authorities will need to transfer to support the drive towards academisation. However, it almost suggests that this will be on an informal, voluntary basis – ‘we expect that some individuals working in local authority teams will leave to set up new trusts or join existing ones and become academy sponsors’ – as opposed to through any formal transfer or TUPE-like arrangement. The white paper also says very little about increasing the capacity of regional schools commissioners to take on their expanded role.
- 168 The proposed review of local authority statutory duties (education welfare; school improvement; schools asset management; and other statutory and regulatory duties) will have a significant impact on the council, with the amount we receive from the Education Services Grant (currently £5.4 million) reduced by £4.3 million. This has been factored into the Medium Term Financial Plan (7) model, although the savings to be made as a result of reduced statutory requirements are still to be determined.
- 169 As mentioned above, an officer working group has been established to consider and anticipate how the council should respond to the white paper proposals. The council is also in dialogue with schools, headteachers and diocesan bodies over the proposed changes.
- 170 Under the ‘*Adoption: A vision for change*’ strategy, all local authorities and voluntary adoption agencies will be expected to develop and implement regional adoption agencies by 2020. The North East Adoption Leadership Board chaired by the Director of Children’s Services from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is currently leading this work. Two sub-regional adoption agencies are currently under development. Durham is not currently involved in either.
- 171 For delays between a child entering care and moving in with their new family, local authorities and regional adoption agencies will be held to account by the government through the introduction and use of scorecards.
- 172 In addition to Looked After Children, every adopted child will need to be provided with a designated teacher and ‘virtual school head’ who will provide tailored support to help children overcome trauma and give these young people the best possible education.

Implications for partnership working

- 173 Given the scope of government reforms, the council continues to work with partners to ensure that we achieve the aims of the sustainable community strategy.
- 174 The County Durham Partnership considers these policy implications reports alongside Cabinet and Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Emerging government policy and legislation will be taken into consideration, as the partnership reviews the sustainable community strategy for the county.

- 175 Given the continuation of austerity and the new policy programme outlined by government, the partnership will undertake a more fundamental review of the sustainable community strategy in the coming year. As a result, the council will also need to review its council plan and service plans, in order to determine its priorities and actions and contributions towards achieving the sustainable community strategy.

Conclusions

- 176 Since the last report to Cabinet, the most significant announcements from the government which will affect the county, have been the immediate next steps following the European Union membership referendum, the 2016 Budget, devolution, and the white paper on education and schools.
- 177 Following the outcome of the referendum, the Prime Minister announced that he is to stand down and that new leadership within the government will take forward negotiations with the EU about the timescales and terms for the United Kingdom's exit.
- 178 The referendum outcome will have significant consequences for the county, and the council as an organisation. The county will be affected by national and international economic reactions to the decision, which will affect the county's economic prospects and the state of public finances, which fund public services including the council.
- 179 We will have to wait for new leadership within the government, before the exit negotiations commence, and clarity begins to emerge over the timescales and details for the change, including structural and institutional reforms, which will affect the county.
- 180 The government under the current leadership has continued to maintain several elements of the previous coalition government policy programme, with financial austerity, welfare reform and decentralisation retained as policy priorities.
- 181 The continuation of austerity and the emerging policy proposals in relation to the council's role in education will have major implications for the council and its ability contribute to the 'altogether better Durham' agenda.
- 182 The council is anticipating the potential implications by actively monitoring the policy debate and responding to government and parliamentary consultations and calls for evidence where appropriate. It will continue to do so, consulting the relevant portfolio holders and producing more detailed reports for Members, where appropriate.

Recommendations

- 183 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report and the actions taken to anticipate and respond to the government's reforms.

Background papers

Contact: Kevin Edworthy Tel: 03000 268045

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The government’s decision to continue with its austerity programme will have on-going financial implications for the council, which will have to continue to reduce spending within its medium term financial plan. The plan will also need to take into account changes to business rates income and the proposed new national funding formula for schools, which will reduce the amount of central funding the council receives to support service provision.

Staffing – No specific implications have been identified.

Risk – Individual assessments of the risks associated with specific policy proposals are undertaken as a matter of course in council project planning and management.

Equality and Diversity – Equality impact assessments will be undertaken on individual policy proposals the council develops in response to the government’s reforms.

Accommodation – No specific implications have been identified.

Crime and Disorder – No specific implications have been identified beyond those discussed in the section on the Modern Crime Strategy.

Human Rights – No specific implications have been identified.

Consultation – No specific implications have been identified.

Procurement – The proposed changes to the Local Government Transparency Code would extend the disclosure requirements around procurement and in-house services.

Disability Discrimination Act – No specific implications have been identified.

Legal Implications – A number of the government policy changes outlined above, place new statutory duties on the council and change the regulatory framework in which it operates. The council considers the legal implications of all decisions it takes.

Appendix 2: Main announcements in the Budget 2016

Deficit/Debt/Growth

A further £3.5 billion of public sector spending reductions by 2020.

Deficit / surplus:

- 2015/16: £72.2 billion deficit
- 2016/17: 2.9 percent /£55.5 billion deficit
- 2017/18: 1.9 percent /£38.8 billion deficit
- 2018/19: 1.0 percent /£21.4 billion deficit
- 2019/20: £10.4 billion surplus

Debt-to-GDP is going to be "higher in 2015/16 than the year before" because of lower growth.

Debt to GDP ratio:

- 2016/17: 82.6 percent
- 2017/18: 81.3 percent
- 2018/19: 79.9 percent
- 2019/20: 77.2 percent
- 2020/21: 74.7 percent

Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts for growth downgraded since Comprehensive Spending Review:

- 2016 2.0 percent (down from 2.4 percent)
- 2017 2.2 percent (down from 2.5 percent)
- 2018 2.1 percent (down from 2.4 percent)
- 2019 2.1 percent (down from 2.3 percent)
- 2020 2.1 percent (down from 2.2 percent)

Welfare and tax credits

£115 million to support homelessness and rough sleepers.

Pensions, savings and personal taxation

Personal tax allowance will rise to £11,000 in April and £11,500 next year – a tax cut to 31 million people.

The higher-tax rate threshold will rise from £42,385 to £45,000 from next April.

New duty on public sector employers to ensure that those working for them pay the correct tax rather than giving a tax advantage to those who choose to contract their work through personal service companies.

Loans to participators will be taxed at 32.5 percent to prevent tax avoidance.

From 2018, termination payments over £30,000 will also attract employer national insurance.

Tax break for people renting out rooms when they go on holiday.

Reduction in Capital Gains Tax from 28 to 20 percent.

Reduction in Capital Gains Tax paid by basic rate taxpayers from 18 percent to 10 percent - The rates came into effect in April. The old rates will be kept in place for gains on residential property and carried interest.

New 10 percent rate on long term external investment in unlisted companies, up to a separate maximum of £10 million of lifetime gains.

ISA limit increased to £20,000.

New 'Lifetime ISA' for under-40s, people can save £4,000 per year and the government will give you £1,000 every year until you are 50. That money can be used for a new home or into a pension - the money will not be taxed when you remove it.

A cap on exempt gains in the Employee Shareholder Status.

A Help to Save scheme to encourage low paid workers to save up to £50 a month, matched by a 50 percent government bonus after two years.

Business and Enterprise

Corporation tax to be cut to 17 percent by 2020.

Tax break for people selling on e-bay - Two new tax free allowances for trading and profiting income, worth £1,000 each for micro-entrepreneurs.

Threshold for business tax relief raised to £15,000 from £6,000.

High rates to be increased from £18,000 to £51,000.

In future business rates to increase in line with CPI.

A simplified business rates scheme to be introduced for large retailers.

Commercial stamp duty will have a zero rate band on purchases up to £150,000; a two percent rate on the next £100,000; and a five percent top rate above £250,000 (immediate effect, with transitional rules for purchasers who have exchanged, but not completed contracts before midnight).

A new two percent rate for those high value leases with a net present value above £5 million (immediate effect, with transitional rules for purchasers who have exchanged, but not completed contracts before midnight).

Reduction of the Supplementary Charge on oil and gas from 20 percent to 10 percent - backdated to 01/01/16.

Abolishing Petroleum Revenue Tax – backdated to 01/01/16.

£1 billion in loans via the British Business Bank for SMEs including a Help To Grow programme, an Enterprise Finance Guarantee, Bizfitech, Funding options and Funding Xchange.

All Local Enterprise Partnership Boards to include a small business representative.

Further technical measures to be developed to tackle tax avoidance.

Infrastructure, transport and culture

Four-lane M62, a tunnel from Manchester to Sheffield, upgrades for the A66 and A69.

Commission Crossrail 2.

Confirmation of HS3.

0.5 percent increase in insurance premium tax, worth £700 million, which will all go towards flood defence.

£13 million for Hull to make a success as the City of Culture.

Extension of the Cathedral Repairs Fund by extra £20 million.

Announcements of small sums for a number of culture projects, including a new Shakespeare North theatre.

Lord Heseltine will lead a Thames Estuary Growth Commission which will report next year.

Fuel duty will be frozen for the sixth year in a row - saving of £75 a year to the average driver and £270 a year to a small business with a van.

Driverless cars will be trialled on motorways.

Tax breaks for museums who take their exhibitions on tour.

Construction and property

Starter Homes Land Fund prospectus to be launched with £1.2 billion available to build starter homes on brownfield sites.

Government to collaborate with local authorities to release land for 160,000 homes and regeneration council housing estates.

Government to extend the Private Rented Sector Guarantee until December 2017.

Government to consult with city regions about increasing the density of development of brownfield land through 'building up' programmes as a means of reducing 'building out'.

Homes and Communities Agency to work with Network Rail and local authorities to bring forward more development around train stations.

Brownfield land for starter homes.

Stamp duty on buy-to-lets.

Energy, science and innovation

Low Emissions Vehicles: £38 million – matched by industry - to be made available via the Office for Low Emissions Vehicles and Innovate UK.

£50 million for innovation in energy storage, demand-side response and other smart technologies over the next five years.

OFGEM to consult on a £100 million Network Innovation Competition for innovative energy projects.

Government auction of medium-scale energy projects.

Government to invest in research into small modular nuclear reactors.

Broadband Investment Fund: Government to work in partnership with the private sector to establish a new fund for alternative network developers.

Environment

Abolition of the carbon reduction commitment.

Climate change levy will rise from 2019 to cover the costs of the abolition of the carbon reduction commitment.

£730 million for further contract for difference auctions for new renewable technologies.

0.5 percent increase in insurance premium tax to 10 percent from 1 October 2016 to raise £700 million to pay for flood defence projects in York, Leeds, Calder Valley and Cumbria.

Education

A White Paper will be published on further improvements in education on 17/03/16.

Extra funding so that by 2020 every primary and secondary school in England will be, or be in the process of becoming, an academy.

A focus on the performance of schools in the north – Sir Nick Weller to provide a plan.

Teaching maths to 18, for all pupils.

Introduction of a fair National Funding Formula –committing half a billion pounds to speed up its introduction. Objective to get over 90 percent of the schools that will benefit onto the new formula by the end of this parliament.

£1.5 billion in funding for school sport and arts clubs to help schools stay open an extra hour per day.

£20 million a year to be invested in new funding for a Northern Powerhouse Schools Strategy.

Health

The introduction of a new sugar levy on the soft drinks industry. It will come into force in two years, based on the volume of sugar, two bands: those with 5g per 100ml and those with more than 8g per 100ml, pure fruit juices and small businesses excluded. It will raise £520 million.

Allocation of £12 million from the Tampon Tax to these charities across the UK, from Breast Cancer Care to the White Ribbon Campaign.

Tobacco duty to rise from two per cent from tonight.

Beer, cider and whisky duties to be fixed at current rates.

Libor fines to be used to support children's hospital treatment.

Confirmed real terms increase to the disability budget, but changes to target those who need support most, in line with last week's DWP announcements.

Police, security and justice

Transferring new powers over the criminal justice system to Greater Manchester.

Devolution

From 2018 the price of the tolls on the Severn Crossings will be halved.

Extending enhanced capital allowances to the enterprise zone in Coleraine.

Over £4 million from LIBOR fines to help establish the first Air Ambulance service for Northern Ireland.

An East Anglia Combined Authority has been confirmed with funding of £1 billion.

Greater Lincolnshire will adopt an elected mayor as well and will receive new powers and funding.

The devolution of business rates to the Greater London Authority will be delivered next April, three years earlier than planned.

100 percent of local government resources from local government by the end of the parliament.

Opening negotiations on new city deals with Edinburgh and Swansea.

Northern Powerhouse

Local Growth Fund:

- up to £1.8 billion will be allocated through a further round of Growth Deals with Local Enterprise Partnerships later this year.

- a further £2 billion of the Local Growth Fund is being allocated through the Home Building Fund.
- next round of the Coastal Communities Fund, for projects starting in 2017/18, will open for applications this summer

2015/16 Key Project Starts:

£220 million upgrade to M6 J16-19 between Crewe and Knutsford.

Construction of the £230 million A6 to Manchester Airport relief road.

Phase one of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Key Project Completions

Electrification of railway between Manchester and Liverpool.

£120 million M1 J39-42 Smart Motorway between Wakefield and Leeds.

Construction of the £300 million Liverpool2 deep water terminal at Seaforth.

2016/17 Key Project Starts:

Construction of £200 million New Polar Research Vessel, Birkenhead.

New rail franchises for TransPennine Express and Northern start 1 April 2016.

£100 million improvement to A19/A1058 Coast Road Junction in Newcastle.

£75 million development of improvements to M60, Northern TransPennine links (A66 and A69) and TransPennine tunnel between Manchester and Sheffield.

Key Project Completions:

£192 million upgrade to A556 Knutsford to Bowdon.

Carrington Power Station enters operation, after a £620 million construction.

2017/18 Key Project Starts:

ESIOS – Energy Subsurface Test Centre, Chester.

National Centre for Ageing Science and Innovation, Newcastle.

Smart Motorway on the M62 J10-12 (Manchester – Warrington).

£13 million for Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

Key Project Completions:

£380 million of improvement works on the A1 Leeming to Barton.

£210 million Smart Motorway on M60 J8 – M62 J20.

Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre, Manchester.

Cognitive Computing Research Centre, Cheshire (Hartree Phase III).

Plans produced for High Speed 3 between Leeds and Manchester to reduce journey times to around 30 minutes.

National College of High Speed Rail, Doncaster.

2018/19 Key Project Starts:

Ouse and Foss flood defence schemes in York, and phase two of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Publish second Roads Investment Strategy (2020-25), which could include TransPennine tunnel and upgrades to northern TransPennine roads and M60.

Comprehensive upgrades to the TransPennine rail route, paving the way for High Speed 3.

Key Project Completions:

Tees Renewable Energy Plant and £190-200 million Energy Works in Hull.

Great Exhibition of the North 2018.

2019/20 Key Project Starts:

Upgrades to the A5036 Princess Way and M56 J6-8 Smart Motorway (Manchester Airport – A556).

Smart Motorway on the M62 J20-25 (Leeds – Manchester).

Upgrades to the A1 north of Ellingham.

M62/M606 Chain Bar in Bradford.

Key Project Completions:

M62 J10-12, M60 J24-27 & J1-4 South of Manchester Smart Motorway.

Sir Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials, Manchester.

National Institute for Smart Data Innovation, Newcastle.

Appendix 3: Bills announced in the Queen's speech 2016

Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill (England and Wales)

- 1 To reform planning and give local communities more control to shape their own areas and build more homes. Pre-commencement planning conditions to be streamlined to speed up housing developments. Changes to make compulsory planning orders "clearer, fairer and faster". A new statutory framework for paying compensation, based on market value of land. National Infrastructure Commission to be put on statutory footing. Land Registry to be privatised.
- 2 The consultation on privatisation of the Land Registry has only recently closed so this Bill will not be published before the summer.

Digital Economy Bill (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)

- 3 Every UK household will have legal right to a fast broadband connection with Minimum speed of 10Mbps to be guaranteed through Broadband Universal Service Obligation. Properties in the "remotest areas" may have to contribute to cost of installation. Consumers will have the right to automatic compensation when broadband service goes down. A new code to cut the cost of building mobile phone masts and broadband cables. Companies must get consent before sending promotional spam emails, with fines for transgressors. All websites containing pornographic images to require age verification for access.
- 4 It is understood that the bill along with a new digital strategy is likely to be published after the European Referendum.

Better Markets Bill (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)

- 5 The Competition and Market Authority (CMA) recommendations for energy competition to be implemented. Measures to make it easier for customers to switch banks and energy providers. Speeding up competition investigations and giving regulators more powers. Simplifying the way economic regulators operate to make things more straightforward for business and cut red tape.
- 6 This bill is unlikely to come forward until after the summer recess.

Modern Transport Bill

- 7 Measures to encourage investment in driverless cars, electric cars, commercial space planes and drones (Great Britain only). Ensuring insurance is available to users of driverless cars (Great Britain only). Updating Air Travel Organiser's Licence (Atol), the UK's financial protection scheme for holidays (UK-wide).
- 8 This Bill is expected to be published in autumn, to be scrutinised by parliament in the run up to December.

Bus Services Bill (England)

- 9 Combined local authorities with elected mayors to have power to franchise local services and to give elected mayors and local transport authorities the power to

improve bus services for the people who use them. Mayoral combined authorities would be given London-style powers to franchise local services. Councils to set standards for ticketing, branding and frequency of services. Data about routes, fares and times would be made available across the country to app developers to give passengers better information about how to make the most of local bus services.

- 10 The Bill could be published imminently having been confirmed in last year's Queen's Speech.

Local Growth and Jobs Bill (England)

- 11 Framework to be put in place to enable local authorities to retain 100 percent of business rates levied. New powers to be devolved to local authorities to be set out in law. Combined authority mayors to have scope to levy business rate supplement to fund infrastructure projects.
- 12 It is anticipated that the bill is likely to be introduced shortly after the summer recess.

Criminal Finances Bill

- 13 New criminal offence making companies liable for stopping their staff facilitating tax evasion. Changes to laws on the proceeds of crime, to make it easier for the police and courts to recover criminal assets. The Suspicious Activity Reports regime to be refocused, with emphasis on tackling systemic money laundering.
- 14 It is expected that the bill will be presented to parliament after the summer recess.

NHS (Overseas Visitors Charging) Bill

- 15 Overseas migrants and visitors will be charged for NHS services they are not entitled to. Tighter residency rules mean fewer visitors from the European Economic Area will be able to access free health care. "Full cost" of treating overseas patients to be recovered and ploughed back into NHS.
- 16 It is not known when the bill is likely to come forward.

Children and Social Work Bill (England)

- 17 Adoption procedures to be speeded up. Councils required to tell children leaving care what services they are entitled to. All care leavers to have right to personal adviser to the age of 25. A new social work regulator to focus on training and professional standards. A duty on councils and schools to promote educational achievement for adopted children.

Education for All Bill (Mainly England)

- 18 Powers to convert under-performing schools in "unviable" local authorities to academies. Goal of making every school an academy but no compulsion to do so. Head teachers, not councils, to be responsible for school improvement. A new national funding formula for schools. Schools to be responsible for assisting excluded pupils.

- 19 It is not known when the bill will come forward although it has been suggested that the government may look to bring forward some of the less controversial pieces of legislation earlier in the parliament.

Higher Education and Research Bill (Mainly England)

- 20 Removing barriers for new universities to be set up and for existing providers to get university status. New Teaching Excellence Framework to focus on raising standards. Universities to be required to publish detailed admissions data on ethnicity, gender and socio-economic background.
- 21 It is not known when the bill is likely to come forward.

Prison and Courts Reform Bill (England and Wales)

- 22 New "reform" prisons to be opened, with emphasis on training, rehabilitation and education. Governors of new prisons to have freedom to agree service contracts and establish their own boards. More statistics on post-release offending and employment rates to be published. Courts and tribunals to be modernised, with greater use of technology to reduce delays.
- 23 As the government has already announced the six pilot sites for the new Reform Prisons, it is envisaged that the bill could come forward relatively quickly.

Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill (England and Wales)

- 24 A new civil order regime to be introduced to restrict extremist activity. New powers of intervention to tackle radicalisation of children in "unregulated education settings". The government to step in where councils fail to tackle extremism, subject to consultation. Ofcom to have power to regulate internet-streamed material from outside EU.
- 25 It is envisaged that the bill could come forward relatively quickly.

National Citizen Service Bill (Discussion with devolved administrations)

- 26 New statutory framework to deliver the National Citizen Service (NCS). All state secondary schools, academies, private schools and councils required to promote the NCS.
- 27 The legislative timetable is not known.

Bill of Rights (Subject to consultation)

- 28 Plans for a British bill of rights to replace the Human Rights Act will be published in "due course" and subject to consultation. Proposals for a new framework of human rights, based on those set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. Bill of rights also to take into account UK's "common law tradition".

Pensions Bill

- 29 Better protection for people paying into multi-employer pension schemes known as Master Trusts (Great Britain only). Master Trusts to have to meet new criteria and be subject to closer supervision (Great Britain only). Capping early exit fees charged by trust-based occupational pension schemes (Great Britain only). Pension Advisory Service, Pension Wise and Money Advice Service to be merged into single body (UK-wide). New financial advice body to be created (UK-wide)

30 The legislative timetable is not known.

Lifetime Savings Bill (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)

31 Help to Save scheme announced in Budget to help those on low incomes build up "rainy day fund". Those in work but getting certain benefits who put aside £50 a month will see it matched by state. New Lifetime ISA for under-40s to be introduced, offering £1,000 tax-free payment each year for those saving £4,000.

32 With the Lifetime ISA due to be available in April 2017 the legislation would need to be implemented earlier in the parliament for the new top-up subscription to be included. Therefore the legislation looks likely to be brought in later in the year.

Small Charitable Donations Bill (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)

33 Gift Aid Small Donations scheme to be changed following a public consultation. Aim to increase benefits of scheme for new and smaller charities, including amateur sports clubs. Clarify rules concerning how charities connected with community buildings can benefit.

34 The draft legislation will be brought forward following the consultation period, which closes on 1 July 2016.

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill

35 The UK to ratify the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict. Dealing in cultural property illegally exported from occupied territory to be made criminal offence. Property protected under the convention and its protocols to be identified by new Blue Shield.

36 The legislative timetable is not known.

Intellectual Property (Unjustified Threats) Bill

37 To reform the law of unjustified threats of infringement proceedings for patents, trademarks and design rights. To make the UK the best place in Europe for innovation, the patenting of new ideas, and expanding businesses.

38 It is not known when this Bill will be brought before Parliament, however it may be debated alongside the Digital Economy Bill and strengthen measures on Intellectual Property rights.

Draft Law of Property Bill

39 The government will bring forward proposals to respond to the recommendations of the Law Commission's report on Making land work: easements, covenants and profits à prendre (2011) to simplify the law around land ownership.

40 The legislative timetable is not known.

Carried-over bills

41 In addition, six bills are being carried over from the 2015/16 parliamentary session. They are:

- High Speed Rails (London-Midlands) Bill;
- Policing and Crime Bill;

- Investigatory Powers Bill;
- Finance Bill 2017;
- Wales Bill.

Other commitments

42 The government also re-affirmed its commitment to a number of other measures, including:

- **Soft Drinks Industry Levy** - New levy on producers of drinks with added sugar content to come into force in April 2018. Measure to be included in 2017 Finance Bill. Money raised will be used to increase funding for school sports, after-school activities and breakfast clubs.
- **Constitutional Affairs** - The Scotland Act 2016, which received Royal Assent in March 2016, delivers in full the all-party Smith Commission Agreement. The Act transfers a raft of new powers to the Scottish Parliament. The government will work closely with the incoming Northern Ireland Executive and the new Irish government to deliver the remaining commitments of the December 2014 Stormont House Agreement.
- **Oversee electors** - The government will legislate to extend the franchise for British citizens living abroad to vote in UK parliamentary and European parliamentary elections. The Bill would enable British citizens who have been resident overseas for more than 15 years to continue to vote in UK elections.
- **Home building** - The government reaffirmed its commitment to delivering a step change in housing supply, extending home ownership, and supporting new garden cities, towns and communities, and announced a £3 billion Home Building Fund - £2 billion focused on long term loans to unlock a pipeline of 160,000 to 200,000 homes over the long term, and £1 billion to support small developments and custom builds.
- **International development spending** – The government reaffirmed its commitment to spend 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) on overseas development.
- **Life changes strategy** - The forthcoming Life Chances Strategy will set out this government's new approach to tackling poverty and transforming the life chances of the most disadvantaged children and families. The Strategy will include a set of measures on the root causes of poverty.
- **National security** – the government reaffirmed its commitment to: meeting the NATO guideline to spend two percent of GDP on defence every year of this decade; the Armed Forces Covenant; and the commitment to build four new nuclear-armed submarines to replace the Vanguard class.
- **Northern Powerhouse** – the government re-iterated its commitment to continue to support the development of a Northern Powerhouse.
- **Seven day NHS** - Seven day services in hospitals will be implemented across the parliament in a phased way. Ten areas have committed to implement the clinical standards for a quarter of the population by March 2017. This will rise to 50 percent of the population by March 2018 and everyone by 2020.
- **UK economy and fiscal** - The deficit has been cut by almost two-thirds as a share of GDP since its post-war peak in 2009/10, reaching 3.9 percent of GDP by

the end of 2015/16. The OBR forecasts that the UK deficit will be eliminated by 2019/20.

- **Support for working people** - The government reaffirmed its commitment to continue to cut taxes and has committed to increasing the personal allowance to £12,500 and the higher rate threshold to £50,000 by the end of this Parliament. The government will increase the personal allowance to £11,500.
- **UK's role in the World** - The government reaffirmed its commitment to:
 - responding to crises, committing £2.3 billion to the refugee crisis in Syria and raising a further over £7 billion in global pledges;
 - committing military and intelligence capabilities to disrupt the people trafficking networks in the Mediterranean;
 - following the Paris climate agreement, to reducing emissions and increasing investment in clean energy technologies.

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**16th September 2016****Cabinet****14th September 2016****Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 6**

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council and all Cabinet collectively**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides an update on the progress made at the end of June 2016 on the delivery of the 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP6).

Background

2. Cabinet has received regular updates on the progress made by the Council in delivering the financial targets within the MTFP since 2011/12.
3. MTFP6 was agreed by Council in February 2016 and for 2016/17 the savings target was just over £28million. This forms part of the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2019/20 of around £250million.

Progress to date

4. Previous reports have described our robust approach to delivery of the savings so that savings are delivered early where this is practical.
5. As a result, by the end of June 2016 over 80% of the savings target for MTFP6 has already been met with £22.5million of savings having been achieved. This is a significant achievement considering our total savings delivered since April 2011 is over £180million including public health savings and the identification of proposals for future savings is becoming increasingly challenging. There will be few councils in the country who can report that they have been able to successfully deliver their savings so early within the financial year.
6. By the end of March 2017 we will have achieved £185.9million, including the savings which have been made in public health.
7. That said we do recognise that on occasions plans need to change which could delay when savings are made, but through the regular monitoring of our MTFPs

we are able to smooth out delivery of saving using cash limits, ensuring we don't miss our overall savings targets.

8. The savings achieved towards MTFP6 include proposals relating to review of day care services; transformational change in the Children's and Adult Care services; a review of non-assessed services; and through self-funding capital schemes.

Consultation

9. As members are aware consultation with the public and other stakeholders remains an important element in the MTFP programme. During the first quarter we consulted on increased charging in respect of adult care provision. In addition, the feedback from the consultation in February 2016 on Youth Support will be presented at this meeting.

HR implications

10. In the first quarter of 2016/17 we accepted 23 ER/VR applications, made 8 employees redundant and 59 vacant posts were removed from the establishment as a result of the MTFP proposals. Whilst the figures appear low for the 80% achievement in savings, the majority of the HR activity required for MTFP6 Savings proposals occurred in the previous financial year.
11. Since 2011 a total of 1221 ER/VR applications have been accepted, 572 vacant posts deleted and 547 compulsory redundancies made.
12. Provisional data suggests that relating to staff leaving through voluntary redundancy and early retirement during this quarter showed that 63% were female and 37% were male. While the number of leavers is relatively small these proportions are broadly comparable with the overall workforce profile. Further information to follow regarding those with a disability.
13. For compulsory redundancies 87% were female and 13% male. The number of compulsory leavers was low and there is insufficient disclosed ethnicity data to report upon.
14. The Councils redeployment scheme has now helped well over 400 employees since the process started.
15. Up to the end of June 2016 we have over 244 open expressions of interest for ER/VR which are actively monitored and supported wherever possible in order to reduce the need for future compulsory redundancies, many of which are being factored into plans for future MTFPs.

Equality Impact Assessments

16. Equality impact assessments (EIA) form a key part of the ongoing MTFP process. A number of initial screenings for new savings and updated EIAs for ongoing savings were provided to Cabinet ahead of the budget setting decision in February 2016. They are updated during the year to take account of consultation responses and additional evidence; the updates also include information on any mitigating actions.
17. The impact assessments and action plans are considered during decision making processes, for example, updated EIAs are provided where Cabinet receive a report ahead of consultation and where a further report is received with any final recommendations.

Conclusions

18. With the Government's austerity programme due to continue for several more years, the Council continues to be in a strong position to meet the ongoing financial challenges although recognising these are becoming even more challenging. Through the robust management process supporting the MTFP ensures we remain ahead of the savings target requirements.
19. For MTFP6 the Council has already delivered £22.5million of the savings required (80%), with an additional £4.3million from Public Health and in total has now delivered over £180million in savings since 2011.

Recommendations

20. Members are recommended to note the contents of this report and the progress made in delivering MTFP6.

Contact: Roger Goodes, Head of Policy & Communications
Tel: 03000 268050

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The delivery of the MTFP involves cumulative saving of approximately £250million over the period from 2011 to 2020 of which over £180million has been delivered to date. This figure now also includes savings delivered in Public Health.

Staffing – Where the proposals affect staff, full consultation is undertaken and the trade unions consulted. Wherever possible, staff reductions are done through voluntary means. In addition, there has been a proactive management of vacancies to lessen the impact on staff and the Council has a redeployment process which continues to find alternative employment for a number of staff

Risk – The delivery of the MTFP is highlighted as one of the Council's strategic risks and is monitored through the corporate risk management process. In addition, risks for individual proposals are being monitored through the work undertaken to deliver the proposal.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken for the original 4 year MTFP plan and additional screening was undertaken for proposals which have been identified for subsequent MTFPs, together with any other changes made to the original plan. In addition, for each proposal an EIA is undertaken as part of the decision-making before the proposal is implemented.

Accommodation - As proposals are planned the impact on accommodation is ascertained, with staff being consulted on any moves as part of the process. The loss of over 2,453 posts from the Authority will mean a requirement for less accommodation and the Office Accommodation Team has built this into the Office Accommodation Strategy.

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – A full consultation with a range of stakeholders was undertaken on the MTFP prior to its agreement and again in 2013. In addition, where appropriate for individual proposals, internal and external consultation plans are developed so that consultation informs the decision making process.

Procurement – A number of the proposals involve the changing of existing contracts and this work is being taken forward through the Council's agreed procurement processes.

Disability Issues – Any disability impacts are being picked up through the Equality Impact Assessments undertaken.

Legal Implications – The legal implications of any decisions required are being considered as part of the delivery of the proposals.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

16 September 2016

Cabinet

13 July 2016

County Durham Partnership Update



Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP) including the board, the five thematic partnerships and all area action partnerships (AAPs). The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county.

Summary

2. Durham's partnership working has demonstrated a life changing response in recent weeks with the arrival of the first Syrian families supported through the Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership. They are being helped to resettle with input and support from services and partners including education, health, police, faith groups and the community and voluntary sector.
3. All partners are also actively engaged in promoting and supporting volunteers and through activities in Volunteers Week, including a Volunteers Fair hosted by the Council at County Hall, which saw over 100 potential new volunteers registered with Durham Community Action for various volunteering opportunities.
4. Monitoring and evaluating partnership activity is done in a range of ways through the different organisations involved and is often through qualitative information and stories from the individuals and groups supported. AAPs have also implemented a series of performance indicators that will go some way to quantify their work and also evidence the impact that partnership working at a local level has on strategic objectives and outcomes. This is shown in the Making a Difference section of the report with further examples throughout the thematic sections.

Key Partnership Activity and Developments

5. The **CDP Forum** held in June focussed on two main agenda items: AAP Engagement, Action and Delivery and the County Durham Plan Issues and Options consultation. AAP representatives gave presentations showing how they deliver against: Consultation; Neighbourhood Issues; Action and Delivery and

Empowerment and Engagement. These were all well received and led to networking and presenters sharing information and contact details afterwards due to the cross AAP area opportunities that the Forum offers.

6. The second item was part of the County Durham Plan consultation on the Issues and Options, led by Ian Thompson, Corporate Director and Regeneration and Economic Development who set out what the Plan is about before a workshop gave attendees the opportunity to input into what the Plan priorities should be and also how it can improve the local area. Feedback from the workshops will be included in the wider consultation.
7. The positive and innovative collaborative work between different parts of the CDP continues particularly with town and parish councils and also faith networks linked to AAPs. The **3Towns Partnership** is working with Greater Willington Town Council to install a new set of real time monitored CCTV cameras in Willington High Street at existing locations. This has the potential to assist in the prevention of crime and have a positive impact on the whole area leading to a safer public realm for residents and traders which will help promote the town as a secure location for new business.
8. **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP** is working in partnership with Great Aycliffe Town Council (GATC), to fund replacement equipment at an existing Durham County Council play facility in the Cobblers Hall area of Newton Aycliffe. The new play facility will be free to use and open for all. GATC are also contributing significant match funding (£75,000) towards the initiative, along with future maintenance and insurance obligations. The overall project budget is circa £157,000 and it is anticipated that the facility will open in summer 2017. This example of joint working represents how the Council continues to proactively work with partners to ensure facilities and services are maintained and improved for local communities.
9. Across County Durham **faith groups** play a key and important role in health and wellbeing and contribute to flourishing and resilient communities. **Mid Durham Area Action Partnership** held a roundtable discussion at Ushaw College in May which provided an opportunity for over thirty participants from eleven different churches and faith groups in the Mid Durham area to share their experiences of the links between faith and wellbeing and reflect on what they are doing locally. A key aim was to facilitate better engagement between faith groups and the AAP. The event was organised jointly by the churches and faith groups in the area supported by the North East Churches Acting Together in partnership with the AAP, the Wellbeing for Life project, the North East Regional Faiths Network and the County Durham Partnership Team. A key outcome already has been improved communication and it is anticipated that further engagement will result in increased partnership working leading to better health and wellbeing in communities and a reduction in social isolation.
10. National Volunteers Week was celebrated in County Durham with a **Volunteers Fair** held in County Hall on 8 June. Over thirty different organisations were on hand to give information and advice on their volunteer opportunities. The event was open to the public and also aimed at giving council employees, who do not currently volunteer, the chance to think about pursuing new interests and using their gifts and skills in the community. Organisations took details from over 100 potential new volunteers and many more took information away to consider their options. The event, organised by Durham Community Action in partnership with the County Durham Partnership Team, proved a very useful networking opportunity and introduced new organisations to the support available from Durham Community

Action in helping to recruit and support volunteers and ensure that volunteers have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership

11. The Durham Humanitarian Support Partnership, chaired by Cllr Eddie Tomlinson and involving partners from the VCS, faith groups and other public sector partners, has continued to progress the County's response to the refugee crisis in Syria. Following the agreement of Cabinet in December to support refugees in line with the Council's share of the national population (circa 200 Syrian refugees over the next four years), work has focused on the support vulnerable refugee families in County Durham will need and the detailed operational aspects to deliver our commitment.
12. The first five refugee families have now safely arrived in County Durham and are being helped to resettle with input and support from services and partners including education, health, police, faith groups and the community and voluntary sector. All partners have positively and enthusiastically contributed in assisting the families to settle as quickly as possible. Whilst it is early days for County Durham's new arrivals, the initial response has been very positive and encouraging.

Making a Difference

13. The volume and diversity of partnership activity that is carried out across the county increases year on year despite austerity and other external factors impacting on the work of partner organisations. This is evidence of the collaborative and innovative approach to partnership working that Durham. Whilst the majority of AAP activity is qualitative it is becoming more important to measure quantitative information through performance which is an approach that has been developed recently.
14. Financially, AAPs continue to make a significant contribution to local communities as well as the broader economy through bringing in match funding, something they have purposely increased in recent years. The table below shows the financial picture for 2015/16 for area and neighbourhood budget and indicates the number of projects against the priority themes.
15. Whilst projects on safer and greener are fewer against the other three areas they have increased since the AAPs began whilst wealthier and children's remain the highest with regard to the number of projects and also funding.

Area Budget	Received in 15-16			
	No of projects	Committed	Internal match	External Match
Children and Young People	64	665,372.42	98,511.50	542,143
Greener	6	48,660.21	892.82	52,808
Healthier	34	323,875.18	21,860.67	246,037
Safer	6	53,871.00	1,874.38	36,344
Wealthier	50	682,889.21	160,969.85	653,177
	160	1,774,668.02	284,109.22	1,530,509

Neighbourhood Budget	Received in 15-16			
	No of projects	Committed	Internal match	External Match
Children and Young People	90	617,733.27	387,685.55	770,859
Greener	30	165,258.22	92,010.19	117,561
Healthier	51	252,644.27	20,669.15	331,503
Safer	38	428,161.60	47,955.12	30,603
Wealthier	74	446,870.97	314,974.74	838,854
	283	1,910,668.33	863,294.75	2,089,380

16. AAP Boards now receive a quarterly update on the performance of the projects that they are supporting with Area Budget resources to track the achievements of outputs during the delivery phase. This ensures that Board members are aware of the respective current performance of the project against the agreed milestones, outputs and outcomes. However, this approach also gives the Board and the Project lead the opportunity to work together to resolve any local issues or gain additional support to promote the project to ensure performance is as expected or above target. An 'Assurance' Audit has recently been completed on this new approach by the Council's Internal Audit Team and a 'substantive' assurance level was concluded. The performance indicators were introduced fully in 2015/16 (full list attached at appendix two) and include:
- a. Number of voluntary and community groups supported
 - b. Number of people involved in local decision making
 - c. Number of jobs created
 - d. Number of businesses supported/advised
 - e. Number of people benefitting from schemes that reduce the impact of welfare reform
 - f. Number of schemes aimed at improving support and outcomes to families
 - g. Number of road safety initiatives
 - h. Number of schemes aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing
 - i. Number of schemes aimed at delivering a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment
17. As part of the annual report process all AAPs produce their own information on projects approved, grants awarded and match funding declared as well as highlighting specific outcomes of a selection of projects, some of which were highlighted at the CDP Forum meeting as highlighted earlier in the report.
18. Examples of projects that can evidence outcomes in this way include:
- a. **East Durham AAP's** Holiday Hunger, recently renamed as the Summer Programme, worked with the VCS and Parish Councils to provide positive activities and access to nutritional meals. 4274 meals were provided to 1800 children.

- b. **4Together AAP** initially forecast that they would give access to new cultural/sporting/recreational opportunities to 173 people whereas they actually provided this to 2429 people, a variance of over 2000.
- c. **Mid Durham AAP's** Annual Report shows that they attracted over £600,000 of Lottery funding and 68 VCS groups were supported in their local area and 150 people were involved in schemes aimed at mental health and wellbeing.
- d. **Teesdale Action Partnership** ran a children and young people's small grants scheme as well as a capital scheme for community organisations which saw 67 grants awarding a total of £51,030.
- e. **Stanley AAP** enabled over 700 local residents to attend Lumiere 2015 thanks to their Family Transport project.
- f. **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAPs** Step into Business project has supported 42 local business start-ups.
- g. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** has involved 1852 young people in schemes that help them make healthy choices and give them the best start in life.

19. These are only a handful of over 400 funded projects that the AAPs have lead in 2015/16 and show the type of diverse activity that takes place across the county to help and support local communities. All of the projects featured in the report have associated outcomes that are making a difference in local communities.

Altogether wealthier

- 20. The **County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)** held a special meeting in April to examine and understand the ongoing investment at Bishop Auckland. Both the Eleven Arches and the Bishop Auckland Castle project were discussed. The Kynren production will be the biggest live production in the UK and tells the story of the country through the eyes of the North East over 2000 years, bringing history to life. With a cast and crew of over 100 combined with over 600 volunteers and expected visitor numbers in the thousands the board ensured that partners were supporting current and future partnership working opportunities to maximise the economic impact.
- 21. Other significant work linked to the CDEP since the last report is as follows:
 - a. On 11 May 2016, Durham County Council's Cabinet agreed to move to the next stage of the proposed devolution agreement process, subject to several conditions, which would not leave the county in a detrimental position by the government's proposals on highways and transport funding. Other stipulations included mayoral powers and governance. Dialogue is continuing with government to ensure the region receives fair funding.
 - b. A final decision was then made on 17 May 2016 by the North East Combined Authority (NECA) Leadership Board, which consists of the region's council leaders, to approve the proposed devolution agreement, which includes the introduction of an elected mayor. The agreement has the potential to provide benefits to the region including, more control over funding, more control over spending on adult skills and employment support programmes, the opportunity for a fully integrated transport system and an opportunity for further devolution in the future. Decisions made on behalf of NECA would be executed through a Cabinet made up of the region's council leaders and the elected mayor. North East residents will be asked to vote for the mayoral candidates in May 2017.

- c. Significant discussion has taken place on the County Durham Plan with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Planning Inspectorate and advice sought from legal advisers. The outcome of these discussions was that it was advisable that the council undertake a three stage process in the preparation of the new local plan. On 6 April 2016, Durham County Council's Cabinet approved the timetable for progressing the County Durham Plan. The first round of public consultation will be in the form of an Issues and Options document. Cabinet will consider this Issues and Options on the 15 June 2016 prior to a six week public consultation which will be a key agenda item on the CDP Forum agenda on Tuesday 28 June.
 - d. Linked to the strategic plan is the development of Neighbourhood Plans which allow communities to establish general or detailed planning policies for a neighbourhood. The council support preparation but do not lead in the development of the plan and there is no statutory requirement to do so. Once a Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, it becomes a part of the Development Plan (along with the County Durham Plan - when completed) against which planning applications are determined.
 - e. The neighbourhood planning process comprises a number of stages from designating a neighbourhood area and if appropriate neighbourhood forum to preparing a draft neighbourhood plan through to independent examination (organised and paid for by LPA) before formally adopting the neighbourhood plan or order. To date, 22 neighbourhood plans in County Durham have been approved and a further two local councils have made enquiries in relation to local planning.
22. Area Action Partnerships have continually supported the Partnership's top priority of Altogether Wealthier and specifically job creation. This can be through information, advice and guidance or training as well as support to access job sites and also CV writing and interview preparation for the long term unemployed.
23. One example is through the **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP's** Route 50+ Employability Project which offers tailored one to one employability support and mentoring with a particular focus on the over 50s in order to gain sustainable employment. The project also engages with local employers and is an extension of an existing project and will provide a part time mentoring officer. To date 78 people have been referred to the Employability Project with the majority been made by JCP Bishop Auckland, others from word of mouth and South Durham Enterprise Agency as well as a number from community support organisations. Employment routes have included a wide range of careers including: Delivery Drivers; Warehouse Packer; Pre-Employment Trainer; Factory / Production Operators; Labourer; Fabricator; Financial Adviser; Sports Coach; Operations Manager and Retail Assistant as well as self-employment.
24. A Route 50 Case Study involves a 58 year old man who had spent 35 years at Electrolux until he was made redundant and has not worked for the past 8 years. Although highly experienced in assembly work where he had been a supervisor of a small team, he lacked any belief that he had anything to offer being aged 58 and unemployed for so long. However the mentor produced a new CV, assisted him to upload his CV to the main job sites, identified a number of appropriate jobs and started making applications. By the time they were making the third application the phone rang with interest from a recruiting agency and the change in the client was instantaneous and enthusiastic.

25. **Spennymoor AAP** has led on a targeted employment project called Skills Foundation - Care Project which is a bespoke programme to get people into employment within the care industry. To date, 11 residents have completed the programme which has a target of 24. Four have progressed into employment within the care industry, one is volunteering and five have continued further training. The project has been promoted to Job Centre Plus, however to date no referrals have been made. Livin has also employed a dedicated employability adviser working with residents on a one to one basis and the AAP is working closely to refer into this scheme.
26. AAPs also support a range of regeneration through targeted work in their specific localities, particularly with retailers and traders. This partnership working encourages partnership working with the private sector and can encourage new businesses into an area. **Stanley AAP** has a task group specifically addressing the regeneration of Stanley and its villages. During the early part of 2015/16 they focused on supporting people to move closer to the labour market, training and volunteering, to do this they worked closely with the Learning Hive to support them in applying and securing Area Budget funding for their Community Engagement Tutor to support residents from across Stanley who are unemployed or unwaged, in low paid or part time employment and who wish to progress.
27. The Task Group also wanted to support local traders and businesses in the Stanley area, to promote what Stanley has to offer in terms of retail and visitor attractions. To do this they are working with the Council's ICT and Economic Development colleagues who came up with a Smart Stanley digital programme to set up a website and then explore the use of other digital platforms. The website will be launched during the summer of 2016.

Altogether better for children and young people

28. The **Children Young People and Families Partnership** continues its work on 'ERASE' (Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation) which is well established and offers parents and carers advice on how to communicate with their children about who they speak to on-line and off-line. The ERASE Team and the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) hosted two ERASE Problem Solving and Referral Pathways events in April with sessions including risk indicators and risk matrix guidance, problem solving and interventions to reduce risk of missing from home and child sexual exploitation and how intelligence is used in the fight against child sexual exploitation.
29. The ERASE website was launched in January 2016. The front page has links for younger children, older children, parents, carers and professionals and also links to the LSCB website. An ERASE Young People's Conference took place on 22 June 2016 involving 12 Year 9 pupils from seven schools, in workshop sessions, based on understanding child sexual exploitation, appropriate relationships, grooming and online safety. Following the conference the young people will provide feedback and advice to their individual schools.
30. AAPs continue to find new and innovative ways to work with children and young people by engaging with them to ensure that their views and priorities are fed into the broader work of the AAPs. One such example is 'Diddycon', an active **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** task group and a recognised engagement method used each year to engage with the children and young people, this creates a real opportunity to deliver projects catering for their needs. Diddycon has been developed as a response to the young people's interest in bringing this unique kind of event to the area. With cult figures from Star Wars movies, having the Batmobile

and many other instantly recognisable characters, as well as electronic and board games to play both original and new, helped create this unique experience. It has attracted people from as far away as Leeds and also catered for families and enthusiasts. Over 500 people attended this first event of this kind, with only a £3,000 contribution from the AAP. Due to the relative success of this project and the interest from traders and participants this was instantly supported again for 2016, doubling the numbers attending and catering more towards a 'family' experience.

31. The **Derwent Valley AAP** will be working with a new partner, Durham Cathedral, to offer all local primary schools the opportunity to take part in a Supporting Schools in Partnership. The Cathedral's Education Team will deliver a range of organised sessions designed to further learning in key subject areas. Through the project, schools will be offered a full day at the Cathedral incorporating two half-day sessions, one of which will be a session based in the Cathedral alongside an outdoors session on the Cathedral-owned Woodlands and Riverbanks which will focus on nature, habitats food chains and life cycles. The Cathedral session will draw heavily on the life of St Ebbe, who has strong ties to the Derwent Valley area.
32. The return session will link into the work that was undertaken as part of the outdoor session at the Cathedral. The children will explore their school grounds to see what wildlife they support and what they can do to improve it, looking at similarities and differences to the Cathedral habitats.
33. The health and wellbeing of children and young people is a priority for many AAPs, particularly their mental and emotional wellbeing. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** has worked with If U Care Share for a number of years on a variety of projects. One in 2015/16 was the expansion of the Emotional and Mental Health (EAMH) pilot project. If U Care Share aim to provide services, which help prevent suicide and promote positive mental health, particularly in young people, aims to prevent suicide and promote emotional well-being in young people. This built on workshops delivered within Sedgefield Community College with year 10 students with a view to rolling out across the County, potentially in partnership with other AAPs where there's a need. The project was two-fold with those now actively involved in the delivery of the programme have achieved accreditation for their work via the National PHSE CPD programme by participating in the 'Effective Teaching and Learning in PHSE Education' course. Through this work they felt that the success of the EAMH programme could be enhanced by doing more work with schools/ young people both before and more importantly after the sessions.
34. This project worked with Sedgefield Community College, and included:
 - a. Work with a selected 'focus group' of young people from the school prior to sessions to establish 'what emotional/ mental health meant to them'.
 - b. Meeting and consulting in detail with key personnel from the school with regards to how PHSE fits within their curriculum, what work the school has already done around these subject matters, and also the support networks currently in place.
 - c. Looking to form more bespoke partnership agreements with the school to ensure the services could be aligned to their desired achievement, attendance and attainment outcomes.
 - d. Follow up assemblies, as well as development and delivery of more specific bespoke follow up sessions. This however was to smaller groups on a 4-6 week programme with participation on a voluntary rather than compulsory

basis. Young people were then supported to deliver to year 8 pupils with the objective of leaving a legacy within the school through peer mentoring.

e. Creating closer links with other training sessions that they deliver.

35. The second part was the Suicide Training on Prevention (STOP) training course was delivered in the community for relevant teaching/ support/ pastoral staff from Sedgefield Community College as well as community representatives who engage with young people so that they're better equipped to deal with some of the areas covered with the pupils in the workshops mentioned above.
36. These projects led to an increased understanding by young people, staff and community representatives who engage with young people, of what emotional/ mental health means to them, increased awareness of these issues, and also internal/ external resources available. Young people have also created their own model of empowerment to be adopted by their school for the use of all pupils.

Altogether healthier

37. The **Health and Wellbeing Board** recently held discussions on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan which is the 'blueprint' for accelerating the NHS five year forward view, with a view to helping drive genuine and sustainable transformation in health and care outcomes. The Plan's footprint covers the geographical areas of County Durham, Darlington, and Teesside. It is important that the Sustainability and Transformation Plan aligns to key plans in place across County Durham and reflects local priorities from the Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy.
38. Integration has been a key policy driver in legislation relating to health and social care services over recent years, and features most recently in the Care Act 2014. The Government's ambition is that every area must have an Integration Plan by 2017 with health and social care integration in place by 2020. Through the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Better Care Fund, the Health and Wellbeing Board have made substantial progress and will continue to develop more joined up and integrated health and social care services, making the best use of resources and looking at potential areas for future integration in County Durham to meet the national vision.
39. As part of the work linking the strategic to the local that has developed in recent years between thematic partnerships and AAPs, the two CCGs and also Public Health now fund AAPs across the county to deliver a variety of locally determined projects and initiatives based on local need and intelligence. This report includes a selection of the outcomes delivered by some AAPs with a wider range of activity ongoing in all areas.
40. A good example of how AAPs deliver against strategic priorities can be seen in how they are leading on work to increase physical activity, linked to the developing physical activity framework and also the recent Director of Public Health Report on Obesity as well as the previous report on Social Isolation. The **3Towns Partnership** is focusing on physical activity and wellbeing to encourage participation, assist in the prevention of Type II diabetes and focus on reducing the feeling of social isolation with in the area. From regular partnership meetings they have proposed to utilise their CCG funding on three main projects that interlink to deliver this year:
 - a. ParkLife is a Sport and Physical activity project that will provide 12 coaching hours with each area hosting two weekly sessions in approximately six outreach areas with one aimed at young people aged 5-16 years and the

other concentrating specifically on adult provision. Both sessions offer the opportunity to have direct input into the make-up of the sessions which will be coach led with informal game play, for young people and gentle approach to physical activity for adults.

- b. The AAP is also providing an opportunity for older people to be able to participate in physical activity in a safe manner through a dance project, run by Jack Drum Arts. The dance and movement sessions with qualified dance and drama instructors providing a balance between three main areas – dance, drama, and movement work and a public performance/sharing event. The workshops will be designed to not only improve the participant's physical condition but also to improve their psychological wellbeing (self-confidence, self-esteem) via a social and supportive environment.
 - c. The third project is Active Play, delivered through Groundwork North East and Cumbria and will deliver weekly sessions within Glenholme Park in Crook. In addition to this core activity within the town, holiday sessions will take place in an additional two communities within the Three Towns area. Each Active Play session will encourage children and young people between the ages of five and 13 years to participate in activities such as outdoor games, arts and crafts, sports, role play and messy play. The sessions will be open and inclusive for all who wish to participate with children actively involved in planning and evaluating the sessions to ensure all activities are child orientated. Some activities will encourage children to take calculated risks to develop a sense of personal safety, staff will support social and emotional development through activities based around personal space, respect, bullying, internet safety and healthy lifestyles, promoting informal learning through play.
41. The outcomes for all parts of this partnership project will encourage young people and older people in social isolation to access sessions as well as increasing an individual's fitness levels and social activity over the 12 months and beyond and also encourage changes long term to individuals mental wellbeing.
 42. **Stanley AAP** targeted its specific Public Health funding to support for the elderly, carers, and disability groups and supported the development and implementation of an intergenerational programme that would bring young and old people together to discuss common issues between generations and the problems they have encountered in their local community.
 43. Single Homeless Action Initiative in Durham (SHAID) were also funded for a Community/Social Isolation Navigator project to provide one to one support to Stanley residents who have been affected by Social Isolation, Mental Health and Domestic Violence, or who need support to access services to assist with: Debt Management; Confidence Building; Volunteering; Statutory Services; Tenancy Support Training; Employment and more.
 44. **GAMP AAP**, in partnership with Greenfield Arts Centre, has established a Youth Cree in order to engage young people in positive activity to help them feel good, cope better with pressures and help reduce self-harm. To date, 274 young people have engaged with the project across both Greenfield and Woodham schools. The Youth Cree group was also this year's GAMP winner of the prestigious Chairman's Medal Award in the newly introduced children & young people category.
 45. Through DDES CCG funding a 'Buddies Befriending Service' has been established to support older residents, specifically those who are isolated and lonely, to live independently in their own homes and, at the same time, become integrated in the

community. The project is in partnership with the Pioneering Care Partnership and Cornforth Partnership. The project will engage with 150 elderly GAMP residents and recruit 40 volunteers to act as 'Buddies'.

46. Working with colleagues in Health **Weardale Action Partnership** offer a variety of methods to improve Health and Wellbeing, and have supported the installation of outdoor fixed gym equipment in the Wolsingham Recreation Area. They have worked on a phased programme to support inclusive fitness for all members of the community. The Wolsingham Recreation ground is a magnet for parents and children in the summer months, by having the gym equipment within the grounds children can be found in the play area, whilst parents can engage in some gentle exercise.
47. Live Well, Stay Well is a joint venture funded by **Chester le Street and District AAP** and led by Aspire Learning, Support and Wellbeing centre in partnership with Durham Alcohol Support Service. Utilising Public Health monies received by the AAP this project cost just over £6,000 to deliver a service to older women to help reduce isolation and tackle health issues particularly linked to alcohol.
48. A series of live well, stay well' sessions were delivered with the aim of helping older women (65+) live a more active and social life, whilst maintaining an informed approach to personal health and alcohol consumption. Age UK report that a million older people in the UK will not have spoken to anyone in a month. Evidence from Durham Alcohol support service has shown a 38% increase in alcohol consumption in the home from that of 20 years ago. The sessions delivered contributed to an increase in the mental health and wellbeing of those women attending who were previously isolated or in danger of becoming isolated, some of which have since been retained by Aspire and have moved on to make more friendships, leading to improved outcomes for those individuals.

Altogether safer

49. The **Safe Durham Partnership** leads a varied work programme addressing a broad range of objectives and outcomes. It has made significant progress in terms of delivering the statutory 'Prevent duty' placed on partner organisations. In County Durham we have assessed the risk of people being drawn into terrorism through the commissioning of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile.
50. All agencies are engaged in delivering Prevent training and awareness, examples of which include:
 - a. Durham Constabulary provided train-the-trainer WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training to partner organisations and awareness raising briefings to a range of organisations.
 - b. Over 5,000 front-line staff have received Prevent e-learning and this includes members of the Police and Crime Panel.
 - c. Durham County Council has delivered its e-learning course to over 4,500 of its staff (including schools). WRAP training for schools concluded at the end of April 2016 and WRAP is currently being delivered to relevant supervisors and front line staff.
 - d. All existing and new prison staff are receiving briefings.
 - e. One Higher Education establishment is currently developing online training to complement bespoke workshops that are in the development stage.

- f. Both Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Fire and Rescue Service have trained WRAP facilitators and will be delivering training to their staff.
 - g. 375 professionals across the Safe Durham Partnership and Voluntary and Community Sector attended four Prevent Seminars delivered by Dr Dave Sloggett; a national expert in Counter terrorism.
51. An increasing threat highlighted by Durham Constabulary and the Safe Durham Partnership is cybercrime. A task and finish group has been put in place to provide a co-ordinated and joined up approach which has developed an action plan aimed at raising awareness and building resilience. Safeguarding against cybercrime was part of two seminars delivered to practitioners who work with children in April of this year and on later this month a 'Get Safe Online' event will be delivered at Durham Town Hall which will include information and activity for people of all ages.
 52. The Safe Durham Partnership agreed a new outcome for the Safe Durham Partnership Plan in relation to 'Improved Understanding of Open Water Safety' within the refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership 2016/19. Two existing groups; the City Safety Group (CSG) and the countywide Open Water Safety Group (OWSG) will now become sub-groups of the Safe Durham Partnership, reporting in on a six-monthly basis.
 53. Both water safety action groups, OWSG and CSG, have made significant progress in relation to improving physical infrastructure and public awareness of hazards associated with open water, from a Durham City and County wide perspective. In doing so, the Council and its partners have become a national example of best practice with regards to water safety management.
 54. The Safe Durham Partnership has agreed the new County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015/18. The vision for domestic abuse is that all agencies work together to seek to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in County Durham and continue to provide and further develop a co-ordinated community response that provides high quality preventative, support and protection services and effectively deals with perpetrators. The vision for sexual violence is that it will not be tolerated and that perpetrators will be brought to account for their actions. Victims of sexual violence will be supported, treated with dignity and respect and made to feel safe within their community whilst seeing their offenders brought to justice.
 55. The objectives within the strategy are:
 - a. Prevention – To prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the associated harm.
 - b. Provision – To ensure that all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence have the access to the right help and support throughout the criminal justice process and that services are available to address their needs.
 - c. Protection – To improve the criminal justice response to tackling domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual exploitation.
 - d. Pursue – To pursue perpetrators of domestic abuse through the criminal justice system and ensure that they face up to the implications of their actions.
 56. The innovative Checkpoint Project is now its second year and, as of May 2016, out of the 539 cases referred to Checkpoint, 76% are completed, and this figure continues to increase each day. Positive feedback has been received from victims, offenders and their family, and police officers in general. The re-arrest rate for

Checkpoint in Phase 1 was 4% (22 people), considerably lower than the West Midlands Turning Point pilot project according to Peter Neyroud, QPM, ex-Chief Constable and now of Cambridge University, who is doing a peer review of the programme. The re-arrest rate for Turning Point was 29% (61 people) for the treatment group and 31% (64%) for the control group. 65% of total cases were males and 35% were females and this presents a significantly high proportion of female offenders in a trial project.

57. Informing the community of key messages regarding crime and community safety is vital in ensuring they are reassured as crime is an area that can often be a concern in spite of very low numbers in Durham. One way of doing this is through Crime Prevention and Community Safety Roadshows which are held by a number of AAPs and were first developed in the **Chester le Street** area in 2015, as way of both promoting safety messages, but also as a way of engaging people in this issue. Five communities were targeted and the timing of the events were specific to early winter, with darker evenings, bonfire night and general safe messages at times when people may be feeling more fearful of crime.
58. 350 people attended the events where 12 agencies were available to help give advice, information and support on issues relating to many aspects of crime prevention and community safety. 44 dogs were also chipped and 38 bikes security marked. Investment by the AAP was under £1k, which was matched. This project is looking to be re-formatted and potentially supported for the summer of 2016, taking this 'outdoors' potentially to the Riverside park in the summer, with different community safety messages being promoted.
59. **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** is the most recent partnership to engage in the Mini Police Project which started in Durham AAP area. The project engages young people and two schools have initially been identified which are St. Williams RCVA Primary School in Trimdon Village, and Fishburn Primary School. It is hoped that two or three engagements will be completed by the end of the summer term, in line with the service level agreement. Although this project is in the very early stages, PC Craig Johnson who is leading on the project has promised to bring some Mini Police along to our Participatory Budgeting/ Forum Event on Saturday 23rd November 2016 to help out.

Altogether greener

60. The Environment Partnership Board meeting took place on Monday 27 June and feedback was presented on:
 - a. Responses following expressions of interest from across both the Environment Partnership and wider County Durham Partnership (including AAPs) for the role of Chair for the Environment In Your Communities Group. (Ian Hoults, Durham County Council, is currently acting as Interim Chair of this group).
 - b. An independent review of the Environment Partnership is to take place over the next few months to ensure the Partnership is fit for purpose and provides added value.
61. The various subgroups continue to initiate a range of projects including:
 - a. The first 'Reach for the Beach' outdoor festival took place between Saturday 28 May and Sunday 5 June 2016 and there were events for everyone along the Durham coastline. There were themed guided walks, bike rides, rockpool rambles, a kite making workshop, a superhero beach clean, Pirates of Crimdon Dene, Durham coast half marathon and much more.

- b. The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership and the Friends of the North Pennines are working together to roll out a 'Donate a Gate' scheme across Teesdale and the wider North Pennines area. Donating a gate will make the area's popular footpaths more accessible. Members of the public are being encouraged to sponsor a gate to replace awkward stiles.
 - c. Once again Litter Free Durham's annual Big Spring Clean campaign has proved to be a huge success. The campaign, now in its seventh year, took place from 29 February to 17 April and saw schools, community groups, parish councils, Greenpeace, Scouts and Guides, youth groups and the Environment Agency all working together in the fight against litter.
 - d. The new national Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) 'Good to Know' campaign will be targeting 60,000 households across County Durham from March to August this year and will run alongside the Bin it Right campaign. 'Good to Know' aims to raise awareness of which materials can be recycled from different rooms around the home using the blue lidded recycling bin and recycling box and also promotes the benefits of recycling.
62. On 9 June 70 people met in County Hall for a community energy event sponsored by Northern Powergrid, Durham Community Action, Durham University's Energy Institute and Durham County Council. The speakers covered a range of opportunities for community buildings to save money on energy bills and reduce their emissions. Companies and organisations provided lively, interactive exhibitions and several new and exciting community energy projects look likely to develop. These include plans for a community energy network, the idea of exemplar community buildings that could act as community hubs and bids for European funded projects. Those invited came through the Council's post asset transfer support network following the Community Buildings Programme as well as centres that are community owned and managed.
63. Durham County Council is part of the successful North East Combined Authority bid for revenue funding from the Department for Transport's Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund. 'Go Smarter (across the North East)' has been awarded £2.34 m for 2016/17 to cut carbon emissions by reducing congestion through the promotion of sustainable travel options and create opportunities for residents by making it easier for people to access jobs, training and education.
64. The **Derwent Valley AAP** supported the County Durham Food Partnership and Durham Community Action to develop a Community Growing project in the local area. The project has progressed well, exceeded its anticipated outcomes and has supported a number of clubs and organisations locally to get actively involved in outdoor activities and to access other sources of funding.
65. The element of the project being delivered at Blackhill Comrades Club was recently successful in being awarded a grant of £12,000 from Tesco's Bags of Help (based on the sale of plastic bags) and following a project public vote. The award will go a long way in getting this community garden off the ground. The garden will link in with the community meal offered by The Alt Group at the Club every Thursday, supplying some if not all of the vegetables.
66. A public meeting to engage local people in the projects was held to which about 20 people attended, representing various organisations locally, this has generated some tailored growing work linked to the project for a children's nursery, a project supporting people recovering from drug and alcohol misuse, a supported living project, involvement of the Prince's Trust and two groups working with young adults with learning disabilities. The Association has also received help to apply for

funding from the Gregg's Trust, the outcome of which is awaited. The project is currently also working with the Dipton Manor Care Home and the Dipton Community Association on developing the plans for a garden suitable for people with dementia, using funding from the AAP.

67. **Chester le Street and District AAP's** Environment Task Group has seen positive results from its investment in Chester-le-Streets In Bloom project which is being led by the Council's Civic Pride Team. This has seen an increase in the floral offer and improved the aesthetic appearance in the town. Although environment focused this also has an economic value in that those places with a high Northumbria In Bloom (NIB) award inevitably leads to an increase in visitors/footfall. With the investment and the increase in community and business engagement has led to an improved NIB award from Silver (all previous years) to Silver Gilt, with only a few points away from Gold. The AAP's Environment Task Group was also 'commended' at the 2015 County Durham Environment Partnership Awards for this project, and for projects delivered in previous years. **Durham AAP** also supports Durham In Bloom activities with this year's entry being triumphant in Northumbria in Bloom and also receiving a gold award in Britain in Bloom.
68. **Spennymoor AAP** is embedding a new 'community litter pick' scheme for the 2016-17 financial year, built on the previous scheme run in 2015-16. Two have already taken place in May 2016 (where a local community group took the lead on the picks) and it is hoped that this will result in local groups taking on the concept moving forward. This is a very positive example of a community led approach to a local issue that offers a sustainable option to an ongoing issue.

Area Action Partnerships

69. The AAPs continue to fund and support a range of projects that make a significant difference to their local areas and communities in a range of different ways. The **3Towns AAP's** Victory Project has been running since March 2014 and has already helped almost 100 people. The project works with ten participants at a time and will run seven six week courses split into three parts:
- a. It teaches the participants war time recipes and other more modern ways to stretch the family's food further cooking low cost meals from scratch.
 - b. It teaches the participants simple budgeting skills in a group setting with emphasis also being places on general money management skills.
 - c. Dig for Money encourages participants to learn gardening and growing skills in order to grow their own food, engage in healthy exercise and build confidence.
70. The outcomes for the project include: participants can produce a low cost meal using fresh ingredients and repeat the process at home; individuals on low income will have increased confidence and skills in managing on their limited budget; participants who are interested and able will gain skills in growing produce and participants will develop mental and physical wellbeing and gain in self-confidence.
71. **4 Together Partnership's** Principal AAP Coordinator developed a European CLLD (Community Led Local Development) bid in partnership with the Northern Principal AAP Co-ordinator for submission in Dec 2016. The first stage was successful, the second stage will be known by December 2017. CLLD funding is a bottom-up approach to allocating European funds which addresses barriers to the labour market. It is intended to support smaller scale activities and pilots that have the potential to inform mainstream funds.

72. 270 people were supported with advice and guidance through **Durham AAP's** support for the Durham HUB via the partnership between Durham Churches, MIND and the CAB as well as getting that all important food parcel. The AAP did support one tourism initiative which was the award winning Queen's Volunteers, the Durham Pointers. Over 60 people are now on the Pointers' roster for providing advice and guidance to the visitors to Durham.
73. The **Weardale Area Partnership** is supporting Killhope to enhance their visitor offer, through funding a handmade circular picnic bench, which was installed by local craftsman. Working in partnership with the Arts Council grant has enabled a more inclusive facility and offers an opportunity to "showcase" the work of local craftsman.
74. **EDRC's** Arts and Crafts for the Over 60s project only commenced in March 2016 and has got off to a fantastic start with 20 over 60s attending Trimdon Village Hall weekly on a Thursday morning, for the first course which is shabby chic and furniture upcycling. In addition to the courses, all attendees receive a two course hot meal; there are a variety of meals to choose each week. One lady attending has dementia and has not remembered anything until attending this course, the dementia nurse she sees at the hospital is very impressed with her progress since taking part in these sessions. This has not only had a huge impact on her wellbeing but also that of her family.

Recommendations and reasons

75. It is recommended that Members note the report.

**Contact: Clare Marshall, Principal Partnerships and Local Councils
Officer Tel: 03000 263591**

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Area and Neighbourhood budgets are utilised and delivered through the 14 AAPs and ensure the Council (and AAPs) receive improved information on the outputs achieved through use of locality budgets.

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - The actions set out in this report aim to ensure equality and diversity issues are embedded within the working practice of AAPs.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - Altogether safer is the responsibility of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Human Rights - None

Consultation - The County Durham Partnership framework is a key community engagement and consultation function of the Council and its partners. The recommendations in the report are based on extensive consultation with AAP partners and the establishment of a Sound Board to progress the recommendations and will continue this consultative approach.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None

Appendix 2 – Performance Indicators

Ref	Altogether Better Durham (Overarching theme)	Target
AB1	No of voluntary and community groups supported	
AB2	No of community buildings and facilities supported	
AB3	No of people accessing new/improved community buildings and facilities	
AB5	No of people given access to new cultural/sporting/recreational opportunities	
AB6	No of people engaged in voluntary work	
AB7	No of people involved in local decision making processes	
	Altogether Wealthier	
AW1	No of jobs created	
AW2	No of jobs safeguarded	
AW3	No of people supported into employment	
AW4	No of advice and guidance sessions	
AW5	No of people trained	
AW6	No of qualifications gained	
AW7	No of training weeks	
AW8	No of apprenticeships supported	
AW10	No of businesses supported/advised	
AW11	No of tourism initiatives supported	
AW16	No of IT connectivity initiatives supported	
AW18	No of schemes aimed at nurturing business creation, development and growth	
AW19	No of schemes aimed at creating vibrant and successful towns	
AW20	No of schemes aimed at improving the housing offer	
AW21	No of people benefitting from schemes that reduce the impact of welfare reform	
	Altogether Better for Children and Young People	
CYP5	No of children and young people involved in schemes to help them make healthy choices and give them the best start in life	
CYP8	No of schemes aimed at improving support and outcomes for families	
CYP9	No of children and young people involved in schemes to help them realise and maximise their potential during the early years, school years and into employment and training	
	Altogether Safer	
AS3	No of schemes aimed at reducing inter-generational and repeat offending	
AS4	No of people benefitting from initiatives aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour	
AS6	No of road safety initiatives	
AS7	No of people benefitting from alcohol and substance misuse reduction initiatives	
AS8	No of schemes aimed at protecting vulnerable people from harm	
AS9	No of schemes aimed at preventing violent extremism and terrorism	
	Altogether Healthier	
AH2	No of schemes aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing	
AH4	No of schemes aimed at improving the quality of life, independence, care and support for people with long term conditions	
AH5	No of people benefitting from schemes aimed at reducing health inequalities and early deaths	
	Altogether Greener	
AG4	No of schemes aimed at reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change	
AG5	No of schemes aimed at maximising the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment	
AG6	No of schemes aimed at delivering a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment.	
AG7	No of schemes aimed at promoting sustainable design and protecting Durham's heritage	

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**16 September 2016****Quarter One 2016/17
Performance Management Report**

Report of Corporate Management Team**Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader**

Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and report other performance issues for the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year, covering the period April to June 2016.

Background

2. The report sets out an overview of performance and progress by Altogether priority theme. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of:
 - a. Key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners (see Appendix 3, table 1); and
 - b. Key tracker indicators – performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence (see Appendix 3, table 2).
3. Work has been undertaken by all services to develop a revised 2016/17 corporate set of indicators. This set of indicators is based around our Altogether priority themes and will be used to measure the performance of both the council and the County Durham Partnership
4. During the year a review will be undertaken to improve performance reporting, including streamlining reports and strengthening reporting of children's social care in line with OFSTED recommendations.
5. The corporate performance indicator guide has been updated to provide full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2016/17 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet (at Councillors useful links) or can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Executive Summary

Key performance messages from data released this quarter

6. During the first quarter period 65% of our target indicators have shown either an improvement or have maintained current performance and 62% are approaching, meeting or exceeding target For tracker indicators, 75% improved or maintained performance. 92% of Council Plan actions have been achieved or are on target to be achieved by the deadline.
7. The employment rate improved and is now at its highest level since 2008/09 however it remains worse than the England and North East averages. There are fewer long term Job Seeker's Allowance claimants. Apprenticeship starts through council funded schemes failed to achieve the annual target but are now beginning to increase following confirmation of additional funding. Local authority funded apprenticeships sustained for 15 months continue to increase.
8. House building has improved again this quarter with increased numbers of net home completions and homes completed in and near major settlements, including Durham City. Affordable homes, private sector properties improved and empty properties brought back into use through council intervention were in line with or exceeded quarterly targets.
9. Corporate measures of child safeguarding show an improvement in single assessments completed within timescale, but there has been a reduction in first contact enquiries processed in timescales and re-referrals of children in need have deteriorated. The rate of children looked after has increased which reflects national trends.
10. There are ongoing challenges in relation to health. Smoking quitters have increased and achieved target and mothers smoking at time of delivery have improved and achieved target although they remain worse than national levels. Permanent admissions to care have not achieved target as well as NHS health checks although a lot of local work is ongoing in this area.
11. Anti-social behaviour levels continue to decrease although crime levels (including victim based) continue to be affected by changes in recording practices, leading to an increase, although levels remain lower than statistical neighbours. Alcohol and drug treatment successful completions have deteriorated and remain below target and national averages.
12. Performance of key environmental indicators is mixed. Household waste re-used, recycled or composted exceeded target but has deteriorated slightly in line with expectations. Fly-tipping incidents increased across the county. Actionable defects on carriageways and footways repaired within timescales were below target. Roads (A, B and C) where maintenance is recommended were better than target and national and regional averages.
13. The council's performance in relation to the Altogether Better Council theme shows good progress continues with income collection. Benefits processing performance missed target but processing has been impacted by additional work required by the Department of Work and Pensions. The appraisal rate has improved but is below target and responding to Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations requests is better than last year although

remains considerably below national target. Sickness absence has improved and is better than target for the first quarter in some time.

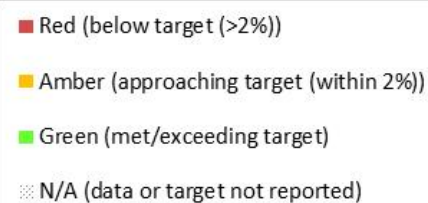
Volume of Activity

14. This quarter there is an increase in demand in many key areas. The numbers of customers seen at our customer access points increased for the third successive quarter. Fly-tipping incidents reported across the county have shown further increases after a period of decline. The volume of overall planning applications received by the council also increased. The number of telephone calls and Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests received remains high. The number of looked after children cases rose in line with national trends but the number of children in need referrals received reduced. There were reductions in the number of new claims processed for both housing benefit and council tax reduction as well as households re-housed through Durham Key Options. There was also a reduction in the number of changes of circumstances for council tax reduction although changes to housing benefit have increased.

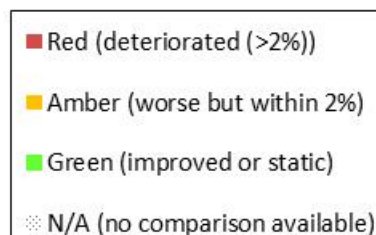
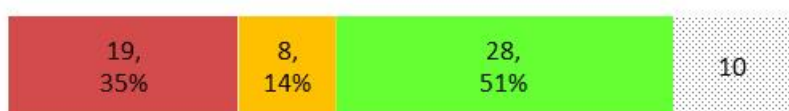
Overall Performance of the Council

Key Performance

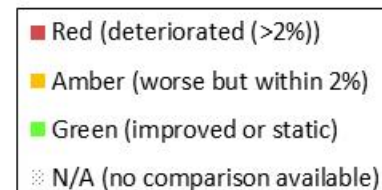
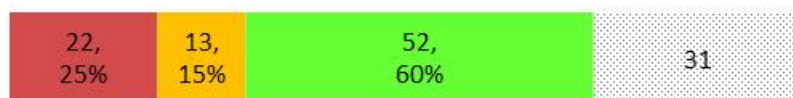
Performance against targets



Target indicators - Direction of travel



Tracker indicators - Direction of travel



15. In quarter one 2016/17, 62% (37) of target indicators approached, met or exceeded targets and 65% (36) of target indicators improved or remained static. Performance in relation to tracker indicators, many of which reflect the local economy, showed 75% (65) improving or remaining static compared to the same period last year.

16. Areas where there has been improvement in performance in terms of direction of travel compared to 12 months earlier are:

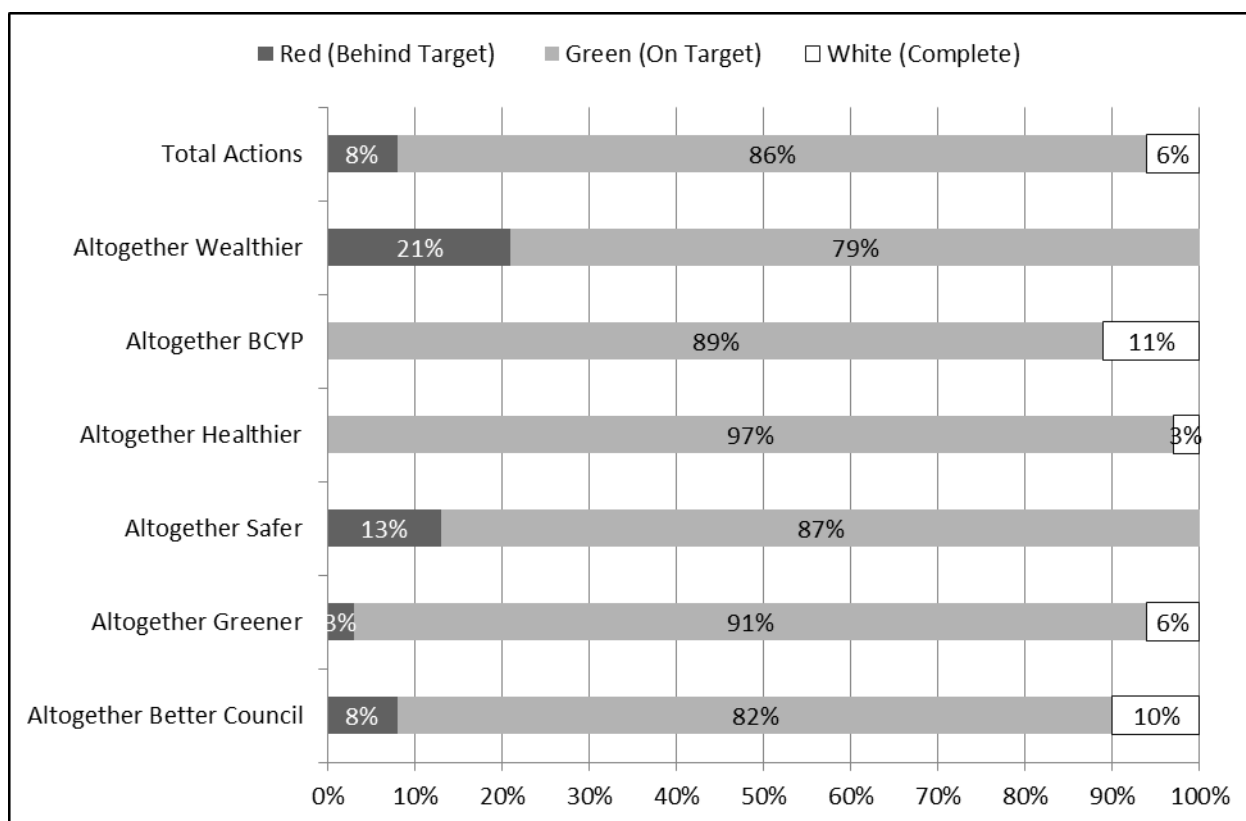
- i. Private sector properties improved through council intervention
- ii. People not in work who want a job
- iii. Employment rate
- iv. Homeless preventions
- v. Apprenticeships from council schemes sustained at least 15 months
- vi. Children and young people single assessments completed on time
- vii. Under 18 conceptions
- viii. Adult social care users in receipt of self-directed support
- ix. Delayed transfers of care
- x. Police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour

xi. Sickness absence

17. Key areas where there has been a deterioration in performance in terms of direction of travel compared to 12 months earlier are:

- i. Children and young people first contact enquiries processed on time
- ii. Rate of looked after children
- iii. Child protection reviews completed within timescales
- iv. Children in need referrals within 12 months of the previous referral
- v. Permanent admissions to residential or nursing care
- vi. Alcohol and drug successful completions
- vii. Alcohol related anti-social behaviour
- viii. People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- ix. Municipal waste diverted from landfill
- x. Fly-tipping incidents
- xi. Benefits processing times

Progress against Council Plan Actions - Quarter One 2016/17



18. Overall performance in the first quarter of 2016/17 shows that 6% (13 out of 214) of actions have been completed and 86% (184 actions) are on target. 8% (17 actions) did not meet target. Further details of these actions are highlighted throughout the report. The Altogether Better Council theme has achieved the highest percentage of actions completed (10%). The Altogether Wealthier theme has the highest percentage behind target (21%), which amounts to seven actions.

Service Plan Actions

Service Grouping	Total number of Service Plan Actions	Number of actions met or exceeded target	% of actions met or exceeded target	Number on target	% of actions on target	Number behind target	% of actions behind target	Deleted	% of actions deleted
ACE/RES	145	25	17%	108	74%	12	8%	0	0%
CAS	89	12	13%	77	87%	0	0%	0	0%
NS	138	10	7%	124	90%	3	2%	1	1%
RED	98	0	0%	88	90%	10	10%	0	0%
Total	470	47	10%	397	84%	25	5%	1	1.0%

19. Overall, 94% of service plan actions have either been achieved or are on target to be achieved by the deadline. Actions which did not meet target equate to 5%. The Children and Adults (CAS) service grouping had the highest percentage of actions achieved or on target (100%). The Regeneration and Economic Development service grouping (RED) had the highest percentage of actions

behind target (10%, 10actions). This is followed by combined Assistant Chief Executive's Office / Resources service groupings (8%, 12 actions).

20. Reporting of these key actions is on an exception basis with a full copy of the exceptions, deletions, amendments and additions available on request from performance@durham.gov.uk.

Risk Management

21. Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's agenda. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects.

22. The strategic risks identified as potential barriers to successfully achieving our objectives are detailed against each Altogether theme in the relevant sections of the report. These risks have been identified using the following criteria:

- a) Net impact is critical and the net likelihood is highly probable, probable or possible.
- b) Net impact is major and the net likelihood is highly probable or probable.
- c) Net impact is moderate and the net likelihood is highly probable.

23. As at 30 June 2016, there were 23 strategic risks, the same number as at 31 March 2016. The following matrix categorises the strategic risks according to their net risk evaluation as at 30 June 2016. To highlight changes in each category during the last quarter, the number of risks as at 31 March 2016 is shown in brackets.

Corporate Risk Heat Map

Impact					
Critical	1 (1)		4 (2)		1 (1)
Major		1 (2)	6 (7)		
Moderate			7 (7)	3 (3)	
Minor					
Insignificant					
Likelihood	Remote	Unlikely	Possible	Probable	Highly Probable

Key risks 

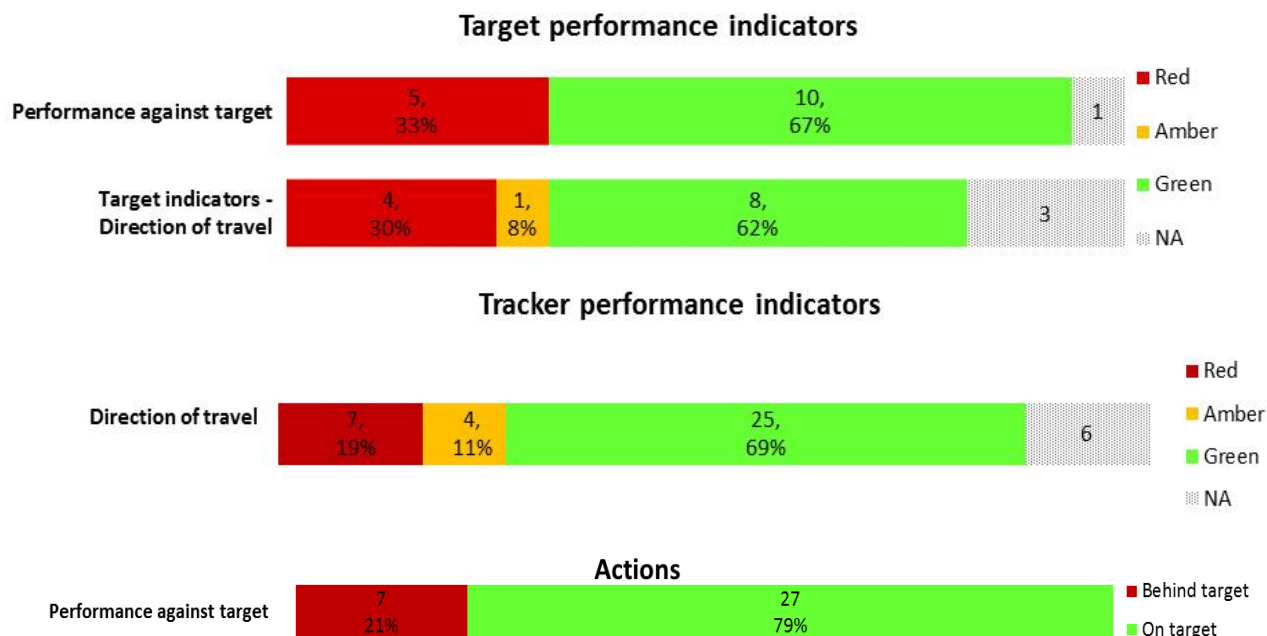
24. No risks were removed this quarter and none were added.

25. Following an incident in the data centre at Comeleon House when the overheating of a socket resulted in the fire alarm being activated, it highlighted a concern of the lack of an adequate inspection and maintenance regime for

Comeleon House. This has now been resolved and increased the likelihood of the risk of major interruption to IT service delivery from unlikely to possible.

26. The net impact of each of two risks has increased from major to critical. When combined with the likelihood of possible this raises them to key risk status, as detailed below:
 - a. Failure to protect a child from death or serious harm (where service failure is a factor or issue). The impact of this risk has increased in response to a statutory change to when serious case reviews are undertaken.
 - b. A service failure of adult safeguarding leads to death or serious harm to a service user. The impact of this risk has increased as nationally there has been an increased awareness of potential vulnerabilities relating to adults with care and support needs, and concern about the pressure to discharge some service users under the Transforming Care Programme without agreement on necessary resourcing to meet their multiple complex needs.
27. As the scope of potential liabilities related to outstanding equal value claims from 2005 becomes clearer, this may be an additional risk to the council.
28. At a corporate strategic level, key risks to the council, with their respective net risk evaluations shown in brackets, are:
 - a. If there was to be slippage in the delivery of the agreed Medium Term Financial Plan savings projects, this will require further savings to be made from other areas, which may result in further service reductions and job losses (critical/ possible);
 - b. Ongoing Government funding cuts which now extend to at least 2019/20 will continue to have an increasing major impact on all council services (critical/ highly probable);
 - c. If we were to fail to comply with Central Government's Public Services Network Code of Connection criteria for our computer applications, this would put some of our core business processes at risk, such as revenues and benefits, which rely on secure transfer of personal data (critical/ possible);
 - d. Failure to protect a child from death or serious harm (where service failure is a factor or issue) (critical/ possible);
 - e. A service failure of adult safeguarding leads to death or serious harm to a service user (critical/ possible).
29. The implementation of additional mitigation on a number of risks has enabled the council to improve performance, decision making and governance, and this is detailed in the relevant sections of the report.

Altogether Wealthier: Overview



Council Performance

30. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. Processing of planning applications have improved from the same period last year following more consistent use of extensions to planning performance agreements (Appendix 4, charts 1 and 2):
 - 96.7% of major applications were processed within timescales against a target of 80% and performance of 64.7% last year.
 - 92.7% of overall planning applications were achieved within timescales against a target of 90% and performance of 86.7% last year.
- b. As a result of council intervention 128 private sector properties were improved, in line with the target (128) and more than the same period last year (98).
- c. The number of affordable homes delivered (38) exceeded the quarterly target (10), although less homes were completed than in quarter one 2015/16 (50) due to legislation changes reducing grant levels.
- d. Occupancy of Business Durham floor space (86.05%) continues to exceed target (81%). Performance has improved from 83% for the same period last year although it has fallen slightly from 87.5% last quarter. Industrial properties and small offices are in demand but demand for larger offices remains subdued. Business Durham is looking at a range of options such as splitting larger units into smaller spaces to accommodate demand, as new applicants tend to be small businesses. Due to Business Durham's pro-active approach, there is greater demand for units, making it easier to find new tenants.

- e. Business Durham activity has created/safeguarded 1,387 potential jobs this quarter, including 1,200 at a new contact centre for Res Q in Seaham. The annual target of 1,380 has been achieved.
- f. The number of visitors to the thisisdurham website has increased 33.6% from 203,089 in quarter one 2015/16 to 271,259 this quarter, exceeding the quarterly target of 250,000. This is the second highest number of visitors to the website in the past eight years and may be due to Kynren, target promotion by Visit County Durham, wider world events influencing tourism activity and the launch of a new partnership scheme with local businesses, which went live on 1 April. 67 businesses representing 162 tourism products including attractions, accommodation and food and drink establishments, have signed up to the scheme. Targeted sales plans focused on specific sectors are in development to drive the scheme forward.
- g. Tracker indicators show:
 - i. The number of net homes completed increased from 246 during quarter four 2015/16 to 336 this quarter, which is in line with the same period last year (330). There was also a slight rise in Durham City from 20 homes both last quarter and in quarter one 2015/16 to 22 this quarter. Completions in or near major settlements increased from 39% (130) at quarter one 2014/15 to 48% (163) this quarter.
 - ii. There were 363 homelessness preventions, in line with last quarter (357) but significantly higher than quarter one 2015/16 (276). Acceptances of a statutory homelessness duty have increased from 36 in quarter one 2015/16 and 28 last quarter to 48 this quarter.
- h. Key Council Plan actions that have made progress are as follows:
 - i. Work continues to support the delivery of Auckland Castle Trust's projects. The realignment of the public highway in the Market Place is due to be complete by the end of August and the construction of the welcome building and observation tower is due to start in September 2016. Eleven Arches' event, Kynren, has been taking place over the summer and the council have been working with the Eleven Arches Trust, the Town Team and Auckland Castle Trust to ensure Bishop Auckland town centre benefits from the visitors.
 - ii. Delivery of the Chapter Homes Business Plan 2015 - 2019 has commenced with the Eden Field development at Newton Aycliffe progressing in line with the programme of works and the first units have been completed. Properties have been presented to the market and the first reservation has been secured. Detailed site investigation work is ongoing regarding the Chester-le-Street site and planning submission is expected in September 2016.

31. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

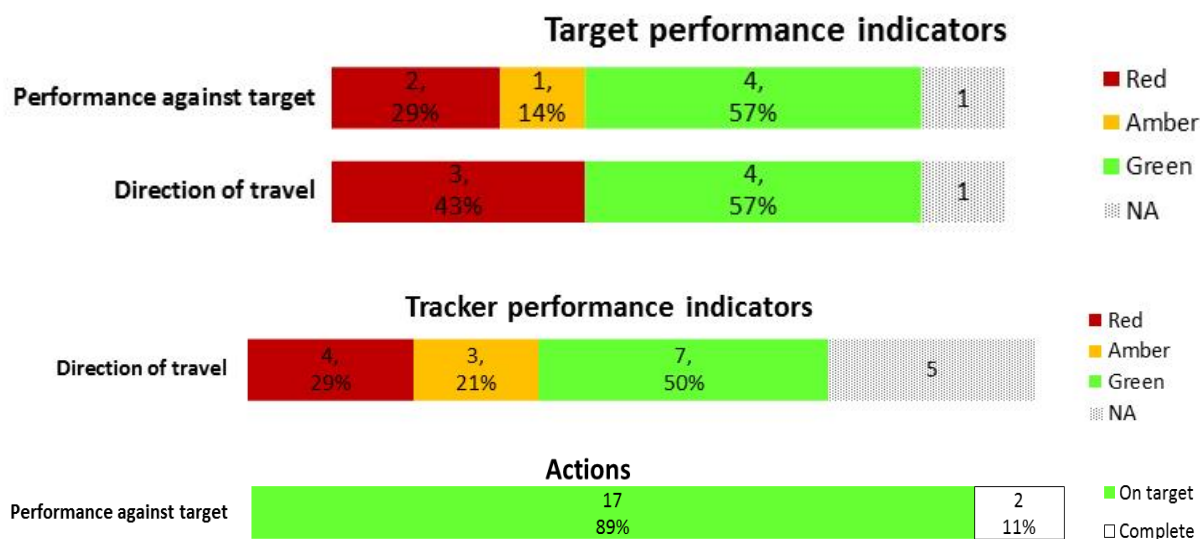
- a. The number of apprenticeship starts through council schemes fell significantly from 357 in 2014/15 to 74 during 2015/16, 19 of whom were between January and March 2016 (latest data). The annual target of 200 was not

achieved. Confirmation of additional funding has been received and the number of starts is already increasing, therefore there will be a noticeable increase in future quarters. 75.8% (735) of apprenticeships through council schemes have been sustained at least 15 months. At 31 March 2016, 10.9% of 16 to 18 year olds were in an apprenticeship which is slightly less than at the same period last year (11.5%) however is in line with the North East (10.9%) and higher than the England (7.3%) rates.

- b. There were 29 empty properties brought back into use through the empty homes programme which was in line with the target (30) although less than the same period last year (65). This was due to reduced funding and amendment of the Financial Assistance Policy which now requires landlords to be a member of the Accreditation Scheme prior to applying for a loan. However landlords who receive loans are committed to working with the council and maintaining satisfactory management and property standards. As 99 properties are due to be brought back into use, the annual target is expected to be achieved.
- c. Tracker indicators show:
 - i. The employment rate improved from 67.4% (238,000 people) for 2015 to 69% (232,100 people) for April 2015 to March 2016 and is now at the highest level since 2008/09 (69.3%). However this rate remains worse than the England (73.9%) and North East (69.5%) averages. The number of people not in work who want a job also showed significant improvement from 38,800 (11.8% of the working age population) to 35,600 (10.9%) for the same periods. This is now better than the North East rate (11.6%) but remains worse than the England rate (9.4%).
 - ii. There is a substantial reduction in the number of Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants who claimed for 12 months or more, from 1,920 at quarter one 2015/16 to 1,615 this quarter. However, due to the overall reduced number of claimants, the proportion of long term claimants has increased from 27.2% to 29.9%. Since September, new claimants who would previously have claimed JSA and are single with no children or dependants will be claiming Universal Credit but this will not yet have impacted on the number of long term claimants.
 - iii. The number of 18 to 24 year olds who are out of work and claiming either Universal Credit or JSA (1,855) is in line with the same period last year (1,890) and represents 3.6% of the resident population aged 18 to 24. This is better than the North East (4.3%) but worse than the England rate (2.7%).
 - iv. The amount that individuals have available for spending or saving (gross disposable income per head) increased from £14,693 in 2013 to £15,040 in 2014 (latest provisional data). This remains below the North East rate (£15,189) and significantly below the England rate (£17,965).
- d. The key Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme include:

- i. Defining and agreeing a proposal for North Road is delayed from March 2017 until June 2017 due to extended negotiations with stakeholders, resulting in a number of design changes.
 - ii. Delivery of the traffic flow improvements in Durham City is delayed from September 2017. A new target date has not yet been agreed as the target date for preparatory works for the A1(M)/A690 junction improvements needs to be considered further in line with short term growth forecasts and the ongoing County Durham Plan work.
 - iii. The delivery of access improvements to Durham Rail station is delayed from October 2016 until March 2017 due to interruptions in ground investigation work. The tender for the improvements is to be returned by the end of July 2016.
 - iv. Securing a developer for the North East Industrial Estate in Peterlee is delayed from October 2016 until July 2017. Further work is being undertaken on ground investigations and development strategy. Land assembly work is ongoing and there are several sites left to acquire.
32. North East leaders have confirmed that they will move forward in the devolution process subject to confirmation that the terms of the region's deal will be supported by the Government in full. Members of the North East Combined Authority Leadership Board have called on the Government to pledge a firm commitment to the terms of the region's devolution deal. At a meeting on 19 July 2016 members noted the heightened importance of devolved funding and powers to the North East following the outcome of the EU referendum. They agreed that they would move to the next step following receipt and acceptance of assurances from the Government. This will involve a statutory public consultation on the combined authority's governance review and scheme before it is submitted to Government.
33. There are no key risks which require any mitigating action in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Altogether Better for Children and Young People: Overview



Council Performance

34. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. Single assessments completed within 45 working days have improved from 80.9% between April and June 2015 to 86.8% in 2016. Performance is better than target (85%) and the latest national benchmarking (81.5%).
- b. A key tracker indicator for this theme shows that the under 18 conception rate in County Durham is at its lowest since reporting began in 1998 at 27.5 conceptions per 1,000 population, lower than the North East (29.5) although higher than nationally (22.3).
- c. The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system has achieved target. Please see Altogether Safer for more detail.
- d. Progress has been made with a number of Council Plan actions as follows:
 - i. Development of a Third Sector Alliance, as part of the Innovation Programme, to enhance the resources available to families in the county has been completed before the planned deadline of September 2016. Voluntary Community Sector and Families First Alliance networks are established in each locality to enhance knowledge and build effective working relationships between services to enhance support available to families.
 - ii. Action to promote the voice of young people in developing and changing services has been completed ahead of the September 2016 deadline. Children and young people are routinely involved in the development and review of services. Recent examples include the 0 to 19 years child health programme and the development of the Families First Service where service user voice has helped shape services.

35. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. Provisional data for the April to June 2016 period, show that 313 of 1,263 children in need (CiN) referrals occurred within 12 months of the previous referral, which equates to 24.8%. Performance is above the target of 20.9% and is an increase on the same period last year (20.2%). Performance is in line with national benchmarking data. The overall number of CiN referrals has reduced significantly in this period to 1,263 compared to 1,566 in the same period last year (Appendix 4, chart 5), but the number of re-referrals has remained at a similar level which has led to the increase in the proportion of re-referrals. This increase is attributable to referrals in May and June 2016 and is being monitored by Children's Services.
- b. Provisional data for the April to June 2016 period indicate that 66.4% of first contact enquiries (2,983 of 4,490) were processed within 24 hours. This is not achieving target (85%) and is a reduction when comparing to last year's equivalent period (81.8% / 3,368 of 4,115). Analysis of records has confirmed that 100% of urgent safeguarding referrals were processed within the 24 hour target time and are always prioritised. Significant staffing issues relating to turnover, vacancies and sickness affected the overall performance in April and May 2016. Agency staff were employed to cover social worker sickness and vacancies during this period. These issues have largely been addressed and resulted in improved performance in June 2016 (80.6%).
- c. Data for 2015/16 show that 18.1% of mothers (956 of 5,272) were smoking at the time of delivery (SATOD). Performance has achieved the annual target (18.2%) and is an improvement on 2014/15 figures (19%). SATOD ranges from 15.1% in North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to 20.7% in Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield (DDES) CCG. DDES CCG has the second highest SATOD rate in the North East and sixth-highest of all CCGs in England. SATOD in County Durham is significantly above the England average of 10.6% and the North East CCG average of 16.7%. Fresh, the regional tobacco control programme, commissioned the babyClear initiative to reduce exposure to smoke for unborn babies during pregnancy and to work with midwives and foundation trusts to ensure pregnant women who smoke get the best help to quit. Midwives in County Durham offer advice and support, including systematic carbon monoxide testing as part of routine tests all women receive at first booking appointment.
- d. Tracker indicators show:
 - i. Between April and June 2016, 93.8% of children subject to a child protection plan had all of their reviews completed within required timescales. This is a decrease when comparing to the same period in 2015, when performance was 100%. The latest national average is 94% as at 31 March 2015. There were five child protection reviews, relating to 14 children, held out of timescale. All of these reviews have now been held. Senior Managers within the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Service and Children's Services meet regularly to discuss performance and ensure appropriate action is taken to address any areas of underperformance. Established processes, such as the IRO dispute resolution process, are used to consider and resolve any concerns.

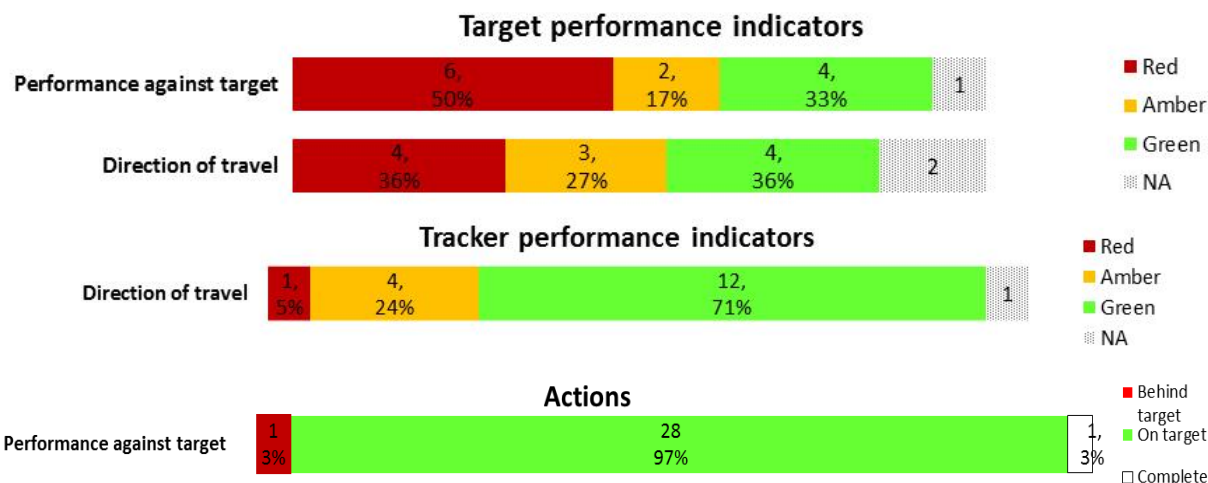
- ii. At 30 June 2016 there were 712 looked after children (LAC) in County Durham, which equates to a rate of 71 per 10,000 0 to 17 years population. This is an increase from 641 (63.9) at the same point last year (Appendix 4, chart 4). Latest Department for Education (DfE) published benchmarking data, as at 31 March 2015, show that Durham's LAC rate is better than the North East average (82.0) and statistical neighbours (83.1) but worse than the national average of 60. Provisional data shared within the region, as at 31 March 2016, identify a provisional North East average of 83.8 per 10,000 population aged under 18. Looked after children continue to be monitored closely to ensure there is no drift and delay. Almost 70% of LAC in County Durham have a plan for permanence, meaning a plan is in place to achieve a permanent outcome which provides security and stability to the child throughout their childhood. As highlighted previously, the increase in County Durham reflects a national trend. Official statistics published by the DfE identified the population of children in care in England is at a 30-year high as at 31 March 2015.

36. A child sexual exploitation (CSE) referral is counted each time a CSE risk assessment is completed by a professional who is concerned for a vulnerable child or young person and identifies that they may be at risk of CSE. The multi-agency, Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation (ERASE) Team was established in September 2015. Their role includes engaging young people at risk and awareness-raising, which has been undertaken with other professionals and communities to increase understanding of the issues and encourage appropriate referrals to ensure children and their families receive timely intervention to meet their needs. Most referrals within County Durham relate to internet/social media and the ERASE Team is working with the education service in both primary and secondary schools to raise awareness regarding internet safety. Between July 2015 and June 2016 there were 201 CSE referrals. This is an increase of 2% on the previous rolling year period (July 2014 to June 2015) when there were 197 CSE referrals.

37. There are no Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme.

38. The key risk to successfully delivering the objectives of this theme is failure to protect a child from death or serious harm (where service failure is a factor or issue). Management consider it possible that this risk could occur which, in addition to the severe impacts on children, will result in serious damage to the council's reputation and relationships with its safeguarding partners. To mitigate the risk, actions are taken forward from serious case reviews and reported to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Lessons learned are fed into training for front line staff and regular staff supervision takes place. This risk is long term and procedures are reviewed regularly.

Altogether Healthier: Overview



Council Performance

39. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. In 2015/16, 2,903 people quit smoking following support from stop smoking services. This equates to 3,076 per 100,000 smoking population. This achieved the target of 2,774 quitters (2,939 per 100,000).
- b. At 31 March 2016, 93.2% of adult social care users were in receipt of self-directed support (including direct payments). This has increased from last year (89.9%) and is exceeding the target of 90% and all latest benchmarking data.
- c. There were 35 delayed transfers of care on the two snapshot days in April and May 2016, which equates to a rate of 4.17 per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from a rate of 4.5 per 100,000 across the same two snapshot days in 2015/16. There were five delayed transfers of care which were fully or partly attributable to social care, which equates to a rate of 0.6 per 100,000 population. This is an improvement from a rate of 1.1 per 100,000 across the two snapshot days in 2015/16.

40. The key performance improvement issues for this theme from data released this quarter are:

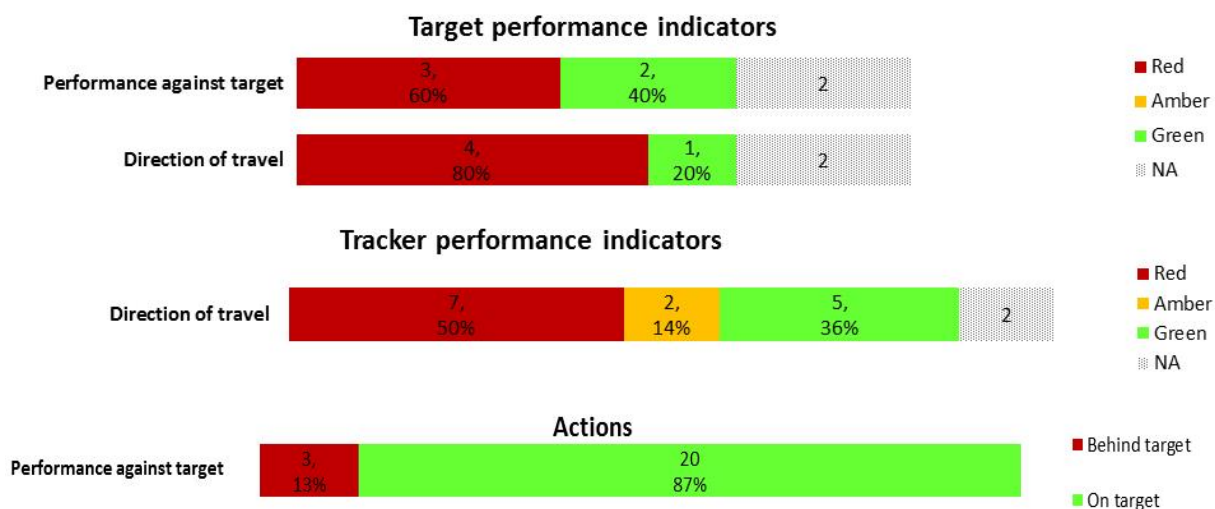
- a. In 2015/16, 7% of the eligible population (11,474 of 163,780) received an NHS health check. This is below regional (7.5%) and national (9%) performance. In County Durham, a local approach was agreed to target health checks toward people with a high risk of cardiovascular disease. In 2015/16, 503 health checks were undertaken on those at high risk of CVD in GP Practices. The targeted approach is incentivised with GPs receiving £35 for a high risk CVD health check and £25 for health checks on the eligible population. In addition to the 11,474 health checks undertaken, a further 5,028 mini health MOTs were undertaken in communities in County Durham. Whilst mini health MOTs come under the banner of the Check4Life / health check programme they do not themselves constitute a full health check. As a result, activity levels of mini health MOTs are not reported to NHS England and they do not form part of the national measure.

- b. Mothers smoking at time of delivery has improved and achieved target but remains worse than nationally. More detail on this can be found in the Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme.
- c. There were 177 people aged 65 and over (168.1 per 100,000) admitted to residential or nursing care on a permanent basis between 1 April and 30 June 2016. This has not achieved the Better Care Fund target of 166 admissions (163.7 per 100,000), but is an improvement on 186 admissions in the same period in 2015. Robust panels continue to operate to ensure that only those in most need and who can no longer be cared for within their own home without substantial risk or cost are admitted to permanent care. The number of bed days purchased between April and June 2016 has increased from the same period in 2015. However, this is mainly due to April and May 2015 being the two lowest months for bed days purchased in the last three years and follows a period of significant managed reduction of care placements which now against the background of ongoing demand from demographic pressures, may be plateauing. The average age of those admitted to residential care has increased from 84.36 years in 2004/5 to 86.46 years in 2015/16 and from 83.02 years to 84.34 in nursing care.
- d. Drug and alcohol treatment. Please see Altogether Safer for more detail on this.

41. There are no Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme.

42. The key risk to successfully delivering the objectives of this theme is a service failure of adult safeguarding which leads to death or serious harm to a service user. Management consider it possible that this risk could occur which, in addition to the severe impacts on service users, will result in serious damage to the council's reputation and relationships with its safeguarding partners. As the statutory body, the multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Board has a business plan in place for taking forward actions to safeguard vulnerable adults including a comprehensive training programme for staff and regular supervision takes place. This risk is long term and procedures are reviewed regularly.

Altogether Safer: Overview



Council Performance

43. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. The number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents reported to the police has reduced. This tracker indicator shows that there has been a 21% reduction in ASB reported to the police from 5,835 between April and June 2015 to 4,616 between April and June 2016.
- b. Between April and June 2016 there were 43 first time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system in County Durham, which is 99 per 100,000 population, achieving the County Durham Youth Offending Service Management Board target of less than 63 (144.5 per 100,000). This is however a slight increase from 41 between April and June 2015.
- c. Between April and May 2016 the proportion of people who use services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure was 92.9%. Although this represents a slight decrease from 93.9% over the same period in 2015/16 this is within confidence interval parameters (+/-10.3%). Performance remains above the latest North East (88.8%) and England (84.5%) benchmarking data.

44. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. Latest alcohol and drug data show that successful completions have deteriorated compared to a year earlier and continue to be below target:
 - i. Between July 2015 and June 2016, 27.3% of people in alcohol treatment successfully completed, below the target of 39.5% and performance last year of 32.5%
 - ii. In 2015 5.2% of people in drug treatment for opiate use successfully completed, i.e. they did not re-present between January and June 2016, below the target of 8.7% and performance last year of 6.8%.
 - iii. In 2015 25.4% of people in drug treatment for opiate use successfully completed, i.e. they did not re-present between January and June 2016, below the target of 42% and performance last year of 39.9%.

Public Health have developed a performance plan for Lifeline which continues to be closely monitored on a monthly basis. Actions within the plan include:

- Identifying those clients who have been in treatment for 4-6 years and over and reviewing their needs. This include prescribing regimes and further behaviour change support
- Improving pathways to the treatment service to increase referrals, including children's services and criminal justice pathways.
- Increasing the identification of clients lost to follow-up treatment and enhancing performance management of caseloads.
- Procuring a new IT system which is due to be implemented by October 2016

b. Tracker indicators show:

- i. In the period April to June 2016 there were 8,796 crimes, equating to a rate of 17 per 1,000 population. This is an increase of 40.9% (2,552 more crimes) when compared to the previous year. It should however be noted that there are several factors which have resulted in this increase and it does not indicate a substantial increase in crime in County Durham:
 - Changes in national timescales for the recording of identified crimes have changed from 72 hours to 24 hours, resulting in a greater proportion of incidents now being recorded as a crime.
 - Improved local recording of victim-based offence categories, specifically that of violence without injury and an audit of retrospective harassment cases.
 - In addition, new technology, social networking including chat rooms, dating sites or online gaming, present opportunities but it also brings new risks and increased opportunity for offenders to target young people, and any offences are appropriately recorded by Durham Constabulary as a crime, to instigate an investigation.

Despite this increase however, the crime rate per 1,000 population within the Durham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area (10.9) is lower than that nationally (11.7) and its most similar CSP's (11.6) for the period April to May 2016.

- ii. A key objective within the Safe Durham Partnership Hate Crime Action Plan is to increase the reporting of hate crimes. 83 hate incidents were reported to Durham Constabulary between April and June 2016, an increase of 12.2% compared to equivalent period 2015/16 (74).
- iii. Between April and June 2016 there were 7,419 victim based crimes, an increase of 32.2% (1,808 more victims of crime) when compared to the 2015/16 equivalent period (5,611). This equates to 14.3 per 1,000 population. As stated above, improved local recording and an audit of

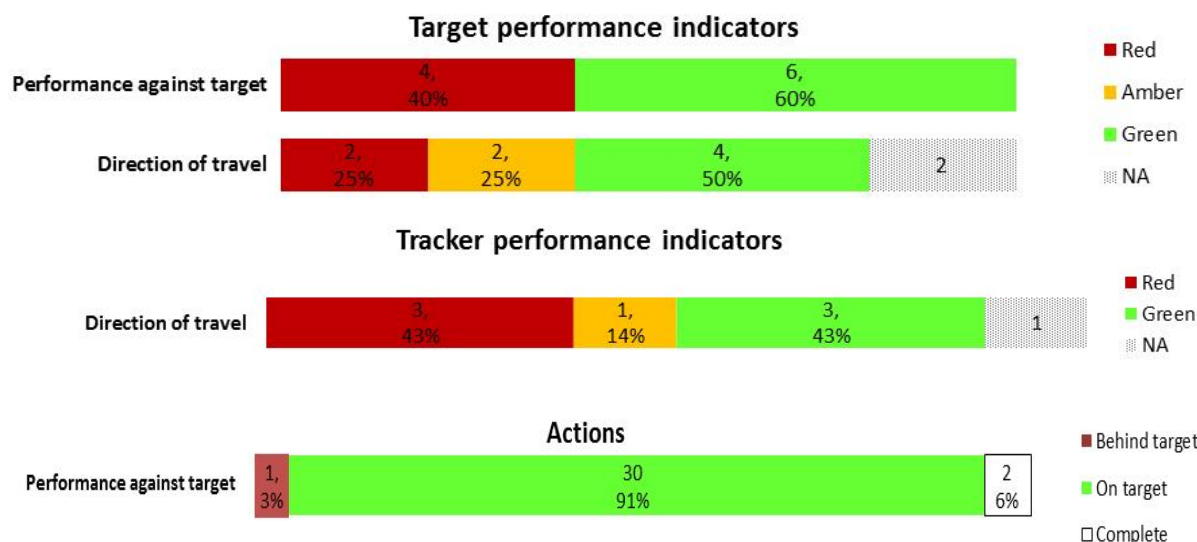
retrospective harassment cases have impacted on performance in this period. For the period April to May 2016, the rate of victim based crime per 1,000 population within the Durham CSP area (9.6) is lower than its most similar CSPs (10.1) and the national rate (10.3).

- iv. In the period April to June 2016 there were 2,808 theft offences, equating to a rate of 5.4 per 1,000 population. This is an increase of 197 offences when compared to the 2015/16 equivalent period (2,611). Dwelling burglaries have increased by 46%; from 194 to 283 and shoplifting has increased by 19%; from 604 offences to 716. Despite the increase, the rate of theft offences per 1,000 population within the Durham CSP area (3.6) is lower than its most similar CSPs (average is 4.3) and the national rate (5.0) (April to May 2016).
- v. Between April and June 2016, 840 ASB police-reported incidents were alcohol-related. This equates to 18.2% of total ASB reported to the police and is an increase when compared to the equivalent period in 2015 (13.1%). As there was a 21% decrease in overall ASB incidents during this period which coincided with a 10% increase in alcohol related incidents (from 764 to 840), a higher proportion of ASB was identified as alcohol-related.
- vi. There has been an increase in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents, from 35 between January and March 2015 to 47 between January and March 2016. Six of these were fatalities. Of the 47, five were children and none of these were fatalities.

45. There are no Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme.

46. There are no key risks which require any mitigating action in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Altogether Greener: Overview



Council Performance

47. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. During the 12 months ending May 2016, 95.7% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill. Performance achieved the 95% target. Over the same period less household waste was re-used, recycled or composted (38.9%).
 - During planned maintenance at the energy plant in May additional waste was sent to landfill. However, this was partially counteracted by an increase in garden waste collected at the kerbside from almost 69,000 properties which joined the scheme.
 - A new Facebook page, Recycle for County Durham, has been launched. The page is used to get messages to residents about recycling and to promote campaigns such as, Love Food, Hate Waste, and Bin it Right.
 - A total of 56,575 megawatt hours (MWh) of energy were generated from municipal waste sent to the energy from waste plant during the 12 months ending May 2016.
- b. Between April and June 2016, there were 122 renewable energy feed in tariff installations registered and approved, 120 of those were solar photovoltaic and two were wind installations. The feed in tariff installations have contributed 221.37 megawatts of energy as at the end of June 2016.
- c. Surface Condition Assessment for the National Network of Roads (SCANNER) survey data for 2015/16 indicates that 4% of A roads, and 4% of B and C roads in County Durham should be considered for maintenance. Road conditions are better than 12 months earlier (5% of A roads and 6% of B and C roads), and are in line with the latest national (4%) and regional average (4%) for A roads, and better than the latest national (7%) and regional average (8%) for B and C roads.

48. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. During the 12 months ending June 2016, performance was below the target of 95% for all categories of recorded actionable defects on carriageways and footways repaired within deadline. 93% of category 1 defects were repaired within the target of 24 hours. Over the same period, 84% of category 2.1 defects were repaired within the 14 working days target and 61% of category 2.2 defects were repaired within the 3 months target.

Year on year increases in defects combined with other highway priorities have impacted on target response times. Although operational resource has increased to meet this demand, it has proved difficult to meet the sheer volume of identified work. The situation is being reviewed to identify a way forward.

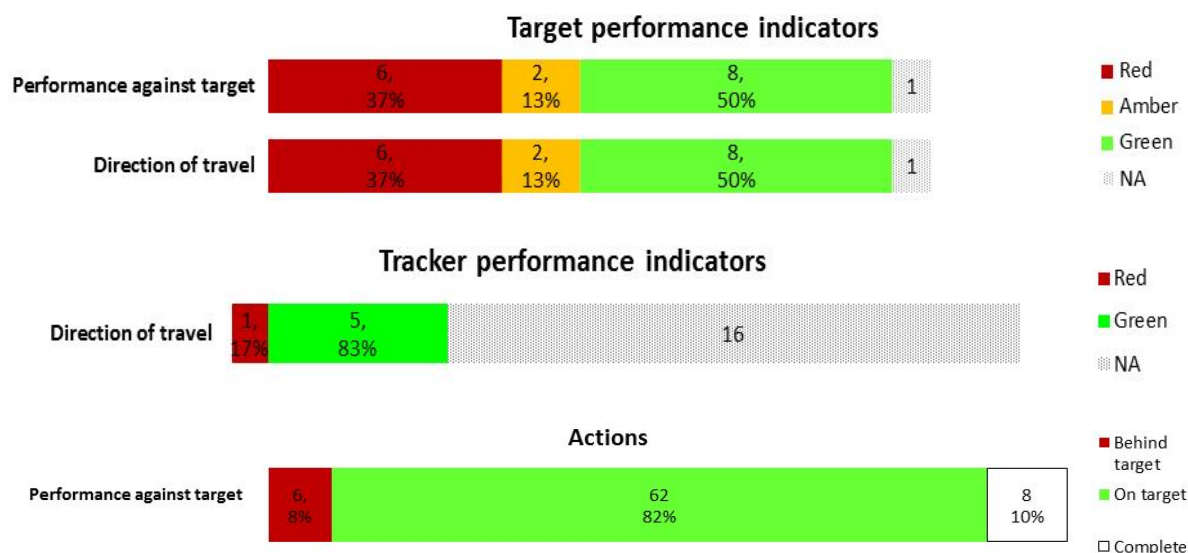
- b. A key tracker indicator on fly-tipping shows an increase of 578 incidents from last quarter to 7,782 incidents during the 12 months ending June 2016 (see Appendix 4, Chart 6). There has been an increase of fly-tipping incidents across the county mainly in relation to white goods. Although the number of white goods abandoned is declining, residents continue to place electrical goods outside for scrap collectors to take away. Low scrap values have reduced the number of collectors operating and goods are either abandoned at their original location (often back alleyways) or stripped and the carcasses left / fly tipped elsewhere. The most significant increase has been fridges (stripped) which have little scrap value. There has also been an increase in the fly-tipping incidents related to household waste of various sizes and construction waste of small van or transit van size that was mainly confined to the east of the county, and to a lesser extent in the north.

During quarter one, cameras were deployed to 57 locations and 38 incidents were caught on camera. Seven stop and search operations were carried out resulting in two duty of care warnings, six producers and six Fixed Penalty Notices. There were six prosecutions which led to Durham County Council being awarded £3,160 in fines, compensations, costs and surcharges.

- c. A key Council Plan action which has not achieved target in this theme is the development of an Air Quality Action Plan for Chester-le-Street to improve air quality and meet specific air quality objectives. This has been rescheduled from June 2016 to December 2016. Air quality monitoring results have indicated a reduction in nitrogen dioxide pollution levels in the affected area. Discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are ongoing to determine whether an Air Quality Action Plan is necessary, and whether the subsequent Air Quality Management Area declaration can be revoked.

49. There are no key risks which require any mitigating action in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Altogether Better Council: Overview



Council Performance

50. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. Between April and June 2016, the in-year collection rate for council tax was 29% achieving the quarterly profiled target. This has been achieved through continued automation of the 2016/17 recovery schedule used to target non-payers. The in-year collection for business rates (33.55%) was marginally below the profiled target of 34%. This was due mainly to rate payers exercising their right to extend their instalment payments to March instead of January after a change of legislation in 2014. Take up has steadily increased and this financial year an additional 196 customers have taken advantage of the option which directly impacts upon cashflow.

The collection rate for all years excluding the current year is 99.42% for council tax and 99.14% for business rates. Both are in line with our medium term financial plan forecasts.

- b. In 2015/16, the total of income and savings from solar installations on council owned buildings was £269,581 exceeding the target of £242,000 and the 2014/15 total of £261,210. The 2015/16 income included £194,916 from feed in tariff, £6,449 from exporting energy and £68,215 in electricity cost savings.
- c. Tracker indicators show:
 - i. In the year to 30 June 2016, the average time taken to answer a telephone call was 39 seconds (Appendix 4, Chart 7). 1,004,888 telephone calls were received during this period, 6% of which were abandoned.
 - ii. Footfall in our customer access points has increased from 192,782 in the year to March 2016 to 205,583 in the year to June 2016 (Appendix 4, Chart 8). The introduction of an appointments system for benefits and council tax is reducing repeat visits as customers, at the time of booking their appointment, are informed of the documentation they need to bring with them. The increase in footfall seen over the last quarter is the

result of a review of logging practices within the access points to ensure consistency of approach.

The top reasons for face to face contact over the last quarter were benefits, refuse and recycling, strategic waste, council tax billing queries and children's services following the relocation of the team into Seaham contact centre with Customer Services acting as first point of contact for visitors. Focus moving forward will be the support of self-service online activity within the access point environment following the launch of the new customer relationship management system and Save Time Do It Online campaign.

- iii. In the year to June 2016, there were 82,201 web form requests, 68,046 emails and 2,733 social media contacts recorded. Staff training for handling electronic contact has continued and this increased flexibility is reducing response times. All social media requests continue to be handled in line with the four hour timescale and this approach has influenced increased use as a contact method. Web forms have reduced due to sign-ups to the garden waste scheme during quarter four.
- d. Progress has been made with the following Council Plan actions:
- i. Improvements in support to the Advice in County Durham Partnership. The partnership is now firmly established with 93 member organisations and has held several successful network meetings and training events for members. It is currently engaged in reviewing quality of advice provision and governance of member organisations.
 - ii. The completion of the open water safety assessment process for all priority, foreseeable risk locations across the county has made excellent progress. Priority continues to be given to those open water locations which are in close proximity of picnic areas, local nature reserves, parks and gardens, play parks, schools and sports fields /grounds. Some 256 sites of specific interest are earmarked for an onsite visit. Phase one of the project was completed in July 2016.

51. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. Processing performance for new housing benefit (HB) and new council tax reduction (CTR) claims has missed target this quarter, as has processing HB change of circumstances.
 - i. During quarter one, the average days to process new HB claims was 24.33 days which missed the quarterly profiled target of 23 days. However, throughout quarter one, performance has improved from 25.70 days in April to 24.50 in May and then a further improvement to 23.19 for June.
 - ii. The average days to process new CTR claims was 24.46 days which also missed the quarterly profiled target of 23 days. However, throughout quarter one, performance has improved from 26.11 days in April to 24.71 in May and then a further improvement to 23.03 for June (Appendix 4, Charts 9 and 10).

- iii. The average days to process HB change of circumstances claims was 11.16 days missing the quarterly profiled target of 10 days. However, processing CTR change of circumstances claims took on average 9.95 days achieving the quarterly profiled target of 10 days (Appendix 4, Charts 11 and 12).

Quarter one processing has been impacted by the following:

- As reported in quarter four 2015/16, the problem with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) data which resulted in several thousand records requiring manual calculation resulted in the team moving into 2016/17 with additional volumes of work that would otherwise have been processed in quarter four.
 - In addition to this, the Real Time Information Project that was launched by DWP in 2015/16 as a pilot was confirmed as continuing until further notice. The number of changes received each month has meant that six Assessment Officers are now working full time on this work.
- b. In the year to 30 June 2016 the average days' sickness per full time equivalent (FTE) excluding school based employees was 11.48 days, and 9.39 days including school based employees. Performance improved from that reported at quarter four 2015/16 (11.63 days and 9.44 days respectively). The 11.5 days target (excluding school employees) was achieved.
 - c. Over the same period, 51.35% of posts recorded no sickness absence (excluding schools) and 77.33% of employees took five working days or less sickness absence.

Human Resources (HR) Officers are working with managers to ensure compliance with the Attendance Management Policy and are actively managing sickness absence. Hotspot areas have been identified where the level of sickness absence may necessitate more detailed work to bring about the required improvement to performance.

- d. The percentage of performance appraisals completed at 30 June 2016 stands at 87.11%. This is a deterioration compared to quarter four 2015/16 (88.05%) and below the 2016/17 increased target of 92%. However, performance has improved compared to the same period last year (84.54%).

Senior managers now have access to real time information in relation to appraisal activity for their area(s) of responsibility and HR Service links are working closely with Service Management Teams to increase the number of appraisals undertaken.

- e. The percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests responded to within 20 days was 72% this quarter, a deterioration on the previous quarter (79%) and significantly below the national target of 85% (see Appendix 4, Chart 13).
- f. The proportion of households in fuel poverty (those with both low income and high fuel costs) deteriorated from 11.5% in 2013 to 12.2% in 2014 (most

recently published data) and was worse than the national average of 10.6%, although in line with the North East average of 12.2%.

52. The key risks to successfully delivering the objectives of this theme are:

- a. If there was to be slippage in the delivery of the agreed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings projects, this will require further savings to be made from other areas, which may result in further service reductions and job losses. Management consider it possible that this risk could occur, which will result in a funding shortfall, damaged reputation and reduced levels of service delivery. To mitigate the risk, a programme management approach for key projects has been established and embedded across the council. Monitoring by Corporate Management Team and Cabinet provides assurance over the implementation of the agreed MTFP savings projects. It should be recognised that this will be a significant risk for at least the next four years.
- b. Ongoing Government funding cuts which now extend to at least 2019/20 will continue to have an increasing major impact on all council services. Management consider it highly probable that this risk could occur, and to mitigate the risk, sound financial forecasting is in place based on thorough examination of the Government's red book plans. This will also be a significant risk for at least the next four years.
- c. If we were to fail to comply with Central Government's Public Services Network Code of Connection (PSN CoCo) criteria for our computer applications, this would put some of our core business processes at risk, such as revenues and benefits, which rely on secure transfer of personal data. The Government set criteria for the PSN CoCo compliance has changed again, one of the requirements being the need to submit a risk register in June 2016.

Conclusions

53. This quarter the employment rate is at its highest since 2008/09 but remains below national and North East average levels. Good progress continues with housing development. Key child safeguarding measures show the rate of looked after children has increased and there are more re-referrals of children in need. Fewer mothers are smoking at time of delivery but this is worse than national levels. More people have quit smoking. Anti-social behaviour levels continue to decrease and crime levels remain lower than statistical neighbours. Alcohol and drug treatment successful completions continue to deteriorate and miss targets. There are fewer roads where maintenance is recommended however carriageways and footpaths repaired within timescale are below target. Reported incidents of fly-tipping have increased and benefits processing performance missed target. The employee appraisals rate has missed target and sickness levels remain challenging.

54. The council has observed increases in demand for many key areas this quarter such as increases in looked after children cases, overall planning applications and the number of fly-tipping incidents being reported. Customers seen at our customer access points have again increased and the number of telephone calls and Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests received remains high. Some notable reductions are in the number of people requiring rehousing and the overall number of children in need referrals received. Fewer new benefit claims required processing as did

changes of circumstances for council tax reduction although changes to housing benefit have increased.

Recommendations and Reasons

55. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is recommended to:

- a. Note the performance of the council at quarter one and the actions to remedy under performance.
- b. Note all changes to the Council Plan outlined below:

Altogether Wealthier

- i. Define and agree a proposal for North Road - March 2017. Revised date: June 2017
- ii. Identify new visual art space(s) within Durham City centre and the wider county - June 2016. Revised date: March 2017.
- iii. Deliver access improvements to Durham Rail station - October 2016. Revised date: March 2017.
- iv. Secure a developer for the North East Industrial Estate in Peterlee - March 2017. Revised date: July 2017.

Altogether Greener

- v. Prepare a draft Air Quality Action Plan for Chester-le-Street and identify a range of required actions to improve air quality and to meet specific air quality objectives - June 2016. Revised date: December 2016.

Altogether Better Council

- vi. Review of equalities training - June 2016. Revised date: August 2016.
- vii. Provide support to organisations interested in the Ask programme - develop and test a new model for Asset Transfer in Children and Adult Services - March 2017. Revised date: March 2018.
- viii. Renew County Durham Partnership: Develop and implement a programme of change based on the outcome of the CDP Away Day - June 2016. Revised date: September 2016.
- ix. Office accommodation programme: Develop detailed milestones and deliverables for HR and ICT - April 2016. Revised date: September 2016.
- x. Improving the opportunity for managers to effectively plan in relation to the workforce through developing the business intelligence module for managers - April 2016. Revised date: August 2016.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Appendix 2: Key to symbols used in the report

Appendix 3: Summary of key performance indicators

Appendix 4: Volume measures

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Latest performance information is being used to inform corporate, service and financial planning.

Staffing - Performance against a number of relevant corporate health Performance Indicators (PIs) has been included to monitor staffing issues.

Risk - Reporting of significant risks and their interaction with performance is integrated into the quarterly monitoring report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - Corporate health PIs are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Accommodation - Not applicable

Crime and Disorder - A number of PIs and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

Human Rights - Not applicable

Consultation - Not applicable

Procurement - Not applicable

Disability Issues - Employees with a disability are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Legal Implications - Not applicable

Appendix 2: Key to symbols used within the report

Where icons appear in this report, they have been applied to the most recently available information.

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel/benchmarking

Same or better than comparable period/comparator group

GREEN

Worse than comparable period / comparator group (within 2% tolerance)

AMBER

Worse than comparable period / comparator group (greater than 2%)

RED

Performance against target

Meeting/Exceeding target

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Performance >2% behind target

National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, for example educational attainment is compared to county and unitary councils however waste disposal is compared to district and unitary councils.

North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e. County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland. The number of authorities also varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils.

Nearest Neighbour Benchmarking:

The nearest neighbour model was developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), one of the professional accountancy bodies in the UK. CIPFA has produced a list of 15 local authorities which Durham is statistically close to when you look at a number of characteristics. The 15 authorities that are in the nearest statistical neighbours group for Durham using the CIPFA model are: Barnsley, Wakefield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Wigan, Kirklees, St Helens, Calderdale, Dudley, Northumberland, Tameside, Sheffield, Gateshead, Stockton-on-Tees and Stoke-on-Trent.

We also use other neighbour groups to compare our performance. More detail of these can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Actions:

WHITE

Complete (action achieved by deadline/achieved ahead of deadline)

GREEN

Action on track to be achieved by the deadline

RED

Action not achieved by the deadline/unlikely to be achieved by the deadline

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

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Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Wealthier											
1	REDPI 106	Percentage of properties let from Durham County Council's retail, commercial and investment portfolio	80.00	As at Jun 2016	80.00	GREEN	82.00	RED			
2	REDPI33	Percentage of Business Durham floor space that is occupied	86.05	As at Jun 2016	81.00	GREEN	83.00	GREEN			
3	REDPI76	Income generated from Business Durham owned business space (£)	765,000	Apr - Jun 2016	782,500	RED	736,379	GREEN			
4	REDPI64	Number of passenger journeys made on the Link2 service	7,815	Apr - Jun 2016	7,500	GREEN	7,583	GREEN			
5	REDPI81	Percentage of timetabled bus services that are on time	88.8	Apr - Jun 2016	88.0	GREEN	90.0	AMBER			
6	REDPI75	Overall proportion of planning applications determined within deadline	92.7	Apr - Jun 2016	90.0	GREEN	86.7	GREEN			
7	REDPI 10ai	Number of affordable homes delivered	38	Apr - Jun 2016	10	GREEN	50	RED			
8	REDPI 29a	Number of private sector properties improved as a direct consequence of local authority intervention	128	Apr - Jun 2016	128	GREEN	98	GREEN			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
9	REDPI30	Number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention	29	Apr - Jun 2016	30	RED	65	RED			
10	REDPI62	Number of apprenticeships started through Durham County Council schemes	74	2015/16	200	RED	357	RED			
11	CASAW 2	Overall success rate (%) of adult skills funded provision	93.2	2014/15 ac yr (final)	88.0	GREEN	87.0	GREEN	87.0 GREEN	84.7* GREEN	2014/15 ac yr (final)
12	REDPI 103	Number of full time equivalent jobs created through business improvement funding	68.5	2015/16	Not set	RED	New indicator	NA			
13	REDPI 41b	Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks [1]	96.7	Apr - Jun 2016	80.0	GREEN	64.7	GREEN	82.0 GREEN	92** GREEN	Jan - Mar 2016
14	REDPI92	Number of gross potential jobs created or safeguarded as a result of Business Durham activity	1,387	Apr - Jun 2016	NA	NA [2]	164	NA			
15	REDPI 104	Number of businesses supported through business improvement funding	41	2015/16	52	RED	New indicator	NA			
16	REDPI91	Number of visitors to the thisisdurham website	271,259	Apr - Jun 2016	250,000	GREEN	203,089	GREEN	GREEN		

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
17	CASCYP 15	Percentage of children in the early years foundation stage achieving a good level of development	63.6	2014/15 ac yr	60.0	GREEN	56.7	GREEN	66.0 RED	63* GREEN	2014/15 ac yr
18	CASCYP 5	Percentage of pupils on level 3 programmes in community secondary schools achieving two A levels at grade A*-E or equivalent	98.8	2014/15 ac yr (state funded schools)	98.9	AMBER	98.7	GREEN	98.3 GREEN	98.8* GREEN	2014/15 ac yr (state funded schools)
19	CASAS5	First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population of 10 to 17 year olds) (Also in Altogether Safer)	99	Apr - Jun 2016	145	GREEN	95	RED			Oct 2014 - Sep 2015
20	CASCYP 9	Percentage of children in need referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral [1]	24.8	Apr - Jun 2016 (provisional)	20.9	RED	20.2	RED	24 RED	22.3* RED	2014/15
21	CASCYP 31	Percentage of First Contact enquiries processed within 1 working day	66.4	Apr - Jun 2016 (provisional)	85	RED	81.8	RED			
22	CASCYP 32	Percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days	86.8	Apr - Jun 2016 (provisional)	85	GREEN	80.9	GREEN	81.5 GREEN	84.9* GREEN	2014/15
23	CASCYP 14	Percentage of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Phase 2) (Also in Altogether Safer) [3]	6	Sep 2014 - Jun 2016	TBC	NA	NA	NA	NA		
24	CASCYP	Percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery	18.1	2015/16	18.2	GREEN	19.0	GREEN	10.6	16.7*	Oct - Dec

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
		(Also in Altogether Healthier)							RED	RED	2015
Altogether Healthier											
25	CASAH2	Percentage of eligible people who receive a NHS health check	7.0	2015/16	8.0	RED	7.4	RED	9.0 RED	7.5* RED	2015/16
26	CASAH3	Percentage of people eligible for bowel cancer screening who were screened adequately within a specified period	61.2	As at Mar 2015	Not set	NA	New indicator	NA	57.1 GREEN	59.4* GREEN	As at Mar 2015
27	CASAH 10	Percentage of women eligible for breast screening who were screened adequately within a specified period	77.8	As at Mar 2015	70.0	GREEN	77.9	AMBER	75.4 GREEN	77.1* GREEN	As at Mar 2015
28	CASAH4	Percentage of women eligible for cervical screening who were screened adequately within a specified period	77.6	As at Mar 2015	80.0	RED	78.0	AMBER	75.7 GREEN	73.5* GREEN	As at Mar 2015
29	CASAS 23	Percentage of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment (Also in Altogether Safer)	27.3	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	39.5	RED	32.5	RED	39.2 RED		2015/16
30	CASAS7	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates (Also in Altogether Safer)	5.2	2015 (representations to Jun 2016)	8.7	RED	6.8	RED	6.8 RED		Oct 2014 - Sep 2015 (representations to Mar 2016)
Page 101		Percentage of successful		2015 (re-					37.3		Oct 2014 - Sep 2015 (re-

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
		opiates (Also in Altogether Safer)		2016)					RED		presentations to Mar 2016)
32	CASCYP 8	Percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	18.1	2015/16	18.2	GREEN	19.0	GREEN	10.6	16.7*	Oct - Dec 2015
33	CASAH1	Four week smoking quitters per 100,000 smoking population	3,076	2015/16	2,939	GREEN	New definition	NA [4]			
34	CASAH 11	Adults aged 65+ per 100,000 population admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care	168.1	Apr - Jun 2016	163.7	RED	178.6	GREEN			
35	CASAH 12	Percentage of adult social care service users that receive self-directed support such as a direct payment or personal budget	93.2	As at Jun 2016	90.0	GREEN	89.9	GREEN	83.7	82.9**	2014/15
36	CASAH 14	Proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/ rehabilitation services	85.2	Apr - Jun 2016	86	AMBER	86.6	AMBER	82.1	85.2**	2014/15
37	CASAH 24	Percentage of people who use services who have as much social contact as they want with people they like	49.2	2015/16 (provisional)	50.0	AMBER	48.7	GREEN	44.8	47.6*	2014/15

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Safer											
38	CASAS1	Percentage of domestic abuse victims who present at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and are repeat victims	18.1	Apr - Jun 2016	25.0	NA [5]	18.5	NA [5]	25.0 NA	29* NA	Jul 2014 - Jun 2015
39	REDPI98	Percentage of emergency response Care Connect calls arrived at the property within 45 minutes	100.0	Apr - Jun 2016	90.0	GREEN	99.0	GREEN			
40	CASAS5	First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population of 10 to 17 year olds) (Also in Altogether better for Children and Young People)	99	Apr - Jun 2016	145	GREEN	95	RED			
41	CASAS 23	Percentage of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment (Also in Altogether Healthier)	27.3	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	39.5	RED	32.5	RED	39.2 RED		2015/16
42	CASAS7	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	5.2	2015 (representations to Jun 2016)	8.7	RED	6.8	RED	6.8 RED		Oct 2014 - Sep 2015 (representations to Mar 2016)
43	CASAS8	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non-opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	25.4	2015 (representations to Jun 2016)	42.0	RED	39.9	RED	37.3		Oct 2014 - Sep 2015 (representations to Mar 2016)

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
									RED		2016)
44	CASCYP 14	Percentage of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Phase 2) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People) [3]	6	Sep 2014 - Jun 2016	TBC	NA	NA	NA			
Altogether Greener											
45	NS10	Percentage of municipal waste diverted from landfill	95.7	Jun 2015 - May 2016	95.0	GREEN	96.7	AMBER			
46	NS19	Percentage of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	38.9	Jun 2015 - May 2016	38.0	GREEN	42.2	RED	43.7	37.58*	2014/15
									RED	GREEN	
47	NS14a	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	5.89	2015/16	7.00	GREEN	5.32	RED	10.00		2014/15
									GREEN		
48	NS14b	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed (LEQSPRO survey) as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	8.18	2015/16	10.00	GREEN	8.87	GREEN	27.00		2014/15
									GREEN		
49	REDPI48	Percentage change in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations	-10.40	2014/15	-4.00	GREEN	-9.00	GREEN			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
50	REDPI 109	Number of private sector properties benefiting from an energy efficiency measure installed by British Gas through the Warm Up North Partnership	515	2015/16	200	GREEN	404	GREEN			
51	NS04	Percentage of recorded actionable defects on carriageways and footways repaired within 24 hours (category 1)	93	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	95	RED	94	AMBER			
52	NS05a	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 14 working days (category 2.1)	84	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	95	RED	80	GREEN			
53	NS05b	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 3 months (category 2.2)	61	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	95	RED	New indicator	NA			
54	NS05c	Percentage of recorded actionable defects repaired within 12 months (category 2.3)	80	2015/16	95	RED	New indicator	NA			
Altogether Better Council											
55	NS25	Percentage of customers with an appointment at a customer access point who are seen on time	Available Q3 2016/17	NA	95	NA	New indicator	NA			
56	RES/038	Percentage all ICT service desk incidents resolved on time	95	Apr - Jun 2016	90	GREEN	94	GREEN			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
57	RES/NI/181a1	Average time taken to process new housing benefit claims (days)	24.33	Apr - Jun 2016	23.00	RED	22.52	RED	22.00 Not comparable	23** Not comparable	Oct - Dec 2015
58	RES/NI/181a2	Average time taken to process new council tax reduction claims (days)	24.46	Apr - Jun 2016	23.00	RED	23.16	RED			
59	RES/NI/181b1	Average time taken to process change of circumstances for housing benefit claims (days)	11.16	Apr - Jun 2016	10.00	RED	10.01	RED	10.00 Not comparable	11** Not comparable	Oct - Dec 2015
60	RES/NI/181b2	Average time taken to process change of circumstances for council tax reduction claims (days)	9.95	Apr - Jun 2016	10.00	GREEN	8.34	RED			
61	RES/002	Percentage of council tax collected in-year	29.00	Apr - Jun 2016	29.00	GREEN	28.70	GREEN	97.10 Not comparable	95.96* Not comparable	2015/16
62	RES/003	Percentage of business rates collected in-year	33.55	Apr - Jun 2016	34.00	AMBER	34.40	RED	98.20 Not comparable	96.56* Not comparable	2015/16
63	RES/129	Percentage of council tax recovered for all years excluding the current year	99.42	Apr - Jun 2016	98.50	GREEN	98.90	GREEN			
64	RES/130	Percentage of business rates recovered for all years excluding the current year	99.14	Apr - Jun 2016	98.50	GREEN	99.39	AMBER			
65	REDPI 49b	Total of income and savings from solar installations on council	269,581	2015/16	242,000	GREEN	261,210	GREEN			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
		owned buildings (£)									
66	REDPI68	Average asset rating of Display Energy Certificates in county council buildings	95.0	Apr - Jun 2016	94.0	AMBER	90.2	RED			
67	RES/LPI/010	Percentage of undisputed invoices paid within 30 days to our suppliers	93.7	Apr - Jun 2016	93.0	GREEN	93.7	AMBER			
68	ACE006	Percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests responded to within statutory deadlines	72	Apr - Jun 2016	85	RED	71	GREEN			
69	RES/LPI/012	Days / shifts lost to sickness absence – all services including school staff	9.39	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	8.50	RED	9.97	GREEN			
70	RES/LPI/012a	Days / shifts lost to sickness absence – all services excluding school staff	11.48	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	11.50	GREEN	12.3	GREEN			
71	RES/011	Percentage of performance appraisals completed in current post in rolling year period (excluding schools)	87.11	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	92.00	RED	84.54	GREEN			

[1] Data 12 months earlier amended

[2] Target is an annual target

[3] Reported as a % target PI again following 2015/16 when the numbers were reported as a tracker indicator

[4] Due to changes to the definition data are not comparable/available

[5] The MARAC arrangements aim to increase the number of referrals but to remain below a threshold of 25%

Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Page 108 Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Wealthier											
72	REDPI3	Number of net new homes completed in Durham City	22	Apr - Jun 2016	101	NA [6]	20	GREEN			
73	REDPI 22	Percentage of households within County Durham that can access Durham City market place by 8.30am, using public transport with a total journey time of one hour, including walking time	74.1	As at Jun 2016	72.5	GREEN	Not reported	NA [7]			
74	REDPI 38	Number of passenger journeys recorded by the operator of the three Durham City Park and Ride sites	244,205	Apr - Jun 2015	248,255	AMBER	263,432	RED			
75	REDPI 80	Percentage annual change in the traffic flow through Durham City	Not available	NA	Not available	NA [8]	Not reported	NA [8]			
76	REDPI 100	Number of visitors to County Durham (million)	18.1	2014	17.9	GREEN	17.9	GREEN			
77	REDPI 101	Number of jobs supported by the visitor economy	10,803	2014	10,899	AMBER	10,899	AMBER			
78	REDPI 102	Amount (£ million) generated by the visitor economy	752	2014	728	GREEN	728	GREEN			
79	REDPI 97a	Occupancy rates for retail units in Barnard Castle town centre (%)	92	As at Mar 2016	91	GREEN	91	GREEN	91.3 GREEN		As at Jan 2016

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
80	REDPI 97b	Occupancy rates for retail units in Bishop Auckland town centre (%)	81	As at Mar 2016	80	GREEN	80	GREEN	91.3 RED		As at Jan 2016
81	REDPI 97c	Occupancy rates for retail units in Chester-le-Street town centre (%)	90	As at Mar 2016	87	GREEN	87	GREEN	91.3 AMBER		As at Jan 2016
82	REDPI 97d	Occupancy rates for retail units in Consett town centre (%)	92	As at Mar 2016	93	AMBER	93	AMBER	91.3 GREEN		As at Jan 2016
83	REDPI 97e	Occupancy rates for retail units in Crook town centre (%)	89	As at Mar 2016	90	AMBER	90	AMBER	91.3 RED		As at Jan 2016
84	REDPI 97f	Occupancy rates for retail units in town centre - Durham City (%)	92	As at Mar 2016	91	GREEN	91	GREEN	91.3 GREEN		As at Jan 2016
85	REDPI 97g	Occupancy rates for retail units in Newton Aycliffe town centre (%)	73	As at Mar 2106	67	GREEN	67	GREEN	91.3 RED		As at Jan 2016
86	REDPI 97h	Occupancy rates for retail units in Peterlee town centres (%)	83	As at Mar 2016	86	RED	86	RED	91.3 RED		As at Jan 2016
87	REDPI 97i	Occupancy rates for retail units in Seaham town centre (%)	95	As at Mar 2016	94	GREEN	94	GREEN	91.3 GREEN		As at Jan 2016
88	REDPI 97j	Occupancy rates for retail units in Shildon town centre (%)	92	As at Mar 2016	89	GREEN	89	GREEN	91.3 GREEN		As at Jan 2016
89	REDPI 97k	Occupancy rates for retail units in Spennymoor town centre (%)	87	As at Mar 2016	88	AMBER	88	AMBER	91.3 RED		As at Jan 2016
90	REDPI 97l	Occupancy rates for retail units in Stanley town centre (%)	89	As at Mar 2016	88	GREEN	88	GREEN	91.3 RED		As at Jan 2016

Page 110	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
91	REDPI72	Number of local passenger journeys on the bus network	5,849,532	Jan - Mar 2016	6,178,522	RED	5,832,051	GREEN			
92	REDPI 10b	Number of net homes completed	336	Apr - Jun 2016	1,343	NA [6]	330	GREEN			
93	REDPI24	All homes completed in and near all major settlements, as defined in the County Durham Plan, as a proportion of total completions	48	Apr - Jun 2016	54	RED	39	GREEN			
94	REDPI34	Total number of applications registered on the Durham Key Options system which led to the household being successfully rehoused	1,099	Apr - Jun 2016	1,199	RED	1,217	RED			
95	REDPI 36d	Number of clients accessing the Housing Solutions Service	3,946	Apr - Jun 2016	New definition	NA [4]	New definition	NA [4]			
96	REDPI 36c	Number of clients who have accessed the Housing Solutions Service where there has been an acceptance of a statutory homelessness duty	48	Apr - Jun 2016	28	RED	36	RED			
97	REDPI 36a	Number of clients who have accessed the Housing Solutions Service and for whom homelessness has been prevented	363	Apr - Jun 2016	357	GREEN	276	GREEN			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
98	REDPI40	Proportion of the working age population defined as in employment	69.0	Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	67.4	GREEN	68.5	GREEN	73.9 RED	69.5* AMBER	Apr 2015 - Mar 2016
99	REDPI73	Number of the working age population currently not in work who want a job	35,600	Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	38,800	GREEN	43,200	GREEN			
100	REDPI8b	Proportion of all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants that have claimed for one year or more	29.90	As at Jun 2016	27.73	RED	27.20	RED			
101	REDPI7a	Number of 18 to 24 year olds who are out of work and claiming either Universal Credit or Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) [9]	1,855	As at Jun 2016	2,020	GREEN	1,890	GREEN			
102	CASCYP 16	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	6.1	Apr - Jun 2016	5.9	RED	6.3	GREEN			
103	CASAW 3	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds in an apprenticeship	10.9	As at Mar 2016	10.8	GREEN	11.5	RED	7.3 GREEN	10.9* GREEN	As at Mar 2016
104	REDPI 105	Number of apprenticeships from Durham County Council schemes sustained at least 15 months	735	As at Jun 2016	699	GREEN	393	GREEN			

Page 112	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
105	REDPI87	Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita in County Durham (£)	15,165	2013	14,114	GREEN	14,114	GREEN	25,367 RED	18216* RED	2013
106	REDPI88	Per capita gross household disposable income (£) [1] [9]	15,040	2014 (provisional)	14,693	GREEN	14,693	GREEN	17,965 RED	15189* AMBER	2014
107	REDPI89	Number of registered businesses in County Durham	16,400	2015/16	15,155	GREEN	15,155	GREEN			
108	REDPI66	Number of businesses engaged with Business Durham	1,238	2015/16	1,134	GREEN	1,134	GREEN			
109	REDPI93	Number of business enquiries handled by Business Durham	1,129	2015/16	1,202	RED	1,202	RED			
110	REDPI90	Percentage change in the number of visitors to the core attractions in County Durham compared to the previous year	10.08	Apr - Sep 2015	-9.7	GREEN	-9.7	GREEN			
111	REDPI 110	Number of core tourism businesses participating in the Visit County Durham Partnership Scheme	67	Apr - Jun 2016	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA			
112	REDPI 111a	Amount of employment land approved (hectares)	Reported Q2	NA	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA			
113	REDPI 111b	Amount of employment land completed (hectares)	Reported Q2	NA	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Better for Children and Young People											
114	CASCYP 33	Average attainment 8 score/score for LA (all pupils at the end of key stage 4 in state-funded mainstream and special schools and academies) TBC	New indicator	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
115	CASCYP 37	Primary school scaled scores TBC	New indicator	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
116	CASCYP 16	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Also in Altogether Wealthier)	6.1	Apr - Jun 2016	5.9	RED	6.3	GREEN			
117	CASCYP 34	Difference between average attainment 8 score/average progress 8 score of pupils eligible/not eligible for pupil premium	New indicator	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
118	CASCYP 35	Difference between percentage of pupils eligible/not eligible for pupil premium who achieve expected standard in Reading test, Writing test and Maths TA at the end of KS2	New indicator	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Page 113		Percentage of children in poverty (quarterly proxy)	22.2	As at Feb 2016	22.0	AMBER	22.6	GREEN	15.6	22.8*	As at Feb

Page 114	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
		measure) (Also in Altogether Better Council) [1]							RED	GREEN	2016
120	CASCYP 18	Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 years classified as overweight or obese (Also in Altogether Healthier)	23.0	2014/15 ac yr	23.8	GREEN	23.8	GREEN	21.9 RED	23.7* GREEN	2014/15 ac yr
121	CASCYP 19	Percentage of children aged 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese (Also in Altogether Healthier)	36.6	2014/15 ac yr	36.1	AMBER	36.1	AMBER	33.2 RED	35.9* AMBER	2014/15 ac yr
122	CASCYP 29	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%) (Also in Altogether Safer)	46.9	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	46.3	AMBER	42.4	RED	37.8 RED	44.1* RED	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014
123	CASCYP 20	Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17	27.5	2014/15	28.5	GREEN	30.9	GREEN	22.3 RED	29.5* GREEN	2014/15
124	CASCYP 21	Under 16 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 13 to 15	5.8	2014	7.9	GREEN	7.9	GREEN	4.4 RED	6.5* GREEN	2014
125	CASCYP 23	Emotional and behavioural health of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more (scored between 0 to 40)	14.9	2015/16 (provisional)	15.1	GREEN	15.1	GREEN	13.9 RED	13.9* RED	2013/14
126	CASCYP 30	Percentage of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) patients who have attended a first	70.3	Apr - Jun 2016	77.3	RED	70.7	AMBER			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
		appointment within nine weeks of their external referral date									
127	CASCYP 26	Young people aged 10 to 24 years admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000 population aged 10 to 24 years) (Also in Altogether Healthier)	489.4	2011/12 - 2013/14	504.8	GREEN	504.8	GREEN	367.3	532.2*	England 2011/12 - 2013/14 NE 2010/11 - 2012/13
128	CASCYP 28	Rate of children with a child protection plan per 10,000 population	35.7	As at Jun 2016	35.1	AMBER	35.1	AMBER	42.9	59.5*	As at Mar 2015
129	CASCYP 12	Percentage of children subject to a child protection plan who had all of their reviews completed within required timescales	93.8	Apr - Jun 2016 (provisional)	93.9	AMBER	100.0	RED	94	94.6*	2014/15
130	CASCYP 36	Number of child sexual exploitation referrals	201	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	218	NA	197	NA			
131	CASCYP 24	Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged under 18	71.0	As at Jun 2016	67.6	RED	63.9	RED	60.0	82*	As at Mar 2015
132	CASCYP 11	Percentage of children looked after who had all of their reviews completed within required timescale	97.1	Apr - Jun 2016 (provisional)	94.1	GREEN	99.4	RED			

Page 116	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
133	CASCYP 18	Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 years classified as overweight or obese (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	23.0	2014/15 ac yr	23.8	GREEN	23.8	GREEN	21.9 RED	23.7* GREEN	2014/15 ac yr
134	CASCYP 19	Percentage of children aged 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	36.6	2014/15 ac yr	36.1	AMBER	36.1	AMBER	33.2 RED	35.9* AMBER	2014/15 ac yr
135	CASAH 18	Male life expectancy at birth (years)	78.1	2012-14	78.0	GREEN	78.0	GREEN	79.5 AMBER	78* GREEN	2012-14
136	CASAH 19	Female life expectancy at birth (years)	81.4	2012-14	81.3	GREEN	81.3	GREEN	83.2 RED	81.7* AMBER	2012-14
137	CASAH6	Under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases (including heart disease and stroke) per 100,000 population	81.7	2012-14	88.3	GREEN	88.3	GREEN	75.7 RED	85.9* GREEN	2012-14
138	CASAH7	Under 75 mortality rate from cancer per 100,000 population	168.6	2012-14	166.6	AMBER	166.6	AMBER	141.5 RED	167.9* AMBER	2012-14
139	CASAH9	Under 75 mortality rate from respiratory disease per 100,000 population	41.8	2012-14	43.4	GREEN	43.4	GREEN	32.6 RED	41.2* AMBER	2012-14
140	CASAH8	Under 75 mortality rate from liver disease per 100,000 population	20.1	2012-14	21.9	GREEN	21.9	GREEN	17.8 RED	23* GREEN	2012-14

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
141	CASAH 23	Percentage of registered GP patients aged 17 and over with a diagnosis of diabetes	7.0	2014/15	6.9	AMBER	6.9	AMBER	6.4 RED	6.7* RED	2014/15
142	CASAH 20	Excess winter deaths (%) (3 year pooled)	16.8	2011-14	19.0	GREEN	19.0	GREEN	15.6 RED	13.4* RED	2011-14
143	CASAH 22	Estimated smoking prevalence of persons aged 18 and over	20.6	2014	22.7	GREEN	22.7	GREEN	18 RED	19.9* RED	2014
144	CASAH 25	Number of residential/nursing care bed days for people aged 65 and over commissioned by Durham County Council	234,348	Apr - Jun 2016	232,638	NA	228,868	NA			
145	CASAH 13	Percentage of service users reporting that the help and support they receive has made their quality of life better	86.6	Apr - May 2016	91.6	AMBER	91.2	AMBER	91.9 AMBER	93.4* AMBER	2014/15
146	CASAH 20i	Delayed transfers of care from hospital per 100,000 population	4.17	Apr - May 2016	4.6	GREEN	4.5	GREEN	11.1 GREEN	7.4* GREEN	2014/15
147	CASAH 20ii	Delayed transfers of care from hospital, which are fully or partially attributable to adult social care, per 100,000 population	0.6	Apr - May 2016	1.1	GREEN	1.1	GREEN	3.7 GREEN	1.6* GREEN	2014/15

Page 118	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
148	CASAH 21	Suicide rate (deaths from suicide and injury of undetermined intent) per 100,000 population (Also in Altogether Safer)	13.3	2012-14	13.4	GREEN	13.4	GREEN	8.9	11*	2012-14
149	CASCYP 26	Young people aged 10 to 24 years admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000 population aged 10 to 24 years) (Also in Better for Children and Young People)	489.4	2011/12 - 2013/14	504.8	GREEN	504.8	GREEN	367.3	532.2*	England 2011/12 - 2013/14 NE 2010/11 - 2012/13
150	NS11	Percentage of the adult population (aged 16+) participating in at least 30 minutes sport and active recreation of at least moderate intensity on at least three days a week	24.0	Apr 2014 - Mar 2016	25.0	RED	24.9	RED			
Altogether Safer											
151	CASAS 12	Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population)	17	Apr - Jun 2016	55.4	Not comparable [6]	12.1	RED			
152	CASAS 24	Rate of theft offences (per 1,000 population) [1]	5.4	Apr - Jun 2016	21.9	Not comparable [6]	5.0	RED			
153	CASAS 10	Recorded level of victim based crimes per 1,000 population	14.3	Apr - Jun 2016	49.7	Not comparable [6]	10.8	RED			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
154	CASAS 11	Percentage of survey respondents who agree that the police and local council are dealing with concerns of anti-social behaviour and crime [10]	61.7	2015	63	RED	62.5	AMBER		58.8** GREEN	2015
155	CASAS 15	Number of police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour [1]	4,616	Apr - Jun 2016	20,649	Not comparable [6]	5,835	GREEN			
156	CASAS9	Building resilience to terrorism (self assessment). Scored on level 1 (low) to 5 (high)	3	2015/16	2	GREEN	2	GREEN			
157	CASAS 22	Number of hate incidents reported to the police	83	Apr - Jun 2016	367	NA	74	NA			
158	CASAS3	Proportion of people who use adult social care services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure	92.9	Apr - May 2016	91.4	GREEN	93.9	AMBER	84.5 GREEN	88.8* GREEN	2014/15
159	CASAS 25	Percentage of individuals who achieved their desired outcomes from the adult safeguarding process	77.2	Apr - Jun 2016	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA			
160	CASAS 18	Proportion of all offenders (adults and young people) who re-offend in a 12 month period	27.5	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	28.4	GREEN	28.1	GREEN	25.7 RED	28.9* GREEN	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014

Page 120	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
161	CASCYP 29	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	46.9	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	46.3	AMBER	42.4	RED	37.8	44.1*	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014
162	CASAS 19	Percentage of anti-social behaviour incidents that are alcohol related	18.2	Apr - Jun 2016	11.6	RED	13.1	RED			
163	CASAS 20	Percentage of violent crime that is alcohol related	28.0	2015/16	28.5	GREEN	32.4	GREEN			
164	REDPI44	Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	47	Jan - Mar 2016	211	Not comparable [6]	35	RED			
		Number of fatalities	6				2				
		Number of seriously injured	41				33				
165	REDPI45	Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	5	Jan - Mar 2016	24	Not comparable [6]	4	RED			
		Number of fatalities	0				0				
		Number of seriously injured	5				4				
166	CASAH 21	Suicide rate (deaths from suicide and injury of undetermined intent) per 100,000 population (Also in Altogether Healthier)	13.3	2012-14	13.4	GREEN	13.4	GREEN	8.9	11*	2012-14

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
167	NS15	Number of fly-tipping incidents	7,782	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	7,204	RED	7,674	AMBER			
168	NS09	Megawatt hours (MWh) of energy produced from municipal waste sent to the energy from waste plant	56,575.0	Jun 2015 - May 2016	64,696.0	RED	66,206.0	RED			
169	NS14c	Percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	1.26	2015/16	1.08	RED	1.08	RED	7.00 GREEN		2014/15
170	REDPI46	Percentage reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham	42.0	As at Dec 2013	39.0	GREEN	39.0	GREEN			
171	REDPI47	Amount of renewable energy generation - megawatts equivalent (MWe) installed or installed/approved capacity within County Durham	221.37	As at Jun 2016	220.84	Not comparable [11]	215.72	Not comparable [11]			
172	REDPI49	Number of new registered and approved new feed in tariff installations [12]	122	Apr - Jun 2016	329	RED	374	RED			
173	NS06	Percentage of A roads where maintenance is recommended (scanner survey)	4	2015/16	5	GREEN	5	GREEN	4 GREEN	4* GREEN	2014/15
174	NS07	Percentage of B and C roads where maintenance is	4	2015/16	6	GREEN	6	GREEN	7	8*	2014/15

Page 122	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
		recommended (scanner survey)							GREEN	GREEN	
Altogether Better Council											
175	NS43a	Number of customer contacts - face to face	205,583	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	192,782	NA	202,511	NA			
176	NS43b	Number of customer contacts -telephone	1,004,888	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	995,871	NA	1,004,109	NA			
177	NS43c	Number of customer contacts - web forms	82,201	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	86,034	NA	18,641	NA			
178	NS43d	Number of customer contacts - emails	68,046	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	65,055	NA	15,775	NA			
179	NS43e	Number of customer contacts - social media	2,733	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	2,234	NA	351	NA			
180	NS26	Average time taken to answer a telephone call (seconds)	39	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	41	GREEN	40	GREEN			
181	NS20	Percentage of abandoned calls	6	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	6	GREEN	6	GREEN			
182	RES/013	Staff aged under 25 as a percentage of post count	5.89	As at Jun 2016	5.77	NA	5.44	NA			
183	RES/014	Staff aged over 50 as a percentage of post count	40.07	As at Jun 2016	40.15	NA	39.27	NA			
184	RES/LPI/011a	Women in the top five percent of earners	53.01	As at Jun 2016	54.03	NA	52.36	NA			
185	RES/LPI/011b	Black and minority ethnic (BME) as a percentage	1.61	As at Jun 2016	1.60	NA	1.53	NA			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
		of post count									
186	RES/LPI/011ci	Staff with a recorded disability as a percentage of post count	2.78	As at Jun 2016	2.75	NA	2.79	NA			
187	RES028	Discretionary Housing Payments - value (£) for customers affected by social sector size criteria	271,299.90	Apr - Jun 2016	685,921.53	NA	123,019.79	NA			
188	RES029	Discretionary Housing Payments - value (£) for customers affected by local housing allowance reforms	138,802.22	Apr - Jun 2016	291,647.15	NA	38,091.06	NA			
189	ACE016	Percentage of children in poverty (quarterly proxy measure) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	22.0	As at Nov 2015	22.3	GREEN	22.7	GREEN	15.7	22.7*	As at Nov 2015
190	ACE019a	Proportion of households in fuel poverty (with both low income and high fuel costs)	12.2	2014	11.5	RED	11.5	RED	10.6	12.2*	2014
191	RES/034b	Staff - total headcount (excluding schools)	8,462	As at Jun 2016	8,538	NA	8,668	NA			
192	RES/035b	Staff - total full time equivalent (excluding schools)	6,958	As at Jun 2016	7,049	NA	7,099	NA			
Page 123	RES/020	Percentage of time lost to sickness in rolling year (excluding schools)	4.52	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	4.61	GREEN	4.86	GREEN			

Page 124	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
194	RES/052	Percentage of posts with no absence in rolling year (excluding schools)	51.35	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	50.32	GREEN	47.51	GREEN			
195	RES/053	Percentage of employees having five days or less sickness per 12 month rolling period	77.33	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	75.56	NA	New indicator	NA			
196	RES/036	Number of RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) incidents reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) [1] [9]	14	Apr - Jun 2016	21	NA	15	NA			

[1] [Data 12 months earlier amended \(final published data\)/refreshed](#)

[4] [Due to changes to the definition data are not comparable/available](#)

[6] [Data cumulative so comparisons are not applicable](#)

[7] [Unable to calculate Q1 2015/16 as system was awaiting IT upgrade](#)

[8] [Unable to calculate Q4 2014/15 data due to a damaged traffic loop. Current information is not available due to roadworks](#)

[9] [Previous period data amended /refreshed / final published data](#)

[10] [A confidence interval applies to the survey results](#)

[11] [Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable](#)

[12] [Government have made major changes to the tariffs payable which have reduced take up](#)

Appendix 4: Volume Measures

Chart 1 – Major planning applications

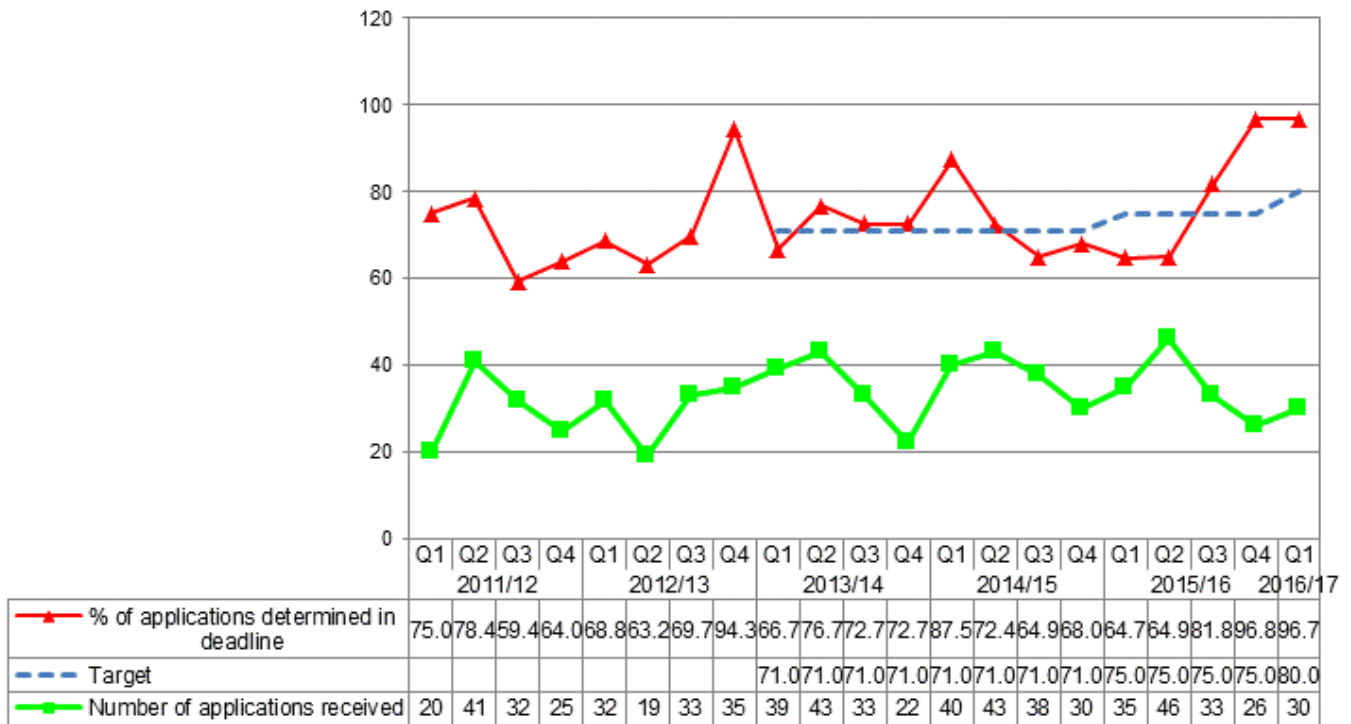


Chart 2 – Overall planning applications

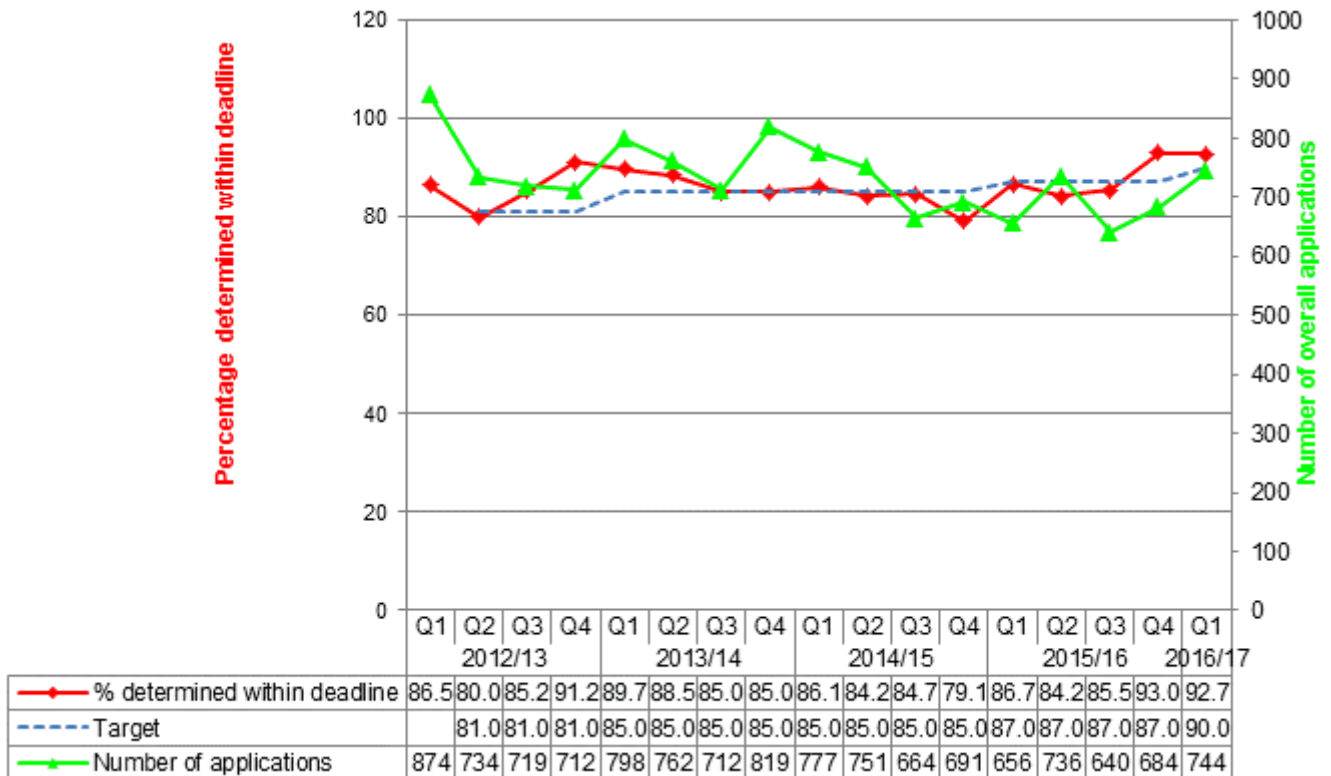


Chart 3 – Durham Key Options - total number of applications registered on the Durham Key Options system which led to the household being successfully rehoused

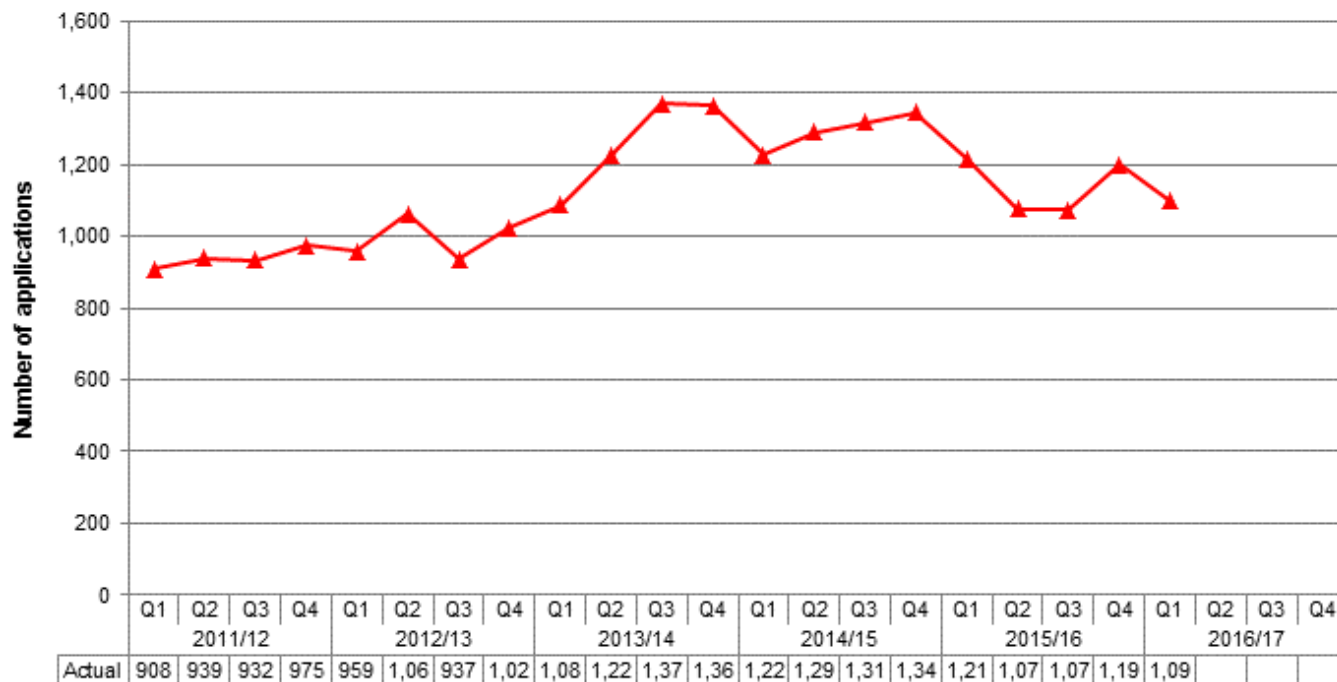


Chart 4 - Number of looked after children cases

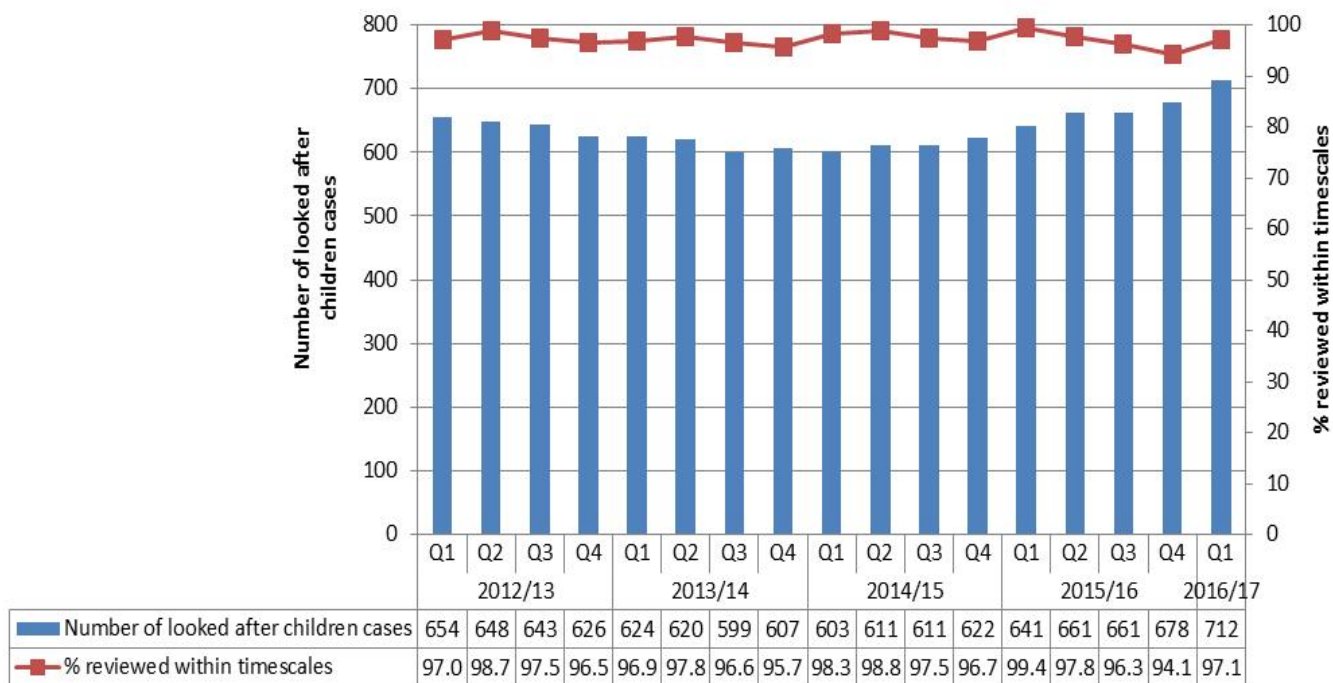
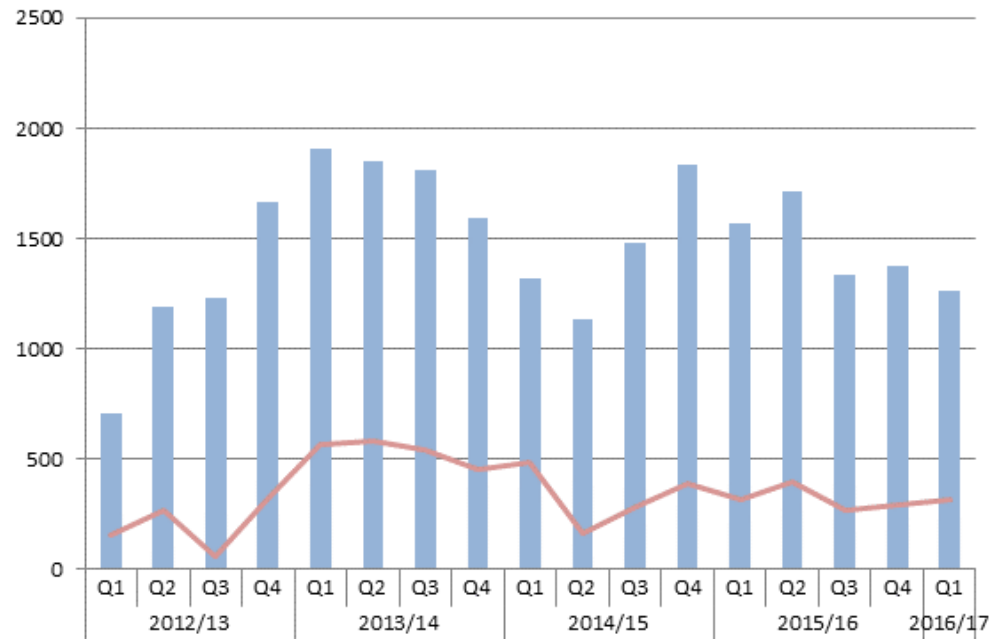


Chart 5 - Children in need referrals within 12 months of previous referral



Number of children in need referrals (quarterly)	710	1187	1232	1663	1911	1855	1807	1,590	1318	1130	1481	1835	1566	1716	1334	1378	1263
Number of Children in Need (CIN) referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral (quarterly)	155	269	55	326	567	585	543	450	482	161	279	390	317	398	264	287	313

Chart 6 – Fly-tipping incidents

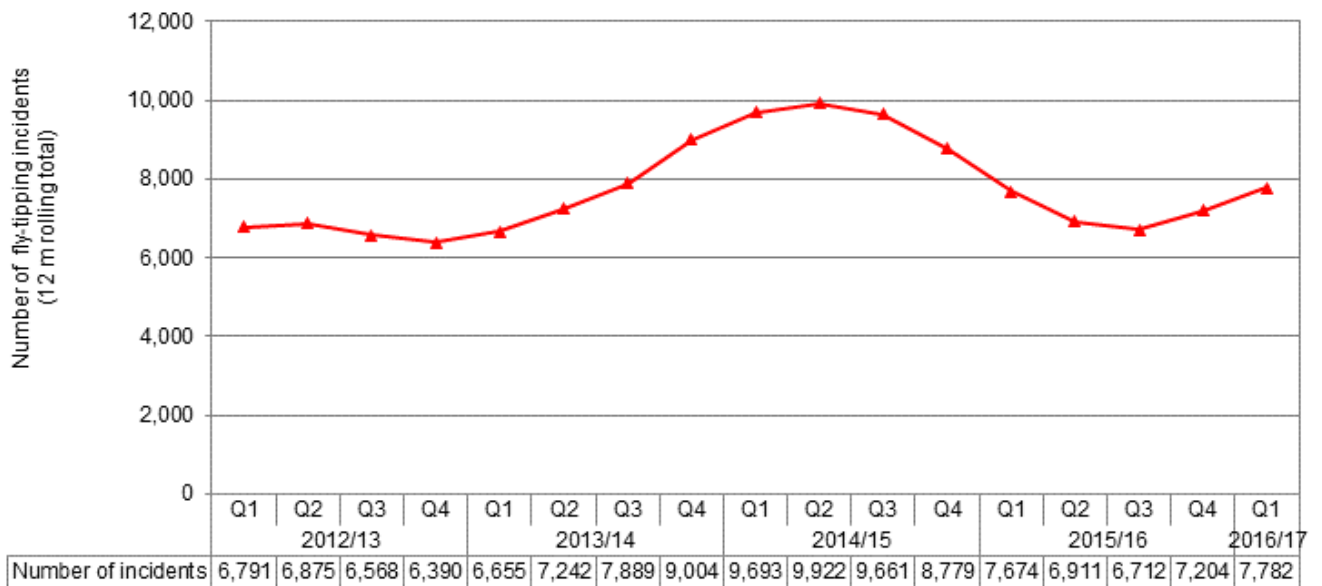


Chart 7 - Telephone calls via customer services

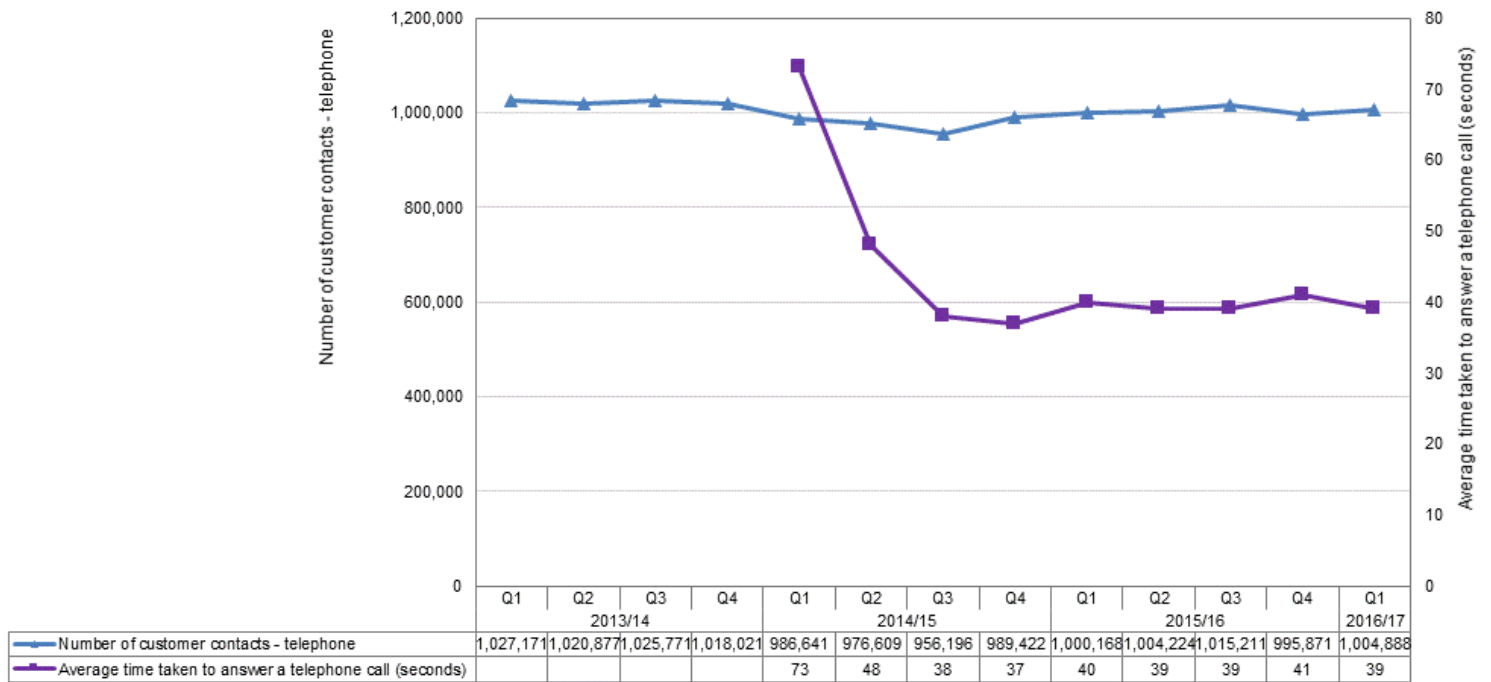


Chart 8 – Face to face contacts via customer access points

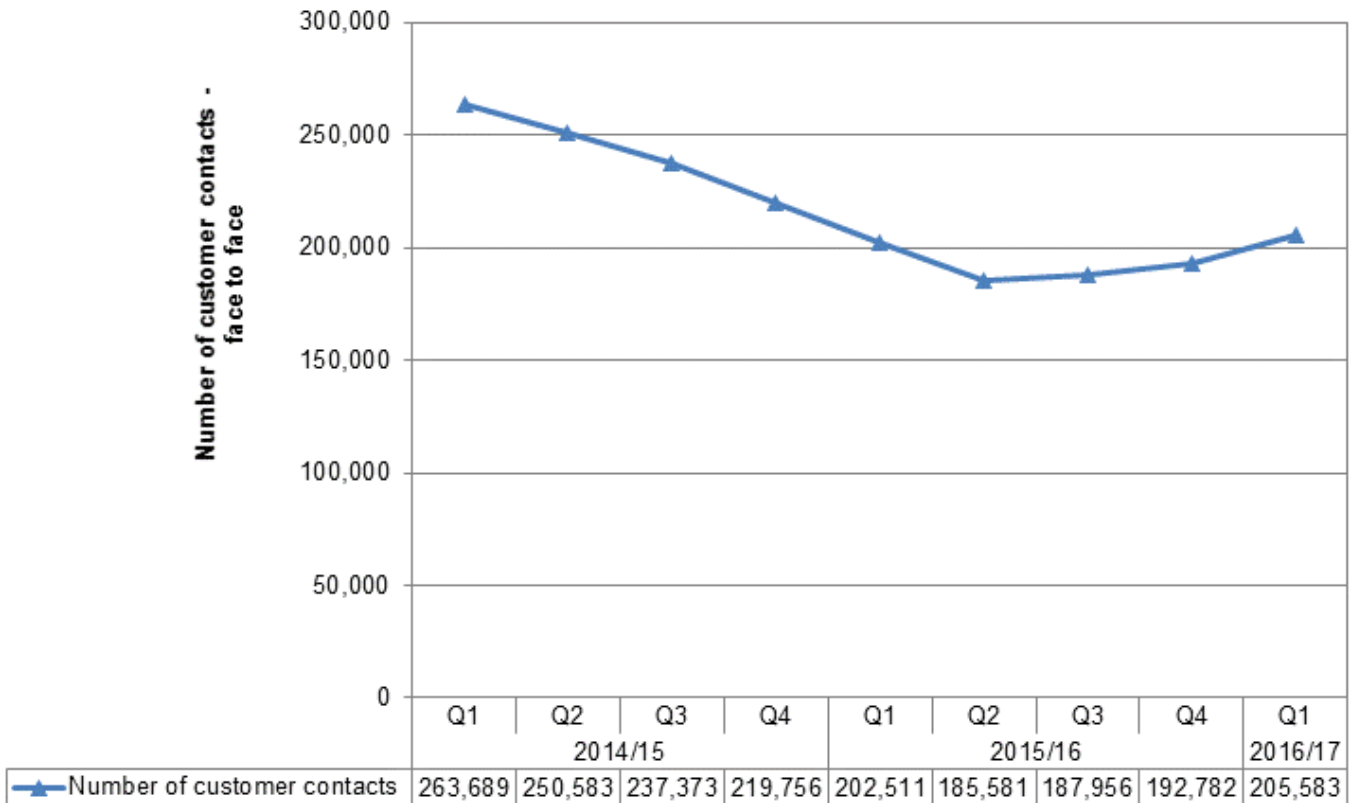


Chart 9 – Housing Benefits – new claims

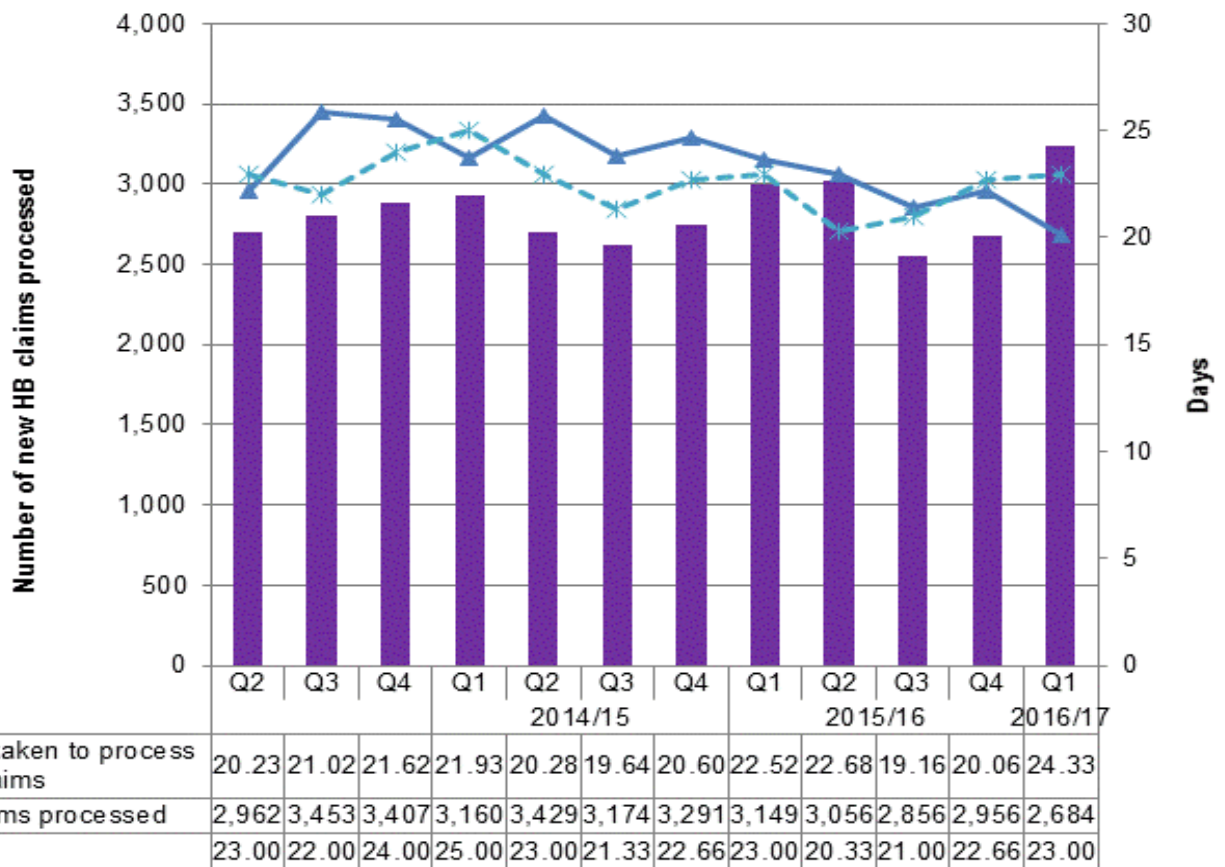


Chart 10 – Council Tax Reduction – new claims

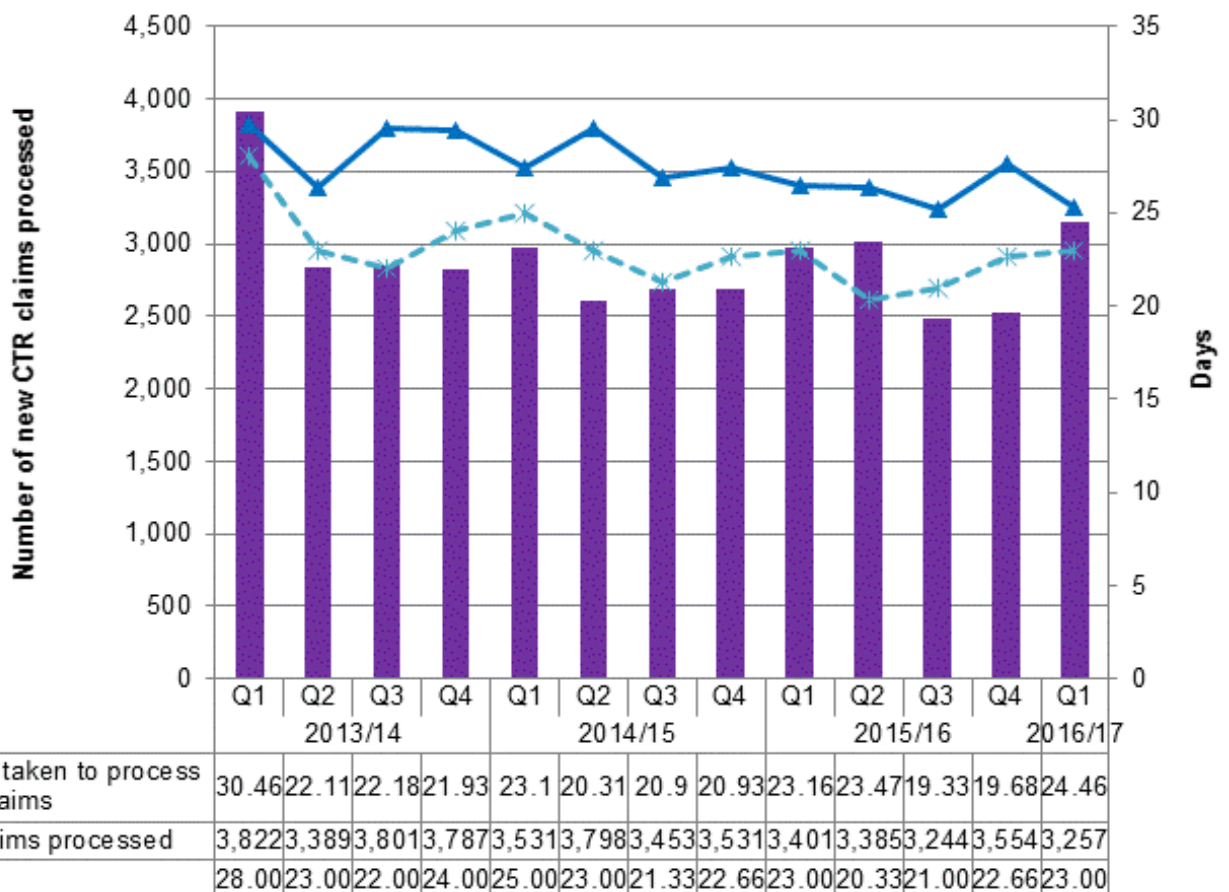
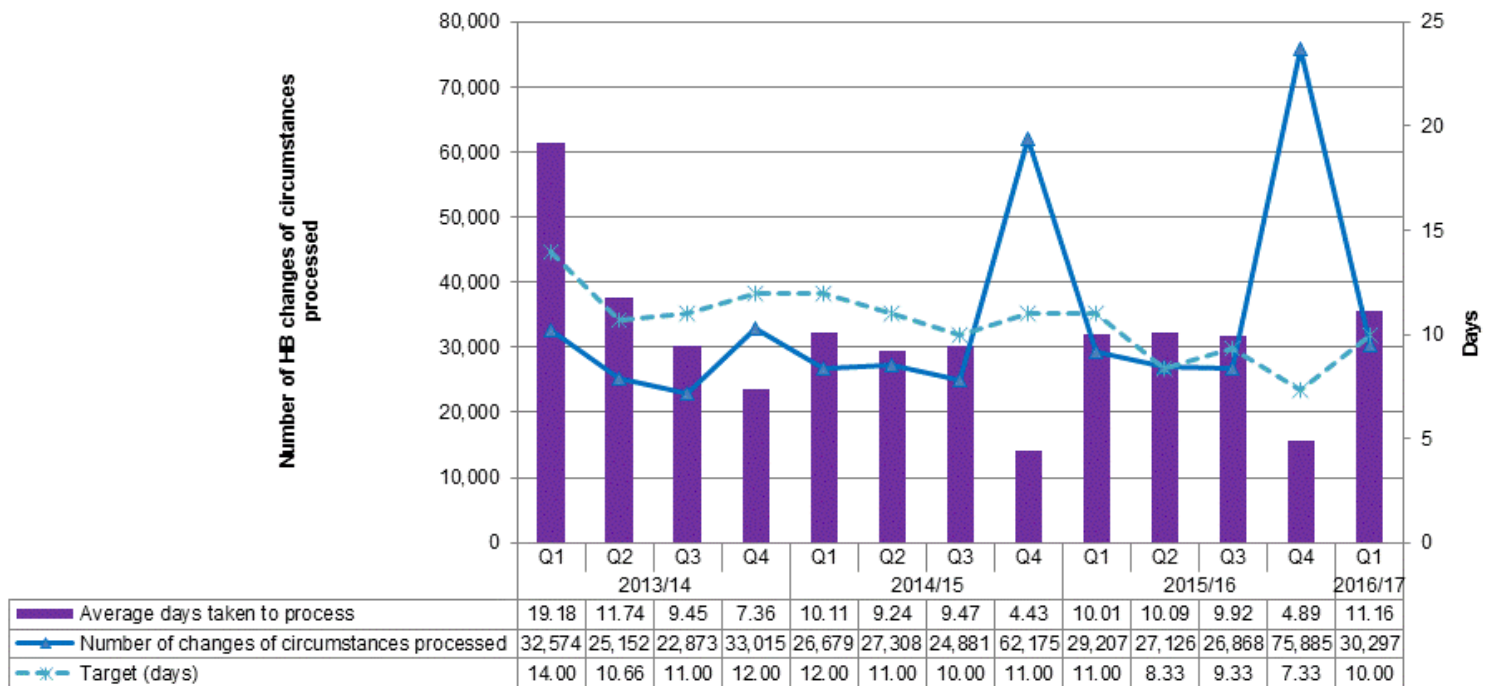
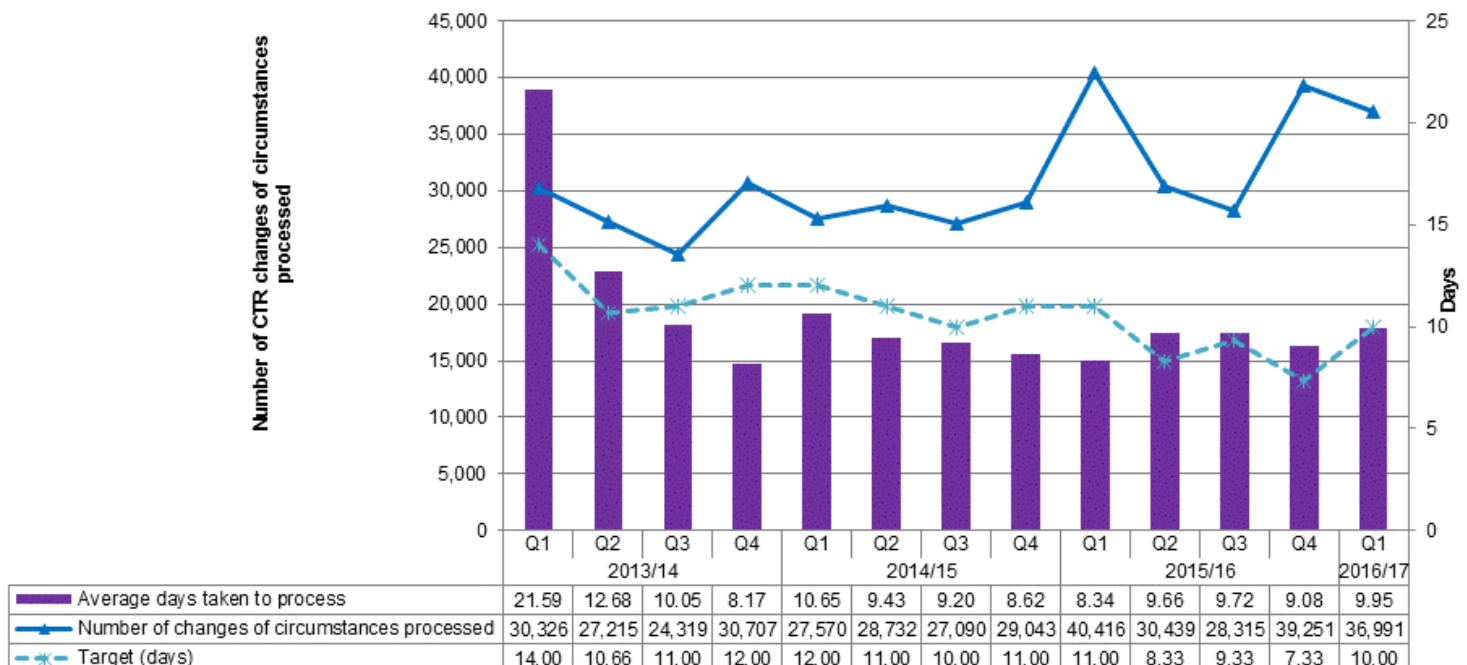


Chart 11 – Housing Benefits – changes of circumstances



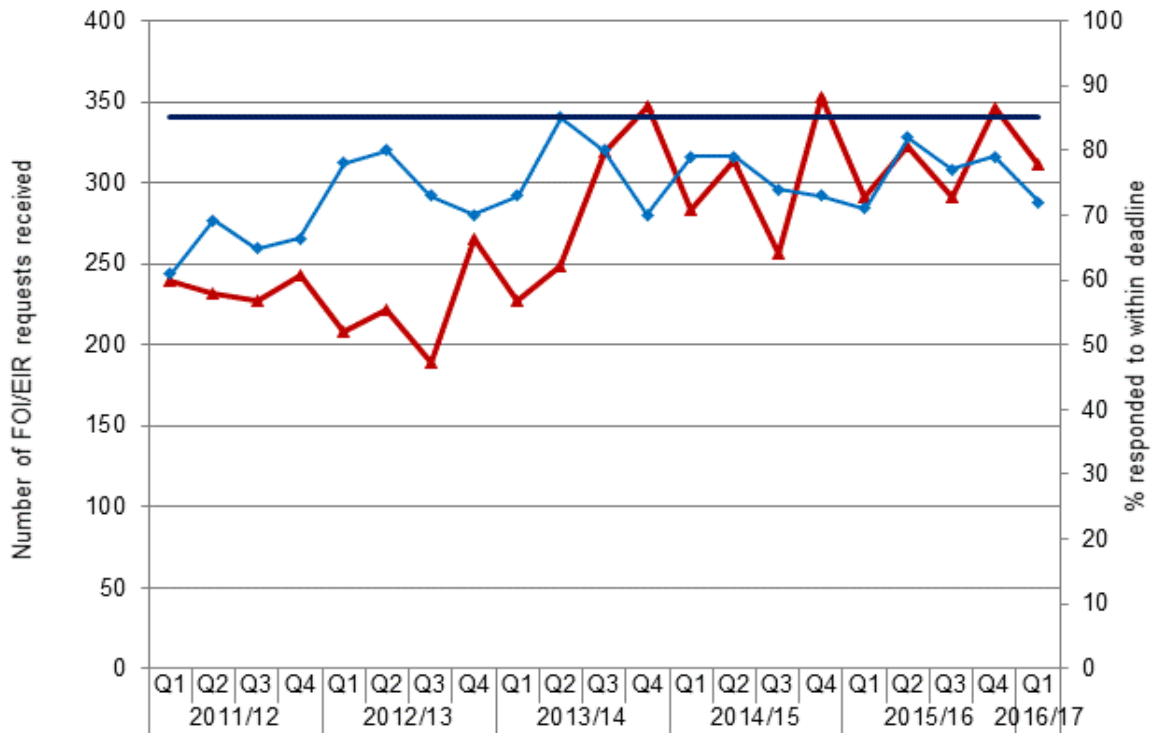
The way in which the change of circumstance is processed changed in quarter one 2015/16, which means that some multi-changes are now counted more than once where previously it would have been counted as just one change. Volume data from 2015/16 is therefore not comparable with previous data.

Chart 12 – Council Tax Reduction – changes of circumstances



The way in which the change of circumstance is processed changed in quarter one 2015/16, which means that some multi-changes are now counted more than once where previously it would have been counted as just one change. Volume data from 2015/16 is therefore not comparable with previous data.

Chart 13 – Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
	2011/12				2012/13				2013/14				2014/15				2015/16				2016/17
Number of FOI/EIR requests received	240	232	227	243	208	221	189	265	227	249	319	347	283	313	256	353	291	322	291	346	311
FOI/EIR requests responded to within statutory deadlines (%)	61	69	65	66	78	80	73	70	73	85	80	70	79	79	74	73	71	82	77	79	72
Target (%)	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

16 September 2016



Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan (7)

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide an update to Members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the proposed approach to scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20.

Background

- 2 In July 2016, a report to Cabinet set out the details on the development of the 2017/18 budget, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP(7)) and Council Plan/Service Plans 2017/18 to 2019/20 and a review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 3 In previous years, the Cabinet report has been presented to OSMB, with a recommendation for OSMB to commission CIOSC to look at the MTFP as per the terms of reference of that committee.

Proposed Approach

- 4 It is proposed this year to hold a Special Joint meeting of CIOSC and OSMB Members on 27th September, 2016, with a one item agenda of MTFP 7. At that meeting, Members will be able to identify any queries or areas requiring supplementary information, and these can be discussed in more detail.
- 5 Members have previously asked for early information, and as a result of this request, the Cabinet report includes information on the 2017/18 savings options, reflecting the need for the Council to consider early the scale of the savings options to ensure detailed consultation can occur in these areas.
- 6 Scrutiny of the MTFP and budget will continue to the timetable for the MTFP process, as below:

Date	Action
20 July	MTFP/Council Plan report to Cabinet
September / October	MTFP/Council Plan consultation process
27 September	Special Joint meeting of Corporate Issues Scrutiny

Date	Action
	Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
November / December	2017/18 Finance Settlement announced by DCLG
14 December	MTFP/Tax Base /Consultation Update report to Cabinet
26 January 2017	CIOSC (joint with OSMB) consider 14 December Cabinet Report
8 February 2017	Budget Report to Cabinet
13 February 2017	OSMB (joint with CIOSC) meeting to consider budget
22 February 2017	Council Budget and MTFP report

Recommendations

7 It is recommended that Members of OSMB:

- (i) Refer the detailed scrutiny of the MTFP to the Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as per the terms of reference of that committee;
- (ii) Note that a Special Joint Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be held on 27th September 2016 to discuss the information in the July Cabinet Report.

Contact: Jenny Haworth (03000 268071)

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The report sets out arrangements to scrutinise MTFP (7) proposals.

Staffing – The savings proposals in MTFP (7) will impact upon employees.

Risk – None specific within this report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Equalities considerations are built into the proposed approach to developing MTFP (7)

Accommodation – None specific within this report.

Crime and Disorder – None specific within this report.

Human Rights – Any human rights issues will be considered for any detailed MTFP (7) proposals as they are developed.

Consultation – This report sets out scrutiny input into MTFP (7) consultation.

Procurement – None specific to this report.

Disability Issues – All requirements will be considered as part of equalities considerations.

Legal Implications – None specific within this report.

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**Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

16 September 2016



Notice of Key Decisions

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the list of key decisions that is scheduled to be considered by the Executive.

Background

- 2 New rules in relation to Executive decisions were introduced by The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, which came into force on 10 September 2012.
- 3 The regulations took away the requirement for the Executive to produce a Forward Plan of key decisions, however introduced that the decision maker cannot make a key decision unless a document has been published at least 28 clear days before the decision is taken, unless either a general exception or special urgency requirements have been met. The document which has to be published must state:
 - a) that the key decision is to be made on behalf of the relevant local authority
 - b) the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made
 - c) where the decision maker is an individual, that individual's name and title if any and where the decision maker is a decision making body, its name and list of its members
 - d) the date on which or the period within which the decision is to be made
 - e) a list of the document submitted to the decision maker for consideration in relation to the matter of which the key decision is to be made
 - f) the address from which, subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure copies of, or extracts from any document listed as available

- g) that other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker
 - h) the procedure for requesting details of those documents (if any) as they become available.
- 4 The requirements also apply to an exempt matter as previously it did not strictly have to be included in the Forward Plan. Now a publicity document must contain particulars of the matter, but may not contain any confidential exempt information or particulars of the adviser or political adviser or assistant.
- 5 Notices of key decisions that are being produced meet the legal requirements of publication, as well as continuing to provide information for a four month period. Members will therefore be able to consider key decisions as previously for the four month period.

Current Notice of Key Decisions

- 6 The notice of key decisions that is attached to the report at Appendix 2, is the latest to be published prior to the papers for the Board being dispatched to members. The notice complies with the requirements for Cabinet to be able to take key decisions at the meeting on 14 September 2016. It also contained information on those key decisions that are currently scheduled to be considered by the Executive up to 31 December 2016.
- 7 The information in the Notice of Key Decisions provides the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information. Members are asked to note that this version of the Notice has been amended and includes a column which has been added to advise of the relevant Scrutiny activity.
- 8 In responding to the request of the Board for further information to be provided on any items that are removed from the previous notice without being considered by Cabinet, this information will be provided at the meeting.
- 9 If the Board wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated in the Overview and Scrutiny Work programme.

Recommendation

- 10 You are recommended to give consideration to items listed in the notice.

Contact: Ros Layfield, Committee, Member and Civic Services Manager
Tel: 03000 269708
Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance, ACE
Tel: 03000 268071

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance : Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Staffing: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Risk: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Accommodation: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Crime and Disorder Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Human Rights: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Consultation: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Procurement: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Disability Issues: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

Legal Implications: Will be reflected in each individual key decision report to Cabinet.

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SECTION ONE - CORPORATE

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
CAS/06/15	14.09.2016	Consultation feedback on the Proposal for Changes to the Charging Policy for Non-Residential Social Care Services	Report to Cabinet 16 March 2016	Cllr Lucy Hovvels and Cllr Alan Napier	The Council will seek the views of key stakeholders and the wider public, including relevant disability charities and Community and Voluntary Sector groups.	Paul Darby, Interim Corporate Director, Resources. 03000 261945	
CORP/R/16/03	16.11.2016	Council Tax Base 2017/18 and Forecast Surplus / Deficit on Collection Fund	Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI:2012:2914) and Welfare Reform Act 2012	Cllr Alan Napier	Town and Parish Councils, County Durham Fire and Rescue Authority and the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner.	Paul Darby, Interim Corporate Director, Resources. 03000 261945	

SECTION ONE - CORPORATE

<p>CORP/R/16/02</p>	<p>14.12.2016</p>	<p>2017/18 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget MTFP 7, Council Plan and Service Plans</p>	<p>Report to Cabinet 13 July 2016</p>	<p>Cllr Simon Henig and Cllr Alan Napier</p>	<p>The public will be consulted as well as Area Action Partnerships. A broad range of partner organisations will also need to be consulted. A full consultation plan will be developed but methods could include on-line responses, AAP fora and partnership fora.</p>	<p>Paul Darby, Interim Corporate Director, Resources. 03000 261945 and Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation & Partnerships 03000 268060</p>	<p>Scrutiny will have input into the formulation of the MTFP 7 and provide member assurance into this development process.</p>
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SECTION TWO - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
CAS/05/15	14th September 2016	To present Cabinet with recommendations for a decision regarding the youth support strategy	Cabinet report	Councillor Ossie Johnson	A variety of stakeholders were consulted through both online and offline methods, including young people aged 13-19 years, parents and carers, staff, partners, elected members, overview and scrutiny committee members	Carole Payne, Head of Children's Services Tel. 03000 268657	Children and Young People's Scrutiny will receive a report on 5th September 2016 focusing on the process of the consultation. Members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will be invited to attend the meeting.

SECTION TWO - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

CAS/02/16	14th September 2016	To present the proposal to close Startforth Morrith Memorial Church of England Primary School on 31 December 2016	Consultation Document	Councillor Ossie Johnson	Staff, Parents, Governors, Local Community, AAP, Local Members, Diocese, Neighbouring Schools, Trade Unions	Sheila Palmerley, Strategic Manager - School Places and Admissions Tel. 03000 265731	
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SECTION THREE - ADULTS AND HEALTH SERVICES

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
AHS/01/16	14th September 2016	To present Cabinet with recommendations for a decision regarding the future of in-house adult care service provision	None	Councillor Lucy Hovvels	Communication with service users on an individual basis through County Durham Care and Support, consultation with staff	Jane Robinson Interim Director of Adult and Health Services Tel. 03000 267355	

SECTION FOUR - REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information	Scrutiny Involvement
RED/08/16	19.10.2016	Durham Key Options Letting Policy - to review the policy	Lettings Policy v4 April 2016	Councillor E Tomlinson	DKO Partners - Board, tenant panels, residents, applicants. Third sector and other registered providers - open days. Internal officers and Members. Meeting with Cabinet Member.	Sarah Robson 03000 267332	The Economy and Enterprise OSC on 28th July 2016 received detail of the proposed changes to the Lettings Policy and provided comments to be fed into the ongoing consultation. The committee will receive a report providing the results of the consultation at the meeting on 26th September 2016.

SECTION FIVE - NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Ref. No.	Date of Decision (i.e. date of Cabinet meeting)	Description of Decision to be Made	Background Documents	Lead Cabinet Member	Main Consultees & Means of Consultation	Contact details for further information

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**Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

16 September 2016



**Information update from the
Chairs of the Overview and
Scrutiny Committees**

**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and
Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present to Members an information update of overview and scrutiny activity from June – September 2016.

Background

- 2 As previously agreed, a written report of Chairs' updates will be presented for information only to all Overview and Scrutiny Management Boards. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board are encouraged to get involved in any area of Overview and Scrutiny activity via thematic committees and/or talk to Scrutiny Committee Chairs and OS Officers on areas of project/overview activity.

Updates

- 3 Updates from Overview and Scrutiny Committees from 17 June – 16 September 2016.

Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CIOSC)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	CIOSC on 11 th July 2016 received a systematic review on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Review of Attendance Management
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	CRM Light Touch Review – there have been no further meetings of the working group during this period.
<i>Overview reports/ Presentations</i>	CIOSC on 11 th July 2016 received reports and presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions 2015/16 final report • Review of the Committee's Work Programme 2016/17

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	<i>Alcohol and Demand on Emergency Services</i> - The Working Group on 25 th July 2016 looked at key findings following review activity on Alcohol and the demands on the Emergency Services.

	<p><i>Improved Safety in the Home – Safe and Wellbeing Visits -</i> The Working Group held its first meeting on 7th September 2016 and received an overview presentation on Safe and Wellbeing Visits from County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.</p>
<p><i>Overview reports/ Presentations</i></p>	<p>SSC OSC on 21st June 2016 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 • Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015-2018 • Review of the Committee’s Work Programme 2016/17 • Verbal updates on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the review of Alcohol and the demand on the Emergency Services • Police and Crime Panel • Safe Durham Partnership. <p>SSC held a special meeting with CYP and AWH Overview on 29th June 2016, and received information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Misuse Centres.

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E & E OSC)

<p><i>Update on Previous Reviews</i></p>	<p>Economy and Enterprise OSC on 28th June received an update on the recommendations of the scrutiny review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Marketing activity undertaken by Visit County Durham
<p><i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i></p>	<p>The Skills Development Working Group on 7th July 2016 considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the key findings and conclusions of the working group to then formulate recommendations.
<p><i>Overview reports/ Presentations</i></p>	<p>Economy and Enterprise OSC on 28th June 2016 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham Economic Partnership • County Durham Plan • Review of the Committee’s Work Programme 2016/17 • Minutes of the County Durham Economic Partnership <p>Economy and Enterprise OSC at a special meeting on 28th July 2016 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham Housing Group • Durham Key Options – Revised Policy • Chapter Homes

**Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Environment OSC)**

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	There is no review activity to report for this period
Overview reports/ Presentations	Environment OSC on 8 th July 2016 received reports and presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality in County Durham • Review of the Committee's Work Programme 2016/17 • Minutes from the County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Visits	Members of the Environment OSC attended the following site visit on 26 th June 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild flower planting through the county including roundabouts

Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	Take up of free school meals and holiday hunger - Members of the working group on 5 th July 2016 received reports and presentations on the review groups findings and conclusions based on the evidence received. Work is continuing on the report.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>CYP OSC on 1st July 2016 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovations Programme • Director of Public Health Annual Report • Concessionary travel for disabled residents and their carers • Summary of minutes from the Children's and Family Partnership • Verbal update of review of Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger • Review of the Committee's Work Programme 2016/17. <p>CYP OSC at a joint meeting with SSC OSC on 25th July 2016 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERASE team • Children's Services update <p>CYP OSC held a Special meeting on 5th September and received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth services review consultation • Concessionary travel for disabled residents and their carers • Stronger families update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational services update
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Adults, Well-being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWH OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	There is no review activity to report for this period
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>AWH OSC on 4th July 2016 received report and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Quality Commission ‘Shaping the Future’ – The CQC’s strategy for 2016-2021 • Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015/16 • Council Plan 2016/19 – Refresh of the Work Programme for the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC <p>At a special meeting on 1st September 2016, Members received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DDES CCG Consultation response reports and proposals for the proposed review of Urgent Care Services. • The Health and Wellbeing Board’s Annual Report 2015/16

Performance/Budget/Work Programme Reporting

- 4 Information on both performance and outturn reports continue to be received and commented upon.

Regional Scrutiny

Better Health Programme – Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 5 The Better Health Programme aims to achieve and sustain high quality care provided by hospital services in the Durham, Darlington and Tees (DDT) area as defined by agreed clinical quality standards and national expectations. Commissioners have stated their desire to work with stakeholder organisations and public representatives during the Programme and an indicative timeline for 2016 has been shared with stakeholders indicating that public consultation will commence around November 2016.
- 6 A sub-Regional Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been set up consisting of representatives from Durham County Council, Darlington B.C., Hartlepool B.C., Middlesbrough B.C., North Yorkshire County Council, Redcar and Cleveland B.C. and Stockton-on Tees B.C. with each Council having three representatives on the Committee for the duration of the programme. The County Council are represented by Councillors John Robinson, Jan Blakey and Watts Stelling.

- 7 The requirement for the Joint Health OSC is set out in the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013. The Committee has met on three occasions so far, on the 4th and 21st July and 8th September 2016, with full papers available on the Council website.

North East Combined Authority (NECA)

- 8 The Chair of the OSMB and the Chair of Economy and Enterprise OSC represented DCC on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at a meeting on 7th July 2016, agenda as follows:
- i. Devolution Agreement, Governance Review & Scheme for the proposed Mayoral Authority
 - ii. Forward Plan and Work Programme.

Recommendation

- 9 Members are invited to receive the report and note the information contained therein.

Background Papers: Previous committee reports/presentations.

Contact: Jenny Haworth Tel: 03000 268071
Email: jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A