



Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Date **Friday 27 October 2017**
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 meetings held on 15 September and 9 October 2017 (Pages 3 - 14)
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Report on the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 - Quarter 2 - 2017/18 - Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 15 - 18)
6. Medium Term Financial Plan (8), Council Plan, Service Plans 2018/19 - 2021/22 - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships. (Pages 19 - 42)
7. County Durham Partnership Update - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 43 - 60)
8. Update in relation to Petitions - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 61 - 78)
9. Notice of Key Decisions - Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 79 - 90)
10. Information Update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 91 - 96)

11. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
19 October 2017

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

Councillor R Crute (Chairman)
Councillor A Patterson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Adam, A Batey, R Bell, D Boyes, J Chaplow, M Clarke, K Hawley, P Jopling, H Liddle, L Maddison, J Makepeace, C Martin, O Milburn, C Potts, L Pounder, J Robinson, J Rowlandson, M Simmons, H Smith, F Tinsley, J Turnbull, M Wilkes, A Willis and S Zair

Faith Communities Representatives:
Mrs M Elliott

Parent Governor Representatives:
Mr R Patel

Contact: Lucy Gladders

Email: 03000 269712

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 15 September 2017 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor R Crute (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors A Patterson (Vice-Chairman), E Adam, A Batey, D Boyes, M Clarke, P Jopling, L Maddison, C Martin, M Simmons, J Turnbull and M Wilkes

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Bell, J Chaplow, K Hawley, H Liddle, J Makepeace, O Milburn, C Potts, L Pounder, J Rowlandson, H Smith, F Tinsley, A Willis, S Zair and Mr R Patel

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Liddle, C Potts, L Pounder, F Tinsley and A Willis.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Maddison raised a query regarding review of council buildings. It was noted that this topic had been discussed previously and was incorporated into the COSMB work programme.

4 Declarations of Interest, if any.

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 6

The Board considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update on the delivery of the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 6 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Head of Communications and Information Management reported that the MTFP(6) was agreed by the Council in February 2016 and set a savings target of just over £28 million, which formed part of the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2019/20 of around £250 million.

It was further reported that by the end of quarter 1, over 74% of the savings target for MTFP(6) had already been met with savings having been achieved. The total savings delivered since April 2011 was just over £203 million including Public Health savings. Work was now underway to implement the delivery of MTFP(7) which would seek to deliver a further £23.3 million of savings by the end of April 2018.

In conclusion the Head of Communications and Information Management advised that by 2021/22 approximately £250 million savings would have been achieved.

Cllr P Jopling asked could the redundancy figures be broken down into service.

Councillor Adam in referencing paragraph 13 of the report asked whether any further work had been undertaken in respect of gender profiling. The Head of Strategy advised that data was available.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

6 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 - Annual Review of the Council's use of powers and approval of RIPA Corporate Guidance Document

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, which informed members about the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), during the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 and further sought approval of the Council's Corporate Guidance Document relating to RIPA for the forthcoming year (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

- i. That the annual report on the Council's use of powers under RIPA be noted.
- ii. That the Council's Corporate Guidance Document on the use of RIPA be approved.

7 Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan (8)

The Board considered a joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Corporate Director Resources which provided an update on the proposed approach to scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 - 2021/22 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Head of Corporate Finance and Commercial Services advised that at this time there was still significant uncertainty regarding the future of local government funding with reductions expected to continue until at least 2020.

He advised that the settlement from government was not expected until November 2017. In line with previous practice the MTFP Model had been reviewed and savings of £41 million were forecasted to be required to balance the budget over the 2018/19 to 2021/22 period.

It was also reported that the total savings required at this stage for 2018/19 in order to balance the budget amounted to £25.6 million. Plans to identify those savings were already underway and the council will also consider how best to utilise the Budget Support Reserve across the MTFP(8) period.

Further details were reported in respect of key changes to the proposed MTFP Model whilst also noting key challenges with regard to uncertainty relating to social care funding, adult social care precept, 2% cap on council tax, Business Rates Retention, National Living Wage and inflationary pressures.

It was noted by Councillor Crute and reiterated by Councillor Adam that the council although still in a challenging time was in a more favourable position than other authorities due to prudent financial management of the council's reserves and planning.

Further discussion took place regarding business rates collection and the impact a move to 100% retention would have upon the authority.

In responding to a query from Councillor Martin, the Head of Corporate Finance and Commercial Services advised that the decision relating to the use of Business Support Reserve was a political one and would be determined alongside details of full savings required.

Councillor Wilkes asked when scrutiny would be able to view and comment upon the detail of any proposed savings. The Head of Corporate Finance and Commercial Services advised that savings would be reported to Cabinet in line with the published timetable.

Resolved:

That the content of the report and timetable be noted.

8 Quarter 1 2017/18 Performance Management Report

The Board considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented progress against the council's corporate performance framework by each Altogether priority theme for the first quarter of the 2017/18 financial year (for copy or report and slides of presentation see file of Minutes).

In responding to a query from Councillor Maddison relating to social worker caseloads and the impact of sickness absence on other team members, Councillor

Patterson advised that this matter had been flagged and would be reviewed by the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Councillor Batey in referring to the Altogether Better Council made reference to those residents who were technically isolated and were unable to receive strong mobile signals or get online. Many people however were still able to text and queried whether this was an option for reporting issues directly to Customer Services. In response the Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager advised that texting was an option however up until this point it had only been offered to those with the inability to contact the council by other means.

Councillor Boyes commented that it was concerning to learn that there had been a 44% increase in crime on the comparable quarter last year, noting that this was the second highest rise in the country. He further referred to flytipping data and the use of covert cameras. Councillor Adam commented that Environment Scrutiny were to hold a special meeting regarding this issue.

Councillor Wilkes noted that although he welcomed the new format of performance data he felt that many of the issues were not 'corporate' and he was concerned that issues previously scrutinised by Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee were going to be overlooked.

In referring to page 187 of the report he further added that it was disappointing that the business case for Horden Railway Station had been delayed again. He commented that this had been in discussion for over 15 years and now given the delay in the full business case and the time it would take central government to action it, it could potentially be 20 years on. He added that he found this to be totally unacceptable and felt that the Board should be applying pressure to move the project forward. Councillor Crute noted that funding for the station had been committed by the Coal Board Authority however agreed that reasons for the delays should be explained. The Head of Strategy suggested that she invite the service to provide an update.

With regard to comments made regarding the workload of the Board, the Head of Strategy advised that if special meetings were required then there was capacity to accommodate this. In addition there was four scheduled MTFP sessions included in the timetable. Councillor Wilkes added that he did have concerns that due to the volume of work scrutiny of important items would be diluted. He added that reducing the time of presentations would also help. Councillor Crute agreed that the time spent on presentations could be cut down if needed to provide more time for questions and comments. The Head of Strategy advised that she would in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board review agendas to ensure that there was adequate time to accommodate the workload.

In referring to the Altogether greener theme, Councillor Maddison made reference to issues in Spennymoor Town Centre and in particular problems relating to rubbish on private land. It was noted that this was a problem across the county. It was noted that the council would offer services to private landowners for clearing of rubbish under a formal service level agreement.

Resolved: That the content of the report be noted.

9 Customer Feedback Report Quarter 1 2017 - 2018

The Board considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided details of Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions for quarter 1, 2017/18 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager provided an overview of the report attached at Appendix 2, highlighting the number of complaints, statutory complaints and corporate complaints received during the quarter. She further reported details in respect of complaints to the Local Government and Social care Ombudsman and compliments and suggestions received.

Councillor Wilkes raised a query with regard to an ombudsman decision relating to delays in processing a disabled facilities grant. In adding that this was a serious issue he welcomed the service improvements although noted that it was important to monitor whether the changes made were successful. In response the Customer Relations, Policy and Performance Manager advised that she would provide an update on progress to a future meeting under quarterly performance monitoring.

Councillor Turnbull commented that he had recently received two complaints regarding issues with sky telephone systems and non-returning of calls which possibly could have something to do with a caller-id system. It was agreed that this would be investigated further and a response given at a later date.

Resolved: That the content of the report be noted.

10 General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn Q4

The Board considered reports of the Corporate Director Resources and Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided details of the outturn position highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget based on the outturn position at the end of March 2017. The second report provided details of the forecasted outturn budget position, highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget based on the position to the end of June 2017 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Wilkes referenced the underspend reported on employees within the Revenue and Benefits service area and added that he did appreciate that savings had to be made but it was important that assurances were given that adequate capacity remained in order to manage the workload. It was agreed that further details in this regard be forwarded to Councillor Wilkes after the meeting.

Resolved:

That the content of the reports be noted.

11 Notice of key decisions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which 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 the Strategy for School Provision in County Durham had moved to October and the Aykley Heads SES Project Update had been moved to December's Cabinet.

Councillor Wilkes added that he would have liked further information on the Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy and the Strategy for school provision in County Durham. The Senior Committee Services Officer agreed to feedback to the report authors.

Resolved: That the information contained within the report be noted.

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

There were no updates.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 9 October 2017 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor R Crute (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors A Patterson (Vice-Chairman), E Adam, R Bell, J Chaplow, M Clarke, H Liddle, J Makepeace, C Martin, O Milburn, C Potts, L Pounder, J Rowlandson, J Turnbull and A Willis

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Batey, Boyes, Hawley, Jopling, Maddison, Simmons, Tinsley, Wilkes, Zair and Mr Patel.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 7

The Board considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships provided an update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 6 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Head of Communications and Information Management highlighted two significant milestones in that savings by the end of June, delivered from 2011, had reached £203m and the number of employees affected had reached 2500 since 2011.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

5 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 - Quarter 1 Performance

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which informed members about the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) during the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 to ensure that the policy remained fit for purpose (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Board were advised that activity reported during the quarter were two RIPA directed surveillance authorisations in relation to counterfeit tobacco and underage sales of alcohol. Surveillance remains ongoing for the counterfeit tobacco and the outcome from the underage sales of alcohol resulted in two prosecutions and a committee review.

Resolved:

That the report be received.

6 Welfare Reform and Poverty Issues

The Board considered a joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services that provided an update on welfare reform, with a particular focus on the latest developments in relation to Universal Credit and the work the council and its partners were doing in relation to child poverty (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Communications and Information Management informed Members that a seminar would be taking place on 12 October at 10.30 a.m. to discuss welfare reform in greater detail. He reported that new proposals and measures included:-

- (a) increasing the amount of free childcare for working parents with three and four year olds;
- (b) launching the next phase of the Troubled Families programme with a greater emphasis on helping parents with complex needs into work;
- (c) support for the most disadvantaged families to reduce parental conflict;
- (d) enhancing the role of Jobcentre Plus in working with local partners to identify and help people with complex needs;
- (e) greater support for those with drug and alcohol dependencies;
- (f) changing the reporting requirements on government in relation to child poverty.

The Head of Communications and Information Management advised that the next stage of implementing universal credits would see the roll out of a digital by default service on a phased basis throughout job centres in the County. He added that the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion had taken an active role with this issue and within her portfolio was welfare reform. The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services chairs the Child Poverty Working Group which encompasses welfare reform.

The Chairman thanked the officer for his report that contained a lot of good information. He said that the evidence so far on universal credits points to a number of problems, and he asked that the roll out was monitored in term of the early impact. He expressed concerns about IT and the issues with broadband in parts of the County. He had supported further resources in the community facilities within his ward but did have concerns about accessibility.

Mrs Elliott also expressed concerns about those people who were the hardest to reach within a community, such as those who were illiterate. She said that they would have to be sought out as there was a worry that if people could not access information online and be able to claim money then they could turn to crime. The Head of Communications and Information Management said that they were trying to make as many people as possible aware of the changes and to offer that support.

Following on from the point about access, Councillor Bell asked if this information could be shared at AAPs, and was informed that this would be done. He also asked if libraries were equipped to help and was informed that staff would receive the appropriate training in order to support people. He further asked if the new system only applied to new claimants. The Head of Communications and Information Management confirmed that Universal Credits would apply to any new claimants or for those who were changing a claim. There would be no changes at present to those on existing benefits with no change in circumstances.

Councillor Bell went on to ask what the overall impact on different groups of people would be and was advised that this would be looked into. The Head of Communications and Information Management explained that some people would benefit but it would take time to see the overall impact, as it was complex and would be unique to the individual.

The Chairman suggested that the council should watch out for possible changes such as in the usage of foodbanks, or a rise in homelessness in the areas where this had been introduced.

Councillor Adam commented that some people would be moved to the universal credit system even if they just had a minor change for example an increase in the number of hours worked. He felt that the DWP only provided minimal training to their staff and that they were not keeping up with all of the changes. He said that this was a comprehensive report with some positives but felt that there was a lack of understanding of the real impact on those people struggling in society. The increase in suicides, debt and poverty may be lost in this situation. He referred to the support given by the local authority for those most vulnerable and asked if there was a risk that the authority would not be able to continue this role due to austerity and the cut backs on resources.

The Head of Communications and Information Management explained that the system and any issues would be closely monitored. He reported that there had been no evidence of changes in areas such as the levels of suicides or arrears because of the changes so far. He advised that Durham University were helping with research into what was happening, asking questions such as if people were still able to pay the rent were they doing without something else. He added that this was a step change and that there would also be a risk involved. He said that the local authority were committed to supporting people and that any new burden funding received would be spent in this area. There was an ongoing commitment to continue with the Welfare Assistance Scheme and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The Chairman commented that he was aware of some people deliberately not paying their rent so that it would trigger a direct payment to the landlord. With universal credit all payments were made directly to the claimant.

Councillor Liddle expressed concerns that the community facilities were not ready to cope with the demand and pressure this would place on them. She had experienced first hand the affect of people not coping and needing advice and support. Counsellors were available for people to talk to as the advice and guidance workers could not provide that role. She would like to see any lessons learnt from where this had already been implemented.

The Head of Communications and Information Management said that work was underway with housing companies who had been very pro-active in holding workshops and drop-in sessions for their tenants. He appreciated that you could never do too much and that we would learn from everyone possible.

Councillor Makepeace asked if we rely on the DWP for fraudulent claims or if we had our own system. The Head of Communications and Information Management said that the Durham Christian Partnership have a number of rigorous questions when dealing with foodbank claims and that there were a number of questions asked when people applied for the Welfare Assistance Scheme. It was hoped to make this scheme easier to apply for and as there was no cash payout some people hung up when they found that out. Councillor Makepeace asked if this data could be captured.

Councillor Turnbull commented that many people who could not afford to pay their rent were sent eviction notices very quickly and once in arrears this would follow the person to another property.

Referring to bank accounts, Councillor Potts commented that it was not always possible for some people to open a bank account due to credit ratings and she asked if the banks were aware of the requirement to have all universal credit payments paid into a bank account. She asked if the banks would be asked to relax their criteria. The Head of Communications and Information Management said that they had been working with credit unions but that he would enquire about the bank situation.

Councillor Bell added that in order to open a bank account sometimes a smart phone was required so that the appropriate app could be downloaded and therefore a certain technical level may be needed.

Following on from that Councillor Milburn said that some banks do have a basic bank account but that some people may still need help in order to open one.

Councillor Chaplow also expressed concerns about how people would get to a bank as this could involve getting a bus into the nearest town which would place additional pressure on the person.

The Chairman thanked the members for their comments and questions and commended the Council for the early work being carried out in preparation for this.

He added that the task would be for the Council to continue to monitor the scheme and see how it rolls out.

Resolved:

That the information contained in the report and the progress made by the Council and its partners in addressing welfare reform and the wider poverty issues in the county be noted.

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**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

27 October 2017

**Report on the Council's use of powers
under the Regulation of Investigatory
Powers Act 2000 – Quarter 2 - 2017/18**



Report of Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform members about the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') during the period 1 July 2017 until 30 September 2017 (Quarter 2) to ensure that it is being used consistently with the Council's policy and that the policy remains fit for purpose.

Background

2. As members are aware, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) enables local authorities to carry out certain types of surveillance activity provided that specified procedures are followed. The Local Authority is able to rely upon the information obtained from those surveillance activities within court proceedings.
3. This report gives details of RIPA applications that have been authorised during the period 1 July 2017 until 30 September 2017 and the outcomes following surveillance.

Quarter 2 Activity

4. During Quarter 2 there were 2 new RIPA Directed Surveillance authorisations, which related to operations conducted by Trading Standards regarding test purchases at a number of premises where complaints were received by the Council about underage sales of alcohol.
5. There were 0 new Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) authorisations.

6. The Council's Senior Responsible Officer is satisfied that the Council's use of its powers under RIPA during Quarter 2 is consistent with the Council's policy and that the policy remains fit for purpose.

Outcomes following surveillance – Quarter 2

7. In relation to both test purchase operations, non-compliance has been dealt with by way of fixed penalty notices. One operation non-compliance has been passed to the Police beat team to issue a caution due to an individual failing two test purchases

Recommendations and Reasons

8. It is recommended that members receive the quarterly report on the Council's use of RIPA for the period 1 July 2017 until 30 September 2017 and resolve that it is being used consistently with the Council's policy and that the policy remains fit for purpose.

Background Papers

None

Contact: Laura Renaudon

Tel: 03000 269886

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance: None

Staffing: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Accommodation: None

Crime and Disorder: The appropriate use of an oversight of RIPA powers will enable the Council to provide evidence to support appropriate prosecutions and tackle crime.

Human Rights: Use of investigatory powers potentially engages the Human Rights Act 1998 and in particular the qualified right to private and family life under article 8 of the European Convention. This right may only be interfered with in circumstances where it is necessary and proportionate to do so in pursuit of the public interest. Oversight by the Board of the Council's RIPA operations is designed to facilitate compliance with the Human Rights Act.

Consultation: None

Procurement: None

Disability Discrimination Act: None

Legal Implications: The Council's objective is to make lawful and appropriate use of surveillance techniques where required whilst complying with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and in particular the provisions of Article 8 of the ECHR securing respect for an individual's (qualified) right to privacy. Quarterly oversight by the Board helps secure this objective.

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**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

27 October 2017

**Medium Term Financial Plan (8),
Council Plan, Service Plans
2018/19-2021/22**



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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) with the October Cabinet report on the Medium Term Financial Plan (8) for consideration and comment (full Cabinet report attached at appendix 2).

Background

- 2 On 18 October 2017, a report to Cabinet provided an update on the development of the 2018/19 budget, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP (8)) and Council Plan/Service Plans 2018/19 to 2021/22.
- 3 It was agreed at COSMB on 15 September 2017 that detailed scrutiny of the MTFP continues to be undertaken by COSMB, as per the terms of reference of that committee.

Timetable

- 4 Members have previously asked for early information. The Cabinet report includes information on the 2018/19 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.
- 5 Scrutiny of the MTFP and budget will continue to the timetable for the MTFP process, as below:

Date	Action
12 July 2017	MTFP/Council Plan report to Cabinet
15 September 2017	Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider 12 July Cabinet report
18 October 2017	MTFP/Council Plan report to Cabinet
October/November	MTFP Consultation period
27 October 2017	Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider 18 October Cabinet report
15 November 2017	Tax Base/Collection Fund report to Cabinet
Early December	2018/19 Finance Settlement announced by DCLG
13 December 2017	MTFP/Council Plan report to Cabinet – consultation outcomes
18 December 2017	Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider 13 December Cabinet report
17 January 2018	MTFP/Council Plan report to Cabinet – (if required)
7 February 2018	Budget Report to Cabinet
14 February 2018	Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider 7 February Cabinet report
21 February 2018	Council Budget and MTFP report

Recommendations

- 6 It is recommended that Members of COSMB:
- (i) Consider and comment upon the October Cabinet report on Medium Term Financial Plan (8), Council Plan, Service Plans 2018/19-2021/22;
 - (ii) Note the timetable for subsequent scrutiny discussions.

Contact: Jenny Haworth (03000 268071)

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The report sets out arrangements to scrutinise MTFP (8) proposals.

Staffing – The savings proposals in MTFP (8) 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 (8)

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 (8) proposals as they are developed.

Consultation – This report sets out scrutiny input into MTFP (8) 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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Cabinet

18 October 2017

**Medium Term Financial Plan (8),
Council Plan, Service Plans
2018/19-2021/22**



CORP/R/17/02

Report of Corporate Management Team

John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources

Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Councillor Alan Napier, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide an update on the development of the 2018/19 Budget, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP(8) and Council Plan / Service Plans 2018/19 to 2021/22.

Executive Summary

- 2 The financial outlook for the Council continues to be extremely challenging with government funding reductions confirmed as continuing until at least 2020. At this stage there is no certainty as to what will happen to local government funding beyond this point. It is however important that the Council plans over the medium term to ensure continuing financial sustainability.
- 3 The Chancellor of the Exchequer's 8 March 2017 Budget reported a deterioration in the public finances. It is forecast that the national deficit in 2017/18 could be higher than in 2016/17. The government has announced that the Autumn Statement will be published on 22 November 2017 and it is expected that it will confirm that the national finances will not achieve a surplus until at least the mid-2020s. There is also significant uncertainty over the impact of Brexit and the impact on local government.
- 4 The former coalition government was working towards the introduction of 100% Business Rates Retention for local government with a forecast implementation date of 2019/20. The required legislation for this policy was not included in the 2017 Queen's Speech. It is not clear at this stage if this policy will be implemented. The government has confirmed that the Fair Funding Review which was an element of the 100% Business Rates Review

process will continue. The output from the Fair Funding Review could result in a significant impact upon the resources available to individual councils depending on government's approach to allocating funding by formula.

- 5 The government has also announced a review into Social Care funding. It is expected that this review could influence the Better Care Fund, the Adult Social Care precept and the Public Health Grant. Any reduction in these income streams would have a significant impact on the Council's resources.
- 6 All of these uncertainties, considered alongside the possible impact of new policies from the government, generate significant complications and areas of uncertainty in developing plans for MTFP(8). Through prudent financial planning, the Council has a reserves position that can be used to assist in supporting the budget during this significant period of uncertainty.
- 7 The MTFP(8) model has been updated assuming no further government funding reductions beyond 2019/20. There is a risk that these assumptions do not prove to be correct. However, based on this position, savings required over the four year period are forecast to be £37 million.
- 8 Achieving this level of savings over the next four years will be extremely challenging. The emphasis since 2011/12 has been to minimise savings from front line services whilst maximising savings in management and support functions. This is becoming much more difficult as by the end of this financial year, the council will have made savings of £209 million and achieving further savings in managerial and back office efficiencies is extremely difficult.
- 9 At this stage, the total savings required to balance the 2018/19 budget amount to £15.3 million. Savings plans of £14.8 million are detailed in this report. It is currently forecast that £0.5 million of the Budget Support Reserve (BSR) will be utilised to balance the 2018/19 budget.
- 10 The savings detailed within this report will be considered as part of the MTFP(8) budget consultation process outlined below, which as in previous years will focus on the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs).

Background

- 11 To ensure that the MTFP(8) Council Plan and Service Plans can be developed effectively and savings targets delivered in time to produce a balanced budget, it is important that a robust plan and timetable is agreed and followed.
- 12 The current MTFP(7) that the Council agreed in February 2017 covers the three year period 2017/18 to 2019/20. It is recommended at this stage that MTFP(8) covers a four year period 2018/19 to 2021/22 which takes plans up to the end of current four year confirmed settlement in 2019/20, plus a further two years where significant government reductions in core funding are forecast to have ended. The Council will however continue to face significant

increases in the demand for services and inflationary pressures over this period.

- 13 This planning position is considered prudent because of the Council's track record on delivering savings, its accurate MTFP planning processes and the availability of reserves to assist in managing MTFP delivery.

Review of MTFP Model

- 14 The financial outlook for the Council continues to be extremely challenging with government funding reductions confirmed as continuing until at least 2020. There is a possibility that government funding reductions could extend beyond this date. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's March 2017 Budget reported a further deterioration in the public finances. At this stage however, the government has stated that this deterioration in the public finances will not result in a change to the four year settlement provided to local authorities in February 2016 which ends in 2019/20.
- 15 The national finances continue to face significant uncertainty. The performance of the economy is not meeting expectations, which is likely to result in the deficit reduction targets being missed. There is also the significant uncertainty in relation to the impact of Brexit, the possible move to 100% Business Rates Retention and any policy initiatives from the new government.
- 16 The Council will need to continue to review the MTFP(8) projections and savings requirements over the coming months in light of future announcements.
- 17 The assumptions in the MTFP(8) model reported to Cabinet on 12 July 2017 have continued to be reviewed and updated. The main adjustments to the MTFP(8) model are detailed below:

(a) **Business Rates and Top Up Grant Retail Price Increase (RPI)**

At this stage RPI is utilised by government to uplift business rates and the Top Up Grant with the 2018/19 uplift based upon the September 2017 RPI rate. The RPI forecast in the July Cabinet report was 3% for 2018/19 and 2% for 2019/20. The August 2017 RPI rate however is 3.9% and is expected to remain volatile in the coming months. At this stage it is deemed prudent to increase the forecast RPI rates to 3.9% and 2.5% for 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively. The September 2017 rate will be reported in mid October and utilised for 2018/19 in future MTFP(8) reports to Cabinet.

(b) **Improved Better Care Fund**

The Council will receive additional Improved Better Care Fund monies in both 2018/19 and 2019/20 of £8 million and £4 million respectively. These sums are in addition to the £13 million received in 2017/18. Discussions are ongoing with Clinical Commissioning Groups on

investment plans for 2017/18. In terms of the 2018/19 and 2019/20 sums, agreement has been reached that the Council can utilise these sums to delay savings for Adult and Health Services which would impact upon front line services. This approach can only be utilised on a short term basis as at this stage this funding will end in 2020/21. In terms of the MTFP(8) model, additional Better Care Fund income of £8 million is introduced in 2018/19 with reductions of £4 million in both 2019/20 and 2020/21, as the funding reduces.

(c) Council Tax / Business Rate Taxbase Increases

The July Cabinet report included an assumption across the MTFP(8) period of a £1.5 million annual increase in the tax base for council tax and business rates. Overall, at this stage this would require an increase in tax base of around 0.5% every year. It is presently forecast that the 2018/19 taxbase increase for council tax will be around £3 million and for business rates £0.5 million. This £3.5 million increase in taxbase will be available to support the 2018/19 budget. It is recommended at this stage that the increase for later years is retained at £1.5 million and reviewed as part of future years' budget setting processes.

(d) Looked After Children (LAC) Pressures

Significant pressure continues to be experienced in children's social care due to the additional number of children entering the care system. It was anticipated that numbers would have stabilised however short term financial support is required in this area. Additional budget support of £1.8 million for 2018/19 was included in the July Cabinet report. This investment would allow numbers to stabilise and to ensure the most efficient and effective placement mix which will reduce future years costs. The additional £1.8 million provided in 2018/19 would be gradually withdrawn over the 2019/20 to 2021/22 period as the placement mix is remodelled. Further reviews in this area have indicated that £1.8 million is not sufficient to meet the additional demand. The 2018/19 investment has been increased to £2.9 million to reflect the latest position, which will need to be kept under review.

2018/19 Savings Forecast

- 18 Based upon the revised assumptions detailed in this report, the savings requirement for 2018/19 is forecast to be £15.3 million.
- 19 A range of savings has been identified to balance the 2018/19 budget. In total, £14.8 million of savings have been identified, as detailed in Appendix 2. Achieving savings of £14.8 million would still leave a budget shortfall of £0.5 million. It is therefore recommended at this stage that £0.5 million of the BSR is earmarked to balance the budget.

- 20 The savings figures for later years that arise from agreeing the 2018/19 savings are as follows:

Year	£million
2019/20	2.445
2020/21	1.383

- 21 The MTFP(8) assumptions will continue to be refined as progress is made towards the finalisation of the budget in February 2018.

MTFP(8) – 2018/19 to 2021/22 Update

- 22 The adjustments to MTFP(8) planning detailed in this report have impacted upon the forecast savings requirements for the 2018/19 to 2021/22 period.
- 23 The current savings forecast for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 is detailed below.

Year	Savings Forecast Requirement £million
2018/19	14.803
2019/20	11.582
2020/21	9.582
2021/22	1.480
Total	37.447

- 24 If approved, the savings identified in Appendix 2 would realise total savings across the 2018/19 to 2020/21 period of £18.6 million. This would leave further savings to be identified across the MTFP(8) period of £18.8 million to achieve the £37.4 million total MTFP(8) savings requirement detailed above. Realising additional savings of £37.4 million means that the Council will have had to save £246.4 million from 2011/12 to 2021/22. The revised MTFP(8) Model is attached at Appendix 3.

Proposed Consultation Programme

- 25 Consultation on the budget will be held between 18 October and 1 December 2017 and the feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 7 February 2018.
- 26 Based on the effective approach taken in previous years, the 2018/19 budget consultation will seek to utilise the extensive connections with local communities developed through the 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). A presentation on the budget proposals will be provided at public AAP Board meetings where there will be an opportunity for attendees to consider and

discuss the options for change set out in this report. In addition, people will also be encouraged to complete a paper questionnaire or go on-line to respond and provide views on the budget proposals.

- 27 AAP Coordinators will also share proposals with local people attending a range of community events within their area and encourage completion of the questionnaire. This will include both events being held by partners and AAP organised events, such as Participatory Budget events, AAP Forums and village roadshows.
- 28 The budget will also be discussed at key events and meetings with partners, such as the Better Together Conference, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Working Group, Local Councils Working Group and County Durham Partnership Forum. In addition, the consultation will be promoted on the Council's website, on Twitter and Facebook, in Durham County News and through the Council's partnership frameworks.

Proposed Approach to the Development of the Council Plan and Service Plans

- 29 As agreed by Cabinet in July, a review of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), partnership vision and the council plan are scheduled to take place this year.
- 30 It was agreed that an outcome based approach to planning would be adopted, and that the reviews would be conducted according to six key design principles:
- (a) outcome-based vision and council plan;
 - (b) partnership based approach with engagement of key partners;
 - (c) incorporate the transformation vision for communities of resilient self-reliant communities, with a focus on prevention and tackling poverty;
 - (d) efficient planning – with as few key strategies and plans as possible, and concise focussed documents;
 - (e) plans and strategies drive change;
 - (f) cross council and cross partnership not silo based.
- 31 Work is about to begin with Cabinet and County Durham Partnership to consider the high level vision. An outcome-based council plan will also be developed, taking into account MTFP plans. The aim is to approve the refreshed vision and council plan in Spring 2018 following on from the budget setting process.

Equality Impact Assessment of the Medium Term Financial Plan

- 32 Consideration of equality analysis and impacts is an essential element that Members must consider when deciding the savings to be consulted upon.

This section provides an update on the outcomes of the equality impact assessment of the MTFP(8) to date, and summarises the potential cumulative impact of the 2018/19 proposals.

- 33 The aim of this equality analysis is to:
- (a) identify any disproportionate impact on service users or staff based on the protected characteristics of age, gender (including pregnancy/maternity and transgender), disability, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation;
 - (b) identify any mitigating actions, which can be taken to reduce negative impact where possible;
 - (c) ensure that we avoid unlawful discrimination as a result of MTFP decisions.
- 34 As in previous years, equality impact assessments are being considered throughout the decision-making process, alongside the development of MTFP(8). This is required to ensure MTFP process decisions are both fair and lawful. The process is in line with the Equality Act 2010 which, amongst other things, makes discrimination unlawful in relation to the protected characteristics listed above and requires reasonable adjustments for disabled people. In addition, the public sector equality duty requires us to pay 'due regard' to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 35 All of the savings options presented at Appendix 2 have been subject to initial equality impact assessments where applicable. Existing assessments from previous years are in place where there is a residual saving or a continuation of a savings proposal. A number of proposals do not require an assessment, for example those involving savings in supplies and services.
- 36 A number of judicial reviews, which have found against other local authorities, reinforces the need for robust consideration of the public sector equality duties and the impact on protected characteristics in the decision-making process. Members must take full account of the duties and accompanying evidence when considering the MTFP proposals.
- 37 Throughout the period of MTFP planning through to setting the MTFP(8) budget in February 2018, the equality impact assessments will be developed alongside emerging savings proposals. Any relevant results of consultation activity will be fed into the assessments, and all assessments will be updated

as further information becomes available. Final assessments will be considered as part the decision-making process for each individual proposal. In terms of the ongoing programme of budget decisions, the Council has taken steps to ensure that impact assessments:

- (a) are built in at the formative stages so that they form an integral part of developing proposals with sufficient time for completion ahead of decision-making;
- (b) are based on relevant evidence, including consultation where appropriate, to provide a robust assessment;
- (c) objectively consider any negative impacts and alternatives or mitigating actions so that they support fair and lawful decision making;
- (d) are closely linked to the wider MTFP decision-making process;
- (e) build on previous assessments to provide an ongoing picture of cumulative impact.

Impact Assessments for 2018/19 Savings Proposals

- 38 A total of 28 initial assessments are available for Members to inform the decision to consult on the savings listed at Appendix 2. The documentation has been made available for Members via the Member Support Team ahead of this Cabinet meeting.
- 39 Proposals include potential service user impacts across all protected characteristics, but, most commonly around age, gender and disability characteristics. Individual equality screenings will continue to be updated to reflect further information as consultation on proposals progress. They will also be updated to include mitigating actions in relation to any potential impacts at the final decision point. In addition, staffing reviews have potential impacts across all protected characteristics. Fair treatment of staff will be ensured through agreed corporate HR procedures contained within the Council's Change Management Toolkit.
- 40 Specific potential impacts of MTFP(8) saving proposals are summarised by Service Grouping below.

Adult and Health Services (AHS)

- 41 Adults and Health Services have a range of proposed savings some of which reflect ongoing savings agreed in previous years. These include the review of direct provision of in-house services, the consistent and effective use of existing criteria and increased charging income in respect of adult care provision.
- 42 New proposals include a mix of changes to service provision as well as staffing reviews. Specifically, changes affecting new service users include

bringing charging policies in line with the latest Department of Health guidelines. A review of community-based services will reduce the use of short term support funding available to supplement Adult Social Care.

- 43 Other changes involve staffing reviews across a range of services. These reviews have potential impacts across all protected characteristics. Fair treatment of staff will be ensured through agreed corporate HR procedures contained within the Change Management Toolkit.

Children and Young People Services (CYPS)

- 44 Savings proposals for Children and Young People's Services largely reflect service and staffing reviews. These include a review of Children's Services which is likely to restructure how children's social care and early help for families are delivered.
- 45 Reviews of Education Services and business support / administration are also included. These reviews have potential impacts across the protected characteristics. Equality impact assessments will be further developed as savings proposals progress to implementation stages.

Regeneration and Local Services (ReaL)

- 46 The proposals in ReaL Services have been developed with the intention of minimising front line impacts in all areas of the service grouping.
- 47 The review in Culture and Sport will involve changes to development services in sport and the arts, with further operational reductions across the service. The nature of service delivery in this area mainly involves targeted interventions. Whilst this saving may result in fewer new programmes being introduced, it is unlikely to affect existing users.
- 48 There is an increase in charging for garden waste with the prospect of a discounted multi-year deal. There is also a small increase in charges for bulky waste collection.
- 49 There are proposed reductions in the safer communities budget which currently provides low level intervention to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- 50 There are some areas relating to staffing savings with no expected service impact. This includes proposed service reviews for planning, economic development and transport. Equality impact assessments will be developed as savings proposals develop to implementation stage.

Resources

- 51 Resources proposals involve staffing reviews the majority of which do not affect the public-facing services. Staffing reviews have potential impacts across all protected characteristics and relevant equality impact assessments will be developed as savings proposals develop to implementation stage.

Transformation and Partnerships (T&P)

- 52 There is a single proposal for the Transformation and Partnerships service grouping to undertake a service and staffing review. Staffing reviews have potential impacts across all protected characteristics. Fair treatment of staff will be ensured through agreed corporate HR procedures contained within the Council's Change Management Toolkit.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 53 Cabinet is recommended to:
- (a) note the £14.8 million of 2018/19 savings identified at this stage for consultation;
 - (b) note that at this stage it is forecast that £0.5 million of the Budget Support Reserve would be required to balance the 2018/19 budget;
 - (c) note the savings recommended in Appendix 2 also realise savings of £2.445 million and £1.383 million in 2019/20 and 2020/21 respectively;
 - (d) note the requirement to identify total savings of £37.4 million for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22;
 - (e) note the forecast MTFP(8) savings shortfall of £18.8 million;
 - (f) agree the approach to preparing the Council Plan and Service Plan;
 - (g) agree the approach outlined for consultation;
 - (h) note the initial equality analysis in this report and in individual equality impact assessments in the Members' Library and also agree the proposals to build equalities considerations into decision-making.

Background Documents

- Medium Term Financial Plan (7), Council Plan, Service Plans 2017/18-2019/20 and Review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18 – report to Council 22 February 2017.
- Medium Term Financial Plan (8), Council Plan, Service Plans 2018/19-2021/22 and Review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018/19 – report to Cabinet 12 July 2017.

**Contact: Jeff Garfoot (03000 261946)
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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The report highlights £14.8 million of savings plans for 2018/19 which also achieve £3.8 million of savings in 2019/20 and 2020/21. In total £37.4 million of savings are required across MTFP(8) leaving a shortfall in savings of £18.8 million.

Staffing – The savings proposals in MTFP(8) will affect employees. HR processes will be followed at all times. It is forecast that the reduction in full time equivalent posts from the 2011/12 to 2017/18 period will be over 2,600 with further reductions expected over the next four years.

Risk – The report details the significant uncertainties in terms of medium term financial planning. The MTFP(8) model will be kept under regular review with reserves being used on a managed basis to enable the Council to plan effectively during this period of uncertainty.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Equality considerations are built into the proposed approach to developing MTFP(8), Council Plan and Services Plans, as a key element of the process. A summary of the implications of the savings proposals is included within the report. Each saving has its own equality impact assessment made available to all Members in the Members' Library.

Accommodation – Accommodation implications will be taken into account as savings proposals are developed.

Crime and Disorder – None specific within this report.

Human Rights – Any human rights issues will be considered for any detailed MTFP(8) and Council Plan proposals as they are developed and decisions made to take these forward.

Consultation – The approach to consultation on MTFP(8) is detailed in the report.

Procurement – None specific within this report.

Disability Issues – All requirements will be considered as part of the equalities considerations outlined in the main body of the report.

Legal Implications – All legal implications will be considered during the development of MTFP(8) especially in relation to the development of savings plans.

Appendix 2: Service Groupings Saving Proposals

MTFP REF	Savings Proposal	Description	2018/19 MTFP Savings	2019/20 MTFP Savings	2020/21 MTFP Savings	Total
AHS 1.1	Review direct provision of remaining in-house services	Relates to phased savings arising from outsourcing of reablement and supported living and restructuring of Extra Care. Clients / service users who are eligible will continue to receive services (previously agreed by Cabinet September 2016).	2,270,548	1,098,810	477,190	3,846,548
AHS 2.1	Continuation of consistent and effective use of existing criteria	Continuation of effective use of eligibility criteria for adults.	400,000	0	0	400,000
AHS 3.1	Review of Adult Social Care Charging	Phased savings arising from changes to ASC charging policy in respect of Disability Related Expenditure disregards in new cases only (previously agreed by Cabinet March 2017)	333,000	167,000	0	500,000
AHS 3.2	Review of Adult Social Care Charging	Phased savings from changes to ASC charging policy in respect of the Minimum Income Guarantee thresholds in new cases only.	266,667	266,667	266,666	800,000
AHS 4.1	Adult Commissioning Efficiencies	A restructure of the support and other services retained within AHS that have not yet been unitised.	318,231	0	0	318,231
AHS 4.4	Review of Adult Social Work Function	Management Review	50,839	103,863	0	154,702

MTFP REF	Savings Proposal	Description	2018/19 MTFP Savings	2019/20 MTFP Savings	2020/21 MTFP Savings	Total
AHS 4.5	Review of non frontline activity in Public Health	Reduction in transport costs.	15,615	0	0	15,615
AHS 4.6	Environment, Health and Consumer Protection – Service Review	Restructure and re-prioritisation of service delivery within Environment, Health and Consumer Protection.	209,000	0	0	209,000
AHS 5.1	Review of community based services	To be achieved through the non-recurrent budget / capacity within the current BCF budget plan.	1,780,119	0	0	1,780,119
Total - Adults & Health Services			5,644,019	1,636,340	743,857	8,024,215
CYPS 1.2	Opening 5th Unit at Aycliffe Secure Services	Expansion of traded service	878,000	0	0	878,000
CYPS 2	Review home to school / college transport policies	This saving is a continuation of savings arising from Policy Changes previously agreed by Cabinet in relation to safe walking routes, Year 10/11 exam movers, post 16 independent / SEN travel arrangements etc.	24,000	0	0	24,000
CYPS 3.1	Children's Services – Service Review	A staffing restructure and the development of a new partnership arrangement for universal and Early Help Service focused on tackling Child Poverty delivered in localities through 0-19 Family Hubs.	1,500,000	0	0	1,500,000

MTFP REF	Savings Proposal	Description	2018/19 MTFP Savings	2019/20 MTFP Savings	2020/21 MTFP Savings	Total
CYPS 3.2	Education - Service Review	Restructure of Education Services across all teams, together with non staffing budget reductions and increased income generation.	891,357	30,000	0	921,357
CYPS 3.2a	Review of Service Delivery Model – Sensory Services	Relates to 'Modifications to the Service Delivery Model of the Sensory Services (Hearing Impaired / Visual Impaired)	112,589	0	0	112,589
CYPS 3.5	CYPS Operational Support – Service Review	Staffing and non-staffing costs e.g. supplies, stationery, training	154,730	154,731	0	309,461
CYPS 11	Repayment of CYPS Cash Limit in 2017/18	Repayment of CYPS Cash Limit in 2017/18 to delay restructuring savings	-819,000	0	0	-819,000
Total - Children & Young People's Services			2,741,676	184,731	0	2,926,407
REAL 01.20	Review of Culture & Sport	This proposal will see a general scaling down and re-structuring of a range of development services in both sport and the arts together with further operational reductions across the service.	275,000	180,000	0	455,000
REAL 3.91	Review of Fleet Service	A more streamlined service allowing workshops to operate extended hours minimising loss of productivity for service users as vehicles can be maintained outside normal operating hours.	360,000	0	0	360,000
REAL 3.92	Review of Building and Facilities Maintenance	Reductions across a range of service areas in Building and Facilities Maintenance, R&M Budgets and in out of hours services.	259,722	185,278	0	445,000

MTFP REF	Savings Proposal	Description	2018/19 MTFP Savings	2019/20 MTFP Savings	2020/21 MTFP Savings	Total
REAL 4.06	Savings in Clean and Green	Low impact savings including a restructure within management, and savings from the in-housing of weed control. Also reductions in general maintenance and weekend working where impact can be minimised.	452,616	0	0	452,616
REAL 5.20	Increased income within Refuse and Recycling	A range of measures to increase income, including increased trade / bulky waste charges and the introduction of charges on developers.	398,000	0	0	398,000
REAL 6.06	Review of garden waste charges	Savings proposal includes a £5 annual increase on garden waste charging each year in 18/19 and 19/20 (to £30 and then £35 - three year discounted offer to be made available)	310,000	259,000	0	569,000
REAL 6.07	Review of Strategic Waste	A restructure within Strategic Waste plus a range of non-staffing efficiencies.	183,444	0	0	183,444
REAL 11.21	Realignment of Winter Maintenance Budget with support from the Winter Maintenance Reserve	Current coverage of the network can be accommodated with any additional costs from a severe winter funded from the Winter Maintenance Reserve.	586,000		0	586,000
REAL 11.23	Capitalisation of Condition Surveys	Alternative funding arrangements are proposed which will enable savings to be made.	486,000	0	0	486,000

MTFP REF	Savings Proposal	Description	2018/19 MTFP Savings	2019/20 MTFP Savings	2020/21 MTFP Savings	Total
REAL 20.1	Overachievement of 17/18 Savings	Over programming of staffing reductions across former RED activities taken in 2017/18 and removed from budget 2018/19	216,804	0	0	216,804
REAL 20.2	Reductions in Supplies & Services	Reductions in Supplies and Services in former RED areas	144,155	0	0	144,155
REAL 20.3	Review of Planning	Restructures within planning teams.	152,615	0	0	152,615
REAL 20.4	Increased Income Generation	Increased income generation within Chapter Homes, Visit County Durham, Business Durham and International Relations	99,000	0	0	99,000
REAL 20.5	Review of Economic Development	Savings from restructuring, and supplies and services savings in Economic Development and Visit County Durham	148,590	0	0	148,590
REAL 20.6	Review of Transport	Restructure of Strategic Traffic & Sustainable Transport	57,983	0	0	57,983
REAL 20.7	Review of Strategy and Programmes	Restructure of Strategy and Programmes	61,000	0	0	61,000
REAL 24.09	Savings due to Capital Investment within Leisure	Savings associated with One Life Contract following capital investment already negotiated for 18/19.	300,000	0	0	300,000
REAL 24.10	Review of Culture Provision	Non staffing savings with regards to library service	50,000	0	0	50,000

MTFP REF	Savings Proposal	Description	2018/19 MTFP Savings	2019/20 MTFP Savings	2020/21 MTFP Savings	Total
REAL 35.02a	Management and Non-Staffing Efficiencies in Neighbourhood Protection	Savings proposals include a restructure of management & support, plus reductions in horse impounding, and safer communities budgets and increased income from burial charges, pest control, fixed penalty notices, and from Durham Crematorium Service	365,000	0	0	365,000
Total - Regeneration & Local Services			4,905,929	624,278	0	5,530,207
RES07	Restructure in HR Health and Safety and Occupational Health	Restructure in Health and Safety and Occupational Health	54,000	0	128,123	182,123
RES13	Restructure of Legal & Democratic Services	A restructure of Legal & Democratic Services	40,000	0	153,469	193,469
RES15	Corporate Finance / Financial Services - Finance and Procurement	A further restructure of accountancy and procurement functions	102,561	0		102,561
RES16	Review of Digital & Customer Services	Review of Digital & Customer Services structures and service delivery arrangements, including a further review of ICT systems / licensing / non-staffing budgets	47,000		357,094	404,094
RES19	Financial Support Service (Assessment & Awards and Payment, Income and Support)	Further restructure and reductions in non-staffing budgets	276,290	0	0	276,290
RES21	Internal Audit and Risk Staffing rationalisation	Restructure of Internal Audit, Corporate Fraud and Risk / Insurance functions	56,889	0	0	56,889
Total - Resources			576,740	0	638,686	1,215,426

MTFP REF	Savings Proposal	Description	2018/19 MTFP Savings	2019/20 MTFP Savings	2020/21 MTFP Savings	Total
TAP 22	Service Review	Service restructure - savings target linked to the former ACE budgets and targets transferred to TAP following the unitisation of Policy, Performance and Communications	484,325	0	0	484,325
Total - Transformation & Partnerships			484,325	0	0	484,325
COR 26	External Audit Fees	Reprocurement of the External Audit contract.	50,000	0	0	50,000
COR 32	Insurance Premiums	A recent procurement exercise has resulted in reduced insurance premium costs	100,000	0	0	100,000
COR 34	Corporate Subscriptions	Saving from the council no longer paying to subscribe to ANEC	100,000	0	0	100,000
COR 35	Commercial Activity	Additional investment income	200,000	0	0	200,000
Total - Corporate Savings			450,000	0	0	450,000
Total Savings - MTFP(8)			14,802,689	2,445,349	1,382,543	18,630,581

Appendix 3: Medium Term Financial Plan - MTFP (8) 2018/19 - 2021/22 Model

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Government Funding				
Government RSG Funding Reduction	14,140	14,240	0	0
Impact of 100% Business Rate Retention	0	0	0	0
Reduction in Public Health Grant	1,363	1,363	0	0
Reduction in Education Services Grant	1,300	0	0	0
Reduction in Benefit Admin Grant	300	300	300	0
Town and Parish Council RSG Adjustment	-29	-103	0	0
Adult Social Care Support Grant (2017/18 One Off)	2,830	0	0	0
Impact of Business Rate Revaluation	-568	0	0	0
Bus. Rates - RPI increase - CPI from 20/21 (3.9%/2.5%/2%/1.5%)	-2,125	-1,250	-1,030	-790
Top Up - RPI increase - CPI from 20/21 (3.9%/2.5%/2%/1.5%)	-2,625	-1,700	-1,410	-1,080
Improved Better Care Fund	-19,000	-5,700	4,000	0
New Homes Bonus	3,300	800	1,000	0
Other Funding Sources				
Council Tax Increase (1.99% per annum)	-3,920	-4,110	-4,300	-4,500
Council Tax Adult Social Care Precept (2% increase)	-3,940	-4,130	0	0
Council Tax - Increase in Collection Rate to 99%	-1,000	0	0	0
Council Tax/Business Rate Tax Base net increase	-3,500	-1,500	-1,500	-1,500
Estimated Variance in Resource Base	-13,474	-1,790	-2,940	-7,870
Pay inflation (1.5% - 1.5% - 1.5% - 1.5%)	3,100	3,100	3,200	3,300
Price Inflation (1.5% - 1.5% - 1.5% - 1.5%)	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,800
Reduction of Corporate Risk Contingency Budget	-250	0	0	0
Base Budget Pressures				
Costs Associated with National Living Wage	4,000	4,250	2,500	1,000
Additional Employer Pension Contributions	0	0	1,000	0
Energy Price Increases	500	250	250	250
Pension Fund Auto Enrolment - Employer Contributions	600	0	0	0
Microsoft Licencing / O365	1,200	0	0	0
SSID Replacement Licences	0	0	300	0
Adults Demographic Pressures	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Adults - Winterbourne	142	535	372	0
Childrens - Demographics	500	500	500	500
Childrens - LAC Pressures	2,900	-300	-1,200	-1,400
Unfunded Superannuation	-100	-100	-100	-100
Prudential Borrowing to fund new Capital Projects	0	1,000	2,000	2,000
TOTAL PRESSURES	16,192	12,835	12,522	9,350
Use of One Off funds				
Adjustment for use of BSR in previous year	12,622	537	0	0
Savings				
Savings Assured	14,803	2,445	1,383	0
Utilisation of Budget Support Reserve (BSR)	537			
Savings Surplus (-) / Shortfall	0	9,137	8,199	1,480

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**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

27 October 2017

Cabinet

18 October 2017

County Durham Partnership Update



Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

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 The County Durham Partnership continues to address a number of key issues with the subject of June's Cabinet report of Prioritising Prevention still high on all partners' agendas. This was the focus of the June Forum meeting with workshops looking to identify key strands of work to focus on over the next year.
- 3 The thematic partnerships have all held significant meetings in recent months with the Children and Families Partnership welcoming the Children's Commissioner for England to its September meeting. This follows the successful Takeover Challenge last year where Durham received a Gold Commendation for its work. The Economic Partnership also invited Durham University's Vice Chancellor to its July meeting to outline the University's ambitious plans.
- 4 Work continues across the CDP, particularly focused on AAPs, to support the element of the Transformation Programme focused on supporting communities to become resilient. This features regularly in these Update Reports and is the main focus of this report.
- 5 A significant partnership success highlighted in the report was the official opening of a new leisure facility in Crook. In 2013, the county's largest participatory budget event, attracting over 1,300 participants, selected a proposal to create a new leisure by investing £500,000 of council funding. The community-led project has also attracted external funding from Sport England and the Social Investment Bureau. Membership numbers for the centre are already positive and a number of jobs will also be created.

Key Partnership Activity and Developments

- 6 The **County Durham Partnership Board** meeting in June focused on performance, with a presentation on the overall performance for the Partnership and Council for 2016/17. This showed that whilst there are positives such as employment and education rates increasing and lower than national crime figures per 1,000 population, there are still significant demand pressures. These include the poverty and deprivation gap, a significant increase in numbers of Looked After Children and an aging population. Work is ongoing across the thematic partnerships to address the issues raised and new ways of managing performance are also being looked at as part of the transformation programme.
- 7 The Chief Constable, Mike Barton, also gave a presentation to the Board in June on why Durham is the top performing force in the country, this is based on a number of different inspections looking at a range of issues including performance and financial management. The Chief Constable said that the Force had looked at professional realignment focussing on problem orientation, restorative justice and a victim/offender focus as well as eliminating bureaucracy. Their approach has brought about positive changes and had been supported by the Office of the Police Crime and Victim's Commissioner.
- 8 The **CDP Forum** meeting in June had two main agenda items: the AAP Priority Survey and Prioritising Prevention, the latter being the focus of the last Update Report. The AAP survey was countywide and included all schools as well as a general survey and in total almost 8,000 people responded, the most a Council survey of this type has received to date. It is also the first time all schools have participated. The survey highlighted which of the ten chosen priorities people prioritised and the differences between those by age and respondent groups. The information will be broken down to AAP level and shared across all of the partnerships in order to inform their work going forward.
- 9 The Prioritising Prevention item followed on from the Partnership – Good to Great focus at the Forum meeting held in February. Prevention was highlighted as a common theme in a number of workshops as it is a cross partnership issue. The presentation and subsequent workshop focused on the five priority themes and asked attendees to choose one area from a long list of issues gathered from a range of sources. This information will be utilised by the Partnership Prevention Steering Group to shape the work over the next year.
- 10 The **Local Councils Working Group (LCWG)** met recently to discuss a review of the Local Councils Charter. The Charter was developed in 2009 following Local Government Reorganisation and set out some key agreements between the two tiers of authorities. It is timely to review and redraft this agreement in light of continuing austerity and changing priorities for all partners. The revised Charter was discussed at the LCWG in June and will be considered at the next meeting in November.
- 11 The **Voluntary and Community Sector** are key partners in supporting and contributing to resilient communities. One of the objectives of the VCS Strategy is to develop the capacity and resilience of individuals to manage and shape change in their lives and their communities. One example of how the sector is seeking to address this is through the fully subscribed bi-monthly training events for practitioners and volunteers being co-ordinated through the Advice Partnership, plus a regular programme of themed networking events with average participating delegate rate of 50-80. Similarly the peer to peer networks set up by Durham Community Action for Community Building Management groups and Trustee peer

support groups all help towards creating and sustaining greater resilience within communities.

- 12 The East Durham Solutions project developed and funded **East Durham AAP** Area Budget, is a partnership between East Durham Trust and the council's Housing Solutions Team and has already recruited ten local volunteers. They are 'Community Coaches' who will be responsible for hand holding / befriending local people living in private rental properties who are in crisis situations. They will support residents in to identified services as well as receiving and signposting residents into the Housing Solutions Triage System.
- 13 The project will develop a model that has the potential to shape future countywide working practices, linking the preventative support from volunteers with statutory provision. It is anticipated that the project will provide the link between volunteer led projects and more intensive specialist support, but with a welfare volunteer providing a hand holding role throughout. Specialist advisory and support services are excellent in their delivery, however due to the increase in demand and the reduction in resources, they are finding it difficult to offer longer term support to individuals and families. The aims to improve the mental wellbeing of individuals and support them to access current services including community job clubs, debt support, housing solutions, community drop in's, gardening, arts and crafts, health activities etc.
- 14 **Durham AAP** continues to encourage working with the third sector via its most recent 'It's up 2 You event' which offers an opportunity to network with other groups, raise awareness and to recruit other potential volunteers. Last year saw a 90% increase in attendance but other aims for VCS groups include raising their awareness, networking and ability to recruit volunteers.
- 15 **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** has continued to facilitate visits from the F and P Scotto Charitable Trust and has introduced the trust to a number of worthy causes not only in the BASH AAP area but also across the county. This is an excellent and unique opportunity for the AAP to provide additional support and funding to groups in the area. Because of this relationship and the support of the BASH AAP the F and P Scotto Charitable Trust has invested an additional £550,000 into the area. With further visits planned and decisions outstanding, it is anticipated that this figure will surpass £600,000 by the end of the year. Primarily the funding has gone to groups in the BASH AAP area however; support has also gone into another eight AAP areas.
- 16 **Faith Communities** also contribute to building community resilience through their long established presence in every community. An event is planned to take place in East Durham in late October to consider and affirm how churches and faith groups already contribute to the building of flourishing and resilient communities and how they might develop better partnership working with the AAP and potentially each other.
- 17 At a recent breakfast seminar bringing together elected Members, officers, partners and faith communities in a roundtable conversation, the Bishop of Durham offered some reflections on 'The Challenges ahead: What routes to transform communities, people and places?' Recognising that transformation is about change and renewal for all (individuals, organisations and structures) he emphasised the importance of having a clear shared vision; listening carefully to individuals and communities to really hear what they are saying; and focussing on developing and nurturing the gifts and skills of individuals which are our greatest resource. By paying attention to these things we help build more resilient individuals and communities.

- 18 Helping the more vulnerable members of the **Armed Forces Community** who may have had difficulty in transitioning to civilian life to be more resilient will be a focus of the new Armed Forces Outreach Service which is being extended into County Durham. Two ex-forces personnel have been employed to provide advice and guidance to members of the armed forces community who are in particular need. They will be embedded within the Housing Solutions Team and have been funded for two years by the MOD Covenant Fund. This initiative is being supported by the County Durham Armed Forces Forum which meets twice a year to encourage all partners within County Durham to work together to take positive measures to prevent any disadvantage to individuals as a result of military service, or their return from it. The most recent Forum heard presentations from the Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company about their aspirations of working with veterans; County Durham's Royal Naval Reservists; a project of the charity 'Forward Assist to set up support groups for female veterans; and an update on the Armed Forces Outreach Service.

Building Resilient Communities

- 19 As highlighted regularly in these County Durham Partnership Update Reports, the focus on partners' work with communities is to support them to become resilient and sustainable and forms a key part of the council's Transformation Programme. This is important both for the communities and local people to be able to shape their own areas and decide on their own priorities and also, it helps the Public Sector meet growing demands with reduced resources by allowing resources to be directed at those areas and people with the most need.
- 20 Area Action Partnerships are closest to communities in many areas and work closely with local people in order to target their work and funding where it is most needed. Through the priority setting work mentioned earlier in this report, they can identify which issues people want to address and help them to do so.
- 21 Over the summer months many AAPs support holiday programmes including Summer Activities with Food (**East Durham, 3Towns and Spennymoor**). These clubs are built around school holiday activities and give young people a place to go as well as receive a meal. This is particularly important for those families in financial difficulty as school holidays can add to this burden. The clubs also enable people who may not otherwise mix with people an opportunity to meet people, both the young people and their parents. Some clubs can focus on cooking tips as well.
- 22 **3Towns AAP** rolled out a full targeted holiday programme which included a summer play scheme, opportunities to take part in creative activities and are already planning for October half term cinema trips and day trips. They also provide a holiday activity fund which complements the programme and has funded seven organisations to date.
- 23 **Spennymoor AAP** has introduced Men's Breakfast Clubs and a Ladies' Club aimed specifically at socially isolated individuals. The project will use a range of methods to identify these individuals and would be looking to start the group with a minimum of ten participants. Identification of clients will come via personal recommendation, foodbanks and community workers, general advertising on social media/Spennynews and by working with agencies such as the Hospital of God, Cornforth Partnership, other community centres etc. By delivering this project it is envisaged that new members of the community will become involved in these activities/clubs with the obvious positive impacts emanating from this.
- 24 **4Together AAP** is also supporting men to maintain social networks and not to become isolated. Their Creative Woodworking for Men project hosts 12 wood-

crafting workshops for older males in the local area and to date Endeavour Woodcrafts CIC has delivered six of these, providing an accessible space where older people of all abilities can come together socially to access a fully equipped workshop to work on practical projects including: DIY training, woodwork, repairs and restoration.

- 25 The project provides opportunities for older people who are at risk of loneliness and social isolation, aiming to help them to remain active, independent and positively engaged within their community. Over the duration of the workshops, participants will also work together on a “group build” producing 2-3 larger outdoor items such as benches or planters for use in the local community. Transport is provided to and from the premises for all participants. The workshops have proven to be very popular and well attended throughout. Those attending have gained skills in woodworking and also in team building, and have formed a friendship through their work together on community projects such as the benches designed, made and presented to two local councils.
- 26 The group has benefited in gaining a support network to combat social isolation and loneliness as well as increasing physical activity and building self-confidence. The project has already achieved its outputs which include; safeguarding four jobs, involving 18 people in initiatives aimed at improving mental health/wellbeing, and delivering a scheme aimed at improving the quality of life, independence and support for people.
- 27 **Durham AAP** supported its local Foodbank to run a pilot project to work with other organisations to deliver a comprehensive available service to individuals at first contact with the aim of preventing further contact. This is a partnership between MIND, Citizen’s Advice and the Foodbank to ensure they tackle the reason for a visit to a foodbank be it financial, legal or mental health issues at the outset rather than awaiting repeat visits before solving the problem.
- 28 Building on the ongoing support **Mid Durham AAP** gives to local communities, during June and July they delivered 16 village drop in sessions across the area following on from work started with local parish councils in 2013 whereby 16 Village Action Plans were created which covered the period 2013 to 2016. These plans were created by working closely with residents and community groups to look at how everyone can improve their villages and in turn develop their resilience. The plans drawn up for 2017 to 2020 have involved 600 residents who have identified their concerns and ideas for their villages alongside their views on possible solutions. The plans involve the AAP, Parish and County Councillors and relevant partners working alongside local residents to address these concerns over the next three years.
- 29 Examples from previous plans have included residents carrying out litter picks, grass cutting and working together to build new community facilities and sustain existing ones. The work has involved a large number of volunteers and has brought in £2.6m of additional funding to the area. Recent discussions with residents have shown that many people are now more aware of the impacts of austerity on public sector funding and are more open to working with partners to address local issues collectively.

Altogether wealthier

- 30 The **County Durham Economic Partnership** met in July and focused on the role of Durham University, the potential opportunity for businesses through the NE Access to Finance programme and the importance of linking in existing opportunities with the wider County Durham Partnership Prevention agenda. Durham University is consistently ranked as one of the world's leading universities as shown by its World Top 100 position in two influential global league tables. Partners were very keen to understand opportunities for working together, not only to support local businesses but to bring the university's knowledge and experience to our communities. Partners are looking at better working with schools to accessing knowledge on tackling the challenges on deprivation and job creation in County Durham. The board further welcomed the new approach from the Vice Chancellor, Stuart Corbridge and looked forward to a new and productive relationship.
- 31 The Economic Partnership recognises the importance of community resilience in not only keeping our communities vibrant but also in supporting people to gain and maintain employment while improving skills opportunities for all. Some recent projects and programmes that support this resilience agenda are highlighted below.
- 32 In East Durham, the Council is developing Horden Railway Station to improve local travel links, job and economic prospects in the area. The Department of Transport has awarded the scheme £4.4million from its new station fund to help pay for the station. The total funding for the scheme will be £10.55 million and work continues with Network Rail and other partners to develop the chosen option.
- 33 In other areas communities are being invited to help shape the future of Bishop Auckland town centre. The new Brighter Bishop Auckland Partnership has organised a public consultation at which people will have the chance to contribute to the production of a masterplan for the heart of the town.
- 34 Supporting young people into employment has a proven effect on improving local communities and offering improved life chances to the next generation. DurhamWorks is an exciting, innovative, £17m programme led by the council in partnership with 16 external delivery partners. By the end of the programme, 5,830 unemployed 16 to 24 year old County Durham residents into employment, education or training through intensive and long-term support. The support comprises innovative and engaging activities to develop motivation, work-related skills and work experience and increased employment opportunities. The programme was introduced in April 2016 and the offer of support from the council's employability team is that of a wrap-around employability support and placement service which replicates and significantly enhances the provision offered to 18 to 24 year olds across the county under the Generation North East (GNE) Programme.
- 35 The partnership is aware of the possible impact of welfare reform across all communities. The Welfare Reform Employability Initiative project is designed to support individuals affected by welfare reform and either support them in becoming closer to the employment market or to assist those who would like to explore self-employment as a route to improving their life chances and achieving a positive outcome.
- 36 The priority beneficiaries are:
- (a) Residents living in the county's most deprived settlements
 - (b) Unemployed residents in receipt of job seeker's allowance (JSA) who would like to become self-employed, but unable to meet the criteria or timescales of New Enterprise Allowance

- (c) Under-occupancy – those liable to pay the spare room subsidy or ‘Bedroom Tax’
 - (d) Benefit cap – those families whose benefit entitlement has been reduced to the maximum level
 - (e) Employment and support allowance (ESA) – those in the Work Related Activity Group (although those in the support group willing to progress towards the labour market will be supported)
 - (f) Private rented sector – those who have to contribute to their rent from out of work benefits should their local housing allowance not cover the whole rent of the property
 - (g) Ex-forces – those discharged from the regular forces
- 37 To date, the programme has ensured over 2000 people have been referred for support including, training, wage subsidies, skills development and employment opportunities through a host of partners; JobCentrePlus, CfBT Education Services, Housing Solutions and Northern Rights.
- 38 **Teesdale AAP’s** Employment, Enterprise and Training group has highlighted key economic areas around supporting individuals into work through the development of skills, qualifications, careers advice and work experience. The group will also push for increased support to be available for small businesses looking to take on more staff as this is a specific issue in the Teesdale area. Many businesses are sole traders and therefore they need help and support to be able to employ staff.
- 39 The **Derwent Valley AAP** will be working with Consett Academy and RTC North (Regional Technology Centre) Ltd to increase the take-up of science by girls at Consett Academy by means of a mentoring programme designed to ensure students are given the best possible chance of securing future success.
- 40 Research undertaken by the AAP shows that many students benefit enormously from the individual support of a mentor, and specifically regional employers, who can inspire and help young people consider further study. Mentors can support students to make more informed decisions about career choices as well as highlighting the essential skills needed in the workplace and young students with mentors have more positive visions of themselves and their futures, and achieve more positive outcomes in school, work and life generally.
- 41 It is anticipated that 15 female students in Consett Academy from Year 8, 9 or 10 would be selected to be part of the programme (ideally Year 8 or 9) and participating students will undertake a 30 week programme (term time only) and be matched with an adult female volunteer mentor from a science industry or higher education who will offer one to one mentoring sessions delivered on site at the school, mentors for the project will be drawn from RTC’s STEM Ambassador Hub’s community. If a student is interested in a specific sector or career, the programme will match her with a mentor with similar interests and experience of that industry. Mentors will meet with students regularly (every two weeks) and challenge them to make full use of the support available in school and in industry to fulfil their potential.
- 42 The AAP will also be working with the CDC Enterprise Agency to deliver a Start, Sustain and Grow project, offering support to individuals with one-to-one coaching, training, advice and guidance to assist them to overcome barriers to self-employment, business sustainability and growth. Research undertaken by the AAP suggests that whilst conditions remain favourable for people to move into self-

employment in the local area, there is still more work to be done to bring our employment rates up. Self-employment is an effective way to drive this growth and we need to continue to provide support to those looking to create their own jobs by starting up in business.

- 43 The intended aim of the project is to create new jobs and safeguard existing jobs in the local area. Through the project, support will be delivered to individuals at various stages including:
- (a) Pre-start stage: the project will support those looking to start-up in business. These individuals may be unemployed, underemployed or looking for a change in career. They will receive help to develop their ideas and make necessary preparations to give themselves the best chance possible of achieving success.
 - (b) Early Stage Trading: the project will support those individuals who have recently started up in business but require support to establish them in the market or overcome barriers.
 - (c) Established businesses: the project will support businesses that have been trading for over 2 years but seek assistance to help safeguard jobs or achieve their growth ambitions.
- 44 The support provided will be bespoke, tailored to the needs of the individual or business. It will be delivered by qualified and experienced business advisers with proven track record of achieving results.

Altogether better for children and young people

- 45 The **Children and Families Partnership** has recently reviewed its objectives around a smaller set of priorities where it can have the most impact, and moving forward will focus on the following:
- (a) Reducing Child Poverty
 - (b) Building Resilience
 - (c) Best Start in Life
- 46 A range of initiatives are already underway to support the new objectives. Work is taking place with health professionals, peer supporters and children's centre workers to promote the Baby Buddy app within the county. National charity, Best Beginnings were commissioned to develop the free app, which offers new parents in County Durham tips and advice from professionals on bringing up their baby, via their mobile phone any time of the day or night.
- 47 The app features daily facts, videos and useful information aimed specifically at the individual users. Parents and parents-to-be can use the app to keep track of medical appointments, locate nearby services and even create a time lapse video of their growing bump and baby. It is hoped that Baby Buddy will help to develop better informed and more confident parents, which should, in turn, improve breastfeeding rates and increase the number of parents who attend ante and postnatal medical appointments and will be beneficial in reaching parents who may not otherwise ask for help.
- 48 An online portal is being developed to offer a single online landing space for children and young people across the county. The mission statement of the portal is: 'To be the preferred digital reference point for children and young people in County Durham meeting their advice and information needs across a range of subject matters'

- 49 It will provide young people with advice and information across a range of topics including health, safety, education and employment, enabling them to find things out for themselves in a timely way. The site will include links to a Directory of Services and signposting to relevant organisations and opportunities which are available to the young people.
- 50 To ensure the portal appealed to young people, it has been developed with their involvement and provides opportunities for them to become actively involved in the development and content of the site. Two apprentices are working to populate the site and will visit groups of young people to create and publish stories with them. The Cornforth Partnership are leading on development of the portal.
- 51 The Takeover Challenge is an England-wide event where organisations open their doors to children and young people to listen to their views and get them involved in decision making. The Children and Families Partnership was awarded a Gold Commendation, the highest level of recognition by the Children's Commissioner for England, for the events which took place in 2016.
- 52 As a result of this Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner for England, visited Durham on 8 September 2017 when she had a tour of Aycliffe Secure Centre, talked to an extended membership of the Children and Families Partnership about her role, and shared best practice around engagement. The Children and Families Partnership shared some of the work that is taking place across County Durham, and invited young people to attend the meeting to showcase projects they are involved in.
- 53 Following the 2016 Takeover Challenge, partners were asked to consider ways in which children and young people could be involved in decision making throughout the year and a programme of work has been implemented to make the Takeover Challenge more than one day. Progress has been made in a number of areas including engagement platforms, food banks, intergenerational projects and links with local businesses and the voluntary and community sector.
- 54 In order to build on this success the 2017 Takeover Challenge will be launched on 24 November and a number of activities have already been confirmed. All partners are encouraged to take part in the Takeover Challenge.
- 55 The Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan has initiated a number of developments focused on promoting resilience and emotional wellbeing in schools. The Youth Aware Mental Health (YAM) programme promotes increased knowledge and understanding about mental health through dialogue, role-play and reflection. YAM helps young people to explore how they can help peers in need and provides a guide that helps them to connect with local mental and general health resources as well as organisations who work with youth rights and empowerment in their communities.
- 56 The YAM programme is being implemented in County Durham following trials elsewhere which demonstrated a clear link to reduced levels of suicide attempts and severe suicidal ideation among young people.
- 57 To complement this work, **Stanley AAP** has supported Stars Youth & Community CIC with Area Budget funding to provide weekly drop-in sessions for young people of Stanley to access, provide support, reduce potential suicide and social isolation. This service will be able to provide the extra support required to young people in an increasingly challenging times for the Local Authority, NHS and charitable organisations.

- 58 The drop-in sessions will be moulded around the five steps to Well-Being: Connect, Be active, Take notice, Keep learning and Give. Young people will be able to access support at these sessions alongside activities such as: Art and Crafts, Sports, Cooking, Issue based work, Self-esteem and confidence building, Community engagement and Information, advice and guidance. A residential for the young people who have engaged, improved their confidence and self-esteem, and reduced their social isolation and risk to suicide will also be organised.
- 59 The term goals of the project is for young people who access this support will be given the opportunity to help create a group resource pack which can be used by other Youth provision organisations. Young people who are involved in the project to gain the confidence to volunteer by supporting other young people who are access the project and finally provide a sustained project for long term support in the Stanley area.
- 60 **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP's** is supporting young people through its Mentor and Campaign project which will be delivered in two ways as follows:
- (a) A Children's Campaigning Group will be established for children aged 5- 10 years, and will meet fortnightly, focusing on two areas of work. Firstly, the Children will identify issues around safety, which will include; bullying, feeling safe where they live, reducing barriers between older young people and children, and identifying what might make them feel safer. Secondly they will focus on litter and dog fouling in their local community, and look at ways that this might be tackled. Children will be supported to develop a local campaign that could include posters, awareness raising sessions, community cohesion events and meetings with key stakeholders.
 - (b) A Peer Mentoring Programme will be designed to create opportunities for young people aged 11-18, to talk openly about issues they say affect them, and gain the correct advice and information they need to develop and reach their full potential. The programme will deliver a series of sessions to the young people, on specific issues such as life skills, internet safety and risk taking behaviours (drugs, alcohol, smoking, sexual exploitation), and 4 – 6 young people will be supported to deliver sessions as Peer Trainers.

Altogether healthier

- 61 The County Durham vision for Integrated Health and Social Care, led by the **Health and Wellbeing Board**, is to bring together health, social care and voluntary organisations to achieve improved health and wellbeing for the people of County Durham. This includes:
- (a) Delivering the right care to patients by teams working together
 - (b) Helping individuals and others in the community lead a healthy life
 - (c) Building on existing teams already working together to help people stay well and remain independent
 - (d) Providing improved services closer to people's home
 - (e) Offering a range of services working alongside GP practices which meet individual's needs
 - (f) Improving access to information and advice to help people make better choices
- 62 To support integrated care in County Durham 'Teams Around Patients' (TAPs) are being established, which will offer a range of coordinated services centred around

groupings of GP practices and there will be 13 across the county. Development work is progressing with 'early adopter' TAPs in the Dales and Sedgefield areas and engagement with key stakeholders has begun in Derwentside and Chester-le-Street.

- 63 Demographic pressures place emphasis on the need to manage demand for social care more effectively, therefore the services provided in the TAPs will vary according to the needs of the local population. Some examples of services which may be included are: Community Nursing, Continence Services, Falls Prevention, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Voluntary and Community Services, Vulnerable Adult Services and Wellbeing for Life.
- 64 NHS and local authority colleagues are working with partners and the voluntary and community sector to look at how we can make the best use of partnerships and networks and simplify referral routes for patients and front line practitioners. This will help enable patients to access the right care, in the right place at the right time.
- 65 The Wellbeing for Life Service (WfL) is operating within the 30% most deprived areas, and is also providing outreach support to individuals and communities with specific needs outside of these boundaries. The service provides 'one to one' support, group activities, volunteering opportunities and community development approaches. Wellbeing for Life is connected to community activities that are already being delivered through the voluntary and community sector and Area Action Partnerships.
- 66 The last CDP update to Cabinet provided examples of the work that the WfL Service is doing within communities. These included individuals engaging in friendship, walking and seated exercise groups, receiving help with confidence, self-esteem and weight loss/maintenance and using volunteering opportunities as a route into employment.
- 67 The WfL Service has undertaken a specific drive to promote LOCATE, the council's online information service, ensuring that organisations are including their range of available services on the website so that individuals can easily find and access this information themselves. In most cases key performance indicators for the WfL Service have been exceeded with those engaged with the service reporting improvements in their sense of wellbeing and being more engaged in their local community.
- 68 Making healthy options available in the public sector is a key strategy by HM Government Childhood Obesity plan and sugar reduction is seen by Public Health England as an integral way to improve population health. Currently sugar intake of all population groups is above the recommended rates and can lead to tooth decay and obesity and its related health consequences.
- 69 Sugar Smart UK is a campaign to help local areas use various measures to tackle excessive sugar consumption. The campaign aims to encourage local organisations to consider sugar reduction and the health of their communities as part of their daily business. The campaign recommends specific action plans, which offer a broad range of approaches individuals can take to reduce their sugar intake, such as:
- (a) Promoting free drinking water
 - (b) Reducing high sugar options in vending machines
 - (c) Promoting healthy meal deals
 - (d) Reducing advertising of high sugar products

- (e) Stocking healthier food and drink
 - (f) Providing clearer information about the sugar content of food and drink
 - (g) Many local organisations have already made pledges linked to the Sugar Smart initiative, including all member organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Taylor Shaw - the school meals provider, Durham University and the Claypath Deli.
- 70 The Sugar Smart campaign has also launched a community survey to gather views on the impacts of sugar on the county's residents, and the changes people want to see to make County Durham healthier.
- 71 Work is taking place across the County to establish and promote Dementia Friendly Communities, which involves all sectors of the community. The aim is to support people with dementia to retain their independence by feeling understood and included in their community so that they can confidently contribute to society. This can be easily achieved by using appropriate signage or displaying coin recognition charts to assist customers who may struggle to understand the money they have with them. Dementia Friendly Communities have been established at Spennymoor, Bishop Auckland and Stanley, and progress in establishing these at Barnard Castle, Chester-le-Street, Trimdon and Evenwood is being made.
- 72 A number of AAPs are focusing their work with older people in this way. A further Community is being developed in the **Derwent Valley AAP** area with the main aims of the dementia friendly projects in the Derwent Valley area being to:
- (a) Create a dementia friendly café; the café will be a hub of activities offering a set time for sufferers and their carers to visit for refreshments and wider social interaction with others suffering from the same condition.
 - (b) Train staff from local businesses and representatives from community groups as dementia friendly volunteers/champions so they can welcome people with dementia and their carers to their businesses and premises.
 - (c) Supply appropriate signage, welcome maps and other adjustments to local premises to make them dementia friendly.
 - (d) Raise awareness and the profile of dementia within the locality.
 - (e) Support the purchase of home protective equipment to assist dementia sufferers in their own homes.
 - (f) Support the Alzheimer's Society to employ a Dementia Friendly Coordinator to work across the collective Northern AAP area with partners and residents to make all villages/towns accessible for dementia sufferers.
 - (g) Support the creation of dementia friendly cinema screenings/productions at the Empire Theatre in Consett.
- 73 A range of partners will be involved in the development and implementation of the above work which is in its early stages and will include BBBSB Community Partnership, Alzheimer's Society, Age UK, County Durham Dementia Action Alliance, Durham Constabulary, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue and local businesses.
- 74 **Teesdale AAP's** priority group for older people would like to see ideas that support individuals and families living with Dementia, projects that improve older people's physical and mental health or application that address the issue of social isolation.

- 75 In February 2013 a participatory budget event was held by the **3Towns AAP** in Crook to allow the community to decide where they would like to see a resource of £500,000 allocated. 1353 people turned out to vote at the event, this was one of the highest turn outs and participation by local people in the Country and the highest in the County where people were eligible to vote from the age of 11. The proposal to create a new leisure facility for Crook received overwhelming public support receiving almost double the voting score compared to the second most popular proposal. Along with the £500,000 awarded from Durham County Council Crook Community Leisure received £74,000 from Sports England and £68,000 from Social Investment Business.
- 76 Crook Community Leisure opened the doors to the public this summer at its new £650,000 leisure facility at Peases West in Crook. The new centre features a gym, café bar, and function room, multi-use rooms for fitness classes, showers and changing facilities and brings together outdoor and indoor sport and fitness opportunities. Membership take up has been excellent with many joining the facility in the first six weeks of opening, and up to eight jobs will be created, the Centre was officially opened on the 8 September by Baroness Hillary Armstrong.
- 77 Community Wellness Co-ordinators are operating in both the **Weardale and Teesdale AAP** areas and aim to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities therefore reducing the need for people to visit their GP surgeries. The co-ordinators also help to combat social isolation which is a particular issue in the rural areas of the county. They are linked to GP surgeries and supported by the Durham Dales Health Federation.

Altogether safer

- 78 The **Safe Durham Partnership** and 'Durham Agency Against Crime' have used £30,000 of Home Office Innovation funding for a creative arts project which aims to raise young people's awareness of, and build their resilience to, radicalisation. College students delivered a performance at the Majestic Theatre in Darlington, in front of over 100 guests.
- 79 Video interviews with the young people involved in the project highlight how young people were unaware of radicalisation prior to being involved in the project. Following their involvement, young people understood the importance of having their own beliefs and sticking to them and felt empowered to challenge behaviours of others. A Home Office Evaluator has given the project positive feedback and the education resource developed alongside the project has generated interest from the Department for Education and the national Educate Against Hate website.
- 80 A multi-agency calendar of cybercrime events demonstrate the level of community engagement and awareness raising. These events included:
- (a) A cybercrime stall ran by police colleagues at a recent Bikewise community event which gave out cyber security advice with the help of Get Safe Online.
 - (b) A community event delivered to over 500 members of the public with the help of Get Safe Online delivering cyber hygiene awareness. Community resilience themes as part of this work included helping people to develop secure passwords, highlighting the awareness of scams and avoiding them and awareness of security when buying products online.
 - (c) Awareness and how to deal with cyber-bullying within schools.
 - (d) Fulfilling Lives event for people with learning disabilities enjoyed a talk about how to stay safe online with the audience undergoing a cyber-safety quiz.

(e) Publicising events with local communities through existing channels such as the organisation's Facebook page.

- 81 Various activities are planned in October as part of Get Safe Online week which commences on 23 October 2017. These include free awareness raising exploitation, grooming and radicalisation seminars aimed at team managers, frontline staff and practitioners who work with parents, carers, children and young people to gain improved understanding of the issues. County Durham and Darlington Children's Safety Carousels will also take place from the 31 October to 1 December 2017.
- 82 A working group has been established to add value to current work coordinating activity relating to businesses with a focus on preventing them from becoming victims of cybercrime. A survey of businesses is being undertaken that will provide a clear focus on the key issues concerning business regarding cybercrime.
- 83 E-Cadets is a preventative solution that empowers school students to become knowledgeable about how to keep safe online and teach their peers to do the same, building resilience across the whole school. It provides a safe web based platform through which children can share ideas with each other, ask questions of the E-Cadets team and communicate, share and collaborate about online safety and learning with other children who they can be sure are the same age as they are.
- 84 The SDP's Dying to be Cool campaign won a national Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement Award 2017 for Excellence in Community Engagement, and has now prompted the LGA to call on the Government to make teaching children about cold water shock compulsory. The campaign seeks to educate 10 – 16 year olds on the potentially fatal risks of jumping into rivers, lakes and streams without acclimatising. Awareness raising sessions have been delivered to over 10,000 school children through assemblies and water safety sessions for pupils. The work has contributed to a reduction in deaths, injuries and near misses in the county's rivers and other open water sites.
- 85 **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** is the latest AAP to invest in the Mini Police initiative. As featured in previous update reports, this is an innovative, school based programme, designed to increase engagement between Durham Constabulary, and children and their families within the community. The project is designed to be used for a variety of activities; for example Community Speed Watch, Meets and Greets, crime reduction and crime prevention. It involves years 5 and 6 at primary school which is primarily 9 to 11 year olds; this allows early engagement, intervention, and builds on the children's confidence and self-esteem. It also allows the children to take responsibility for local problems, giving them a voice. Four schools to date are involved in the project and they have been part of a royal visit as well as visiting a mosque in Newcastle and Spennymoor Police Station.

Altogether greener

- 86 The **Environment Partnership Board** met in June with Oliver Sherratt as interim Chair. Recognising the continued challenges and opportunities across the environment for County Durham, the board as a main part of its agenda considered its own strengths and forward opportunities and how as a partnership it can continue to better shape and align delivery. Maintaining an influencing voice for the environment, continued need for partnership working across communities and maximising resources came through as very important to the partnerships forward thinking.

- 87 Environment led community initiatives can start to make a real difference in building local community capacity and motivating a transition towards a more resilient and environmentally sustainable community. These initiatives have seen delivery to support community infrastructure, open spaces, quality of place, community housing and amongst others energy efficiency and carbon reduction. Many of these initiatives are submitted into one of the 12 categories of the annual Environment Awards. These awards highlight the fantastic effort that organisations, communities and individuals go to in ensuring County Durham remains a great place to live, work and visit.
- 88 The Environment Partnership also recognises activity throughout the year through 'Caring for your Environment' awards. One example of positive partnership activity is 'The Elms' group, a supported living development by Cestria Community Housing. The residents all contributed towards transforming their environment which has made a big difference to their immediate local surroundings. Named 'The Paradise Garden', it was designed into the development and is composed of two large raised beds, two polytunnels and some fruit trees. One of the beds is planted with flowers and the second with vegetables. Once grown, most of these were sold to other residents with the proceeds going toward buying seeds and other garden materials.
- 89 The Climate Change Group has worked with students from across County Durham to use art to raise awareness of climate change and the impact it has on communities, such as the potential for an increase in localised flooding. Six secondary schools have worked with artists from Bearpark Artists Co-operative to produce innovative designs that are only visible when it rains.
- 90 St John's Church in Shildon has won a £10,000 national award for their community garden work as part of the 'Shildon Alive' project. The project brings together people of all ages for a range of activities including learning, growing, cooking and eating, with a view to strengthening community spirit and inspiring a sense of pride in the area. The award means the project can continue and build on the 1,000 people they had through the garden in 2016.
- 91 The council's 'Operation Spruce Up' programme continues to receive positive feedback from communities since its launch last November. Seven areas across the county have now benefited from a 'spruce up' involving jet washing; painting; gully cleaning; shrub planting; highways re-marking and much more. Children at Evenwood Primary School, received an education assembly and took part in a poster competition to encourage people to keep the village clean and tidy and support a sense of community pride.
- 92 **3Towns AAP's** 'It's Your Town' project focuses on educating primary school pupils on the impact of litter, how it can be reduced and how they can influence others not to drop it. This project involves the civic pride team visiting all 12 primary schools with the council's litter mascot Tidy Ted and carrying out an assembly about how the problem of litter can be addressed. Each school will have an educational assembly, have the chance to take part in an organised litter pick either in the local area or on school grounds and be asked to complete a poster asking residents to dispose of their litter responsibly. The winning posters displayed at a number of retail and community buildings within the AAP area.
- 93 The second strand is around local communities developing and improving areas to make them nicer places to live and work. The key idea of this strand is to develop a small grant fund which allows VCS groups, schools and businesses to take part in

the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' initiative. The grant of up to £500 for ten groups will enable environmental improvements within town and villages within the AAP area.

- 94 Complementary to this project, 3 Towns AAP, in partnership with Groundwork North East, is running a Local Heroes scheme which brings together residents and local businesses to tackle 'grot spots' and environmental issues in specific areas, empowering residents to take ownership of problem sites and rewarding 'Local Heroes' with practical and resourceful additions. The scheme will create a positive response to community action and will allow communities to further understand their roles, responsibilities and priorities so that they feel empowered to tackle the challenges in their own areas.
- 95 Volunteers are at the heart of resilient communities and are an integral part of a number of **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP)** funded projects. One such initiative is allowing local residents to develop their horticultural skills and make new friends within the grounds of the Pioneering Care Centre.
- 96 The 'Growing Our Community' project offers weekly gardening tutorials at the centre. Recent refurbishment works also funded by GAMP have further improved access to the plant beds in the garden, making the garden fully accessible for people with additional needs. A key part of the project is combating isolation amongst local residents by bringing people together. The vision for this project is that it will eventually become self-sustaining through the active involvement of volunteers. A core group of gardeners is already established. Other local groups also use the garden; these include, Options Disability Day Service members and the local Men's Cree Group. The Men's Cree group is a social club aimed at reducing social isolation among men.
- 97 **Chester-le-Street & District AAP** has helped develop a Community Resilience Plan (CRP) for the town centre area for both businesses and residences. The plan was developed in response to the impact of flooding in the town and the devastation of homes and businesses this caused.
- 98 The plan was developed in partnership with the Business Association, Central (town) residents group and the council's Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU). Other partners involved include the fire service, environment agency and the churches together group.
- 99 Community 'awareness raising' events have taken place locally to develop the plan so that people can better protect themselves against incidents of flooding and other emergency incidents. The plan is living document and is reviewed and updated regularly.
- 100 The AAP initially led this work through its Environment Task Group and co-ordinated partnership activity with the Business Association now taking on the leadership role. The AAP remain involved in helping to co-ordinate activity around the plan.

Recommendations and reasons

- 101 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.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – None

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**Corporate Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board**

27 October 2017



Update in relation to Petitions

Report of Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board with the quarterly update in relation to the current situation regarding various petitions received by the Authority.

Background

2. Following the introduction of The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the administration of the petitions process was passed to Democratic Services.
 - 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board have received update reports on petitions since September 2008, and this function has now passed to the new committee.
 - 2.2 From the 15 December 2010, the Authority has provided a facility for members of the public to submit e-petitions on the Council's website.

Current Position

- 3 Since the last update 7 e-petitions have been submitted. Of these, 5 did not qualify under the Council's Petition Scheme - 2 were planning matters, 1 referred to a consultation, 1 was about a Cabinet decision already implemented and 1 fell outside of the scope of the petition scheme. 1 e-petition has closed and there is currently 1 e-petition live on the website.
 - 3.1 In addition, 4 new paper petitions have been submitted and 3 have completed the petition process. 1 was rejected as related to a planning matter. A list giving details and current status of all active petitions is attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Recommendation

4. Members are requested to note the update report on the status of petitions and e-petitions received by the Authority.

**Contact: Ros Layfield, Committee Services, Member and Civic
Services Manager**
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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance : None

Staffing: None

Risk: None

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty: None

Accommodation: None

Crime and Disorder: None

Human Rights: None

Consultation: Petitions which refer to a consultation exercise are reported to committee for information and forwarded to the relevant officer for consideration

Procurement: None

Disability Issues: None

Legal Implications: None

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Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
<p>Petition 304</p> <p>Make Wheatley Hill a Better Place to Live</p> <p>E-Petition</p> <p>Petition received 12.4.17</p> <p>No. of signatures – 11</p>	<p>Alan Hunter Housing Regeneration Project Manager</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to make the village a better place to live, to clean up the front street area and Wordsworth avenue and to help us get our village back to how it once was.</p> <p>e-Petition ran from 12.4.17 to 24.5.17 and closed with 11 signatures.</p> <p>Over the last few years a number of regeneration initiatives had taken place within the village. Activities have included the demolition of approximately 80 dwellings across Luke Terrace, Cain Terrace, Henderson Avenue and Ryan Terrace. This has facilitated the development of 65 new housing units by Gleeson Homes resulting in an investment of approximately £5.5m into the village. In addition, the Council is aware that County Durham Housing Group is currently exploring options in order to address empty homes within Wordsworth Avenue and as a result has written to residents.</p> <p>An investment of approximately £2.3m has led to a new medical centre development in the centre of the village leading to the provision of improved health care facilities for residents.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the Council’s housing officers continually work in partnership with private landlords and this has resulted in eight empty homes being brought back into use since 2014 with £20,000 being invested in these properties through move in grants and loans from the Council. The Officers also carry out regular walkabouts in the village and continue to liaise with property owners and other Council departments in order to address the issue of empty homes within the village. Eight landlords’ have signed up to the Council’s County wide Accreditation Scheme resulting in 23 private rented properties within the village now being a part of the Accreditation Scheme. This means landlords who offer good quality, well-managed</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>accommodation are recognised and the scheme promotes the ongoing improvement of housing in the private rental sector by encouraging all landlords to achieve the same standards.</p> <p>The Council has also supported businesses to improve their retail premises via the Targeted Business Improvement Programme resulting in three businesses taking part in the programme leading to an investment of approximately £27,000 from the Council whilst also attracting a similar amount of private sector funding.</p> <p>Minor streetscape improvements including paintwork to railings, new bins and planters was also completed, with the owner of the industrial estate, Durham Estates Ltd, carrying out pruning works, and building repairs to improve the environmental appearance of the location.</p> <p>The Council continues to facilitate the Wheatley Hill Steering Group approximately every six weeks at Wheatley House, Community Centre.</p>	
<p>Petition 306</p> <p>Nevilles Cross 30mph & Road Safety Review</p> <p>E-Petition No. of signatures – 184 Petition received 20.4.17</p> <p>Paper petition – 150 signatures</p>	<p>David Battensby Traffic Asset Manager</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to carry out a road safety review along the A167 and A690 in the Nevilles Cross, Crossgate Moor and Whitesmocks areas.</p> <p>e-Petition ran from 20.4.17 – 30.6.17 and closed with 184 signatures. In addition to this, a paper petition was been received with 150 signatures.</p> <p>Road Safety Throughout the length of the A167 between Merryoaks and Sniperley, there is provision made for pedestrians to cross the A167 comprising numerous pedestrian refuge islands, traffic signals with pedestrian phases, a toucan crossing and two</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>footbridges.</p> <p>The Road Traffic Accident database showed that there were ‘personal injury’ accidents recorded on the section of road in question. These accidents were mainly associated with the traffic signals at the Duke of Wellington, Neville’s Cross and Crossgate Moor involving junction- related accidents and rear end shunts. Of the accidents which have occurred, none were identified by Police investigation as involving excessive speed as a contributory factor in the incident. Two of the accidents involved pedestrians. However, these were attributable to pedestrian error where the adult stepped out into the flow of traffic at Neville’s Cross signals without looking properly.</p> <p>It had to be appreciated that the A167 carries in excess of 20,000 vehicles per day and incidents which generally had a causation of ‘driver error’ was comparable to much of the road network nationally.</p> <p>The Council was making changes to the islands at Neville’s Cross traffic signals to improve the crossing facilities. This work will be followed by refurbishment of the signals and resurfacing of the junction and Neville’s Cross Bank.</p> <p>Speed Limits The Council is required to follow Department for Transport (DfT) legislation and guidance to ensure that speed limits are credible with the aim that they become self-evident and enforcing by virtue of their surroundings. During the review process various factors and criteria are considered and evaluated, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing vehicle speeds; • Nature of the road and its surroundings; • Local needs; 	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing highway infrastructure; • New housing development; • Highway signs; • Road markings and street lighting; • The various road users; • The credibility of the speed limit; and • Accident history. <p>A speed limit which lacks credibility results in a significant proportion of motorists ignoring the limit and driving at even higher speeds, and can also lead to greater risk taking. The majority of drivers will travel at what they consider is a credible speed for their environment, with the average speed being a good indicator.</p> <p>The current 40mph speed limit has been reviewed in accordance with DfT guidance and is considered a credible speed limit for this location. This is due to many factors including the properties along this length being set well back from the road, the width of the road, the good pedestrian crossing facilities, the function of the road as a primary route, the existing speed profiles, the general road environment and favourable accident history.</p> <p>20mph Speed Limits and Zones The Council has reviewed its policy on 20mph speed limits and zones and this review was approved by our Cabinet on 17th December 2014.</p> <p>As part of the above review our Cabinet approved the implementation of 20mph part-time speed limits around 33 schools within County Durham and this has been extended to include 66 schools within County Durham. Neville’s Cross Primary School is included within the School’s</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>20mph Part-Time Speed Limit Project for implementation this financial year.</p> <p>The Council's policy on 20mph limits and zones is that they can be provided where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where meet Department for Transport legislation and guidance; and • Fully funded from third party sources such as Schools, Town/Parish Councils, local Councilor's Neighbourhood Budget and Area Action Partnerships. 	
<p>Petition 307</p> <p>Speeding and Parking on Buckingham Road, Peterlee</p> <p>E-Petition No. of signatures – 1 Petition received 3.5.17</p> <p>Paper Petition received with 10 signatures</p>	<p>Keith Jameson Traffic Asset Manager/ Dave Lewin Traffic Management Section Manager</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to control and reduce speeding and parking on Buckingham Road, Peterlee.</p> <p>e-Petition ran from 3.5.17 – 14.6.17 and closed with 1 signature. Paper petition also received with 10 signatures.</p> <p>Traffic Calming The Council receives more requests for road safety schemes than are able to fund from the limited road safety budgets. Therefore, schemes have to be prioritised where there are proven issues with personal injury accidents. The accident recording database shared with Durham Constabulary reports no 'personal injury' accidents on the road in the past 4 years, this being the standard search criteria. Compared to many other locations within the county, this represents a favourable accident record and therefore DCC must continue to prioritise our limited road safety budgets at locations with a proven record of accidents. Therefore, a road safety scheme at this location at this time cannot be justified.</p> <p>One Way System</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>In order to make a road one way, a restriction would have to be created which legally prevents vehicles from being driven in an opposing direction. This would require a 'Traffic Regulation Order' (TRO) to make it an offence to drive other than the one-way direction.</p> <p>The TRO would need to create both a 'No Entry' restriction at one end and a 'One Way' system over the length of Buckingham Road. The restriction will have to be in place 24 hours a day and every day of the year.</p> <p>As part of the TRO there is a requirement to erect illuminated road traffic signs at each road junction and at strategic points on the route. This is a costly undertaking and, with limited road safety budgets, resources are directed towards locations with known and proven accident problems to ensure the Council continues to deliver on casualty reduction targets.</p> <p>The introduction of one-way systems and 'No Entry' restrictions can lead to many problems, and they are not generally favoured as being a solution to congestion problems outside of schools. Such restrictions can create difficulties in terms of police enforcement as motorists may attempt to travel the wrong way over short lengths. In addition, vehicle speeds are known to increase due to the absence of an opposing traffic flow, potentially leading to increased accident rates rather than improving road safety.</p> <p>The creation of a one way system will also create significant pressure on the road junctions, namely Acre Rigg Road and York Road junctions as all vehicle movements are "forced" to enter or exit the restriction at these key points. Additionally, the introduction of one way systems are generally not favoured by local residents as they are no longer able to exit the street at the road junction closest to their destination of travel, meaning they must follow the one-way system.</p> <p>Taking the above into consideration, a one-way system is not considered a suitable solution to the traffic problems in the area.</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>Speed Limit Signs Buckingham Road has a 30mph speed limit and under the Highway Code this is indicated to motorists by a system of street lighting. The Department for Transport’s traffic sign regulations prohibit the use of 30mph repeater signs where there is a system of street lighting. This is to avoid undermining the Highway Code and creating an expectation with motorists that there must always be 30mph signs to indicate a 30mph speed limit.</p> <p>Community Speed Watch As part of the partnership approach to improving road safety, joint working with Durham Constabulary, has enabled the introduction of an initiative known as ‘Community Speed Watch’. This initiative has been very successful elsewhere in the County and, indeed, nationally. Under the Community Speed Watch initiative, all speeding complaints are directed towards Durham Constabulary and their Police and Communities Together (PACT) Meetings, enabling the appropriate level of intervention and action to be considered. The next PACT meeting has not been advertised yet. However, further details can be found on the Durham Constabulary web site or by contacting the Neighbourhood Policing Team for Peterlee on their non-emergency 101 telephone number and asking for the Local Neighbourhood Beat Team.</p> <p>Parking Problems Unfortunately, as car ownership increases at unsustainable levels nationally, this results in the type of problems witnessed on Buckingham Road. All too often, this is becoming a common occurrence upon the highway network, especially where there is a generator of parked traffic such as a school. It is particularly</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>common at primary schools where parents increasingly choose to drop off and collect children by car. Whilst attempts are made to reduce this dependency on the car there is nothing in the Council's powers that can be used to force parents not to drop off or pick up children near a school.</p> <p>The principal purpose of a highway is to facilitate the passage of road users. As car ownership has increased, parking on-street is often tolerated having become the norm countrywide on the principle of 'first come, first served' provided that the manner of parking does not cause obstruction to other road users. As such, residents are not guaranteed parking in the vicinity of their homes.</p> <p>Durham Constabulary has powers available to deal with motorists that are causing an obstruction to other road users and residents' driveways. Providing the vehicle is taxed, tested and insured it is legally entitled to be parked on the public highway. Should vehicles be causing obstruction offences, as described above, then this should be reported directly to Durham Constabulary using their '101' contact number.</p> <p>Waiting restrictions would potentially impact upon residents and visitors who would be unable to park in the vicinity of their homes either because of parking displacement or because of the waiting restrictions themselves.</p>	
<p>Petition 311</p> <p>Request for Access Improvements at Lancaster Hill, Peterlee</p> <p>Petition received 19.6.17 No. of signatures – 32</p>	<p>Dave Wafer Strategic Traffic Manager</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to help residents of Lancaster Hill, Peterlee to resolve a long standing parking problem and its adverse consequences on refuse collection and other services.</p> <p>Whilst an increase in car ownership has brought many benefits of increased mobility for households, it can also cause difficulties in housing areas such as this, where the road layout and parking provision was not designed to cater for the number of cars now in use.</p> <p>Whilst the conversion of grassed open space land to off street</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>parking spaces is possible in most instances, it is extremely costly at an estimated £5000 per space. This estimate can rise dramatically if any public utility apparatus, such as gas or water pipes are affected by the proposal. Unfortunately, the Council do not have a budget for this purpose and therefore are unable to take the request forward at this stage.</p> <p>However, it was suggested to approach the local Area Action Partnership or local County Councillors who may have access to a suitable funding stream.</p>	
<p>Petition 312</p> <p>Stop Roundabout Advertising</p> <p>E-Petition No. of signatures – Petition received – 20.6.17</p>	<p>Adrian White Head of Transport and Contract Services/ John Reed, Head of Technical Services</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to stop roundabout advertising.</p> <p>e-Petition to run from 20.6.17 – 12.11.17</p>	
<p>Petition 315</p> <p>Broadband for Bolam Village</p> <p>E-Petition No. of signatures – 10 Petition received – 4.7.17</p>	<p>Steve Hodgson ICT Strategic Manager, Digital Durham Programme Director</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to progress and help the village of Bolam to obtain a reasonable broadband speed and coverage.</p> <p>E-Petition ran from 4.7.17 until 15.8.17 and closed with 10 signatures.</p> <p>The Digital Durham team spoke to the Parish Council in May and to the lead petitioner in July, and this was followed with e-mailed information regarding development of broadband in Bolam.</p> <p>As described, the plan is to upgrade broadband services in Bolam as part of Phase 2 of the Digital Durham Programme, and this should be completed by the end of December this year.</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
<p>Petition 316</p> <p>Traffic Speeds at Lydgate Lane, Wolsingham</p> <p>Petition received – 22.6.17</p> <p>No. of signatures – 300</p>	<p>Keith Jameson</p> <p>Traffic Asset Manager</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to address speed restrictions in Lydgate Lane, Wolsingham</p> <p>Received by Keith Jameson on 22 June and response sent on 5 July 2017 – local member copied into the response.</p> <p>Committee Services received copy on 10 July 2017.</p> <p>Response was as follows:-</p> <p>The County Council receive more requests for traffic management solutions than it is able to fund from limited road safety budgets. Due to the need to concentrate resources on reducing casualty accidents, the Council are required to direct their limited funding towards addressing locations in the County that have the worst accident records.</p> <p>The accident recording database shared with Durham Constabulary reported no ‘personal injury’ accidents on Lydgate Lane in the past 4 years being the standard search criteria. This represents a favourable accident trend when compared to many other locations within the County which would remain as priority for the limited road safety funding. The incidents referred to are likely to be what are termed ‘damage only’ collisions which are a daily occurrence on the road network which are not routinely recorded. Damage Only collisions typically involve an exchange of insurance details following damage to third party property or vehicles.</p> <p>As part of the partnership approach to improving road safety, joint working with Durham Constabulary, has enabled the introduction of an initiative known as ‘Community Speed Watch’. This initiative has been very successful elsewhere in the County and nationally.</p> <p>Under the Community Speed Watch initiative, all speeding complaints are directed towards Durham Constabulary and their Police and Communities Together (PACT) Meetings, enabling</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>the appropriate level of intervention and action to be considered. Discussions have taken place with the local member. The current 30mph speed limit is the usual default speed limit for residential areas such as Lydgate Lane and is considered a credible speed limit for this location.</p> <p>20mph Speed Limits and Zones</p> <p>The Council has reviewed its policy on 20mph speed limits and zones and this review was approved by our Cabinet on 17th December 2014.</p> <p>As part of the above review Cabinet approved the implementation of 20mph part-time speed limits around 33 schools within County Durham and this has subsequently been extended to a further 33 schools.</p> <p>The additional 33 schools have been prioritised based on three risk factors: Collision history; Measured PV2 (being a measure of pedestrian risk); and Measured speeds.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Wolsingham Primary School does not rank within the schools which have been identified from the methodologies used to prioritise the available funding.</p> <p>However, the Council's policy on 20mph limits and zones is that they can be provided where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where meet Department for Transport legislation and guidance; and • Fully funded from third party sources such as Schools, Town/Parish Councils, local Councilor's Neighbourhood Budget and Area Action Partnerships. <p>As for Lydgate Lane, there are two ways to introduce a</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>mandatory 20mph speed limit;</p> <p>1. 20 mph speed limits and zones can be summarised as follows: 20 mph Speed Limits – These involve 20 mph traffic signs only. They are suitable for residential estate roads and side streets, where the nature of the road tends to result in naturally low average speeds of less than 24 mph. Research indicates that limits achieve an average speed reduction of 1 mph.</p> <p>2. 20 mph Speed Limit Zone - These involve 20 mph traffic signs plus traffic calming measures to ensure that the 20 mph limit is self-enforcing. In order that drivers are aware of the zones, traffic signs must be erected at every entrance/exit to the zone. Research indicates that a 20 mph speed limit zone can result in speed reductions of around 10 mph.</p> <p>The speed surveys for Lydgate Lane have shown that the ‘mean average’ speed is 27.4mph, which in this instance means that a 20mph speed limit isn’t possible without the introduction of physical traffic calming measures such as road humps or chicanes which will be a costly undertaking.</p>	
<p>Petition 317</p> <p>Reconsider introducing a 20mph Speed Limit outside of Bishop Ian Ramsey School, Medomsley</p> <p>Petition received – 31.7.17 No. of signatures - 419</p>	<p>Michelle Shearer Senior Engineer Traffic Assets</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to reconsider introducing a 20mph Speed Limit outside of Bishop Ian Ramsey School, Medomsley.</p> <p>20mph Speed Limits and Zones For many years the Council have supported the introduction of 20mph zones and limits, particularly in the vicinity of schools and at locations with a higher than average number of personal injury road accidents. The Council reviewed its policy on 20mph speed limits and zones and this review was approved by Cabinet on 17th December 2014.</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>Schools 20mph Part-Time Speed Limits Project As part of the above review Cabinet approved the implementation of 20mph part-time advisory speed limits around 33 schools within County Durham and this has subsequently been extended to a further 33 schools. The Council’s policy on 20mph limits and zones and part-time advisory limits states that they can be provided where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Transport legislation and guidance is satisfied; and • Fully funded from third party sources such as Schools, Town/Parish Councils, local Councillor’s Neighbourhood Budget and Area Action Partnerships. <p>Unfortunately, Bishop Ian Ramsey Primary School did not satisfy the criteria for inclusion within the Schools 20mph Project, but if third party funding was available, a 20mph part-time advisory speed limit at Medomsley in the vicinity of the primary school could be considered.</p> <p>Accidents & Community Speed Watch In checking the database shared with Durham Constabulary showed no recorded personal injury traffic accidents in the vicinity of Bishop Ian Ramsey Primary School in the last 4 years, this being our standard search criteria.</p> <p>As part of the partnership approach to improving road safety, joint working with Durham Constabulary, an initiative known as ‘Community Speed Watch’ has been introduced. This initiative had been very successful elsewhere in the County and nationally. Under the Community Speed Watch initiative, all speeding complaints are directed towards Durham Constabulary and their Police and Communities Together (PACT) Meetings, enabling the appropriate level of intervention and action to be considered.</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		Details of your next PACT meeting can be found on the Durham Constabulary web site or by contacting their '101' non-emergency Police telephone number.	

**Corporate Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board**

27 October 2017



Notice of Key Decisions

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Helen Lynch, 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 15 November 2017. It also contained information on those key decisions that are currently scheduled to be considered by the Executive up to 28 February 2018.
- 7 The information in the Notice of Key Decisions provides the 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. 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

- 9 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 Strategy, Transformation and
Partnerships 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
CORP/R/17/03	15-Nov-17	Council Tax Base 2018/19 and Forecast Surplus / Deficit on Collection Fund	Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI:2012:2914) and Welfare Reform Act 2012	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance	Town and Parish Councils, County Durham Fire and Rescue Authority and the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner.	John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources, 03000 261943	

SECTION ONE - CORPORATE

CORP/R/17/02	13-Dec-17	2018/19 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget MTFP 8, Council Plan & Service Plans	Report to Cabinet 12/07/2017 and 18/10/2017	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance	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	John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources, 03000 261943 and Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation & Partnerships 03000 268060	Scrutiny will have input into the formulation of MTFP 8 throughout the development process.
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SECTION ONE - CORPORATE

CORP/R/17/01	15-Nov-17	Review of School Provision in County Durham: Ensuring Financial Sustainability of Schools	Report to Cabinet 14/12/2016 Schools National Funding Formula and High Needs Funding Stage 2 Consultation: DCC Response	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People's Services and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance	There will be a range of options that will need to be considered and therefore essential that the schools and local communities are fully involved in discussing long term plans for schools in their area. To ensure there is meaningful involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders the local Area Action Partnerships will play a leading role in helping to support the relevant consultation processes	Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources, 03000 261943 03000 222593	
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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
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SECTION THREE - ADULT 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
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SECTION FOUR - REGENERATION AND LOCAL 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
ReaL/03/17	15/11/17	County Durham Plan Update		Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration		Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets 03000 267334	The Economy and Enterprise OSC will receive a progress report on the CDP at its meeting on the 11 January 2018.
ReaL/10/17	TBC	Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy (Final)		Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration		Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets 03000 267334	

SECTION FOUR - REGENERATION AND LOCAL SERVICES

ReaL/02/17	13/12/17	Aykley Heads Strategic Employment Site, Headquarters Full Business Case and County Archives Project		Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration		Sarah Robson, Head of Economic Development and Housing 03000 267332	The Economy and Enterprise OSC are arranging a visit to Salvus House on 3 November 2017 providing an opportunity for members to see the model of business accommodation being used on the Aykley Heads site.
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Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

27 October 2017



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 September 2017 – October 2017.

Background

- 2 It has previously been agreed that a written report of Chairs' updates would be presented for information only to all Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Boards. Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) 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 are from 15 September – 27 October 2017.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	<p>An initial scrutiny discussion on this year's MTFP process was held on 15 September. Further sessions are due on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 December 2017 • 14 February 2018. <p>Pilot of the CRM Member portal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the pilot over the summer, and feedback session in September 2017, a response will be formulated for the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder and shared with COSMB Members in due course.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>COSMB on 15 September 2017 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIPA – Annual Review and Corporate Guidance • Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan (8) • Customer Feedback Quarter 1 2017-18

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of key decisions • Chairs update. <p>COSMB on 9 October 2017 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the delivery of MTFP 7 • RIPA – Quarter 1 • Welfare Reform and Poverty Issues.
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Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	<p>Cybercrime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings held on 11th September and 16 October to provide an overview of the topic area and consideration of education initiatives and awareness raising. <p>Arson and Deliberate Fires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group meeting held 16th October to look at partnership approach to reducing arson and deliberate fires in localities within the East Durham area.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>SSC OSC on 22 September 2017 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Justice Plan 2016-17 Progress update • Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 update • Police and Crime Panel • Safe Durham Partnership update.

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

Update on Previous Reviews	<p>Economy OSC on 26 September 2017 received an update on the recommendations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of Skills Development.
Scrutiny Review Activity	There is no review activity to report for this period.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>Economy and Enterprise OSC on 26 September received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DurhamWorks programme • EU Funding • Local Growth Fund • Minutes of the County Durham Economic Partnership. <p>A special Economy and Enterprise OSC on 24 October received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham Housing Group • Durham County Council's housing function • Government Housing White Paper.

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

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	Members of the Environment OSC Working Group on DCC's future allotment policy held a visit on 11 October 2017, to allotment sites at Gilesgate, Sherburn, Bowburn, West Cornforth and Langley Moor.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>Environment OSC on 6 October 2017 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter maintenance • Scoping Report – Review of the Allotments Management Policy • Durham Strategic Flood Prevention Group – minutes • Minutes of the Northumberland Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. <p>A special Environment OSC on 23 October received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly Tipping • Question and Answer Session on Household Waste Recycling Centres
Visit	Members of Environment OSC visited the SUEZ Plant, Haverton Hill on the 5 October 2017.

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	There is no review activity to report for this period.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>CYP OSC on 28 September 2017 received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Poverty • Children's Services update – Quality Improvement Board one year on • Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2016/17 • Summary of minutes form Children and Families Partnership.

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	The AWH OSC Review of Suicide Rates and Mental Health and Wellbeing in County Durham has completed its evidence gathering and a further meeting of the Review group will be held to identify key findings and recommendations prior to production of the review report.
Overview reports/ Presentations	<p>A special meeting of the AWHOSC was held on 6 September 2017 to consider the South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Partnership Path to Excellence Consultation and to formulate a response to the consultation. Members also agreed to the establishment of a Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP Joint OSC. An update report on preventative mental health services review and recommissioning was also considered.</p> <p>Roberta Blackman Woods M.P. attended the AWH OSC on 2 October 2017 to question representatives of North Durham CCG regarding the introduction of the specialist referral opinion scheme.</p> <p>Members also received reports and presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG Accident and Emergency Ambulance Service Review – Post Implementation update • Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2016/17 • Durham Local Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2016-17 • Adult and Health Service update • Path to Excellence Consultation – Proposed response by the Adults Wellbeing and Health OSC.

Performance/Budget/Work Programme Reporting

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

Regional Scrutiny

- 5 Durham Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Health Scrutiny Committee met on 13 September 2017. The agenda included:
- (a) Better Health Programme - Development of Hurdle and Evaluation Criteria for future service modelling
 - (b) Durham Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP - Workstream development updates.

North East Combined Authority (NECA)

6 The Chair and Vice-Chair of COSMB and represented DCC on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a meeting on 13 September 2017. The agenda included:

- (a) North East Strategic Economic Plan
- (b) NECA Budget Process and Timetable 2018/19
- (c) Forward Plan and Work Programme.

Recommendation

7 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

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