



Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Date **Friday 20 April 2018**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

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

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018 (Pages 3 - 8)
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Report on the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 - Quarter 4 - 2017/18 - Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 9 - 12)
6. Update on the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan 7 - Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 13 - 16)
7. County Durham Partnership Update - Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 17 - 34)
8. Update in relation to Petitions - Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 35 - 44)
9. Notice of Key Decisions - Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 45 - 52)
10. Information Update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 53 - 58)
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
12 April 2018

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, P Oliver, C Potts, L Pounder, J Robinson, J Rowlandson, M Simmons, H Smith, F Tinsley, J Turnbull, M Wilkes and A Willis

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 **Monday 19 March 2018 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, H Liddle, L Maddison, C Martin, O Milburn, C Potts, L Pounder, J Robinson, M Simmons, F Tinsley, J Turnbull and M Wilkes

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Bell, J Chaplow, K Hawley, P Oliver, J Rowlandson, H Smith and A Willis.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitutes.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment:

Page 6 paragraph 1 to read: *'that frontline services were protected for the future'*

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Quarter 3 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 Altogether priority theme for the third quarter of the 2017/18 financial year (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that despite ongoing financial pressures the council continued to improve or maintain performance and details were provided of those improvements. He further provided details of the key performance challenges noting that needs and demands were similar to that presented at quarter 2.

Councillor Jopling noted the disparity between female and male suicides in young adults and asked what was being done to bring down these figures. In response, the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that suicides in males being higher than in females is a national trend. The Council has a Public Mental Health Strategy that includes suicide prevention as one of its key strands. The Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have carried out a scrutiny review into this area.

Councillor Jopling further noted that at a recent meeting she had attended with the police it was reported that 30% of the increase in recorded crime was an actual increase in crime with the remainder relating to changes in recording practices. The Chairman noted perception of crime was often a lot worse than actual crime. Councillor Patterson noted that the increase in crime in the Durham Constabulary area was higher than the rest of the country. However, crime levels are generally low in comparison. Councillor Boyes added that Durham were more compliant than other forces in the country and this was borne out by a recent external inspection.

Councillor Adam raised a query regarding Universal Credit and the impact of its introduction on free school meals. Councillor Crute noted that the council were half way through the roll out of Universal Credit and agreed that a review of the impact could be considered.

Moving on to the issue of the Stronger Families Programme, Councillor Maddison queried whether the service were overstretched because they were trying to work with too many families and successfully turn them around by March 2020. Councillor Crute noted that this was being looked at by Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Further discussion took place regarding the response rate to Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that the target which had recently been increased from 85% to 90% of information requests answered within 20 days was a national one which was accepted to be extremely challenging to achieve. He further provided detail of the role of the Information Commissioner's Office and noted that timeliness of responding to information requests will be taken into account in forming a view of an authority's overall performance.

Councillor Tinsley in referring to paragraph 9 of the report and employment rates queried how those who were economically inactive were monitored. In addition, he noted as referred to in paragraph 12, the North East's economy would be one of the worst affected areas post-Brexit.

In response, the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that the council were able to access figures on the economically inactive and this could be reported via the Economy & Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Moving on, Councillor Wilkes in referring to page 56 of the report and PI NS15 relating to the number of fly-tipping incidents noted that the tracker indicators provided slightly skewed figures because they had been set when performance was

particularly poor. He suggested that by broadening the table the trends would be more clearly identified.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that the way in which the tracker information was presented could be reviewed. Councillor Crute added that he agreed with Councillor Wilkes's comments however noted that there was limited influence that could be had on tracker indicators.

Further discussion and debate took place regarding Brexit and concerns regarding structural funding. Councillor Tinsley noted that meetings of core cities were taking place however Durham was not involved and therefore not heard, he added that it was a real concern that the area was excluded.

Moving on, Councillor Adam in referring to PI ref CYPS 19 (percentage of strategy meetings initiated which led to an initial child protection conference being held within 15 working days) on page 46 of the report asked whether the performance in this area was having a real impact upon protecting children he further added that this needed action rather than robust monitoring. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager advised that both indicators referred to by Councillor Adam suffered because they were based on cumulative data which when performance had been poor had affected the figures for the remainder of the year.

Resolved: That the content of the report be noted.

6 Customer Feedback: Complaints Compliments and Suggestions 2017/18 - Quarter 3

The Board considered a report of the Corporate Director Resources which presented the Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions report for Quarter 3, 2017/18 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Robinson in noting the performance in key service areas added his sincere thanks to all the staff who had helped keep services running during the bad weather. He added that in his opinion something should be done to recognise those staff who had gone the extra mile.

Councillor Adam, in referring to paragraph 77 of the report noted that 24% of residents don't own their own smartphone device and noted the difficulties they may face as a result. He therefore queried what action was being taken to address those individuals who may be isolated in this way. In response, the Customer Relations Manager advised that residents who did struggle with getting access to online forms etc. were signposted to the Customer Access Points where Digital Support Assistants would support customers and guide them through online forms etc. In addition, work was being undertaken with voluntary organisations in a bid to assist vulnerable adults who needed additional help. One good example of this in practice was East Durham Trust.

Councillor Crute further noted that an exercise had been undertaken to map access to online facilities and this could be accessed via the Council's website.

Councillor Batey added her thanks to the refuse teams for their work during difficult conditions and noted that some positive steps had been taken from a lessons learnt exercise with the service. She went on to add that she considered it to be potentially useful to residents if a pie chart was provided with council tax bills in order to demonstrate clearly how council tax was spent and what the council reserves were allocated for. She added that there was a lot of misconception about council tax and reserves. Councillor Crute added that he also considered this to be a valid point and agreed that it was important to be clearer to residents how and where council tax and reserves were spent.

The Customer Relations Manager added that she was aware this had been previously discussed as part of the Budget discussions with the Head of Finance (Financial Services) as it would reduce avoidable contact. Councillor Crute suggested that this message be reinforced by the Board.

Further discussion took place regarding complaints against staff and training that staff received in dealing with difficult situations. Councillor Maddison, noted that staff on the frontline did an excellent job however thought that consideration should also be given as to how Councillors interact with customers and the role they play in diffusing situations and the impression they gave.

Councillor Tinsley noted that it would be good to see some comparative data in this regard and also queried whether body cameras were worn by staff to offer a level of protection. It was noted that all bin wagons were equipped with 360 degree cameras which have to date proved to be invaluable in dealing with customer complaints.

Councillor Wilkes raised a number of queries and points including; personal budgeting and escalating debt, automated messaging regarding bin collection updates and the number of complaints upheld and the way in which data was reported. Councillor Crute noted that he did agree that there had been confusion amongst residents regarding bin collection changes over the period of bad weather and further agreed that the council did need to get information out more efficiently. It was also noted that there were issues with the council's website during the period of bad weather due the number of visitors to the site wanting to view school closure information. It was noted that this issue was being addressed corporately. Further discussion took place regarding dissemination of information and how this was also linked to the CRM system

The Customer Relations Manager in referring to the point raised relating to personal budgeting provided an overview of the support and resources available for those struggling with Universal Credit.

Resolved: that the content of the report be noted.

7 Quarter 3 December 2017: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18

The Board considered a joint report of the Corporate Director Resources and Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided details of the updated forecast outturn position for both the Resources and Transformation and

Partnerships service groupings, highlighting any major variances in comparison with 2017/18 budget, based on the position to the end of December 2017 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Wilkes raised a query regarding the underspend of £2/3 million and asked why after the budget had been passed that there was actually this amount of more money in service.

The Finance Manager (Resources & TAP), noted that this was an issue of timing of budget reporting and early delivery of next years' savings. He further noted that underspends in general fund balances were likely to occur. Councillor Patterson suggested that this was an issue of information not being clear enough to determine exactly where the additional resource was coming from.

Councillor Wilkes added that he considered there to be insufficient detail in the MTFP to enable effective scrutiny of savings proposals. A single line descriptor and sum of money was felt to be inadequate. He further asked why it was not possible to follow practice adopted by Gateshead Council who produce a single sheet on each savings proposal with some key facts about what is being proposed, its impact on staff, policy changes etc. Councillors Crute and Patterson asked that this be reviewed going forward, however noted that the role of scrutiny was only to comment on proposals.

Councillor Tinsley suggested that an easy to use information sheet being prepared in advance of next year's budget with the headline messages on it including net revenue budget, income from council tax, government funding, percentage increases from council, police and crime commissioner, fire and rescue service etc. which could be sent to all councillors would be useful to assist them with any queries from residents.

Resolved: That the content of the reports be noted.

8 Refresh of the Work Programme 2018-19 for Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

The Board considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided information contained within the Council Plan 2016-2019, relevant to the work of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in order for members to refresh the Committee Work Programme (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor Wilkes added that he would like to review the issue of reserves and look in more depth at cash limits and earmarked reserves. Councillor Crute suggested that this should be done as part of the MTFP review however agreed that this could be taken back to the service for their thoughts on how this could be approached.

Councillor Tinsley further suggested that a paper which detailed the use of reserves would be useful. It was noted that some members felt that the use of reserves could be considered as part of the MTFP scrutiny process whilst others felt that debate on the MTFP is so long that it did not allow sufficient time to talk about reserves and should be considered separately to the MTFP process.

Councillor Adam asked whether the issue of procurement of single use plastics (SUPs) should be considered in the work programme for the coming year. Councillor Crute noted his comments and added that he had no issue with building in procurement into a review of the use of SUPs. However, he did not feel that it needed to be a separate exercise.

Resolved:

- (i) That the information contained in the Council Plan 2016-2019, Altogether Better Council theme be noted;
- (ii) That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2018-19 at their meeting on 22 June 2018.

9 Notice of Key Decisions

The Board considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which considered 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 new to the plan for March was the Review of the Welfare Assistance Scheme, Proposal to amalgamate Wingate Infant and Junior School and the Proposal for changes to the Charging Policy for non-residential Social Care Services.

Councillor Wilkes referred to section four of the report relating to the Regeneration and Local Services service grouping and noted that no date had been specified for the Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy (Final) and queried whether this report would be considered at the same time as the report on the County Durham Local Plan. The Senior Committee Services Officer advised that she would forward the query to the service for a response.

Resolved: that the content of the report be noted.

10 Information Update from the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships

The Board considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships which provided an update of overview and scrutiny activity from January – March 2018 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved: That the content of the report be noted.

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

20 April 2018

**Report on the Council's use of powers
under the Regulation of Investigatory
Powers Act 2000 – Quarter 4 - 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 January 2018 until 31 March 2018 (Quarter 4) 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 January 2018 until 31 March 2018 and the outcomes following surveillance.

Quarter 4 Activity

4. During Quarter 4 there were 2 new RIPA Directed Surveillance authorisations. Both related to operations conducted by trading standards regarding test purchase attempts of illicit tobacco products. One authorisation related to 6 residential addresses and the other authorisation to 1 residential address.
5. There was 1 new Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) authorisation which related to the test purchase of illicit tobacco products on the single residential address.

6. The Council's Senior Responsible Officer is satisfied that the Council's use of its powers under RIPA during Quarter 4 is consistent with the Council's policy and that the policy remains fit for purpose.

Outcomes following surveillance – Quarter 4

7. In relation to test purchase attempts of illicit tobacco 4 of 6 test purchase attempts were successful. Warrants have been obtained for these addresses and are due to be executed in the coming weeks. The service will look to prosecute the occupants of the 4 addresses if illicit products are found when the warrants are executed. In relation to the test purchase attempts on the single address, test purchases have been successful and there is sufficient evidence for enforcement action. A warrant has been obtained and will be executed shortly.

Recommendations and Reasons

8. It is recommended that members receive the quarterly report on the Council's use of RIPA for the period 1 January 2018 until 31 March 2018 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**

20 April 2018

Cabinet

14 March 2018

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



Report of Corporate Management Team

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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides an update on the progress made at the end of December 2017 on the delivery of the 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP7).

Background

- 2 Cabinet has received regular updates on the progress made by the Council in delivering the financial targets within the MTFP since 2011/12.
- 3 Council agreed MTFP7 in February 2017 and for 2017/18 the savings target was just over £23 million. This forms part of the overall savings target for the period from 2011/12 to 2019/20 of around £250 million per annum.

Progress to date

- 4 Previous reports have described our robust approach to the delivery of savings, in which savings are delivered early where this is practical and not additionally detrimental to service delivery.
- 5 By the end of December 2017 over 94% of the savings target for MTFP7 had been met with just over £22 million of savings having been achieved. This is a significant achievement considering our total savings delivered since April 2011 is over £211 million per annum including public health savings and the identification of proposals for future savings is becoming increasingly challenging.
- 6 It is recognised however, that on occasions plans may need to change due to unforeseen circumstances which could delay when savings are made. However through the regular monitoring of our MTFP we are able to ensure

delivery of saving through the prudent use of cash limits, ensuring we hit our overall savings targets and remain within budget limits.

Consultation

- 7 As members are aware consultation with the public and other stakeholders remains an important element in the MTFP programme. Whilst there were no consultations planned for this period for specific MTFP proposals, a wide-ranging consultation programme was carried out at AAP boards and forums, and several public events across the county in October and November 2017.

HR implications

- 8 We accepted 67 ER/VR applications as a result of the MTFP proposals during this period.
- 9 Since 2011 a total of 1,446 ER/VR applications have been accepted, 704 vacant posts deleted and 570 compulsory redundancies (CR) made.
- 10 Data relating to staff leaving through ER/VR during this single quarter showed that 93% were female and 7% were male, however, relatively few staff (28 people) left the authority over this period. So far this financial year, of the staff that have left the organisation through ER/VR as a result of MTFP proposals, 75% have been female and 25% male. This proportion of female leavers is higher than the overall organisational breakdown which shows around 64% of staff are female¹.
- 11 7% of leavers had not disclosed their ethnicity and the remaining 93% were white British. Regarding disability status 7% said they had a disability, 32% had no disability and 61% did not disclose their disability status.
- 12 In this quarter no one left the authority through a compulsory redundancy. However, of the staff that have left the organisation through compulsory redundancy as a result of MTFP proposals, 52% have been female and 48% male. This proportion of male leavers is higher than the overall organisational breakdown which shows around 36% of staff are male¹.
- 13 The Council continues to support employees affected by the MTFP savings plans and the total number of staff who have been redeployed is 442 since the process started.
- 14 At the end of December 2017 we had 128 open expressions of interest for ER/VR.

Equality Impact Assessments

- 15 Equality impact assessments (EIA) form a key part of the ongoing MTFP process. A number of initial screenings for new savings and updated EIAs for ongoing savings were provided to Cabinet ahead of the budget setting decision in February 2017. They are updated during the year to take account

¹ As at 31 March 2017

of consultation responses and additional evidence; the updates also include information on any mitigating actions.

- 16 The impact assessments and action plans are considered during decision making processes, for example, updated EIAs are provided where Cabinet receive a report ahead of consultation and where a further report is received with any final recommendations.

Recommendations and reasons of Cabinet report

- 17 Whilst the Government's austerity programme is due to continue for several more years, the Council continues to be in a strong financial position to meet the ongoing challenges, whilst recognising these are becoming increasingly challenging. Through the robust management process supporting the MTFP ensures we remain ahead of the savings target requirements and continue to minimise impact on frontline services wherever possible.
- 18 For MTFP7 the Council has already delivered over £22 million of the savings required (94%), and in total has now delivered over £211 million in savings since 2011.
- 19 Cabinet is recommended to:
- (a) note the contents of this report and progress made in delivering MTFP7.

Recommendations for Members of COSMB

- 20 Members of COSMB are requested to note the contents of this report.

Contact: Andy Palmer Tel: 03000 268551

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The delivery of the MTFP involves cumulative annual saving of approximately £250million over the period from 2011 to 2020 of which over £206 million has been delivered to date. This figure now also includes savings delivered in Public Health.

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

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

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

Accommodation – As proposals are planned the impact on accommodation is ascertained, with staff being consulted on any moves as part of the process. The loss of over 2,578 posts from the Authority will mean a requirement for less accommodation and the Office Accommodation Team has built this into the Office Accommodation Strategy.

Crime and Disorder – N/A.

Human Rights – N/A.

Consultation – A full consultation with a range of stakeholders was undertaken on the MTFP prior to its agreement and again in 2013. This exercise has been undertaken again in November 2017. In addition, where appropriate for individual proposals, internal and external consultation plans are developed so that consultation informs the decision making process.

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

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

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

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

20 April 2018

Cabinet

14 March 2018

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 lead on and address key strategic issues. The Board has discussed a number of key issues including the Aykley Heads development and subsequent development of the History Centre at Mount Oswald and County Hall relocation as well as the winter pressures facing the NHS, nationally and locally.
- 3 The Prioritising Prevention agenda remains a key area of work with progress made in identifying the key areas of focus following detailed work from the identified workstreams and national support from the Local Government Association.
- 4 The report features updates from all AAPs under the five thematic areas of priority with examples including a continued focus on mitigating the effects of social isolation as well as supporting children and young people particularly through projects regarding mental health and wellbeing. It also covers activity from across the broader partnership networks including the recent VCS conference and successful funding secured for those people leaving the armed forces who may need accommodation.

Key Partnership Activity and Developments

- 5 The **County Durham Partnership Board** has met twice since the last update report. December's meeting had two main items: Recommendations from the Prioritising Prevention Steering Group's work and the Family Intervention Programme (FIP), led by Housing. Both presentations led to interesting discussion with recommendations agreed for taking the Prevention work forward. This is

covered in full later in the report. The FIP programme works with people who have been identified as the most challenging, who face multiple problems and risk factors specifically homelessness and anti-social behaviour. It works through the implementation of a whole family assessment which results in a whole family plan that draws on the expertise of a range of service providers.

- 6 The January Board discussed the proposed Aykley Heads development, following on from Cabinet's approval at their January meeting. The Board were very interested in the proposals and how they will be developed over the next few years, as well as the council's move from the current County Hall site. The Board will continue to request updates on this development as it progresses.
- 7 The Board had requested an update from CCGs on winter pressures and how local health facilities have coped, linked to media coverage on NHS pressures nationally. It heard that whilst there have been pressures, there are pressures throughout the year which are managed through a series of frameworks and online systems. Measures put in place from December include additional funding, taken from the statutory contingency fund held by CCGs, 70 extra beds and the Street Triage approach in partnership with Durham Constabulary and the Office of the Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner. The presentation highlighted that this had been managed relatively well and a full 'wash-up' session will take place in early spring.
- 8 The **CDP Forum** in February was focused on two main items: Durham History Centre and the new Social Inclusion Fund. The History Centre proposals are linked to the Aykley Heads development due to the need to rehouse the five miles of archives that are currently stored in County Hall. These documents, some dating back over 900 years, are proposed to be moved which will offer further opportunity for them to be accessible to the public. Following a consultation with the public and through AAPs, Cabinet will make a decision on this proposal.
- 9 All 14 AAPs will benefit from additional funding via the improved Better Care Fund over a three year period. This is ringfenced to tackle social inclusion issues in older people and the Forum was part of the consultation on proposed criteria as to how the funding should be allocated. This will be implemented from April.
- 10 A Countywide Voluntary and Community Sector Conference, organised by Durham Community Action, brought together over 100 delegates from the **Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)** together with public and private sector partners to 'find common ground' in dealing with the complex issues faced by the VCS. The conference provided the opportunity to discuss challenges, share experiences and learn about the solutions that organisations have been testing in County Durham and beyond. Keynote speeches, including from the Corporate Director for Adult and Health Services, emphasised the positive impacts collaborative working is having by combining resources to move partnership working from 'good to great.' There were also a series of spotlight sessions providing information on commissioning, advice, finance and social investment, the voluntary and community sector alliance, volunteering and health and wellbeing. The conference stimulated discussion about how to harness insight across a broad spectrum of expertise in order to design better community services for County Durham. It also demonstrated a desire to develop some new approaches to tackling complex problems in closer partnerships. Further discussions are scheduled to take place with the council's commissioners to take this work forward.
- 11 Working with **Faith Communities** continues to offer fresh opportunities for collaboration. Over 30 participants from different churches and faith groups across the **East Durham AAP** area came together to share their experiences of the links

between faith and wellbeing and reflect on what they are doing locally. A key aim was to facilitate better engagement between faith groups and the AAP. A considerable number of church and faith group initiatives were reported across all age groups addressing local concerns. As a result of the workshop the potential for future collaboration between churches and with the AAP has been identified.

- 12 The latest breakfast seminar bringing together elected Members, officers, partners and faith communities in a roundtable conversation considered some of the impacts of the introduction of Universal Credit in County Durham as well as some of the positive outcomes of effective partnership working which is helping to mitigate some of the worst effects.
- 13 Members of the County Durham Faiths Network have contributed to the Council's Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition. Reflecting on the theme 'The Power of Words' and responding to the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, short written contributions have been made by members of different faith and belief groups either living, working or worshipping in County Durham.
- 14 Our support for the **Armed Forces Community** continues with the establishment of the Armed Forces Outreach Service - a local authority partnership. Two ex-forces personnel are now embedded within the Housing Solutions Team to act as a first point of contact for former members of the armed forces of any age, or their immediate family, to provide advice and support on housing, employment and other welfare needs. Referrals to the service can be made directly or through the referral pathway provided by the Advice in County Durham Partnership. The service will be closely monitored to ascertain particular trends.
- 15 **Chester-le-Street and District AAP** has been working with SHAID who run St. Peters Court in Sacriston to support a £15,000 capital grant to double the size of the facility for ex-service personnel to gain essential support services and transition to more independent living. Work has started on the expansion which will create an additional 16 bed facility and is due to be completed in March 2018.

Prevention at Scale

- 16 As highlighted in paragraph three, the CDP board agreed in early 2017 that Prioritising Prevention should be an area of focus for all partners and established a steering group to investigate how the work of all partner organisations and thematic partnerships is contributing to this area of work. In doing so, the objectives were to have:
 - (a) Reduced demand;
 - (b) Increased healthy life expectancy;
 - (c) Reduced costs/savings across public services;
 - (d) Driven improvement;
 - (e) Happier, healthier communities.
- 17 The membership is taken from all public sector organisations as well as the voluntary sector and business representatives. The group developed a number of aims in order to achieve the above, these included:
 - (a) Identifying and agreeing three or four areas to be the focus of prevention work;
 - (b) Facilitating and coordinating implementation of good practice;

- (c) Streamlining activities and removing barriers;
 - (d) Driving collaboration, co-production and a solution focused approach;
 - (e) Promoting a better use of resources to achieve budget reductions;
 - (f) Overseeing and coordinating the work of time-limited task and finish groups, each with clear scope, leadership, time frame and reporting arrangements.
- 18 Alongside this, Durham was successfully awarded one of 15 national pilot areas for the LGA Prevention at Scale offer. This provides 20 days of a support manager and expert advice and support to a local area to deliver at scale a preventative approach for a particular area of specific focus which will result in a significant change in health outcomes for local people.
- 19 The Prevention Steering Group has met regularly and has progressed its three workstreams of Building on best practice; Maximising funding and Preventing demand for services. A number of areas have been identified to be implemented and progressed further with a presentation to the CDP Board on 15 December highlighting a number of recommendations, all of which were agreed. These include:
- (a) The LGA Prevention at Scale work focussing on Mental Health with further work to be carried out to identify the specific element to take forward;
 - (b) Developing an annual showcase event sharing best practice projects (the details of this and the interface with the Big Tent will need to be worked through);
 - (c) Projects demonstrating extended reach (for example through Area Action Partnerships);
 - (d) Promoting funding packages to support communities to become more resilient and sustainable with an aim of more funding coming to the county to pilot or try new innovative ideas
 - (e) Rollout of Make Every Contact Count training – this will equip front line workers to develop a conversation with residents about their own health, wellbeing, social connectedness and support communities to help themselves more.
 - (f) Further connectivity across the Community Mentor Network – to ensure that best practice and information is shared across a network of people who work across communities.
- 20 Dr Ann Hoskins and Kay Burkett, LGA representatives have both offered valuable advice and support to date with the first priority being to further focus down on the specific area of focus of Mental Health, with their advice being to utilise the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan.
- 21 The Plan identifies five key areas of focus:
- (a) Children and Young People;
 - (b) Suicide Prevention;
 - (c) Crisis Care Concordat;
 - (d) Dementia
 - (e) Adults, Health and Wellbeing.

- 22 At a joint meeting of the Prevention Steering Group and the Mental Health Partnership Board, a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, in January, it was agreed that the area of focus would be Suicide Prevention with workforce and reducing stigma and discrimination as key areas to be addressed. This work will be taken forward through a series of task and finish groups with progress reported back to the CDP Board and this update report. It is important that all parts of the partnership are involved in identifying and achieving outcomes and this will include working with businesses through the Economic Partnership as well as engaging with children and young people through schools and out of school activities.

Altogether wealthier

- 23 The **County Durham Economic Partnership Board** was held on 17 October at Lanchester Wines, Annfield Plain. Lanchester Wines is an excellent example of a thriving and expanding locally grown business. Operating in the global bottling business alongside national niche products the company is currently employing over 300 people with an ambition to employ 500. The owner was keen to emphasise Durham as a great place to do business with plenty of opportunities, to support his business growth, including access to renewable energy technology. Of note in discussions was Lanchester Wines biggest ongoing challenge of access to a skilled labour force. Innovative approaches from them included establishing their own fork lift qualification and training programme.
- 24 The main focus of the meeting was to look at management of the EU Structural Funds programme but also to consider the wider investment programme for economic development in County Durham. This includes almost £3billion of investment received and planned across the County for the next 10 years. The board noted that County Durham continues to be open for businesses and the added value that partnership working is bringing from across private and public investments. The economic partnership board recognised the importance of continuing to build our pipeline of investment aligned to continue shaping of our strategic direction. It was also noted that this process would align well to supporting the shaping of the Local Plan preferred options for the summer of 2018.
- 25 In late November 2017, the Government published its Industrial Strategy which aims to create better, higher-paying jobs with investments in skills, industries and infrastructure, and has a long-term focus on improved productivity.
- 26 The strategy includes the four cross-cutting 'Grand Challenges' of artificial intelligence, clean growth, future mobility, and ageing society. It outlines four initial 'Sector Deals' for the life sciences, construction, artificial intelligence, and automotive sectors, with other sector deals in development. The strategy confirms that 2018 will be celebrated as the 'Year of Engineering' with the aim of raising the profile of the engineering sector and engineering professions to 7 to 16 year olds as well as teachers and parents.
- 27 The strategy is supported by a number of funding pots and commits to publishing plans soon for getting one million more disabled people into employment within the next 10 years. The government has committed to establishing an Industrial Strategy Council to commission research and monitor the implementation of the strategy and measure its outcomes. In addition, Mayoral Combined Authorities or Local Enterprise Partnerships will be required to prepare 'Local Industrial Strategies' for their areas.
- 28 This year's Future Business Magnates (FBM) competition was launched on 3 November. FBM is an annual competition designed to inspire enterprise skills among schoolchildren in year eight from across County Durham. The theme for

this year's competition is Smart County Durham, which will challenge the teams to devise a smart solution to a problem they have identified in the region. Pupils will present their finished concept to the judges and winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in June 2018.

- 29 Influential names from the business world, including Bignall Group, Ebac, Hydram, Waterstons, CA Group, Robertsons Construction, Hodgson Sayers and Thorn Lighting, are partnering the 18 school teams from across the county to provide mentoring and support.
- 30 AAPs continue to work with people within their communities to mitigate against the impacts of welfare reform and other financial issues that people may face. This is across all age groups and often working with young people can impact on the financial management of parents. **Spennymoor AAP** has funded the Durham Savers Project, alongside the council's regeneration team, which support residents, young people and their families in through the employment of a Project Officer. They have engaged with local firms and schools to raise the financial awareness and capability of young people, by establishing a savings 'Bank' within the school, and salary savings schemes with local firms. This would then be used as a vehicle to engage parents, guardians, and school staff in financial issues and education, and discussions on the negative impact that poor financial management can have on their lives.
- 31 Progress continues to be steady across the project. Activity across the area has led to five schools commit to the project. A new collection point for the area was established at Spennymoor Youth Centre in January. It is anticipated that the volunteer training will begin shortly for the scheme.
- 32 Alongside this, membership of the credit union in the Spennymoor AAP area has increased to 160 members with the current members savings have risen to £52,942. Members borrowing in the area has increased to £144,080.
- 33 The growth of the membership of the NEfirst credit union has reached 13,300 and the proposed merger of the two credit unions should create further opportunities. A new payday loan platform for the credit union completed its pilot phase and has been launched in Durham via the DCC and AAP Facebook pages in December 2017.
- 34 **4Together AAP** has allocated its £10,000 welfare reform funding to a project supporting people with Personal Independence Payment and Employment Support allowance on a 1:1 basis for those in special circumstantial need. The project is provided by the LADDER Centre in Ferryhill who have supported 107 clients. The majority of these clients have required multiple appointments to deal with their complex benefit issues. To date, notification has been received of benefits awards to the value of £104,389 per year/£364,440 across the term of the award to clients of service.
- 35 **Weardale AAP** has funded a Rural Advice Worker for one day per week since April 2017 and to date they have secured over £45,000 of external funding. They are utilising a person centred model to address initial difficulties including trust and confidence before being able to address specific issues raised by those individuals engaging with the project.
- 36 Communication and awareness raising via flyers, press releases, face to face meetings with community members and giving talks as well as 'being visible' have helped to build up the client group.

- 37 As featured in previous update reports, a number of AAPs have supported the Wheels to Work project and this is now expanding to cover the **3 Towns Partnership, Mid Durham and Bishop Auckland Shildon (BASH) AAP** areas.
- 38 The project seeks to offer the loan of a scooter for a fixed period of time (usually 6 months) so that individuals for whom transport is a barrier to employment, can take up an offer of paid work, apprenticeship or sustain employment where it may be otherwise at risk. It is open to people aged 16 and over, the majority of clients to date are in their 20s and 30s many with young families.
- 39 Individual participants in the scheme receive an initial assessment to: verify their offer of paid employment; agree a travel plan; confirm willingness to pay an agreed hire rate for the scooter; arrange for the participant to undertake the Compulsory Basic Training Course.
- 40 Participants receive a crash helmet and other outdoor safety clothing including over trousers, jacket, protective gloves and a bike lock. Scooter hire includes regular servicing and maintenance of vehicles as well as 24 hour break down recovery. Case studies from other areas of County Durham highlight that working and indeed passing a CBT test and using a scooter is making significant differences to peoples mental health, self-confidence and levels of stress, increasing time with family and quality of life, flexibility and availability for work thereby increasing hours of work and pay, social networking opportunities thus reducing social isolation.
- 41 **Chester-le-Street AAP** has recently started a constructive dialogue with the Refuse Café who are locating in the town's Front Street. This project takes potential food waste from various supermarkets and uses that to cook meals on a 'pay as you can' basis. The people behind the new venture are part of the AAPs Welfare Reform and Employability Task Group who are working with local partners such as Job Centre Plus to ensure clients are aware of the café and the various supports services that will be run from this location for residents. The AAP will consider a project proposal in spring aimed at supporting a number of training opportunities within the café.
- 42 Linked to the continued regeneration of the City Centre, **Durham AAP** continues to run a City Centre task group. This brings together partners to look at issues relating to development in the city centre area, including economic regeneration activities. Durham City Business Improvement District (BID) recently received support from the AAP to host the Durham City Nativity, which included camels and other animals. This event brought a number of people into the centre of Durham at a time when numbers may have been low. The group is also looking at Durham City's Neighbourhood plan and is also looking at how Durham Town Hall can become more accessible to the public and tourists. This group also covers issues linked to the Greener and Safer agendas.

Altogether better for children and young people

- 43 The **Children and Families Partnership** supports children, young people and families to achieve the best possible outcomes. The Partnership has a focussed set of priorities to maximise its impact:
- (a) Reducing Child Poverty
 - (b) Building Resilience
 - (c) Best Start in Life
- 44 In early 2017 the Student Voice Survey gathered the views of over 9,000 primary and secondary school pupils on issues such as teaching, safety, careers and

health. The surveys highlighted some positive messages such as almost all (99%) of primary school pupils saying that their school teaches them to stay safe online and three quarters of secondary school pupils saying that school is important to them. The survey highlighted some issues which students are concerned about such as being more likely to be bullied, feeling safe and careers information. Students' responses also highlighted some areas of concern for organisations such as alcohol and drug use, lack of physical activity and the impacts of living in deprivation.

- 45 Schools have been given their individual results to address key issues and to use as an evidence base to assist future planning. A countywide action plan is in development to coordinate an approach to the issues across organisations and support schools to make improvements.
- 46 Linked to this, **East Durham Rural Corridor (EDRC) AAP's** Young People's Wellbeing project supports the mental health and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people within the AAP area who are facing the following issues:
- (a) Caring for others
 - (b) Bullying and social isolation
 - (c) Bereavement and loss
 - (d) Family and relationship breakdown
- 47 A trained counsellor will lead the following activities across the AAP area:
- (a) Provide early help for vulnerable young people through individual therapeutic support and group sessions around key issues such as caring, bullying, bereavement and relationship breakdowns.
 - (b) Manage a student on clinical placement from The Institute for Arts in Therapy and Education (IATE) who will support vulnerable young people through art psychotherapy.
 - (c) Recruit, train and manage two peer mentors who will provide peer support for other vulnerable young people to ensure they feel listened to and supported.
 - (d) Work in partnership with schools, social and health services and other local organisations to develop and embed a 'Young Peoples Wellbeing Pledge' to raise awareness, support early identification of vulnerable young people and signpost them to appropriate services.
 - (e) Recruit, train and manage two volunteers who will support the delivery of the Young Peoples Wellbeing Project.
- 48 The Children's Commissioner's 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 2016/17.
- 49 A programme of work was implemented to get children and young people involved in decision making throughout the year. Progress was made in developing the ways organisations engage with children and young people, improvements were made to the choice of products available in food banks, intergenerational projects and young people made valuable links with local businesses and the voluntary and community sector to each increase their understanding of the needs of the other and how organisations can better engage with children and young people.

- 50 The 2017/18 Takeover Challenge was launched on 24 November and approximately 200 young people have so far taken part in a range of activities. They were able to see what it was like to 'take over' key roles and share their thoughts. Children benefit from having their views heard, having fun and being inspired, and partners get a fresh, unique and creative perspective on important issues.
- 51 The internet provides a vast supply of information on every topic but it is sometimes difficult for children and young people to navigate the myriad of websites available and they need to be signposted to information and support available in their local area. Partners have come together to support Just Simply Ask, a website which is aimed specifically at children and young people in County Durham.
- 52 The website has been designed by a team of young people to not only signpost to reliable sources of important information but to be a fun, interesting and informative social media site where young people can share and explore ideas and issues that matter to them. The website will help young people to find local groups they might want to join, where they can get discounts or where they can get advice on relationships, sport or drugs and alcohol. Professionals are being asked to provide live online 'Ask the Expert' chat sessions where they will discuss topics with young people such as apprenticeships, mental health, bullying or sexual health.
- 53 The Children and Families Partnership has gained reaccreditation for the Young Carers Charter for 2018-20. The Charter is awarded to schools, communities and organisations that demonstrate a commitment to consider the individual needs of children and young people who have a caring responsibility in the work that they do.
- 54 The Partnership's Investing in Children Membership Award has also been renewed and presented as a result of the partnership demonstrating ongoing dialogue with children and young people which results in change.
- 55 **EDRC** and Durham Cathedral are working together on a project to engage children and young people more closely with their communities through a programme of activities undertaken during the school day. Children and young people examine and learn about the wildlife, habitats, animal and plant life that lives around their schools, understand how habitats can be improved to encourage more wildlife to flourish and undertake activities to put what they have learnt into practice. Children and young people will be encouraged to develop their understanding of the local community and develop a sense of place through creative learning, culminating in a piece of collective art produced by the whole class. This project will bring the community closer together by engaging with different schools across the AAP area using the overarching theme of Armistice, the First World War and the impact on the local community. As at quarter 2, the progress on the milestones is that all schools have been contacted, and 1 school has booked all sessions.
- 56 The Children and Families Partnership has signed up to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Promise to improve education, health, leisure and sport respite opportunities, transport, employment and information for young people with SEND.
- 57 The Promise was developed by the eXtreme Group which is recognised as a representative voice for children and young people with SEND living in County Durham. The group works together to identify how services can make positive changes based on the experiences of children and young people with SEND. They developed the Children and Young People's SEND Promise by sharing their views and identifying key themes that they would like to see prioritised.

- 58 The Children and Families Partnership have agreed to uphold more than 25 individual promises set out in the Promise charter including:
- (a) Promising to provide a high standard of education that is fun and engaging in a safe learning environment, and to support children and young people to become more independent by providing training for them to travel on their own to their education and leisure activities
 - (b) Promising to fully involve and prepare children and young people during the transition from children and young people's health care services to adult health care services
 - (c) Promising to provide an accessible work environment inclusive to young people with SEND
 - (d) Promising that within any service, we will listen to the voices of children and young people ensuring services continue to make improvements based on their experiences.
- 59 As highlighted in a previous report, it has been highlighted nationally and locally that an increasing number of young people are buying and drinking energy drinks. It has also been noted that many parents and carers were seeking advice around energy drinks. After discussing at task groups, the **3 Towns Partnership** approached **Bishop and Shildon (BASH) AAP** to see if they could link in with the work being carried out in their area. The project was led by LifeLine, supported and funded by BASH AAP, with support from partners including Health Express, creating the HYPER leaflet along with other resources. The leaflets raise awareness and provide information about Energy Drinks and give schools access to a resource that provides advice and guidance for families.
- 60 10,000 leaflets have been printed for the 3 Towns area, 8800 leaflets have been distributed so far to every child and young person in all of our schools across the 3 towns and leaflets have also been made available in community venues such as GP Surgeries, Libraries, Sports Centres, and Community Centres.
- 61 **Durham AAP's** Children and Young People task group meets regularly to look at the relevant issues and consider project ideas. Support has already been given to County Durham Guides to support improvements to their building and Durham City Centre's Duke of Edinburgh's scheme has received funding through the 'Youth Fund'. The recent Up to you event also supported projects working with disabled young people, young people living with Autism and youth work in the Laurel Avenue. A number of other projects are currently going through the approval process.

Altogether healthier

- 62 The **Health and Wellbeing Board** supports people to achieve their optimum health and wellbeing by helping people to be able to help themselves and others. The vision of the Board is to 'improve the health and wellbeing of the population of County Durham and reduce health inequalities'.
- 63 In January 2017 the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the County Durham Oral Health Strategy. In line with the intentions set out in the strategy, options for water fluoridation are being explored.
- (a) Oral health is important for general health and wellbeing. Poor oral health can affect someone's ability to eat, speak, smile and socialise normally, for example due to pain or social embarrassment. Statistics reveal health inequalities in County Durham where 61% of children in Woodhouse Close have had experience of tooth decay, compared to only 6% in Chester-le-Street South. National statistics show that water fluoridation significantly

reduces tooth decay, particularly in ethnic minority and deprived communities, and Public Health England recommends water fluoridation as a safe and effective measure.

- (b) A number of options have been considered to ensure that the initiative would benefit as many residents and provide the best value for money possible. In November 2017 the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to progress the preferred option to the next stage of the process.
- (c) The simplest and most economic method of fluoridating the water supply of all County Durham residents would involve water treatment works that supply water to some properties within Sunderland and South Tyneside Council boundaries. If these local authorities agree then a technical appraisal of the engineering requirements and associated costs will progress, allowing partners to come to an agreement which can be submitted to the secretary of state and begin the process which will be taken forward by a joint committee and include a full public consultation.

- 64 Macmillan Joining the Dots County Durham is a partnership project between Durham County Council and Macmillan Cancer Support, which has been in place since November 2015. The project aims to make sure people affected by cancer receive early and continuing support from the point of diagnosis. The project was established to develop a new “social model” of support which will make sure that all people affected by cancer in County Durham have the opportunity to receive early support for their individual needs, from income and housing to housework or emotional support.
- 65 A public consultation on the proposed support model for the service took place between September and November 2017. The model includes an assessment of each person’s wide ranging needs and level of support required, ensuring that people access the services and their needs are met, and peer support from other people who have been affected by cancer. A key worker to coordinate the support would be based in the local community and the referral centre would be open on evenings and weekends. The final proposal and implementation plan is being progressed through the appropriate governance arrangements.
- 66 The number of people living with dementia in Durham and the UK is set to increase significantly and many of these people are not registered as having dementia with their GP. The County Durham Dementia Action Alliance is working to increase the number of Dementia Friendly Communities, promote existing support services and improve residents’ awareness and knowledge of dementia with a view to improve earlier diagnosis.
- 67 Area Action Partnerships and the Alzheimer’s Society have been working with Durham County Council’s Spatial Policy and Assets Management Teams to explore the needs of residents affected by dementia and ensure that these needs are taken into consideration in design and development decisions. This includes strengthening emerging planning policies to ensure people with dementia are actively engaged in local communities. So far there are plans to resurface footpaths, provide new seating and signage and assess access arrangements so that people with dementia can feel confident to get out in their local area.
- 68 Good housing and well planned neighbourhoods can have benefits for the wider community beyond people with dementia, including older people and families with young children. The positive and wide ranging discussions from these workshops and comments from the Alzheimer’s Society will be considered in terms of future planning applications and the County Durham Plan. Officers have looked at where

these principles can be expanded to adapt practice in other areas such as transport.

- 69 This has been championed by several AAPs with **East Durham** leading the way, closely followed by **Mid Durham, Chester-le-Street, Derwent Valley** and **Stanley**. Work in East Durham has seen Dalton Park come forward and will commence in the New Year to make their shops, food outlets and cinemas dementia friendly. Three Housing Associations (County Durham Housing Group, Karbon and NorthStar) have linked in with the four previously mentioned AAPs to put in place a two year DFC Coordinator to support local communities to implement DFC across their geographical patches.
- 70 A key issue for all 14 AAPs and the Thematic Partnerships, especially the Health and Wellbeing Board, is social isolation. From April 2018 each AAP will manage a Social Isolation Fund which will support community led initiatives to meet local needs and impact upon County and AAP priorities as they relate to improving outcomes for older and younger people who are socially isolated. It will focus on encouraging participation in activities and projects that provide opportunities for those residents that are affected by social isolation and enable them to contribute positively to their local communities. Each AAP will receive £25,000 for the next three years, which has been allocated through the improved Better Care Fund to enable local preventative measures.
- 71 As an example of how this may be used locally, Age UK County Durham in partnership with **Mid Durham AAP** have used their allocation of social isolation funding in an attempt to lever in funding from the Social Action Fund (managed by the Lottery and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport). A 'place based' intergenerational programme that will seek to bring residents of all ages together to examine such issues as physical, social and welfare wellbeing has been chosen by Durham County Council to be their 'flagship project. Only one project from each local authority can be entered with 20 projects from around the country being chosen for the first phase of this Funds programme. It has the potential to be a 7 year programme with £500,000 of funding available. Details of this will be announced in March.
- 72 The Social Resource Centre in the **EDRC AAP** is also supporting people who may become socially isolated, specifically linked to welfare reform. This project aims to improve the quality of life for people aged 60+ by supporting them into building friendships and attending activities and appointments. The aim was to accomplish this by providing transport solutions for older, older disabled people or people experiencing poverty due to welfare reforms, to access activities/ appointments and ensuring safe access. As at quarter two, the target of ten people being engaged in voluntary work was exceeded with a total of 20 people engaged.
- 73 **Weardale AAP** has taken a different approach to tackling social isolation as a result of the loss of a colleague from an environmental background to illness. A pilot project has been developed with the aim of knitting a forest. Working with the Forestry Commission, community groups, libraries and any interested parties, a pattern for knitting a Christmas tree decoration was developed. The trees were displayed and donations offered, with over £700 raised. The Forestry Commission will be supporting the planting of new indigenous trees by friends and family. In terms of community engagement, numerous groups became involved stating, that meeting new people with something to focus on, give them a reason for leaving the house.

- 74 **Stanley AAP** is to fund and support the reintroduction of the Stanley Car Scheme delivered by Supportive Ltd in 2018. The project uses locally based volunteer drivers and their vehicles to provide a door-to-door service helping the transport needs of vulnerable and socially isolated people of all ages. People contribute to the cost of the transport depending on the length of the journey.
- 75 The service aims to prevent social isolation for the passengers and to help them achieve a better quality of life. Feedback from 83 year old service user: "I would go mad if I sat in my house looking at the four walls. The Transport Scheme has changed my life. I knew there was activities on out there but wouldn't be able to manage if it wasn't for this. Now I have something to look forward to. I use it nearly every week and sometimes more often."
- 76 A Group of volunteers from **Stanley AAP's** Supporting Stanley Task Group that focuses on the AAP's Health and Wellbeing and Older People priorities have come together to form a new Movers and Shakers in Stanley Group, MASS for short! The aim of the group is to improve the health and wellbeing of Stanley residents by providing light physical activity in a relaxed environment, giving hands on support in helping manage weight loss, nutritional advice and healthy cooking demonstrations.
- 77 The initial pilot will see Wellbeing for Life taking a lead on deliver and supporting the new Group's Volunteers to eventually manage and run the Group themselves. Along with Stanley AAP the Group have also received invaluable support from SHAID and Mental Health North East.
- 78 **Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP)**, in partnership with Woodham Village Community Association, is one of the first AAPs to deliver a Public Access Defibrillator Units and Cardiac Arrest Awareness Training project.
- 79 Neighbourhood Budget Funding was used towards the purchase of six Defibrillator Units to be used in the GAMP area. These comprise of four 24-hour public access units - housed in external secure cabinets. All units are in place around the community. A dedicated training unit has been used to deliver Cardiac Awareness training as part of the project.
- 80 Training for 198 people has now been completed. The last phase of training sessions planned for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and the North East Ambulance service is being organised to take place across various venues.

Altogether safer

- 81 The **Safe Durham Partnership Board** works collaboratively to improve community safety across County Durham. The vision of the Board is for a county 'where every adult and child will be, and will feel, safe.'
- 82 To support its drive for continuous improvement the Safe Durham Partnership Board asked the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a Peer Review of the Partnership in September 2017. A team of peers led by the LGA worked as 'critical friends' or 'trusted advisors' to support the Safe Durham Partnership in reflecting on and improving practice by providing an external view on progress.
- 83 They used discussions, observations, workshops, focus groups and visits to community projects to gain an understanding as to whether the Safe Durham Partnership is working effectively to make a difference for frontline staff and the public. This included consideration of involvement with communities, focus on preventative work and progressing the partnership's priorities.

- 84 The peer team highlighted a number of key strengths including effective multi-agency problem solving, strong relationships between partners, innovation, internal challenge and openness to change. The relationship between the Safe Durham Partnership and Safer Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee was identified as a strength. Area Action Partnerships were identified as a key asset with strong, consistent and ongoing relationships with communities.
- 85 The Safe Durham Partnership Board has used the feedback to identify areas to improve the partnership. Organisations will co-ordinate community safety key messages to the public and ensure consistent messages are delivered across the Safe Durham Partnership. The Partnership will engage more with communities to encourage individuals and third parties to report incidents of Hate Crime so that any trends or areas of concern can be highlighted and actions put in place to address the issues. People are encouraged to report tensions in communities to give authorities an understanding of the impact that conflict may have on our local communities and help them to shape the response.
- 86 In January 2017 a new approach was introduced to build the confidence of professionals working with children and young people in reporting and raising concerns on areas of risk that share common factors and where offending behaviour share common traits. Exploitation, Grooming and Radicalisation awareness-raising brings together staff working across different thematic areas to demonstrate the similarity between grooming and radicalisation. It highlights common behaviours shared by victims of grooming and radicalisation and common methods used by offenders. It highlights the way in which mobile technology is used to target children and young people and raises awareness of how it is possible to use knowledge from the sessions to prevent risky behaviours and recognise when a child may already be at risk. Sessions were held in January, May and October 2017, with over 800 people attending these seminars.
- 87 The Durham and Darlington Victims and Witnesses Group (VWG) works in partnership to ensure victims and witnesses receive end to end, co-ordinated care and support that enables them to cope and recover from their experience and participate in Criminal Justice Processes. The group is improving support and communications with the overall aim of ensuring victims are fully supported through the criminal justice process and are able to give their best evidence as required.
- 88 A successful bid to the Home Office Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund County Durham and Darlington for £310,000 will fund a multi-agency intervention which aims to tackle those non-high risk perpetrators identified within the significant volume of calls to the police and referrals to children's social care. The project will provide a range of interventions which aims to stop the abusive behaviour. As well as working with individuals to support them to change their behaviour, the intervention will raise awareness of the unacceptability of domestic abuse.
- 89 Harbour Support Services have been awarded regional funding from the Big Lottery to roll out The Recovery Programme. This will provide long term support for women and girls affected by domestic abuse to sustain positive change in their lives. Women will be offered an extended service once they leave the existing core Harbour Services. Three years of funding was secured which will provide specialist workers, weekly survivor groups, ongoing access to 1:1 support and development of the peer mentoring service.
- 90 Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is conducting a review into cybercrime and preventing young people from being engaged or

remaining in cybercrime activity. The scope of this work will focus on victims of cyber crime as well as offenders. So far the review has involved working with young people to increase their awareness of what cybercrime activity is and help them to divert their digital skills into more appropriate channels.

- 91 **Teesdale and Stanley AAPs** are the latest to support older vulnerable residents through the 'Beat the Scammers' initiative.
- 92 The project is being delivered by Age UK County Durham and aims to prevent older people becoming victims of telephone fraud. Age UK County Durham are currently working with partner organisations to give older people the confidence to protect themselves against fraudulent callers. A key part of the project is the installation of Call Blocker Units in their homes.
- 93 As part of the project Age UK County Durham has recruited and trained volunteers to support the project through giving presentations to older people across the community about how to deal with cold telephone calls (both recorded and live). The volunteers demonstrate how people can protect themselves from being a victim of scam calls, promote free services such as the Telephone and Mail Preference Services and raise awareness of how technology such as 'call blockers' work.
- 94 All participants receive a 'Beat the Scammers Information Pack' with key messages. Participants complete a feedback form which will enable Age UK to confidentially identify those who are eligible for a call blocker from the project.
- 95 **Bishop Auckland and Shildon (BASH) AAP** is funding a project aimed at children and young people called Chrysalis. This supports children, young people and their families who are survivors of domestic abuse. The project takes a complete approach in supporting the family to develop better relationships and coping strategies to recover from the traumatic experience of living in an abusive home.

Altogether greener

- 96 The last **County Durham Environment Partnership Board** was held on 5 December. With Oliver Sherratt, Head of Direct Services now confirmed as Chair of the partnership, the board was keen to review the strategic priorities going forward. Building on excellent partner participation at the board, including Durham Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency and Durham Community Action, the board agreed the Environment Partnership priorities (which include, Place, Low Carbon, Communities and Natural Environment). Actions will now be developed alongside these with wider considerations for sub groups.
- 97 The Board was also keen to review our local priorities alongside the Local Nature Partnership (North East Nature Partnership, NENP) but also hear about funding opportunities and working together to deliver them. The board agreed better integrated priorities with the NENP to add value for funding and delivery opportunities with regional partners. The board also discussed the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy and possible high level interventions which we agreed would be key environmental factors for Reducing Health Inequalities by addressing the social determinants of Health.
- 98 The 28th annual Environment Awards were held on the 23 November and were once again an outstanding success. This year saw 53 entries to the awards from all areas of County Durham. Judges had a very difficult task and in the end shortlisted 33 entries. Of these entries, 12 were given the award of Category Winner and 21 were Highly Commended. Once again, there was a wide range of excellent projects, which highlighted the commitment of individuals, and groups who give up their time to make County Durham a better place for people to live and visit.

Volunteers from all over the county are working hard, dedicating their time to improve their local environment. The board recognised these awards as a unique opportunity to celebrate their fantastic achievements and discussed developments for next year. Winners are referenced in the winter edition of the Environment Partnership newsletter.

- 99 The board also discussed the success of Durham County Council's environmental programme, 'Operation Spruce Up' which recently won the 'Campaign of the Year' at environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy's Network Awards 2018. The board noted the positive feedback this programme had received since its launch in November 2016. Twelve 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 Ferryhill Primary School, took part in a poster competition to encourage people to keep the village clean and tidy. Spruce Up is now taking place in Coundon.
- 100 **Derwent Valley Partnership (DVP)** will award Environment Improvement grants in early spring 2018 enabling communities who were successful in their applications to enhance their local environment, village or neighbourhood. The funding was for 'capital' items so groups were encouraged to think of 'feature' or 'statement' items they felt would enhance a more general environmental improvement scheme. Groups also signed up for the RHS Its Your Neighbourhood awards as part of the grant conditions. This model is an enhancement for the DVP area to the current County-wide Environment Grant operated through civic pride.
- 101 Local communities in the AAP area this spring are being encouraged to sign up to the 'clean and tidy Derwent Valley' awards to help encourage people to care more for their neighbourhoods and villages in which they live. Awards for the efforts made by volunteers will take place locally in the autumn, having been judged in the summer 2018.
- 102 Working with Teesdale Community Resources, **Teesdale Area Partnership (TAP)** is helping to develop a natural woodland site within Barnard Castle. Deepdale Wood is an ancient natural woodland, which has been continuously wooded for over 400 years. The site is valuable natural habitat for local wildlife. In order to encourage local wildlife and maintain the woodland, as a community resource, TAP funding has been used to improve access to the site and provide funding towards a programme that will recruit and train local people in woodland management skills. In addition, TAP funding has also been provided to install interpretation boards and construct a new footbridge. To date the project has recruited and trained 11 local volunteers.
- 103 **East Durham AAP** has funded a range of environmental projects in recent months:
- a. Interpretation panels to be installed at Easington Local nature reserve and Castle Eden Dene which look to cure pollution in the tributary and its catchment streams;
 - b. Greenscape provided some youth trips to support young people taking part in the John Muir award in environmental education and skills;
 - c. Deneside saw an access gate Walton Avenue to prevent flytipping on the old pit site;
 - d. A Community allotment at Seaview Primary School as well as Station Road allotments in Horden benefitted from local neighbourhood budgets.

Recommendations and reasons

- 104 It is recommended that Members note the report.

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

**Corporate Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board**

20 April 2018



Update in relation to Petitions

Report of Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide for information 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 5 e-petitions have been submitted. Of these, 3 did not qualify under the Council's Petition Scheme and 1 was withdrawn. There are currently 2 e-petitions live on the website.
 - 3.1 In addition, 2 new paper petitions have been submitted and 1 has completed the petition process. 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**
Tel: 03000 269 708 E-mail: ros.layfield@durham.gov.uk

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

Petition Table – Active Petitions

Appendix 2

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
Petition 322 Skatepark for Ushaw Moor E-Petition No. of signatures – Petition received – 18.11.17	Stephen Howell Head of Culture and Sport	Petition asking the Council to build a skatepark for the residents of Ushaw Moor. e-petition to run from 18.11.17 – 1.6.18	E-Petition live
Petition 323 Rats in Shotton Colliery Petition received – 15.12.17 No. of signatures – 106	Joanne Waller Head of Environment, Health & Cons. Prot, / Oliver Sherratt Head of Direct Services	Petition asking the Council to address the rat problem in Shotton Colliery. Officers from Neighbourhood Protection and Environmental Health and Consumer Protection are arranging to meet to discuss the issues and to carry out a survey for the area.	Petition ongoing
Petition 325 Traffic Calming Measures outside of Langley Moor Primary School Petition received – 19.12.17 No. of signatures – 146	Michelle Shearer Senior Engineer Traffic Assets	Petition asking the Council to introduce further traffic calming measures outside of Langley Moor Primary School. Schools 20mph Part-Time Speed Limits Project The Council has reviewed its policy on 20mph speed limits and zones and this review was approved by Cabinet on 17th December 2014. 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. The Council’s policy on 20mph limits and zones and part-time limits is that they can be provided where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Transport legislation and guidance is satisfied; and • Fully funded from third party sources such as Schools, 	Petition CLOSED

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>Town /Parish Councils, local Councillor’s Neighbourhood Budget and Area Action Partnerships.</p> <p>20mph Part-time Speed Limit Following on-going concerns about the speed of traffic using the road in the vicinity of the Primary School, especially at the start and end of the school day, a 20mph Part-Time Speed Limit Scheme on Brandon Lane and Black Road was implemented in March 2017. The scheme was funded by local Councillors. The scheme also included the installation of a speed visor on Brandon Lane for eastbound traffic, as it was known that speeds were higher when travelling from the Brandon direction.</p> <p>Speed Surveys Following the introduction of the School 20mph Part-Time Speed Limit Scheme and speed visor, further traffic surveys have been undertaken on Brandon Lane either side of the Black Road junction. This has allowed us to assess the effectiveness of the new measures by enabling comparisons to be made between the new traffic data and the traffic data preceding the introduction of these measures.</p> <p>The most recent surveys in January 2018 show that the ‘mean average speed’ over a 7 day / 24 hour period to be 26.2mph compared to 29.2mph prior to the measures. Additionally, driver compliance with the posted speed limit has improved with an average 22% reduction in drivers exceeding 30mph on Brandon Lane in the vicinity of the school.</p> <p>During the periods when the School 20mph Part-Time Speed Limit is functioning, at the start and end of the school day, traffic speeds on Brandon Lane in the vicinity of the School are also further lowered to approximately 23.7mph. This further reduction in speed is a combination of the on-street parking at these times together with the benefits of introducing the School 20 mph Part-</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>Time Speed Limit Scheme.</p> <p>Road Safety Schemes The Council receives more requests for road safety schemes than they can fund from the limited road safety budgets. Therefore, schemes are prioritised where there are proven issues with serious personal injury accidents.</p> <p>The accident recording database shared with Durham Constabulary reported one recorded ‘personal injury’ road accident in the vicinity of Langley Moor Primary School in the last 4 years; this being our standard search criteria. The accident that occurred on 14th January 2017 was attributable to ‘driver error’ in relation to a turning manoeuvre at the junction of North Brancepeth Close. Compared to many other locations within the county, this represents a favourable accident record and we must continue to prioritise our limited road safety budgets at locations with a proven record of personal injury accidents.</p> <p>Traffic Calming The provision of physical traffic calming measures has been investigated but they are not feasible due to the following design constraints;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This being a bus route; • The proximity of side road entrances; • Bus stops; and • On street parking associated with the school. <p>The traffic surveys carried out recently confirmed that the School 20mph Part-Time Speed Limit Scheme and speed visor have successfully reduced overall traffic speeds.</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>Community Speed Watch As part of the partnership approach to improving road safety, joint working with Durham Constabulary, has enabled DCC to introduce 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 the appropriate level of intervention and action to be considered.</p>	
<p>Petition 326</p> <p>Inadequate Broadband Services at Mount Oswald Estate</p> <p>Petition received – 10.1.18 No. of signatures – 96</p>	<p>Steve Hodgson Technical Services Manager</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to address the inadequate broadband on the Mount Oswald Estate.</p> <p>Discussions had taken place with both Openreach and David Wilson Homes. David Wilson Homes had confirmed that they had placed an order with Openreach to bring fibre broadband to all properties on the Mount Oswald estate. Barratts had advised that they would clarify the terms of the Openreach quotation to provide a fibre to the premise solution to the estate and programme of works once it is available. Durham County Council recognises the importance of high speed, reliable broadband which is now considered to be an essential part of everyday life; plans were being progressed to provide ultrafast broadband services to the Mount Oswald estate</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>
<p>Petition 328</p> <p>TRO, Taxi Rank & Car Parking at Ferryhill</p> <p>E-Petition Petition received – 16.1.18</p>	<p>Lee Mowbray Major Projects Team leader</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to amend the current TRO to include a 24 hour taxi rank and to review all parking within the same locality in Ferryhill Town Centre.</p> <p>E-petition ran from 22.1.18 – 27.2.18 and closed with 17 signatures. In addition, a paper petition with 480 signatures was received on</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Petition Table – Active Petitions

Appendix 2

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
<p>No. of signatures – 17</p> <p>Paper petition Received – 23.2.18 No. of signatures – 480</p>		<p>23.2.18.</p> <p>The County Council regularly review Traffic Regulation Orders and changes will be proposed if circumstances or traffic patterns change. Provisional plans to provide a 24 hour taxi rank on Market Street have been drafted and this was shared with the public via the Town Council at a public meeting in Ferryhill on the 8th February. Feedback on the proposals were generally favourable but a couple of additional areas for investigation were highlighted. The Strategic Traffic team are currently looking into these suggestions to see if they can form part of the proposal going forward.</p> <p>All statutory consultees and affected adjacent premises will be consulted in due course.</p>	
<p>Petition 330</p> <p>Keep our Sport Alive, Open Waste Land for off Road Motorbikes</p> <p>E-Petition Petition received – 16.2.18 No. of signatures –</p>	<p>Barrie Alderson Outdoor Facilities Co- ordinator</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to provide waste land for off road motorbikes</p> <p>To run until 30 June 2018.</p>	<p>E-Petition live</p>
<p>Petition 332</p> <p>Removal of Street Lighting</p> <p>Petition received – 16.2.18 No. of signatures – 80</p>	<p>John Reed Head of Technical Services</p>	<p>Petition received asking the Council to reconsider the removal of street lighting on A182 Seaham.</p> <p>Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project The street lighting removals were part of the ongoing Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project which was approved by the Council’s Cabinet on 12 December 2012.</p> <p>This “invest to save” project involved the removal of street lights</p>	<p>Petition CLOSED</p>

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>which were not required by British Standards where it was considered safe to do so.</p> <p>The project is achieving significant savings in energy and maintenance costs that will help to meet the unprecedented reductions in central government funding. The project will also contribute to a reduction in the Council’s carbon emissions.</p> <p>The project originally planned 7,000 removals based on a high level desktop assessment. However, following more detailed analysis including risk assessments less than 3,000 street lights will be removed.</p> <p>This demonstrates the Council’s commitment to only removing street lights where it is considered safe to do so.</p> <p>An update was provided to the Council’s Cabinet on 21st October 2015.</p> <p>Street Lighting Policy The Street Lighting Policy which facilitates these removals, was approved by the Council’s Cabinet on 20th November 2013 following extensive public consultation.</p> <p>The report states “Where there is existing street lighting that is not specifically required by the Street Lighting Policy then this will be removed where it is safe to do so, based on a risk assessment of road safety and the fear of crime and following consultation with local Elected Members, Town and Parish Councils where applicable”.</p> <p>No street lights will be removed in residential areas, roundabouts, major junctions or where there are proven road safety and crime issues under this policy.</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>The policy aligns the provision of street lighting in County Durham with British Standards in line with most other Councils in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The areas where street lighting has been removed comprises areas that are of low brightness, predominately open land with sporadic or few dwellings. As defined in the Council’s Street Lighting policy, on roads between villages and settlements in Environmental Zone E2 areas, lighting will only be provided where there is a known night-time road safety problem that cannot be controlled by other methods such as improvements to the carriageway delineation by reflective road studs, carriageway markings and improved signing.</p> <p>At these locations, the mitigation includes the installation of two number back-to-back 50 mph speed limit repeater signs.</p> <p>Road Safety Risk Assessment The Council has commissioned independent road safety auditors to carry out robust and detailed road safety risk assessments at each site where street lighting has been proposed for removal in accordance with the above policy.</p> <p>The risk assessment includes a detailed analysis of all Personal Injury Accidents (PIA’s) which have been recorded by Durham Constabulary covering a five year period. In addition, details of fatal road traffic collisions are analysed covering a ten-year period.</p> <p>The risk assessment process includes visiting the site and walking the route allowing for a detailed assessment of the character of the road, its environment, the condition of the existing traffic signs and road markings. The risk assessment</p>	

Nature of Petition	Appropriate Service/Officer	Summary of Information	Status of Petition
		<p>identifies any potential hazards to highway users and considers if these can be mitigated.</p> <p>The risk assessment also includes, where appropriate, the road safety auditor liaising with various teams within the Council in respect to observations relating to walking routes to schools, cycling and public rights of way.</p> <p>A continuous footpath exists along the western extent of East Shore Road with the crossing point immediately south of the Edith street roundabout remaining illuminated. Similarly, there is a continuous footpath along the eastern extent of George Elmy Lifeboat Way, with the crossing point and bus stops immediately north of the Edith Street roundabout remaining illuminated. Both footpaths are of adequate width and condition.</p> <p>Service Level Agreement The only way to retain street lights approved for removal following the risk assessment process is if a third party such as the Town Council is able to fully fund a Service Level Agreement. We have offered a Service Level Agreement to the Town Council and we are pleased to confirm that this was accepted following discussion at Seaham Town Council's meeting on 6th March 2018.</p>	
<p>Petition 335</p> <p>Vigo Lane Improvements to Highway</p> <p>Petition received 29.3.18</p> <p>No. of signatures - 56</p>	<p>Stuart Timmiss/ John Reed/ Adrian White/ Regeneration & Local Services</p>	<p>Petition asking the Council to address the highways infrastructure and install a crossing on Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street.</p>	<p>Awaiting response</p>

**Corporate Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board**

20 April 2018



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 11 April 2018. It also contained information on those key decisions that are currently scheduled to be considered by the Executive up to 31 July 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
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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/01/17	TBC	Durham City Sustainable Transport Strategy (Final)		Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration		Stuart Timmiss, Head of Planning and Assets 03000 267334	

**Corporate Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board**

20 April 2018



**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 19 March – April 2018.

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 19 March 2018 – 20 April 2018.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB)

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	There are no systematic reviews to report for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	There is no scrutiny review activity for this period.
<i>Overview reports/ Presentations</i>	COSMB on 19 March received reports and presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 Customer Feedback • Work Programme Refresh • Notice of key decisions

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

<i>Update on Previous Reviews</i>	There are no systematic reviews to report for this period.
<i>Scrutiny Review Activity</i>	Cybercrime – review recommendations agreed and report to be presented to Cabinet and Safe Durham Partnership Board.

Overview reports/ Presentations	SSC OSC on 27 March 2018 received reports and presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Misuse Services • Work Programme refresh • Police and Crime Panel update • Safe Durham Partnership update.
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Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E & E OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	The E&E OSC on 5 April received a report and presentation detailing the progress made on the recommendations contained in the Marketing activity undertaken by Visit County Durham scrutiny review.
Scrutiny Review Activity	Review of retail support provided by DCC – members at the meeting on 6 April received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the support provided to the retail sector by Area Action Partnerships in the county. • Detail of the support provided to the sector by key partners including Enterprise Agencies, the Federation for Small Businesses (FSB) and the North East Growth Hub.
Overview reports/ Presentations	Economy and Enterprise OSC on 5 April 2018 received reports and presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress of Digital Durham (support provided for the business sector). • Refresh of the work programme 2018/19
Visits	Members of E & E OSC took part in sites visits as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 March 2018 – Members of the retail working group visited businesses in Stanley • 4 April 2018 – Members of the retail working group visited businesses in Barnard Castle <p>A joint visit of Members of E & E OSC and Env OSC took place on 26 March 2018 to the Heritage Coast.</p>

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	DCC's future allotment policy – Members of the working group on 20 March 2018 received information on the proposed consultation process.
Overview reports/ Presentations	Environment OSC on 17 April 2018 received reports and presentations on EU funding and other funding for low carbon projects.
Visits	Environment OSC on 26 March visited two of the County Durham Parks - Hardwick and Wharton.

Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC)

Update on Previous Reviews	There are no systematic reviews to report on for this period.
Scrutiny Review Activity	The Review Group looking at the Role of the Social Worker from a child's perspective met in April to consider edge of care experiences of children and young people.
Overview reports/ Presentations	CYP OSC on 9 April 2018 received reports and presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Point Service • Impact of Children’s Centres Review • Summary of minutes from the 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	AWH OSC on 13 April 2018 received reports and presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed closure of Byers Green Branch Surgery • NHS England Review of Specialised Vascular Services • Improved Access to Psychological Therapies Model Development • Implementation of Care Navigation across North Durham and DDES CCGs • Council Plan 2016-19: Refresh of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

Performance/Budget/Work Programme Reporting

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

Regional Scrutiny

- 5 The next meeting of the North East Regional Joint Member Officer Network will take place on 24 April 2018.

North East Combined Authority (NECA) Scrutiny Committee

- 6 The next meeting of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) Scrutiny Committee will take place in June 2018.

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

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