



Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Tuesday 26 June 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 5 April 2018 (Pages 3 - 16)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties, if any
6. Media Relations
7. County Durham Economic Partnership - Overview of activity:
(Pages 17 - 20)
 - (i) Joint Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services.
 - (ii) Overview of the work of the County Durham Economic Partnership – presentation by Professor Brian Tanner, Chairman, County Durham Economic Partnership.
8. DurhamWorks Programme - Progress: (Pages 21 - 28)
 - (i) Joint Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Strategic Manager, Progression and Learning, Children and Young People's Services.
9. Quarter 4, 2017/18 Performance Management Report: (Pages 29 - 42)
Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships – Strategy Team Leader, Transformation and Partnerships.

10. Refresh of the Work Programme: (Pages 43 - 50)
Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships – Overview and Scrutiny Officer – Transformation and Partnerships.
11. Minutes from the County Durham Economic Partnership held on 24 April 2018 (Pages 51 - 56)
12. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
18 June 2018

To: **The Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

Councillor A Batey (Chairman)
Councillor M Clarke (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, R Crute, S Dunn, D Hall, T Henderson, P Howell, S Iveson, P Jopling, L Maddison, J Maitland, R Manchester, R Ormerod, A Patterson, A Reed, E Scott, P Sexton, L Taylor and M Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr G Binney and Mrs R Morris

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the **Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Committee Room 2 - County Hall, Durham** on **Thursday 5 April 2018** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor A Batey (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, J Clare, M Clarke, R Crute, T Henderson, P Howell, P Jopling, L Maddison, J Maitland, R Manchester, L Taylor and M Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Batson

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Davinson, D Hall, R Ormerod, A Patterson, A Reed, E Scott and P Sexton.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 26 February 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Diane Close referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes).

The articles included: new IT jobs created with Waterstons' moving to Aykley Heads; the opening of the £7.4m science and technology park development at NetPark, Sedgefield, the Explorer facilities houses laboratories and offices for firms to scale up work as they target global growth; and Durham had been named as one of the top 10 cities for claiming Research and Development tax relief.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Tourism Marketing Activity Undertaken by Visit County Durham (VCD) Scrutiny Review Report - Update on progress of recommendations

The Chairman introduced the Managing Director, Visit County Durham (VCD), Michelle Gorman who was in attendance to give an update as regards the progress of recommendations from the Tourism Marketing Activity Undertaken by Visit County Durham Scrutiny Review Report (for copy see file of minutes).

The Managing Director, VCD referred Members to the report set out in the agenda pack and noted she would explain the key elements. She noted that in relation to raising profile via partnership activities that "The Discover England Fund" was a world class product being delivered, and the Government had announced the programme with £40 million of funding in 2016. It was noted VCD was a partner in 3 large scale bids: England's Historic Cities – the Collection (£1.6 million); Manchester Gateway Project (£1.5 million); and the East of England Touring route – A1 (£1.4 million). Members were informed of the North East Tourism Alliance and a list of partners, including Local Authorities, Visit England and Visit Britain amongst others.

The Committee noted that in terms of strategic destination marketing, VCD worked in partnership with strategic partners and tourism businesses, with two major campaigns: heritage / history in Spring; and outdoor activity in Autumn. It was noted the main aims were to: raise the national profile and appeal of the county; encourage overnight stays, to increase spend; raise season occupancy; and to raise awareness of distinctive Durham experiences.

Members noted promotional activities in relation to the Heritage and Outdoor campaigns, with the impact that had been made, with 2.6 million impressions in relation to the heritage online content hub, and with Anita Rani from the BBC programme Countryfile featuring in promotional videos for outdoor campaigns, noting the variety of landscapes in the County from the Dales through to the Heritage Coast. Councillors noted the Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and their first stargazing festival, which could be developed in terms of encouraging overnight stays.

The Managing Director, VCD noted the links in terms of transport and travel partners, as well as destination performance, with meetings with strategic partners (including the Port of Tyne) and Durham Cathedral and Bowes Museum featuring in the top four destinations for cruise ship passengers, an economic value of £806 million, up by 2% on 2015. Members noted a further breakdown of performance in 2016, including a 3% increase in visitor numbers from 2015 and a split of 93% day visitors and 7% overnight stays. It was noted that a 1% increase in day visitors since 2015 was disappointing, despite marketing campaigns, noting the need to help increase the number of places to stay and provide a critical mass in terms of more visitor products. Members understood the limited budget and the competition in terms of more established tourism brands such as Yorkshire, Cumbria and Scotland.

The Managing Director, VCD informed Members of the issues in terms of Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings and the work undertaken in restructuring VCD in order to meet such demands, including looking to be more commercial with “Membership-lite”, to bring income back into the budget. It was explained that the VCD website continued to go from strength-to-strength with over 1 million unique visitors, with the largest change being now around 50% of all traffic came from mobile devices. Members were informed of a pitch for Durham in relation to the James Martin “Great British Adventures” television series. The Committee were reminded of the continued promotion of our local events, such as Lumiere, the Durham book Festival, the Bishop Auckland Food Festival and Kynren amongst others.

The Managing Director, VCD explained in terms of championing the tourism / visitor economy: the draft regional “Case for Tourism”, from the North East Tourism Alliance; tourism in 2016 having contributed £3.4 billion to the economy of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area; and tourism in the North East employing more than 55,000 people. It was explained that there were three key roles in terms of driving the regional economy forward: the resilience of the sector provides consistency during difficult economic periods; tourism creates employment; and tourism develops a positive image to encourage people to live, work and invest in the North East.

The Chairman thanked the Managing Director, VCD and asked what the current staffing arrangements were at VCD.

The Managing Director, VCD noted there were 16 members of staff, 2 casual and 1 part-time. The Chairman added that what was achieved with that level of staffing was excellent and it was reassuring that issues that had been previously raised at Committee, such as marketing at the Port of Tyne, had been addressed and thanked the Managing Director for this.

Councillor R Crute noted the positive picture together with the challenging background and asked how resilient the sector was in the longer term. Councillor R Crute noted a 7% overnight stay and commented that increasing overnight stays is key in being able to capture the most spend, however, with austerity and budget cuts he asked how resilient the North East and County Durham were in the longer term. The Managing Director, VCD noted that she began working at VCD in 2006, prior to the economic downturn in 2008. She noted at that point, in 2006, there was an upward trajectory and in 2008 it fell a few percent and then levelled off. She added that in 2013/14 there was a 1% growth.

Members were reminded of the closure of One North East, and noted the current steady position. The Managing Director, VCD noted that Brexit presented another unknown, although as only 2% of international visitors come to the North East, this might not have as much impact as in other parts of the country.

It was added that many in the UK had chosen to stay and holiday in the UK, with national campaigns having worked in this regard. She noted that there was further information to come from Government, such as the Industrial Strategy and Tourism Deal, with the North East working on a Tourism Zone bid.

Councillor P Jopling noted she was interested in how we measured partnerships and success for Durham. Councillor P Jopling noted a lot of building work taking place in Durham City and a number of shops have vacated the city centre and asked what there was in terms of promoting any retail offer. The Managing Director, VCD explained that this was an element that was promoted, however, the decline of retail was a national trend, with pressures from online shopping and large out-of-town retail parks. She added that it was for High Streets to reinvent themselves, likely with less large chain stores and more independent shops. The Managing Director, VCD noted that Adam Deathe from the Durham City Business Improvement District (BID) worked on a retail strategy, with some input from VCD and developers in Durham in respect of retail for the future. Councillor P Jopling noted she felt the scale of development in Durham City was positive and that many that had left the city centre may come to see their move as short-sighted.

Mr T Batson agreed with the Chairman that the work of VCD was excellent and noted, in his time as a Co-opted Member of the Committee, he had seen how the work of VCD had developed and he felt it was incredible. Mr T Batson noted that County Durham was mostly rural and that Durham County Council was a Local Planning Authority. He asked whether the policies and strategies from a planning aspect were suitable to help Durham succeed in terms of tourism, noting that there was a need for Officers' support otherwise there would be a negative response commercially in terms of investment. The Managing Director, VCD noted that VCD worked with Planning colleagues, including the Planning Development Manager, Stephen Reed, who provided excellent support. She added that the Durham Tourism Management Plan was the strategy for VCD and Planners referred to this when looking at tourism development. The Managing Director, VCD noted there was a dedicated development post within the VCD team that commented on all relevant development and there was an internal working group, with colleagues from Planning, Clean and Green, Rights of Way that was very useful in considering and tackling issues.

Councillor L Maddison thanked the Managing Director, VCD for a very good presentation and for the feedback in relation to the Port of Tyne and partnership working. She added that when members had previously raised questions in relation to the destination of passengers from the Port of Tyne it was stated that there was not much interest at that time in Beamish and not much emphasis on Locomotion. Councillor L Maddison asked when the Top 4 destinations from the Port of Tyne were promoted, was a route map used, which could then also indicate what other attractions were in our region and our County, including distances and travel times to help link into our city and town centres, for example linking from the Bowes Museum to Locomotion and from Durham Cathedral to Beamish. Councillor L Maddison noted a need to advertise nationally and in relation to the economy there was a need to focus on increasing the percentage of overnight stays.

The Managing Director, VCD noted that there was a move to a more itinerary based approach providing links with 2 day itineraries, setting out where to eat, stay and visit.

The Chairman noted that there was a difference between Beamish Museum and Beamish Village and that this should be made clear when promoting the museum.

Councillor J Atkinson asked as regards joined up communication, noting a recent site visit where businesses had said that they were struggling to find time to communicate any concerns/issues that they had to those that could provide the necessary support. The Managing Director, commented that VCD provides opportunities for businesses to engage with them via two conferences each year, a number of networking events and drop-in sessions. Councillor J Atkinson noted that those businesses spoken to as part of the site visit did not seem to be aware of this. The Chairman noted this linked to the work of the Retail Support Working Group. The Managing Director, VCD noted a presentation had been held at the Guild in question, however, there was a capacity issue in that there were over 850 tourism businesses and 3 members of staff to service this. She reiterated that there was a weekly e-newsletter as well as the two conferences, summer networking events and drop-in sessions.

Councillor J Clare noted that Locomotion and the associated town centre of Shildon were deemed to be separate, similarly with Beamish Museum and nearby towns and the Bowes Museum and Barnard Castle. He asked how those associated towns could capture visitors to those attractions to maximise spend in those areas. The Chairman noted from recent visits to London that visitor maps included advertisement around the outside alongside discounts and further information.

Resolved:

That the report, presentation and progress with recommendations from the Scrutiny Review Report be noted.

8 Digital Durham Programme and Related Projects

The Chairman introduced the Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure, Steve Hodgson who was in attendance to give an update as regards the Digital Durham Programme and related projects (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted the objective of Digital Durham was “to ensure that Durham is at the forefront of digital connectivity, including fixed line broadband, wireless and mobile”. It was explained that in the future: all forms of economic activity would require some form of connectivity; businesses would be technology led; ubiquitous coverage would be required to enable consistent high quality access to public services, learning, employment, healthcare, data and entertainment; and there would be an expectation that services would be available at any time and from any location.

The Committee were informed as regards what work was ongoing in terms of Digital Durham, the partnership between ten Local Authorities, with Contract One delivering 504 structures, with 105,000 properties having fibre-based connections, 89,000 being superfast, with a take up of 44%. It was noted Contract Two would deliver 220 structures to be delivered by September 2018, 162 completed to date. It was added that this would represent 28,000 properties with a fibre-based connection, 25,000 being superfast. It was projected that there would be 97% coverage over the programme area, with 98% in Durham. Members noted there was planning ongoing in terms of future phases.

The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure explained as regards work ongoing in terms of wireless and mobile broadband and the support for business at business centres such as Consett, Tanfield, NETPark and companies such as Atom Bank, Waterstons, and housing organisations including the County Durham Housing Group, Chapter Homes and Karbon Homes.

It was explained that Councillors could help in terms of issues such as provision of services in the less cost-effective locations, such as rural areas, and the Local Full Fibre Network Programme. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted that in some cases political pressure can help to make developers and providers meet their obligations in terms of broadband provision, citing examples within the County.

Councillors noted the importance of digital skills, “to ensure that Durham has a skilled populace that is able to take the opportunities presented by digital technologies”, and the North East Combined Authority (NECA) digital skills initiative included 150 different initiatives and opportunities for learning being identified, with over 40% being within Durham. Members noted the importance of developing underrepresented areas, for example through “Women in Tech”, and supporting young people via the apprenticeship levy. Members noted events such as Dynamo North East and Hackathons, engaging with our regional Universities.

The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted another important area was Open Data, with an objective “to ensure that Durham is a lead player in the drive for open data”. It was explained to Members that there was a huge value in the data created by organisations and the Council had vast quantities of data that could be used to create new products, services and new value. Members noted there would be a need to gather data appropriately and store it securely, share our data, and to also use data provided by other organisations. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure explained in terms of the Open Data project there were 35 data sets live on “Data Mill North”, with over 400 in total. Organisations that were worked with included: the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Durham BID, Business Durham and the Digital and Satellite Catapults. It was noted the NECA Digital Leads Group were looking to map all data and “internet of things” initiatives across the region.

The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure concluded by noting: the access to technology and digital services was important to sustainable economic development; the Council and partners were investing resources in infrastructure, skills and data; the Council and partners were working locally, regionally, nationally and internationally; and the Council was developing a new Digital Strategy.

The Chairman thanked the Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure and asked Members for their questions and comments.

Councillor J Clare noted that he felt it was a must to have broadband connectivity seen as an essential service at the planning phase, similar to water and electricity supplies, and looked to the new National Planning Policy Framework as regards this. He added he was very interested in public wifi, especially for his area, namely Newton Aycliffe and asked what he would need to do, and indeed other Councillors, to secure this for our town centres.

The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted his team was the point of contact as regards this and noted the provision could be provided via radio transmitters hung from buildings, citing Barnard Castle as an example. He explained there could be various options in terms of what could be accessed via any service provided by the Council, however, the issue would be where the money would come from whether a development programme, Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) or Government funding. Councillor J Clare asked for an estimate in terms of costs, for example at Barnard Castle as described. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted approximately £300 per year, per access point, and the cost of any maintenance. He added that there were advantages to this method as it did not require roads to be dug up, and the technology was improving.

The Chairman asked why Stanley had received such wifi while other town centres had not. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted that there was some work undertaken by his team in terms of scoping for wifi provision in Stanley however there was no installation and noted that he could provide additional information in relation to the cost of wifi provision.

Councillor E Adam noted a lot of good work, though focused in our town centres. He noted, linking to the previous item from VCD and our rural economy, the need for broadband provision, however, there seemed to be a lack of impetus and many businesses need such provision in order to develop. Councillor E Adam noted on page 31 the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and asked what impact there was in terms of delivering broadband speeds in our rural communities. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted this was an issue and reminded Members that Digital Durham was a Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport funded programme and focused on the most coverage for the lowest costs and achieving value for money. He added the provision in rural areas was more costly and the last 2% may struggle to be fulfilled. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure reiterated that there was a bid for RDPE funding and to focus on gain share in rural areas, and added that the programme should have started with hard to reach areas first as the providers would have done the installation in the easier to reach areas. He noted that for Phase 3 it may be possible to develop our own procurement, noting provision in Forrest-in-Teesdale. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted a need for prioritisation of rural areas and that Members' support in this regards would be important.

Councillor L Maddison asked how new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was being managed in relation to the work of Digital Durham. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted that in terms of policy for the Council, this was being dealt with by Corporate Communications, and in terms of ICT this was being dealt with by the Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure. He added it was a hot topic across the Authority with a lot of training and a working group established to steer the authority through the various requirements. Councillor L Maddison asked if the Authority was on target for day one, the Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted this was the case.

Councillor T Henderson noted a recent site visit to Barnard Castle and noted that an issue raised was IT issues and broadband connectivity, with some part of the town not getting any service. He asked how could the provision be extended in the south and west. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted Digital Durham worked in relation to the provision of superfast broadband. He reiterated that rural geographies were difficult in terms of provision, with service providers looking for value for money and return on their investment.

The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted that perhaps if there was a groundswell of opinion, and a large number of requests, this may help the case for such provision in those areas. Councillor T Henderson thanked the Officer and asked for further information, the Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted he would be more than happy to speak to Members as regards any issues in their local areas and can do a survey providing an analysis of where services are needed.

The Chairman noted the Council had plans to relocate County Hall and also look to embrace new ways of working, utilising home-working where appropriate and noted that it was important that there was good broadband connectivity for all to help enable this, including other businesses, and for children being able to access and complete homework online. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted that the ability for Council employees to access services remotely had been tested during the recent extreme weather and work was being undertaken to boost the capacity.

Councillor P Howell noted that businesses in Barnard Castle had noted challenges in terms of being able to maximise opportunities such as developing an “app” for the town without the necessary connectivity and asked if there was anywhere we could refer people to in order to understand timescales in terms of the roll out of broadband provision. He cited other examples at Newton Aycliffe and the new business park and associated housing developments across the County. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted there was forward planning, however, within contracts it was stipulated that they could only be disclosed 2 months ahead of roll out. He added once disclosed then there would be the usual stickers placed on the telephone boxes, posters and leaflets distributed in order to stimulate demand in the area. The Chairman noted the Committee felt that the non-disclosure was unhelpful and asked that this was fed back.

Councillor J Atkinson noted that the money saved by having good broadband provision was significant and that the technology was required to support the economy in the longer term.

Mr T Batson noted that it may also be preferable to have fibre provided to businesses, not simply fibre to the “green boxes”. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted there were many factors in terms of broadband provision and speed, with issues of contention, congestion and increasing capacity in the background.

Councillor L Maddison noted 5G provision and asked if such technology required a separate telecommunications mast. The Strategic Manager – Applications and Infrastructure noted that 5G would provide higher capacity, though operated over shorter distances and therefore this would require additional masts.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

9 Quarter 3, 2017/18 Revenue and Capital Outturn

The Chairman introduced the Principal Accountant, Paul Raine to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 3 Revenue and Capital Outturn 2017/18 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Principal Accountant reminded Members of the areas reported upon, the General Fund Revenue Account, and the Capital Programme for the Regeneration and Local Services (ReAL) Service. Members noted the service was reporting a cash limit underspend of approximately £0.992 million at Quarter 3 2017/18, against a revised General Fund Revenue Budget of £26.866 million. Members noted the major variances were set out within the report and that the service grouping was on track to maintain spending within the cash limit and more details were contained within Appendix 2 to the report.

As regards the Capital Programme, the Principal Accountant explained that the budget now stood at £40.668 million, with a breakdown of the major capital projects given at Appendix 3 to the report. Members noted the spend to date of £25,736 million and were reminded that many capital programmes profiles were such that they completed in the final quarter and it was anticipated that the projected outturn at 31 March 2018 would be in line with the revised budget.

The Chairman thanked the Principal Accountant and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor L Maddison noted transport being over budget in terms of bus shelter repairs and increases in business rates for car parks and bus stations and asked if the repair costs were through general wear and tear, or incidents of vandalism. The Principal Accountant noted likely both, however, he could check as regards this and report back to Committee. Councillor L Maddison noted a number vandalised in her Electoral Division.

Councillor J Maitland asked if there was an underspend, did that budget lose this amount from subsequent budgets. The Principal Accountant noted not necessarily as some were one-off reductions, however, where they were savings being made in advance then it would equate to a reduction in budget.

Councillor P Howell thanked the Principal Accountant for the inclusion of year to date figures within the report. He referred to page 37 of the agenda pack and asked as regards supplies and services which noted a £1 million underspend at Quarter 3 and predicted a £500,000 overspend at the year end. The Principal Accountant noted that it would depend upon the spend profile, with not all dividing equally into twelfths across the year and added that in bringing together the forecast outturn, Officers from Finance worked with budget managers and would challenge in terms of budget spend. Councillor P Howell asked how, all of a sudden, there was an overspend. The Principal Accountant reiterated that depending upon the profile the year to date figure may give a false position. Councillor P Howell noted that agency and contracted was an area that should be manageable, however, again this showed an overspend and noted concern in terms of the quality of information from budget holders. It was agreed that the Principal Accountant would meet with Councillor P Howell to discuss.

Councillor P Jopling asked if budget holders were asked why in terms of overspends. The Principal Accountant noted they were, and in some cases there could be slippages in terms of invoices, and with more costs coming in at the year end. Mr T Batson from his experience in the past in dealing with public sector contracts it was sometime difficult to get an accurate picture until the year end.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Quarter 3, 2017/18 Performance Management Report

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager, Tom Gorman who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 3, 2017/18 Performance Management Report (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillors noted that the key achievements in Quarter 3 included the employment rate having increased since the last quarter, with this having been the trend over the last few quarters. It was added that the rate was above the regional average, though below the national average. Members noted that full-time employment had now increased and was above the regional and national levels and were reminded of the County Durham Economic Partnership's (CDEP) measure in terms of reaching pre-recession levels in terms of employment, and accordingly this measure may need to be looked at in the near future.

It was added that the number of young people ages 18-24 claiming Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit had increased, was below the regional level, however, it was above the national average. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted the proportion of 16 to 17 year olds in apprenticeship in County Durham in September 2017 was lower than last year, though above the national average and in line with the national average. He added that there could be a hiatus at Quarter 3 as this is the period during which young people leave school and there could be a number of "not knowns".

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager explained that the level of Gross Valued Added (GVA) in County Durham was increasing at a rate greater than the rest of the country, however, it had started with a lower base and still lower than the regional and national figures.

Members were asked to note that Government had recently released a document that modelled a 15 year impact upon each region in the UK following Brexit. It was added that the model predicted the North East would fare worst of the regions, although it was difficult to judge at this stage. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee were looking at the issue of the impact of Brexit on Local Authorities until the date of exit from the European Union in March 2019.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager added that the Works and Pensions Select Committee had noted European Social Fund (ESF) would cease upon Brexit and noted that if it was not replaced there could be a great impact.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager and asked Members for their comments and questions on the performance report.

Councillor P Howell noted his thanks for inclusion of the number of apprentices, and asked as regards Appendix 3, Section 4, "Is it easy to get around the County?" and asked why the data was from 2015/16 and not more up-to-date.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that the data was that provided back to the Council from Government, though it may be possible to use our own data as a proxy, though it would need to be prefaced that the data was not validated. Councillor P Howell noted he would not want Members to make decisions based upon old data.

Councillor E Adam noted that the report stated approximately 75% of employed residents in the County working full-time and noted this meant 25% of employed residents did not work full-time and argued there was still a lot of work yet to be done in this regard. Councillor E Adam referred to PI CYPS 2, the percentage of 16 to 17 year olds who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and asked what impact there was in terms of the "not knowns". Councillor L Maddison noted it was an issue, with schools not finding out from the young people themselves. The Chairman noted the Local Authority had previously followed up through phone calls and destination reports. Councillor E Adam noted that Schools and Colleges were obliged to follow up and therefore this information should be captured. Councillor P Jopling asked if JobCentre Plus had the relevant information, the Chairman noted a previous piece of work undertaken by the Committee had noted this was not the case. Councillor L Maddison noted the work undertaken in the past by the former Connexions service and wondered if data from the One-Point Service may now reflect this.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Refresh of the Work Programme

The Chairman asked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to speak to Members in relation to the Council Plan 2016-2019 – Refresh of the Work Programme (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained that the report highlighted work that had been undertaken by the Committee within the past year and also looked forward to seek suggestions from Members to be included within the Committee's work programme for the forthcoming year. Members were reminded that the aims and objectives were aligned to those of the Council Plan and associated plans, as well as the Altogether Wealthier priority theme. It was explained that the work programme for 2018/19 would need to include further updates on a number of items considered in 2017/18, systematic reviews of recommendations in previous scrutiny review reports, focused scrutiny meetings, including two further workshops in relation to the County Durham Plan (CDP) and additional areas of overview activity.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer reminded members that a further report would come back to Committee in June for Members' consideration.

The Chairman thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor P Jopling noted a big push economically on Durham City and that successes here may scale down to the smaller towns.

She asked if there was connection in terms of the large insurance companies that owned a lot of the vacant units, looking to try and have those vacant units occupied by niche retailers. Councillor P Jopling noted it may be necessary to sub-divide units, however, she noted it was important that the Council make contact and work with owners to try and look for solutions.

Councillor J Clare noted the report showed the immense volume of work undertaken by the Committee and asked if reviews could drop off the reports after 6 months. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained that there are 3 progress updates on previous review recommendations then the review does not feature in future work programmes.

Mr T Batson noted Councillor P Jopling's point, however, he added that the public sector had mandatory obligations and the private sector had more scope for negotiation.

Councillor L Maddison noted the format in terms of 3 updates on review reports, however, asked what would happen in the case where there were outstanding issues. The Chairman noted that if there was a specific issue then that it could be raised with Officers, or an individual Councillor could pursue accordingly. Councillor L Maddison noted she felt that if there was an outstanding issue it should be Overview and Scrutiny to pursue, not individual Councillors. The Chairman noted in some cases issues that had been identified could be beyond the control or influence of the Local Authority and often outstanding issues would come back to Committee linked to other matters.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in Appendix 2.
- (ii) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the Work Programme for 2018-2019 by discussing and considering those actions identified, under “Altogether Wealthier” priority theme of the Council Plan 2016 - 2019, Appendix 2 and reflected in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of the report.
- (iii) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 26 June 2019, receive a further report detailing the Committee’s Work Programme for 2018-2019.

12 Site Visits to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Sites in County Durham

The Chairman asked the Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer to speak to Members in relation to the recent visits to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) sites in the County, 6 March 2018 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the report setting out the main issues raised during the visits, highlighting that an issue that had been discussed was how to encourage those living at the sites to enrol on the Electoral Register. He added that of 6 sites, 3 had been canvassed by the usual method employed across the County, Drum Lane, Tower Road and Ash Green Way, Bishop Auckland.

It was noted this prompted 7, 9 and 6 registrations respectively. The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained that for the remaining three sites an Elections Officer specifically visited, alongside an Officer from the GRT Team. He added that this returned 14, 15 and 21 responses, the latter approach proving to be more successful. It was noted that this method had been agreed as the approach going forward across all 6 sites for the 2018 canvass. Members noted there was still work to do to help demonstrate confidence and build on the positive relationship the GRT have.

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted refurbishment of the sites, totalling approximately £9 million, possible via a Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) capital grant and a presentation had been circulated in terms of the huge difference this investment had made. Members were informed that all sites were at maximum capacity, with all plots occupied, and there were 35 people on the waiting list. It was emphasised that it was important to the GRT community for the Local Authority to be enabling the same level of access to services.

Councillor P Jopling noted new Government regulations in terms of those GRT that did not live at permanent sites and asked how this effected the Council and asked if there was a waiting list, was there a need to increase capacity or look to create more sites. , adjacent to the Council.

The Chairman noted that the question had been raised as regards expanding sites, with the site at Chester-le-Street being in private ownership, adjacent to the Council ran site, having some capacity. The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted there was management of the permanent and temporary GRT sites, noting seasonal events, for example Appleby Fair.

It was noted that the Council's GRT Liaison Staff managed the 6 permanent sites and also looked at temporary sites as well as any illegal sites, though there were clear distinctions.

Resolved:

That the notes of the site visit be noted.

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



26 June 2018

**County Durham Economic
Partnership**

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of the discussion with Brian Tanner, Chair of the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) focusing on vision and partnership priorities, measures of success, influencing partnership activity to make a difference and continued economic challenges.

Background

- 2 The work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee focuses on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions, the Sustainable Community Strategy, partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in government legislation.
- 3 In addition, the Committee invites on an annual basis the Chair or Vice-Chair of the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) to discuss with members of the committee the priorities of the partnership, activity undertaken and challenges to be faced within County Durham. This discussion has previously provided the ideal opportunity for collaboration, identifying areas of future focus for the Partnership and the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4 The work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee is being refreshed for 2018 – 2019 and a report on this features later in this agenda. In view of this, the Chair of the CDEP has been invited to attend the meeting on the 26 June 2018 to provide an opportunity for him to comment on the work programme, identify any additional areas for possible inclusion and contribute to any future review activity.

Current position

5 The Independent Chair of CDEP, Brian Tanner, will provide the Committee with a presentation which will focus on:

- Vision & partnership priorities
- Measures of success
- Partnership approach
- Challenges Ahead

Recommendation

6 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the information provided during the discussion and reflect upon any additional areas arising from the presentation for inclusion in the committee's work programme for 2018 - 2019.

Background Paper(s)

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Update on the County Durham Economic Partnership – 29 June 2017

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny report – Refresh of the work programme 2018-2019 – 5 April 2018

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Discrimination Act – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A

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**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



26 June 2018

**DurhamWorks Programme –
Youth Employment Initiative**

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the DurhamWorks Programme - Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), prior to an update presentation by Linda Bailey; Strategic Lead: Progression and Learning; Children and Young People's Services.

Background

- 2 DurhamWorks is a European funded, Durham County Council led partnership programme that supports young people aged 16-24 who are NEET / unemployed.
- 3 The total funding available to support unemployed young people who are resident in County Durham is £17.04m. This consists of £6.39m YEI funding, £6.39m ESF, and £4.26m of required match funding. It was originally envisaged that DurhamWorks would be a four year programme, with an end date of July 2018. However, as a result of a delay in receiving final approval from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the programme did not commence until April 2016.
- 4 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive regular updates on the progress of DurhamWorks, the most recent of which took place on 26 September 2017.
- 5 Linda Bailey; Strategic Lead: Progression and Learning will attend the meeting on 26 June 2018 to deliver a presentation that will focus on the progress made to date in relation to: programme outputs, financial performance, programme evaluation and the future of DurhamWorks.

Programme Outputs

- 6 The overall target is to engage 5,830 young people into DurhamWorks. The latest performance data (May 2018) shows:
 - 4,882 young people are registered on DurhamWorks of which 4,606 are verified participants registered on the programme;

- 2,763 (60.0%) of verified participants are male, 1,830 (39.7%) are female and 13 (0.3%) are transgender;
- 2,256 (49%) participants are 16-18 years of age and 2,350 (51%) participants are 19-24 years of age;
- 1,941 young people are currently in receipt of wrap-a-round support;
- 362 young people are currently participating in an intervention through a delivery partner;
- 2,977 participants have progressed into education, employment and / or training.

7 It is anticipated that the overall target will not be achieved by the original end date of the programme (31st July 2018), with the latest projection showing that 4,830 outputs will be achieved by then. The delayed start of DurhamWorks and the subsequent reduction in the delivery timeframe explains why the overall target will not be met. However, if there is an extension to YEI funding, it is expected that the original outputs (as well as additional outputs) will be met.

Financial Performance

8 Cumulative expenditure to the end of March 2018 was £11.003m. If the programme ends in July 2018, it is estimated that there will be an underspend of £2.88M. This is as a result of the delayed start of the programme, as well as underspending by some of the Delivery Partners.

Programme Evaluation

9 A research company called York Consulting has been procured to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the programme. Activities such as consultations with DurhamWorks Delivery Partners, Transition Advisors, young people, as well as a forensic analysis of data, have been undertaken. These have been used to inform the delivery of the Programme.

10 Three key features of the DurhamWorks delivery model are:

(a) Comprehensive Careers Information, Advice and Guidance and targeted sustained wrap-a-round support that is provided to young people for as long as they want support and can continue when they enter education, employment and/or training;

(b) Encouragement of collaborative working between Delivery Partners to ensure young people can access provision and support from whichever Delivery Partner can best meet their needs at specific points in their journey to employment. The delivery model enables this as Delivery Partners are not funded on outcomes; and

(c) Targeted support for priority groups, including those with Special Educational Needs, Care Leavers and those supervised by the County Durham Youth Offending Service.

- 11 Initial evaluation has found evidence that (a) targeted sustained wrap-a-round support for young people is resulting in participants progressing into a positive destination. There is also evidence that some young people purely want wrap-a-round support and are experiencing 'programme fatigue' in the sense that they do not wish to engage in further activities to develop employability skills.
- 12 In a survey of participants, the overwhelming majority of young people were very positive about the sustained wrap-a-round support they were receiving. Comments included:
- 'The best thing about DurhamWorks is that your Advisor really listens to what you want and gives you guidance about getting a job.'
 - 'It's really helpful to have someone in your corner who is prepared to go that extra mile to help you gain employment.'
 - 'I have had a lot of help from DurhamWorks. They have helped me apply for a college course that I didn't think I would ever do.'
 - 'When I first started working, they gave me all the help they could with travel etc. until I got my pay sorted.'
- 13 In relation to (b) encouraging collaborative working between Delivery Partners, initial evaluation suggested this was proving to be challenging with more recent feedback suggesting it is improving. This was expected with partners being more familiar with working in a competitive rather than collaborative environment. Actions taken to improve collaboration to benefit young people have included:
- Implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy – ensuring all partners and wrap-a-round support staff are aware of what delivery partners and sub-contractors can provide;
 - Challenging DurhamWorks Delivery Partners to demonstrate that their provision is leading to positive outcomes;
 - Undertaking regular performance reviews with Advisors; and
 - Establishing locality groups to enable Delivery Partners and Advisors to exchange information, share good practice and discuss key issues relating to programme delivery. Attendance at these meetings has been good and feedback about their effectiveness has been positive.
- 14 In respect of (c) - targeting support for priority groups, the evaluation suggests this has been successful so far. This is demonstrated by the significant number of participants (2,316) who have self-declared that they belong to a priority group (such as SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disability, Looked After, Care Leaver, Young Parent, Ex Offender etc.) A focus group exercise undertaken with participants who have a wide range of SEND characteristics found that they valued the emphasis on work experience and there was a reported increase in their self-confidence.

Unemployment Data

- 15 The following table shows the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and the proportion of 16-18 year olds whose destination is not known from 2014-15 (prior to the commencement of DurhamWorks) to 2017-18.

	NEET	Not Known
2014-2015	6.5%	3.5%
2015-2016	6.0%	2.9%
2016-2017	6.0%	2.7%
2017-2018	6.1%	3.4%

Source: Local Authority CCIS (Client Caseload Information System), December to February average.

- 16 During the same period (2014-15 to 2017-18), there has been an increase in the proportion of 16-18 year olds progressing into employment, as the following table illustrates (please note: employment with training includes Apprenticeships). Developing employment opportunities for young people has been a key priority of DurhamWorks.

	All Employment	Employment with Training	Employment without Training
2014-2015	15.9%	11.1%	4.8%
2015-2016	17.1%	11.8%	5.3%
2016-2017	18.1%	12.4%	5.7%
2017-2018	19.1%	12.5%	6.6%

Source: Local Authority CCIS (Client Caseload Information System), December to February average.

- 17 The following tables show the proportion of 16-18 year olds in identified vulnerable groups who are NEET and the proportion of 16-18 year olds whose destination is not known from 2014-15 to 2017-18. It is important to note that the size of these cohorts fluctuate every year which has an impact on percentages.

SEND

	NEET	Not Known
2014-2015	12.5%	3.7%
2015-2016	12.00%	3.7%
2016-2017	10.7%	2.2%
2017-2018	11.6%	3.2%

Source: Local Authority CCIS (Client Caseload Information System), December to February average.

Care Leavers

	NEET	Not Known
2014-2015	40.1%	4.6%
2015-2016	42.7%	5.2%
2016-2017	29.2%	4.9%
2017-2018	31.7%	5.0%

Source: Local Authority CCIS (Client Caseload Information System), December to February average.

Supervised by County Durham Youth Offending Service

	NEET	Not Known
2014-2015	30.0%	5.7%
2015-2016	29.6%	3.6%
2016-2017	25.6%	1.7%
2017-2018	29.5%	4.8%

Source: Local Authority CCIS (Client Caseload Information System), December to February average.

- 18 The following table shows the estimated number of unemployed 16-24 year olds from December 2013 to December 2017 (latest data). This data is based on a sample survey, which means it provides an estimate of population characteristics rather than an exact measure. Therefore, confidence in the data can be variable. For example, the data relating to December 2016 is considered unreliable because the group sample size was small.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
16-24 year olds unemployed in County Durham.	11,800	7,600	6,200	4,800	6,200

Source: Office for National Statistics, Annual Population Survey – December 2013 to December 2017.

- 19 A direct correlation cannot be drawn between unemployment / NEET data and the impact of DurhamWorks given the multiple factors that impact upon youth unemployment, as well as issues concerning the validity of some of the data, as outlined above. Therefore, as part of the evaluation of the programme, a cost benefit analysis will be undertaken. This will seek to capture the wider social benefits as well as economic and fiscal benefits. A SORI (Social Return on Investment) model is being constructed which will consist of three strands: fiscal, economic and social. The intention is to demonstrate whether DurhamWorks has resulted in generating more than £1 of value for every £1 invested.

Future of DurhamWorks Programme

- 20 A call for proposals under ESF Investment Priority 1.2 “Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people in County Durham” was announced in September 2017. This is focused on increasing the participation, achievement and progression of young people aged 15-24 in County Durham who are NEET, whilst also reducing the number of young people who are at risk of becoming NEET. The total value of the project is £7.98m, consisting of £4.79m ESF funding and £3.19m required match funding. Durham County Council has submitted a full application in May 2018.
- 21 However, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) recently informed Durham County Council of a possible extension to the timeframe for the delivery of YEI, as well as a potential opportunity to pursue additional funding. Therefore, Durham County Council has submitted a request to DWP for an extension of time to July 31st 2021 and additional funding of £12.0M (£9.0M YEI/ESF and £3.0M match funding) to achieve current targets plus an additional 4,100 outputs. If YEI is extended, then the ESF Investment Priority 1.2 will be withdrawn, in order to avoid a situation of having two ESF programmes being delivered in County Durham at the same time.

Conclusion

- 22 Although there have been a number of challenges, significant progress has been made in delivering a successful DurhamWorks programme, which is resulting in nearly 5,000 unemployed young people resident in County Durham receiving support to help them to progress into a positive outcome. The scale and complexity of YEI is providing a very useful evidence base which will be used to influence the design and delivery of future programmes to support unemployed individuals.

Recommendations

- 23 Members are asked to note and comment upon the information provided within the report and during the presentation.
- 24 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to receive further updates about the future of the DurhamWorks Programme at future meetings of the Committee.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – A risk register is regularly reviewed.

Equality and Diversity – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – N/A

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Discrimination Act –N/A

Legal Implications – N/A

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**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

26 June 2018



**Quarter Four 2017/18
Performance Management Report**

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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present progress against the council's corporate performance framework for the Altogether Wealthier priority theme for the fourth quarter of the 2017/18 financial year.

Performance Reporting Arrangements for 2017/18

- 2 Our performance reporting arrangements have been developed around a series of key performance questions aligned to the Altogether framework of six priority themes, and are designed to facilitate greater scrutiny of performance. The set of performance measures provides an indication to help answer these questions for those with corporate governance responsibilities.
- 3 There are other areas of performance that are measured through more detailed monitoring across service groupings and if performance issues arise, these will be escalated for consideration by including them in the corporate report on an exception basis.
- 4 The performance indicators are still reported against two indicator types which comprise of:
 - (a) key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
 - (b) key tracker indicators – performance is tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence.
- 5 This report sets out our key performance messages from data released this quarter and a visual summary for the Altogether Wealthier priority theme that presents key data messages from the new performance framework showing the latest position in trends and how we compare with others. A comprehensive table of key performance questions and performance data is presented in Appendix 3. An explanation of symbols used and the groups we use to compare ourselves is in Appendix 2.

- 6 To support the complete indicator set, a guide is available which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2017/18 corporate indicator set. This is available to view and can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Key Performance Messages from Data Released this Quarter

- 7 Most key wealthier measures are progressing well. The employment rate remains at an all-time high, better than last year and regionally but remains below national levels, and there is emerging evidence nationally that trends in wage levels are not positive. Unemployment (as measured through the Annual Population Survey) in County Durham has remained around the same over the last few periods compared to slight falls regionally and nationally. The latest data show that in the county 6.4% (15,900 working age people) of the working age population were unemployed in the year January to December 2017. Analysis over the longer term shows the unemployment rate is declining and tracking regional trends but remains higher than the England and Wales average of 4.5%. Youth unemployment (18 to 24 year olds claiming out of work benefits¹) has increased from last year. Despite this, County Durham has a higher proportion of 16 to 17 year olds choosing to undertake an apprenticeship (see Appendix 4, Chart 1) pathway than England and North East averages (at December 2017). At the end of March 2018, 9.6% of County Durham 16 to 17 year olds are confirmed as in apprenticeships, which compares well both regionally and nationally. Apprenticeships sustained for 15 months or more from Durham County Council schemes have increased since last year. DurhamWorks, a partnership project between Durham County Council and 16 organisations, continue to support young people who are not in education, employment or training. The partnership provides information, support and guidance that helps young people develop their skills and knowledge in the world of work through employment, volunteering, work experience, traineeships or apprenticeships.
- 8 Fewer gross potential jobs were created or safeguarded as a result of Business Durham activity this year but this is not considered a concern due to volatility of the target. Registered businesses in the County continue to rise from 2011 when reporting began, and business occupancy rates of retail units show 11 of the 18 centres have an occupancy rate higher or in line with the national average (see Appendix 5).
- 9 Successful council intervention on housing development continues with a higher number of both empty properties brought back into use and new homes completed than last year. Homeless preventions have increased by almost a fifth on last year due to successful applications for discretionary housing payments and targeted work in this area. The focus has remained on early intervention of homelessness and this will continue in line with the Homeless Reduction Act.

¹ ONS have advised that rollout of Universal Credit Full Service has affected the reliability of claimant count figures more than was anticipated and consequently analysis of this data series gives a misleading picture and should be interpreted with caution.

- 10 A key performance message reported to other overview and scrutiny committees which may be of interest to this committee is as follows:

As of March 2018, the council had corporate parenting responsibility for 264 young people (aged 17 to 21) who had left care, a particularly vulnerable cohort of young people. The wide range of support the council offers is good, with figures showing more care leavers in County Durham are in suitable accommodation and in education, employment or training (EET) compared to both North East and national counterparts. The council has routinely provided young people who are looked after or care leavers the opportunity to participate in work experience placements during the school holidays. In addition, work is ongoing with Jobcentre Plus, who have introduced a marker that allows care leavers to be identified on their system and receive additional help when claiming benefits. Apprenticeships are now available for care leavers within council departments.

Risk Management

- 11 Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's governance arrangement. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects.
- 12 There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Key Data Messages by Altogether Theme

- 13 The next section provides a summary of key data messages for the Altogether Wealthier priority theme. The format of the Altogether theme provides a snap shot overview aimed to ensure that key performance messages are easy to identify². The Altogether theme is supplemented by information and data relating to the complete indicator set, provided at Appendix 3.

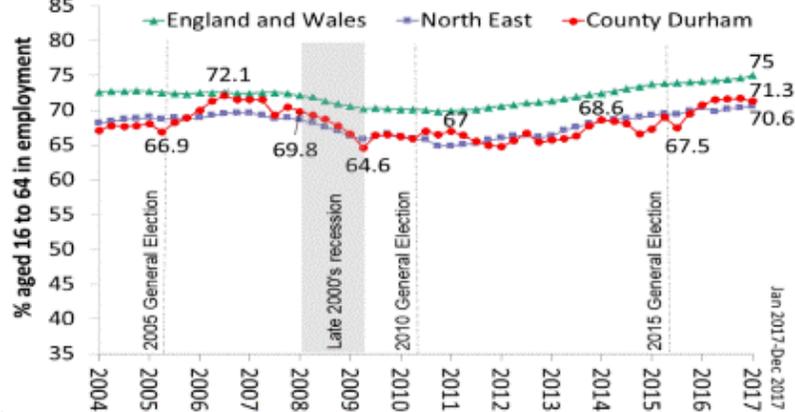
² Images designed by Freepik from Flaticon and Homelessness Outreach Service by Hawaii Open Data US, Houses by Laurene Smith FR, employment by Aneeque Ahmed, Retailer Store by Gan Khoon Lay, from the Noun Project

Altogether Wealthier

Job prospects

Employment

71.3% working age population defined as in employment in County Durham (231,200 people) in 2017. More than last year (70.8%).



Unemployment in County Durham has remained around the same over the last few periods compared to slight falls regionally and nationally. The latest data show that in the county 6.4% (15,900 working age people) of the working age population were unemployed in the year to January to December 2017. Analysis over the longer term shows the unemployment rate is declining and tracking regional trends but remains higher than the England and Wales average of 4.5%.

Young people	Durham	England	NE
18-24 year olds who are out of work and claiming either Universal Credit or Jobseeker's Allowance (at Mar 2018)	4.6% (2,335 people)	2.9%	5.2%
16-17 year olds in apprenticeship (at Mar 2018)	9.6%	5.9%	8.1%



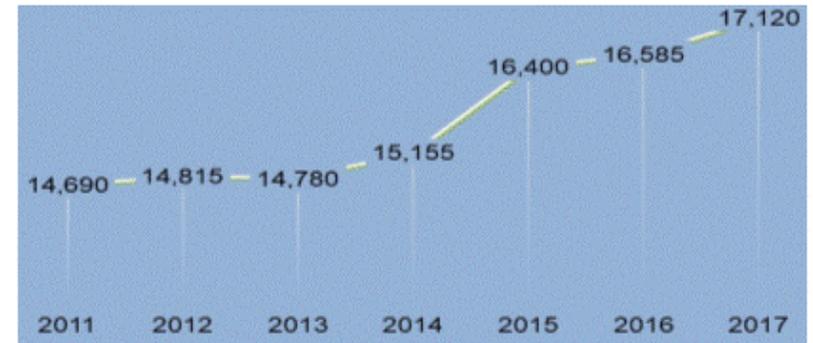
1,066 gross potential jobs created/safeguarded as a result of Business Durham activity (2017/18). Fewer than target (1,300) & last year (2,404).

913 apprenticeships through Durham County Council schemes sustained for 15 months or more (at Mar 2018), which equates to 85% of all apprenticeship starts through these schemes

Business



17,120 registered businesses in county Durham (2017). Number has increased since 2011.



Occupancy rates of retail units (Appendix 6)

- Occupancy rates of retail units in Bishop Auckland (79%) and Newton Aycliffe (79%) show the biggest gap against the available national average levels (88.9%).
- 11 out of 18 centres have an occupancy rate higher or in line with the national average.
- Barnard Castle has the highest occupancy rate (95%) and Ferryhill the second highest (94%) of all the traditional town centres in County Durham.



Housing and regeneration



198 empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention (2017/18). More than target (120) & last year (136).



1,339 net new homes completed (2017/18). More than last year (1,335).



1,505 clients for whom homelessness was prevented (2017/18).



More than last year (1,262).



Recommendations and reasons

- 14 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and consider any performance issues arising therewith.

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Tel: 03000 268 071

Appendix 1: Implications

Appendix 2: Report Key

Appendix 3: Summary of key performance indicators

Appendix 4: Volume Measure

Appendix 5: Occupancy rates of retail units in County Durham

Appendix 1: Implications

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

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

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

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

Accommodation - Not applicable

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

Human Rights - Not applicable

Consultation - Not applicable

Procurement - Not applicable

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

Legal Implications - Not applicable

Appendix 2: Report key

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel/benchmarking

Same or better than comparable period/comparator group

GREEN

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

AMBER

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

RED

Performance against target

Meeting/Exceeding target

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Performance >2% behind target

- ✓ Performance is good or better than comparable period/benchmark
- ✗ Performance is poor or worse than comparable period/benchmark
- ↔ Performance has remained static or is in line with comparable period/benchmark

National Benchmarking

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

North East Benchmarking

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

Nearest Neighbour Benchmarking:

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

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

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

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Table 1: Key Target and Tracker Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure	Performance compared to *North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered		
Altogether Wealthier												
1. Do residents have good job prospects?												
1	REDP 140	Proportion of the working age population defined as in employment	71.3	2017	Tracker	70.8	GREEN	75.0	RED	70.6*	GREEN	2017
2	REDP 188	Per capita household disposable income (£)	15,496	2015	Tracker	15,246	GREEN	19,447	RED	16197*	RED	2015
3	REDP 162	Number of apprenticeships started through Durham County Council schemes [1]	222	2016/17	200	74	GREEN					
4	REDP 1105	Number of apprenticeships from Durham County Council schemes sustained at least 15 months	913	As at Mar 2018	Tracker	719	GREEN					
5	REDP 192	Number of gross potential jobs created or safeguarded as a result of Business Durham activity [2]	1,066	2017/18	1,300	2,404	RED					

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure		Performance compared to *North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure		Period covered
6	CYPS 1	Percentage of 16 to 17 year olds in an apprenticeship	9.6	As at Mar 2018	Tracker	9.1	GREEN	5.9	GREEN	8.1*	GREEN	As at Mar 2018
7	REDP 17a	Number of 18 to 24 year olds who are out of work and claiming either Universal Credit or Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)	2,335	As at Mar 2018	Tracker	2,120	RED					
8	REDP 18b	Proportion of all Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants that have claimed for one year or more	40.40	As at Mar 2018	Tracker	31.70	NA [3]					
2. Do residents have access to decent and affordable housing												
9	REDP 130	Number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention	198	2017/18		120	136	GREEN				
10	REDP 110b	Number of net homes completed	1,339	2017/18	Tracker		1,335	GREEN				
11	REDP 136a	Number of clients who have accessed the Housing Solutions Service and for whom homelessness has been prevented	385	Jan - Mar 2018	Tracker		341	GREEN				
12	REDP 110ai	Number of affordable homes delivered [2]	322	2016/17		200	262	GREEN				

Page 38	Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure	Performance compared to *North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered		
3. Is County Durham a good place to do business?													
13	REDP 187		Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita in County Durham (£)	16,513	2016 provisional	Tracker	16,362	GREEN	27,060	RED	19542*	RED	2016 provisional
14	REDP 189		Number of registered businesses in County Durham	17,120	2017	Tracker	16,585	GREEN					
4. Is it easy to travel around the county?													
15	NS06 a		Percentage of A roads where maintenance is recommended (scanner survey)	3	2016/17	Tracker	4	GREEN	3	GREEN	3*	GREEN	2015/16
16	NS06 bc		Percentage of B and C roads where maintenance is recommended (scanner survey)	3	2016/17	Tracker	4	GREEN	6	GREEN	6*	GREEN	2015/16
17	NS06 d		Percentage of unclassified roads where maintenance is recommended (scanner survey)	20	2016/17	Tracker	20	GREEN	17	RED	14*	RED	2015/16
18	NS07		Highways maintenance backlog (£millions)	191.7	2016	Tracker	181	NA					
5. How well does tourism and cultural events contribute to our local economy?													
19	REDP 1100		Number of visitors to County Durham (million)	19.3	2016	Tracker	18.7	GREEN					

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure		Performance compared to *North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure		Period covered
20	REDP I101	Number of jobs supported by the visitor economy	11,158	2016	Tracker	10,961	GREEN					
21	REDP I102	Amount (£ million) generated by the visitor economy	806	2016	Tracker	778	GREEN					

[\[1\] Funding required to continue the programme has not been secured](#)

[\[2\] Target is an annual target](#)

[\[3\] Since August 2015 out of work claimants who are single with no dependants will be claiming Universal Credit. Information on long term claimants is not available therefore this PI no longer represents all long term out of work claimants.](#)

Table 2: Other additional relevant indicators

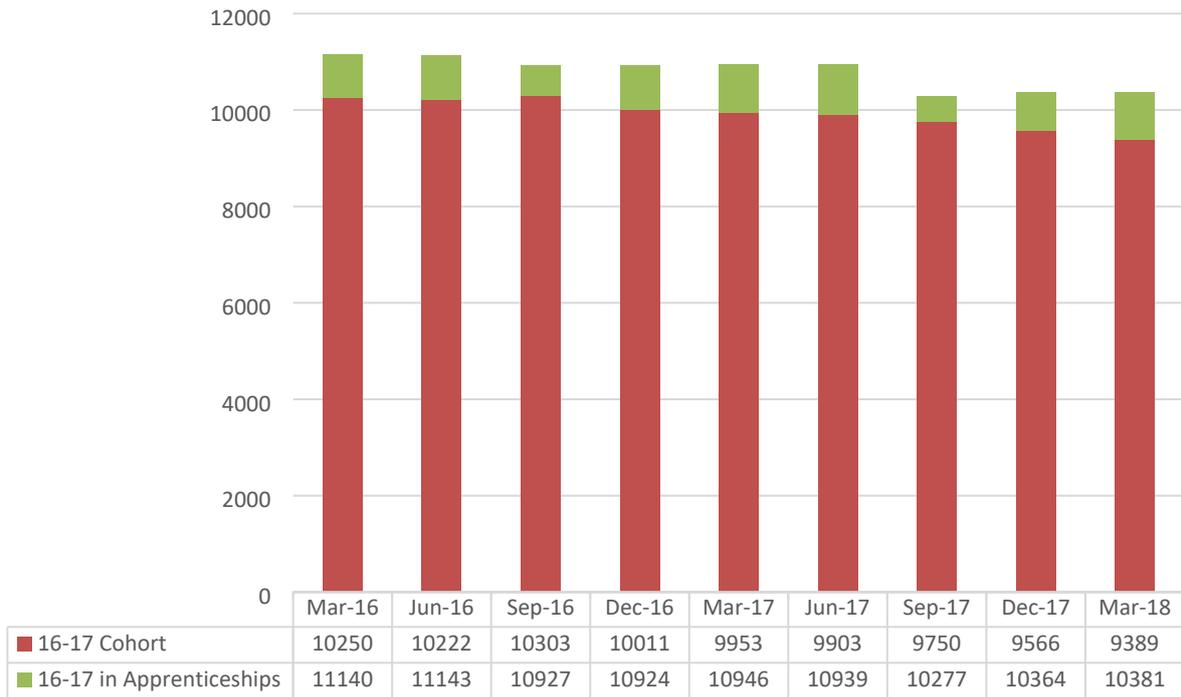
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Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	Performance compared to National figure	Performance compared to *North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered		
Altogether Better for Children and Young People												
1. Are children, young people and families in receipt of universal services appropriately supported?												
23	CYPS 27	Average point score per A level entry of state-funded school students	31.9	2016/17 ac yr (final)	Tracker	31.9	GREEN	31.1	GREEN	30.8*	GREEN	2016/17 ac yr (final)
25	CYPS 2	Percentage of 16 to 17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) [4]	4.5	Dec 17 - Feb 18	Tracker	4.3	RED	2.7	RED	4*	RED	Dec 17 - Feb 18
4. Are we being a good corporate parent for Looked After Children?												
61	CYPS 12	Percentage of care leavers aged 17-21 in education, employment or training (EET)	61.4	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Tracker	69.5	RED	52	GREEN	50*	GREEN	2015/16 ac yr

[4] [The high number of school leavers whose status is 'not known' impacts significantly on this indicator](#)

Appendix 4: Volume Measure

Chart 1: 16-17 year olds in Apprenticeships in County Durham



Appendix 5: Occupancy rates of retail units in County Durham

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Town	Total Units	2016/17	2017/18	Percentage points difference from national average*, 88.9%	Occupancy rates
Durham City	398	93%	91%	2 pp higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupancy rates of retail units in Bishop Auckland (79%) and Newton Aycliffe (79%) show the biggest gap against the available national average levels (88.9%). 11 out of 18 centres have an occupancy rate higher or in line with the national average. The highest occupancy rates (100%) within the county are at the defined district centres of Tindale and Hermiston, followed closely by Arnison (97%). These locations offer more modern style retail park shopping destinations with free parking and larger units. Barnard Castle has the highest occupancy rate (95%) and Ferryhill the second highest (94%) of all the traditional town centres in County Durham.
Bishop Auckland	382	82%	79%	10 pp lower	
Chester-le-Street	304	88%	85%	4 pp lower	
Consett	220	92%	89%	in line	
Spennymoor	205	87%	85%	4 pp lower	
Barnard Castle	182	96%	95%	6 pp higher	
Seaham	154	94%	90%	1 pp higher	
Crook	144	92%	92%	3 pp higher	
Peterlee	123	86%	85%	4 pp lower	
Stanley	118	86%	86%	3 pp lower	
Newton Aycliffe	102	77%	79%	10 pp lower	
Shildon	96	92%	85%	4 pp lower	
Ferryhill	88	96%	94%	5 pp higher	
Dalton Park	78		92%	3 pp higher	
Dragonville	38	89%	92%	3 pp higher	
Tindale	37	100%	100%	11 pp higher	
Arnison	33	100%	97%	8 pp higher	
Hermiston	17	100%	100%	11 pp higher	

* September 2017, Local Data Company – private company who carry out their own survey, therefore data to be treated with caution.

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**



26 June 2018

**Refresh of the Committee's work
programme 2018 – 19**

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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide for Members' consideration an updated work programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny for 2018-2019.

Background

- 2 At the meeting on the 5 April 2018, the committee considered the actions identified within the Council Plan 2016-2019 for the Altogether Wealthier priority theme and agreed to refresh its work programme to include a number of these actions. In addition, topics have also been identified that are in-line with the Council Plan, Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in government legislation.

Detail

- 3 In accordance with this decision, a work programme for 2018-2019 has been prepared and is attached as Appendix 2. The work programme is flexible to enable additional items to be accommodated during the year.
- 4 When considering the work programme, Members are asked to identify a topic for focused scrutiny review.

Recommendation

- 5 Members of the Committee are asked to:
 - (i) Discuss and agree the new work programme for 2018-2019 as detailed in Appendix 2.
 - (ii) Identify a topic for future focused scrutiny review activity.

Background Paper(s)

Council Plan 2016-2019, Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee report-Refresh of the work programme – 5 April 2018.

Contact:	Stephen Gwilym	Tel:	03000 268 140
Author:	Diane Close	Tel:	03000 268 141

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

O/S Review		When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Skills Development within County Durham		E&E OSC 25 Feb 2019	Graham Wood/John Tindale (ReaL)	Members will receive detail of skills development undertaken within County Durham by DCC and partners and progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the review report.	Members will be aware of the skills development being undertaken within County Durham by DCC and partners together with detail of progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the review report.
Retail Support provided by DCC		E&E OSC on 6 Nov 2018 and June 2019 - TBC	Chris Myers Wendy Benson (ReaL)	Members will receive detail of the review report including details of recommendations followed by a progress report to committee in June detailing progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the review report.	Members will be aware of the recommendations within the review report and will receive detail of progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the review report at the June 2019 meeting.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018 TO 2019
Economy and Enterprise OSC**

Lead Officer: Stephen Gwilym

Overview and Scrutiny Officer: Diane Close

IPG Contact: Andy Palmer

Note:

O/S Review - A systematic 6 monthly review of progress against recommendations/Action Plan

Scrutiny/Working Group – In depth Review

Overview/progress – information on an issue; opportunity to comment, shape, influence, progress with a scrutiny review

Performance – ongoing monitoring (quarterly) performance reports/budgets

Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Masterplans for County Durham	E&E OSC has previously received detail of the individual masterplans. A progress report is scheduled for the E&E OSC on 26 March 2019.	Chris Myers Wendy Benson (ReaL)	Members are provided on an annual basis with detail of project delivery throughout the County including identifying any challenges.	Members will have knowledge of the delivery of projects throughout the County via the Masterplan process.
NECA transport activity - Local Transport activity	Special E&E OSC 7 December 2018	Adrian White/Andy Leadbeater (ReaL)	Members will receive detail of NECA transport activity and the development of local transport activity.	Members will be aware of the transport activity undertaken at a regional level and the progress made in relation to local transport activity.
Sustainable Transport – activity	Special E&E OSC 7 December 2018	Peter Ollivere (ReaL)	Members will receive detail of sustainable transport activity undertaken within the county.	Members will have knowledge of and provide comment on Sustainable Transport activity undertaken within the county.
Regional funding	E&E OSC on 6 Nov 2018	Heather Orton/Claire Williams (ReaL)	Members will receive information on the various regional funding available.	The committee will be aware of regional funding currently available and the projects supported together with detail of future funding opportunities which may benefit County Durham.
EU Funding	E&E OSC on 6 Nov 2018	Claire Williams (ReaL)	Members will receive information on the various EU funding available.	The committee will be aware of the EU funding currently available via various programmes and any detail in relation to future funding via Government..
Major projects	E&E OSC on 6 Nov 2018	Heather Orton (ReaL)	Members will receive an overview of major projects in the county including detail of how the projects are funded.	Members will be aware of current major projects in the county, how they are funded and will have the opportunity to comment on the progress of the individual projects..

Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
County Durham Plan – Workshops – led by E&E OSC – all members of O&S invited.	Special CDP workshops on 9 July 2018 and 4 Feb 2019	Stuart Timmiss/ Mike Allum/ Michelle Robinson (ReaL)	Overview and Scrutiny members have had the opportunity to feed into the consultation stages in relation to the CDP.	Members will have provided comments which will be fed into the consultation stages of the CDP.
Consultation – Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places’	Special CDP workshops on 9 July and 4 Feb 2019	Stuart Timmiss/ Mike Allum/ Michelle Robinson (ReaL)	Members will be provided with detail of the progress in relation to the Governments ‘Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places’ as part of the CDP workshops.	Members will be aware of the progress in relation to ‘Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places’ and will have had the opportunity to feed into the consultation stages of the CDP any comments in relation to housing.
Governments Industrial Strategy	E&E OSC on 10 Jan 2019	Glenn Martin (ReaL)	Members will be provided with detail of the progress of the Governments Industrial Strategy and the implications for County Durham.	Members will be aware of and will have had the opportunity to provide comment on the content and progress of Governments Industrial Strategy and the implications for County Durham.
County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)	E&E OSC on 26 June 2018	Brian Tanner (Chair CDEP)	Members will be provided with detail of the priorities of the CDEP together with future challenges and opportunities identified for the county.	Members will have detail of the priorities of the CDEP, future opportunities and challenges to be faced within County Durham helping the committee to identify areas of focus within the future work programme.
DurhamWorks Programme (YEI Programme)	E&E OSC on 26 June 2018	Linda Bailey /Helen Radcliffe (C&YP)	Members continue to monitor the progress and performance of the programme and receive detail of future funding opportunities.	Members will have commented on the performance of the programme and future funding plans.

Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Digital Durham Programme	E&E OSC on 25 February 2019	Alan Patrickson/ Steve Hodgson (Resources)	Members will receive detail of progress in relation to Digital Durham Programme how it has supported businesses in the county and detail of any other projects/funding available for connectivity.	Members will be aware of the development and delivery of the Digital Durham Programme and how it is supporting business in the county together with detail of any additional projects/funding for connectivity in the county.
Business Durham	E&E OSC on 25 Sept 2018	Brian Archer (ReaL)	Members will be aware of the work undertaken by Business Durham in supporting the County Durham business community.	Members will have the opportunity to question and comment on the business support activity provided by Business Durham to the business community. The committee will also be aware of any issues or challenges
Homelessness implications of the Homelessness Reduction Act	Special E&E OSC on 10 January 2019	Marie Smith (ReaL)	Members will be provided with detail of the implications of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 including new ways of working.	Members will have a clear understanding of the implications of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and the new ways of working developed by the authority to meet the requirements including any challenges.
Visit County Durham (VCD)	E&E OSC on 25 Feb 2019	Michelle Gorman/ Sarah Johnson (ReaL)	Members will receive detail of the activity undertaken by VCD to promote the County as a visitor destination.	Members will be aware of the activity undertaken by VCD to promote the County as a visitor destination and will have the opportunity to comment on the performance of VCD.
NELEP	E&E OSC on 25 Feb 2019 TBC	Heather Orton (contact)	Members will receive an overview of the work of the NELEP.	Members will be aware of and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments in relation to the priorities of the NELEP.

Housing - Overview/Progress	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Housing Strategy	Special CDP workshops on 9 July and 4 Feb 2019	Graeme Smith (ReaL)	Members will receive information on the progress of the Housing Strategy as part of the CDP workshops.	Members will have knowledge of the Housing Strategy for County Durham and will be kept updated on progress as part of the CDP workshops.
Private Sector Housing Initiatives	Special E&E OSC on 11 March 2019	Shirley Janes (ReaL)	Members will receive detail of various initiatives being undertaken with Private Sector Housing Initiatives.	Members will be aware of various initiatives undertaken with the private housing sector and will have the opportunity to question the performance of the various projects.
Tackling Empty Properties Initiative	E&E OSC on 25 September 2018 and Special E&E OSC on 11 March 2019	Oliver Sherratt/ Joanne Waller/Jon Carling (ReaL)	Members will receive detail of a multi-agency approach to dealing with empty properties and at the subsequent meeting in March will receive detail of progress/performance.	Members will be aware of the multi-agency project and will have the opportunity to monitor the progress of the project in tackling the challenges associated with empty properties in the county.
Visits	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Empty properties in the County	TBC.	TBC (ReaL)	Members will have the opportunity to visit empty properties in the County and see schemes where DCC have brought empty properties back into use.	Members will see 'first hand' the condition of empty properties at some locations in the county together with empty properties that have been brought back into use by DCC.
Performance Report	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Quarter 4 Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3	26 June 2018. 25 Sept 2018 10 Jan 2019 26 March 2019	TBC	Members using performance management information to inform the work programme and possible review activity.	Summary information to Members.
Budget Report	When	Who	Outcome	Comment
Quarter 4 Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3	25 Sept 2018 25 Sept 2018 10 Jan 2019 26 March 2019	Paul Raine (ReaL - Finance)	Detail of budget	Summary information to Members.

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MINUTES

Meeting	County Durham Economic Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	Tuesday 24 th April 2018
Time	13.00 – 15.00
Venue	Salvus House

Attendees:

Brian Tanner	Chair
Sarah Robson	Chair of Housing Forum
Sue Parkinson	Vice Chair & Chair of the Business, Enterprise & Skills Group
Michelle Cooper	County Durham Community Foundation
Brian Archer	Business Durham
Cllr Carl Marshall	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration, Durham County Council
Tarryn Lloyd Payne	Partnerships, Durham County Council
Angela Brown	Partnerships, Durham County Council
Andrew Wilson	North East Fund

1. Welcome

BT welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllr Carl Marshall and Brian Archer to the Board

2. Apologies

Michelle Gorman	Visit County Durham
Jon Gluyas	Durham University
Simon Hanson	FSB
Alison Gittins	Durham Business Group
Neil Graham	Chair of Durham City Board
Cllr Ossie Johnson	Chair of Rural Working Group
Ian Thompson	Director of Real Services

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the meeting on 6th February 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record

4. **Matters arising**

- David Usher provided BT with the information he requested for Scrutiny and this information will be used in June to give update.
- The Board to note that in relation to The County Durham Plan they maybe asked about economic information on an economic case around the plan. GS will come back to Board if evidence is needed.
- The appointment of Chair is not on the agenda but SP will report under her update.

5. **Business Durham – Brian Archer**

BA gave a presentation to the Board. He summarised the last 12 months of the work of Business Durham and discussed what the future strategy would look like.

Highlights for 2017/18:

- Launched Digital Drive County Durham
- Aykley Heads Launch & Waterstons to move to Northumbria House retaining over 130 jobs within the county
- Welcomed 19 schools into the 13th Future Business Magnates Competition
- Secured another 3 years funding for the North East Centre of Excellence for Satellite Applications, resulting in 24 collaborative projects, 5 new businesses, 31 jobs and £4.23M investment into businesses
- 12 inward investments creating 150 jobs
- Hosted 'Get into Rail'

Questions/Comments

It was asked if GVA per filled job will be the used. BA agreed this would be a measure used. It was agreed that we need to be differentiating County Durham and need to make voices heard especially in relation to funding.

BA mentioned that Start Ups need support going forward, including individuals to help to get people back into the labour market. It was asked how Business Durham's role would help start-ups or people wanting to grow businesses. BA mentioned they support the Enterprise Agencies to make sure the right help is available for the right start up. In relation to graduates and students we need to be aligning everyone with the strategy by working closely with partners. BA informed the Board that he had met with SP a few days ago and had a discussion around sources of intelligence for everything going on in Co Durham. A lot of this is outdated. Therefore the big win going forward would be to pull all the evidence data into one place.

BT mentioned that Kieran Fernandez was going to try and set up an observatory but the funding did not emerge for this.

BT thanked BA and felt it was very useful and if the programme described can be delivered, it will be terrific for Co. Durham.

6. **North East Fund Programme – Andrew Mitchell, North East Finance**

BT thanked AW for presenting today and congratulated him on getting the programme started.

AW gave an introduction and recapped on the work over the last 7 years. He discussed NE Finance Ltd and the opportunities for Durham:

- Durham has 'transitional status: ring-fenced pot for Durham within the fund (£24m);

- Two fund ‘ambassadors’ are being appointed to ‘work’ local networks, liaise with local business organisations, business angels and others and to market the programme directly and through intermediaries;
- One of these will almost certainly be hypothecated to Co Durham;
- Fund managers will also be promoting their own funds;
- Fund managers also have KPIs around business support and mentoring – but they will need partners on the ground to ensure local SMEs benefit;
- There will be an initial event on the 25th May in conjunction with Business Durham

He also discussed the challenges in achieving the objectives:

- Geography – how do we ensure that there are high levels of awareness of the programme in every corner of the LA area?
- Eligibility rules may disadvantage rural communities
- How do we improve the interface between fund managers and the University’s commercialisation team?
- Will the parallel operation of the Durham Fund create confusion and/or lead to poor quality deals (inter-fund competition)?
- What role can the CDEP play in this?

Questions/Comments

In County Durham do we have enough people on the ground to help progress the programme? AW said this was not the case at present. The fund managers are gearing up rapidly and by June/July they should be up to speed. When it is all up and running, most staff should be in place. Fund managers couldn’t gear up until the fund was in place. He mentioned that they have strong output monitoring and are expecting big deals over the next 3-4 months. He agreed to come back to a future Board meeting to see if they have right balance at pipeline level. The Board agreed CDEP could be used as a tool to get the message out.

SP felt it was great news to hear that Ambassadors will be hypothecated to County Durham. It was asked how the Board could help with hitting the 1200 outputs. It was agreed AW or Jason would come back to update.

BA asked if he could link with AW outside of the meeting

BT thanked AW for his update

**Actions: AW to attend future Board meeting to update on programme
BA to link with AW**

7. County Durham Community Foundation – Michelle Cooper

MC gave an update from CDCF. The Community Foundation is a UK wide organisation that has access to £1bn of grants. There are 46 local organisations in total for the UK. Last year it gave out £77m in grants. This is a powerful statement. County Durham and Darlington gave out £5m, some as little as £300-£2000. CDCF has a strong operational base but when austerity hit, charities were hit too. CDCF currently has a limited number of donors and has not had a new donor for 3 years now.

It is looking to revamp the website as there are very powerful stories to share. Durham Works has helped to deliver to individuals and capture these stories. There is a need to tell the story and the first port of call is charitable giving. Younger donors need to be engaged, generating more funds to grow grants. There is a need to simplify the message. It is challenging and CDCF has a lot to build on but there is more it can do to get to where it wants to be.

Questions/Comments

SP mentioned it is worth looking at match funding. MC said she was open to partnership involvement and would be happy to discuss anything and look at different pots of money.

SR mentioned she could give MC data on geographies that are areas of challenge.

SP suggested leveraging goodwill redundancies. Walkers did a programme to retrain. MC replied that it would be good to know how we could support those in need. She asked if CDCF could we be a preferred provider.

It was noted that UK Steel has legacy money and the Coalfields has no one on the ground with millions to give out. It was agreed that we need to demonstrate success through others.

BT thanked MC for her update

8. EU Update – Sue Parkinson

SP gave an update:

The County Durham figures for total allocation is £74.5m. We now have £52m in the pipeline so we are now a lot better off than we were and this is very encouraging. SP gave a big thanks to Partners for coming forward with commitments.

ERDF – Calls are out for the transitional region for:

PA1 – Innovation has 15 projects provisionally committed and 10 in the pipeline

PA3 – This has the biggest take up. Have 21 committed and 8 in the pipeline. Well ahead of time with commitments

PA4 – Low Carbon – Slowly getting there. Have 7 projects committed and 7 in the pipeline

PA5 Flood Mitigation – 0

EAFRD – Calls are out for points of interest. Application dates have been extended until end of May. The pipeline is not quite there but it is growing.

ESF – There are lots of applications. Have a bottleneck.

PA1 – 7 appraisals and 6 applications of these one is North East ambition and one is YEI extension

1.4 – Has 9 in appraisal

PA2 – Business related activity has large numbers

BT asked for thanks to be given to SP from the CDEP for the work and time she has put into this.

9. Working Group Chair Updates

Housing Forum – SR gave an update

Legislation came out on 3rd April which saw changes to Homeless Strategy. The responsibility has doubled the work of crisis. We are one of 5 national pilots working with crisis, and we are one of the better prepared. Workloads are up by 60-70% and the team are really involved with cases. Hoping to see less churn and should have more impact.

The Housing Forum last met middle of March and raised awareness of funding for housing agenda nationally. Government seems to be focused on the South East but housing in the North east is very different. There are 9bn homes in England so it's quite interesting to get money into the places that need it.

Business Enterprise & Skills Working Group – SP gave an update

At the last meeting all ERDF projects were discussed and members came along to present on what they were doing and what was going well. This was really helpful, so it has been decided to replicate this with ESF providers at the next meeting in May. The theme will be around what can be done to influence The Shared prosperity Fund.

The Chair appointment – A meeting is arranged with SP, SR and Simon Hanson to discuss this.

10. Shared Prosperity Fund – Brian Tanner

BT discussed the slides in relation to the Four Key Messages

- Communication of a Consistent CDEP Approach
- Non-exclusive local Durham delivery based on ESIF Transition Area model
- Management and delivery for local conditions
- Economic need, not just opportunities

BT asked the Board how we can improve on these four, especially number 2.

11. Any Other Business

BT is unable to make the next meeting on 17th July; therefore AB will look to change this date/time

12. Date and Time of next meeting – Thursday 5th July 2018 @ Town Hall Durham

BT thanked everyone for attending.

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