



## **Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date** Thursday 23 July 2020  
**Time** 9.30 am  
**Venue** Remote Meeting - This meeting is being held remotely  
via Microsoft Teams

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### **Business**

#### **Part A**

**Items which are open to the Public and Press**  
**Members of the public can ask questions with the Chair's agreement,**  
**and if registered to speak**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held 21 February 2020 and the special meetings held 27 February and 11 March 2020 (Pages 3 - 24)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties, if any
6. COVID-19: Economic Support and Recovery: (Pages 25 - 48)
  - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth.
  - (ii) Presentation by the Operations Director, Business Durham, Regeneration, Economy and Growth.
7. Refresh of the Work Programme 2020/21 for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee: (Pages 49 - 66)  
Report of the Corporate Director of Resources - presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

8. 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  
15 July 2020

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

Councillor M Clarke (Chair)  
Councillor R Manchester (Vice-Chair)

Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, A Batey, R Crute, S Dunn, D Hall, T Henderson, J Higgins, P Howell, S Iveson, L Maddison, J Maitland, R Ormerod, E Scott, P Sexton, W Stelling, T Tucker, M Wilkes and M Wilson

**Co-opted Members:**

Mr G Binney and Mrs R Morris

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**Contact: Martin Tindle**

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**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 **Friday 21 February 2020** at **9.30 am**

**Present:**

**Councillor M Clarke (Chair)**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, R Crute, T Henderson, S Iveson, R Manchester, C Martin (substitute for M Wilkes), E Scott, T Tucker and M Wilson

**Co-opted Members:**

Mr G Binney and Mrs R Morris

**Also Present:**

Councillors J Clare, C Hampson, C Potts, M Simmons and H Smith

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Batey, D Hall, J Higgins, J Maitland, R Ormerod, P Sexton and M Wilkes.

**2 Substitute Members**

Councillor Craig Martin substituted for Councillor Mark Wilkes.

**3 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2020 and the Special meeting held on 27 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**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**

Diane Close, Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to 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: Fast Broadband for the Crook and Howden-le-Wear areas; a free business event on 22 January 2020 for small to medium sized businesses to simplify regulatory requirements; an international bowling contest in Stanley, and the celebration launch of Beamish Museum's Golden Jubilee, alongside the receipt of an award for venue of the year.

### **Resolved:**

That the presentation be noted.

## **7 North East Skills Advisory Panel - Overview:**

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided some background detail in respect of the North East Skills Advisory Panel (for copy see file of Minutes).

Michelle Rainbow, Skills Director of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership gave a presentation to Members on the Skills Advisory Panel analysis of North East skills in order to bring together local employers and skills providers to understand and address key local challenges.

The presentation addressed the following:

- Detail of the Skills Advisory Panel – purpose and structure.
- Analysis of North East skills including analytical framework to identify skills priorities and mechanisms for delivering those priorities.
- Key findings and implications from the analysis in relation to
  - understanding demand for skills
  - meeting employer demand
  - meeting the needs of the community
  - ability to respond to wider trends.
- Further research in key sectors where rapid changes were expected – energy/offshore wind, digital skills in health and social care and in tourism and culture.
- Delivery and programmes underway.

Following a question from the Chair, the Skills Director explained that the Panel met every two months and that European funding had been secured to deliver work around careers and engagement which was undertaken by a team of 30.

Councillor Adam asked for sight of the final analysis of the skills environment when it was available. The Councillor queried the impact of funding on delivery of the findings, given

the recent announcement in respect of Further Education funding, and the reduction in employer training because of the lack of Government funding.

The Skills Director stated that the analytical data would provide robust evidence for the Government about where future funding should be targeted to ensure that skills needs were met. They were working closely with the Department for Education and the Government to ensure that key priorities would be addressed, linking in with the UK's Industrial Strategy. She acknowledged that Further Education funding levels were challenging, but the data would assist in influencing budgets and ensuring that courses matched identified needs.

Councillor Adam also referred to the skills needs analysis commissioned in tourism and culture, a sector that was not traditionally seen as high wage or high skilled employment. The Skills Director explained that tourism and culture had been chosen because it was a sector that was important to the North East economy.

Councillor Atkinson emphasised the importance of engaging children in career education at key points in the child's development and stages of progression at school. The Skills Director advised that a lot of work was focussed on career guidance, starting in primary schools, and engaging parents was an important part of this.

Councillor Tucker referred to the need to support older workers, who wished to return to employment, and the barriers to this because of a lack of opportunities to retrain. The Skills Director reported that the Panel was lobbying the Government about lifelong learning. There were opportunities within European Funding and Adult Education budgets, and she expected there would be opportunities within future funding regimes.

Mrs Morris considered that this was a huge undertaking and given future pressures she considered that priorities may have to be scaled down. She encouraged the Panel to focus on priorities that were achievable in the shortest possible timeframe and locations where there was greater need. Mrs Morris also made the point that some data being gathered by the Panel was already available, for example data provided by schools and she encouraged colleagues to use the data already available.

Following questions from Councillor Martin, the Skills Director advised that devolution had not had a detrimental impact on delivery, and if future funding was allocated according to skills demand, then education providers would provide appropriate courses to meet that need. Councillor Tucker noted that in Further Education Colleges courses were cancelled if they were under-subscribed because of budgetary pressures. The Skills Director acknowledged that this was an issue but was being addressed through increased collaboration between colleges.

### **Resolved:**

That the report and presentation be noted, and Members be provided with a link to the results of the analysis when published.

## **8 Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group of the County Durham Economic Partnership - Overview:**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Corporate Directors of Resources and Adult and Health Services which provided members with an overview of the activities undertaken by the Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group of the County Durham Economic Partnership (for copy see file of Minutes).

Sue Parkinson, Chair of the Business Enterprise and Skills (BES) Working Group and Vice-Chair of the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) Board was in attendance and gave a presentation to members which highlighted the following:

- Skills levels in County Durham, and comparison regionally and nationally
- Economic activity and inactivity
- Employment and unemployment rates
- Employment by Industry
- Adult Participation in Learning
- Apprenticeships
- Government Priorities
- Challenges
- Opportunities

Sue Parkinson discussed with Members the CDEP's approach to Resources and future funding opportunities, and how external funding would be maximised.

Members were informed of skills support for the workforce and the unemployed which was funded by the European Social Fund, and funding available for the regeneration of town centres.

Following a question from Councillor Scott, Sue Parkinson explained that a focus of the Partnership was to encourage involvement of the private sector in relation to skills development/training, show them the benefit to their workforce of employing young people and providing relevant training and gave the example of the DurhamWorks Programme that supports young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Councillor Tucker stated that to close the skills gap, closer working between education and training providers and employers was required to remove the barriers facing employees who wanted to up-skill. Sue Parkinson explained that the Skills Support for the Workforce Programme should address this by making funds available to employees to pay for their own training. However there also needed to be a cultural change so that employers became learning organisations and provided the time to employees for training. This was being facilitated by the Partnership.

Councillor Adam noted that the majority of employers in the County were small to medium sized businesses and asked how they would be encouraged to be involved. Sue Parkinson agreed that businesses in the County were pre-dominantly micro-businesses, some having only one or two employees, and therefore recruiting staff with the rights skills was very important. The DurhamWorks Programme aimed to facilitate this.

Mrs Morris asked about the potential implications of a no deal Brexit on funding for the North East. Sue Parkinson responded that the Government had committed to a 'Levelling up Agenda', and that she was also a member of the Government's National European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Evaluation Sub-Committee which looked at European Funding.

Councillor Atkinson asked how Durham County Council would access the town centre funding. Graham Wood, Economic Development Manager explained that the Council was facilitating the funding opportunities available for local businesses as part of the Stronger Towns Fund for Bishop Auckland, and an Investment Plan would be developed for presentation to the Stronger Towns Investment Board. This would be reported to Scrutiny at a future meeting.

**Resolved:**

That the report and presentation be noted.

## **9 DurhamWorks Programme - Progress:**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Corporate Directors of Resources and Children and Young People's Services which provided Members with an update on the DurhamWorks Programme (for copy see file of Minutes).

Linda Bailey, the Strategic Lead for Progression and Learning was in attendance and gave a presentation which focused on the following:

- DurhamWorks Programme
- Evaluation of the Programme
- Employer Engagement and DurhamWorks Grant
- New European Funded Programmes

The presentation included performance of the Programme to date and the Strategic Lead was pleased to inform members that 69% of the young participants had progressed to employment. 700 of these positions were apprenticeships. The majority of businesses supported by the DurhamWorks grant were micro-businesses who although had found the financial contribution to be of benefit, the help and guidance they received from DurhamWorks was more important.

The strength of partnership working across the County had supported the integration of DurhamWorks and had avoided duplication of service provision.

Employer engagement continued to be a challenge; good networking and continuous engagement with key partners was key to overcoming this.

Outlining the next steps, the Strategic Lead advised that DurhamWorks ended in July 2021 and the evaluation of Stage 2 would be used to inform Stage 3, Durham Directions, which was the subject of a bid for European funding of £10 million to support 6,000 young people into employment. This would enable activities in schools to engage with vulnerable young people at risk of 'dropping out'.

At the end of the presentation Members were shown a video of young people discussing their individual experiences of the Programme.

Councillor Adam applauded the success of the Programme and noted that 50% of NEETs were aged between 20 and 24. The Councillor suggested that other ways of identifying young people in that age group be explored and asked if a separate Programme was needed for 20-24 year olds. The Strategic Lead advised that the Programme already used different approaches for each age group which had proved successful over time. She continued that the Programme acted as a triage service directing young people to various support available. Introducing a separate programme for a specific age group would be complicated for young people and partners who worked with DurhamWorks.

In respect of the 20-24 age group Mrs Morris was of the view that if young people were engaged at 16, then there would be fewer 20-24 year olds in need of employment. The Strategic Lead reported that the number of 16-17 olds who were NEET had fallen which could be as a result of transition work with vulnerable young people in schools. It was frustrating that at present DurhamWorks could only work with young people who had left school.

Following a further question from Mrs Morris, the Strategic Lead confirmed that all the apprenticeships were accredited, and were mostly Level 2.

Councillor Atkinson commented that he was impressed that each £1 spent returned £2.69 in social and economic benefits and asked how this was calculated. The Strategic Lead responded that it was a range across various factors and agreed to circulate detail of the factors to Members of the committee.

Councillor Henderson commented that the number of 16-24 year olds Not Known was very small and that he hoped that the bid for European funding would be successful.

**Resolved:**

That

- a) the report and presentation be noted;
- b) the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes a further progress report on the DurhamWorks Programme in its 2020/21 work programme together with consideration of the interim and final evaluation reports when available.

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

At a Special Meeting of the **Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Thursday 27 February 2020** at **9.30 am**

#### **Present:**

**Councillor M Clarke (Chair)**

#### **Members of the Committee:**

Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, A Batey, L Brown (substitute for E Scott), S Dunn, D Hall, T Henderson, J Higgins, S Iveson, R Manchester, T Tucker, M Wilkes, M Wilson and D Bell

#### **Co-opted Members:**

Mrs R Morris

#### **Also Present:**

Councillor D Bell

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Crute, P Sexton and Mr G Binney, and B Coult from the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **2 Substitute Members**

Councillor L Brown substituted for Councillor E Scott.

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### **4 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties**

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

## 5 Transport Policy and Activity - Overview and Progress

The Chair welcomed the Principal Policy Officer, Peter Ollivere and the Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure, Craig MacLennan who were in attendance to provide the Committee with a presentation giving a progress update on transport policy at different geographical scales and how that impacts on the transport function of Durham County Council. In addition, the presentation addresses ongoing and future transport activities within County Durham, sets out some of the challenges and opportunities that currently exist within the transport agenda (for copy see file of minutes).

The Principal Policy Officer reminded Members that the Head of Transport and Contract, Adrian White had attended Committee a year ago and he and the Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure gave an updated position in terms of: strategic transport work at the sub-national level (Transport for the North); regional transport developments (The Joint Transport Committee); funding opportunities; Durham County Council's (DCC) transport infrastructure, development and delivery; the ongoing delivery of the Local Transport Plan; and an update on electric vehicles.

The Chair thanked the Officers and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor J Atkinson asked as regards the Aycliffe Industrial Estate and the Hitachi site, issues relating to unlocking housing sites at Newton Aycliffe, possibilities of a freight line linking to Darlington, and links with the A66 at the back of the Industrial Estate. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted the Darlington Relief Road was a project between the Tees Valley Combined Authority and the Department for Transport (DfT), with the County Council having been consulted in respect of modelling. He added that the Housing Infrastructure Fund would be utilised at Low Copelaw, with three junction improvements, with capacity and signal improvements. He noted that as regards a freight line, the area was promoted as "rail enabled" and the Masterplan for the area was being developed.

Councillor T Tucker asked for more detail as regards the bus station at Bishop Auckland and in relation to the replacement of the 26 pool vehicles, whether there was a need for DCC to have that many pool cars and commented that with changing numbers of staff and working patterns had an assessment been made as the investment represented as substantial cost. The Principal Policy Officer noted that the 26 vehicles referred to were "pool cars" available to be booked out and utilised by staff travelling between sites and to events and so on. This did not represent the wider council fleet of cars, vans and specialist vehicles. Councillor T Tucker asked if there was information on use, for example were some vehicles being left, simply sitting on charge for long periods of time. The Principal Policy Officer noted it was not just about new vehicles, how they were utilised was also important.

Councillor T Tucker noted she felt it would be useful if information as regards usage was made available, the Principal Policy Officer noted he would look into whether Energy Saving Trust information could be shared.

Councillor T Henderson noted recent developments in relation to HS2, coming as far as Leeds. He added there was a lot to the north of Leeds and emphasised that the North East needed its fair share too. He added he had concerns on the impact on tourism as regards the loss of 11 coach parking spaces in the city and use of the park and ride for such coach parking, with issues of access at weekend and after 7.00pm. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted coach parking and drop-off was being provided within the city centre at Framwelgate Waterside, a seven-day provision, with the ability for coaches to travel and wait at Belmont if required.

Councillor M Wilkes noted there were several good points within the presentation, though noted several issues that did not appear to be solved including: A177 Coxhoe roundabout; congestion at Brandon from the Park and Ride along the A690; and extending the bus lane at Gilesgate Bank coming into the city. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted the A177 route and bus priority and added that in relation to Gilesgate Bank there was a bid for funding, to be spent by March 2023, so if successful work would begin on site in 2021. In respect of any potential Park and Ride site there was a need to be able to intercept traffic, however, there was need for balance as if a location was too far out there would be the potential for queues. Councillor M Wilkes noted the queue of traffic up to Browney, where an additional 400 houses were being developed. He added that there were several gridlock areas across the County and added that that it was important to let Local Councillors know as regards works, timescales and issues, Members needed information in order to be able to lobby Government and our MPs.

Councillor S Dunn referred to the £1.45 million set out in the presentation relating to single year funding for lost bus services. He noted bidding as regards electric vehicles, however, he did not feel that the funding was sufficient for what we wished to achieve if the funding was spread from Berwick to Teesside. The Principal Policy Officer noted that the £1.45 million was single year funding and Durham would look to try and secure as much as possible. He added that the Government's £5 billion Bus Fund would help provide ongoing support, though details had yet to be announced.

Councillor S Dunn asked for more detail regards charging infrastructure to run alongside the replacement of 26 pool cars with electric cars, faster charging points, and the 16 £500 grants referred to in the presentation for twenty ChargePoints for Durham County Council. The Principal Planning Officer explained those grants were drawn down in relation to infrastructure at depots. Councillor S Dunn asked if it could be implied that the cost of a charge point was therefore £500.

The Principal Policy Officer noted that £500 was a contribution towards the total cost of each ChargePoint but the total cost was usually higher depending on the speed of the ChargePoint. The hierarchy of charge point speeds was fast, rapid and ultra, with costs varying by speed. He noted the 27 new charge points at the DCC depots were double socketed so effectively 54 points could charge 54 vehicles at any one time. He explained that there was not yet the number of electric vehicles on the road to justify a mass expansion of DCC sockets, though this was increasing through the SOSCI project, and that the private sector would also install charge points at locations such as supermarkets and existing service stations. Where communities were not served by ChargePoints the Council should look to fill gaps.

Councillor E Adam asked whether there was the need for staff to be undertaking multiple journeys, for example with the pool cars, given the technology available such as Skype and Teams, negating the need to meet face-to-face. He noted issues in relation to charging points had been raised at the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with issues such as community charging points and charging points at employee's houses being discussed.

Councillor E Adam continued and asked in terms of linking bus, rail, car and cycle, how much discussion had there been with the neighbouring Combined Authorities in terms of integrating services, adding he felt pricing was key to getting it right. Councillor E Adam noted the use of electric buses and the impact this would make on air quality and asked as regards the impact that could be made in terms of freight and an increased use of rail, noting previous points made as regards potential rail links. The Principal Policy Officer noted that in respect of rail freight distribution, a study some years ago indicated a prohibitive cost of around £17 million to pump-prime rail freight infrastructure at a site in the County. However, land has been safeguarded at Newton Aycliffe and Tursdale to enable such development should the rail freight market pick up in the North East. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted the North East economy did not support rail freight this at this point. Councillor E Adam asked as regards pushing the rail freight agenda, the Principal Policy Officer noted the North East Rail Freight Partnership and the North East Transport Plan supported and promoted policies in this regard. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted Transport for the North leading on such issues and the Strategic Transport Plan including strategic development corridors. The Principal Policy Officer noted this work included 20 Local Authorities, with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration, Councillor C Marshall representing Durham on the Transport for the North Board.

Councillor A Batey noted the slide referring to funding streams and asked as regards a list of how much was available, what the deadlines were in terms of bids, what successes Durham had, and asked if one of the bids related to the A693 roundabout at Chester-le-Street. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted the bid related to the Stanley roundabout and Park Road at Oxhill.

Councillor A Batey reiterated the previous points made as regards involving Local Members and letting them know as regards bids, schemes and projects in their areas. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted in terms of the successes there was a summary prepared and noted DCC had been very successful to date. Councillor A Batey asked as regards charging points in the community and who would pick up the cost of such charge points, adding it would be helpful if links to the relevant contacts could be shared with Councillors. The Principal Planning Officer noted the community charge points was a Government pilot scheme, adding that if communities owned a stake in the charging points people may be more inclined to use them.

Councillor D Hall noted a lot of good work being undertaken by Councils Officers, adding he too felt there was a need to improve the interface with Local Members in this regard. He noted an issue in the area he represented, Sherburn Village, there were a large amount of heavy goods vehicle traffic passing through the village and asked how and who he could speak to in relation to those issues and feeding into discussions relating to freight and rail, noting the Leamside line goes past the village.

Councillor D Hall asked as regards the issues of Electric Vehicles and air quality in Durham City, how could electric taxis be introduced to the City Centre and commented on the need for the necessary charging infrastructure and possibly the introduction of a scrappage deal. He also asked for detail of any income to the Council from charge points and why electric vans were not being looked at in addition to the 26 pool cars, especially with the opportunity from April with such vehicles attracting zero "road tax". The Principal Policy Officer noted it was a good point as regards vans and the zero road tax, and explained the Council's Fleet Manager did note, where possible, to utilise electric vehicles and these were being added more and more to the fleet as older vehicles were being replaced. In terms of income from charge points, there would be a period where the company that installed them on behalf of the Council would recoup their capital costs, however, there would be a percentage to the Council in the longer term. In relation to taxis, the Principal Policy Officer noted Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) funding relating to rapid charging points for taxis, with several in the wider region, with one being located at Chester-le-Street, albeit with only one electric taxi within Durham City in comparison with a company in Northumberland that only operates electric vehicles. Councillor D Hall noted it was important to be aware of the implications in terms of tax on vehicles over the next 4-5 years and to take every last available opportunity in terms of any EU funding. He highlighted the importance of air quality, with Local Authorities such as Newcastle looking to ban diesel vehicles.

Councillor T Tucker commented that, with hindsight, perhaps a lot of the rail infrastructure removed in the past would have been retained and asked what work had been undertaken in terms of feasibility of joining up our local rail and road routes. The Principal Policy Officer noted there was a great deal of expense in terms of new lines and the investment required in terms of rolling stock.

He noted that some old lines would not have the passenger number to make them viable in the long-term, however, the Beeching Reversal Fund which could be used to fund a feasibility study regarding the opening up of old rail links such as Consett to Newcastle. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted such issues were looked at in terms of viability.

Councillor J Higgins asked as regards when the last review of the costs of the pool cars had been carried out, and the use of the them by staff to ensure we got value for money. The Principal Policy Officer note efficiency of use was important and how we managed the use of the vehicles, adding that some staff, such as our Neighbourhood Wardens had their own specific vehicles. Councillor J Higgins noted he welcomed the work of the Officers as set out in the presentation and reiterated that it was important to speak to Members as regards issues in their areas. He noted he represented Wingate and noted that if there was an issue with the A19 then traffic through the village was at a standstill. The Section Manager Transport and Infrastructure noted the issues relating to communication with Councillors had been noted.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of the refresh of the Committee's Work Programme for 2020/21, receives a further progress report on transport policy and activity.

## **6 Economic and Employment Statistics - Overview**

The Chair welcomed the Economic Development Manager, Graham Wood; the Managing Director, Business Durham, Sarah Slaven; the Research and Consultant Officer, John Mitchell; and the Regeneration Policy Team Leader, Glenn Martin who were in attendance to provide Members with an overview in relation to economic and employment statistics (for copy see file of minutes).

The Research and Consultant Officer asked Members to note the information within the agenda papers which was collated from the Durham Insight tool, with links provided within the report. He explained this was an interactive tool and the State of the County report was powerful in that it brought together lots of elements in one place. Members were given a demonstrate of the interactivity of the Durham Insight tool and the Research and Consultant Officer encouraged Councillors to have a greater look outside of the meeting. Members were reminded of the measures of success from the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP): employment rate; number of businesses; gross household disposable income; per capita gross value added (GVA); and the Index of Deprivation's employment domain – number of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) ranked nationally in the top 20 percent.

The Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted those key measures had been set up a number of years ago and they would be reviewed in line with the new County Durham Partnership Vision, and new CDEP strategy in due course.

The Managing Director noted the Committee had received an update relating to Business Durham activities at its meeting in November 2019 and noted the work undertaken by Business Durham to impact upon the statistics relating to the number of businesses and the number of people employed. She added it was important to be able to develop the skills to match and noted Members were familiar with the relevant work carried out by Business Durham, including with strategic sites, inward investment, packages to support and help grow businesses, and work to bring in new businesses.

The Economic Development Manager noted that the Committee's Work Programme had looked at many issues recently including the work of the NELEP and the Skills Advisory Panel, DurhamWorks and EU Funding. He referred to the successes of the DurhamWorks programme and of the Future Business Magnates competition and Durham City Incubator.

The Committee were reminded of the Town and Villages programme and other activities including Seaham Townscapes, Crimdon Coastal Hub, World Heritage Site and Brighter Bishop Auckland.

The Economic Development Manager referred to the work relating to infrastructure to help deliver economic growth, with not just physical works in terms of transport, but also in terms of digital infrastructure and the green economy. He gave an example of the Garden Village at Seaham, to utilise geothermal and minewater energy generation.

The Economic Development Manager noted the challenges ahead in terms of EU Funding moving to the Shared Prosperity Fund, though with little detail yet, Local Government and LEP funding, inclusive growth and accessibility. He concluded by noting the uncertainty that existed currently in many of these areas.

The Chair thanked the Officers, noted the Committee would visit several of the strategic sites at the end of April, dates to be confirmed, and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Mrs R Morris asked if we used comparisons with our statistical neighbours. The Research and Consultant Officer explained we did not, with some data sets not matching, though it could be done. Mrs R Morris noted that some neighbouring Authorities did not really compare to County Durham and therefore looking at other Local Authorities with a similar rural nature may be beneficial. She noted the list of NELEP areas of strategic importance: Digital; Advance Manufacturing; Health and Life Science; and Energy and noted it would be important to be able to look at our performance in those terms.

The Managing Director noted we would look to link in start-ups to those areas and the Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted we looked at the NELEP Strategy Economic Plan and Government guidance in this regard. Mr R Morris noted we are aware of the key areas/sectors and she felt we should be “getting in early”. She noted the Future Business Magnates competition was in its fourteen year and asked if there was any feedback in terms of successes. The Managing Director noted she believed some data had been shared with the Committee previously, however, she added that due to the age of the participants there were issues in terms of access to the data and the individuals themselves. She explained there was some anecdotal evidence when former participants contact us, and that schools were approached for their feedback on the programme.

Councillor J Atkinson noted challenges included planning progression, he asked had planning been a delay in any cases in relation to the larger applications. The Managing Director noted that many schemes, especially larger ones, would experience some issues in coming to fruition. She emphasised that the vast majority of feedback received from businesses was that the planning process at the Council was very good. Councillor J Atkinson added that perhaps advice to businesses as regards planning processes could be useful. The Economic Development Manager noted that in those larger instances a “Development Team” approach was taken, with colleagues from various departments such as Transport, Business Durham, Planning, Highways, feed in to give a rapid process and to ensure a good flow of information. He added the Council would always advise pre-application engagement at an early stage to help de-risk schemes.

Councillor E Adam asked for further information relating to zero-hour contracts at a more local level. The Research and Consultant Officer noted that the data was only available at a North East regional level and explained that using that to try to look at the county would give unreliable data, and he would not recommend that in terms of use for looking to target resources. He added that it would be possible to get an overall estimate of the total number of zero-hour contracts, however, not by sector or type.

Councillor E Adam asked as regards the gross household disposable income and whether that could be broken down further in terms of jobs and locations. The Research and Consultant Officer noted it was possible to give an overall and per head figure, however, only gross value added (GVA) data could be broken down by industry sector. Councillor E Adam noted he would question the types of jobs, with data suggesting to him that we were not attracting the right types with both our level of deprivation and GVA unlikely to improve until we address this, and to do so we would need to drill down into the data. The Research and Consultant Officer noted the restrictions in terms of the data, those being from national data sets.

**Resolved:**

That the report and presentation be noted.

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

At a Special Meeting of the **Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 11 March 2020** at **10.15 am**

#### **Present:**

**Councillor M Clarke (Chair)**

#### **Members of the Committee:**

Councillors E Adam, J Atkinson, A Batey, R Crute, T Henderson, J Higgins, S Iveson, J Maitland, R Manchester, P Sexton, T Tucker, M Wilson and H Smith

#### **Co-opted Members:**

Mr G Binney and Mrs R Morris

#### **Also Present:**

Councillors A Bainbridge, B Bainbridge, R Bell, M Davinson, C Hampson, P Jopling, B Kellett, O Temple, J Turnbull and Mr A J Cooke

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Brown, S Dunn, D Hall, R Ormerod, E Scott and Chief Fire Officer S Errington (County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service).

### **2 Substitute Members**

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Councillors R Bell, B Kellett and O Temple declared an interest in Item 5 – Selective Licensing - Progress, as private landlords. Mr AJ Cooke noted he was also a private landlord.

### **4 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties**

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

## 5 Selective Licensing - Progress

The Chair welcomed the Housing Team Leader, John Kelly and Project Coordinator, Joanne Thompson who were in attendance to provide the Committee with an update in relation to the progress with the proposed Selective Licensing Scheme County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

The Project Coordinator thanked the Chair and Committee for the opportunity to speak in relation to the proposed Selective Licensing scheme, reminding Members that Selective Licensing was introduced under Part Three of the Housing Act 2004, allowing a Local Authority to designate either part or the whole of its area for selective licensing, providing certain conditions were met. It was explained that it would apply to all private rented properties within a designated area and landlords will need to apply to the Local Authority for a Licence. Members were asked to recall that the six criteria for Selective Licensing were: low housing demand; a significant and persistent problem caused by anti-social behaviour (ASB); poor property conditions; high levels of migration; high levels of deprivation; and high levels of crime. It was added that all conditions, apart from low housing demand and ASB, must have high levels of privately rented accommodation. It was noted the national average for privately rented was 19.46 percent, with the level in the County being greater than that overall. The Project Coordinator noted that reasons for pursuing selective licensing included: poor housing and management could lead to housing market decline or failure; an objective of the Housing Strategy, to improve the quality and management of privately rented properties in County Durham; better protect tenants; tackle poor landlords offering unsatisfactory accommodation and poor management practices; and provide support and training to landlords and tenants.

The Housing Team Leader referred Members to a map setting out the density of private rented sector (PRS) properties across County Durham. He explained that the size of areas looked at were middle-layer super output areas (MSOAs) and that the map showed which areas were over the 19.46 percent national average density. He referred to a graph noting the percentages of PRS properties in each of those MSOAs, with Durham City having the highest and Brasside and Newton Hall having the lowest. It was noted the majority of the MSOAs had a higher density than the national average.

The Housing Team Leader noted that accordingly, the proposals were for the 43 out of 66 MSOAs that met one or more of the criteria previously to be included for selective licensing, representing approximately 65 percent of the MSOAs or 75 percent of the PRS stock.

He noted that due to poor data quality in terms of migration, and the lack of supporting evidence with regards to poor property condition and crime, those criteria would not form part of the Council's response on selective licensing. He added the evidence that would be provided would focus on low demand, ASB and deprivation.

He continued, noting four designations that would be made: One – low demand; Two – ASB; Three – Low demand and ASB; and Four – Deprivation.

The Housing Team Leader referred Members to a map setting out all the areas to be included within the selective licensing proposals, graphs showing percentage of PRS against ASB rate by MSOA, and maps of house prices and deprivation by MSOA.

The Project Coordinator explained there were a number of licence conditions, a number of which were mandatory, set in legislation such as gas safety, with others being additional local conditions in relation to tenancy management, property management and ASB. She explained that the fees were proposed to be £500, payable in two parts, first upon application and second upon granting of the licence. The Project Coordinator added there would be penalties for landlords that fail to obtain a licence or breached licence conditions, with civil penalty notices or prosecution. It was added there would be the option to also apply for Rent Repayment Orders (RRO) and consider Banning Orders under the relevant legislation. She added there would also be a database of rogue landlords. The Project Coordinator added that views would continue to be sought on the proposals, from Members at the meeting today and via the many events to be held out in communities. She added that once consultation had been completed a final report would be considered by Cabinet in due course prior to submission to the Secretary of State.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their presentation and asked as regards Banning Orders, what the process would be for landlords to get back from that point. The Project Coordinator noted that in the first instance, the Service would look to provide help and support to landlords so that it would not reach that stage and those that asked to be helped would always be offered assistance. The Chair asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor R Bell asked as regards the list of drop-in session dates. The Project Coordinator noted that there were lists on-line; she would provide the link via Committee Services to Members after the meeting.

Councillor R Bell asked as regards the use of MSOAs, noting they were a rather large unit, highlighting this with an example of Bishop Auckland, Shildon and Coundon Grange, adding that the scale was not such to differentiate at the level required, suggesting Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) may be more appropriate.

The Housing Team Leader noted there had been a lot of feedback in this regard, with many Local Authorities going by Electoral Divisions or Wards, comparable in this case, being 63 Electoral Divisions in County Durham and 66 MSOAs as previously mentioned.

He added that in terms of the data used, much of this was collected at the MSOA level and that looking at the LSOA level was noted as an option within the consultation and could be considered. He added that upon going down to the LSOA level, some smaller areas included within the current proposals may come out, and some areas not currently included may need to be added in at a future date, subject to further consultation. Therefore, he added that he felt the overall coverage would not have changed much if looking at LSOA boundaries and the level for consultation would still have been between 65-75 percent.

Councillor O Temple asked as regards the budget of £16 million and when it would be set out to demonstrate how it would be used to support the objectives of selective licensing, for example landlord training. He also asked as regards cost of the licence fee being passed on to tenants and effects on those in receipt of Housing Benefit. The Housing Team Leader noted the draft budget was being developed, with many of the issues still being part of the ongoing consultation. He added that the provisional costings would be brought back to Cabinet in due course. He also noted that any income from fees would be ringfenced, and that areas could not be subsequently added in, though areas could be taken out. Councillor O Temple asked if there would be a budget included when the final proposals to be considered by Cabinet. The Housing Team Leader noted that the proposals would need to go to the Secretary of State, following Cabinet's agreement. The Project Coordinator added that in terms of concerns that the cost of fees would be simply transferred to tenants by landlords, evidence from other Local Authorities was that this was not the case, with market forces dictating rent and therefore the cost was being absorbed by landlords in order to remain competitive.

Councillor J Atkinson asked as regards Special Interim Management Orders (SIMO) and whether we would consider use of those. The Project Coordinator noted that there was legislation that the Council would have to follow and where the Council did not think a landlord would be able to meet the criteria for a licence, then the Council could apply. She added that SIMOs did not apply only to selective licensing areas, the criteria were linked to ASB, and noted that other options in terms of managing a situation would be utilised first, such as an interim-orders.

Councillor E Adam asked if the required resources and staff were in place to be able to carry out the proposals, should Government accept the proposals. The Project Coordinator noted that the level of fee was dictated by the level of staffing and resource required, with the income from the fee being ringfenced for that purpose only. Councillor E Adam noted the proposed fee of £500 and asked if, at a future point there was a requirement to increase the fee in order to meet increasing demand upon resources, whether the fee could be increased. The Housing Team Leader noted he did not envisage a substantial increase in the fee, if any, and feedback on the issue from landlords had been divided. He noted some that were already accredited with the Council scheme or national schemes felt they should not pay a fee or at least be offered a discount.

He added the Secretary of State, within any submission, would expect the fee to have been calculated in order to cover the costs of staffing, administration, inspections and steps leading to enforcement.

Councillor P Sexton asked as regards any pilot schemes in relation to selective licensing and how this would inform the fee setting and anticipated resources required. The Project Coordinator noted there had been three selective licensing areas in County Durham and those and speaking to other Local Authorities who had brought in selective licensing, had helped in terms of understanding fees, resources and the ability to target those effectively. Councillor P Sexton asked if there was any “early bird” discount being proposed in order to encourage landlords to sign up as soon as possible. The Housing Team Leader noted there was consideration of a three month period with a discounted fee of £450, and for £390 for those accredited via the Council’s scheme. He added that those accredited via national schemes were also keen for this to be considered in terms of discounted schemes and this would be looked at throughout the consultation period. He noted that other Local Authorities’ experience was to have as many landlords sign up in the initial stages, in order to keep the costs associated with chasing up and continued advertising down as much as possible.

Councillor T Tucker thanked the Officers and noted that the issues with landlords was not only for PRS, also in some cases some tenants within Registered Providers’ properties were let down, she asked what methods were in place to deal with those cases. She also asked as regards whether there was a way for potential tenants to be able to check whether landlords or providers were meeting accreditation criteria. The Project Coordinator noted that in terms of Social Housing, this legislation and scheme did not apply, there were other provisions already in place (the Regulator for Social Housing). She noted the multiagency approach undertaken in terms of housing, with Register Providers being partners that the Council dealt with regularly and therefore issue could be raised through existing partnership arrangements. As regards checking regarding landlords, prospective tenants could use the online register of licensed landlords or contact the Council for advice.

Councillor R Bell noted the issue of resources and asked if there was prioritisation such to deal with the likely large number of enquires and requests in the initial period or was there priority given to tackling rogue landlords, and how would these competing demands be balanced. The Housing Team Leader noted there would be a schedule of those that the Authority would wish to tackle, and plans would be in place to act should selective licensing be approved.

Councillor B Bainbridge asked, within the three pilot selective licensing areas, how successful the Council was in finding the landlords of empty properties or taking any of the empty properties on themselves. The Project Coordinator noted all were found, albeit one within the final year of the scheme and the areas involved being relatively small.

She added the Council had not used management orders in any of the areas. She noted Registered Providers had not been keen to manage such properties on behalf of the Council, however, with the establishment of a Local Lettings Agency by the Council, this could be a tool to use in the future if required.

Councillor R Crute noted he supported the proposals relating to selective licensing, from the perspective of the benefits to both tenants and landlords. He noted in his experience it would have wider community benefits as at nearly all local community meetings he attended the issues of ASB, and rogue landlords were raised. In terms of the coverage of the selective licensing areas, he asked how we would ensure that issues in one area were not simply moved to another, ones that was not covered by selective licensing, and how fluid the area boundaries could be in order to cope with any changing situations. The Project Coordinator noted that the element of dispersal into other areas had been taken into account, with the three pilot areas showing some element of this. She added this would be monitored, and that additional areas could be looked at, should they meet the criteria as previously mentioned. The Project Coordinator added that the Council would also look to support “accidental” landlords, with help and advice.

Councillor S Iveson thanked the Officers for their hard work in relation to selective licensing and asked what would be put in place to monitor landlords and uptake of licences. The Project Coordinator noted the onus was on landlords to apply for a licence and there would be staff “on the ground” in communities, as well as methods of referral via partners, Local Members and members of the community.

Councillor J Atkinson asked how many private landlords there were in the County. The Project Coordinator noted the full figure was not known, as there was no place where such data was held, nor was there an obligation for landlords to register themselves. She added that modelling gave an estimate of 68,000 PRS properties within the County. The Housing Team Leader noted the level of fee had been calculated on the data we had, and on the time and cost to carry out the requisite administration tasks. He added that the rationale behind the fee would be required by the Secretary of State within the submission.

Councillor A Batey noted there was a lot at stake in terms of selective licensing and asked how the proposals were being sold to landlords, in terms of benefits. The Project Coordinator noted that to date no landlords had responded stating they were against selective licensing, and none were against fees. She noted some landlords felt that it would be “good landlords paying for bad landlords” and that the Council should deal with those bad landlords first and provide training and support for landlords.

Councillor E Adam asked when the proposals would be brought back to Overview and Scrutiny, after consultation. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Diane Close, noted that it was intended for the proposed scheme to come back to Overview and Scrutiny subsequent to having been considered by Cabinet.

Councillor S Iveson asked as regards the fee, whether it was a one-off, or ongoing. The Project Coordinator noted it was a five-year fee, per property, payable up front in two parts as previously mentioned.

Councillor J Turnbull noted his local area was not proposed to be included within the selective licensing areas and asked what support would be given to those areas left out. The Project Coordinator noted those areas would not be forgotten, with staff in place to deal with issues and while there may not be all the tools available as in selective licensing areas, there were still tools and powers available to look to tackle issues.

Councillor M Davinson noted he was the Cabinet Support Member for Strategic Housing and Assets and explained he supported the proposals that would give additional tools to be able to deal with the issue of rogue landlords. He noted issues of dispersal would need to be monitored, citing examples relating to the pilot areas and added that it was important for as many people as possible to engage with the consultation process and encouraged Members to do so and for them to encourage residents in their local areas. Councillor M Davinson noted from previous reports there had been an estimate of around 20 percent of rented housing stock being PRS, now estimates were around 60 percent and asked how this increase had been ascertained. The Project Coordinator explained that various data had been analysed including: Council Tax, Environmental Health, Neighbourhood Wardens, Planning, Housing, Energy Performance data, Government data relating to tenancies. She added that the count was up to around 39,000 properties, with modelling suggesting the figure was actually around 68,000.

The Housing Team Leader reminded Members that there were to be a number of drop-in sessions at Custom Access Points and other locations and encouraged Members, landlords, tenants and residents to engage with the consultation.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That the comments made by Members in relation to the Selective Licensing proposals form the Overview and Scrutiny response to be fed into the ongoing consultation.
- (iii) That the Economy and Enterprise OSC include in its future work programme a further update on progress of the scheme.

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**Economy and Enterprise  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**23 July 2020**

**COVID-19: Economic Support and  
Recovery**



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**Report of Amy Harhoff, Corporate Director of Regeneration,  
Economy and Growth**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the support that Durham County Council and Business Durham have been delivering during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis to help businesses and the economy.

**Executive summary**

- 2 Durham County Council, Business Durham and partners have been delivering direct support to businesses and individuals that have been affected by the crisis and delivering support on behalf of the Government. Thousands of people and business have been supported thus far and work is progressing to develop new initiatives to promote the county and support local people.
- 3 Business Durham has also been undertaking surveys, producing regular reports and feeding information to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and civil servants. It is also adjusting current business support programmes to respond to the ongoing crisis.
- 4 The impacts of the crisis have been mixed thus far, with the visitor economy and hospitality sectors worst affected. However, conditions remain uncertain, and as Government support is withdrawn the economic impacts and job losses are likely to escalate.
- 5 The County Durham Economic Partnership is developing a COVID recovery plan and partners across the County and beyond have committed to continuing to work together to identify and minimise the negative impacts of the crisis where possible.

## **Recommendations**

- 6 Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny is recommended to:
- (a) Note the content of the report.
  - (b) Receive further reports on evidence of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis as part of the committee's 2020/21 work programme.
  - (c) Receive further updates on the initiatives designed to minimise the impacts of the crisis as part of the committee's 2020/21 work programme.

## **Background**

- 7 The COVID-19 crisis has had, and will continue to have, a major impact on the global economy. Many of the impacts at international, national, regional and local levels are unknown but measures have been put in place to support many parts of the economy. This report, and the accompanying presentation, gives an overview of the actions that Durham County Council, Business Durham and partner organisations have taken to support the economy thus far. It also gives a brief insight into some of the anticipated socio-economic impacts of the ongoing crisis.
- 8 The report and presentation are organised into three parts:
- Lockdown and immediate responses
  - Emerging insights on the economic impact
  - Recovery planning

## **Lockdown and Immediate Responses**

- 9 On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 the Prime Minister announced lockdown measures and subsequently various forms of support were made available to businesses and workers. These included the Job Retention Scheme (aka furloughing), the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, loans, tax incentives and other packages.
- 10 Durham County Council, Business Durham, Visit County Durham and other partners have been involved in delivering some of the Government support packages as well as tailoring additional support to the County's needs. Durham County Council has supported around 9,000 businesses with grants totalling around £100 million and applied business rate reductions and discounts worth around £50 million.

- 11 Business Durham's Business Engagement and Account Management staff worked closely with the Council's Business Rates Team and supported businesses to apply for the Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund as well as the more recent Local Authority Discretionary Grant.
- 12 Since March 2020 Business Durham has responded to over 300 direct enquiries from businesses about COVID-19 and have proactively contacted key accounts and tenants to alert companies regarding information relating to safe working practices, job retention scheme, bounce back loans and the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. In addition, Business Durham offered a 3 month rates deferral to its tenants in the early stage of the lockdown.
- 13 Business Durham has been feeding into weekly intelligence gathering collated by the Council, North East local authorities, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, and Department for International Trade. These are in turn fed into the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to inform the national picture about the impact COVID is having on businesses and the local economy.
- 14 Business Durham has also been supporting the Council's main COVID-19 activity, including developing a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) directory to support the County Council's suppliers and other businesses seeking PPE. Over 20 manufacturing companies in the County have pivoted to develop new products to support the COVID-19 effort, such as making hand sanitiser and sneeze screens.
- 15 Business Durham's properties, including its business centres, NETPark and other industrial property remained open throughout the lockdown for those tenants that required access to continue their business operations, and to accommodate requests for additional space from some businesses. More recently the property staff have undertaken all of the risk assessments to ensure that Business Durham buildings are COVID-compliant and have worked hard to ensure that all the necessary measures are in place for the buildings to operate safely.
- 16 In recent weeks, social distancing and other measures have been relaxed and businesses have started to return to normal – albeit with measures in place to protect staff, suppliers and customers. The Council coordinated plans for the reopening of town centres across the County, to ensure all necessary measures were in place for businesses and consumers to return. The Government has provided some resources through the 'Reopening High Streets Safely Fund', primarily to support the safe reopening of high streets and other commercial areas through information and awareness raising activities.

- 17 Business Durham's Digital Drive County Durham programme, Durham BID and DCC's Community Economic Development team collaborated to make available three webinars in June 2020 and July 2020 to support the retail sector, especially aimed at those that had not yet embraced the digital revolution.
- 18 As the economy starts to return to normal and as the summer holiday season approaches, Visit County Durham is launching a new 'hyperlocal' campaign to promote the County to visitors.
- 19 On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made an announcement summarising the support that had been made available and setting out additional support and economic policies for the coming months. The report, named the 'Plan for Jobs', recognised the impacts that the COVID-19 crisis is having and will continue to have on jobs and was organised around measures that would support, protect, and create jobs. These measures include support for young people, people seeking work, support for businesses, and investment in economic infrastructure.
- 20 At this stage, many parts of this plan are unclear and therefore the potential support and opportunities for County Durham are uncertain. The Government intends to consult on and set-out further details in the coming months as well as revealing further support in an Autumn Budget statement.

### **Emerging Insights**

- 21 Numerous think tanks, banks and consultancies have estimated the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. It was anticipated that non-food retailers, cultural attractions and hospitality businesses would be badly affected by the lockdown and this has largely borne out in the trends we have seen thus far.
- 22 It is also expected that small businesses across all sectors will be disproportionately affected as well as those in more routine, lower-paid jobs. The people in these jobs tend to be young people and women but Universal Credit data for March to May seems to be showing an even impact across gender and age groups.
- 23 Due to our job and sector profile, many commentators expect that the North East and County Durham will be amongst the hardest hit areas in the UK. However, whilst the latest Universal Credit data is showing a significant impact, the County and region are not yet amongst the worst hit areas. Around 56,000 people in the County have been furloughed and as this support is withdrawn and businesses restart, the economic impacts may become clearer.

- 24 There have been, and there will continue to be business opportunities. Those that have benefitted so far have tended to be in healthcare and food retailing, those that have an established online presence, and home delivery companies. Manufacturers in the County have remained reasonably resilient in the early stages of the crisis, and a number of manufacturers have seen new market opportunities, although some are now starting to state their intention to make redundancies. Business Durham will continue to support these businesses where possible and monitor job losses as usual.
- 25 Business Durham has been gathering intelligence from businesses about the impact of COVID-19 on the economy through ongoing business engagement and account management work. Business Durham has also been leading the Business and Economic Recovery Sub-Group as part of the LRF Recovery and Restoration Cell, set up to manage the Durham and Darlington response to the pandemic.
- 26 In order to capture data about the impact across the LRF area, two business impact surveys have been issued to businesses across Durham and Darlington, one in April and one in June. There were 279 responses to the first survey, and 180 responses to the second survey, with the results providing a snapshot of the local economic position.
- 27 The headlines from the two surveys were as follows:
- (a) 51% of businesses that responded to the second survey indicated that the impact of COVID-19 on their revenue has been greater than 50%. This is similar to, but a slightly improved picture from, the responses to the first survey where 56% of businesses indicated the impact on their revenue was greater than 50%.
  - (b) 25% of those responding to the second survey stated that their business was still closed, with a further 12% stating it was closed, but they intend to reopen during July. These responses are comparable to the first survey where 32% of businesses responding had indicated that they were closed.
  - (c) On a slightly more encouraging note, 46% of businesses responding felt they can survive beyond 3 months without additional financial support, compared with only 37% in the first survey.

- (d) 50% of County Durham businesses responding said that they have used the furloughing / job retention scheme, consistent with the picture in the previous survey at 51%, and 73% said that they have been able to access one of the local authority grants, either a small business grant, retail, hospitality and leisure grant or discretionary grant.
  - (e) Levels of take-up of the loan schemes announced by Government were low amongst those responding to the second survey, with only 22% having accessed the Bounce Back Loans and less than 1% reporting that they had accessed the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS). However, these take-up rates are likely to reflect the high level of responses to the survey from micro businesses employing less than 5 people.
- 28 Visit County Durham has also issued three COVID-19 tourism business impact surveys. The first survey ran in March 2020, with 52 responses received, and findings backed by anecdotal feedback from 1-2-1 telephone calls with businesses. The second survey ran in April 2020 and received 117 responses (10% of database). The third, and most recent survey ran during May 2020 and received 79 responses.
- 29 The headlines from the most recent tourism business survey were as follows:
- (a) 78% of respondents stated that their income has been affected by more than 50%.
  - (b) When asked to score the immediate to short-term impact (May to July 2020) of COVID-19 on their business, with 10 being severe, the average score was 8.4, an increase from 7.8 in the second survey, and businesses were now more pessimistic about the long-term impact of COVID-19 on their business, with the average score having increased to 7 in the latest survey, from a score of 5 in the second survey.
  - (c) Businesses were asked when they envisaged re-opening. 34% didn't know, 4% stated June 2020, 30% stated July 2020, 11% stated August 2020 and 17% thought after September 2020. Lack of demand, social distancing requirements, stringent cleaning requirements and cashflow were the main concerns when considering reopening.

- (d) In terms of support needed to aid the recovery of the tourism sector in the coming months 28% identified sector specific online guidance, 24% assistance with a recovery strategy, 33% a combination of support packages including financial assistance and case study examples of best practice.
- 30 From the surveys and other business intelligence gathered, the initial impact by sector can be summarised as follows:
- (a) Businesses in the tourism / hospitality / leisure / retail sector have reported the most significant negative impact in both surveys and are still very concerned about the outlook for their businesses.
  - (b) The manufacturing and engineering sector accounts for a significant proportion of the County's GVA. Whilst many have had to furlough staff, most manufacturing companies continued to operate, albeit at reduced capacity, or have reopened following a period of shutdown and are gradually increasing the numbers of staff returning to work from furlough. There remain concerns that COVID-19 will have exacerbated the difficulties that companies in the automotive supply sector were already facing. However, a number of other manufacturing firms have adapted or innovated new products to support the healthcare sector supply chain and are looking at new sectoral or geographical markets.
  - (c) Impacts on businesses in the construction sector has been varied. Some construction firms have managed to continue their developments, especially those linked to essential work, albeit at a slower pace than before the crisis, and some are now back on site having ceased work temporarily. However, some in the sector have recently expressed concerns that activity levels are not picking up as quickly as had been hoped.
  - (d) Anecdotal evidence from businesses in the IT / digital and business and professional services sectors indicates that they have not been hit as hard as others, with operations continuing effectively from home and some productivity gains and innovation being experienced. Many are reasonably confident of future growth and demand for their products, having seen new market opportunities in the drive for more digital services and remote working.

(e) The Contact Centre sector has largely managed to maintain working by deploying working from home for large numbers of staff. Feedback from the regional Contact Centre Partnership is mostly positive, generally most companies have managed to get agents working from home with secure technology solutions, and several plan to continue with home working in some form, which could have implications for the office market in the future.

31 It is recognised that it is still early days to be able to assess the real impact on the economy and that the picture will continue to emerge and evolve as we progress through the rest of this year, which we will need to monitor closely in order to be able to react appropriately.

### **Recovery Planning**

32 At the regional level, a North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group has been established, made up of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), North East and North of Tyne Combined Authorities, the CBI on behalf of business organisations, North East Joint Transport Committee and regional universities. The collaboration provides a platform for regional leaders to work together, ensure there is a shared understanding, and respond together to the economic impact of COVID-19 on the North East economy.

33 The North East COVID-19 Economic Response outlines the development of a phased recovery plan, which involves short term stimulus, medium term adaptation and then longer-term rebuilding of the North East economy, with each phase being underpinned by ongoing intelligence gathering. The three phases are as follows:

- Release from lockdown (1-6 months) - Adapting, planning and early action
- Living with COVID-19 (6-24 months) - Managing transition and stabilisation under ongoing controls
- Recovery and long-term (24 months+) - Rebuilding and growing our places, services and industries

34 At the County level, development of a plan for business and economic recovery is being coordinated through the County Durham Economic Partnership, which has representation from all of the key partners involved in economic development, and is chaired by Simon Hanson, FSB. Five 'task and finish' workstreams have been established to cover business support, infrastructure, lobbying, intelligence and communications. The intention is to develop and launch an action plan in August 2020.

- 35 The County Council has a key role to play in supporting the recovery of Durham's economy. This includes support to businesses through the work of Business Durham, supporting the tourism sector through the work of Visit County Durham, support for town and villages centres and retailers through the Community Economic Development Team as well as through the purchasing power of the Council and major projects/ economic infrastructure development.
- 36 All existing delivery programmes are being reviewed and adjusted/enhanced to maximise opportunities to support the recovery plan, and a number of actions are already underway, as follows.

### **Employment and Redundancy Support Measures**

- 37 Joining together employment & skills provision to maximise delivery and accessibility of support. Actions to date include:
- (a) Established a Provider forum for all key Employment and Skills providers operating across the Council
  - (b) Working with National Careers Service to provide additional immediate capacity to triage those who've lost their jobs and those furloughed and in fear of job loss through Jobs Fuse County Durham.
  - (c) Maximising the use of the ESF employment support programmes across the County – Durham Works, Durham Advance and LINKCD
  - (d) Maximising referrals to smaller providers operating in the advice in County Durham partnership to ensure skills, health and debt issues can be addressed alongside employment support.

### **Business Support Measures**

- 38 Business Durham has reviewed its existing delivery programmes and is making a number of adjustments or enhancements to maximise opportunities to support recovery, including:
- (a) The Durham Ambitious Business Starts (DABS) ERDF project, which was launched in June 2020, is ready to support an anticipated increase in people looking to start a business in the County, linked to the likely rise in redundancies. The programme includes a number of innovative approaches to supporting ambitious start-up businesses and newly established businesses in their first 12 months of trading.

- (b) The Digital Drive County Durham ERDF programme is proving invaluable in helping businesses adapt to the greater focus upon digital trading and remote working. The fast track application process that was introduced in March has seen a large increase in demand for the grants for equipment to implement home working and the number of grant offers has increased by 153% compared to the same period last year.
- (c) The Durham Business Opportunities Programme (DBOP) provides a number of strands of intensive support and these have been refocused to ensure they are relevant to supporting business recovery. In addition to the 'Construction Routes to Contract Success' and the Engineering/Manufacturing sector strand of support, a third strand is being developed to help micro and small businesses across the County adapt to the impact of Covid on their business and find new market opportunities.
- (d) Business Durham, DCC Procurement, NEPO and RTC North are collaborating to raise awareness of local public sector procurement opportunities via a series of webinars and intensive assisted activity via ERDF programmes. They are also collaborating to roll out a PPE Supply Chain programme to support companies develop new products and services to help ensure greater UK capability in this sector.
- (e) Business Durham and the Council's Public Health Team are rolling out the SME Mental Health programme available to support the mental health needs of employees within the workforce in the private sector.

## **Conclusions**

- 39 Durham County Council, Business Durham and partners have been delivering direct support to businesses and individuals that have been affected by the crisis and delivering some support on behalf of the Government. The impacts of the crisis have been mixed thus far, with the visitor economy and hospitality sectors worst affected. However, conditions remain uncertain, and as Government support is withdrawn the economic impacts and job losses are likely to escalate.
- 40 Partners across the County and beyond will continue to work together to develop an understanding and minimise the negative impacts of the crisis where possible.

## **Background papers**

- None.

## **Other useful documents**

- None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

None

### **Finance**

None

### **Consultation**

None

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None

### **Climate Change**

None

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Crime and Disorder**

None

### **Staffing**

None

### **Accommodation**

None

### **Risk**

None

# Business Durham



## Covid-19: Economic Support & Recovery

Sarah Slaven

Managing Director (Interim)

23 July 2020

# Overview

- Lockdown & immediate response to COVID-19 to support businesses
- Emerging Impact of COVID-19 on the County's economy
- Recovery plans and support moving forward



# Lockdown: Immediate Response - Government support

- Job retention scheme (furlough)
- Self Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS)
- VAT deferral
- Income tax deferral
- Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)
- Bounce Back Loans
- Tax relief
- Support for retail, hospitality, leisure and culture sectors
- Statutory sick pay relief package

09/07/2020  
GOV.UK  
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Business support - GOV.UK

1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)  
Part of Coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>)

## Business support

Coronavirus (COVID-19) support is available to businesses

- Loans, tax relief and cash grants are available
- Employers can apply for staff to get up to 80% pay if they can't work
- Self-employed people can receive up to £2,500 per month in grants for at least 3 months

### What you can do now

- Reopen your business safely during coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening>)
- Find out what financial support schemes you may be eligible for (<https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder>)
- Find out how to apply for a grant if you're self-employed (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>)

### Stay up to date with GOV.UK

Sign up to get emails when we add new coronavirus business support information (<https://www.gov.uk/email-signup/topic/coronavirus-taxon-businesses-and-self-employed-people>)

### Guidance and support

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### Funding and support

- Find financial support for your business (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19>)
- Find out what support your business representative organisation (BRO) offers (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-support-from-business-representative-organisations-and-trade-associations>)
- Coronavirus support for business from outside government (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-support-for-business-from-outside-government>)
- Additional government resources to support your business during coronavirus disruptions (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/additional-government-resources-to-support-your-business-during-coronavirus-disruptions>)
- Find out how other businesses have used government support and are reopening safely (<https://businesssupport.blog.gov.uk/>)

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

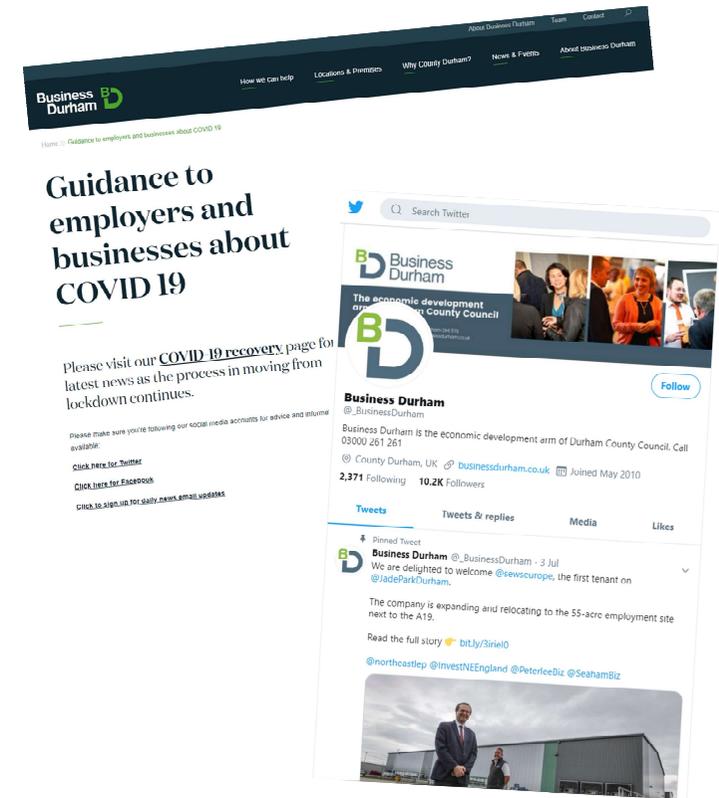
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## Lockdown Response – Durham County Council support

- Delivering the Government’s COVID Business Grant Scheme:
  - More than 8,764 small businesses supported; worth £97.9 million
  - ‘Top-up’ Local Discretionary Scheme delivered to 362 businesses; worth £2.4 million
- Applying business rate reductions and discounts totalling over £49.8 million:
  - Recalculation of business rates bills for more than 2,310 businesses
  - 38 private nurseries receive 100% Nursery Discount totalling £378,000
- Introduction of immediate supplier payments and supplier relief for important vulnerable suppliers

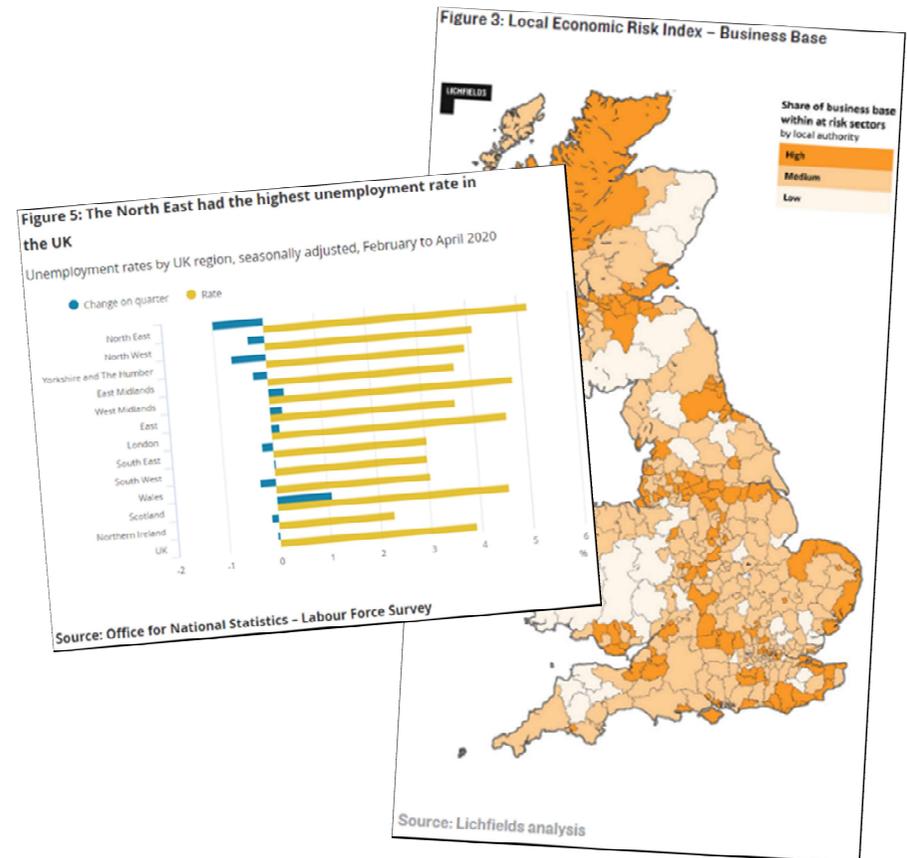
# Lockdown: Immediate Response - Business Durham support

- Rent deferrals for all Business Durham commercial tenants
- Responded to 300+ business enquiries
- Signposted businesses to North East Growth Hub COVID-19 toolkit
- Weekly business intelligence gathering to feed into civil servants and NELEP Growth Hub
- Fast track application process for Digital Drive County Durham grants to enable businesses to buy kit to work remotely
- Developed a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) directory to support the County Council's suppliers and other businesses seeking PPE



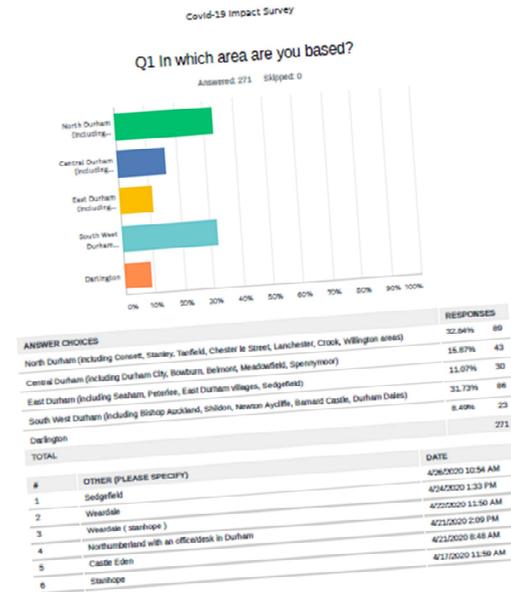
# Emerging Insights - Expected Impacts

- At-risk sectors: non-food retailers, hospitality, cultural attractions, construction, transport
- Small businesses, businesses without an online presence, lower paid / skilled, younger people, women
- Many businesses have stopped recruiting
- North East expected to be one of hardest hit regions
- Impacts will become clearer as Government support is withdrawn and data becomes available
- Opportunities for online retailers / delivery services, food retailers, some healthcare suppliers, home entertainment
- Businesses in many sectors are now open or reopening

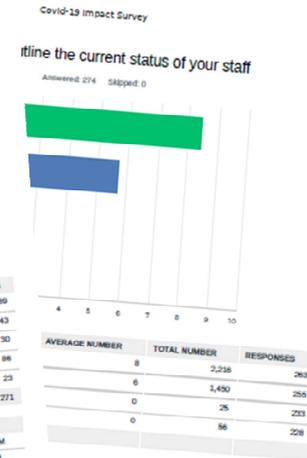


# Emerging Insights - Business Surveys

- 51% of businesses said they had experienced an impact on their revenue of greater than 50% (78% in the tourism sector)
- 25% of businesses said they were still closed (34% of tourism businesses didn't know when they would reopen)
- Around 50% of businesses indicated they had used the furlough scheme
- The number of businesses making redundancies was initially low but now rising
- Many companies in the manufacturing sector have continued to operate, some have adapted or innovated new products
- Some businesses expanding and continuing to invest



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## Restart & Recovery: DCC & Business Durham support

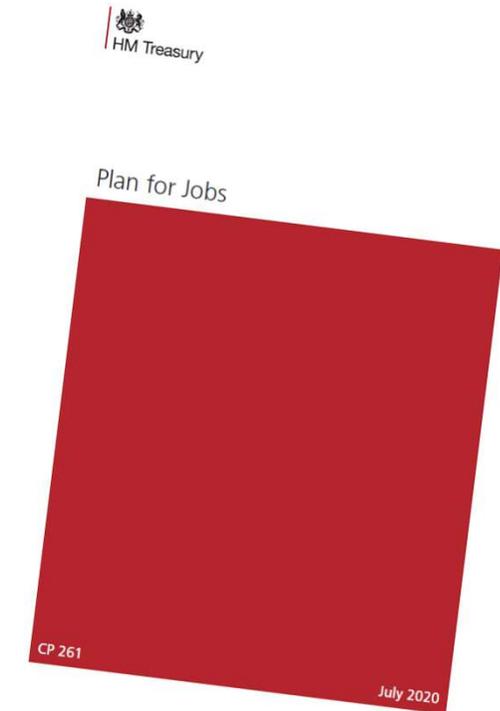
- Changes to roads and footpaths in town centres to support businesses reopening and protect the public
- Leaflet delivered to town centre premises with guidance and support for opening safely
- Webinars to support the retail sector to help them embrace online selling and find new routes to market for their product or service
- New 'hyperlocal' destination marketing campaign to be launched by Visit County Durham
- Launch of Jobs Fuse County Durham to support those losing jobs and in fear of losing jobs
- Refocussing existing business support programmes to support recovery, e.g. Durham Business Opportunities Programme (DBOP)
- Support for anticipated increase in business start up enquiries through Durham Ambitious Business Starts (DABS) programmes.



# Recovery: Government Plan for Jobs (Summer Economic Update)

	£ billion
	Total
<b>Job Retention Bonus</b>	
Job Retention Bonus <sup>1</sup>	Up to 9.4
<b>Supporting jobs</b>	
Kickstart Scheme <sup>2</sup>	2.1
Boosting worksearch, skills and apprenticeships <sup>3</sup>	1.6
<b>Protecting jobs</b>	
Reduced rate of VAT for hospitality, accommodation and attractions <sup>4</sup>	4.1
Eat Out to Help Out <sup>5</sup>	0.5
<b>Creating jobs</b>	
Infrastructure package <sup>6</sup>	5.6
Public sector and social housing decarbonisation	1.1
Green Homes Grant <sup>7</sup>	2.0
Stamp Duty Land Tax temporary cut <sup>8</sup>	3.8
<b>Total support announced<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>Up to 30</b>

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-plan-for-jobs-documents/a-plan-for-jobs-2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-plan-for-jobs-documents/a-plan-for-jobs-2020)



# Recovery Planning - Coordination

- The LRF Strategic Response Group is leading the structured recovery work for County Durham & Darlington, including developing a data framework to monitor impact and develop responses
- North East COVID-19 Economic Response Group established to lead the development of a phased recovery plan for the North East
- County Durham Economic Partnership developing an action plan



**North East Covid-19**  
Economic Response Group

**County Durham  
Economic  
Partnership**



## Recovery Work – Next Steps

- Coordinating activities with the North East Covid-19 Economic Response Group and other external partners
- Developing a County Durham Economic Partnership action plan
- Utilising and enhancing existing resources and programmes to respond to the crisis
- Coordinating evidence-gathering and lobbying work with partners across the County
- Committing additional resources and bidding for regional and national resources
- Continuing to monitor ongoing impact in order to respond



**Economy and Enterprise  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**23 July 2020**



**Refresh of the Work Programme  
2020/21 for Economy and  
Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

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**Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

None

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (E&E OSC) with an updated work programme for 2020/21.

**Executive summary**

- 2 Overview and Scrutiny work programmes are designed to be flexible to accommodate items which may arise throughout the year. For 2020/21 this flexibility is essential to enable the scrutiny function to respond to the changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3 The proposed E&E OSC work programme has been framed around COVID-19 and in the context of the new shared County Durham vision 2035 which has been developed with partners around three strategic ambitions – ‘more and better jobs’, ‘long and independent lives’ and ‘connected communities’.
- 4 E&E OSC work programme has been developed to reflect new powers which enable local government meetings to be held remotely during this period. Holding virtual meetings has prompted us to consider how best to carry out the scrutiny role in these new and challenging circumstances.

**Recommendations**

- 5 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:
  - a) Receive and comment on the proposed work programme for 2020/21.
  - b) Agree the work programme for 2020/21 as attached at appendix 2 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

## Background

- 6 Scrutiny has adapted to the unprecedented situation of a global pandemic with a flexible and pragmatic approach to the 2020/21 work programme. New regulations enable committee meetings to be held remotely and formal scrutiny meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future.
- 7 To assist with the new approach to meetings we propose to keep agendas short to ensure meeting time is focussed on those matters which are the highest priority. Where agreed by the Committee, regular overview reports will instead be circulated separately via email for comment and information. We hope by doing so, we can help make progress of moving meetings on-line as smooth as possible and manage our workload efficiently and effectively.
- 8 As we all become more familiar with holding remote meetings, we will review our agendas and work programmes with the Chair and Vice Chair and make any necessary changes in consultation with the Committee.
- 9 This prioritisation of the work programme will enable the scrutiny function to operate flexibly and take into consideration any changing national, regional or local responses to COVID-19 pandemic.
- 10 The overview and scrutiny committee's work programmes are informed by:
  - County Durham Vision 2035
  - Council Plan
  - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
  - Partnership Plans and Strategies
  - Performance and Budgetary control data
  - Changes in government legislation
  - Key questions for improving performance.
- 11 In addition, scrutiny work programmes are informed by the four priorities of Inspire, the Council's Transformation Programme:
  - Redesign our services to better meet the customer's need at reduced cost to the Council
  - Help communities become more resilient and self-reliant
  - To move our partnership working from good to great
  - To become renowned for our skilled and flexible workforce and our employee engagement.

## E&E OSC Work Programme

- 12 During 2019/20 the E&E OSC has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, systematic review of progress against recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews, responded to consultations and considered overview reports and presentations in relation to the following:
- Systematic review
    - Recommendations contained in the Retail Support Scrutiny Review
  - Consultations
    - Selective Licensing
  - Areas of overview and monitoring activity
    - Digital Durham Programme (Support for business sector)
    - Regional and local transport
    - Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV's)
    - Economic and employment statistics for the county
    - Skills Advisory Panel of the NELEP
    - Business, Enterprise and Skills Group of the County Durham Economic Partnership
    - DurhamWorks Programme
    - Housing Strategy
    - Homelessness Strategy
    - Private rented housing sector in County Durham
    - Housing Solutions Service
    - Proposed Selective Licensing Scheme
    - Engagement with social housing providers in the county
    - EU and regional funding
    - Strategic sites in the county
    - Visit County Durham
    - Business Durham
    - County Durham Economic Partnership
- 13 Budgetary and performance monitoring:
- Quarterly budgetary monitoring for the Regeneration and Local Services (Regeneration, Economy and Growth) Service Grouping.
  - Quarterly corporate performance monitoring for the Regeneration and Local Services (Regeneration, Economy and Growth) Service Grouping.

## Areas for Consideration in the E&E OSC Work Programme

- 14 Members of the E&E OSC are asked to agree the proposed work programme for 2020/21 that has been prepared and is attached at appendix two. The work programme is very comprehensive drawing on topical areas across the remit of the committee and it should be noted that it is also flexible.
- 15 The work programme includes an indication of those reports which will be considered by E&E OSC at a remote meeting and those which will be circulated to members. The dates when reports are taken to E&E OSC or circulated may flex with the additional demands on and the capacity of services during the COVID-19 response period.

## Conclusion

- 16 The work programme identifies areas of work that fall within the remit of E&E OSC and is flexible in its delivery.

## Background papers

- None

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<b>Authors:</b>	Diane Close	Tel: 03000 268141
	Stephen Gwilym	Tel: 03000 268140

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Not applicable

### **Finance**

Not applicable

### **Consultation**

Not applicable

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Not applicable

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable

### **Climate Change**

Not applicable

### **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable

### **Staffing**

Not applicable

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable

### **Risk**

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is an important element of the Council's governance and risk management arrangements.

### **Procurement**

Not applicable

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<p><b>Overview and Scrutiny Draft Work Programme 2020/21</b></p> <p>Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p><b>Lead Officer:</b> Stephen Gwilym</p> <p><b>Overview and Scrutiny Officer:</b> Diane Close</p> <p><b>IPG Contact: Andy Palmer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More and better jobs</li> <li>• Connected communities</li> </ul>	<p>Note:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Review – A systematic six monthly review of progress against recommendations/action plan</p> <p>Scrutiny/Working Group – In-depth review/light touch review</p> <p>Overview/progress – Information on an issue; opportunity to comment, shape, influence, progress with a scrutiny review</p> <p>Performance/Budget – Ongoing quarterly monitoring performance reports/budgets</p>
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Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report to E&amp;E</li> <li>• circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
O/S Review					
Scrutiny/Working Group (light touch / in-depth review)					
Retail Support provided by DCC	E&E OSC	Report to E&E OSC	Graham Wood Chris Myers Wendy Benson	Members will receive detail of progress made in relation to the	Members will be aware of the progress made

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report to E&amp;E</li> <li>circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
	7 January 2021  TBC		(REG)	key findings and recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report	by DCC and key partners in relation to the key findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Retail Support review report
<b>Overview/Progress</b>					
Transport activity regional and local	November 2020	Brief circulated to E&E OSC and ESC OSC members	Peter Ollivere and Craig MacLennon  (REG)	Members will receive detail of transport activity at a regional and local level, the impact of Covid-19 on transport provision and work undertaken by DCC's ULEVs working group	Members will be aware of transport activity undertaken at a regional and local level, the impact of Covid-19 on transport provision and the progress of DCC's ULEVs working group

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report to E&amp;E</li> <li>• circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
Masterplans	January 2021	Brief circulated to E&E OSC members	Chris Myers/ Wendy Benson  (REG)	Members will receive detail of progress made in relation to the various Masterplans for the County	Members will be made aware of masterplan activity across the County
Strategic sites	October 2020	Brief circulated to E&E OSC members	Ray Brewis/Tony Forster/ Peter Mc Dowell  (REG)	Members will receive a progress update on the further development of strategic sites in the county including the impact of Covid-19	Members will know the progress made in relation to the development of various strategic sites in the county including detail of challenges resulting from Covid-19 and the response

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report to E&amp;E</li> <li>• circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
County Durham Plan	September 2020	Brief circulated to E&E OSC members	Mike Allum/ Michelle Robinson  (REG)	Overview and Scrutiny members have previously fed into the Preferred Options consultation. Members will receive an update on the remaining process including timescales	Members will be aware of progress made in relation to the plan and the process for the remaining stages
North East Local Industrial Strategy and Strategic Economic Plan	January 2021	Brief circulated to E&E OSC members	Richard Baker (NELEP)	Members will be provided with detail of the progress of both the Local Industrial Strategy and the Strategic Economic Plan	The committee will have received detail of the progress of both the NELIS and the SEP including next steps

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report to E&amp;E</li> <li>circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
Skills Advisory Panel of the NELEP	January 2021	Brief circulated to E&E OSC and C&YPs OSC members	Michelle Rainbow  NELEP	The committee will receive detail of progress made in relation to the North East Skills Analysis (commissioned by the Skills Advisory Panel) and detail of further work undertaken looking at key sectors	Members will be aware of the progress of various projects undertaken resulting from work commissioned by the Skills Advisory Panel including detail of work undertaken looking at identified key sectors
Economic impact of Covid -19	E&E OSC  23 July 2020  2 November 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Sarah Slaven  Business Durham  (REG)	The committee will receive detail of the economic impact of Covid-19 on the County	Members will be aware of how Covid-19 has impacted on the economy of County Durham, what response has been provided and

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report to E&amp;E</li> <li>circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
					what is planned for the future
EU, Regional funding, Covid-19 funding and SPF	E&E OSC  23 February 2021  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Claire Williams/ Heather Orton/ Ray Brewis/Geoff Garfoot  (REG) (Resources)	Members will receive information on various regional and EU funding received in the county together with detail of various projects, funding received for the Covid-19 emergency and any detail in relation to SPF	The committee will be aware of regional and EU funded projects, funding received during the Covid-19 emergency and any detail in relation to funding/criteria via the SPF

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report to E&amp;E</li> <li>• circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
DurhamWorks Programme	E&E OSC  23 February 2021  TBC	Report to E&E OSC and C&YPs OSC	Linda Bailey /Helen Radcliffe (C&YPs)	Members continue to monitor the progress and performance of the programme and receive detail of any future funding opportunities available	Members will have commented on the performance of the programme and any future funding plans
Digital Durham Programme	E&E OSC  24 September 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Steve Hodgson/Ali Walker  (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 across the County	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

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report to E&amp;E</li> <li>circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
Business Durham	E&E OSC  2 November 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Sarah Slaven  (REG)	Members will be aware of the work undertaken by Business Durham in supporting the business community in County Durham including the support provided during Covid-19	Members will have the opportunity to question and comment on the business support activity provided by Business Durham to the business community including the support provided during Covid-19
Visit County Durham (VCD)	E&E OSC  2 November 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Michelle Gorman/  (REG)	Members will receive detail of the activity undertaken by VCD to promote the County as a visitor destination and detail of the support provided during Covid-19 and the impact of the pandemic	Members will be aware of activity undertaken by VCD to promote the County as a visitor destination and will have the opportunity to comment on the performance of VCD. In addition,

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report to E&amp;E</li> <li>circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
					members will be aware of the impact of Covid-19 and support provided to the tourism sector
Town and Village Centres, Way Forward report	E&E OSC 7 January 2021  TBC	Report to all OSCs (led by E&E OSC)	Graham Wood (REG)	The committee will receive an overview of the Town and Village Centres, Way Forward report including detail of progress made and the impact of Covid-19	The committee will know work undertaken to regenerate our town and village centres including detail of the impact of Covid-19
Homelessness Strategy	E&E OSC 23 November 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Marie Smith (REG)	The committee has previously provided comments on the Homelessness Strategy. Members will receive a further update on the strategy and work undertaken	Members will have received detail of work undertaken by Housing Solutions to reduce homelessness in

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report to E&amp;E</li> <li>circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
				by Housing Solutions to reduce homelessness in the county and support residents and landlords during the pandemic	the county and the support provided to residents and landlords during the Covid-19 pandemic
Housing Strategy	E&E OSC  23 November 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Graeme Smith  (REG)	Members have commented on the Housing Strategy previously and will be provided with a further update on progress	Members will be aware of the further development of the Housing Strategy
Housing response to Covid-19	E&E OSC  23 November 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Lynn Hall  (REG)	Members will receive detail of how housing providers and Housing Solutions worked in partnership during the pandemic to ensure residents were housed	Members will be aware of the approach taken by housing providers and DCC during the pandemic

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report to E&amp;E</li> <li>• circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
Private rented housing sector	E&E OSC  23 November 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Marion Rucker/ Alan Hunter  (REG)	Members will receive detail of various initiatives being undertaken with the private rented sector in County Durham including detail of support provided to landlords and residents during the pandemic	The committee will be aware of various initiatives undertaken with the private rented housing sector in the county and detail of support provided to landlords and residents during the pandemic
Selective Licensing	E&E OSC  23 November 2020  TBC	Report to E&E OSC	Lynn Hall  (REG)	O&S members have previously commented on the proposed scheme with those comments fed into the consultation. O&S members will receive an update on the progress of the proposed scheme	O&S members will be aware of the progress of the scheme

Item	When (Subject to management arrangements for remote meetings)	Priority during COVID-19 response period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report to E&amp;E</li> <li>circulate to E&amp;E members via email</li> </ul>	Who	Outcome	Comment
<b>Performance/Budget</b>					
<b>Performance</b> Quarterly reporting	Sept 2020. Sept 2020 Jan 2021 March 2021	Report circulated to E&E OSC	Gemma Wilkinson  (Resources)	To provide members with progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework	Summary information to Members
<b>Budget Outturn Report</b> Quarterly reporting -	Sept 2020 Sept 2020 Jan 2021 March 2021	Report circulated to E&E OSC	Paul Raine  (Resources)	Detail of budget	Summary information to Members
<b>CDEP Minutes</b>					
Minutes of the CDEP	TBC	Minutes to be circulated to members	Partnership Team	Members will be kept updated on the activity of the partnership	The committee will be aware of activity undertaken by the partnership