



**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date **Friday 5 April 2013**
Time **10.00 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

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

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held 14 January 2013 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties, if any
6. Quarter 3, Revenue and Capital Forecast of Outturn 2012/13: (Pages 7 - 18)
Joint Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director, Resources – Azhar Rafiq, Finance Manager, Resources
7. Quarter 3, 2012/13 Performance Management Report: (Pages 19 - 32)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – Graham Tebbutt, Customer and Services Intelligence Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development
8. Update on the Housing Solutions Service: (Pages 33 - 48)
Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development – Lynn Hall, Housing Solutions Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development
9. Refresh of the Work Programme for the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee: (Pages 49 - 70)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – Diane Close, Overview and Scrutiny Officer

P.T.O.

10. Update - Increasing Young People's Employment Opportunities (18-24) within County Durham: (Pages 71 - 104)
Progress on recommendations – Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Economic Development – Graham Wood, Economic Development Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development
11. Minutes of the Meeting of the County Durham Economic Partnership held 4 February 2013 (Pages 105 - 110)
12. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
26 March 2013

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

Councillor J Moran (Chair)
Councillor A Naylor (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J Armstrong, B Arthur, A Barker, B Brunskill, C Carr, J Cordon, B Graham, J Hunter, P Jopling, R Liddle, C Potts, J Rowlandson, P Stradling, Andy Turner, M Wilkes, M Williams and A Willis

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Batson, Mrs O Brown, Mrs A Harrison, Mr A Kitching and Mr JB Walker

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 **Monday 14 January 2013** at **10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor J Moran (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, B Arthur, B Graham, J Hunter, R Liddle, A Naylor, J Rowlandson, P Stradling, M Wilkes and A Willis

Co-opted Members:

Mr A Kitching

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cordon, P Jopling and M Williams and Mr T Batson, Mrs O Brown and Mrs A Harrison.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 19 November 2012 and 29 November 2012 were agreed by the Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to amendment to page 5 of the Minutes from 19 November 2012 where Councillor M Wilkes had referred to "a link" from the Durham County Council (DCC) website to Business Durham's website, rather than "a clearer link". In addition, in relation to Minute A5 of the minutes held on 19 November, 2012 it was confirmed that arrangements were being made for Councillor Wilkes to meet with the appropriate officers from RED to discuss issues relating to the Capital Programme.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Diane Close referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy of slide see file of minutes), namely the increase in cultural events with an extra day for the Bishop Auckland Town Food Festival; the Stock Options Appraisal process, on the agenda for this meeting; and business engagement with the "Made in Durham" event and Spacetech event to be held at NETPark.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Quarter 2, 2012/13 Performance Management Report

The Chair introduced the Customer and Services Intelligence Manager, Graham Tebbutt who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 2, 2012/13 Performance Management Report (for copy see file of minutes).

The Customer and Services Intelligence Manager noted this information related to the period June 2012 to September 2012 and that due to the timings as regards collating Quarter 3, that report would follow at a future meeting. In addition, he referred Members to additional information which had been circulated and requested by Members at a previous meeting of the Committee, providing a breakdown of business site occupancy figures. Councillors noted that some of the achievements in Quarter 2 included non-decency levels for Council properties being ahead of target and good progress with the County Durham Plan. It was added that key performance issues going forward were the number of empty properties being brought back into use, Council Plan actions and the programme of Capital Works for Regeneration and Economic Development (RED). Members noted the Tracker Indicators set out within the report including the decline in the employment rate and the fall in the number of major planning applications received. The Customer and Services Intelligence Manager continued by informing Members that the indicator in relation to affordable homes was being reviewed for 2013/14 with a view to it being removed. He continued by making reference to the meeting held on the 19 November 2012 when Members had raised the possibility of targets being set for the number of passenger journeys on the Park and Ride a Tracker Indicator and explained that there were concerns at how this might be achieved, particularly if this was linked to potentially increasing car parking charges in Durham City.

The Chair thanked the Customer and Services Intelligence Manager and asked Members for their questions.

In response to a question from Councillor M Wilkes relating to empty homes, the Customer and Services Intelligence Manager noted that performance information at the end of Quarter 3 would include information as regards the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Cluster Bid and match funding. The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Stephen Gwilym added that a request for additional information regarding staffing had been made and would be collated in the next few weeks.

The Head of Strategic Programmes and Performance, Andy Palmer noted that he would find out information as regards business rates, adding that changes from Government were being made to prevent speculative building of commercial buildings that then could remain void once completed.

In answering a question from Councillor J Rowlandson in respect of the turnaround of major planning applications, the Customer and Services Intelligence Manager explained that those types of major application were often complex and therefore could fall outside of the target and that now that staffing restructures had been implemented this situation should become less frequent.

The Head of Strategic Programmes and Performance noted that County Durham was open for business, however, in the cases of major applications ensuring that the right decision is made in order to help bring in the types of businesses to help the economy was important, as was the good relationship the Council had built up with industry and businesses.

The Customer and Services Intelligence Manager responded to Mr A Kitching in respect of the number of people of working age population currently not in work who want a job, explaining that he did not have the number to hand, only the proportion, however he could find out the information for Members.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Durham Key Options - Update on changes to Lettings Policy

The Chair introduced the Senior Policy Officer, David Randall who was in attendance to give Members an update as regards changes to the Lettings Policy (for copy see file of minutes).

The Senior Policy Officer commented that most of the proposed changes had been agreed including: the consolidation of the Bands into which applicants are placed from A to F, where F was the reduced priority band, down to A to E; new proposals as regards under-occupancy to give those in under-occupancy priority in light of Welfare Reform changes; removal of applicants from the register for a period of 6 months should they arbitrarily refuse 3 properties or not respond to 3 offers within a 6 month period; and changes to Armed Forces preference would be made in line with Government guidance. It was noted that the suggestion that those that had been able to demonstrate a "positive contribution" to the community should be allocated to Band D had been seen as being unfair by consultees and would not be taken forward. Councillors noted that and that the Council homeless duty will be amended such that the time given to bid for a property will be reduced from 12 weeks to 6 weeks, initial suggestions of 4 weeks having been felt as being too short a time by consultees. Members were reassured that vulnerable groups would retain their main housing priority should they refuse an offer of private rented accommodation.

The Chair thanked the Senior Policy Officer and asked Members for their questions.

In reference to a question from Councillor M Wilkes, the Senior Policy Officer noted that objections to the preference for those demonstrating a "positive contribution" were from a range of consultees, including applicants, partners and agencies.

It was added that the majority of the objections were from applicants and that issues as regards being able to define voluntary contribution was proving difficult for Local Authorities. Members noted that in many cases, it would be possible for their needs to be met via welfare/hardship arrangements.

The Senior Policy Officer noted, further to comment from Councillor M Wilkes on attracting private landlords to use DKO, that there was a pilot scheme relating to private landlords.

The Housing Solutions Manager, Lynn Hall added that Housing and officers in RED were busy finalising “what we want” from private landlords before advertising via DKO, and looking at issues of charging should the numbers coming forward present a resource issue. The Senior Policy Officer noted that Government guidance set out quality as regards gas, electricity, health and safety and so on for landlords. Members noted that it would be important to have regular updates on the matter, the Senior Policy Officer agreed that the situation would be monitored and with feedback to Members via Overview and Scrutiny.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report containing the agreed changes to the DKO Lettings Policy be noted.
- (ii) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive an update report on the progress of the DKO Lettings Policy at a future meeting.

9 Stock Option Appraisal Update

The Chair introduced the Housing Stock Options Manager, Marie Roe who was in attendance to give Members an update as regards the Housing Stock Options Appraisal (SOA) Project (for copy see file of minutes).

The Housing Stock Options Manager referred Members to the report setting out the key findings and recommendations of the SOA, as agreed by Cabinet on 12 December 2012. Members noted that the consultation stage was completed and now the SOA was moving into the implementation stage. Councillors were reminded that the option agreed was for the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) of all of the housing stock owned by DCC, those of Durham City Homes (DCH), Dale and Valley Homes (DVH) and East Durham Homes (EDH), totalling around 19,000 properties to a single Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO), retaining local services. The Housing Stock Options Manager informed Members that there was a legal requirement to have a Tenants' Ballot and that there was a dedicated Stock Transfer “Prospectus” that would set out the reasons, economic impact, social impact, changes to Government finances and the DCC contribution.

The Chair thanked the Housing Stock Options Manager and asked whether there was any more information as regards the debt write-off.

The Housing Stock Options Manager noted that it was still unclear from Government and that an update from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) following the Government's “Autumn Statement”, which noted some funds had been set aside. It was added that the HCA was in the process of amending its Stock Transfer Manual and that this was due imminently.

The Housing Stock Options Manager noted the debt write-off for DCC was £128 Million, adding that an agreed write-off for Bolton in 2009 was £300 Million.

In respect of comments made by Mr A Kitching as regards the spend as set out in the report regarding moving to an ALMO, the Housing Stock Options Manager noted that the stock transfer option opened up a wealth of opportunities and added that the Authority would be aware of the HCA's decision prior to moving forward with any spend.

Further to Councillor M Wilkes noting the concern of residents associated with the impact on rents and on their "Right to Buy" (RTB), the Housing Stock Options Manager noted that a newsletter would be going out to explain about rents and the change to RTB to "Right to Acquire". The Housing Stock Options Manager added that cost of delivering the transfer reflected all the necessary legally required processes including issuing Options documents to all those involved adding that consultation by the former City of Durham as regards housing stock had only got as far as a "test of opinion" and the response at that time was for the Council to retain the stock and management. It was added that a large proportion of the amount allocated was effectively an "arrangement fee" and that if the move via LSVT takes place, then this could release approximately £71 Million from 2014 onward.

Resolved:

- (i) That the information provided in the report identifying the preferred option for future financing, ownership and management of the Council's homes be noted.
- (ii) That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive further progress updates in relation to the development, impact and delivery of the new arrangements.

10 Minutes of the Meeting of the County Durham Economic Partnership

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Durham Economic Partnership held 5 November 2012 were received by the Committee for information.

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Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 April 2013



Regeneration and Economic Development Service – Quarter 3: Revenue and Capital Forecast of Outturn 2012/13

Joint Report of Corporate Director – Regeneration and Economic Development and Corporate Director - Resources

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the forecast outturn budget position for the Regeneration and Economic Development (RED) service grouping highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget based on the position to the end of December 2012.

Background

2. County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2012/13 at its meeting on 22 February 2012. These budgets have subsequently been revised to account for grant additions/reductions, budget transfers between service groupings and budget reprofiling between years. This report covers the financial position for the following three major accounts maintained by the RED service grouping:

- *RED Revenue Budget - £53.186m (original £42.513m)*
- *Housing Revenue Account - £61.579m*
- *RED Capital Programme – £95.380m (original £89.571m)*

3. The original RED General Fund budget has been revised to incorporate a number of budget adjustments as follows:

- Use of range of earmarked and cash limit reserves to support service delivery £1,544k
- Concessionary Fares reduction -£556k
- Increase in Assets budget relating to security at former Whinney Hill School £80k
- Transfer of range of subscriptions budget to Resources -£122k
- Reduction in democratic recharge income of £16k
- Carbon Reduction Commitment allowances £13k
- Increased capital and central support recharges of £602k
- Transfer support recharge for County Durham Development Company to Resources following in-house merger -£114k
- Additional budget for disturbance allowances following office accommodation moves £54k.

- Reduction in Licence Fee budgets -£9k
- Reduction in CDDC budget for loan charges and maintenance - £294k
- Increase in Energy Budgets from services £36k
- Repayment of Loan charges for Solar Panels Project -£194k
- Increase in Depot Recharge £4k
- Increase in accommodation budget £25k
- Reduction in NetPark Repair & Maintenance budget -£20k
- Additional budget for refinancing of Airport £9,385k
- Additional budget for impact of job evaluation £223k

The revised General Fund Budget now stands at £53.186m.

4. The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2012/13 and show:-
- The approved annual budget;
 - The actual income and expenditure as recorded in the Council's financial management system;
 - The variance between the annual budget and the forecast outturn;
 - For the RED revenue budget, adjustments for items outside of the cash limit to take into account such items as redundancies met from the strategic reserve, capital charges not controlled by services and use of / or contributions to earmarked reserves.

Revenue - General Fund Services

5. The service is reporting a cash limit underspend of **£0.615m** against a revised budget of **£53.186m**.
6. The tables below compare the actual expenditure with the budget. The first table is analysed by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense), and the second by Head of Service.

Subjective Analysis

£'000	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Forecast Outturn	Variance
Employees	27,749	21,253	27,203	-546
Premises	2,805	2,841	2,713	-92
Transport	1,498	757	1,089	-409
Supplies and Services	10,274	6,028	9,965	-309
Agency and Contracted	19,195	12,942	19,088	-107
Transfer Payments	245	105	57	-188
Central Costs	17,951	861	18,586	635
GROSS EXPENDITURE	79,717	44,787	78,701	-1,016
INCOME	-26,531	-17,528	-26,130	401
NET EXPENDITURE	53,186	27,259	52,571	-615

Analysis by Head of Service

Head of Service Grouping	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Forecast Outturn	Variance
Strategy Programmes Performance	1,876	1,793	1,764	-112
Economic Development & Housing	7,713	6,172	7,633	-80
Planning & Assets	6,747	5,411	6,290	-457
Transport & Contracted	27,359	13,709	27,393	34
Central Managed Costs	9,491	174	9,491	0
NET EXPENDITURE	53,186	27,259	52,571	-615

7. Attached in the table below is a brief commentary of the variances with the revised budget analysed into Head of Service groupings. The table identifies variances in the core budget only and excludes items outside of the cash limit (e.g. concessionary fares) and technical accounting adjustments (e.g. capital charges):

Head of Service	Service Area	Description	(Under) / overspend	(Under) / overspend
Strategy Programmes and Performance (SPP)	Management	£2k underspend on training £3k overspend on supplies and services	1	(112)
	Strategy Policy Partnerships & Support	£44k saving due to management and control of employee budgets including freezing vacant posts £14k underspend on supplies and services due to general efficiency savings.	(58)	
	County Durham Economic Partnership	£3k underspend on training £31k underspend on supplies covering printing, advertising, professional fees.	(34)	
	Planning & Performance	£8k saving due to management and control of employee budgets £11k underspend on supplies and services mainly due to savings on printing and conferences and seminars.	(21)	
	Funding & Programmes	No major variances	0	
Economic Development	Head of Economic Development	No major variances	(1)	(112)
	Physical Development	£14k underspend due to early achievement of MTFP staffing savings	(14)	
	Visit County Durham	£60k approved overspend on festivals and events	60	
		£3k general overspend on supplies and services	3	
	Business Durham	£67k overspend on debts written off for irrecoverable income	67	
		£20k approved overspend on re-branding of Business Durham	20	
		£41k underspend on transport and supplies	(41)	
	Economic Development	£100k approved overspend on apprenticeship support	100	
£35k underspend on International Relations service due to favourable exchange rates on		(35)		

Head of Service	Service Area	Description	(Under) / overspend	(Under) / overspend
		overseas exchange visits		
		£42k saving due to management and control of employee budgets	(42)	
	Housing Solutions	£42k saving due to management and control of employee budgets	(42)	
		£16k underspend on transport costs	(16)	
		£18k general underspend on supplies and services	(18)	
		£22k underspend on temporary accommodation costs	(22)	
	Housing Regeneration	£21k underspend on premises and transport	(21)	
		£78k saving due to management and control of employee budgets	(78)	(80)
Spatial Policy, Planning	Head of Planning	No Major variances	-	
Assets & Environment	Spatial Policy	£9k saving due to management and control of employee budgets	(9)	
	Development Management	£296k over achieved income partly due to statutory increase in fees of 15% from November 2012 £63k saving due to management and control of employee budgets £168k underspend on range of budgets covering printing, advertising, transport £64k underspend on area of blight works £108k overspend on IT Software until single planning system is implemented	(483)	
	Building Control	£250k under achieved income on fees £17k saving due to management and control of employee budgets £32k underspend on transport costs £65k underspend on various other supplies £53k underspend on dangerous structures as no major works have been required	84	
	Conservation and Design	£30k saving due to management and control of employee budgets £17k underspend on transport and various other supplies budgets	(47)	
	Archaeology	No major variances	(4)	
	Landscape	£15k approved overspend on employees due to secondment of AONB Officer £18k underspend on transport and various other supplies budgets £20k additional income relating to Jubilee Woods work	(23)	
	Ecology	£45k underspend on supplies and services	(45)	
	Sustainability	£8k overspend on employee costs £41k underspend on transport and supplies £14k underachieved income	(19)	
	Heritage Coast	£20k overspend due to reduced funding from Partners	20	
	Assets - Asset Management	£138k saving due to management and control of employee budgets £17k underspend on transport and supplies £110k over achieved income relating to sales on Council assets	(265)	
	Assets - Farms	No major variances	3	
	Assets - Reclamation	£8k overspend on supplies due to planning appeal work on reclamation grazing land	8	

Head of Service	Service Area	Description	(Under) / overspend	(Under) / overspend
	Sites			
	Assets - Property Management	£40k under achieved income relating to empty shops Newgate Street Bishop Auckland £56 under achieved income relating to Brackenhill Centre £20k overspend due to written off debt relating to Brackenhill Centre £8k under achieved income on garage plots £55k overspend on Allensford Caravan Park following new management arrangements being put in place from April 2012 £53k under achieved income relating to vacant units at North Road Durham	232	
	Surplus Property	No major variances	(2)	
	Assets - Millenium Square / Fowlers Yard	£80k under achieved income relating to Millenium square where units are vacant or being occupied by DCC services £13k overspend on NNDR costs relating to the vacant premises	93	(457)
Transport	Head of Transport	£4k saving covering training costs, travelling and supplies	(4)	
	Strategic Transport	£66k overspend employees - non-realisation of vacancy savings £40k overspend on agency staff - anticipated extra spend on agency cover for statutory duties due to sickness within the service £40k increased costs in range of areas covering premises, legal fees £4k net increase in income from car parking charges	142	
	Passenger Transport	£184k saving due to management and control of employee budgets £144k saving on vehicle costs mainly due to reduced fleet management recharges and vehicle repairs £14k underspend on staff travel £12k overspend on supplies budgets £223k underspend on concessionary fares consisting of £219k overspend on due to renewal of 80,000 passes (5 year renewal basis) and £442k underspend on contract payments (outside cash limits) £67k net increase in income due to changes in bus and rail contracts £22k increase in budgeted income from DfT re Local Sustainable Travel Fund and CAS to pay for extra services £29k decrease in income from other local authorities re bus and rail services £51k net decrease in CRB income £5k decrease in other fees and charges £230k decrease in recharges to other services due to savings made throughout Sustainable Transport	(104)	
	Supported Housing	£79k net overspend on employees costs being £126k overspend on employees costs - vacancy savings not achieved and £47k underspend on training, advertising for staff and medical fees (£158k pay protection costs met from reserves)	0	

Head of Service	Service Area	Description	(Under) / overspend	(Under) / overspend
		£86k reduction in premises costs - SMART room budget will not be spent £12k underspend on vehicle costs £274k underspend on planned equipment purchases to cover overspends elsewhere £73k saving on other supplies including smoke alarm cleaning, advertising, computing licences £232k reduction in contribution from CAS re Section 256 income - (income will be carried forward into 2013/14) £87k reduction in income due to reduction in client base £47k reduction in income CCTV monitoring of which £37k internal services		34
Central	Central Costs	No major variances		0
TOTAL				(615)

8. In summary, the service grouping is on track to maintain spending within its cash limit. It should also be noted that the estimated outturn position incorporates the MTFP savings required in 2012/13 which amount to £2.5m.

Revenue – Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

9. The Council is responsible for managing the HRA which is concerned solely with the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock of around 19,000 dwellings. Two arms length management organisations (ALMOs) have been established to manage Easington and Wear Valley housing stock (East Durham Homes and Dale and Valley Homes respectively) whilst Durham City is managed in-house. The responsibility for managing the HRA lies solely with the Authority and this is not delegated or devolved to the ALMOs.
10. The table in **Appendix 2** shows the forecast outturn position on the HRA showing the actual position compared with the original budget. In summary it identifies a balanced outturn position on the revenue account after using a projected surplus of £705k towards the capital programme.

Housing Revenue Account	Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Income			
Dwelling Rents	(60,115)	(60,130)	(15)
Other Income	(1,350)	(1,353)	(3)
Interest and investment income	(114)	(114)	0
	(61,579)	(61,597)	(18)
Expenditure			
ALMO Fees	17,266	17,266	0
Repairs, Supervision and Management Costs	11,975	12,266	291
Negative Subsidy Payment to CLG	0	(94)	(94)
Depreciation	15,510	15,510	0
Interest Payable	12,234	11,350	(884)
Revenue contribution to capital programme	4,570	5,275	705
	61,555	61,573	(18)
Net Position	(24)	(24)	0

11. In summary, the main and significant variances with the budget are explained below and relate to the figures and corresponding notes shown in **Appendix 2**:
- a) **Repairs & Maintenance £558k overspend** – this results from an increased cost per void as a result of the implementation of the lettable standard scheme in 2010/11. An overspend is being incurred as a result of problems encountered with specific Gas Boilers purchased prior to LGR, which are now out of warranty, and there is a higher than anticipated demand on general responsive repairs;
 - b) **Supervision & Management £243k underspend** – this is a managed underspend on the Service Improvement budget to compensate for the overspend on Repairs & Maintenance;
 - c) **HRA Subsidy £94k underspend** – this is a refund due to the Council resulting from Housing Subsidy payments made to the DCLG in 2011/12;
 - d) **Interest Payments £884k underspend** – this results from a lower interest rate and lower Outstanding Loan Debt than originally anticipated;
 - e) **Revenue Support to Capital £705k surplus** – the balancing item on the HRA which identifies the potential resources available to support the capital programme and reduce our reliance on borrowing.

Volatility Reporting (Risk Based Reporting)

12. There are certain budgets, both income and expenditure, that can be volatile in nature and require close scrutiny throughout the year. These include budgets that are subject to external demand beyond the immediate control of the Council and also include income which can be affected by economic pressures. Efforts are specifically directed at these areas, which pose the greatest financial risk to budget management and managing our cash limits effectively.
13. The following items currently form part of the ‘volatility’ reporting framework and the outturn position on these for the RED Service Grouping is as follows:

Cost Centre	Description	2012-13 Budget £'000	2012-13 Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	Status
Development Control	Planning Fees	-1,654	-1,950	-296	GREEN
Building Control	Building Control Fees	-1,100	-850	250	RED
Concessionary Fares	Contract Payments	11,350	10,794	-556	GREEN
Bus Contracts	Contract Payments less Income	3,331	3,176	-155	GREEN
Business Space	Rental Income & Sales	-2,561	-2,561	0	GREEN
Housing Repairs	Repairs and Maintenance	4,187	4,745	558	RED

14. The volatility status indicates the expected outturn on the specific budget head, with red indicating that the target is not being achieved, amber indicating that the target is not being achieved but the overall variance is within acceptable tolerances and green indicating that the target is being achieved or exceeded.

15. The key concern at this stage continues to be a shortfall in income from the building control function in the planning service and a projected overspend on housing repairs within Durham City Homes.

Capital Programme

16. The RED capital programme makes a significant contribution to the Regeneration ambitions of County Durham. The programme is relatively large and comprises over 200 schemes managed by around 40 project delivery officers.
17. The Regeneration and Economic Development capital programme was revised at Outturn for budget rephased from 2011/12 and Assets budgets transferred from the ACE service grouping. This increased the 2012/13 budget to £113.218m. Further reports to the MOWG in July, September, October, December and January detailed further revisions, for grant additions/reductions, budget transfers, budget reprofiling into later years and the refinancing of Newcastle International Airport Limited (NIAL). The revised budget now stands at **£95.380m** - consisting of **£49.907m** for the General Fund and **£45.473m** for the HRA.
18. Summary financial performance to the end of December is shown below.

Service	Original Annual Budget 2012/13 £000	Revised Annual Budget 2012/13 £000	Actual Spend to 31 December £000	Remaining Budget £000
General Fund	43,079	49,907	31,623	18,284
HRA	46,492	45,473	29,995	15,478
Total	89,571	95,380	61,618	37,289

19. Actual spend for the first nine months amounts to **£61.618m** – consisting of **£31.623m** for the General Fund and **£29.995m** for the HRA. **Appendix 3** provides a more detailed breakdown of spend across the major projects contained within the RED capital programme.
20. For the General Fund programme, actual spend to 31 December amounts to £31.623m. The largest payment covers an investment of £9.663m in NIAL. Cabinet has previously approved the participation of the Council in the £9.385m refinancing of NIAL and the £0.278m purchase of shares from Darlington Borough Council. There has also been significant spend to progress the implementation of the Local Transport Plan (£1.530m) and the Durhamgate scheme (£4.633m), to improve transport infrastructure in the County. Other significant spend has been made on the Disabled Facilities Grants and Helping Hands Loans Schemes (£2.583m) and the Housing Renewal Programme (£2.323m), to improve and support private sector housing. The Structural Capitalised Maintenance budget of £5.360m is another area where there has been significant spend, with £3.517m spent on the Council's property portfolio. Other areas of the programme are profiled to be implemented in the final quarter and it is anticipated that the projected outturn at 31 March 2013 will be in line with the revised budget

21. The HRA programme has been significantly supported with £13m of Homes and Communities Agency Decent Homes Backlog Grant funding. In the first nine months of the financial year a total of 846 properties have been brought up to the Decent Homes standard, which is ahead of the anticipated progress against the annual target of 982.
22. At year end the actual outturn performance will be compared against the revised budgets and service and project managers will need to account for any budget variance.

Recommendations:

23. The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

Contact: Azhar Rafiq – Finance Manager
Tel: 03000 263 480

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Financial implications are detailed throughout the report which provides an analysis of the revenue and capital projected outturn position for 2012/13.

Staffing

None.

Risk

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Accommodation

None.

Crime and disorder

None.

Human rights

None.

Consultation

None.

Procurement

None.

Disability Issues

None.

Legal Implications

None.

Appendix 2: 2012-13 Housing Revenue Account

	2012/13 Budget	2012/13 Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000	£000	£000	
Income				
Dwelling Rents	(60,115)	(60,130)	(15)	
Non Dwelling Rents: – Garages	(899)	(900)	(1)	
– Shops/Other	(96)	(100)	(4)	
Charges for Services and Facilities	(105)	(94)	11	
Contributions towards Expenditure	(250)	(259)	(9)	
Total Income	(61,465)	(61,483)	(18)	
Expenditure				
ALMO Management Fee	17,266	17,266	0	
Repairs and Maintenance	4,187	4,745	558	a
Supervision and Management - General	4,550	4,307	(243)	b
Supervision and Management - Special	549	525	(24)	
Rent, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	100	100	0	
Negative HRA Subsidy Payable to CLG	0	-94	(94)	c
Depreciation and Impairment of Fixed Assets	15,510	15,510	0	
Bad Debt Provision and Debts Written Off	916	916	0	
Debt Management Costs	186	186	0	
Total Expenditure	43,264	43,461	197	
Net Cost of HRA Services per I&E Account	(18,201)	(18,022)	179	
Share of Corporate and Democratic Core	1,085	1,085	0	
Share of Other Costs Not Allocated to Specific Services	402	402	0	
Net Cost of HRA Services	(16,714)	(16,535)	179	
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	12,234	11,350	(884)	d
Direct Revenue Financing (Contribution to Capital)	4,570	5,275	705	e
Interest and Investment Income	(114)	(114)	0	
(Surplus)/Deficit for Year	(24)	(24)	0	
HRA Reserves	7,821	7,821	0	
Stock Options Reserve	60	0	60	
Durham City Homes Improvement Plan	400	318	82	
Capital Reserve	2,000	0	2,000	

Appendix 3: RED Capital Programme 2012-13

	Revised Annual Budget £000	Profiled Budget £000	Actual Spend to 31 Dec £000	Remaining Budget £000
General Fund				
Economic Development & Housing				
Barnard Castle Vision	2,324	1,549	732	1,592
North Dock Seaham	701	467	396	305
Durham City Vision	1,057	705	1,117	-60
St John's Square	-	-	-105	105
Durhamgate	533	533	4,633	-4,100
Town Centres	2,367	1,578	855	1,512
Industrial Estates	3,348	2,232	886	2,462
Durham City Plus	339	226	295	44
Newcastle International Airport	9,663	9,663	9,663	0
Disabled Facilities Grants/FAP ⁽¹⁾	4,384	2,923	2,583	1,801
Office Accommodation	889	593	593	296
Housing Renewal Programme	4,055	2,703	2,323	1,732
Travellers Sites – General	352	235	-17	369
Planning & Assets				
Energy Schemes	2,103	1,402	780	1,323
URRI Programme	940	940	686	254
Structural Capitalised Maintenance	5,360	-	3,517	1,843
Woodham CTC	750	-	-	750
Transport & Contract Services				
Transit 15	450	300	221	229
Major Schemes	723	482	76	647
Local Transport Plan	3,539	2,359	1,530	2,009
Transport Corridors	10	10	45	-35
CCTV	683	455	48	635
Minor Schemes and Contingency				
	5,337	3,558	766	4,571
General Fund Total	49,907	32,913	31,623	18,284
Housing Revenue Account				
Durham City Homes	8,965	5,973	5,722	3,243
East Durham Homes	29,112	19,408	19,083	10,029
Dale and Valley Homes	5,580	3,720	3,666	1,914
New Build II: Wear Valley	1,149	1,149	1,144	5
Housing Demolitions & Regeneration	667	445	380	287
Housing Revenue Account Total	45,473	30,695	29,995	15,478
RED Total	95,380	63,608	61,618	33,762

(1) Financial Assistance Programme

**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**



5 April 2013

**Quarter 3 2012/13
Performance Management Report**

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs) for the Altogether Wealthier theme and report other significant performance issues for the third quarter of 2012/13.

Background

2. This is the third quarterly corporate performance report of 2012/13 for the council highlighting performance for the period October to December 2012. The report contains information on key performance indicators, risks and Council Plan progress.
3. The report sets out an overview of performance and progress by Altogether priority theme. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of:
 - a. Key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
 - b. Key tracker indicators – performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence.
4. A summary of key performance indicators is provided at Appendix 3. More detailed performance information and Altogether theme analyses are available on request from performance@durham.gov.uk.

Developments since last quarter

5. An indicator specification document is available from the document library on the Councillors Intranet homepage at: <http://intranet/sites/Councillors/default.aspx>. The document details all definitions in relation to the performance indicators within the corporate set and highlights any known data quality issues.

Altogether Wealthier: Overview

Performance indicators				
	Red	Amber	Green	N/A
Direction of travel	3 (27%)	0 (0%)	8 (73%)	2
Performance against target	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	8 (80%)	3

Actions				
	Red	Green	White	Deleted actions
Performance against target	3 (7%)	32 (76%)	7 (17%)	0

Council Performance

6. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. The proportion of East Durham Homes and Dale and Valley Homes properties currently classed as non-decent shows very positive performance at quarter 3. East Durham Homes continue to improve performance at a significant rate with a reduction to 45.5% in quarter 3, surpassing their annual target of 54%. This reduction equates to 455 properties being made decent in quarter 3 and is 311 properties ahead of the programme. Dale and Valley Homes also continues their high performance demonstrated at quarter 2 as they have now achieved their annual target of 1.8% with an outturn of 1.3% at quarter 3. Durham City Homes level of non-decency shows a reducing trend with 4.5% of homes not meeting decency criteria this period but will achieve full decency levels by 31 March 2013.
- b. Apprenticeships started through the Durham County Council (DCC) funded scheme continue to increase. There has been 159 apprenticeship starts since the scheme commenced in November 2011. This performance has exceeded the original target of 149 by November 2012. Funding for phase two of the apprenticeship scheme has been secured for the period January to December 2013. It is anticipated that a further 130 apprenticeships will be delivered through this second phase based on available funding.
- c. The number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention shows continuing improvements with 19 properties brought back into use in quarter 3 against the quarterly profiled target of 10. This brings the total for the period April to December 2013 to 46 which has achieved the period target of 41.
- d. In terms of Council Plan actions, significant progress has been made with consultation on the County Durham Plan. The consultation ended in mid-November 2012 and the exercise included over 100 public events, widespread press coverage and 17,500 letters delivered, which resulted in 3,766 comments being made.
- e. A key action in the Regeneration and Economic Development (RED) Service Plan is to support existing businesses and encourage improvements to the overall retail offer in the City Centre through the development and implementation of a Businesses Improvement District (BID). Following a positive ballot result a BID has been established in the city centre. The ballot was managed by the Electoral Reform Service on behalf of the BID Task Group which includes the County Council.
- f. Another action within the RED service plan is to deliver the housing strategy (2011-2015) priorities to improve housing standards within the key housing regeneration areas and improve the homes of vulnerable people through financial assistance. It was agreed in December 2012 to introduce selective licensing designation for Dean Bank, Ferryhill and Chilton West, Chilton with new boundaries. Selective licensing allows local authorities to extend the benefits of licensing beyond the mandatory licensable properties and its main focus is on improving the management of privately rented properties.

- g. The delivery of housing led regeneration through eight housing regeneration area schemes is an action in the RED Service plan and following receipt of £309,000 funding, from Department of Energy and Climate Change, approval has been given to carry out additional energy efficiency and group repair works to properties in Front Street, Craghead. There is also potential for further British Gas Eco funding which could facilitate further works to an additional 68 properties if received.
 - h. The stock transfer prospectus has been drafted and fully consulted upon for submission to the Homes and Communities Agency, Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Treasury. The outcome of the Stock Transfer Prospectus will be reported to Cabinet in summer 2013. If stock transfer is not supported by DCLG, Cabinet will be asked to consider the steps needed to create a single arm's length management organisation. Project planning continues for both eventualities. A draft Asset Management Strategy is also being finalised and will be presented to Cabinet in due course.
 - i. The implementation of the Business Space Strategy is underway. Works at Consett Business Park have been completed and commenced at Sacriston Industrial Estate in December 2012. In addition, works to Coulson Street, Spennymoor and Stella Gill, Chester-le-Street started earlier this year. Health and safety works on council owned industrial sites were completed in November 2012.
 - j. Phase one of the Gala Theatre investment package (digital cinema, seating and barriers) is complete and the contract for phase two has been awarded.
 - k. Full commitment of the programme allocation for both Leader areas (European funding to East Durham and the North Pennines areas which we manage) has been achieved, which will mitigate against any funding being taken away from them.
7. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:
- a. The total number of overall planning applications received in quarter 3 (719) has seen a further decrease this period in comparison to quarter 1 (874), quarter 2 (734) and a significant decrease (13%) compared to same quarter last year. Considering the fall in overall application numbers, there has been a surprising increase in the number of major applications received this period (34) compared with previous quarter (19). The percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks within quarter 3 was 69.7%. This is an improvement on quarter 2 performance (63.2%) but still falls short of the target of 79.9%. Liaison with other regional local authorities shows that current performance is in line with neighbouring authorities' performance.
 - b. Occupancy levels of council owned factories and business support centre floorspace remains below target with 71% occupancy compared to a 76% target. The quarter saw a decrease in the occupancy of factory space however office space increased slightly in difficult market conditions
 - c. There are three key Council Plan actions in this theme behind target as follows:
 - i. Public Realm works at St John's Square, Seaham was due for completion by March 2013. This has been delayed until May 2013 due to additional works being included within the scope of the tender.
 - ii. The phased implementation to the key town regeneration improvement to enhance links to Clifford Road retail store, Stanley and the Academy were due for completion by October 2012. This has been delayed until March 2013. A revised road improvement programme has been brought forward in response to the delayed start of Clifford Road retail store. The anticipated start date for the first phase is expected during quarter 4.

- iii. Transport modelling work for the Northern and Western Relief Roads and development of a delivery and funding plan was due to be undertaken by December 2012. This has been delayed until February 2013.
 - d. There is a further action in the RED Service Plan relating to Durhamgate regeneration project at Spennymoor which has encountered problems that have delayed progress. Due to long lead in times associated with street furniture and bespoke street lighting products the contractor was instructed to complete all other works then leave the site in order to save preliminary costs. The works are due to recommence late March/early April 2013 and will take approximately 10 weeks to complete.
 - e. An action against Altogether Better Council concerning further development of the Customer Access Points in Spennymoor, Peterlee and Bishop Auckland has been postponed due to the review of the Customer First Strategy.
8. Tracker indicators for this priority theme (see Appendix 3, table 2) show:
- a. The employment rate continues to decline. Only 65.2% of people aged 16-64 in County Durham are in employment compared to the national figure of 70.5%. The proportion of the working age population currently not in work who want a job stands at 16.64%.
 - b. The number of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants aged 18-24 has dropped slightly this period to 5,115 compared with 5,465 in quarter 2 and 5,265 twelve months previously. This goes against the trend seen over the last year of rising youth unemployment. This could in part be due to the impact of targeted measures to address youth unemployment which include the DCC Apprenticeship Support Programme, Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) Youth Contract, and SEA Apprenticeship Grant to Employers.
 - c. The number of JSA claimants claiming for 1 year or more has continued to increase this quarter from 4,675 at quarter 2 to 4,920 at quarter 3. This represents 30.78% of all JSA claimants.
 - d. Overall net housing completions have decreased as a consequence of a high number of demolitions this quarter. Of the 158 completions 28 (17.7%) are affordable units. The proportion completed in major settlements has seen an increase from previous quarter from 60% to 67%.
 - e. The number of top retailers represented in Durham City has reduced this period to 13 compared to 15 at previous quarter. This is reflective of the economic climate which has resulted in national retailers ceasing trading.
 - f. The number of homeless presentations has reduced this quarter to 1,437. This is a 16% reduction on previous quarter (1,701) however the cumulative total of presentations for the year so far stands at 4,520 which is an 18% increase on the same period last year. Data show that generally there is a decrease in homeless cases leading up to the Christmas period. Similarly, the number of homeless applications has decreased this quarter to 264 compared to 314 at previous quarter however this is an increase of 10% on the same period last year (241). This period has also seen a reduction in the number of acceptances from 75 this quarter compared with 111 on previous quarter. Homeless preventions have increased slightly this quarter to 302 from 297 reported at quarter 2.
 - g. The proportion of children in poverty remains high and has not declined substantially since the start of the credit crisis in 2008. Latest data available for February 2012 indicates that the proportion of children in poverty has increased marginally to 24.6% from 24.2% reported at November 2011 and 12 months earlier (23.8%). This proportion remains higher than the England average (20.5%) but lower than the equivalent North East figure (25.9%).

The Government is carrying out a consultation on developing better measures of child poverty which include income, but provide a more accurate picture of the reality of child poverty today.

9. The key risk to successfully delivering the objectives of this theme is *coastal erosion and improved environment may be adversely impacted if a programme of repairs to Seaham North Pier is not undertaken*. Management consider it possible that this risk may occur, and to mitigate the risk, funds will be allocated in future budgets for the design and undertaking of repairs to the structure.

Recommendation

10. That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and consider any performance issues arising there from.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

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

Staffing

Performance against a number of relevant corporate health PIs has been included to monitor staffing levels and absence rates.

Risk

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

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

Corporate health PIs and key actions relating to equality and diversity issues are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Accommodation

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

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

Human Rights

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

Disability Issues

Corporate health PIs and key actions relating to accessibility issues and employees with a disability are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Appendix 2: Key to symbols used within the report

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

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel

Latest reported data have improved from comparable period



GREEN

Performance against target

Performance better than target

Latest reported data remain in line with comparable period



AMBER

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Latest reported data have deteriorated from comparable period



RED

Performance >2% behind target

Actions:



WHITE

Complete. (Action achieved by deadline/achieved ahead of deadline)



GREEN

Action on track to be achieved by the deadline



RED

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

Benchmarking:



GREEN

Performance better than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available



AMBER

Performance in line with other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available



RED

Performance worse than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Page 26
Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Wealthier										
1	% of users who felt the cultural events were "good" or "very good" (BRASS festival)	96%	Jul 2012	85%	GREEN	90%	GREEN			
2	Attendance figures at cultural activities (museums, Gala, BRASS, Book Festival)	490,353	Apr - Dec 2012	400,859	GREEN	459,559	GREEN			
3	Apprenticeships started through Durham County Council funded schemes	159	Nov 11 - Nov 12	111	GREEN	New indicator	N/A			
4	% of enrolments on adult learning courses leading to qualifications	96.5% [4]	2011/12 ac. yr.	92%	GREEN	92.3%	GREEN			
5	Percentage of non-decent council homes Dale & Valley Homes (former NI 158)	1.3% [1]	Oct - Dec 2012	1.8%	GREEN	4.1%	GREEN			
6	Percentage of non-decent council homes Durham City Homes (former NI 158)	4.5% [1]	Oct - Dec 2012	0%	RED	0.96%	RED			
7	Percentage of non-decent council homes East Durham Homes (former NI 158)	45.51% [1]	Oct - Dec 2012	54%	GREEN	67%	GREEN			

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
8	Number of private rented sector properties improved as a direct consequence of local authority intervention	911	Apr - Dec 2012	500 (reprofiled)	GREEN	858	GREEN			
9	Number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention, excluding empty properties demolished as part of an area based housing renewal intervention.	46	Apr - Dec 2012	41	GREEN	27	GREEN			
10	Local authority tenant satisfaction with landlord services (Dale Valley Homes)	88.3%	2011/12	Not set for 2011/12	N/A	80.0%	GREEN			
11	Local authority tenant satisfaction with landlord services (Durham City Homes)	78.0%	2011/12	Not set for 2011/12	N/A	79.8%	RED			
12	Local authority tenant satisfaction with landlord services (East Durham Homes)	83.7%	2011/12	Not set for 2011/12	N/A	N/A	N/A			
13	% of council owned factories and business support centre floorspace that is fully occupied	71%	Oct - Dec 2012	76%	RED	75%	RED			

[\[1\] Non decency levels are reviewed regularly and can go up as well as down](#)

[\[4\] Figure refreshed](#)

Page 28
Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Wealthier										
99	Number of top retailers represented in Durham City	13	Oct - Dec 2012	15	RED	15	RED			
100	Number of all new homes completed in Durham City per financial year	25	Apr - Dec 2012	15 [6]	Not comparable	61	RED			
101	% of households within County Durham who can access Durham City market place within 1 hour journey by public transport before 8.30am, including walking time	78.7%	Apr- Sep 2012	75.8%	GREEN	75.8%	GREEN			
102	Number of passenger journeys on Park and Ride.	301,729	Oct - Dec 2012	276,843	GREEN	350,241	RED			
103	Total number of visitors to main attractions in Durham City	167,881	Apr - Sep 2012	73,354 [6]	Not comparable	New indicator	N/A			
104	All homes completed in and near all major settlements, as defined in the County Durham Plan, as a proportion of total completions.	67.00%	Oct-Dec 2012	60.22%	GREEN	51.23%	GREEN			
105	Total planning applications received against all categories	719	Oct - Dec 2012	734	RED	826	RED			
106	Total number of major planning applications received	34	Oct - Dec 2012	19	GREEN	32	GREEN			
107	% properties in band D and above for Council Tax	14.79%	Oct - Dec 2012	14.74%	GREEN	14.67%	GREEN			

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
108	Number of JSA claimants aged 18-24	5,115	as at Dec 2012	5,465	GREEN	5,265	GREEN			
109	Proportion of all JSA claimants that are aged 18-24	32.0%	as at Dec 2012	34.10%	GREEN	35.23%	GREEN	26.5% RED	29.9%* RED	As at Dec 2012
110	Number of apprenticeships started by young people resident in County Durham as recorded by the National Apprenticeship Service	1,640	2011/12 ac. yr.	New indicator	N/A	New indicator	N/A			
111	Number of JSA claimants claiming for one year or more	4,920	as at Dec 2012	4,675	RED	1,875	RED			
112	Proportion of all JSA claimants that have claimed for one year or more	30.78%	as at Dec 2012	29.10%	RED	12.55%	RED	28.1% RED	31.9%* GREEN	As at Dec 2012
113	Employment rate of the working age population (former NI 151)	65.2%	as at Sep 2012	65.7%	RED	66.8%	RED	70.7% RED	65.9%* RED	Oct 11 - Sep 12
114	Proportion of the working age population currently not in work who want a job	16.64%	as at Sep 2012	15.90%	GREEN	13.30%	GREEN	11.6% GREEN	14.8%* GREEN	Oct 11 - Sep 12
115	Proportion of the working age population who are qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent	44.2%	Jan - Dec 2011	49.0%	RED	49.0%	RED	52.3% RED	45.3%** RED	2011
116	Proportion of affordable homes provided as a proportion of total net homes completed (former NI154 & NI155)	17.72%	Oct - Dec 2012	39.22%	RED	57.70%	RED			

Page 36 Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
117	Total number of those registered on the Durham Key Options system who have been rehoused (includes existing tenants and new tenants)	2,959	Apr - Dec 2012	2,022 [6]	Not comparable	2,779	GREEN			
118	Number of preventions as a proportion of the total number of homelessness presentations	21% (302)	Oct - Dec 2012	17.5% (297)	GREEN	19.7% (227)	GREEN			
119	Number of statutory applications as a proportion of the total number of homelessness presentations	18.37% (264)	Oct - Dec 2012	18.5% (314)	GREEN	20.9% (241)	RED			
120	Number of acceptances (of a statutory duty) as a proportion of the total number of homelessness presentations	5.22% (75)	Oct - Dec 2012	6.5% (111)	GREEN	8.3% (95)	GREEN			
121	Total number of homelessness presentations	1,437	Oct - Dec 2012	1,701	GREEN	1,149	RED			
122	Child poverty (under 16) (former NI116) (national annual rate)	23.0%	2010	23.5%	GREEN	23.5%	GREEN	21.10%	24.8%*	2010
123	Child poverty (quarterly proxy measure)	24.6%	Feb 2012	24.20%	RED	23.80%	RED	20.5%	25.9%*	Feb 2012
124	The number of local passenger journeys on the bus network	24,244,957	Jan - Dec 2012	New indicator	N/A	New indicator	N/A			
125	The number of passenger journeys made by concessionary bus pass holders	10,757,735	Jan - Dec 2012	New indicator	N/A	New indicator	N/A			

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
126	The number of passenger journeys made on the Link2 service	23,846	Apr - Dec 2012	15,757 [6]	Not comparable	New indicator	N/A			
127	The number of trips made using council funded community transport	41,085	Oct - Dec 2012	43,766	RED	New indicator	N/A			
128	Accessibility of Newton Aycliffe Industrial Estate within one hour using public transport and arriving by 8.30am	33.46%	Apr - Sep 2012	31.53%	GREEN	31.53%	GREEN			
129	Number of visitors to the main attractions in County Durham	922,277	Apr - Sep 2012	347,776 [6]	Not comparable	625,904	GREEN			
130	Number of tourism businesses actively engaged with Visit County Durham	422	Apr - Sep 2012	47 [6]	Not comparable	159	GREEN			
131	Businesses engaged with/assisted (all sectors)	310	Apr - Dec 2012	211 [6]	Not comparable	New indicator	N/A			
132	The number of new business start ups receiving business assistance	3	as at Dec 2012	New indicator	N/A	New indicator	N/A			
133	The number of enquiries received for new business start ups	99	Apr - Dec 2012	81 [6]	Not comparable	New indicator	N/A			

[\[6\]](#) This data is cumulative and the figure is based on 12 months data for the year end so comparisons are not applicable.

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**Economy and Enterprise Overview
and Scrutiny Committee**

5 April 2013



**Update on the Housing Solutions
Service**

**Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and
Economic Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress made by the Housing Solutions Service.

Background

- 2 The Homelessness Act 2002 placed a duty on every local authority to produce a Homelessness Strategy. The strategy must include a review of current services and performance over the preceding five years against the action plan put in place following the first strategy in 2003. The strategy must also predict future levels of need and demand based on research findings and consultation with partners and service users.
- 3 Prior to Local Government Reorganisation each of the seven District Councils within County Durham worked within their strategy action plan to meet the housing needs of customers over the previous five years. In addition, the seven districts, the County Council and other partners worked together through the County Durham Homelessness Action Partnership (HAP) to further improve and develop services.
- 4 In 2008 and in preparation for the commencement of a Unitary Authority the County Durham Homelessness Action Partnership agreed to develop a Homelessness Strategy. This document represented the strategic vision for services across the new unitary authority from April 2009 to meet housing needs across a diverse geographical and demographic area. As a consequence of this work, Housing Solutions along with the HAP are currently reviewing the Homelessness Strategy, consultation events will take in May which Members will be invited to.

Housing Solutions Service

- 5 The Housing Solutions Service has responsibility for the following areas:
Homelessness and Housing Advice - Since Local Government Reorganisation the Housing Solutions Service has adopted an options approach to customer needs.

This is a two-stage approach, with options and prevention considered first, but with safeguards in place where an applicant is eligible for and requires assistance under the Part VII statutory requirements. The Housing Solutions Officers fulfil a generic role providing a holistic assessment delivering support and advice enabling customers' needs to be assessed and met through prevention, housing options and the Council's statutory responsibilities.

Durham Key Options (DKO) - The Choice Based Lettings scheme for County Durham is known as Durham Key Options and was introduced in October 2009. The scheme is a partnership of social housing providers across County Durham and currently consists of:

- Durham County Council. (Lead Partner)
- East Durham Homes.
- Durham City Homes.
- Dale & Valley Homes.
- Cestria Community Housing.
- livin.
- Teesdale Housing Association.
- Derwentside Homes.
- Accent Homes (12 month pilot)

Family Wise - The Familywise Programme has been up and running in Durham County since April 2012 and will run up until December 2014 on a 100% Payment by Result basis. The programme will be delivered alongside the Family Intervention Service within Housing Solutions and is subcontracted from The Wise Group who are the prime provider for the 12 Local Authority areas in the North East. Over its 3 year delivery period Familywise will work with 1267 individuals who are from a family with multiple problems where at least one member is on a working age benefit at the start of the programme. The main objective of this programme is to work with individuals whose families face multiple/generational unemployment and worklessness and support them to address barriers they are facing that have historically and continuously prevented them from working.

Progress measures need to be worked towards, these include the following:

- Money matters- (inc welfare reform)
- Housing
- Parenting
- Employability skills

Family Intervention Service (FIS) - The FIS offer intensive support to families who are at risk of homelessness and where at least one member of the family is a perpetrator of ASB. Working with families facing multiple problems to tackle the root causes of ASB and homelessness we aim to make sustainable changes and reach positive outcomes for the whole family and the community in which they live.

The FIS offers support and guidance to families to address the causes of their behaviour, alongside supervision and enforcement tools to provide them with incentives to change. The project uses intensive and individually tailored packages of support, supervision and clear sanctions to improve the behaviour of families at risk of homelessness and anti-social households.

This whole family, multi agency and intensive approach is a cost effective way of engaging the most challenged and challenging families many of who make the highest demands on services and the highest cost to the public purse. Evidence based methods of support and assessments are used and the FIS Key Workers have multi disciplinary backgrounds. This varied and wide skill set allows the team to support families and one another to find the most suitable solutions to the challenges faced.

- 6 This report will not be providing an update on DKO as this will be provided at a later date.

Legal context

- 7 Local housing authorities have a statutory duty to provide assistance to all households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, regardless of whether there is any duty to accommodate.
- 8 Over recent years central government has emphasised the need for local authorities to take a more proactive approach to the prevention of homelessness to all in housing need and to work in partnership across sectors to meet housing, support and advice needs.
- 9 Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 – provides the statutory under-pinning for action to tackle homelessness. This legislation places a general duty on housing authorities to ensure that advice and information about homelessness, and its prevention, is available free of charge to everyone in their area. The legislation also requires authorities to assist individuals and families who are homeless or threatened with homelessness to apply for help.

Progress since LRG

- 10 Following LGR there was a need to bring together former district council services to respond to housing, advice and support needs for those in housing need.
- 11 To enable housing options to be effective and consistent in responding to the needs of customers, services must have comprehensive procedures in place therefore Housing Solutions implemented new office processes and systems to ensure the delivery of our prevention focused service and statutory duty in a consistent manner.

- 12 The prevention of homelessness is a key strategic aim for Durham County Council and it is vital that individuals are encouraged to seek assistance at the earliest possible stage when experiencing difficulties which may lead to homelessness. In many cases effective early intervention can prevent homelessness occurring.
- 13 Not only does homelessness have significant negative consequences for the people who experience it, homelessness can have a profound impact on health, education and employment prospects.
- 14 Research carried out by Heriot-Watt University explains that preventing homelessness can achieve direct cashable savings for local government. Research published in 2007 showed preventing homelessness can save money when compared to the cost of helping someone is already homeless. The savings are based on the assumption that the cost to the public purse of providing temporary accommodation and the re-housing afterwards amounts to £5,300 per case per year.
- 15 It is estimated that Durham County Council is spending on average £741.36 per prevention case. Based on this figure these prevention cases represent a significant saving for Durham County Council.
- 16 Durham County Council Housing Solutions Service has developed a range of prevention tools, aimed at helping all in housing need to avoid homelessness, remain in their own home or access suitable, affordable accommodation.
 - **Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme:** To assist customers to find and maintain accommodation in the private rented sector, with linked tenancy support.
 - **Homelessness Prevention Fund:** Offering financial assistance to prevent homelessness, part of a wider “spend to save” policy.
 - **Remain Safe:** Offering free security measures for customer’s homes to enable them to remain and feel safe, regardless of tenure. Now delivered by Direct Services funded by Housing Solutions and Safe Durham Partnership seeing significant increases in the number of clients assisted over the past 12 months.
 - **Enhanced Housing Support Protocol:** Bringing advice, support and accommodation services together to tackle the causes of homelessness and create sustainable tenancies for vulnerable adults.
 - **Early Intervention Specialist Advice and Support Referral Protocol:** Ensuring customers experience a seamless service when referred for specialist advice to external agencies.

- **County Court Duty Scheme Referral Protocol:** Enabling customers at risk of homelessness to access free, specialist legal advice at court to defend claims for possession.
- **Personalisation Pilot:** Funding to be allocated to individuals to assist in engagement with support providers where housing related support funding will not cover the cost.
- **Hospital Discharge Protocol:** Agreement with Tees Esk & Wear Valley NHS Trust to implement an early referral protocol into Lanchester Road Hospital to provide housing advice and support to patients with mental health problems.
- **Possession & Repossession Loan Fund:** A short term fund for any households which risk becoming homeless through repossession or eviction. The fund will clear home owners arrears, but only if the accommodation is then affordable to them in the longer term.
- **CLASP:** Care Leavers Accommodation & Support Protocol. Ensuring young people leaving care have their accommodation and support options explained and planned for in advance of leaving care.

17 The service has also developed or participates in the following:

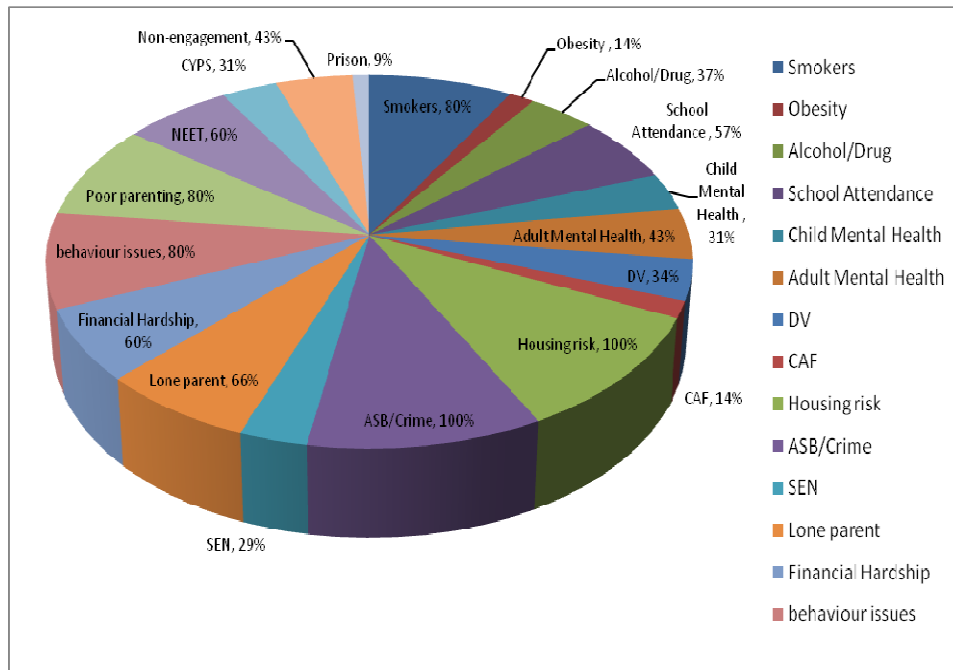
- **Emergency Supported Lodgings:** Working in partnership with Children and Young Peoples Service to provide emergency accommodation to homeless young people aged 16/17 and 18+ care leavers, in family homes with support. From April 2013 this service will be extended to offer accommodation to those over 18 who are vulnerable to ensure we remove the use of private B&B accommodation.
- **Mortgage Rescue:** Part of a national scheme to offer shared equity or conversion to social rented tenure for home owners who are struggling with their mortgage payments.
- **Radio and Community TV Adverts:** Developed media campaigns to increase self referral to the service for those in housing need.
- **Debt Advice:** Specialist Debt advice worker from Chester-le-Street CSAB funded by Housing Solutions to work with our client to reduce debts enabling them to remain in their home.
- **Welfare Rights Worker:** Internal service level agreement with the Welfare Rights Service to provide specialist welfare rights advice to clients at risk of homelessness to ensure access to benefits is maximised.
- **Prevention Champions Training:** Free training delivered by the Housing Solutions Service to internal and external partners seeking to highlight the need for early intervention and referral to prevent homelessness.

- **Regional Through The Gate:** By securing regional funding from DCLG and National Offender Management Service, led on the procurement of a regional service working to support offenders in North East prisons to access accommodation and support.
- **Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Officer:** Secured funding for Housing Solutions Officer to work to secure safe and suitable accommodation and support for Priority and Prolific Offenders.
- **Enhanced Housing Options Wizard:** Developed innovative web based tool to enable customers to assess and access their own housing options. Is currently being further reviewed to assist in our response to welfare reform.
- **Digital TV:** Enables customers to seek advice on housing options in addition to viewing and bidding for property on Durham Key Options via their TV or mobile phone.
- **Under Occupation Officer:** Using funding secured from DCLG – the service offers support to older people seeking to downsize in social rented accommodation. Service will extend to offer support to those affected by welfare reform seeking mutual exchange.
- **Adults facing Chronic Exclusion (ACE) & No second Night Out:** Durham is the lead Authority for the Durham and Tees Valley area to develop a response to rough sleeping using nationally allocated funding. In Durham, No Second Night Out has been assisting clients off the street since August 2012 via a service delivered by a third sector organisation, funded by DCC. The service has secured additional central government funding for the next 3 years to support people off the streets and into suitable accommodation and support.
- **Holistic Temporary Accommodation & Support Service:** The largest procurement undertaken by Housing Solutions. Commissioned by 3 DCC Teams, Housing Solutions, Children and Young Peoples Service and Adult Services, HTASS delivers huge improvements to the management and support offered to 22 units of temporary accommodation across the County, in addition to 13 crash pads for young people. HTASS also delivers a joint protocol for 16/17 years olds and access to over 200 private rented tenancies for client referred by the Housing Solutions Service. The service commenced in May 2012 under a 3 year contract and has already seen significant reductions in the use of expensive and inappropriate B&B placements.
- **Step Forward:** Proving 14x2 bed shared housing with support for young people leaving supported housing. The service has been developed in response to welfare reform changes resulting in a lack of affordable accommodation in the county for single households who now have to share.

- **The Fells:** Overseeing £1.8 million capital investment in direct access accommodation.
- **Youth Charter:** Durham County Council is the first Council in the region to sign up to the Charter, developed by Youth Homelessness North East, making pledges to strive to provide accommodation and support outcomes for young people.
- **Development of new IT system:** New, bespoke IT system to be implemented by April 2013 which will provide efficiencies in the delivery of front line services together with enhanced monitoring and reporting functions.
- **Think Family** – The service has confirmed its commitment to the Think Family programme by signing up to Durham County Councils Partnership agreement. Funding has been secured from the Troubled Families grant which will allow us to train two dedicated workers. The aim is to embed the Think Family approach into mainstream practice. In addition to this we will work with Housing Providers and other external agencies.

- 18 Between April 2012 and February 2013 FIS has provided intensive support to 46 families including 114 children and is on track to exceed its target of a minimum of 48 new families per year.
- 19 The FIS service receives referrals, known as requests for intervention, from a variety of sources. Most of these requests for intervention are then taken to their local LMAPS for discussion; this is carried out on the premise that families who are causing ASB in County Durham should be known to this group.
- 20 The service has built a vast network of successful partnerships and has developed an excellent reputation amongst these agencies and organisations. However, referrals continue to be received at a higher rate than we have capacity to respond.
- 21 This year, out of the families that have worked with FIS and have exited the programme, 90% of families have reduced the ASB they presented at referral and 90% no longer face the homelessness risk they presented with at referral. In addition, 100% of families were offered support and 100% of referrers were contacted within the targeted timescales set by the service.

22 During the assessment stage of an intervention records are kept of key presenting issues of each family. The table below shows the key presenting issues of the families we worked with in Qtr1-Qtr3 of 2012/13.



23 Alongside its family intervention programmes the FIS also deliver projects within local communities often alongside our partners this year they have included:

- Parenting Programmes-** The FIS has been delivering a minimum of 4 parenting courses a year across the County since 2010/11. This service is open to all families in County Durham and participants do not have to be attached to the FIS programme to attend. These programmes are also the main parenting programme provision for parents who have court ordered parenting orders from the Education Welfare Service.
- Coast Night-** As part of the Time limited Partnership Project, FIS took the lead in planning 'Coast Night'. This was a diversionary activity to reduce ASB in Easington; children in the local area were consulted with and decided they would like a UV Glow Party. Funding was provided by LMAPS & HIL's, David Boyes County councillor, Accent Foundation and Easington Social Welfare Centre (ESWC). Additional partnership staffing resources were provided by ESWC, DCC youth workers, police officers and also the local councillor who helped out on the night.

As well as the UV party there was a sexual health worker on site, local door supervisors, drugs dog and alcohol testing strips. The event was very successful and there wasn't a single reported incident of ASB in the community during the event.

- **Father Christmas**- For a second year running and this year in partnership with the Salvation Army, TFM Radio and Xcellocal FIS co-ordinated a Christmas appeal for the families and individuals currently working with FIS and Familywise. FIS were able to provide food hampers to 43 families and 3 single people and also provided gifts for 118 children.
 - **Investing in Children Status** This was achieved in 2012 by working with FIS children and young people in the Sedgefield and Easington Areas. Group sessions and one to one practice was observed during this process and a full report is accessible by contacting the FIS Manager.
- 24 The start of the Familywise programme was delayed due to contractual problems. The prime contractors, The Wise Group (www.thewisegroup.co.uk) have since resolved these issues with DWP which has allowed us to re profile and start to process the back log of work and allow us to move on and deliver the programme effectively in the year ahead.
- 25 As part of an engagement process for the new service we adopted a variety of ways to engage with other organisations and professionals, both internally and externally. These included presenting to large audiences at events such the Parenting Network and the Altogether Housing days and attending regional and national meetings during the development stage.
- 26 In addition we have also used Durham County Councils intranet front page, setting up promotional stands at job fairs and other large events and attending partners team meetings such as, One Point, Job Centre Plus, Mental Health, Safeguarding and specialist services.
- 27 Following the engagement and promotion of the service, referrals are now being received and we are seeing an average of 30 a week. Familywise Coaches have large case loads of up to 50 at any one time, however they are supported by in house training officers, placement officers and support staff to deliver an individually tailored package of support to each participant.
- 28 We have adapted the service to ensure it aligns with other services, for example it sits as part of the Think Family process and works closely with teams from Economic Development. Durham's Family Wise was asked to join the Wisegroup at the Welfare to work UK Convention in the summer of 2012 to present as an example of best practice.
- 29 The Familywise programme has to date worked successfully with 130 people across county Durham with a further 220 ready to start. Our first participants were targeted to find employment in the autumn of 2012 and we have managed to support 15 people in to work and a further 30 who are assessed as job ready (as of Feb 2013).

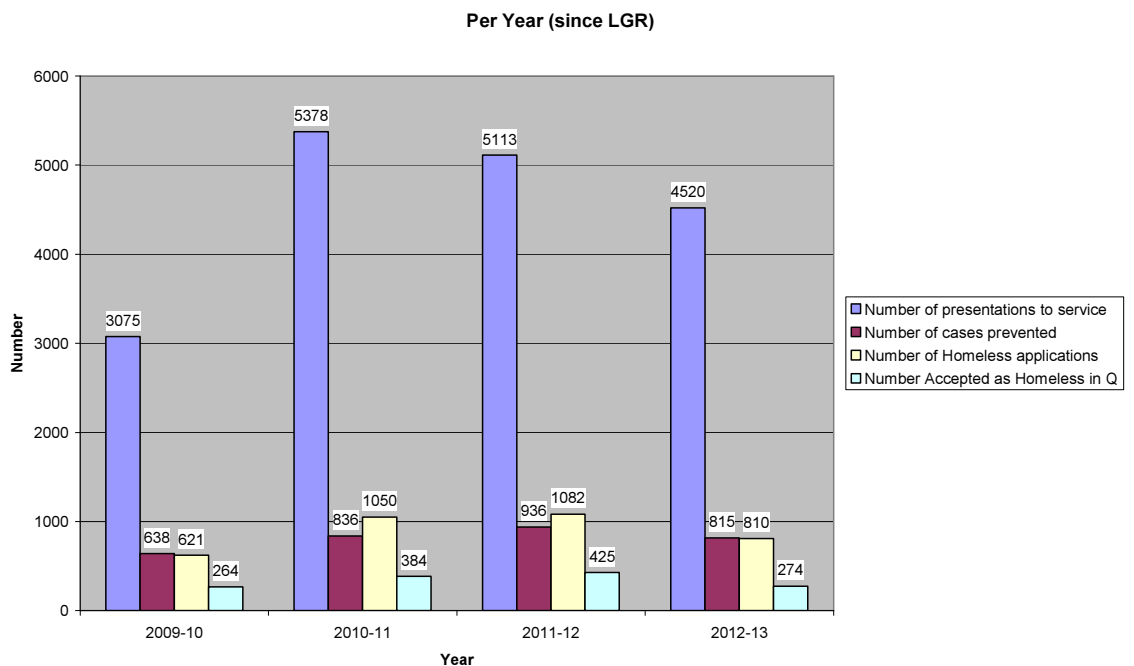
Current position

30 The Housing Solutions Service continues to see an increase in presentations to the service. The following table shows year on year figures for:

- Presentations to the service
- Number of cases prevented from becoming homeless
- Number of homeless applications
- Number of homeless cases accepted

31 Total presentations to the service include those customers applying as homeless, those threatened with homelessness and customers seeking advice on housing options, Durham Key Options, information regarding their housing rights or one off assistance to enable customers to make informed choices about their future housing options.

32 Presentations up to and including quarter 3 for this financial year stands at 4517 compared to 3711 in the same period in 2011/2012. This is a 21% increase in presentations to the service in just one year.

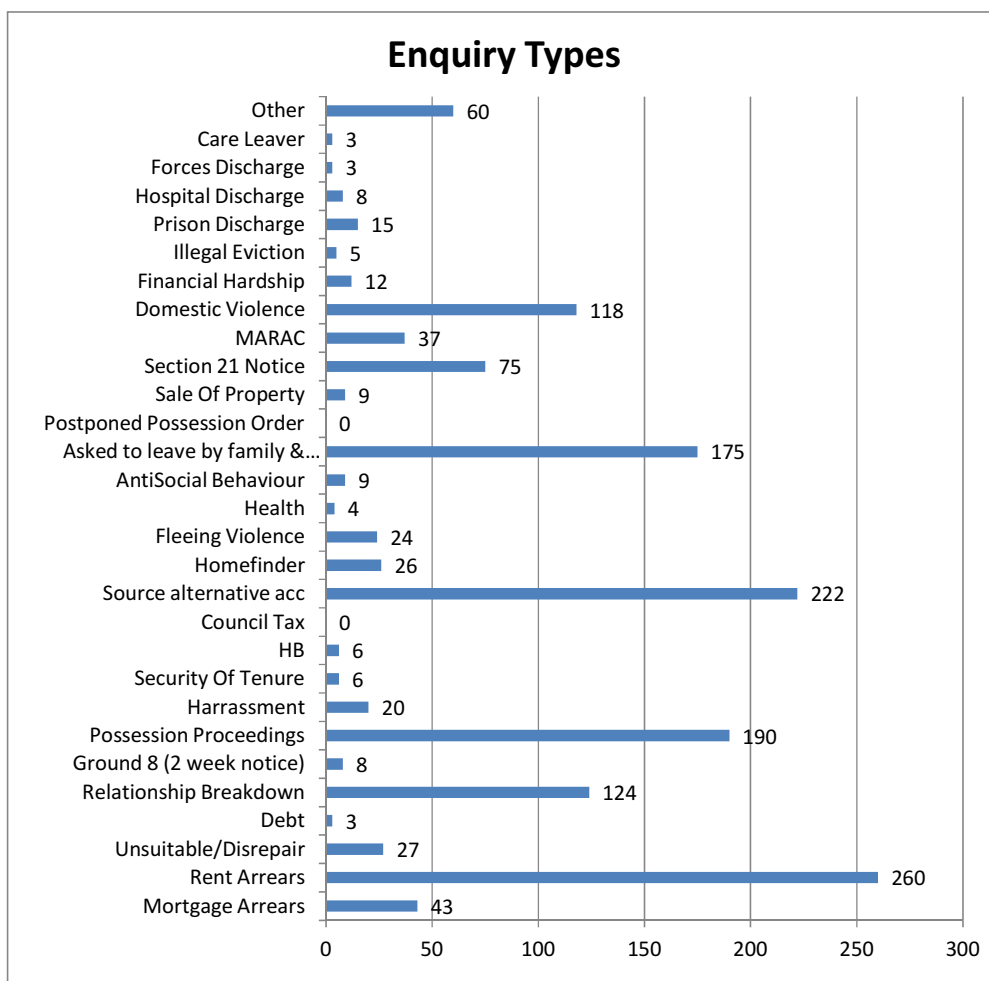


33 All Local Authorities must record and report on a quarterly basis to central Government the number of households where homelessness was prevented. To qualify for inclusion in these figures the customer must feel they are at risk of homelessness, there must be a case file which is subject to internal audit and quality control and confirmation of prevention, which must be for a minimum of 6 months, made by an officer not involved in the original case. The Local Authority must be able to demonstrate positive action in preventing homelessness, i.e. the provision of casework rather than one off advice. The number of cases prevented continues to rise and as mentioned previously, by preventing homelessness, we are achieving financial savings to the council.

- 34 Even though the presentations to the service continue to increase, the number of homeless applications and acceptances remain static, suggesting the early advice given is working.

Enquiry Types

- 35 Type of enquiry relates to the nature of the problem or problems customers seek advice from the Housing Solutions team to resolve. Customers may have more than one housing issue and will therefore select multiple enquiry types if required. This information is used by the service to ensure prevention tools and other service developments reflect the needs of our customers to ensure we are best placed to offer an appropriate solution.

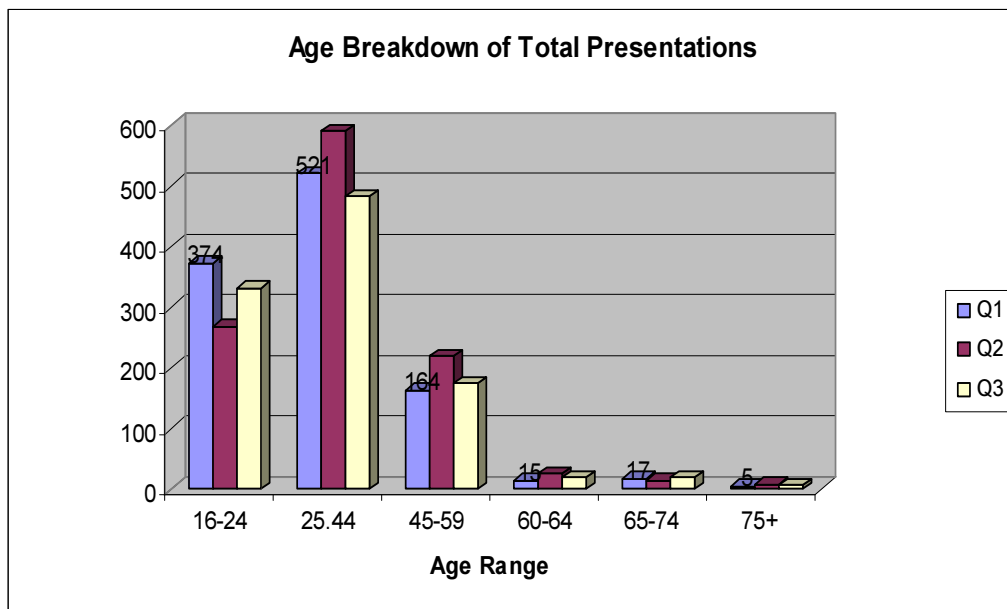


36 The following 6 reasons remain the most common for contacting the service:

- Rent Arrears
- Source Alternative Accommodation
- Possession Proceedings
- Asked to leave by family & friends
- Relationship breakdown
- Domestic Violence

Age breakdown

37 The following graph provides a breakdown of the ages of the customers presenting to the service. As you can see the predominant age group is the 25-44 year olds however we are aware that a large number of the cases recorded on the system are not known, these are likely to be the referrals received from third parties.



Age and Reason

38 The following information highlights the 2 main reasons for presentations broken down by age range:

Age Range	Main Reason	%	Secondary	%
16-24	Asked to Leave by Family/friends	28.1%	Source Alternative Accommodation	22.59%
25-44	Source Alternative Accommodation	18.26%	Relationship Breakdown (Closely followed by Asked to Leave by friends/family)	13.49%
45-59	Source Alternative Accommodation	19.43%	Mortgage Arrears	13.14%

Future Pressures and Developments

- 39 Although we don't know what the impact of the welfare reform changes will be, we do expect an increase in presentations due to the 'bedroom tax', welfare assistance policy and changes to the Discretionary Housing Payment process.
- 40 These changes and the impending introduction of Universal Credit will continue to put a strain on resources within the service. In preparation for the introduction of Welfare Reform all staff within the service will receive training to highlight the changes being implemented by the government.
- 41 To help us prepare for these changes the following has been introduced/ developed:
- **Protocol** – a triage/protocol to be developed between Housing Solutions, Revenues and Benefits and Housing Providers to deal effectively with those tenants effected by welfare reform
 - **Private Landlord Liaison Officer** – A temporary post has been created to forge links between Housing Solutions and Private Landlords
 - **Mutual Exchange and Under Occupation** – A dedicated Officer will be available within Housing Solutions to assist tenants subject to the "bedroom tax" who wish to move but require assistance. They will assist through arranging mutual exchanges or arranging removals and associated issues.
 - **Extension of Durham Key Options** – to increase housing choice, options are being explored to widen DKO to include Private Landlords and other Housing Providers.
- 42 The FIS continues to develop the work it carries out across the County. It is aligned with County Durham's Think Family Agenda and is an integral partner to the delivery of the Think Family Programme. Four of our Key Workers (2 full time equivalents) are Think Family Mentors and work with a wide range of professionals to support them to work with families in a consistent manner.
- 43 The FIS are also working to develop several new initiatives in 2013/14 including early intervention housing sustainability programmes, early intervention for young people programmes and peer support projects.

Recommendation

- 44 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment upon the information provided in the report.
- 45 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further update on the work of the Housing Solutions Service as part of the refresh of the Committee's Work Programme for 2013 - 2015.

Contact: Lynn Hall, Housing Solutions Manager
Tel: 03000 265 728 **E-mail:** lynn.hall@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - £100,000 has been set aside from Homeless CLG Prevention Grant for additional staffing which may be required

Staffing – Additional staff may be required if presentations to the service continue to rise

Risk – Increase on resources due to Welfare Reform

Equality and Diversity – None

Accommodation – not applicable

Crime and Disorder – not applicable

Human Rights – None

Consultation – not applicable

Procurement – not applicable

Disability Discrimination Act - not applicable

Legal Implications – not applicable

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**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**



5 April 2013

**Council Plan 2013-2017 – Refresh of the
Work Programme for the Economy and
Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide Members with information contained within the Council Plan 2013 – 2017 that is relevant to the work of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This allows the opportunity for Members to refresh the Committee's Work Programme to reflect the five objectives and subsequent outcomes identified within the Council Plan for the Council's "Altogether Wealthier" priority theme.

Background

2. The current work programmes of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
3. In relation to the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members will recall that the Work Programme was refreshed at the Committee meeting held on the 6 July 2012, ensuring that areas of focus were in line with current and forthcoming priorities within the Committee's remit. Further areas of focus for the Committee have been added throughout 2012/13 to reflect changing Government policy and at the request of Members.

Council Plan 2013- 2017

4. The Council Plan is the overarching high level plan for the County Council, which covers a four year period in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan and is updated on an annual basis. The plan sets out how the Council will consider the corporate priorities for change and the key actions the Authority will take in delivering the long term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy (2010 – 2030) and the Council's own change agenda. Attached as Appendix 2 is the "Altogether Wealthier" section of the Council Plan for Members' consideration.

5. Within the Council's "Altogether Wealthier" priority theme, the focus is on creating a vibrant economy and putting regeneration and economic development at the heart of what we do. In comparison with the region and nationally, County Durham's economy is underperforming.

6. To help address this issue of the underperforming County Durham economy the Council has identified 5 objectives which are set out in the Regeneration Statement together with outcomes to achieve the overarching objectives. They are set out below. Some of the outcomes are new or have been amended to those included in the 2012 – 2017 Council Plan.
 - Thriving Durham City
 - Improved retail, business and tourism in Durham City and its immediate locality (W1).
 - Improved Housing choice to support sustainable growth (W2).

 - Vibrant and successful towns
 - A co-ordinated investment in housing infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health (W3).

 - Competitive and successful people
 - Increased numbers of people in employment with a focus on young people (W4).
 - Improve employability and skills (W5).

 - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities
 - An Improved housing offer across County Durham (W6).
 - Improved access to employment and welfare services (W7).
 - Strengthened cultural and tourism offer across the County (W8).

 - A top location for business
 - Increased business creation, development and growth, aligned with key wealth creating sectors (W9).
 - Durham is recognised as a world class place to invest in (W10).

7. Over the next four years, the Council will strive to deliver a step change in the economy of County Durham by focusing on the actions required to achieve the above objectives.

8. The Council Plan contains a series of High Level Action Plans detailing the work which needs to be undertaken by the Authority in order to deliver the outcomes identified above, see Appendix 2 (copy attached).

Current Work Programme

9. During 2012 – 2013, the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny Reviews, systematic six monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations in relation to the following areas:

*** Denotes inline with Council Plan 2013-2017.**

In depth Scrutiny Reviews

- * ● Increasing young people's employment opportunities (18-24 years) in County Durham (Objective – Competitive and successful people - Action – Increased numbers of people in employment with a focus on young people).
- * ● Empty Homes (Objective – Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities – Action – An improved housing offer across County Durham).
- * ● Impact of public sector funding changes on the economy of County Durham (Covers all objectives and actions) – Member's Reference Group - Ongoing.

Systematic Review

- * ● Increasing young people's employment opportunities (18-24) in County Durham - Review of recommendations (Objective – Competitive and successful people – Action – Increased numbers of people in employment with a focus on young people).

Areas of Overview Activity

- * ● Refresh of Regeneration Statement - (Covers all objectives and actions)
- * ● Master Plans for County Durham - (Objective - Vibrant and successful towns - Action – A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health) - Ongoing.
- * ● County Durham Infrastructure Delivery Plan – (Objective - A top location for business – Actions - Increased business creation, development and growth, aligned with key wealth creating sectors – Durham is recognised as a world class place to invest in).
- * ● Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - (Objective - A top location for business – Actions - Increased business creation, development and growth, aligned with key wealth creating sectors – Durham is recognised as a world class place to invest in).
- * ● The County Durham Plan - (Objectives - Vibrant and successful towns – Action – A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health) - Ongoing.
- * ● Overview of the work of the County Durham Economic Partnership – (covers all objectives and actions).

- * ● Homelessness Strategy – (Objective – Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities – Actions - An Improved housing offer across County Durham – Improved access to employment and welfare services).
- * ● Durham Key Options - Choice Base Lettings Policy (Objective - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities - Action – An improved housing offer across County Durham).
- * ● Housing Solutions Service - (Objective - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities - Action – An improved housing offer across County Durham).
- * ● Empty Homes Strategy - (Objective - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities - Action - An improved housing offer across County Durham).
- * ● Stock Options Appraisal – (Objective – Vibrant and successful towns – Action – A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health) – Ongoing.
- * ● Performance monitoring of Durham City Homes and the 2 ALMO's - (Objective - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities - Action – An improved housing offer across County Durham).
- * ● Family Intervention Project (FIP) - (Objectives – Competitive and successful people - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities - Actions – Improved employability and skills – improved access to employment and welfare services).
- * ● Adult Learning Strategy – (Objective - Competitive and successful people – Actions – Increased numbers of people in employment with a focus on young people – improved employability and skills).
- * ● Tourism - (Objectives – Thriving Durham City – Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities – Actions – Improved retail, business and tourism in Durham and its immediate locality – Strengthened cultural and tourism offer across the County).
- * ● Business Support – Business Durham – (Objective – a top location for business – Actions – Increased business creation, development and growth, aligned with key wealth creating sectors – Durham is recognised as a world class place to invest in).
- * ● Update on the LEP – (Objective – A top location for business – Actions – Increased business creation, development and growth, aligned with key wealth creating sectors – Durham is recognised as a world class place to invest in).
- * ● Overview of statistical bias report produced by Sheffield Hallam University – (Covers all objectives and actions).

Budgetary and performance monitoring

- *
 - Quarterly budgetary and performance monitoring for RED Service Group.
10. The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny has also considered the following cross cutting items:
- *
 - County Durham Plan – The County Durham Plan - (Objectives - Vibrant and successful towns – Action – A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health) - Ongoing.
 - *
 - Library Strategy Consultation – (Objective – Vibrant and successful towns – Action – A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health).
 - *
 - Empty Homes - (Objective – Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities – Action – An improved housing offer across County Durham).
11. In addition, the Altogether Wealthier section of the Council Plan for 2013 – 2017 identifies the following new high level actions which have not already been considered by committee that could be included in the 2013 – 2015 work programme:
- *
 - Local Transport Plan 3 – (Objective – Vibrant and successful towns Action - A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health).
 - *
 - Transit 15 – (Objective – Vibrant and successful towns - Action - A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health).
 - *
 - Digital Durham – (Objective – A top location for business – Actions – Increased business creation, development and growth, aligned with key wealth creating sectors – Durham is recognised as a world class place to invest).
 - *
 - Affordable Homes Policy - (Objectives – Vibrant and successful towns – Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities – Actions – A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health – An improved housing offer across County Durham).
 - *
 - Market Strategy for County Durham – (Objectives – Vibrant and successful towns – Action - A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health).
 - *
 - Skills Development – (Objective – Competitive and successful people – Actions – Improved employability and skills – Increased numbers of people in employment with a focus on young people).

Cross Cutting Themes

12. Identified below are cross cutting issues which cut across the Altogether Wealthier, Altogether Better for Children and Young People, Altogether Greener, Altogether Healthier, Altogether Safer and Altogether Better Council themes of the Council Plan for 2013 – 2017:

Altogether	Objective	Outcome	Link to Altogether Wealthier
Children and Young People	Children and Young people realise and maximise their potential.	<p>C1 Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain to prepare them for adulthood.</p> <p>C4 A range of positive activities are available for children and young people.</p> <p>C7 Early Intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.</p>	<p>W4 Increased numbers of people in employment with a focus on young people.</p> <p>W5 Improved employability and skills.</p>
Greener	Enhance, conserve and promote Durham's built environment	<p>G6 Reduced number of vacant and derelict buildings.</p> <p>G7 Enhanced and accessible historic environment and heritage.</p>	W3 A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health.
Healthier	Improve the quality of life independence and care and support for people with long-term conditions.	H8 Improve independence and rehabilitation.	W6 An improved housing offer across County Durham.

Better Council	Working with our communities.	ABC 6 The effects of the Welfare Reform agenda are effectively managed.	W7 Improved access to employment and welfare services.
Safer	Casualty reduction.	S11 Improved safety of roads and pavements.	W3 A co-ordinated investment in housing, infrastructure, employment, retail, leisure, education and health.

Next Steps

13. The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the Committee's Work Programme for 2013 – 2015, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraphs 9 and 10 and the new high level actions identified in paragraph 11 above.
14. Members will receive a further report at the next Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirming/agreeing the Committee's Work Programme for 2013 – 2015 based on today's discussion.

Recommendations

15. That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in Appendix 2 (copy attached).
16. That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the Work Programme for 2013 – 2015 by discussing and considering those actions identified, under "Altogether Wealthier" priority theme of the Council Plan 2013 – 2017, Appendix 2 (copy attached) and reflected in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of the report.
17. That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 24 June 2013, receives a further report detailing the Committee's Work Programme for 2013 – 2015.

Contact:	Feisal Jassat	Tel: 03000 268 139
Author:	Diane Close	Tel: 03000 268 141

Appendix 1: Implications (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on 6 February 2013: The Council Plan and Service Plans 2013 – 2017).

Finance

The Council Plan sets out the corporate priorities of the Council for the next 4 years. The Medium Term Financial Plan aligns revenue and capital investment to priorities within the Council Plan.

Staffing

The Council's strategies are be aligned to achievement of the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

Risk

Consideration of risk is a key element in the corporate and service planning framework with both the Council Plan and Service Plans containing sections on risk.

Equality and diversity

Individual equality impact assessments have been prepared for each savings proposal within the Council Plan. The cumulative impact of all savings proposals in total has also been presented to Council and will be updated as savings proposals are further developed. In addition a full impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the Council Plan. The actions in the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality and aim to improve the equality of life for those with protected characteristics. The Plan has been influenced by consultation and monitoring to include equality issues. There is no evidence of negative impact for particular groups.

Accommodation

The Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan is aligned to the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

Crime and disorder

The Altogether Safer section of the Council Plan sets out the Council's contributions to tackling crime and disorder.

Human rights

None

Consultation

Council and partnership priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data including an extensive consultation programme carried out as part of the development of the interim Sustainable Community Strategy and this has been reaffirmed by subsequent consultation on the budget and through the Residents' Survey. Results have been taken into account in developing our resourcing decisions.

Procurement

None

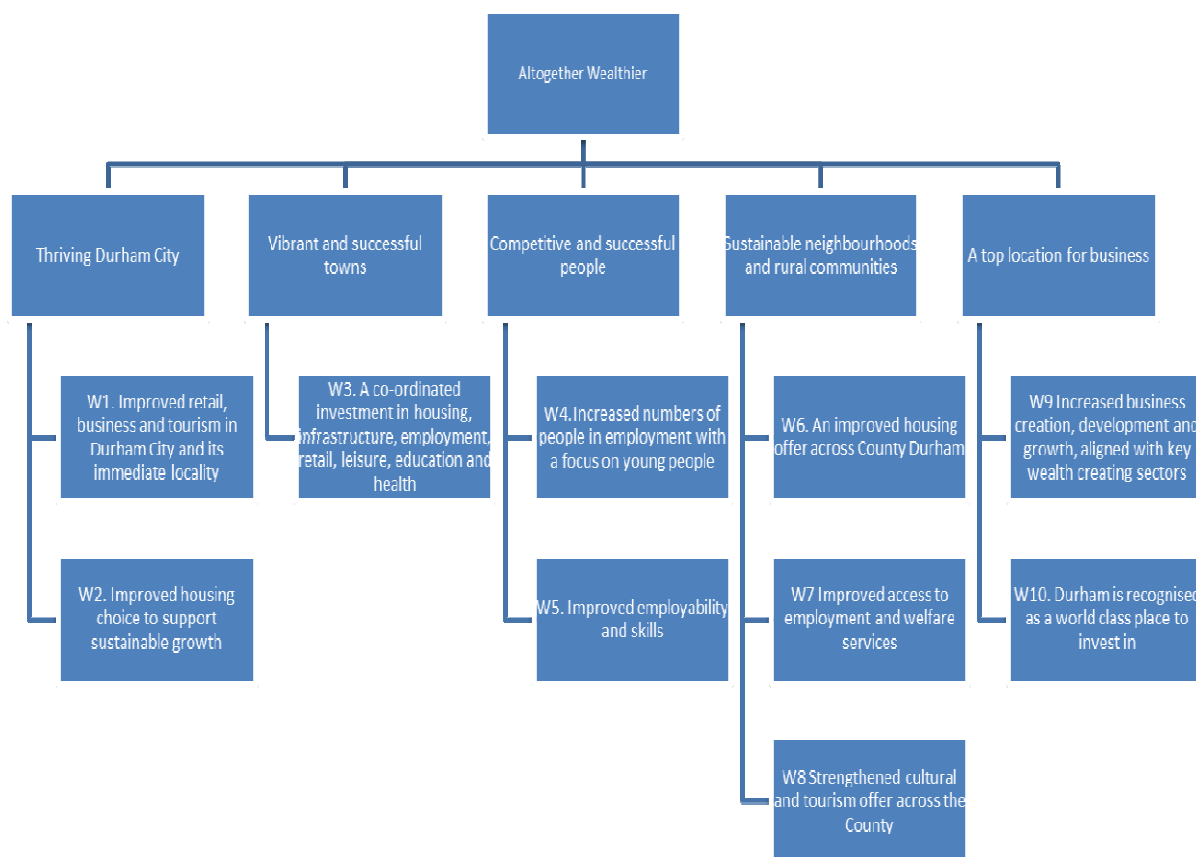
Disability

None

Legal Implications

None

Altogether Wealthier



Our ambition underpinning the vision of an Altogether Wealthier Durham is to shape a county where people want to live, work, invest and visit and enable our residents and businesses to achieve their potential. This ambition requires commitment to the transformation of the county, shared across public and private stakeholders and supported by residents. Placing Durham City as our key driver for growth, success will require us to capitalise on untapped potential in order to narrow the productivity and employment gap between the county, the region and the UK.

The County Durham Regeneration Statement looks over the next ten years to a challenging integrated programme of activity which takes advantage of our key assets and tackles constraints to growth. Our partnership Regeneration Statement has five key ambitions and objectives to drive forward activity; Thriving Durham City; Vibrant and Successful Towns; Competitive and Successful People; Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Rural Communities; and a Top Location for Business. We will strive to deliver a step change in the local economy by lifting the constraints on development and stimulating investment in infrastructure within a time of limited resources and significant national policy shifts. We have identified five long term measures of success to help steer and focus this challenge.

The key driver to stimulate an economic renaissance within the county is the employment rate; for improving this will increase levels of disposable income, increase the number of businesses, and should, as a result, begin to reduce the chronic levels of relative deprivation. As a county we need to aim to achieve an increase of 30,000 jobs over the next 20 years, through business growth, inward investment and business creation.

It is also important that we continue to invest in our human capital through skills development and by supporting our residents to access and maintain employment opportunities. We must continue to address the needs of our most vulnerable residents and mitigate the impact of welfare reform, in order to improve people's quality of life and improve economic prosperity.

1. Thriving Durham City

At the heart of the North East, Durham City is a hub of economic and cultural activity and stands out as a key economic driver to the county and region. The city has enormous potential and will help to deliver a significant share of a step change in the growth of the region and the largest contribution from the county as a whole. The city needs a critical mass of employment, population and visitors to build on the assets already inherent to become a city of regional, national and international significance. We aim to exploit Durham City's potential and what the city has to offer. By maximising the development opportunities of the city we will help to stimulate retail, business and housing growth, which will lead to job creation and increased business confidence. Durham City offers the potential to boost tourism performance across the entire county.

Going well

- 78.7% of residents can access Durham Market Place by 8.30am using public transport, with a total journey time of one hour or less including walking time.
- Good usage numbers on the three park and ride sites with extension due at Sniperley to further improve parking availability.
- We are on target to deliver transport modelling for northern and western relief roads which would serve to ease traffic congestion in Durham City.
- Improvements to the public transport corridors across the county are ongoing and will deliver a range of improvements into 2013 that will provide better accessibility.
- The driver information project was launched in November 2012 which is aimed at helping drivers plan their journeys across the city.
- Durham City Homes are on track to achieve 0% performance against their social housing non decency target.
- We have delivered a new customer access point in a shared building with the library.

Cause for concern

- The economic climate continues to make it difficult for the private sector to invest in schemes in the city.
- The number of new homes being built is at an all-time low.
- Traffic congestion in the city remains a concern, especially at Neville's Cross.
- The number of the top 20 retailers represented in Durham City has fallen from 15 to 13 as at December 2012.

Did you know?

- The 'Lumiere' event in 2011 was a huge success and attracted over 150,000 people into the city over four days, which had an economic impact of £4.3 million and raised the profile of County Durham nationally and internationally.
- A World Heritage Visitor Centre for Durham Castle and Cathedral has been developed.

- The Olympic Torch relay spent three days in County Durham. Over 175,000 local people turned out to watch this event.

Look out for:

- The Lindisfarne Gospels will visit Durham City in July 2013. The exhibition is a must see contemporary interpretation of the North's most enduring story, the tale of our famous saint Cuthbert.
- Lumiere will return to Durham City in November 2013.
- The development of the old ice rink site next to the river into a mixed-use development.
- Flood lighting on the Cathedral.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Support existing businesses and encourage improvements to the overall retail offer in the City Centre through the development and implementation of the Business Improvement District (BID) Board.	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2014
Optimise the potential of Durham City by increasing the number of visitors to the City making it a viable 48 hour stay for tourists.	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2015
Delivery of Durham City Regeneration Schemes including; Aykley Heads (a mixed use development for employment – twin tracked with the County Durham Plan)	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business case and accommodation strategy 		September 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site allocated, upon adoption of the County Durham Plan 		July 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freemans Reach (former ice rink site), mixed use space including office and leisure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To commence on site 		2013

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Road (major regeneration, gateway to the City) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Options appraisal, outlining the potential of North Road ○ Works to commence (subject to private investment) • Flood alleviation project to allow redevelopment of river bank brown field sites, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ works on-going with the Environment Agency, options appraisal completed 		<p>September 2013</p> <p>2016</p> <p>December 2013</p>
<p>Deliver traffic priorities in Durham City including, linking traffic signals to develop more effective flows of traffic, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the use of technologies to reduce congestion on the network by 2015 	<p>Head of Transport and Contract Services</p>	<p>March 2017</p> <p>Dec 2015</p>
<p>Enable new homes to be built in Durham City through the implementation of the County Durham Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the allocation of sufficient sites ○ identification of infrastructure needs including water, utilities sewerage, school and social provision 	<p>Head of Planning & Assets</p>	<p>To commence 2015</p> <p>2014</p> <p>2015</p>

2. Vibrant and successful towns

Vibrant towns are good for business: they create jobs, attract investment and generate income - they are engines for economic growth. At their best, they create a discernible local buzz and define the wider area, attracting people from near and far. County Durham has a dispersed settlement pattern with a large number of distinct towns, not all of which are meeting the needs of local communities.

Through our 'Whole-Town' approach we will increase the vitality and vibrancy of our main settlements. This 'Whole-Town' approach is specific to each settlement and enables tailored solutions and coordinated investment for each place depending on its needs and service potential for its locality. Creating vibrant and successful towns is a complex task, dealing with interrelated issues and driven by wider economic and environmental factors. Each town is different, with its own opportunities to take advantage of and needs and issues to tackle. However, we aim to create places that are attractive, well managed, and well designed with a range of amenities and facilities for that given community.

Going well

- Regeneration frameworks for Spennymoor, Newton Aycliffe, Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Peterlee, Consett, Stanley, Seaham, Bishop Auckland, Barnard Castle, Crook and Stanhope are progressing well.
- The Bishop Auckland Food Festival was very successfully held on the 20th April 2012.
- New joint Customer Access Point and Library opened to the public in Crook Civic Centre in July 2012, on time and within budget.
- Improvements have been made to the Durham Dales Centre in Stanhope, including a new business lounge.
- As part of the consultation on the preferred options for the County Durham Plan, over 100 consultation events were held to speak to local people and organisations about their views on where new housing, business, retail and infrastructure should be located over the next 15 to 20 years, over 1500 written responses have been received in relation to the consultation.

Cause for concern

- The number of planning applications has fallen again this year due to the current economic climate and is expected to continue to decrease as a result of changes in the planning legislation regarding development rights.

Did you know?

- The County Durham Plan will be published in the summer of 2014.
- The Chester le Street masterplan has now been approved.
- The Seaham Colliery housing site redevelopment will be put out to public consultation in January 2013.

Look out for:

- Renovation plans for Auckland Castle are in place to turn the site into a cultural visitor centre.
- Regeneration Frameworks will be developed for Peterlee, Shildon, Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor.
- The final phase of the redevelopment of Seaham Dock which already includes a marina, new dock gates and small business space. Shop front improvement schemes in Church Street coupled with streetscape works have also improved the town centre.
- The works to Witham Hall in Barnard Castle to redevelop this valuable community hub.
- Improved roundabout (installation of signals) at Northlands, Chester-le-street which will improve traffic flows to and from Stanley, Birtley and the A1.
- The completion of the highway works at Durhamgate near Spennymoor and further regeneration at this site where Black & Decker were once based.
- St Johns Square, Seaham will be complete by May 2013.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Development of the County Durham Plan by 2014 which includes:	Head of Planning & Assets	July 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of statement of consultation for preferred options 		May 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on preferred options 		October 2013 April 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for examination in public, including mock examination and pre-enquiry meeting 		July 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Council adoption 		
Delivery of regeneration projects and associated action plans from 2013 to 2017 in the towns of:	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seaham Stanley Consett Chester-le-Street Bishop Auckland Crook Barnard Castle 		
This will include physical improvements to town centres, transport priorities and housing investment		
Complete Regeneration Frameworks for the key towns of:		July 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham City 		Sept 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peterlee 		June 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sildon 		Sept 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newton Aycliffe 		June 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spennymoor 		

Deliver a programme of Transport Head of Transport and March 2017
 Capital works across the County, Contract Services
 including:

Road schemes	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A167 Sunderland Bridge junction at Durham 	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A167 Northlands roundabout at Chester-le-Street 	March 2014 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belmont Business park junction A690 	2013 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horden link road 	2015
Public transport	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Auckland rail stations • Chester-le-Street rail station • East Durham rail station • Amazon Park/Heighington rail station at newton Aycliffe • Transit 15 bus priority improvements on key transport corridors 	

3. Competitive and successful people

The skills, abilities and attitudes of the current and future County Durham workforce are critical to the future economic success of the county and will underpin a more competitive and productive economy. County Durham has below national average employment and higher skills attainment levels, and above regional and national average economically inactive residents claiming benefits. We need to encourage people to develop their skills and recognise transferable attributes for current or future employment in order to increase individual success, improve life chances and to ease the progression into work or within work. At a time of uncertainty, compounded with the onset of significant welfare reform and limited resources, we continue to work with partners, employers and employability support providers to ensure support for County Durham residents and to help them access employment opportunities.

It is important that we work closely with employers and continue to raise aspirations, participation and attainment of our young residents so they can make the most of available opportunities and have the best chance of being competitive and successful.

Going well

- An Apprenticeship Strategy and action plan has been completed which aims to increase learning, progression and employment to boost the numbers of young people able to gain work experience within the private and public sector.
- The Durham County Council Apprenticeship Programme has assisted in the creation of 160 places and plans to launch phase two of the programme are well developed. Over 145 apprenticeship starts have been recorded in 2012/13.
- The Durham County Council work programme has assisted over 1,300 people with over 300 people progressing into employment.
- The European Social Fund Families Project, which helps families with multiple problems overcome barriers to employment, has received in excess of 180 referrals and over 60 families have started on the programme.

Cause for concern

- Youth unemployment is a concern with 32.60% of all JSA claimants being aged 18-24, which is equivalent to 5270 people as of December 2012. Additional measures have been launched in 2012/13 which focuses on supporting this age group into employment.
- A slow rate of new job creation set against continued large scale job losses, particularly in Central and East Durham are contributing to a larger proportion of unemployed clients spending longer claiming JSA.

Did you know?

- The Awards Ceremony of 'Future Business Magnates' was held on 6th July 2012, which celebrated the end of a six-month competition in which 22 schools and 160 young people participated from across County Durham.
- The Family Intervention Team has prevented homelessness in 100% of the cases that have been referred to them (based upon Q3 2012/2013).
- 2011 saw 7808 apprenticeships starts by County Durham Residents, a 15.2% increase in the number from the previous year. The increase was above the rate of increase at a regional and national level.

Look out for:

- The development of a multi operator ticketing scheme across County Durham, making it easier for people to access training and employment.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Implement the Apprenticeship Strategy and Action Plan to increase learning, progression and employment and to boost the numbers of people able to gain work experience within the private and public sector.	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2014
Sustain and develop family projects (for example the Family Intervention Project and Familywise Project) to improve the lives of those families with multiple needs.	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2014

<p>Work with the welfare to work programme contractors to coordinate employability support delivered by partner agencies for County Durham residents with a focus on 18-24 year olds, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the Work Programme contract to meet Avanta Job Entry rate and Job Outcomes/Sustainable targets • Exploring opportunities for further funding 	<p>Head of Economic Development and Housing</p>	<p>March 2016</p> <p>March 2014</p> <p>March 2014</p>
<p>Work with employers to co-ordinate skills development to ensure appropriate alignment to future employment opportunities, some key projects will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham Employment gateway - a collaboration of key employability partners and providers responding to a small and large scale recruitment needs in the County • Business Enterprise and Skills Working Group - providing a local approach to supporting and shaping the delivery of Business, Enterprise and Skills (BES), including Market intelligence, Promotion of Opportunities and Influencing of Key Partners • Job Brokerage initiative in response to redundancy in partnership with Job Centre Plus 	<p>Head of Economic Development and Housing</p>	<p>March 2017</p> <p>March 2014</p> <p>March 2014</p> <p>March 2014</p>

4. Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities

Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities are places where people can live and want to live, places that help to enhance the wellbeing and potential of our communities. A sustainable place provides a quality built environment, with good housing and living conditions and access to services, through appropriate infrastructure. However, deprivation and inequalities persist between communities in County Durham and between County Durham, the region and the nation. Industrial restructuring and job losses in manufacturing have disproportionately affected some of our communities within the county. The county's dispersed settlement pattern, low car ownership, low job density and rurality can compound deprivation and inequalities.

This can have damaging effects upon an individual's life chances in a number of ways. There are varying needs and quality of place across the County and like the 'Whole Town' approach, each neighbourhood requires a different level or type of support to ensure sustainability. We will continue to provide tailored and appropriate solutions for our neighbourhoods. Investment in housing and transport is an essential component to regenerating our communities and improving our economic performance.

Going well

- Over 332 homes have been adapted using Disabled facilities Grant (DFG) in 2012/13 (as at December 2012).
- Housing regeneration area schemes at Craghead, Wembley, Esh Winning, Wheatley Hill, Ferryhill Station, Chilton, Dean Bank and Dawdon are progressing well.
- The Local Authority New Build Scheme at Park Avenue Close, Crook has been completed, delivering a further 16 units over and above those already delivered.
- The average relet times for a Durham City Homes property is currently 22 days. This is a huge improvement compared to June 2011 when it took 46 days.
- In excess of 188 affordable homes have been completed in 2012/13, against a profiled target of 165 (as at December 2012).
- Over the past year we have seen an increase in the usage of Link 2 service.
- The percentage of council housing classed as non-decent has continued to decline, with Durham City Homes achieving 0% non-decency at the end of 2011/12. East Durham Homes also deserve recognition, as their non-decency level has fallen from 74.57% in June 2011 to 45.51% in December 2012. However, overall there are still approximately 22.2% of properties classed as non-decent (as at December 2012).
- Delivery of high profile events:
 - The Halfords Cycle Race in Durham City attracted 8,000 people with average TV viewing figures of 305,000 for each of the 11 live TV shows and 65,000 for each of the repeated shows. The estimated economic impact was £126 per overnight visitor and £86 per day visitor.
 - The Marie Curie Cancer Care Etape Pennines mass participation cycling event reached its maximum capacity of 2,500 competitors.
 - 200,000 attendees watched 101 people carry the Olympic Torch throughout Durham spending on average £14 each.
 - BRASS: Durham International Festival and Durham Book Festival both proved to be a huge success.

Cause for concern

- The number of homelessness presentations, statutory applications and acceptances have increased compared to last year, although the number of homelessness preventions has also increased.

Did you know?

- Durham County Council delivers the Care Connect service to over 17,000 customers, helping vulnerable people to remain in their own homes.
- There are over 20,000 people registered for social housing on the Durham Key Options, Choice Based Lettings scheme.
- County Durham is a 'film friendly' area: George Gently and The Paradise are both filmed in the County.

Look out for:

- Funding has been made available to reduce the number of empty homes in the County.
- The refurbishment of Gypsy Roma Traveller sites across the County.
- A preferred option for the future of council housing across County Durham.
- A new Durham Key Options policy will start in April 2013. This policy explains how over 40,000 homes owned by social landlords will be let across County Durham.
- A new tourism marketing campaign 'This is Durham, This is Dramatic', funded through a grant from Visit England.
- Improvements to Bishop Auckland Train Station and lobbying work to improve the frequency of services at Chester-le-street train station.
- Halfords Cycle Race, Durham City (May 13).
- Lindisfarne Gospels, Palace Green, Durham City (Jul – Sep 13).
- Marie Curie Cancer Care Etape Pennines mass participation cycling event (Oct 13).
- Lumiere Light Festival, Durham City (14 – 17 November 13).
- Brass: Durham International Festival.
- Durham Book Festival.
- Highlights rural touring scheme: a network of volunteer groups delivering high quality professional, theatre, music, dance and craft events in village halls, schools and community centres.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Work with a wide range of partners to manage and deliver the Lumiere Light Festival.	Head of Culture & Sports	November 2013
Develop a varied programme of major events, educational programmes and exhibitions to commemorate the anniversary of World War 1.	Head of Culture and Sports	December 2013
Develop and deliver a co-ordinated Events Programme for the County.	Head of Culture and Sports	March 2014
Accelerate the delivery of housing to meet need and demand.	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2017
Help residents with housing needs through the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy action plan, which aims to	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase internal and external funding streams to maximise service delivery		March 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver a consistent, prevention focussed housing solutions service across County Durham to cope with increased demand		March 2014

5. A top location for business

County Durham is home to a wide range of businesses from micro rural businesses to large multinationals, from small scale engineering to large scale manufacturing and from business services to internationally leading research companies. The county offers businesses support and development opportunities and these must be sustained to serve the diversity that exists. Building on local circumstances and our assets we are taking an approach that builds on indigenous potential.

County Durham's business base grew reasonably strongly during the sustained growth of the last decade up to the start of the recession. However, we did not experience the same gains as other areas during a period of expansion and we have been harder hit in regards to employment since the economic downturn. Public sector contraction and government cuts since 2010 have compounded the issues. It is important we continue to take a balanced approach to growing and sustaining existing businesses, developing our labour force, establishing new businesses and attracting inward investment. Investment must embed with our local supply chains and networks to boost our economic potential. To become a top location for business we are supporting innovation, removing constraints to investment and growth, and enabling infrastructure development to improve our business offer.

Going well

- £7m of Broadband Delivery UK money has been secured which will enable roll out to cover up to 90% of the county.
- The County's Business Enterprise and Skills Strategy is complete.

Cause for concern

- The number of enquiries received for new business start ups has fallen considerably compared to last year. This has been attributed to the end of the Be Enterprising scheme last year.

Did you know?

- More than 900 jobs will be created as part of a £4.5bn contract to build and maintain new inter-city trains at the Hitachi factory in Newton Aycliffe. Construction will start in 2013 and the facility will be operational from 2015.

Look out for:

- After consultation involving 17 groups and 205 individuals, the Durham Tourism Management plan has been updated and circulated to all stakeholders.
- the council is working hard with Hitachi to ensure that many local residents and local businesses are able to access opportunities with the development. As construction begins on-site this year, more opportunities will arise and details will be available on the Business Durham website.

High level Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Increase business creation, development and growth.	Head of Economic Development and Housing	December 2014
Develop sustainable travel plans for the key employment sites across County Durham including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="240 439 655 562">• The development of a sustainable travel plan for County Hall <li data-bbox="240 595 719 674">• Improved transport links to the Hitachi site at Sedgefield <li data-bbox="240 707 703 786">• A travel plan for NET Park at Sedgefield 	Head of Transport and Contract Services	March 2015 Sept 2013 2015
Support the growth and profile of Durham as a place to visit, work and invest in including a targeted place marketing campaign and support for major festivals and events.	Head of Economic Development and Housing	March 2015

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**Economy and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

5 April 2013



**Update: Increasing Young People's
Employment Opportunities (18-24)
within County Durham**

**Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and
Economic Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The report describes the progress made in relation to the recommendations made in the 'Increasing Young People's Employment Opportunities (18-24) within County Durham' Scrutiny review report published in June 2012.

Background

- 2 Members will recall that the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee commenced the 'Increasing Young People's Employment Opportunities (18-24) within County Durham' Scrutiny review in October, 2012 as a result of Members identifying as an area of underperformance RED PI 7, the number of 18-24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance. Members of the committee were concerned at the continued increase within County Durham of young people aged 18 -24 claiming JSA.
- 3 In addition, as part of the refresh of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme undertaken in July 2011, Members identified the need for a focused piece of work to be undertaken looking at how Durham County Council and Partners could further develop partnership working to increase the employment opportunities of young people (18-24) within County Durham.
- 4 During the review evidence was gathered in relation to the following areas:
 - The national policy context and the implications for County Durham.
 - Employment trends within County Durham.
 - Details of various interventions available for young people aged 18-24 years of age.
 - Work currently undertaken to enhance employment opportunities for young people.

- Engagement activity with employers and issues/barriers experienced by employers in relation to employing young people.
- Case studies of young people engaged in various interventions and examples of best practice in relation to employer engagement.
- Visits to various providers to see the support currently available to young people in the 18-24 age group.

5 The review made the following key findings which were welcomed by the Regeneration and Economic Development Service Grouping and the County Durham Economic Partnership:

- Young people need to access the world of work at the earliest opportunity via work experience and various collaborative schemes focusing on key stage 4 (14-16).
- AAPs have significantly increased the employment opportunities of young people in County Durham via various local projects. There is a need to share details of the various projects amongst the AAPs.
- The need to continue to develop young people's less measurable employability skills via work experience, volunteering and pre-employment.
- The need to continue to promote and develop the apprenticeship offer within County Durham including the continued development of apprenticeships within Durham County Council.
- Continue to ensure that the information, advice and guidance provided to young people is sector relevant with employer input.
- The need to use existing transport networks/provision to benefit young people accessing training and employment opportunities.
- A number of models of good practice within County Durham were identified.
- Continue to monitor the development of the Youth Contract within County Durham.

Current position

6 The attached action plan (Appendix 2) provides information on the progress made in relation to the 12 recommendations contained in the review report and where appropriate identifies future planned actions to be undertaken.

Next steps

- 7 The Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the systematic review process will receive a further update of progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the review report at a future meeting in December 2013.

Recommendations

- 8 Members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment upon the progress made in relation to the 12 recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report.
- 9 That the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on the 9 December 2013 receive a further report detailing progress made against the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny review report.

Background Papers

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Review report – ‘Increasing Young People’s Employment Opportunities (18-24) within County Durham’.

Contact: Graham Wood, Economic Development Manager
Tel: 03000 262 002 E-mail: graham.wood@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – A number of various funding streams, Single programme, working Neighbourhoods (WNF) and Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) have been abolished. In addition job creation schemes such as Future jobs Fund (FJF) no longer exist. The authority working in partnership has to look at accessing any new funding currently available from Government and any new job creation schemes.

Staffing – None

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity – Equality and Diversity issues will be addressed within the individual initiatives and schemes which provide employment support and job creation.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – Stakeholders who are involved in increasing employment opportunities for 18 to 24 year olds have been engaged in the review process and have contributed significantly to informing the review report

Procurement – None

Disability Discrimination Act – Disability issues will be addressed within any individual initiatives and schemes which provide employment support and job creation opportunities.

Legal Implications – None

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT – INCREASING YOUNG PEOPLE’S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (18-24)
 WITHIN COUNTY DURHAM
 REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BY CABINET ON 20TH JUNE, 2012.

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) continue to promote work experience and schemes such as 'Learning the Business' and the 'Business Ambassador Programme' as useful models of collaborative working between educational institutions and business within County Durham.</p>	<p>(a) Work Experience is still being offered to schools and colleges across County Durham on a block and extended basis through Durham Education Business Partnership. This service is offered to students at KS4 and post 16. The Education Business Partnership continue to recruit volunteers from companies across the County as Business Ambassadors. Learning the Business is no longer arranged by the Education Business Partnership. The initial costs of brokering the school business partnerships were met by the EBP. As a result of savings from the MTFP it was not possible to continue to offer this service without a charge to the Schools. Although School feedback was very positive, they felt they could not afford to pay for a brokerage service. One very successful pilot programme has developed into a sustainable link between the business and school, but the others have either ceased activity or downscaled support. (b) The current ESF project, 'Engaging Vulnerable Young People' has commissioned work experience as part of several employability projects. They offer young people aged 16-19 work placements and are an effective method of increasing their progression to employment, as well as reducing their distance from the labour market. Overall, the ESF project was operating at 94% of its financial profile as of November 2012, with 723 young people engaging in the project. Of these, 308 young people have progressed into learning, which exceeds the original target.</p>	<p>Sue White (CAS)</p> <p>Sue White (CAS)</p> <p>Linda Bailey (CAS)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>2) That the information gathered from the respective AAPs for the Working Group is shared as examples of work undertaken to engage young people into employment.</p> <p>3) (a) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) continue to support and promote the development of effective pre-employment programmes which have employer input and equip young people with the necessary less measurable employability skills which are desired by employers.</p>	<p>All AAP co-ordinators received a copy of the Review report following consideration of the report by Cabinet. At the time of the Scrutiny Review 10 of the 14 AAPs had young people and employment within their top three priorities. Appendix 3 details the projects currently undertaken by the AAPs.</p> <p>(a) This point is linked to the Solar PV project with Esh (6(a) below) This is an example of Procurement contracts securing pre apprenticeship initiatives delivered by Esh Connex model. The private/public sector partnership for this project was Esh Group, Sun Dog (their supplier) and DCC. Each funded 10 places on an 8 week training programme which included, employability curriculum and on site experience, talks from Esh group, mock interviews with Barclays (utilising their community support programme where advisors and managers give their working time to support initiatives per year), and NAS – assisting delegates in applying for Apprenticeships using their online recruitment process. The qualification offered for those reaching the required standard was an NCFE Level 1 Employability Award plus a reference from Esh Group. 2 beneficiaries from the course secured apprenticeships as a result of the confidence built on the course.</p> <p>(b) Derwentside Training deliver flexible and bespoke Pre-Employment Training (PET) programmes, designed to meet employers needs. The programmes are developed in conjunction with employers, taking into account specific skills that may be required, with</p>	<p>Graham Wood (RED)</p> <p>Graham Wood (RED)</p> <p>Julie West (RED)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
	<p>the aim of preparing clients to be 'work ready'. Recent examples of working in partnership with employers and numbers of clients supported into employment include Barclays Bank (15), Co-op-Distribution (11), Dominos (17), Grouud Engineering (22) and CIE-in partnership with DCC (33). PET programmes will include training in areas such as: Health & Safety; Food Hygiene; Manual Handling; First Aid; Fire Safety; Maths and English. However, this training is also underpinned with unaccredited programmes to support clients in preparing them for work with, for example, CV Building, Interview Techniques, Customer Service, Rights and Responsibilities at Work, Equality & Diversity, Team Building, Numeracy in the Workplace, etc.</p> <p>Derwentside Training is fully committed to promoting Apprenticeships and Work based learning in line with the authority's strategy for regenerating the local economy.</p> <p>In a recent campaign, RED provided funding to SME's in County Durham via an Apprenticeship Incentive Scheme that provided assistance to local employers in relation to supporting salary costs over a two year period of employing an Apprentice. As part of this initiative young people received a pre – employment training course prior to starting the apprenticeship programme. This campaign is due to launch again and Derwentside Training will be supporting the scheme and working closely with colleagues within the RED team.</p> <p>(c) The current ESF project, 'Engaging Vulnerable Young People' has commissioned nine current employability projects offering young people aged 16-</p>	Linda Bailey (CAS)	Ongoing

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>(b) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) use the model of partnership working adopted for the County Durham Apprenticeship Programme (CDAP) to develop further apprenticeship programmes within County Durham acknowledging the financial constraints that exist across the sectors.</p>	<p>19 short flexible courses across County Durham. Many are accredited and are funded on a payment by results basis. The delivery supports progression to employment - including apprenticeships, as well as reducing young people's distance from the labour market. Some are targeted at specific vulnerable young people such as those known to the County Durham Youth Offending Service or those who have learning difficulties and / or disabilities.</p> <p>See Appendix 4 in relation to apprenticeships.</p>	<p>Graham Wood (RED)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>4) Whilst recognising the implications of the MTFP savings on current workforce figures. It was felt that Cabinet should continue to promote in principle the development of the apprenticeship offer within Durham County Council.</p>	<p>(a) There is a commitment to support Apprenticeships within the RED service. A recent recruitment and selection process provided more than 15 positions within the service as Business Administration Apprentices. There were 95 applications received, 47 were invited for interview with 46 attending and approximately 43 deemed appointable. Over 15 offers were made across the service. The panel included a cross section of representation for RED HR, Planning, Housing and the TRT Project.</p>	<p>Graham Wood (RED)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>5) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) note the model of delivery developed by Derwentside Training as an example of good practice in creating local employment opportunities.</p>	<p>(b) The aforementioned ESF project managed by the Improving Progression of Young People Team is targeted, (between March 2011 and December 2013) to deliver 171 job outcomes. Links with mainstream Apprenticeship Providers, RED and the National Apprenticeship Service support partners in maximising the number of which are offered as Apprenticeships. As of November 2012, 48 young people had progressed into employment.</p> <p>(a) Derwentside Training (DT) has worked with employers across County Durham, and beyond, for many years in providing support to address the training needs of their employees. DT has expanded its Employer Relations Team whose main purpose is to engage local employers and develop/provide support to meet their requirements whilst meeting the needs of unemployed clients within the localities in which the employers are based. Once in work the team provide post employment support to both the client and the employer with the aim of removing any barriers and sustaining employment.</p> <p>The team also provide employers with opportunities to extend our provision of learning opportunities to their current work force, enabling the development of staff whilst in the work place, leading to a more motivated and sustainable work force.</p> <p>Within the current work Programme contract (Jul 11 – to date) DT have been successful in supporting over 400 clients into work.</p>	<p>Linda Bailey (CAS)</p> <p>Julie West (RED)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
	<p>DT have been successful in moving clients into Apprenticeship frameworks, for example, we have recently been successful with Barclays Bank, who have recruited 15 Apprentices from our client base into a Customer Service Apprenticeship framework. Barclays Bank has indicated that they would like to continue this partnership with Derwentside Training to provide more Apprenticeship opportunities to our clients.</p> <p>DT have been involved in the development of an Environmental Task Group for a local charity, providing our clients with circa. 30 opportunities for employment which also benefits the local communities from the completion of specific community projects. Once in employment, DT continues to provide work place learning to enable these clients to benefit not only from the employment, but also to develop further their skills and knowledge that will assist them in gaining sustainable work.</p> <p>DT has also supported 24 clients into self-employment, providing advice, guidance and support in the start-up of their new business.</p> <p>Regular communications with employers not only ensures their continued contribution to the programme but also cultivates a mutual respect and understanding of one another's recruitment issues. DT appreciates that post employment support is vital and integral to the delivery and as such employer/employee progress reviews, evaluation and feedback ensures as far as practicable that employment is sustained. This also ensures that employers return to us for support and assistance with their ongoing recruitment needs.</p>		

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>6) (a) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) acknowledge the TRT approach adopted by the Authority as a model of good practice in providing a significant number of job starts and/or apprenticeships to young people in County Durham.</p>	<p>(a) The TRT project has been running since Feb 2011, supported through a grant from North Tyneside Council & the European Social Fund Funding. The project is supported through the DCC TRT Charter (adopted July 2011), Procurement & Commissioning Strategy & Policies (updated March 2012), Regeneration Statement, The Council Plan and the emerging Planning Policy (Developer's Contribution Policy). There are almost 50 beneficiaries to date ranging from jobs, apprenticeships, work experiences and placements and a further 1383 estimated over the coming years through various projects. There are 82 identified projects ranging from procurement contracts, planning obligations and voluntary agreements, at varying stages of implementation. 16 projects have live clauses where opportunities for jobs, apprenticeships, work experiences and placements as well as site visits agreed. Once the TRT clause is agreed in either the Procurement Contract, Planning Obligation or Voluntary Agreement the contractors are supported by TRT Officer and the Employability Team Officers to meet their obligations. Other partners include Job Centre Plus, National Apprenticeship Service, DCC Education Business Partnership & various local training providers, employment support initiatives/ voluntary and community sector organisations.</p> <p>(b) Utilising Commissioning and Procurement Policies the TRT Project Officer and Procurement have secured a number of construction related apprenticeships within contracts or their supply chain. Where the size and duration of the project is sufficient to secure opportunities the targets are included as a contract requirement. Examples to date include a</p>	<p>Graham Wood (RED)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>(b) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) continue to reinforce and publicise with schools, parents and students the importance of work experience/work placement in determining young people's employment opportunities. This must be seen as part of the Council's approach to 'Think Family' and the 'One Point' service offer.</p>	<p>Joiner in the Brandon and Esh School build. An apprentice in the supply chain of the Kirk Merrington & Greenland School build and more recently an Apprentice for the Consett Business Centre. Other contracts also include apprenticeships – e.g. Telephony contract secured 2 apprentice engineers who are now working for the Contract company on Durham Council contract. Further opportunities are secured through utilising Section 106 planning agreements or Unilateral undertaking. This method secures either a financial levy to fund employability outcomes or a commitment to work with the TRT Officer & Employability Officers to secure apprenticeships, jobs and work experiences. One such example which is currently being negotiated is £48,000 for apprenticeships for one development scheme. A further example is 9 apprentices in the Ramside hall extension (post construction).</p> <p>(a) The TRT project continues to reinforce the importance of work experience and work placements secured as part of procurement activity – there are current clauses in the following contracts: Wembley repair scheme, Dawdon repair scheme, Kirk Merrington & Greenland Schools Build, Witham Hall and Consett Business Centre to name a few. Whilst opportunities have been secured there is still some difficulty with school engagement on some projects. Further feedback is in the process of being collated to establish the barriers and work with partners to alleviate them.</p> <p>(b) The importance of work experience/work placements has been communicated to students</p>	<p>Linda Bailey (CAS)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
	<p>through careers guidance activities (e.g. careers interviews, groupwork) as part of CEIAG traded services which are delivered in schools. Also, One Point Personal Advisers reinforce the importance of work experience/work placements in their work with vulnerable young people – including NEETs. Moving Up careers events have been organised for Year 10 and Year 11 students in the South West and Derwentside areas of County Durham. These events enabled students to discuss the range of opportunities available to them with learning providers and employers, in order to raise aspirations and support positive progression. In addition to the work of the Improving Progression of Young People team on CEIAG, the Education Business Partnership continue to deliver a range of work related learning activities which promote employability skills and the value of work experience.</p>		
<p>7) (a) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) recognise as examples of good practice the proactive work currently undertaken by the housing providers in relation to engagement with young people, the development of employability skills and increased employment opportunities via the apprenticeship offer.</p>	<p><u>East Durham Homes -update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Future Job Fund Trainees are still in place with extended contracts with a third gaining full time employment with a partner. • A volunteer via 'Get Britain Working' has gained an apprenticeship with EDH. • EDH still provide work experience opportunities to local young people by referral from various educational institutions. 	Housing Providers	Ongoing

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>Page 84</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDH is in the process of setting up a Social Enterprise and is recruiting 2 Supervisors and 8 apprentices. • In relation to Partners (Capital), 16 trainee placements (including a quantity surveyor trainee) have been provided and 6 apprenticeships. Concerning (Repairs and Maintenance) 1 long term unemployed young person has secured full-time employment, 3 work placements have secured apprenticeships with 3 further work placements taken on. <p>The current procurement contract for the capital works programme – the ITT question is currently being agreed by legal and the TRT clause seeks to secure a commitment from the 3 successful bidders to provide 37 construction related apprenticeships during the 2 year period. The responses from bidders will be evaluated in early 2013 and will form part of the strategic partnership agreement.</p> <p><u>Dale and Valley Homes</u></p> <p>DVH continue to expand the range of apprenticeships on offer within the company to include finance (an additional three accounting technicians) and plan to introduce a post for a governance apprentice early in 2013.</p> <p>In addition DVH has extended the minimum contract period of our apprentice posts to two years to ensure we can maximise apprentices employment opportunities post qualification. In partnership with the repairs contractor (Gentoo), "Paint Pads has been established, a social enterprise which employs painting and decorating apprentices to refurbish empty</p>	<p>Housing Providers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>(b) That housing providers within County Durham share examples of good practice in relation to various initiatives developed to increase young people's employment opportunities.</p>	<p>properties with initially 3 apprentices appointed.</p> <p><u>East Durham Homes</u> EDH have developed the Social Enterprise initiative as a result of the positive experience of other housing providers who have developed such initiatives.</p> <p><u>Dale and Valley Homes</u> DVH have for sometime promoted apprenticeships to other employers via business breakfast at Bishop Auckland College and through membership of the Durham committee of the NECC. One of the senior managers is a former apprentice and a newly qualified MBA has been selected by the College to act as an apprentice ambassador. Promotional work in relation to apprenticeships has been taken to a new level through recognition by the NAS of DVH as "North East apprentice employer of the year", and runner up at national level. NAS is using DVH as an example of good practice in a radio advertising campaign aimed at employers and has developed a case study showcasing the benefits that apprenticeships have brought to our business.</p>		
<p>(c) That Cabinet suggests the service grouping enters into discussions to investigate the possibility of extending the length of sub-contacts let by Durham City Homes (1 year) to align with the timeframes of sub-contacts currently let by the ALMO's (3-5 years).</p>	<p>(a) Durham City Homes is part of a new procurement exercise that is being taken forward on behalf of all three housing providers - the ALMOs and ourselves. This should be in place by the middle of next year and while it will primarily be for the East Durham Homes decent homes programme, there will be the facility for both DCH and DVH to procure Decent homes work through it. The new contract is for two years with the possibility of extension. (b) DCH has appointed the Yorkshire Window company to supply and install UPVc windows and</p>	<p>Graham Wood (RED)</p> <p>Housing provider</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>8) With reference to apprenticeships, there is a need for families to be aware of the support a young person will need when undertaking an apprenticeship framework. In line with recommendation 6(b) the Improving progression Partnership is key within this context.</p>	<p>composite doors. The agreement is for 3 years providing the same level of apprentices per £ spend as North East Procurement (NEP). with a spend of around £1 m per year during the contract.</p> <p>Careers Advisers have attended a number of Parent's Evenings in schools as part of the CEIAG traded services. Key messages about the support a young person will require when undertaking an apprenticeship framework have been relayed to families for those who are considering undertaking this progression opportunity.</p>	(DCH)	
<p>9) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) promote the models of collaboration adopted by the Esh Group in relation to the 'Business for Castle View' scheme and the 'Esh Student Engagement' programme as examples of best practice.</p>	<p>The Esh Connxt model was used on the Solar PV project. The TRT project supports this type of model as an example of best practice and would seek where applicable to implement models like this on future projects where pre employability training is required and or an applicable output from a project.</p>	Linda Bailey (CAS)	Ongoing
		Graham Wood (RED)	Ongoing

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>10) In relation to the 'Esh Connexnts' model, this is an example of best practice in pre-employment schemes focusing on young people in the NEET category. Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) need to further promote the 'Esh Connexnts' scheme to local business within County Durham. It was suggested that Durham County Council as a major employer may want to investigate the viability of developing a scheme based on the 'Esh Connexnts' model taking into account current financial constraints.</p>	<p>(a) The Esh Connexnt model was used on the Solar PV project. The TRT project supports this type of model as an example of best practice and would seek where applicable to implement models like this on future projects where pre employability training is required and or an applicable output from a project. (b) Work is currently in development to develop an ESF project between East Durham Business Service, Infinite and Caterpillar, including its local supply chain. It is anticipated that the project will provide the front end engagement of NEET young people and provide the necessary employability skills to support the recruitment to these companies.</p>	<p>Graham Wood (RED)</p> <p>Linda Bailey (CAS)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>11) (a) That Cabinet and the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) note as a model of good practice the facilities and training opportunities available at South West Durham Training (SWDT). (b) That Cabinet investigate the possibility of using existing transport networks/ provision for the benefit of young people accessing training and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>(a) SWDT have recently appointed Charles Erasmus as new chief executive to grow its regional footprint and as part of his growth strategy he is completing a company restructure. He has already appointed a business development manager who will be responsible for developing a sales strategy to attract more business and in future they are considering focussing their apprenticeship offer on manufacturing/engineering only. SWDT are also working with Bishop Auckland College and Sunderland University to submit a proposal to become a universal technical college for manufacturing and engineering. The County Durham Economic Partnership as part of the Terms of Reference for the new Transport Executive Group have identified as an area of focus travel to employment issues with the wider infrastructure considerations being developed across working groups.</p>	<p>Graham Wood (RED)</p> <p>Graham Wood (RED)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>62) As part of the systematic review of the recommendations contained within this report an update is provided in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAPs, in relation to the various AAP projects focusing on young people and employment. • Jobcentre Plus (JCP) on the development of the Youth Contract within County Durrham. 	<p>See recommendation 2 above – Appendix 3.</p> <p>(a)The range of support provided by Jobcentre Plus is extensive and includes: apprenticeships, work experience, sector based work academies, jobsearch support, work programme etc and most recently from January 14th 2013 the Wage Incentive for young people had been extended to support employers who employ a young person unemployed six months or longer. All elements of the support are being used and Jobcentre Plus is working closely with the County Durham Economic Partnership, Business Enterprise and Skills Working Group to exploit every opportunity available to help young people in their work life. Over a 1,000 young people in Durham have taken up the offer of work experience.</p> <p>In April 2012 total JSA register was 15,894 - young people 18-24 total was 5,565 (35% of the total). In December 2012 total JSA register was 16,168 - young people 18 – 24 total was 5,270 (32.59% of the total).</p> <p>Overall the claimant count is increasing however the targeted approach to support young people means that proportionately the numbers are</p>	<p>Graham Wood</p> <p>Annette Harrison (JCP)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
	<p>In relation to apprenticeships in the County the following information has been provided:</p> <p>Apprenticeship starts 16-18 year olds:</p> <p>2009 – 10 - 1,463. 2010 – 11 – 1,875. 2011 – 12 – 1,640.</p> <p>Apprenticeship starts 18 year olds:</p> <p>2009 – 10 – 568. 2010 – 11 - 764 2011 – 12 - 720</p> <p>Apprenticeship starts by 19 – 24 year olds:</p> <p>2009 – 10 – 1,134 2010 – 11 – 1,635 2011 – 12 – 2,051</p> <p>16 – 18 year old starts by the highest (Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England) frameworks</p> <p>(1) Business Administration. (2) Industrial Applications. (3) Customer Service.</p> <p>19 – 24 year old starts by the highest SASE frameworks</p> <p>(1) Health and Social Care. (2) Customer Service. (3) Business Administration. (Improving Progression of Young People Team).</p>		

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), on the development of the apprenticeship offer within County Durham as a result of the cash incentives provided to SMEs as part of the Youth Contract proposals. • The North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC), concerning feedback from the series of events planned for 2012, promoting collaboration between business and educational institutions. 	<p>In relation to cash incentives provided to SMEs as part of the Youth Contract up to 5th December 2012 totals 145 payments to 139 employers.</p> <p>The NECC hosted 'Bridging the Skills Gap' event in February 2012 which was well attended by businesses and educational establishments providing a forum to bring together business and education. The event was held at the Gateshead College Skills Academy for Sustainable Manufacturing and Innovation. Attendees heard case studies from Gateshead College's Entrepreneurial College Project, Teesside University's knowledge Transfer programmes and Nissan outlining their current and future skills needs. Following the event, NECC has further promoted business education links which included discussions with the Universities Minister and hosting a business discussion with the Wolfe Review Team, as well as working with both LEPs in the region. These events highlighted the wealth of existing initiatives across the region which aim to bring business and education closer and the NECC has begun to forge links with these initiatives in order to increase business awareness</p>	<p>Graham Wood (RED) Gillian Brown (NAS)</p> <p>Helen Hayes (NECC)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing NECC will continue to support existing initiatives/programmes throughout the North East</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Training Foundation (TTF) pilot programme. 	<p>and involvement. In light of the wealth of existing initiatives, NECC has not hosted further events in this area and has instead supported existing programmes by providing links to interested businesses. In relation to County Durham the NECC has had discussion in relation to the Future Business Magnates Programme and has had similar discussions with projects operating within the broader NELEP area including Princes' Trust, Talent Match and Semta initiatives.</p> <p>Following the launch session held on the 30th January, 2012 at Thorn Lighting factory in Spennymoor 9 teachers committed to participate in the National Programme. The Teachers undertook to develop a small-scale engineering or manufacturing project, developing curriculum materials for use with KS3 pupils. Two further meetings at Durham Leadership Centre have taken place to assess progress and support the work of the Teachers. In addition Teachers were given access to the TTF site where teaching materials and information about careers relating to D&T and STEM were steadily made available. As a result of the project awareness has been raised of opportunities within Design and Technology for young people. In addition, it alerted teachers of essential changes to the D&T agenda providing a vital update in relation to manufacturing processes and priorities.</p>	Philip Hodgson (CAS)	Project completed.

BRIEFING/UPDATE ON:

AAP NB/AB FUNDED PROJECTS 2012-13 'YOUNG PEOPLE & EMPLOYMENT'

BASH AAP

Business Advisors - South Durham Enterprise Agency (NB and AB)

The business advisor project was designed and commissioned to be a two year partnership between 2D, DCC Employability Team and South Durham Enterprise Agency. The first year of the project has been a great success and has exceeded targets in all areas.

The second year (12/13) funding will be directed at supporting businesses in the area create employment through business development and business support. The businesses brought into the project will continue to be supported, however new businesses will be targeted for this new round of funding.

In conjunction with the business development side of the project, business start up services will also be provided via targeted coaching to those individuals who are considering self employment.

Continued focus will be provide to key sectors - i.e. Construction, Tourism, Manufacturing, Engineering, Retail, Financial, Business and Professional Services, Creative and Digital industries.

Full employment and support costs are included in the bid meaning the provision of two trained, qualified and experienced Business Advisors will be provided to work in the BASH AAP area only. Both business advisors are based at SDEA head office, Innovation House and will work across the area where needed. There has been only limited demand for client appointments in community locations, but the advisors are active in the communities they serve and get involved with projects as the need arises. The continuation of this element of their work will be a major part of the year two activity.

The demand led approach has meant that the majority of activity, and subsequently outputs, have focused on those looking at self employment. it is expected that this trend will continue, although sector focused work will bring in new business support clients.

Work across business start up involves:

- Business Planning
- Financial Forecasting
- Specific Advice and Guidance on Business Sector or Business Speciality (marketing etc)
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Work with business development may involve:

- Marketing
- HR advice
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Specific industry expertise

Employability Project - DCC, RED (NB and NB)

This project seeks to improve the economic performance of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon area by reducing the number of workless residents through complimenting and enhancing existing mainstream efforts to tackle economic inclusion. This project will achieve this by helping to remove the barriers to employment faced by residents in the area.

This proposal is to extend the delivery of the Employability Project to 31 March 2014 employing a full time Mentoring Officer to provide one to one tailored support for unemployed people in the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP area to achieve sustained employment through an integrated approach and REF model of delivery appropriate to the needs of the area. The principals of this local model is to co-ordinate a programme of pathways into employment; enable workless people to access opportunities and build the skills that lead to sustainable employment; work with local employers to identify staffing needs to help fill vacancies from unemployed residents of Bishop & Shildon Area Action Partnership area (BASH AAP)

To achieve the objectives it is proposed that funding is used to support the following elements:

- grass root engagement of clients providing initial individual engagement and specialist support to help individuals wishing to undertake volunteering as a pathway to employment - delivered by 2D
- mentoring and progression support - delivered by Durham County Council Mentoring Officer
- financial incentives - to breakdown barriers to employment - managed by Durham County Council

The projects have not been specially targeted at Young People but rather anyone that needs the support.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AAP

Chester-le-Street Apprenticeship Programme

The Chester-le-Street & District AAP has supported the RED Team to deliver 15 Apprenticeship opportunities within the AAP area.

CAB Support and Volunteer programme

To try and tackle the issue of NEETs and improve young people's chances of gaining key business / employment skills, the AAP has worked with the local CAB to deliver a volunteer programme for young people to support the increasing work of the CAB linked to Welfare Reform changes by training 15-20 local volunteers to fulfil various roles including administration support, benefits advisors and supporting other young people looking for advice.

EAST DURHAM AAP

As part of the Governments “Big Society” agenda is a national program of recruiting and training 5,000 community organisers. As part of this process Locality and East Durham AAP have funded East Durham Trust to become a host organisation to employ five community organisers for one year. The Community Organisers program is primarily about training and development and five local people will be empowered to become involved in their community and will obtain employment for one year.

East Durham AAP has funded a development officer for East Durham Employability Trust (EDET) to oversee the management, development and implementation of a project to support local unemployed people in East Durham and surrounding areas to successfully make the transition to further education and employment in the local manufacturing and related industries and to create a platform for local employers to access appropriate skills. EDET has strong links with East Durham Engineering Forum which allows it to create pathways to employment with local industries.

Another key project for East Durham AAP is the Infinite Weld Academy Expansion, *(John Tindale already has appropriate information on this project and this will be included within the Cabinet Report)*
(Please be advised the Infinite project is not an AAP funded project)

DURHAM AAP

Durham AAP have never had an employment themed priority so we have not supported any schemes using AB or NB aimed at increasing young people’s employment opportunities.

GAMP

Apprenticeship Awareness Challenge

Firms including EBAC, Finley Structures and Stiller Transport have joined forces to launch an Apprenticeship Awareness Challenge, working with Aycliffe’s two secondary schools.

The project involved companies giving a brief demonstration to Year 9 students at both Woodham Academy and Greenfield Community College during a series of workshop carousels, dubbed “speed networking”, to give young people a flavour of the work they do.

The young people were then split into groups during site visits to six different companies and got to learn more about their chosen industry, from manufacturing to IT and HR. As part of the project the young people also put together a presentation on apprenticeship opportunities within the company they visited. A recent ‘dragons den’ style competition was held at Woodham Academy with the winning group selected by a judging panel.

The programme, funded through the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and in partnership with the town's two secondary schools is designed to get school-leavers interested in apprenticeships. The project is being led by Woodham Academy with input from EDT (Engineering Development Trust) the largest provider of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics enrichment activities for young people in the UK.

Employability Skills and Discretionary Fund

Almost £150,000 (NB & AB) is being used to fund a programme of training to help people in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area into work.

Funding is being spent on both an Employability Skills Fund which can respond to specific training needs and a discretionary fund which will remove the barriers that prevent young people from accessing training.

Examples of specialist training include:

- Fork lift truck training
- Specialist Gas training
- Tiling, plumbing and plastering
- Hazardous off-shore training
- HGV Training

Further funding has come from Bishop Auckland College, Sedgefield Borough Homes, South Durham Enterprise Agency and MEARS bringing the total to £147,910.

Apprenticeship Bursaries Scheme

Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership and Durham County Council's Employability Team is delivering an apprenticeship programme for young people living in the GAMP area.

The scheme will offer a wage subsidy of £2,500 and supervision costs of up to £350 to smaller companies, preferably with less than 50 employees, to create opportunities that focus on giving a boost to unemployed 16 to 24-year-olds. The project will create 11 apprenticeships in the GAMP area.

Co Durham Engineering Apprenticeships

Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership and Durham County Council's Employability Team is delivering another apprenticeship programme for young people living in the GAMP area. The project will specifically target the Engineering sector and create 20 apprenticeship opportunities.

A grant of £1,500 is available to SME's from the National Apprenticeship Service AGE 16-24 initiative coupled with funding (£1,000) from DCC to offer local companies an incentive of £2,500.

EAST DURHAM RURAL CORRIDOR

Young Enterprise

This project is scheduled to commence in January 2013, and involves work with ten primary schools and one secondary school in the EDRC AAP area, with the objective of improving the employability skills and key life skills of students to assist them in the future. The programmes will be delivered with the use of quality materials and volunteers from the local community through fun interactive sessions.

Young Enterprise's mission statement is "to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise". Its guiding principle is to do this through 'learning by doing'. The programmes cover a whole range of topics exploring the world of work, saving, earning, decision making, teamwork, presentations, skills needed for certain jobs, interview techniques, entrepreneurship and raising aspirations.

Healthy Hubs

This project aims to build strong, resilient, sustainable communities through increasing confidence, motivation, knowledge and skills. Using asset based community development approaches (i.e. focusing on a community's strengths/ assets not deficits) the Pioneering Care Partnership will engage with local people (including young people), explore community needs, establish additional provision in communities and increase local residents skills. Local residents are fully involved in the development of the service and activities for their community; encouraged to progress onto accredited learning and become community volunteers or health trainer champions and supported to maintain the healthy hub independently after one year. This approach will leave a lasting legacy of skilled local people empowered 'to pass it on' in their community.

DERWENT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

Routes in to Employment

This project has a number of elements aimed at supporting the development of skills and accessing employment. It targets those individuals who fall outside the eligibility of other training / schemes including longer term unemployed, 16/17 year olds and those with disabilities. It includes providing individuals with work placements/training in such as building maintenance, grounds maintenance and administration and at the same time gaining valuable qualifications. The qualifications include Emergency First Aid, Manual Handling, Health and Safety and Food Safety. Support will also be provided with job searches, developing CVs, interview preparation, team working, confidence building and raising self esteem – all of this is aimed at helping individuals to be more 'job ready'. The project also supports the set-up costs for the CSCS testing centre (IT equipment etc), training courses and employability support.

Engineering Apprenticeships

This project builds on the success of our previously funded Apprenticeship Programme by offering Apprenticeship opportunities specifically related to engineering. It will work with local SME's to create 20 apprenticeships in the area that are sustainable for a 2 year period and which will include a wage subsidy package. The project is targeted at young people aged between 16 and 24 and involves a range of organisations including Derwentside College, Job Centre Plus etc.

Neighbourhood Budget

No 'Young People and Employment' projects funded in 2012/13 (please note that YMCA Apprenticeships were funded in 2011/12 by two Elected Members).

STANLEY AAP

Team Programme Stanley (NB)

A Prince's Trust Team Programme was set up in October 2012 in the Stanley area. The 12 week course was open to 16-25 year olds who are disengaged with the local labour market or are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs).

The programme focused on four hard to reach disadvantaged groups including; those who have struggled at school, have been in care, are long term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law.

Objectives

The programme assisted three out of every four young people on the programme move into work, education or training.

The programme gave young people the opportunity to improve their confidence and for those whose lack of qualifications holds them back.

The Team Programme also enabled young people who are currently employed the chance to develop new interpersonal skills to improve their long-term career prospects.

Outcomes

The Team Programme gave young people:

- A better chance of moving into a job, education or training
- Practical skills that will help them find a job and in their everyday life
- Gain a nationally recognisable qualification
- Career advice and help with job hunting and their CV
- The chance to make a difference in their local community

(If you would like any further information, please contact Stanley Area Action Partnership on 03000 265 323 or Sara-Jane Heslop, Consett YMCA on 01207 502680)

TEESDALE AAP

Rural Employability

Delivered by RED, provides mentors to unemployed people looking for work. The project includes young people. Over the last 5 ½ months the project has helped 19 people into employment (which includes 6 apprenticeships), 22 into volunteering and 15 into training. The project also provides incentives to employers to support them in taking on new staff and apprentices.

Cockfield Youth Work

The AAP is supporting youth work in the Cockfield Area. Although it's not specifically a 'employability' project a number of the young people accessing the youth work have received information and advice on getting work.

Local Business Survey

This has been carried out by South Durham Enterprise Agency. Collated results show that a good proportion of businesses would like to be able to take on apprentices and work experience students.

Teesdale School Science Festival

NB funding to support the school in putting on a science festival aimed at increasing young people's interest in science based industries.

Schools Engineering Challenge

Run by the South Durham Engineering and Manufacturing Forum, the challenge involves young people in an engineering project. The overall aim is to get young people interested in engineering but also covers issues such as marketing, finance and business planning.

MID DURHAM

Two projects in development and going to the Board in January 2013 are:

'**SHED**' sponsored by Derwentside Homes is a social enterprise project which provides training and work placement opportunities for unemployed residents and young disaffected people who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs). Mid Durham will sponsor a years cohort which will be approx 12 trainees and a supervisor. Employees gain hands on experience whilst working towards an NVQ that is relevant to the work that they are carrying out. All individuals accessing training undertake an initial assessment of their needs and are involved in the development of their own action plan. These are reviewed at regular intervals to determine progress. Each individual is asked to complete a full evaluation at the end of each programme. The project is designed to assist individuals in choosing a career path and increasing their abilities and confidence to pursue that path.

Business Advisor programme will be managed by the CDC Enterprise Agency and supported by Mid Durham and Chester-le-Street AAPs along with contributions from several Cllrs NB. This will be a years pilot which will provide support to those small businesses that are already up and running with regard to growing sustainability, creating employment opportunities and maximising the support services and resources available to them.

4 TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP

Haggrid Chilton

The project has two elements to it; the first will develop the physical appearance of part of the school grounds aiming to develop it into a community garden/outside learning area; the second will implement a horticulture/agriculture alternative learning programme ran in conjunction with Durham Agency Against Crime.

As requested by the 4 Together AAP task and finish group, we have broken down the project to incorporate the elements of the project that they would like to potentially fund.

The physical development side of the project will see the fencing off of a large area to the west of the school grounds to enable a variety of environmental, landscape, learning and eventually energy saving projects to be developed over the next few years. This will all be done in conjunction with the pupils, teachers, local residents, connected secondary schools and specialist colleges and relevant partners.

The alternative learning programme which will run alongside this is called Haggrid, which is managed through the Durham Agency Against Crime and supported by local police and S&D Training. The training programme will work with secondary age pupils from nearby secondary/specialist colleges and provide them with practical education in agriculture and horticulture leading to various accredited learning stages.

Capture Films Keep Safe Project

Local priorities from the forum identified the need to alleviate and combat fear and presence of crime and antisocial behaviour in relation to neighbourhood issues, needs and concerns.

Issues raised include drug awareness and alcohol related crime, more diversionary activities to keep young people off the streets, and training opportunities that could up skills levels, the project will cover issues such as, legal highs, domestic violence, internet safety-cyber bullying, grooming etc, but will be flexible depending on needs identified as the project progresses.

Through this project we will be identifying the most prominent issues relating to young people in relation to those mentioned above, and adjusting the topics of the DVD and the young people will be involved in accordingly to meet local need.

To produce four films and a website with young people from Ferryhill, West Cornforth, Chilton, Bishop Middleham.

The films will look at several criminal issues facing young people in these areas.

The Project aims to engage with over 2000 young people.

The young people involved in the project will come from the Four Together areas of Ferryhill, Chilton, West Cornforth and Bishop Middleham.

Young people from the anti bullying intervention group at FBEC will be offered the opportunity to participate, the students in the group live within the 4 together area not just Ferryhill. The young people who originally identified a need for the project. Young people from West Cornforth and Chilton could be involved through contact with their youth worker or detached. Detached workers will target Bishop Middleham to engage young people in the project.

It is envisaged that via the project the young people will have opportunities to achieve both an Arts and Asdan Award, which are GCSE equivalents.

Chrysalis Project

We are looking to run a project with women from the 4 Together area who either are, or have been, in abusive intimate relationships. The project aims to build confidence and friendships between the women as a group as well as with support staff to help the women to make decisions and achieve personal goals.

The first part of the project will be the Freedom programme. This is a programme that will be run over one half day per week. It looks at the aspects of abusive relationships and helps people to understand the issue and how many people it affects in the UK, helping the group to realise that they are not alone in dealing with this.

After Freedom the group will move on to STEPS for success confidence building. This is a programme, again run over half a day per week, that enables the participants to reflect on their lives and look at what has held them back from achieving their goals. They then look at setting their own goals and learn basic principles to help them to achieve them.

The last element is the peer mentoring. We will be working with Children North East to deliver a peer mentoring qualification with those members of the group who are interested in training as mentors to support future groups and programmes supporting women in abusive relationships, to aid the sustainability of the project and leave a legacy from this particular project.

As the participants progress through the programmes we will be able to sign post them to the appropriate support services run by The Cornforth Partnership and partner agencies. We will offer them one to one mentoring from our employment mentor to help them look at training, volunteering and employment opportunities as part of the programme, but also have the youth project, catering and community garden projects that could offer support where appropriate.

Reach Project

A range of structured training, personal mentoring support and opportunities for volunteering and work placements. The aim of this project is to increase the number of young adults securing employment, moving into mainstream training provision and volunteering in local communities. Levels of training include AG levels 3&4 and mental Health First Aid.

SPENNYMOOR AAP

Please see below the projects that we have funded so far in relation to employment & job prospects (bearing in mind we have only had employment and job prospects starting this financial year);

South Durham Engineering Challenge 2011 & 2012

Spennymoor AAP joined together with three other AAP's (Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP, Bishop Auckland & Shildon AAP and 4 Together AAP) to contribute to the financing of this exciting project. The aim of the project was to raise student's aspirations by providing an awareness of the potential for a career in engineering or manufacturing within local companies.

Pupils from Tudhoe Grange and Spennymoor School took part in a competition and competed against other schools in other AAP areas to design a car and bridge system, with assistance from local mentors and companies.

The project launched on October 20th 2010 with the final taking place on 9th March 2011 at the Excel Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

The project received £3,000 from each of the participating AAP's and was developed by South Durham Engineering & Manufacturing Forum.

In 2012 the project also received further funding of £5,800 to run the scheme in 2012. The 2012 project is being run in conjunction with the Weardale AAP and the 3 Towns AAP.

Principal contact: South Durham Schools Enterprise 07780978235

REACH Project

The Cornforth Partnership obtained funding from the AAP to deliver its comprehensive Community Learning/Job Search/Mentoring Scheme in the Spennymoor AAP area.

The project was able to offer intensive support to the most vulnerable of clients including those with mental health issues, learning disabilities, ex-offenders, young people who are NEET and those most removed from the labour market including long term unemployed and Incapacity Benefit claimants.

The project engaged with 81 clients through the delivery of the scheme and they were able to access a wide range of support along with training which included CSCS Site Safety, Health & Safety, Anger Management, First Aid, Basic IT, SIA Security and Youth & Community Work. The training programme was extremely popular and 43 clients were successful in achieving accreditation. The project also supported 2 clients to become self employed by setting up their own businesses, with other clients going on to take up volunteering roles.

One comment received from a client in the first few months of the scheme said "Thank you very much for all that you are doing for me, it really means a lot that there are people like you out there to help us".

The AAP contributed £10,000 to the scheme with the project being managed by the Cornforth Partnership

Principal contact: Karen Lynn 01740 652000

Duke of Edinburgh

The aim of the project is to establish a Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme within the Spennymoor AAP area, to engage with 60 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 and to link opportunities for volunteering and hands on experience within the DurhamGate Development.

Developers at DurhamGate are enthusiastic to support the scheme and will be committing financial contributions for the staffing cost over a period of 18 months, with a review in 12 months and a view that the scheme will sustain delivery beyond this.

The first year's contribution will be made by Carillion who are developing at Durham Gate. It is their intention to set up a 'friends of' for the Durham Gate site where future businesses will participate and support such projects in the future.

The AAP contributed £8,930 to the scheme with the project being managed by Bishop Auckland College.

Principal contact: Rob Richardson 01388 825840

We have also just approved the following:

County Durham Apprenticeship Programme

The aim of the project is to tackle the high levels of youth unemployment currently being experienced by incentivising businesses to create additional apprentice opportunities that otherwise would not have existed. The introduction of the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) initiative - Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) 16-24, has given the Council an opportunity to complement the availability of funding and develop a new successor programme of assistance to SME's. The programme will aim to create additional apprenticeship opportunities (up to 30 in the Spennymoor AAP area) for unemployed 16-24 year olds who are residents of the AAP area to support them to identify and access these apprenticeship opportunities. By concentrating on apprenticeships this project will address the priorities that were identified by the AAP Board of Employment & Job Prospects and supporting Young People.

The AAP have contributed £30,000 to the scheme with the project being managed by Durham County Council Employability Team.

Principal contact: Adam Richardson 03000 262004

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MINUTES

Meeting	County Durham Economic Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	Monday 4 th February 2013
Time	14.00 - 16.00
Venue	Deane Room, Palace Green Library, Durham City

Attendees:

Brian Tanner	Chair
Jack Richardson	Jobcentre Plus
Sue Parkinson	Chair of the Business, Enterprise & Skills Group
Ray Hudson	Durham University
Simon Hanson	FSB
Ruth Robson	Durham Uni
Keith Bartlett	Lindisfarne Gospels Director
Cllr Eddie Tomlinson	Chair of Rural Working Group
Stewart Watkins	Business Durham
Ian Thompson	Director of Regeneration and Economic Development
Sarah Robson	Chair of Housing Forum
Andy Palmer	DCC, Strategy, Programmes & Performance
Melanie Sensicle	Visit Durham
Stephen Howell	Cultural Partnership
Heather Orton	DCC, Strategy & Partnership Team Lead
Tarryn Lloyd Payne	DCC, Principal Strategy & Partnerships Officer
Angela Brown	DCC, Partnership Support Officer

1. Welcome

Brian Tanner welcomed everyone to the meeting and initiated round the table introductions.

2. Apologies

John Widdowson	New College Durham
Brian Manning	Esh Group
Barbara Gubbins	County Durham Community Foundation
Geraldine Wilcox	Derwentside Homes
Christine Yule	Durham Business Group
Adrian White	DCC Head of Transport
Cllr Neil Foster	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were **agreed** as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

Item 9: EU Structural Fund – AP to develop CDEP Investment Plan approach in line with wider investment plan opportunities in the region – This is in hand and will be picked up at a future meeting.

Item 10: Job Centre Plus to work through the Business, Enterprise & Skills Working Group to identify any further opportunities for maximising available resources within the JCP – On future Agenda for the BES Working Group.

Item 12: The formation of the BES – This action is complete.

Sue Parkinson mentioned that the minutes mentioned Lord Heseltine's Review how to work better with the LEP – SP felt more work needs to be carried out to build up this relationship.

5. Chairs Remarks

Economic news over the last period has not been brilliant for the UK. Short/Medium outlook has deteriorated by 1% fall GDP since 2012. The Economic position of 2008 will not be reached until 2014. The Autumn statement made it clear that more Public Sector reductions are to come. Other announcements included:

- £5b infrastructure is planned for schools and roads, which mean the Western Bypass may secure funding.
- Round 4 of the Regional Growth Fund is now open
- Employment is looking good and has risen, so the number of people in work has gone up this is contradictory to GDP.

Small businesses are more optimistic 'bouncing along the level is about all that is happening.'

In light of the need to refocus the function of the Partnership, the attached paper has been circulated outlining a process to establish re-examining the function and form for the partnership. There will be a focus on the partnership and where it can add value. There will also be a refresh of the Altogether Wealthier Delivery Plan.

A Task and Finish Group will be established which will consist of Brian Tanner, Working Group Chairs and the secretariat. There will be workshops with wider members to support the process as appropriate.

Recommendations were for the CDEP to agree the proposals. Everyone was in support, therefore this was endorsed.

Action: Secretariat to progress

6. Visitor Economy & Place Marketing

Melanie Sensicle gave an update on visitor Economy and Place Marketing

Challenges

- Supporting destination events
- Improving visitor quality in line with increased spend
- Improving public realm to lengthen stay through improved infrastructure, joined up busses, litter and local community
- Rural visitor animation – sporting opportunities, rural funding
- Promotion – Use of Co Durham toolkit in collective communication

7. Lindisfarne Gospels

Keith Bartlett spoke to the Board about the Lindisfarne Gospels and covered the following areas:-

- Optimise the potential of Durham City
- Step Change in visitor experience
- Develop local distinctiveness
- Grow the profile
- Manage and maintain public realm
- Legacy
- Lessons – A one team approach will deliver the project to help provide a clear picture for the future.

Discussion Items 6 & 7

Brian opened the discussion. Ruth Robson emphasised that working in Partnership was the mainstay to delivering these kinds of wider event programme, as without the partnership the project would not be happening. The Cathedral is making huge strides forward to mount world class exhibitions. Ray Hudson mentioned that the University was working with others but wanted to know how to join up this activity with world heritage sites to form a network. He also suggested that instead of aiming to get people to stay in Durham 48 hours partners should be trying to get them to stay a week. As part of these discussions there was clear support for working with the University and Cathedral as they “learn” to widen approach to attracting all visitors.

Sue Parkinson felt that it was brilliant having major events like the Lindisfarne Gospels and felt there would be a lot of interest amongst small businesses in Durham and the available opportunities. She also felt that we shouldn't always assume that people know what the Lindisfarne Gospels are and therefore need to communicate with businesses in language that means something to them, so that they are aware of the impact it could have on their business. Brian asked about the available support for retailers in the area linked to the event. Keith informed him that the information was readily available and the first batch had gone out to people who initially expressed an interest. In terms of supporting the wider Lindisfarne Gospel event, Brian asked in terms of timing if there anything that the CDEP can directly support on. Keith mentioned that additional resources for supporting activities associated with the event would be more than welcome. This included training and sponsorship support.

Stewart Watkins felt that is a difficult ask of businesses at a difficult point in the economy. Messages to business needed to be clear on what was available in return and the level of investment required. This was further reflected in national sponsorship discussions.

Ruth Robson said that Durham needed to achieve a national profile to get established this would help with funding issues.

Jack Richardson informed the Board on the potential for maximising the JCP wage subsidy and work programme to support long term employment. Simon Hanson asked Keith if they had tried crowd funding and if FSB can help in anyway with this they will. Stewart Watkins asked how we could engage local businesses in the supply chain opportunities', Melanie suggested that the Cultural Durham Portal would provide some route to wider event contracts. Further discussion was also had on the potential for wider public sector commissions and procurement routes.

Action: Keith Bartlett, Melanie Sensicle and Jack Richardson to meet to discuss potential for collaboration on wage subsidy and work programme opportunities.

Action: Andy Palmer and Melanie Sensicle to discuss European funding opportunities

Action: Simon Hanson offered FSB communication routes to support messages to wider members. There was an assumption this offer would be replicated through other business membership organisations on the board. (NECC & Durham Business Club)

Action: Stephen Howell is to check current procurement procedures and opportunities' within cultural services to see if there are any exceptions for awarding contracts across cultural activities in Durham. (Not just DCC)

Action: BES Group to pick up strategic picture on event supply chains linked to major events and report through to a future board

Action: FSB to support on consideration of commercial opportunities' linked to perceived market opportunity for Durham City visitor attractions and providing a bus route between them. Melanie Sensicle to consider how this can be taken forward.

8. Cultural Partnership

Stephen Howell gave an update in relation to the Cultural Partnership. The review of the Cultural partnership is underway which will re-exam how the partnership will structure itself to properly support the priorities. The last meeting was cancelled due to weather. There is a plan to hold 2 workshops continuing what went on in the 'big tent event that launched the first stage'. The first workshop will try to put a framework together and look at governance issues and try to develop these.

9. Economic Review & LEP

Ian Thompson gave an update. The Economic Review is now underway and is chaired by Lord Andrew Adonis. Partners will have been invited to a range of activities and events to support and consider the wider economic evidence base. There is an event to be held at the Baltic on the 15th Feb which will take attendees through the process and key themes emerging to date. Panel discussions will be held on the issues raised by those who prepared submissions to the review, and also think pieces on policy areas including the North East in a Global Economy, Land Markets, Transport & Infrastructure, Social Enterprise, North East Industrial Strengths and Innovation that have been commissioned to feed into this review.

A copy of the review was supposed to be complete for March. This may now be later, possibly early April. In response to Sue Parkinson's thoughts from matters arising, Ian suggested that consideration is given to engaging further with local LEP business representatives who sit on the Business Durham board. The objective is to improve communication in terms of how the local area chooses to respond to the NE Economic Review and the proposed challenges that are to be set for the "region".

10. Working Group Chairs Update

Business Enterprise & Skills

Sue Parkinson mentioned that the first meeting for the BES had taken place, it was very well attended. The Agenda has been split into 3 different sections:-

- Market Intelligence – Simon Hanson from FSB had given an update which was well received. Hoping to have update from NECC at the next meeting.
- Opportunities – Skill Funding Agency; and their 5 year business plan with crucial examination of gaps in delivery. The group is also continuing working with JCP and a commissioning approach to using discretionary funding.
- Influence – Tom Smyth from BIS gave a presentation to Group on the Industrial Strategy.

There is on-going delivery linked to the performance reward grant which is on the Creative Industries support programme and reports through the BES. Also the Rural Growth Network Programme – this is worth £1.5m and consists of activity in Gateshead North and Durham. With 52% of the programme to be delivered under the programme definition of “rural” in Durham. This was tendered by Northumberland County Council (accountable body) and has now been awarded.

Rural

Cllr Tomlinson mentioned that to compliment the Rural Growth Fund – Grant for small businesses is now open and businesses are being encouraged to apply with their project plans to see if they would be eligible for grant. January RWG meeting was postponed due to bad weather. Digital Durham is well on track. The BT contract has been tendered and let. How it can be delivered in rural areas needs further examination.

We plan to revisit the work programme – there are issues with affordable housing and how social landlords can deliver in rural areas. Craig Wilson is to attend the next meeting to give an update of the delivery of the destination management plan.

Housing

Sarah Robson informed the Board that at the last Housing Forum they had presentations from “Altogether Safer” and the antisocial behavioural team. The forums are undergoing a further examination of the action plan to see how cross service working can be enhanced.

Further work is to be done in relation to organised crime which will focus on the housing providers and working with tenants.

Standard items on the agenda are Welfare Reform especially in considerations of on-going actions to mitigate impact of Universal Credit and the new Social Fund.

HCA - gave an update on affordable housing programme. This focused on numbers dropped off Care and Support fund. Bids went in at the beginning of Jan. There has been strong support from the Partnership.

Tourism

Melanie Sensicle mentioned that The North East England Regional Tourism Awards had taken place last Thursday. Rockcliffe Hall won Business Tourism Award and Low Urpeth Farm in Chester-Le-Street was named Bed and Breakfast accommodation provider of the year. These will now go forward to the National Awards.

RGF2 – Visit England have worked with Durham on supporting a Durham Thematic Walking and Cycling Campaign to a total cost of £210,000 which was matched to help large and small businesses to develop strategies and market campaign. Next 15 months will see a significant marketing campaign as a result of the funding.

RGF4 – Visit England have put in another bid to focus on overseas visitors. This will potentially clash with other bids from the Heritage Cities Group. Visit Durham will look to make a decision as to whether it will go with Visit England or other bids as appropriate.

Other activities include; Welcome Durham launches tomorrow for 3 days. 15 people have signed up; Taste Durham celebrated two weeks ago and got a lot of press. The chef is very keen to do a food festival.

11. Any Other Business

Nothing to discuss

12. Date and Time of next meeting

13th May 2013, 1pm Location TBC

13. Future meetings

29th July 2013, 1pm Location TBC

4th November 2013, 1pm Location TBC